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Speicher Guardsmen wins base boxing Smoker

By 1st Lt. David Taliaferro
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CONTINGENCY OPERATING BASE SPEICHER, Iraq — Spc. James Small, Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, fought his way to victory during the base “Smoker” boxing match here June 5, 2009.

Sore muscles, buckets of sweat, and hours of time in the gym have been part of the daily routine for Small, a gunner in a convoy security unit, and a native of Hacienda Heights, Calif.; and his trainer, Spc. Federico Jimenez, a truck commander, and a native of Carlsbad, Calif.

Small has spent his downtime in Iraq training for, and participating in, Speicher boxing “smokers,” while Jimenez has assisted in coaching the entire Speicher boxing team, including Small. Small is 2-0, with two knockouts.

“Being in shape has always been important to me, and the competition makes it that much more rewarding,” said Small.

Jimenez was not allowed to participate as a member of the boxing squad because of his experience as a licensed boxer. But Jimenez was not going to be denied an opportunity to contribute.

“Although I am not in the ring fighting, at least I can take pride in the fact that the guys I trained are going in there and coming out on top,” said Jimenez.

The most recent boxing event was a victory for the base boxing team as it pummeled its competition from Summerall, winning the majority of the 12 bouts, where Soldiers, Airmen, and contractors from lightweight to heavyweight tested their mettle.

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Spc. James Small, Bravo Co., 1st Battalion, 185th Armor, battles his way to victory during the base “Smoker” boxing match at Contingency Operating Base Speicher June 5, 2009. Small, a gunner in a convoy security unit, and a native of Hacienda Heights, Calif.; and his trainer, Spc. Federico Jimenez, a truck commander, and a native of Carlsbad, Calif., spent their free time training for the bouts in-between convoy security missions. “Being in shape has always been important to me, and the competition makes it that much more rewarding,” said Small. (Courtesy photos)