



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 30 OIF

11 December 2003



Editor

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

CONQUERORS

Residents in Baghdad Neighborhood 220 place a high priority on having peace and quiet around their homes. Until recently, however, the neighborhood was congested with heavy traffic due to aggressive drivers in search of a shortcut to the Al-Alawi bus station or the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. During peak traffic hours in the mid-morning, many residents did not like to sit outside their homes due to the excessive dust, exhaust fumes, and the honking horns.



A Scout team from Task Force 3 1-35 AR Scout Platoon pulls security at one of a few road barriers in and around Neighborhood 220 in Central Baghdad, Iraq.

In addition to loss of their treasured quiet environment, residents of Neighborhood 220 felt neighborhood security was deteriorating due to the excessive traffic. The presence of so many unfamiliar vehicles in the neighborhood caused concern and fear of kidnapers, who may attempt to kidnap children in the neighborhood. Many of the regular street soccer games among the local kids had to be postponed until the evenings. The thru-traffic was simply an overload for a simple residential street. Commuters often drove over curbs and through private lots in an effort to drive through the neighborhood.

The Scout Platoon of Task Force 1-35 helped organized the emplacement of heavy concrete barriers throughout the neighborhood to eliminate the flow of unwanted traffic. The barriers block unofficial entrances into the neighborhood, as well as decrease the opportunity for crime. Motorists no longer use the neighborhood as a detour to get to their desired locations. Traffic on major roads even flows more smoothly due to the barrier system. These barriers have resulted a sense of normalcy back to the neighborhood.

Residents of Neighborhood 220 are now able to enjoy freely the comforts they once knew. Unwanted traffic, dust, and exhaust fumes have decrease tremendously. Parents feel more comfortable with security and allowing their children to join the neighborhood street soccer games without the fear of kidnapers. A condition of peace and quiet has finally returned. Thanks to the efforts of coalition forces to keep traffic patterns under control, the quality of life in neighborhood 220 has improved tremendously.



2nd Lt. Luke Sparks, fire support and information operations officer for C Company, 1/35, pushes some of the children in the swings at the Tashree community center playground in central Baghdad. Sparks said that the Soldiers' interaction with local children has improved the U.S. Army's relationship with the community. (Photo by Spc. Chad D. Wilkerson, 372nd MPAD)





The Conquerors had their Battalion-wide Christmas party on 6 Dec. The commissary donated Turkeys, and attendees brought their best dish or dessert. There were games and candy for the children.



Even Santa found his way to the 1-35 party!



On 3 Dec, Charlie Company, 1-35 honored Teresa Robinson for her service to the FRG. Mrs. Robinson will PCS with husband, SGT Scott Robinson to Fort Knox next month.

Charlie Company Birthdates

12 Dec SPC Golden
13 Dec SSG Revette
17 Dec Meagan Leija
18 Dec Cody Frankenberg

GATORS

2-6 INF MEDICAL PLATOON

Since leaving Baumholder, Germany last April, to the war in Iraq, the medical platoon has gone through a lot of changes between missions, day-to-day operation, personnel, and individual achievements. The medical mission in Iraq has been different for all of us.

The line medic is without a doubt the most coveted position within the medical platoon. There are currently four line medics within each company, and are referred to as "DOC" by their platoons. To be chosen to go to the line, a medic must prove himself to be competent in his medical skills and his abilities to soldier. These line medics must ensure their skills are fine-tuned. It is important that each medic develop a bond with the members of their platoon. A combat medic is always out front and ready. They are the first medical assistance a wounded soldier will see and trust is key. They have conducted hundreds of raids on Ba'ah party loyalist with their platoons, standing out on checkpoints securing the safe zones for hours on end, and combat patrols late into the night.

The evacuation (evac) section has done an outstanding job. Their mission sometimes consists of long hours into the night at RED-CON 1, awaiting the call to respond to a medical emergency. Along with combat missions they have also conducted several nine line medical evacuation training drills to ensure each company is better prepared for quick response in the event medical aid is needed.

Aid Station duty is not always the most glamorous one, but it gives each medic the opportunity to hone their skills with the expert guidance of LTC Salcadio, MD, and 1LT Montano, PA. With their careful oversight and mentorship, each medic has become better prepared to do their job on the front lines. The 1st AD has also gone out of its way to provide the





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needed training for all medical personnel here in our current theater of operations, which has enabled us to continue with 91W re-certification, a process that gives each medic advanced medical training. In return the medical platoon has kept the Battalion busy conducting monthly combat lifesaver classes. SGT Jenkins has also done an outstanding job coordinating medical supplies for the Battalion; ensuring supplies never drop below 95%.

The medical platoon is always there from Task Force missions, such as Kerbala, and Salman Pak, and assisting Iraqi doctors in medical screenings for new Iraqi Civil Defense Corp (ICDC) soldiers. They have also worked with the Iraqi Ministry of Health in their development of a new Iraqi health care system. Each Hospital and clinic in our zone of operation has benefited from our tireless effort to ensure quality health care within Iraq. The medical platoon also played an instrumental role after the bombing of the United Nations building, assisting in the treatment of over seventy casualties. It was a day none of us will ever forget.

We have said good-bye to a lot of our comrades within the medical platoon as they PCSed to other units, but have also welcomed several new medics. Due to apt NCO oversight, the adjustment of new personnel has gone well. Each individual in the medical platoon has made positive contributions to our mission here in Iraq. One man I count on the most, who has never let me fail and will do what ever it takes to make certain that each soldier medic is prepared for every challenge that lies ahead. He also focuses on continued training and soldier readiness. He has kept us safe and ensured we are prepared to execute missions. In my mind a true hero: Our Platoon Daddy, SFC Azille, Platoon Sergeant.

Our soldier-medics have rose to every challenge by giving all they have in every situation, within a very demanding environment. They have truly lived up to their heroic heritage of combat medics, a lineage of soldiers trained to save lives at all cost.

REGULARS

Thanksgiving has come and gone and now we look forward to the Christmas season. One of the few benefits of being deployed for the holiday was being exempt from shopping the day after

Thanksgiving (though some diehards insisted on using the Internet so as not to be left out of the experience). This also represents one more milestone passed as we look forward to our reunion with friends and family. For the time being, however, there is still much work to be done.

Alpha Company pulled back a little from their patrols to begin preparation for Squad Live Fire exercises starting the Eighth of December. The troops set up mock buildings of fence posts and sheets of plywood set up waist high. These allowed the soldiers to practice clearing rooms while allowing the platoon and company leadership to observe their battle drills. 1LT Mark Grado had special help as he observed his troops go through their paces. Several soldiers had a special treat on Thanksgiving Day as they were carried to Baghdad International Airport to have dinner with unidentified "diplomats." When they went through the line they were served turkey by none other than President George W. Bush. SGT Greg Foster of third platoon stated, "It was pretty cool. He hopped in the line and started serving turkey after he said a few words. It was a big morale booster."

Bravo Company saw the return of two soldiers who have been absent while receiving specialized training as snipers. SPC Frank Wilkins and PFC Larry Carter were enthusiastic about their training and felt it was already reaping benefits. "This kind of stuff really motivates me. This is exactly what I needed to keep me focused." stated SPC Wilkins. Since the attacks have been fewer and farther between in recent days, things have slowed down a little.

Charlie Company was able to refocus their efforts this week. They went after black marketers. While on patrol, soldiers from 2nd Platoon located and captured a cache of 55 gallon barrels used to store black market gasoline. Spotted by PFC John Barnes, he and the rest of SGT Richard Aduamah's squad reported their discovery and secured the site until relief could come and pick up the contraband. In all five of the barrels were confiscated removing a safety hazard and source of irritation to the local people do to the price gouging and eyesore they represent.



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http://www.2bct.1ad.army.mil/2ndBCT/striker_newsletter.htm



1st Platoon rehearses MOUT entry techniques as 1LT Mark Grado and “Ozzy” look on.

The new dining facility build at FOB Regular is showing that it is useful for more than just a place to eat. HHC was able to sponsor the Battalion's second talent show. The event was MC'd by SSG Gibbs and there were participants from throughout the Battalion, as well as the Civil Affairs unit and MP company located in our area. The top three participants were: SSG Wilson, Division retention NCO, performing an original song titled “Lady” on the guitar; CPT Alan Goddard, BN PA, and SGT Mark Brown and SPC Shane McConnell, 210th MP Company performing “Brown Eyed Girl” & “Sweet Home Alabama;” and SPC Leonard, Bravo Company, performing an old Jimi Hendricks tune. One of the Iraqi contractors donated numerous prizes for the contestants and to serve as door prizes. A good time was had by all.

As we begin to decorate for the holidays and mark off the passage of time we continue to look longingly toward our reunion. Till that day there is still much work to do. We continue to welcome all the encouragement and support of those of you at home. Till next time, we continue to be **“Regulars...By God!”**

1-6 FRG NEWS

Last week, Bravo and Charlie Company, 1-6 IN hosted a well-deserved and well-earned farewell party for SSG Calvin Lawson. A soldier with Charlie Company, SSG Lawson was given the difficult task of not only being the Family Readiness Liaison for his company during this deployment but for Bravo Company as well.



SSG Lawson with Bravo Company's FRG Leader, Carla Federovich.

Although, SSG Lawson may not have been a Bravo Warrior at heart, he never treated any of the company's soldiers or family members any differently than the way he treated his fellow Charlie Commandos. He gave both companies his support, dedication, and words of wisdom and encouragement. He often worked late nights at the office, always kept his cell phone on, and had sacrificed almost all of his weekends since the beginning of the deployment to make sure that he was there for the companies in case there was ever an emergency. He also supported both Family Readiness Groups with all of their fundraisers, attended all of their FRG meetings, and visited wounded soldiers and sick family members in the hospital.



Rebecca Grate of Charlie Company presents SSG Lawson with a plaque given to him by his fellow Commandos.

While many people from Bravo Company have only known SSG Lawson from the start of this



deployment, they will truly miss him as much as his Commando family will when he leaves next month to go to his next duty station. Both companies couldn't have been given a more outstanding soldier to take care of them during this difficult one-year deployment to Iraq.

Bravo and Charlie Company thank SSG Lawson and his family for all of the sacrifices they have made. We wish him the best of luck in his endeavors.

THUNDER

Members of the Thunder family recently had a post tree-lighting get-together. Judging from all the coats and hats – we can tell that the official start of “Baumholder Winter” has arrived!





CHAPLAINS' CORNER

Why Read The Bible? Do these statements sound familiar?

- "I'm a busy person. I have a lot to do. Why should I spend my time reading the Bible? I don't have time to do all I need to do as it is."
- "I already believe in Jesus Christ, that He's the Son of God and my Savior. I've already heard the Gospel."
- "Why should I read the Bible?"

Read the following Scriptures. Then, if you still wonder why you should read the Bible, then contact your Chaplain for advice.

JOHN 8:31-32

31 Jesus then said to the Jews who had believed in him, "If you continue in my word, you are truly my disciples,
32 and you will know the truth, and the truth will make you free."

JOHN 14:23-24

23 Jesus replied: 'If anyone loves me he will cherish my word; my Father will love him and we will come to him and make him our abode.

24 He that does not love me neglects my words. Yet

the word you hear is not my own but that of the Father who sent me.

ACTS 20:32

32 "So now, brethren, I commend you to God and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up and give you an inheritance among all those who are sanctified.

Make this your goal: I will read and study the Bible.

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

December

- 19 Niki Barr MWR Concert
- 25 Christmas Day
- 26 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 26 German Holiday
- 30 No Town hall
- 31 No Links

January

- 1 New Years Day, German Holiday
- 2 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 4 Sunday Brunch
- 16 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 19 Martin Luther King Federal Holiday
LN Agreement Day
- 27 Town Hall
- 28 Deployment Support Group, 9am
LINKS, 10am

DoDDS CALENDAR

- 22 Dec Winter Recess Begins
- 05 Jan School Resume
- 19 Jan No school, Martin Luther King Jr. Day
- 22 Jan End of Second Quarter
- 23 Jan Teacher Work Day (No School!)
- 16 Feb No School, Presidents' Day

RHEINLANDER EVENTS

- Family Night- Pizza, pasta, and salad buffet
Wednesdays, 1800-2100, ONLY \$4 for kids under 12!

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

POC: Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507





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OUTDOOR REC TOURS

13 Dec 03 – Nuernberg X-Mass Trip
14 Dec 03 – Polish Pottery Shopping Trip
21 Dec 03 – Grindelwald Switzerland Ski Trip
27 Dec 03 – Feldberg Black Forest Ski Trip
POC: Jeffrey Milkes at DSN 485-6352

HOST NATION SPONSORED EVENTS

14 Dec Flea market at Metz, France
19 Dec Musical sleigh ride, Idar-Oberstein City theater
21 Dec Flea market at the Globus Idar-Oberstein
10 Jan New Year's Ball, Baumholder Bruehlhalle

Christmas Markets:

26 Nov – 22 Dec 03 Christmas market at Heidelberg
25 Nov – 23 Dec 03 Christmas market at Kaiserslautern
28 Nov – 23 Dec 03 Christmas market at Mainz
28 Nov – 23 Dec 03 Christmas market at Saarbrücken
24 Nov – 22 Dec 03 Christmas market at Trier
6-14 Dec 03 Christmas market at St. Wendel

CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

POC: Joanne Hernandez at 485-7198
19 Dec – High school holiday party at the Teen Café,
Cost: \$3
19 Dec – Middle school holiday party at the
Underground, Cost: \$3
20 Dec – Midnight Sports, middle & high school,
at Hall of Champions Gym, Cost: Free
23 Dec – Shopping Trip to Mannheim for 9th-12th
graders, Cost: \$3, plus spending money
03 Jan – Open House at the Teen Café for 9th-12th
graders, Time: 1600 - 2200
07 Jan – Service Project for 9th-12th graders: CDC
outside clean-up, Time: 1400

Breakfast With Santa

Saturday, 13 Dec at Neubruecke YS
Time: 1000 – 1200
Cost: \$5 per family including a photo

Parents Night Out: Dec 20 from 18:00-22:00. Pay
when you sign up!

Hourly care will not be available at Dispensary CDC on
26 Dec & 2 Jan

COMMUNITY RECREATION DIVISION

POC: Jeffrey Milkes at DSN 485-6352

The Rec Emporium will soon have a new name – the
Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Membership fees will also
change – one price will cover the entire facility.

- **Recreation Emporium Open House!** With FREE
Pool and Fitness Center! Jan 11 from: 1200 – 1700
- **Pool will be closed 20 Dec 03 to 4 Jan 04** for
annual pool maintenance.
- **Water Aerobics at the Rec Emporium**
MWF at 12:00; TTh at 18:30

BAUMHOLDER HOLIDAY RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Community

- 25 Dec, Helping Hand Christmas Dinner and
Vouchers
Roman Catholic (St. Michael Chapel #2)
- 24 Dec, 1800, Children's Mass
- 25 Dec, 1100, Christmas Mass
- 1 Jan, 1100, Maternity of Mary Holy Day Mass

Christian, All (Chapel #1)

- Wed's in Advent – 3, 10, & 17 Dec,
1800, Christian Advent Evening
Prayer Service, followed by
Light Advent Supper
- 14 Dec, 0930, Advent Festival of Readings and
Carols
- 21 Dec, 0930, Children's Christmas Program
- 24 Dec, 1700, Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
- 24 Dec, 1800, Christmas Eve Fellowship – Drinks,
Finger Food

Lutheran (Chapel #1)

- 24 Dec, 1800, Christmas Eve Fellowship – Drinks,
Finger Food
- 24 Dec, 1830, Christmas Eve Candlelight
Communion Service

Gospel Service (Chapel #1)

- 31 Dec, 2200, Watch Night Service
**Chapels #1 and #2 are located on Smith Barracks,
Baumholder. Contact the 222d BSB Ministry
Team at DSN 485-1570, or commercial (06783) 6-
1570.**



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OTHER SERVICES OUTSIDE OF THE BAUMHOLDER AREA

Eastern Orthodox

-Chaplain Sahady, DSN 480-5753

Jewish

-Rabbi Cohen DSN 480-6149

Islamic

-Chaplain Al-Mubarak, DSN 489-6859

Special Services days and times to be determined. Please call the Chaplain's office for more information.

BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

- **Term 3 College and Adult Education Courses**
Registration Starts for Distance Education (DE) classes is 24 Nov – 16 Jan.
- Central Texas College & UMUC courses now available
- **ASEP Class for NCO's**
Preparing the NCO-ER 12-16 January 04
- **REMINDER: Army Emergency Relief (AER)**
Spouse Education Assistance Program
AER will pay up to 50% of an active duty spouse's tuition at local colleges!
- New financial aid forms for 2003-04 now available.

Visit the Education Center in building 8332 or call 485-7557

www.baumholder.army.mil/education

BAUMHOLDER COMMUNITY SPOUSES

The famous Gift Wrap at the PX is here! It will start November 28 so be sure to go by the Customer Service area and get all your Christmas presents wrapped! Contact Jana Dye for more information at jana.dye@us.army.mil

ARMY COMMUNITY SERVICES

The **Toy and Book Exchange** program gives families the opportunity to come to ACS and get "new-to-you" toys and books for kids who have been playing with the same old toys since their household goods were shipped. We need a lot of toys and books to get this program off the ground! **Donations of toys and books in good condition are welcome. Call 485-8188 for more information!**

CLASSES

17 Dec – 0900-1100.....Out of Hock, Out of Debt

Employment Orientation Class

16 Dec from 0900 – 1030

RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

ACS is offering a class on Wednesdays that focuses on issues after the deployment. Free child care is available, and lunch is provided. Please call 485-8188 or 06783-68188 to reserve your seat!

ACS OPEN HOUSE

ACS staff hosted an Open House on 5 Dec. Along with the great refreshments, ACS personnel were on hand to answer questions about the variety of services that their office offers. Santa Claus was also present to take gift requests from younger attendees.



Back Row: SSG Boyd, Camille Jackson, Traudel Kramer, Mari Haley, Melissa Schaffner, Elizabeth Curran, Melody Tavera

Front row: Doris Price, Donna Finney, Matilda Adams, Jeff Burkard

Not Shown: Floyd Davison, Jean-Marie Williams, Jenny Gerber, Teresa Gaines, Bridget Sanders, Julie Gowel



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