



## *Balad Air Force Theater Hospital 332nd EMDG – Surgical Operations*



We are halfway through the 4-month rotation, some of us even have received the date when we will be leaving, so it's about time we sent out some word of what and how we are doing.

As you may know from the news, American serviceman casualties are near a war-time low. Unfortunately, grievously wounded Iraqi children are at a war-time high. This makes for rewarding work that sometimes weighs heavily on all of us. Fortunately, the Balad Air Base has a large population, great facilities, reasonably edible food and good variety of Air Force and Army units that make for interesting tours. The new fixed hospital structure has made patient care a lot cleaner but makes the hospital that much more like Wilford Hall- not always good.

Our unit is steeped in traditions that we are proudly continuing. We pile in the Czar truck nightly to go across base for dinner, play poker Saturday nights, and congregate up on the roof of the Swamp to drink near beer and burn cigars several nights a week. We have been making some ongoing "home improvements" and are always looking for ways to make our little slice of America nicer.

You can email any of us at [Firstname.Lastname@blab.centaf.af.mil](mailto:Firstname.Lastname@blab.centaf.af.mil), but we like real mail more:



*The AEF 9/10 Team of Surgeons on the old Swamp (Good air quality huh)*

*Kneeling: John Kang*

*Row one: Jeff Bailey, Jon Briggs, Eric Nelson, Henry Leis, Jim Ware, Mike Miller, Mike Rutiguano, Sandea Harris*

*Row two: SP Bowers, Jeff McNeil, Sam Hakim, Spencer Frink, John Bruun, Will Pledger, Chris Coppola*

*Row three: Rich Harvey, John McCloskey*

*In the hooch asleep after a night of fixing faces: Chet Barton*

*Random shots from AFTH- no gross stuff or parts though*



*Bret Michaels from Poison, a washed up rocker but a good American, with Kang and Bowers*



*Anthony Mitchell, C-130 Navigator, has been volunteering and gave us a cockpit tour*



*Touring the old tent hospital, now only the ER tent is left*



*John, Mike, SP and Chris got an upclose look at the F-16, thanks to John Hanna, pilot and hospital volunteer*



*F16s stand ready*



*Col. Spencer Frink on a recent field trip to the sniper range*



*CJCOS Adm Mullen meeting Coppola and Nelson*

*Bowers and Miller climbing down a hardened aircraft shelter*

Mailing Address:  
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*Klumbacher Time- the best near beer by far*

**Care Package Wish List**

Cigars, battery/solar powered outdoor lights, 26 inch bicycle tubes, Ground Coffee Beans  
Beef Jerky, Guy movies, "Super Bubble" Bubble Gum, Twizzlers, Golf practice Net, Salsa  
Never too early to send Holiday decorations  
Holiday Cards for troops to send home