



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 41 OIF

March 4, 2004



Editor

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2nd Brigade Rear-D Commander

REUNION TIPS FROM DOWNRANGE

For the next several issues of the *Striker Statement*, this column will provide some insights into what is being discussed about reunion with soldiers “downrange” with the hope that soldiers and family members might use it as a conversation starter in the weeks to come.

Reunion Tip #4: Communicate Expectations

After a year of an operational deployment, many of us are making mental lists of what we expect to happen upon our arrival: all the good food we’ll eat, all the great sights we’ll see, the trips we’ll take, the freedom we’ll have, the privacy we’ll enjoy. Many soldiers are already making reservations and arrangements with family and friends to make many of these expectations to come true. But don’t forget that while you’re making a list and checking it twice, those whom you love have their own sets of expectations of what life will be like once you are reunited.

Expectations like returning to routines and responsibilities that were shared by spouses, or free time without having to worry about childcare, or having someone do something for them rather doing it themselves for a year. Sometimes, if these expectations are left unexpressed, friction and conflict may occur and feelings may be hurt—and no one wants to go through reunion nursing hurt feelings. So here are some friendly suggestions about how to synchronize expectations:

First, communicate, communicate, and communicate! Ask yourself: “when I email or instant message or talk to my spouse, are we talking about the business of the family or are we talking about expectations of the way we imagine the weeks after

deployment?” Make sure you’re not forgetting to share the “why” you’re looking forward to what you’re looking forward to.

Second, negotiate, negotiate, and negotiate! Your family members have expectations, too, but you’ll be sharing the same calendar and space during the weeks and months after redeployment. So be prepared to listen and compromise on who, what, when, where, and why of your expectations. She may need to get away by herself while you watch the children, so pick a day where that can happen, and another day to enjoy the time you hoped to spend on your hobby or pastime, as an example.

And finally, be flexible with your expectations. Unrealistic expectations can lead to disappointment, frustration, and anger. Instead, realize that some hopes and desires may be needed to be put in the “too hard to do box” as they are too expensive or may not fit in your schedules.

Expectations are part of life. The key to reunion is intentionally and appropriately synchronizing those expectations with your loved ones.

CONQUERORS

Charlie Company, 1/302 ICDC Battalion Comes of Age

Since the establishment of the 302d Battalion for the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) in October, members of Charlie Company have trained to operate autonomously and assume their mission as a fully functional civil defense unit. The unit has conducted joint combat patrols with coalition forces, checkpoint operations, and tactical operations to sharpen its skills as an element within the New Generation of Iraqi Security Force. This training has proven to be a definite learning curve for the newest Iraqi security element. While receiving on the job training with coalition soldiers, ICDC soldiers have also continued to learn and train at Camp Falcon. All of this preparation has prepared the ICDC to take complete control of their future mission.

After passing initial screening, Charlie Company ICDC recruits were sent to Camp Falcon for “Basic Training.” Camp Falcon is a training area where ICDC recruits receive training on weaponry, drill and





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ceremony, mounted operations in urban training (MOUT) techniques, and other basic soldier skills. The recruits learn many of the same skills that U.S. soldiers learn while attending basic training. SGT Michael Flanagan, A/2-6 ICDC instructor, says, "The most important thing ICDC learn at Camp Falcon is discipline. They learn to obey orders and to maintain their areas and equipment. Just like we did."

Once they had learned the basics at Camp Falcon, the ICDC soldiers of Charlie Company were ready for the next step, assisting in security operation in Central Baghdad. The first group of Camp Falcon graduates was divided into small squads and attached to the three platoons of A/2-6 Infantry (currently attached to 1/35 Armor). ICDC members helped maintain security at Assassin Gate by assisting in vehicle and personnel searches. In addition, ICDC members began to assist A/2-6 soldiers during joint combat patrols.



CPL Kareema Armon and CPL Gwad Mohammed inventory the Combat Lifesaver bags that they will carry as company medics for C Company, 1/302 ICDC BN.

The ICDC soldiers proved their value during both checkpoint and joint combat patrol operations. They integrated their ability to control situations an understanding of the Iraqi culture and language. Even if an ICDC soldier did not speak perfect English, he or she could always help Iraqi civilians understand the purpose military operations or instructions of a military guard in the Arabic language.

While serving with the A/2-6 platoons, the ICDC soldiers assisted in the execution of three major

military operations in Central Baghdad, consisting of two platoon raids and a company level cordon and search. Having the assistance of ICDC soldiers has provided the A/2-6 Commander, CPT Hormann, the flexibility to accomplish company missions in ways he could not have with his soldiers alone. After intelligence indicated a mosque in the Salhiya neighborhood was being used for criminal and anti-coalition activity, the ICDC soldiers assisted in a raid to capture the Imam for inciting violence.

While coalition soldiers secured the perimeter of the mosque compound, ICDC soldiers conducted a search of the mosque. The ICDC soldiers were able to successfully complete the mission and enabled coalition soldiers to avoid offending community members by entering the mosque themselves. "We wanted to use the ICDC to enter and search the mosque so that we could limit US presence and remain culturally sensitive", says CPT Christopher Hormann. CPT Hormann was impressed by the thorough performance of the ICDC soldiers and looks forward to using them in future tactical operations.

Even as ICDC continued to assist in providing security in Baghdad, they continued to train with unit ICDC representatives and their respective platoons. US soldiers train the ICDC to emplace traffic control points and provide convoy security. Recently, leaders from the platoons of A/2-6 IN have taken time to instruct ICDC on more advanced subjects. After refresher training on the basics learned at Camp Falcon, ICDC are training to conduct battle drills like cordon and searches, raids, reacting to an ambush, and patrol tactics. "These ICDC soldiers pick up on the information we give them a lot quicker than you would think," says 1LT Joe Velasquez. "They are eager to learn, and their non-commissioned officers really help the learning process."

Charlie Company, 302d ICDC Battalion is expected to be fully operational in the middle of February. All necessary training will be complete, and the new ICDC unit will take the next step. The unit will be able to conduct platoon and company size missions with limited coalition military support. The company will have a fully functional chain of command that will work alongside coalition military leadership in order to integrate ICDC soldiers into joint military operations.





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The goal of the ICDC Battalion and its parent unit is to have the ICDC working independently. The soldiers of Charlie Company have already demonstrated their ability to conduct continuous operations with other military forces. Their eagerness to learn new jobs and accept new responsibilities shows that they are more than ready to act as an autonomous civil defense unit. Their continued cooperation with coalition forces bodes well for the future of ICDC and all of Iraq.

18 March C. Company will have a FRG meeting with a potluck and bingo from 18:00 – 20:00. Childcare will be provided. Please RSVP to Sunny Graves at 06783-990842.

23 March Battalion-wide reunion training with ACS. Details will be sent by mail once finalized.

GATORS

FRG NEWS

- **How about a special Easter basket?** For \$10 the Easter Bunny will **hop** a gender specific basket to your house. \$20 for adult (ages 16 and up) baskets. Call Helen Williams at 06783-9992936 for more information!
- 2-6 is putting together a Yearbook with photos and information from our year long deployment down range. It will be approximately 125 pages and will have a hard cover. Approximate cost is \$25.00 If you're interested in one contact your company FRG Leader. Also anyone who is interested in submitting family photos for the yearbook can submit those to CPT. Bromenschenkel at Ryan.Bromenschenkel@us.army.mil. All photos submitted are subject to submission by the Editor.
- HHC & Alpha Co will be having their combined FRG meeting and Spouse Reunion Training at the Rheinlander on March 11th at 5:00pm. We'll be briefing the most up to date re deployment news &

learning helpful coping tips for the reunion of your families. Dinner is on your own.

PIONEERS

To quote a friend of mine, "The First Sergeants are the real movers and shakers of a Company. Everybody knows that." The comment from my friend came directly after meeting my 1SG and exchanging no more than 10 words with him, and I realized how true the statement was about my 1SG.



1SG Shinholster showing off his carpentry skills.

To the 56 soldiers of A Company, 47th FSB, 1SG Willie Shinholster represents those early mornings of training, 1000 word essays, grueling pt sessions, and an enforcer of unwavering discipline standards. But he's also the one dedicated to the safety of all our soldiers and ensuring their leadership doesn't fail them. From 2 weeks of 0500 and 1600 formations in full battle rattle and having platoon sergeants do barracks clean up, all 'to make a point,' 1SG Shinholster does it his way and easily earns the respect of his soldiers.

While CPT Bradford has been on leave, I've been the 'acting commander' and have had constant interaction with the 1SG, and I've learned and laughed more than I could imagine. 1SG Shinholster is a wealth of knowledge for not only the soldiers who come to the office but also for me – he's more than the 'mover and shaker,' he's the backbone of this Company.

I've seen platoon sergeants complain about how hard the 1SG is on them, how he 'calls them out' on the radio while they're in the porta-potty, and how his dedication to his soldiers drives him everyday. As one soldier said, "It's rare to find someone who's





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been in the Army for so long who still is very much concerned with what happens to soldiers." So for that, A CO soldiers will continue with the "A-L-P-H-A, ALPHA Company's gonna lead the way!"

ASSASSIN 6

1LT Kristin Morrow

RAMS

2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon, C Company

40th Engineer Battalion

By: SGT Wilson Carrero

Coming together as a team and performing to standard is a time consuming task for any squad. It takes practice, discipline and a lot of patience, but it is definitely worth it. In time you can notice the improvements and achievements accomplished by that group. An eight man squad doing their very best to accomplish their mission; that is what 2nd squad, 2nd platoon, C Company, 40th Engineer Battalion is all about.



The growth of 2nd squad has been evident through the whole deployment to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Even though this sapper squad has had several squad leaders, they have managed to keep their composure and adapt to all the different styles of leadership, making them successful during every mission.

Once again, the Rock 22 squad has excelled and demonstrated their abilities, this time at the Engineer Qualification Tables. This event consists of different 21B Combat Engineer tasks that every squad in the battalion is required to accomplish. The squads are graded in a pass/fail format and every squad is given a score from 1 to 100. The overall total of the event

scores determines which squad had the best performance.

The first mission for 2nd squad was a Triple Standard Concertina wire entanglement, which was completed in 12 minutes and 8 seconds, giving the squad its first Go. The second mission was the emplacement of a nuisance minefield, and the third and final task was to clear a 4-meter path through a complex obstacle, executing a dismounted breach. Breaching is one of the most exciting tasks a sapper can perform. However, it is also the most dangerous and most vital responsibility to support the success of any task force. Second squad completed the breach in 9 minutes and 57 seconds. The completion of these three missions gave the opportunity for the top squad in the company to fire a live MICLIC. Second squad earned this privilege.

Glory and victory come with a lot of effort and hard work. The Rock 22 squad realizes this fact, which is the reason why they are the top sapper squad in Charlie Company. The good news is that 2nd squad, 2nd platoon, C Company serves under the 40th Engineer Battalion, upholding the standards and traditions of the Engineer Corps and the 1st Armored Division.

THUNDER

We would like to say hello and thank you for everyone's support back in Baumholder. Our time is drawing short here in Baghdad and the soldiers' spirits are running high. We hope that everyone had a happy holiday. The past couple of months have been filled with recognition of outstanding soldiers to include promotions. Congratulations are in order for newly promoted SPC Rudolph. Congratulations also go out to SPC Lapham for winning the Stallion Excellence Award for the month of December and SPC Rowland for the month of January. All of the soldiers here in Baghdad are working hard and are doing an outstanding job. Service Battery also has several soldiers and NCOs that have supported missions outside of the Thunder FOB. The Butler Range Detail and 47th Mission are two of those missions that are being performed above and beyond the standards. You should be proud and happy with



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the performances of our dedicated soldiers and NCOs.

We would like to welcome Specialists Gregory and Procino to the Battalion Maintenance Team! They are a tremendous addition. The Quality Assurance Team just completed the Battalion Technical Inspection of all of the vehicles in preparation for the Road March back to Kuwait. The Generator Shop is constantly tied up with power issues for the Thunder FOB. SGT Watson and his crew can't wait to return to Germany, so that all they will have to do for electricity is turn on a switch! Maintenance is pouring every ounce of energy into those cursed PLS's. It hasn't been easy, but they will be ready for the road march back to Kuwait!

Additional congratulations go to SPC Holmes, SPC Alioto and SPC Barber from Support Platoon on their promotion to Specialist. We would like to welcome PV2 Schaub and PV2 Mahon to the DFAC family. We are still hanging in there and we would like to thank all of our loved ones, in Baumholder and in the states, which have been there for us throughout the mission. We are still focused on the mission, yet excited about our future return to Germany.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

You Are Righteous In Christ

ROMANS 5:1,9

Having been declared righteous, then, by faith, we have peace toward God through our Lord Jesus Christ...

...much more, then, having been declared righteous now in his blood, we shall be saved through him from the wrath.

Not much preaching has been done telling believers they are righteous. But the Bible clearly teaches it. It becomes even clearer when you realize that often the same word that is translated "righteous or made righteous" is instead translated "just or justified." (The Bible is full of rich truths, but they are not always on the surface. It can take a little digging and study to realize the riches available to you.) "But I thought the Bible said there is no one righteous," someone may say.

Yes, it does say that in Romans 3:10, but it is quoting an Old Testament passage to prove that both Jews and Gentiles were guilty before God and needed salvation. It immediately goes on to say in the next few verses (see below) that now we can be righteous through faith in Jesus Christ.

ROMANS 3:21-22

But now the righteousness of God apart from the law is revealed, being witnessed by the Law and the Prophets, even the righteousness of God which is through faith in Jesus Christ to all and on all who believe. For there is no difference.

ROMANS 3:24

...being declared righteous freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus...

SAY THIS: Because of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ, I am righteous before God.

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

MARCH

- 6 Trip to Amsterdam (open to US ID Card Holders)
- 7 Breakfast at Rheinlander
- 11 Volunteer Receptions
- 12 Job Fair, Rheinlander, 10am -3pm
- 15 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 27 Free Concert Contemporary Rock Group
- 30 Town Hall, 4pm
- 31 Deployment Support Group, 9am
LINKS, 10am

APRIL

- 2 USAREUR Training Holiday
No DODDS School
- 4 Daylight Saving Time Begins
- 5-9 DODDS Spring Break
- 9 Good Friday, German Holiday
- 11 Easter Sunday, Brunch at Rheinlander
- 12 Easter (Ostermontag), German Holiday
- 23 Buccaneer Night, 5:30pm, Rheinlander
- 27 Town hall, 4pm, Rheinlander
- 28 Deployment Support Group, 9am
LINKS, 10am





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MAY

- 9 Mother's Day, Brunch at Rheinlander
- 25 Town Hall meeting, 4pm
- 26 Deployment Support Group, 9am
LINKS, 10am
- 28 USAREUR Training Holiday
- 31 Memorial Day

DoDDS CALENDAR

- 1st Tuesday of the month SAC Meeting, Baumholder High at 1630
 - 3rd Thursday of the month SAC Meeting, Wetzel Elementary at 1430
- 02 April No School, Teachers Work Day
05 April Spring Recess Begins
12 April Instruction Resumes
23 April 1700 Buccaneer Night
13 May Acceleration Date
31 May No School, Memorial Day
04 June High Graduation
09 June Last Day of School

PUBLIC AFFAIRS HOST NATION EVENTS

- 6 Mar Flea market at Homburg/Saar
13-14Mar Volksmarch at Wolfstein
13-14Mar Husky-Wildlife-Camp at Losheim lake
19Mar Musical Star life, Stadttheater I-O
20Mar Traditional Spring market at Berschweiler
20-21Mar Volksmarch at Kirn-Sulzbach
25-28Mar Easter market at St. Wendel
28Mar Flea market at Metz, France
28Mar Kusel Open Sunday, Shops are open
1AprPalm market at St. Wendel
2Apr Concert Vienna Blood, Stadttheater I-O

GIRL SCOUT WEEK

March 7-13, 2004

March 7 - Girl Scout Sunday; wear your uniform to Church and help usher or pass out programs. Be sure to let your leader know you went (save your program to give her, just in case).

March 13 - Flag ceremony-5 pm in front of the BSB. A snack and craft to follow at the Girl Scout hut. Wear your uniform/vest/sash.

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!!

OUTDOOR REC TRIPS

- 6 Mar Black Forest – Feldberg, Germany
 - 6 Mar Frankfurt Zoo – Frankfurt, Germany
 - 11-14 Mar Kaprun, Austria
 - 19-20 Mar Crystal shopping – Karlovy Vary, Czech
 - 26-27 MarPottery shopping trip to Poland
- Seats are limited – so call today to reserve your space! DSN 485-7182.**

CYS

POC: Joanne Hernandez, 485-7198

Spring Break Activities for Teens

Roller-skating and shopping at Vogelweh Holiday Park in Hassloch
Bitburg Air Base and swimming
Cookout at the Underground for middle school students.

Pick up activity schedule at local youth center. Participants must be registered with Child & Youth Services.

Kids' Night Out

1st-6th grade @ Smith SAS, 485-6641
Sat, 13 Mar 1800 – 2200
Must be registered with CYS
Pay at time of sign-up, \$6/child
Spaces limited

Parents' Night Out

Infant-Kindergarten @ Dispensary CDC, 485-7203/7328
Sat, 13 Mar 1800 – 2200
Must be registered with CYS
Pay at time of sign-up, \$10/child
Spaces limited.



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Easter Egg Hunt

POC: Steve Ferguson, 485-8249

Date: Sunday 11 Apr

Time: to be announced

Rheinlander lawn and Iron Soldier Park

ARMY FAMILY TEAM BUILDING (AFTB)

Next Class: March 10 from 8:30-1400, **Level 1**

All classes are held at the AFTB Classroom. Health Clinic Complex Building 8745 Room 11 2nd Floor. For any questions please call Mari Haley, AFTB Program Coordinator at 485 - 8542 or 06783 - 6 - 8542.

EMPLOYMENT ORIENTATION CLASS

POC: CAMILLE JACKSON, 485-6046

12 March 04, 10:00am-3:00pm, at the Rheinlander Important Information regarding military spouse preference. Defining federal and private sector opportunities. Application procedures. Basic Resumix start-up information. Volunteer opportunities

RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

ACS Spouses Reunion Training. Training can help reduce reunion stress, improve marital communication and teach signals that may indicate a need for help. Training is every Wednesday. Child care is available provided your reserve with ACS in advance. **We can even come to your FRG meeting for group training sessions (day or evening).** Call DSN 485-8188.

FRG training scheduled thus far:

C/40th ENG-- 9 Mar 1800 – 2000

HHB 4-27--10 Mar 1830 – 2000

HHC 2-6-- 11 Mar 1700 – 2030

C/4-27--24 Mar 800 – 1100

Schedule current as of 10 Feb 04.

NEWCOMERS' ORIENTATION AND WELCOME

8-10 Mar 04 , 0830 – 1430 ACS, Bldg. #8746

Learn more about your new community and German culture.

Activities include:

Community information

Idar-Oberstein visit

AFTB Level I

BAUMHOLDER EDUCATION CENTER

- Registration for Term 4 classes is currently on-going.
- Adult Education English as a Second Language (ESL) Course T/Th 9-11. 30 March – 21 May. Sign up at the Ed. center.
- Parlez vous Francois? The Ed center is offering a class in conversational French. 30 March –21 May T/Th 18:00 – 20:00.
- Conversational German 1 and II offered. Call for details.
- Army Emergency Relief Spouse Education Assistance Application - contact the Ed. center or ACS for more information.
- New financial aid forms for 2004-5 will be available in late March online or at the Ed. center. FAFSA forms are available now!

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

<http://www.baumholder.army.mil/education>

COMMUNITY RELIGIOUS SUPPORT

WORSHIP SERVICES

- Catholic Masses
 - 1100, Sunday, St. Michael Chapel #2 (Smith)
 - 1800, First Saturday of the month *En Espanol*, Chapel #2 (Smith)
 - 1200, Daily duty day Mass, St. Michael Chapel #2 (Smith)
- Collective Protestant Worship Services
 - 0930, Sunday, Good Samaritan Chapel #1 (Smith)
 - 1100, Sunday, St. George Chapel (Strassburg)
- Lutheran Holy Communion Service
 - 0800, Sunday, Good Samaritan Chapel #1 (Smith)
- Gospel Worship Service
 - 1230, Sunday, Good Samaritan Chapel #1 (Smith)
- Korean Assembly of God Worship Service



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- 1600, Sunday, Good Samaritan Chapel #1 (Smith)

TAX CENTER

FREE Income Tax Assistance!
Federal & State Returns
Electronic Filing

VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED!

Free IRS tax training will be provided
Call 485-6506 now!

LOCATION: Building 8670, next to Community Bank
DSN: 485-8644
HOURS: Mon-Thurs 0900-1700 Fri 0900-1500

BAUMHOLDER COMMUNITY SPOUSES CLUB

Come join us at the March luncheon on March 17 at 1130 in the Rheinlander. The theme is "Welcome Home Heroes". The speaker will be from ACS to help us welcome home our own hero in the best way possible. Childcare will be provided on site if you contact Cher Lim by March 3 at cher.lim@us.army.mil or BC/189 302

It's Not Too Late to Join!

Memberships are available for \$8.00 for the rest of the year (ending in May 2004). Applications are available at the Thrift Shop and the Welcome Center or contact the Membership Secretary, Jill.Watson@us.army.mil for further information.

Changes Are Coming!

Due to the re-deployment of troops to Baumholder, our May luncheon will be held on May 5, instead of May 19. Childcare reservations are due to Cher Lim no later than April 21 at cher.lim@us.army.mil

The Thrift Shop will be closed May 15 - June 6 so that the employees may spend time with their spouses. When they re-open, the Thrift Shop will be open on all Training Holidays.

Pictures from the Bazaar!



Two BSCS members discussing the bazaar. US dollars, check and credit cards were accepted, making it easy for Americans to buy this year!



The Belgian Chocolate booth was a new place to buy chocolate truffles and other tasty items (some even sugar-free). If you didn't get enough, then check out this vender again next week at Rhine Ordinance Barracks spring bazaar!



This booth sold clever handbags with scenes from old movies or TV shows.



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INFORMATION CHANNEL MOVES

The Baumholder Information Channel has moved from cable channel 3 or 4 to cable channel A2. The channel should appear automatically on the cable service. If not, viewers must tune in the channel by conducting a search on their television set or tune their television to frequency 55.25.

TKS added programming to the cable service and therefore the channel was moved to a different frequency.



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