Balad Air Force Theater Hospital
332nd EMDG – Surgical Operations
Early December, 2007

After a relatively quiescent November, the operational tempo has increased in the hospital as the battle for Diyala Province is accelerating. As we have been treating many anti-Iraqi forces and few Americans, it looks from our end that things are going well. Unfortunately, still too many children are caught in the crossfire or targeted by the insurgency.

We are very saddened to be without two of our most valued friends and colleagues for the remainder of the deployment; our commander and chief of the Medical Staff, for health and family issues respectively. Thankfully, they are able to return home early to recover and be with family.

Sadam, a 7-year old from Anbar, was injured and we feared orphaned. After two weeks of “recovery” in the hospital, we were able to locate his family. As part of his eyesight rehab, he needed a tour of an Apache gunship.

“War is Hell...
On my handicap,” says our Trauma Czar.

Treated with pizza for the holiday party, and about to get into the cake.

During a busy stretch, we fly our Battle flag, the Enchillada Roger. Mike is the Last Man Standing.

In addition to our Families, Many Thanks to:
The DeWitts, Christ Lutheran Church Men’s Breakfast Group, the Sulzers, the Saenz Family, John Wesley Methodist Church, the Albrechts, the Swiontkowskis, Glenn Williams, The Primaveras, The DeFreest Family, ALCON Labs, Ruth from booksforsoldiers.com, GPRCO
Random shots from AFTH- no gross stuff or parts though

Although the new hospital has expanded our capacity, we still have to occasionally double up in an OR suite.

Eric and Henry enjoy the holiday party- yes, that is Henry's happy face. You should see him mad.

No better advertising for Kevlar helmets- this soldier's stopped an AK-47 round

Two childhood friends now in the Iraqi Military, Policeman and IA soldier, held off an al Qaeda ambush, emptying all their ammo and grenades before being hit.

Bailey fixes up a Bubba burger, fresh from the grill- definitely beats the boiled meat from DFAC

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Aaron Tippin, a Country singer on his third Thanksgiving week trip to Iraq, is one Great American.

Mike supervised the construction of a rooftop surgeon's lounge.