



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 34 OIF

15 January 2003



Editor

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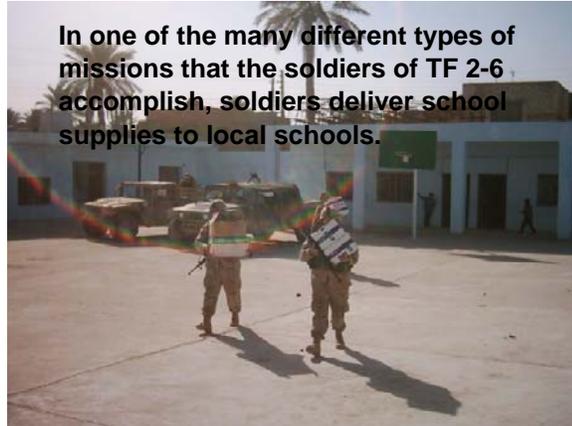
CPT Ted M. Preister

BCT Rear-D Commander

GATORS

This week in January has brought many challenges to the soldiers of TF 2-6. Many platoon leaders have handed the torch over to new incoming Lieutenants across the Battalion. This results in the need for soldiers everywhere to adapt to new leadership styles, help integrate the new members of their team, and most importantly, the men must continue to drive on with missions and training.

One such mission is to the continued training of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC). The mission to properly train the ICDC is of great importance because they will subsequently assume the responsibility for the neighborhood security in the Battalion Sector. The success of the ICDC translates into just one more of the many needed steps towards creating a safe and secure environment which will facilitate Iraqi self government in the future.



In one of the many different types of missions that the soldiers of TF 2-6 accomplish, soldiers deliver school supplies to local schools.

TF 2-6 is continuing to train hard as Bravo Company (1-35 AR) wraps up gunnery training this week. When Bravo (aka "Blackjack") completes gunnery it will nearly signal the end of gunnery training for TF 2-6 because Alpha Company (Assassin) is scheduled to shoot Bradley Gunnery in early February. The men have worked very hard and

training throughout all companies has gone off without a hitch. Despite some units training late into the nights (and most notably New Years Eve) morale was high and the men welcomed the training opportunity. No matter what they are doing, be it training or missions, the soldiers of Task Force 2-6 (Gators) continue to maintain their vigilance and are ready to do the mission until the last day of the deployment.

Baby News!

CPT Hormann, his wife Charlene and son Cal welcomed a new baby, Lydia Louisa born on 2 December. She weighed 8lbs, 5oz and was 20 inches long. CPT Hormann had a busy month. Not only did he make it home in time to help celebrate Cal's second birthday and to be there for Lydia's birth, but he also returned to Iraq and took command of Alpha company 2-6 on the 19th of December!



BIRTHDAY WISHES!!!

Jan 18 - Sgt Scott Clark, C Co, 3rd platoon

CONQUERORS

FRG News

- There will be a Battalion-wide 28 Jan, 18:00 at the Wagon Wheel Theater.
- There will be a C. Company FRG meeting on 21 Jan in the FRG building in Wetzel at 18:30. Childcare and refreshments will be provided.

Charlie Company Birthday Wishes!!!

17 Jan Sgt Bahret

19 Jan Devon L. Himes

20 Jan Catherine Dooley



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REGULARS

The New Year has come and gone. Resolutions have been made, and likely already broken. The last of the Christmas Decorations are coming down. We have seen no snow and our interpreters tell us it is a virtual impossibility (though they say we may see a few overnight light freezes). We still see enough rain that mud is more common than dust (though both are in abundance). And our activity level, between the patrols, manning guard posts, and daily maintenance requirements, continues to keep us busy enough to make time pass quickly (though not quite busy enough to keep us from missing you).

Alpha Company had an interesting twist to their normal mission of supporting the security of the Baghdad University. This week there were three professors from West Point serving as guest lecturers on the campus. They were well-received by the students, and gained new insight for themselves as well. On Wednesday evening the Battalion DFAC served host to a dinner between the professors and many of the officers of the battalion. One of the professors remarked to the assembled leaders, "We have been reading the reports coming out of Baghdad religiously in a effort to keep up with what you people are doing over here. However, it did not prepare us for what is happening. You are doing a great job and we now have a better understanding that we can take back and share with those future leaders who will be taking your place."



A Professor from West Point lectures at Baghdad University.

Bravo Company spent much of this week focused on continuing to train the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC). The ICDC soldiers are moving from serving to augment the US squads to forming their own squads and eventually larger units who will be able to function on their own. The ICDC troops help our boys patrol and conduct raids (particularly if the raid is at a sensitive site like a mosque), man checkpoints, and even manage some of their own admin and supply work. SGT Michael Callan had this to say after conducting a mission with the ICDC this week, "We didn't expect much at first, but these guys are smart. You'll see them pulling security or doing something else without being told. It's very encouraging."

There was no rest for the weary this week as Charlie's 1st Platoon went into services. The soldiers who have been working so hard on patrol and at the range cooperated with the mechanics who have been working so tirelessly to keep the vehicles running while still providing force protection for the FOB. SSG's Kittrel and Santiago from Charlie Team Maintenance provided outstanding guidance and direction as SSG Lambert, SGT Jason Bramlet and the rest of the Bradley crews serviced their tracks. Good job "Outlaws."



SGT Michael Callan and the ICDC of 2nd Platoon stop a vehicle in a traffic checkpoint.

Whether it is keeping an eye on the embassies in our neighborhoods, securing visiting professors, or just ensuring that there are good meals for the men to eat, no task is beyond the boys of 1/6 Infantry. With one more week down we are continuing to count the months (even if it is still a little early to count the days) till we can be back with our loved





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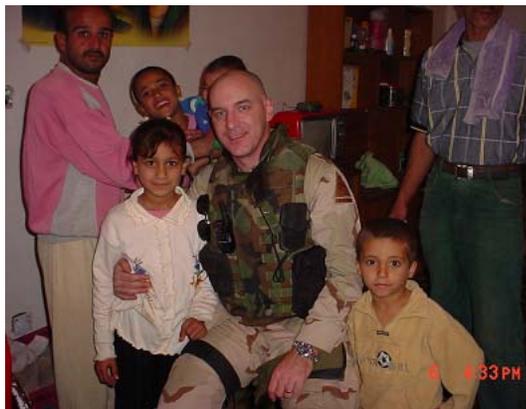
ones. Till then, duty continues to call and we continue to prove that we are, **“Regulars...By God!”**

THUNDER

Happy New Year to all of you back in Baumholder. The Battalion had an eventful December with operational success and morale boosting events for Christmas and New Years.

Operationally, the “Thunder Battalion” was responsible for capturing twenty-five anti-coalition fighters that were responsible for crimes such as attacking Coalition Forces, subversion of the New Iraqi Government, murder and possessing improvised explosive devices and bomb making materials. Everyday we collect intelligence on known and suspected enemies and because of our outstanding intelligence gathering, we are able to take the fight to the enemy and inflict more and more losses on them. The “Thunder” Battalion has enjoyed considerable success in this area and it is a reflection of the fine soldiers we have.

On a sad note, as many of you already know, we lost one of our own, SPC Christopher Holland in an enemy ambush. The Battalion held a memorial ceremony for SPC Holland and many leaders across the Division came to pay their respects to this outstanding medic. Doc Holland, you are gone but you are never forgotten. Thank you for your sacrifice.



LTC McKiernan visits an Iraqi family

As always, the DFAC's meals for Christmas and New Years made it feel a little bit more like home. The Battalion also set up a phone center and made sure soldiers across the Battalion had the opportunity

to call home during the Holiday Season. Starting the New Year with a bang, we began construction of a new building that will serve as the Battalion's MWR center. This center will hold a gym, a pool table, and other entertainment features.

These next few months will be very busy for us as we finish the fight, conduct a relief in place with 1st Cavalry Division and prepare for our redeployment home. Thank you for your love and support.

LTC Brian J. McKiernan

PIONEERS

A CO 47th FSB wishes a Happy New Year from Baghdad to all the families of the 2d BCT. We are doing extremely well here and are beginning the count down to finishing our tour of duty 1D the middle east. This past month has been kinda interesting -lots of focus on the holidays, catching bad guys, and now the rumblings of planning for re-deployment. As you know we have had a bunch of morale boosting USO tours 1AD help celebrate the festivities. The WWE Smack -down as well as the USO show were great events for soldiers to attend that allowed then some time off. Here at 47th FSB we also had Robin Williams visit the Aid Station and do some stand-up comedy for all the soldiers.



Overall the soldiers are looking forward to coming home in April/May but realize there is a long road ahead before we actually get on the plane. As you know we are going on the offensive more here in Baghdad and getting rid of some of the bad guys out there - most of us can already tell a difference. Thank you for your love and support through this deployment and especially the holidays. We appreciate all the help from the FRGs through the



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holidays - the gift packages certainly made a difference for all the soldiers. You are certainly the "unsung heroes" throughout the deployment of the 2d BCT and none of us will ever forget the kind words and thoughts that you send us when we need them most.



RAMS

B. Company's standard of living greatly improves

When we first arrived on deployment, living was difficult and amenities were few. In Kuwait, we washed our clothes by hand from a spigot in the hot sun. Soldiers were allowed one shower every two days due to the scarce water supply. At midday, we hunkered in the shade to avoid the intense 120-degree heat. Even in Baghdad, soldiers were tasked with burning waste in a drum using gasoline. At that time, we searched our area for pipes and hoses for makeshift showers. The mosquitoes and bats interrupted our sleep after long days of work. Thinking back to these issues, however, I am amazed how much better we live. Our quality life has dramatically changed since we first arrived.

In August we moved to a new location in Baghdad. The building we occupied had recently been bombed in the conflict and doors and windows were blown out. With the temperature reaching 140 degrees in the afternoon, the chain of command paid various contractors to fix windows, install doors, and even restore electricity. After a long shift on the checkpoint or patrols, soldiers were now able to return to air-conditioned rooms. Soldiers could enjoy a comfortable night's sleep without sharing their areas with insects and rats. Life in Baghdad was improving. As the seasons changed and it grew

colder, more improvements were being made. Air conditioners were replaced with heaters, and soldiers were even able to take warm showers for the first time since they departed Germany.

With common comforts like heat and warm showers restored, soldiers could occupy their free time with the new improvements to the company area. An internet café was opened to allow soldiers the ability to contact loved ones through instant messaging and e-mail. They could read the news or keep up with sports from their part of the world. Soldiers could exercise in the new weight room, complete with new weight machines, exercise bikes, and tread mills. On a professional level, company leaders were able to use common rooms, the conference room, and even the renovated theatre for presentations.

All in all, we live at a higher standard than when we first arrived. As we prepare to depart, we know we will be giving our replacements a comfortable and functional forward operating base for them to enjoy between duties.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

"Self Control"

JAMES 4:7

Therefore submit to God. Resist the devil and he will flee from you.

Most believers expect God to control the devil, but God gave you that responsibility.

EPHESIANS 4:27

...nor give place to the devil.

Would God tell you not to let the devil have any place, if you had no say about it? If the devil does have a place in your affairs, it's because you allow it. The devil will take over -- if you let him.

Jesus won the victory. It legally belongs to you. But the devil is a criminal, who doesn't obey the law unless forced to. You must enforce Jesus' victory and Lordship in the situations of life, or the devil will take control by default.



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No human being, in themselves, is any match for the devil. So you can't resist him in your own ability or name. You are not more powerful than the devil, but you do have more authority as a believer in Jesus Christ. Just as a policeman in uniform has the backing of the entire government and all its forces, so believers have the backing of God and all His forces, when we stand against the devil in Jesus' Name.

God gave you authority to resist the devil, and expects you to use it. If you disobey God by not using it, things will not go very well in your life. Praying to God to stop the devil's operations is no different than my son asking me to take out the trash, after I told him to do it. God told us to resist the devil and he would flee. **We must believe and act on God's Word.**

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

January

- 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

- 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

CHILD & YOUTH SERVICES EVENTS

- 17 Jan – Teen BBQ at Teen café at 17:00
- 17 Jan – Parents Night Out at Smith
- 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 has a new name – The

Rolling Hills Athletic Club. Membership fees will also change – one price will cover the entire facility.

- **Water Aerobics at the Rec Emporium**
MWF at 12:00; T Th at 18:30

NEW AEROBICS SCHEDULE

POC: Edna Price

Mountaineer Gym M-Th at 9:00

M- Resist-a-Ball

T – Step

W- Yoga

Th- Interval/Circuit

Hall of Champions M-Th at 17:00

M- Interval/Circuit

T-Yoga

W- Step

Th- Resist-a-Ball

Hall of Champions M-Th at 18:30

M- Step

T- Resist-a-Ball

W- Interval/Circuit

Th- Yoga

NOTE: Yoga Mats and Resist-a-balls are not provided. They can be purchased at the sports store in Baumholder or Vogelweh. All classes last approximately 1 hour.

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!**
- **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



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