



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
HEADQUARTERS, 2<sup>ND</sup> BATTALION, 27<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY REGIMENT  
25<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY DIVISION  
FOB SUMMERALL, IRAQ, APO AE 09393

REPLY TO  
ATTENTION OF

30 January, 2009

Battalion Commander

Dear Wolfhound Family Members,

On 30 January 2009, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon, Charlie Company was conducting a patrol in Bayji, with the Iraqi Police and elements from the Fox Company Distribution Platoon to assess security measures at several election polling sites in the city. Their specific mission was to emplace additional barriers where needed. As the patrol maneuvered a forklift to the polling site in Hai Al Asry, an insurgent emerged from a nearby house firing an AK-47 at the forklift operator. Members from 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon and the Distribution Platoon returned fire killing the enemy combatant. SPC Adam Mendoza, the forklift operator, was wounded in his left shoulder, wrist, and hand. Soldiers at the scene immediately entered and cleared the building from which the insurgent first appeared while simultaneously rendering life saving medical care to SPC Mendoza. While clearing the building, 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon arrested the combatant's brother who is believed to be a facilitator of the attack. Within minutes, the area was secure, SPC Mendoza was evacuated to the Bayji JSS where additional care was administered by the Battalion's Physician Assistant, 1LT "DOC" Soles. SPC Mendoza was stabilized and evacuated by helicopter to the COB Speicher Combat Support Hospital where he was rushed to the Operating Room for surgery. SPC Mendoza is out of surgery, and in stable condition. Back at the Bayji JSS, coordination was initiated with local Sheiks, Governmental leaders, and police. The Provincial Governor, who was visiting polling sites in Bayji, came to the Bayji JSS to personally direct the investigation. The captured insurgent was turned over to Iraqi Police and a formal investigation has been initiated with several additional arrests expected in the next few days. While the wounds to SPC Mendoza are grievous, his spirit has not been broken. He expressed a desire to join the search for those responsible for the attack. Upon reflection, I could not be more proud of the professionalism, courage and teamwork displayed by the Soldiers of Charlie and Fox Companies.

SPC Mendoza will be stabilized and evacuated to higher levels of care in Germany, and subsequently the United States in the coming days. He will undergo treatment and a lengthy rehabilitation period for the wounds he received. I ask that you keep SPC Mendoza in your thoughts and prayers as he begins the journey home and the path towards recovery.

In closing, I want to thank all Wolfhound family members in advance for their support; your thoughts and prayers mean the world to us. Your support during this deployment and these difficult times has been astonishing -- Thank You!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Raul E. Gonzalez". The signature is stylized and fluid, with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Raul E. Gonzalez  
Lieutenant Colonel, Infantry  
Commanding