



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 19 OIF

25 September 2003



Editor

Hello everyone! I have received a lot of good wishes from many readers, as well as requests to add information on various units or soldiers. I have to inform you all that I can only provide what is sent to me. It is a busy time for all of the soldiers in Baghdad, and getting photos or stories about certain individuals is all but impossible. There are currently more than 4500 soldiers in the Brigade Combat Team and it is simply impossible to get stories about all of them. It is a very high priority to the Brigade Commander that all of the units submit to the "Statement," and we try to include a wide variety of stories and subjects. Eventually you will see a story about your unit, and if you are fortunate it might even be your soldier.

If there is anyone who would like to receive this by email simply drop me a line and I will add you to the distribution list. ted.m.preister@us.army.mil

CPT Ted M. Preister
BCT Rear-D Commander

HELLRAISERS

Congratulations go out to SPC Perez and his wife! **Benjamin Alexander Perez** was born September 22, 2003 at Landstuhl Hospital. Benjamin weighs 7 lbs, 3 oz. Mother and baby are doing great!



9/11 Commemoration Ceremony

At 1630 on 11 SEP 03 the brigade conducted a commemoration ceremony for those who lost their lives in the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. Chaplain (MAJ) John Woodbury and COL Ralph O.

Baker, Commander, 2d Brigade Combat Team spoke to the soldiers of HHC, 2BDE, HHC, 40th EN BN, and G TRP, 1 CAV on the importance of remembering this day and reflecting on how it has changed our lives. Reporters from ABC News and Al Jazeera Television were present for the ceremony.



COL Baker, 2BCT CDR, delivers his commemoration speech to the soldiers of HHC, 2BDE, HHC, 40th EN BN and G TRP, 1CAV

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Kate Eminhizer on September 25th!

VTC PHOTOS

Some of the spouses from HHC 2nd BDE participated in a VTC on September 22, 2003.



Mrs. Burton brought "Daisy" to greet Dad at the VTC. Daisy sends a big "Bow-Wow" to her Dad, SGT Burton!





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SSG Rogers son must have had a long day at school. He fell asleep waiting to talk to his Dad.

REGULARS

People sometimes ask us when Iraq is going to start taking care of its own problems. Popular media is prone to paint the picture that US soldiers are merely standing guard at checkpoints in a nation that doesn't want our help. Nothing could be further from the truth. Iraqis want the chance to have, for the first time, a citizen army and brave police force. They look towards our noble democracy as an example that such goals are possible. The boys of 1-6 are some of those providing this recently liberated nation with guidance on how to establish order and security for their people.

A fledgling force of new Iraqi soldiers has teamed up with the Regulars to learn how we have been so successful. They are known as the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC). While they are graduates of their own two week training course, they look toward leaders like Charlie Company's SSG James Nausadis for what it means to be a professional soldier.

Even though only 3 to 5 ICDC personnel join a platoon at a time, both Alpha and Charlie Companies report that their augmentees have been hard-working assets. In return for training, the ICDC personnel help our soldiers understand local customs and courtesies. They also translate for our troops.

Everyone works together to protect each other from the criminal elements in Baghdad.

The threat from Iraqi criminals is diminishing as the Iraqi Police Force (IPF) becomes more proficient. The IPF continues to learn from Bravo Company through joint patrols and checkpoints. In a joint mission this week, the IPF showed their newfound confidence and competence as they captured five kidnapers, and rescued the fourteen women they were holding. Though the raid was intense, the joint force was able to accomplish the mission without ever firing a single shot! PFC Kasey Keeling said after the mission, "We hear all the time about kidnappings. It's nice that we were finally able to do something about it." Even in our home operating base, FOB Regular, things are changing. It still feels strange to see the local nationals, some of whom were likely former foes, walking around with AK-47's.

Even so, the soldiers on both sides are learning that politics and language aside, people are people. Every good soldier wants to do his job well, to provide for and protect his family. Often the soldiers on both sides of a conflict have much more in common than the policy makers that placed them at odds.



An ICDC soldier from 1st platoon, Alpha Company, named Osama, helps guide Iraqi citizens at an Iraqi Army pay site.

Every couple of weeks a new batch of ICDC soldiers comes through FOB Regular for in processing. SPC James Vanhatten and the rest of the Intelligence and Civil Affairs teams must complete all the necessary paperwork including issuing weapons and ID cards. The locals are now





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helping with this task as well. Two recent graduates, a mother and daughter named Liala and Targeed, help the S-1 section keep records on training, accountability, and pay for the ICDC soldiers. As part of the ICDC soldier's in-processing, Dr. Jeff Alden and the medical section have to give them physicals.

The people of Iraq are learning how to reclaim the nation Saddam's regime took from them. They recognize their need for a model since they have no personal experience. 1-6th Infantry, your husbands and fathers have the opportunity to demonstrate how the United States of America conducts business, giving them a chance for a brighter future.

Regulars, By God!

CONQUERERS

Our newest project is training and forming the Iraqi Civilian Defense Corps (ICDC). These are squad and platoon sized elements that will work with us to patrol neighborhoods, stand on checkpoints, and handle local disturbances working with the Iraqi police. They are a modest equivalent to the National Guard performing its mission in a state of emergency. This mission is keeping some of our NCOs busy trying to stand this project up and train the Iraqi soldiers.

We are working for another day to use the Video Teleconference, but due to the limited number of available time slots we will not have an opportunity to use the VTC until the beginning of October. The current plan is for a 6-hour block of time, which is twice as long as the last time we used the VTC. An alternative plan is for two separate three-hour blocks so people are not standing around for long periods of time in the event the system does not function properly. We are still trying to work desktop VTC capability to hook up to computers here and the computers in the battalion HQs.

We want to welcome SGT Macri and 1LT Songer as designated Family Readiness Leaders for the battalion. This is a move towards our new plan to cover down with one FRL for each company FRG within 1-35. They will be responsible for handling all Family Readiness Issues and the FRG will be there as an added bonus for information and camaraderie. Each company will call upon their FRL to handle all

issues and be their point of contact for the battalion Rear Detachment.

This past week has been a very busy week with special security measures we had taken in conjunction with the anniversary of 9-11. We have also had some very high-ranking individuals visiting within the battalion's area: Senators from Missouri, Virginia, Montana, and three other states. We also had the Secretary of Defense, Mr. Donald Rumsfeld, and the Secretary of State, Mr. Colin Powell, visit the Task Force area.

The weather here is finally getting a little cooler. It is usually at a high of right around 100°F now and getting down in the upper 60s or low 70s at night.

Bravo Company's living conditions are getting better for most of their living quarters. Bravo will become attached to 2-6 Infantry by 25 September for administrative actions but we will continue to check on them and ensure 2-6 IN addresses their quality of life issues. LTC Williams assures me that he is determined to make their living conditions better and is trying to get them all back up to his larger base camp this month.

By 10 October, Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) who is a contractor over here, is supposed to take over the food preparation and dispensing. Hopefully it will be better food than we were getting earlier. The food lately has not been too bad. Occasionally we get hamburgers, barbecue ribs, and pork chops. Those are intermixed with meals containing some other type of pork, boiled chicken or turkey (tough to tell which), and oriental chicken (sort of). The breakfasts have eggs, grits and some type of potato. We get sausage or bacon usually and milk and we are starting to get more fruits and vegetables. I am sure we will start to get ice cream as soon as winter hits!

LTC LANE

THUNDER

FROM THE DESK OF THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Hello Thunder family members, things are looking great for the soldiers. We have steadily improved the quality of life here. First, the Internet Café. Our





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soldiers are very pleased with the service but the wait is 45 minutes, so we need some improvement there. Other improvements include AFN decoders and running water inside the permanent structures. However, we still have approximately 1/3 of our soldiers still in tents.



CSM Kelly looks on as CPT Hickman is awarded the Purple Heart.

I hope that everyone will continue to give their support to our troops. They are doing a fantastic job under the hardest conditions. We are now working into our 5th month and no complacency shows on the faces of our warriors. Our Thunder soldiers are motivated as ever and will continue to perform with the highest of standards. Please continue with your continuing support.

Thanks,
CSM Kelly



SGT Hunter receives a Battalion Coin

Congratulations go out to SPC Espinosa (A/40th E) and wife, Stephanie, on the birth of a **baby girl!** Gabriela Renee Espinosa was born 12 September, at 7 lbs and 20 inches.

PIONEERS

Hello from the Cobra Liar at Baghdad International Airport (BIAP), Iraq. It has been an eventful week for the Cobra Med Team, which brought forth highs and lows. This week gave farewell to SGT Estrada and CPL Leady...good luck in the future! As usual, the Cobra Med Team remained busy as ever. We still continue to provide the best possible care to 2BCT and BIAP. In addition, the Cobra Med Team has sponsored surgeries for local civilians. One of the patients was an Iraqi girl with a bone disorder on her legs. Hopefully, through several more surgeries, she will be walking normally in no time. The Cobra Med Team was also privileged to partake on a mission to visit an all girl orphanage in downtown Baghdad in order to provide resource support (i.e., donated clothing). Participants of the orphanage mission included: MAJ Leihman, CPT Rowe, 2LT Stewart, and SPC Shenouda. Way to represent the team in reestablishing friendship with the local civilians! Quality of life is improving, slowly and surely. The unit recently received AFN on television so now the soldiers can be updated on the latest football standings...a great American pastime. The internet café is beginning its expansion from 5 computers to 20 computers by 01 October 2003. Soldiers also had the opportunity to attend comedy shows sponsored by USO. Upcoming events include the Hispanic Heritage Day (salsa...yeah) and the 1st Annual, 47th FSB 10K/10 Miler. Lastly, I would like to thank the families and soldiers that participated in the VTC on 15 September 2003. It was a success and the soldiers here are grateful for it. On behalf of the Cobra Med Team, I would like to thank the friends and families for all the support you have given to the troops. Keep the care packages and letters coming.

Cobras!

CPT Joselito Lim
Cobra 6





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GATORS

Kathryn Williams Enjoys Baby Gator Soup



CHAPLAIN CORNER

The Chaplain Corps has felt the jolt of charges leveled at Chaplain Yee: "one of our own" must defend himself against accusations so serious that the structure for accrediting chaplains is being questioned. If indeed he proves to be innocent, we still wince at the initial appearance of evil. If he proves guilty, our implicit trust in each other as chaplains is shaken as for the first time. We think of the words of Psalm 41, verse 9: *"Even my own familiar friend in whom I trusted, who ate my bread, has lifted up his heel against me."* The Psalmist is feeling shocked, incredulous at the surprising revelation of treachery against him. He stands for all of us in that situation: were we duped? What signs of perfidy did we ignore, overlook, or downplay? What is entailed in a conversion to Islam - is that a new national and cultural identity? How significant are the genuine differences in doctrine among recognized faith groups? What is the actual nature of Islam as a system? Now the public square cannot postpone finding answers to those questions.

Hometown Care Downrange is still planned for October 4. Chaplain Francis invites volunteers to give him advance notice of their plans so that he can estimate lunch needs and division of labor: please phone him at 485-7100 or 485-1570.

All the Chapel groups are beginning to fix dates for special events in the course of this planning year which begins October 1. If you have good ideas for programs, get-togethers, and spiritual retreats, be sure to discuss them soon with the respective chaplains. Sunday School teachers are still in short supply in some departments; volunteers will be appreciated. Even if you have only a few weeks or months to devote, let the religious education coordinators know of your interest.

Striking Scripture

JOB chapter 29 testifies to the remarkable character of Job, "a man who was blameless and upright, and one who feared God and shunned evil." (JOB 1:1) In the midst of Job's physical anguish and spiritual dismay, he recalls his happy past and his present misery. What a stark contrast! Yet there was no change actually in his character: where once he prospered nobly and did noble acts of charity and goodness, now in his misfortunes he remains noble in his patient suffering. Of course he would dearly love to see his misfortunes quickly banished, and for prosperity and happiness to return. No doubt he believed so firmly also in God, Who is able to *restore the years the locusts have eaten (JOEL 2:25)*, that he renewed his spiritual strength even as he waited for relief from pain and deprivation. What strikes me most about JOB 29, however, is the picture we get of a remarkably consistent goodness in all of his actions. We see his goodness in the response of others to him, and in the endearing relationship that resulted from his acts of kindness. For example, "even the aged arose and stood" when Job approached; "when the ear heard, it blessed me; when the eye saw, then it approved me, because I delivered the poor who cried out, the fatherless and the one who had no helper." Most strikingly, "**And I caused the widow's heart to sing for joy; I put on righteousness, and it clothed me ... I broke the fangs of the wicked, and plucked the victim from his teeth. So I dwelt as a king in the army, as one who comforts mourners.**" We remember Job today with admiration. No one ever has contradicted his good reputation. May he have many disciples and imitators!

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

BSB COMMUNITY CALENDAR

- 5 Sunday Brunch, Rheinlander, 10:00am – 1:30pm
- 10 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 13 Columbus Day
- 25 Mass Casualty Exercise – expect long waits at the gate!
- 26 Daylight Saving Ends, set time back 1 hour
- 26 Town Hall meeting, Rheinlander, 4pm
- 29 LINKS, Rheinlander, 10:00am





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DoDDS CALENDAR

1st Tuesday of the month SAC Meeting, Baumholder High at 1630
 3rd Thursday of the month SAC Meeting, Wetzel Elementary at 1430
 11 Oct 1300 High School Football game Minnick Field
 31 Oct No School for Students, Teacher work Day
 1 Nov Super Six High School Football Championships
 5 Nov 1430 SAC Meeting, Neubruecke Elementary
 6 & 7 Nov All Elementary will have Parent Teacher Conferences
 7 Nov Baumholder High School will have Parent Teacher Conferences
 17 Nov 1515 IAC Meeting, BSB Conference Room
 18 Nov 1430 SAC Meeting, Smith Elementary
 27 & 28 No School, Thanksgiving Recess

CYS

Halloween Carnival

25 October, 14:00-18:00 in the Rhinelander Ballroom for ages 3-10
Volunteers are needed for this event! Contact Cindy Shelley at 485-7003

YOUTH EVENTS

Ballet Classes: Ages 3-18, Cost: \$30 per month
All students must be registered with CYS and must have a current health certificate on file.

18 Oct Middle School Costume Ball at the Underground for 6th-8th graders, Time: 1900-2300, Cost: \$3

25 Oct High School/Middle School Dance and 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament at the Hall of Champions for 6th-12th graders, Time: 2000-2400. These free events are in support of Red Ribbon Week.

Check our Web site:

www.baumholder.army.mil/youthsite/html/ys.htm

RHEINLANDER EVENTS

-Free Concert, HOT MOLINA (a Latin Band)
 2 October @ 1900
 - Sunday Brunch, 5 Oct, 1000 – 1330
 - Tuesday night KIDS' NIGHT with movies, board games, and a \$3.50-per-child menu!

- Indoor Garage Sale, 18 Oct, 0900-1600
Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507

Internet Access only 9 cents/minute in the Cyber Zone!!

OUTDOOR REC TOURS

2 Oct IKEA Shopping
 4 Oct Oktoberfest
 4 Oct Metz Flea Market
 4-5 Oct Polish Pottery Shopping
 10-13 Oct Columbus Day Ski Trip to Austria
 11 Oct Frankfurt Zoo
 16 Oct IKEA Shopping
 18 Oct Centro Mall
 24-25 Oct Czech Crystal Shopping
 25 Oct Metz Flea Market

POC: *Werner Graf at DSN 485-7182*

Staff are recruiting for volunteer trip leaders at Outdoor Recreation. Training and free admission on trips included!

HOST NATION SPONSORED EVENTS

26-28 Sep City Fest at Oberstein
 3-6 Oct Winzerfest at Offenbach-Hundheim
 3-13 Oct German Winefest at Neustadt (parade on 12th)
 4 Oct Flea market at Homburg/Saar
 6 Oct Market at Kirn
 11-12 Oct Environmental exhibition at Kusel
 11 Oct Team Duathlon at Kusel
 12 Oct Crafts & Farmers market at Kirn
 12 Oct Birkenfeld City Fest
 13 Oct Glory-Gospel sing Concert at Reichenbach protestant church, 1900 hrs
 17-27 Oct October market at Kaiserslautern
 18-19 Oct Hobby artist exhibition, Brühlhalle Baumholder
 21 Oct Wendel's market at St. Wendel
 25 Oct Flea market at Metz, France
 3 Nov Market at Kirn
 8 Nov Flea market at Homburg/Saar
 15 & 29 Nov Flea market at Metz, France
 28 Nov Christmas market at Oberstein
 29 Nov Christmas market at Reichenbach
 29 Nov Christmas market at Berglangenbach
 29 Nov Andreasmarket at Kirn



"2nd BCT NEWSLETTER" For Previous editions go to
http://www.2bct.1ad.army.mil/2ndBCT/striker_newsletter.htm



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St. Martin Parades

09 November 2003: Kirn 1800
10 November 2003: Baumholder 1700;
Berglangenbach 1800;Leitzweiler 1730; Hahnweiler
1815; Hoppstaedten 1730;
11 November 2003: Heimbach 1730; Rueckweiler
1700; Mettweiler 1800; Birkenfeld 1730

POC: *Madeleine Dwoiakowski, 485-1600*

BAUMHOLDER COMMUNITY SPOUSES CLUB

Come join us at the October luncheon on the 15th at 11:30 in the Rheinlander ballroom. There will be a pumpkin carving contest and 1/6 Infantry will be decorating! Childcare will be available if you make reservations by 1 October. Contact Cher Lim at cher.lim@us.army.mil or BC/189 302.

RSVP is required.

We're still looking for a few good spouses! The following positions are still open: Treasurer, Historian, and Tours & Activities Chair. If interested contact Melissa Schaffner at melissa.a.schaffner@us.army.mil or BC/990 969.

PERSONAL TRAINER

Want to get the best results from your workout? Consult the Baumholder Personal Trainer! She will walk you through the correct way to do the moves and show you what will work best for the results you wish to achieve! For more information call 06783-186426.

JOB FAIRS

- 27 September 10:00-16:00 in Kaiserslautern
Armstrong's Club in Vogelweh housing
- 28 September in Heidelberg
The Village Pavilion – Patrick Henry Village
Employment opportunities in a variety of fields, including clerical, childcare, teaching, security, information systems and more!
Pre-register ONLINE www.morejobs.net

CARE FAIR

Date: Saturday, 27 Sep 03
Time: 1000 – 1600
Location: Hall of Champions

NEW AEROBICS CLASSES

Baumholder Sports and Fitness will be offering NEW aerobic classes on Smith, Neubruecke and Wetzel Kasernes. Classes are 12 for \$25 and all fees must be paid to the instructor. The class schedule is as follows:

Strassburg Gym MWF 0900
Mountaineer Gym TWTH 1145
Hall of Champions MWF 1645
Neubruecke Gym TTH 1800 SAT 0900

WATER AROBICS

Dates: Tuesday and Thursday
Time: 1800 – 1900
Location: Rec Emporium

YOUTH WINTER SPORTS

Basketball – \$30 for first child, \$27 for second
Cheerleading – \$20 for first child, \$18 for second
Registration ends 5 Dec 03
Minimum 5 years old
Winter sports season: Practice starts in December
Games begin in January

COMMUNITY LEVEL BASKETBALL

The Baumholder Sports Office is looking for a few good men and women! If you are 18 years of age or older, no longer in high school, and would like to be a proud member of the Baumholder Bears or Lady Bears basketball teams, call DSN 485-7176 for more information.

BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

Register for TERM 2 classes with UMUC or CTC!
Remember to bring your financial aid forms!

Reminder: Army Emergency Relief (AER) Spouse Education Assistance Program Term 2 deadline – **29 Sept 03**. AER will pay up to 50% of an active duty spouse's tuition at local colleges.

Visit the Education Center in building 8332

Education Center is open from 0800-1700 HRS.
Financial aid applications are available for the 2003-2004 school year. For more information, call 485-7557.





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WINTERIZE YOUR CAR

GERMAN AUTOMOBILE GARAGES, AFFES GARAGES, AND POV INSPECTION POINT OFFER A **FREE INSPECTION** DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER!

POV's are checked for safe tires, lights, wipers, and exhaust system. A sticker will be posted at the windshield, which shows that your car has successfully passed the inspection.

FREE AND REDUCED-PRICE LUNCH PROGRAM

For information concerning applications for the program, please visit Army Community Service (ACS), Bldg 8746 or call DSN 485-8188 or CIV 06783-6-8188. Office hours are Monday - Friday from 0800 to 1700, with the shortest waiting times between 0800 and 1200.

This year you **will be required** to show proof of income (latest end of the month LES/pay stubs for spouse's income), kindergeld amounts, child support, or **any** additional income.

THEREFORE, ALL EXTRA DEPLOYMENT

INCOME WILL BE COUNTED. We will also need to see concurrent travel orders to the Baumholder community (showing the student's name) in order for us to determine eligibility. Only one application per family is required. For questions or for more information contact: Donna Vielma, Financial Readiness Specialist at 06783-6-8188

RELOCATION ASSISTANCE FOR SPOUSES

If your spouse is currently deployed, but has received orders to relocate, then don't delay planning and organizing your move! You can take care of many move-related tasks before your spouse returns to Baumholder. The more you get done now, the less stressful your move will be. And, as an added bonus, you will have more quality time to spend together when the soldier returns from the deployment.

The Baumholder ACS invites all spouses to schedule individualized relocation planning consultations. Whether the service member is currently deployed or in Baumholder, spouses can obtain the same quality assistance as the service member. We will provide you with a comprehensive packet about your new location, as well as

information to help you organize a smooth move. Relocation assistance is available whether the move is a PCS move or the service member is retiring or separating from the Army.

Please call ACS at 485-8188 or 06783-68188 for information and to schedule an appointment.

FORCE PROTECTION

Security awareness

After the commemoration of 9-11 events, we must continue to re-commit ourselves in being active participants in anti-terrorism and force protection. We all need to keep our ears and eyes open and report immediately the following:

- Suspicious individuals or suspicious behavior.
- Photographing or videotaping of U.S. installations or facilities.
- Individuals who appear to surveil gates, FP operations, etc.
- Attempts to obtain information about U.S. military activities or related information.
- Suspicious vehicles or objects "out of place".
- While you are not asked to put yourself in harm's way, pay attention to details that law enforcement authorities will need to track down the offender:
- Description of the vehicle (license plate if possible, color, make, etc.)
- Description of individuals (race, color, built, clothing, # of passengers, activities, etc)
- Description of activities (photographing, taping, taking notes, parked and observing, etc.)
- Direction of travel

Be patient and cooperative at gates. Random antiterrorist measures are needed.

You are reminded that we all play a vital part in anti-terrorism and force protection, and with help, we may be able to detect and prevent possible terrorist attacks. There is no reason to panic, all we need to do as a whole, is to: **deter, detect, and protect**, in the most effective way.

Report all suspicious activities to: BHR MP desk, DSN 485-7546/7547 or civilian 06783-6-7546/7547.

