



# THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 32 OIF

2 January 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](mailto:ted.m.preister@us.army.mil)

**CPT Ted M. Preister**  
**BCT Rear-D Commander**

## HELLRAISERS



**World Wrestling Entertainment's "Stone Cold" Steve Austin getting the soldiers pumped up during "Smack Down" in Baghdad, Iraq.**

Happy New Year! The soldiers are doing well. Our chain of command has put great emphasis on soldier programs during this time of the year. Many of the company soldiers were able to experience time around celebrities like David Letterman or "Stone Cold" Steve Austin over the last week. We have had a real good time in welcoming them to the Second Brigade Combat Team. They have expressed their support and best wishes for our safe return.

For those of you who are interested in redeployment timelines (that's probably everyone), I can only say that the company is scheduled to return in late April through early May 04. You can gain more information on USAREUR Reintegration by logging on to the USAREUR website at: [www.hqusareur.army.mil](http://www.hqusareur.army.mil)

There are a number of tasks that will need to be accomplished by families during the reintegration process. Please take a look at the site as it will give you a good idea of what to expect when your loved

ones return. The Brigade Headquarters is working on the redeployment plan over the next month and by the end of January we should have a firm idea on what that will look like. Again, best wishes and have a Happy New Year.

**CPT Che' T. Arosemena**  
**Hellraiser 6**



**1SG Bray and David Letterman getting "chummy" in front of the palace.**

## CONQUERORS

**Medics Assist in Upgrading Clinics in Central Baghdad** By: 2LT Ben McGrann

Since their arrival in Central Baghdad in May, the medics from Task Force 1-35 have wanted to contribute to the improvement of health care available to Iraqi citizens. From the beginning, however, they were somewhat constrained in what they could and could not do for Iraqi citizens. Although they had treated many Iraqi civilians, the U.S. Army medical facilities, to include the Task Force's own Aid Station, were primarily for the care of U.S. personnel. Consequently, the medics had to find another way to improve health care available to Iraqi citizens in the area.

In an effort to help the Central Baghdad residents help themselves, the Task Force medics began a search for a suitable medical facility. The medics eventually found a large neighborhood health clinic, which had doctors living near by. The facility, the Al-Gadisiyah Clinic, was located close to schools and



homes within the neighborhood. It was old, however, and lacked power, a lab and an emergency room. Consequently, the clinic was far from operational. To be fully operational, the clinic would require major renovations which would initially require funding. The Task Force Medical Platoon began the project by registering it through the Iraqi Business Center at the Baghdad Convention Center. Once the project had been registered, fifty companies showed interest in performing the much-needed work at the Clinic. Soon afterwards, the unit received funding for the project which allowed local contractors to begin the reconstruction of the facility.



**Hadi Salim, Contractor and 2LT Ben McGrann, 1-35 AR MEDO standing outside Al Gadisiyah Health Clinic**

When it is finished, the new clinic will have an emergency room, dental services, family practice, labs and a digital x-ray room. It will have two floors and will provide medical care to approximately 5000 families. The clinic will additionally provide the community emergency services through the employment of ambulances which will be located adjacent to the clinic. This will allow the transfer of patients to local hospitals. Once this project is completed, it will be a model for other public health clinics to follow.

The Doctors at the clinic and the Task Force Medics have forged a strong bond of cooperation during this project. The partnership will ultimately provide the Iraqi Doctors a new health care facility with which they can help the residents of central Baghdad. For their part, the Task Force 1-35 medics learned a great deal from those same Iraqi Doctors.



**Clinic Doctors and Construction workers, along with 2LT McGrann 1-35 AR Medical Platoon Leader, stand outside Al Gadisiyah the first day of the re-model.**

## FRG NEWS

C. Company FRG participated in the gift-wrapping fundraiser this year. AAFES provided the paper and ribbons, and the FRG kept the donations. All Baumholder FRG's were given the opportunity to participate in this event. Charlie Company FRG plans to use some of its funds for a welcome home celebration for the soldiers when they redeploy back to Baumholder.



**Kim Fitzgerald, Sunny Graves, and Shirley Linder are busy wrapping on 16 December.**





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## REGULARS

As this is being written we are in the week between Christmas and the New Year. Mornings are cool (read mid to upper 40's) and each day has at least some clouds, but with daytime highs in the 60's and the warmth of the sun when it does shine, it doesn't seem much like Christmas (unless maybe you are used to Orlando FL or Los Angeles, CA). Still, between the directions and the many cards and packages you our friends and loved ones have sent we have been able to celebrate Christmas and mark another milestone on our journey toward home.

Alpha Company had a busy week. Early in the week they served as the main effort for a raid on a local mosque suspected of housing arms and terrorists, and of preaching anti-coalition activities. The raid was a success, capturing a few weapons, several suspected terrorists and anti-coalition leaflets. The unit was concerned about the sensitivity of attacking a Muslim Holy site, but the community leaders affirmed that this was a "bad" mosque. Due to intelligence reports we were expecting attacks on Christmas. For Alpha this meant more patrols and guard duty on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July Bridge and at the Japanese Embassy. The attacks never truly materialized and could not stop soldiers from offering a little Christmas Cheer to Iraqi children who came through the checkpoints.

Bravo Company took their turn at the Squad Live Fire exercises this week. During this training they ran machinegun ranges and practiced day and night building clearing drills under live fire conditions. They finished up just in time to return "home" and spend Christmas with their 1/6 family. The troops found the change in routine a refreshing break from the intense patrolling schedule they have been observing. PFC Christopher Flores stated, "This was the best training we've done. We were able to refine a lot of the techniques we use on patrol"

The Commandos spent their Christmas Eve night executing a raid on five separate homes of suspected terrorists. By early Christmas morning they had a present for the rest of their brothers in the battalion, they had captured 11 suspected insurgents and evidence of their crimes as well. After this they were

able to take some much needed rest and join in the special meal with the rest of the battalion. Right after Christmas they were next up for the Squad Live Fire and moved to Butler Range for their turn with the exercises. Good work Commandos.

HHC spent this week on FOB improvement and support operations. These included preparations for Christmas. Mail was heavier than usual, which was a blessing. Also much time was spent decorating the living areas, the DEFAC and the chapel. There were three services including a Christmas Eve Candle lighting service 2300 to 2400. Many of the soldiers exchanged gifts and cards. Some of the Iraqi translators and other workers even got into the spirit of the season.

Though we would have preferred to share the season with you our families back home, all in all we had a pleasant and profitable time together. Till we can be reunited we remain, ***"Regulars...By God! Merry Christmas!"***

## RAMS

Needless to say Christmas 2003 will be a Christmas the soldiers of C company, 40<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion will never forget. It was, therefore, the leadership's top priority to ensure that the soldiers of the company were content and that they had fun on this special day. To accomplish this, company sports day was implemented, in an effort to boost the soldiers morale. The platoons competed against each other in three events; football, basketball, and volleyball.

The Christmas day sporting events were the beginning of a tournament which will have its finale on New Years day, and pitted 1<sup>st</sup> platoon against A&O, and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon against headquarters. The basketball tournament began with a showdown between the basketball powerhouses of 1<sup>st</sup> platoon and A&O.

The best of three series began in an old school which was recently fitted with lights by the soldiers of the company. The first game was easily handled by 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, who out rebounded the much smaller A&O team. The second game of the series was a different story however, boosted by the late arrival of



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squad leader Sgt Jenkins, A&O bounced back from an early deficit to tie the game 10 to 10. The game was to 12, with each basket counting as one point. A&O took the lead off a rebound put back by PFC Gedeon, which was quickly answered by a shot for 1<sup>st</sup> platoons Sgt Melvin. With the game tied at 11 an A&O player had the ball stolen away at mid court and the game winning bucket was put in by a driving Sgt Stewart giving first platoon the heartbreaking victory and the series. Meanwhile 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon quickly overwhelmed the outmatched headquarters section in two games of volleyball.



At the halfway point of company sports day 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoons had advanced to the finals of basketball and volleyball, now it was time for 1<sup>st</sup> and A&O to face off in Volleyball. In a role reversal it was A&O who easily handled the line platoon in the first game of volleyball. After switching sides however 1<sup>st</sup> platoon was redeemed with the lopsided victory of the second game. A&O was unable to bounce back from the embarrassing defeat in the third game and thus 1<sup>st</sup> platoon advanced to the finals of both events on New Years day. Back in the gym 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon completed the line platoon sweep by narrowly defeating headquarters to move on to the finals in both sports.

In the end 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> platoons, and headquarters and A&O will face off against each other on New Years day for the prestigious title of Charlie Rock basketball or volleyball champions. Despite being away from loved ones this Christmas, C company soldiers we able to maintain a high level of moral through good friends and fun.

## GATORS

Happy Holidays from Baghdad! For a lot of us, this is the first time we are away from our loved ones during the holiday season, but we will make due with the brothers we have with us. Many soldiers have explored new options on getting gifts to loved ones even though they are deployed. A local bazaar here at FOB Muleskinner afforded the opportunity for soldiers to purchase local crafts and trinkets to send home, while many made Internet purchases in advance to ensure a timely delivery.

In line with the holiday season, on the 2nd of December, the Blackjacks got together for a tree lighting ceremony. Each platoon spent quite a bit of time rehearsing a Christmas carol, and gathered up 10 ornaments each to contribute to the soaring 4-foot artificial tree. Among the creative ornaments were: a 1AD patch on a string, a Newport box, Glint Tape Tinsel, Beef Jerky, chap stick, and end connectors.

In the meantime, operations are continuing at an increasing pace. Routine patrols in sector, and security at the Tuwaythah Bunker and Yellow Cake factory have been keeping the line platoons occupied, while headquarters has continued to support the fight by running daily escorts and hot meals. The Blackjacks have been busy at work preparing for gunnery. The mechanics, under the guidance of SSGs John and Frankum along with SPC Bowie, the Commo Specialist, have been working intensely to insure success on the range. B Company is set to shoot 5-12 JAN 04. With virtually all new gunners, the crews are honing their tank skills to prove their speed, lethality, and ability to put steel on target.

The Blackjacks are growing! B 1/35 extends a hearty welcome to PVT Vanderschief, PV2 Vega, PV2 Wilson, and PFC Wroblewski. Welcome to the Blackjacks!

By way of reenlistments, SPC Juan Flores reenlisted on the 13th of December; he will be leaving us shortly for Ft. Irwin. We'll miss you Fathead!

The Blackjacks bid farewell to SGT Martin Hernandez and SPC Candelario Rodriguez. We wish them well, and hope that they may take the Blackjack standard wherever they go.





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Once again, to all the friends and family, we wish you all the best this holiday season. Thank you for your endless support.

## THUNDER

Greetings from the Stallions! We all hope that you enjoyed your Thanksgiving and had a great Christmas. I'm sure you have already heard about ours. We had an excellent dinner provided by your very own DFAC. For Thanksgiving, we had a day of boxing and just over all relaxation. Christmas was more of the same with great food and camaraderie to be shared by all. SFC Winder, the Food Service NCOIC for the Battalion and all of his soldiers have done a remarkable with the quality of food service they provide to the battalion. We are proud to call them Stallions.

Congratulations are in order for SPC Clark, SPC Lapham and PFC Barrett, who were presented the Stallion Excellence Award by the Battalion Commander. They received a Certificate and a SVC Btry Guidon. Also recognized by the Battalion Commander was PFC James, who was awarded a Certificate of Achievement for being the Soldier of the Quarter. Congratulations to all.



November was a sad month for us as several people have moved on to greener pastures. SPC Olvera and PFC Frasure have both left a mark on Service Battery and will be greatly missed.

On a happier note, we would like to welcome a few soldiers who have joined the Stallion team. Maintenance added SPC Jackowski team and POL gained SGT Adams and PFC Cabrera.

November and December seemed to fly by and the New Year is fast approaching. We wish you a safe and happy holiday. Our thoughts are with you.

(Written by LT Feusi- Battery PAO/XO)



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## PIONEERS

### Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion "Hellfighters"

The soldiers of HHD, 47<sup>th</sup> have enjoyed yet another eventful month in Iraq. The soldiers were treated with an appearance of several celebrities. We have been fortunate enough to have many visitors at the 47<sup>th</sup> FSB and other locations here on BIAP. There have been many celebrations, holiday shows, USO tours and visitors for the holidays. It definitely hasn't been boring and the support has been greatly appreciated by all the soldiers.

On 16 December 2003, Comedian/Actor Robin Williams, WWE Superstar Kurt Angle, NASCAR Driver Mark Willis, and Model LeeAnn Tweeden stopped by the Baghdad International Airport to entertain and sign autographs for soldiers. They gave words of support and admiration for the sacrifice that each and every soldier endures while protecting freedom. Robin Williams performed several minutes of stand-up comedy, even making CSM Tobin the punch-line of several jokes.

On 20 December 2003, the Command Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Jack Tilly, made an appearance here on BIAP. He talked with the soldiers about the USO show that was happening later that afternoon and encouraged soldier participation. He "let his hair down" and told several jokes to break the ice. His niece Bonnie Tilly also graced us with her presence and sang her version of Oh Holy Night. She is also a part of the USO Tour that came to BIAP this past week.

During the same day the WWE Smackdown was hosted at Camp Victory. Vince McMahon, "Stone Cold" Steve Austin, Big Show, Eddie Guerrero, Chris Benoit, the APA, Rikishi, John Cena, the self-proclaimed "World's Greatest Tag Team", and Rhino put on a very entertaining show. Sable, Torrie Wilson, and Dawn Marie put on a "Santa's Little Helper" Beauty Pageant. After the show was over, all of the superstars came out to the ring and told us all how much they appreciate all that we do.

On 22 December 2003, soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Armored Division Band and Soldier's Chorus gave a concert in the "Pioneer" Auditorium. They performed a variety of Christmas songs and melodies. The DISCOM Command Sergeant Major, CSM Douglas was so moved by the concert, he entertained us by being the special guest conductor of the band for one song. The soldiers left the show feeling a little of the holiday spirit.



SGT Grainger & Kurt Angle  
WWE Superstar!



"Bradshaw" WWE Superstar  
Camp Victory SmackDown



SGT Nugyen, SPC Loris, PFC Guzman,  
SGT Slaughter  
"HHD Christmas Party"



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## CHAPLAINS' CORNER

### Be Thankful For What You Have

COLOSSIANS 3:15

*Each one of you is part of the body of Christ, and you were chosen to live together in peace. So let the peace that comes from Christ control your thoughts. And be grateful.*

If you are reading this, there are literally millions of people who would trade places with you. They envy you and would be very grateful to enjoy all that you do. Usually the more someone has, the less thankful they become. So how can you overcome ingratitude? Only by changing your beliefs. As long as you believe you're getting a raw deal, or less than you deserve, you will never become a thankful person. An attitude of gratitude is the result of what we focus on.

Remember, you deserved punishment. Instead, God gave you what He deserved, and EVERYTHING you have -- every breath -- is a gift. Keep this in focus and you will become a thankful person. (An extra bonus is that a thankful person is a happy person.)

HEBREWS 13:5

Keep your lives free from the love of money and be content with what you have, because God has said, "*Never will I leave you; never will I forsake you.*"

What could be greater? Almighty God promises to always take care of you! Never will you be forsaken! Never will you be left facing life all alone! (You may feel forsaken, but it's a lie.) A rewarding, satisfying, and fulfilling life does not depend on being rich. Jesus is the one who told us, and He knows.

LUKE 12:15

*Beware! Don't always be wishing for what you don't have. For real life and real living are not related to how rich we are.*

## BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

### January

- 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

- 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, 18-2100, ONLY \$4 for kids under 12!
- Internet only 9 cents/minute in the Cyber Zone!!
- POC:** Amy Gee at DSN 485-7507

### OUTDOOR REC TOURS

- 27 Dec 03 – Feldberg Black Forest Ski Trip
- POC:** Jeffrey Milkes at DSN 485-6352

### HOST NATION SPONSORED EVENTS

- 10Jan New Year's Ball, Baumholder Bruehlhalle

### CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

- POC:** Joanne Hernandez at 485-7198
- 03 Jan – Open House at the Teen Café for 9th-12th graders, Time: 1600 - 2200
- 17 Jan – Service Project for 9th-12th graders: CDC outside clean-up, Time: 1400

### 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; T Th at 18:30



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## 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!

## BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

- **Registration is now available for all Term 3 classes!**
- **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](http://www.baumholder.army.mil/education)

## 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!**



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