



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 43 OIF

March 18, 2004



Editor

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CPT Jonathan Cornett

2nd Brigade Rear-D Commander

Welcome Home Charlie 2/6

Guess What -- it is official! Redeployment has started!!! The Soldiers from C. 2/6 arrived back safely into Baumholder this morning! They were greeted by fellow RD Soldiers, Leaders, friends, and family. The smiling faces of the family members at the ceremony was truly priceless. The soldiers will now start the 7-day reintegration process, followed by block leave.

REGULARS

The dust is becoming more obvious again. Temperatures continue to be varied. Some days we get into the 90's. Some nights we drop into the lower 50's or even the upper 40's. We haven't seen any rain in sometime. Sunglasses are coming out again. We can all tell it won't be long before the heat returns. And this is welcome since it means time is short and soon we will be coming home.



Soldiers from A Co search a car at a hasty check point.

Alpha Company has been doing divided duty of late. First platoon has been tasked out to help guard Baghdad International Airport. These soldiers have

responsibility for guarding the support base where all of our logistical support arrives in country. Their brothers back at FOB Regular continue their patrols in sector and guarding the 14th of July Bridge entrance to the "Green Zone" or area where our FOB as well as the CPA headquarters are located. In addition to their work in security the troops have had to change the track on their Bradlees. This is back breaking work especially when it comes at the end of a long day of patrolling. However the troops don't seem to mind since this is one of the tasks toward getting the BFV's ready to put on the boats down in Kuwait.

Bravo Company also continues to keep vigilant on their daily patrols and maintenance and packing preparation. They also have another mission in their sector. "Operation Education," an initiative to get school supplies to the children needing them in the classroom, has required the boys to gather special information from their sector. This mission can have high risk for the soldiers, sometimes they get mobbed as illustrated in the photo. The soldiers don't seem to mind. They are something like celebrities here in Baghdad. PV2 Paulino commented on their mission, "This reaction of the kids is quite common...they are very nice and the kids really like us... and chocolate." Ensuring security and stability is dirty work but I guess someone has to do it.



PV2 Paulino from B Co. passes through the masses of children on his way to one of the schools planned for "Operation Education".

Charlie Company continues to perform their daily missions. The soldiers of HHC are kicking into high



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gear. The daily tasks of providing food and water, and keeping the vehicles going do not let up. They have taken on a greater urgency as we prepare for redeployment. The S 1 section has had some extra help this week. Soldiers from the 90th PSB have been in the area to ensure that all the soldiers' paperwork is ready and to help with the out going mail. Many soldiers are deciding that they do not want to carry all their personal gear on the trip home. Since mail will be shut off at the end of the month the boxes each day fill up more than one truck headed to the airport. As these come into Baumholder try not to get too excited. Though there are some presents in them, they may contain just dirty laundry. Try to see this for what it is, a sign that your man will soon be back.

Patrolling or manning checkpoints, processing paper work or planning convoys, the soldiers of 1/6 continue to keep at the task at hand. We are tired and weary, yet we strive on toward the mark. We are too close to the finish line to quit the race now. Till the last patrol is reported and the last truck is loaded on the boat, we remain focused on the mission, for we are, **"Regulars...By God!"**

FRG NEWS

March 22 HHC FRG Meeting at 6:30 p.m. in the BN Conference Room. Homecoming Plans will be discussed! Cookies and juice will be served. POC: SSG Gibson at 06783-6-6102

March 23 Charlie Company FRG Meeting at 6:00 p.m. in the BN Conference Room. POC: Sandy Ewers at sandra.ewers@us.army.mil

CONQUERORS

The Dining Facility (DFAC) section of HHC/1-35 AR has been making an important contribution supporting Task Force 1-35 in their efforts to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although it is the smallest section in the company, the soldiers have made a noticeable impact in supporting the task force mission and improving the quality of life for their fellow comrades. The soldiers are cooks responsible for operating a DFAC, which supports

the soldiers of the 1-35 AR Field Trains Command Post. They prepare meals to over 800 more soldiers in the task force.

The DFAC section had very little to work with when they first arrived in Baghdad in May 2003. They prepared meals by cooking in the Mobile Kitchen Trailer (MKT). They prepared two meals a day in the MKT and issued meals ready to eat (MRE) for additional meals. Eventually, Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR), a civilian contracting company, began preparing meals for soldiers and the DFAC soldiers continued to coordinate meals for the task force and distributed them to each unit. In late December the soldiers of the task force were surprised with an upgraded Dining Facility tent, and as of February 1st three meals per day were being prepared and served to the task force.



CO and 1SGT enjoying dinner.

The DFAC section conducts three shifts, providing breakfast, lunch and dinner. The soldiers begin their day in the early morning, picking up and transporting breakfast from the KBR site. They use a five-ton cargo truck as transportation. Soldiers bring the food back to the DFAC area and divide it between the various units within the task force. The food portions are palletized, marked and separated for unit pick-up support sections from the other units in the task force.

Breakfast usually consists of meat, potatoes, eggs, and pancakes, waffles or French toast. For lunch the DFAC serves cold cut sandwiches, fresh



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bread from the KBR bakery, and other foods like mini pizzas. For dinner, each unit gets a meat, vegetables, starch, gravy, sodas, milk, and juice. SPC Krejcik, a soldier in the DFAC section, stated that they not only pick up the food, but also open every container and inspect the food for contents and quality. The DFAC section takes pride in their work and the soldiers of the task force appreciate it.



One of the cooks getting ready to serve dinner.

PFC Bradley Renfeldt says, "I'd rather be cooking for my fellow soldiers than have KBR do it, because we prepare better food." PV2 Jason Rowinski stated that it felt good when people asked them when they would start cooking again because soldiers preferred the food from the HHC DFAC to the food prepared by KBR. He boasts, "We can cook for the whole task force and make it taste better than KBR."



All of the cooks have to help unload the food deliveries.

HHC/1-35 AR DFAC soldiers' ability to support the task force mission and its soldiers has come a long way since the unit's arrival in Baghdad. They have endured intense heat, which was compounded by the hot stoves they were operating. Additionally, the section picked up ice from the brigade headquarters every morning during the hot summer months. They received an average of 100 blocks of ice per day to support task force operations during extreme hot weather conditions. Despite the difficulties of a deployment, the DFAC soldiers are excited about their jobs. Helping to improve the quality of life for other soldiers has been a rewarding experience for them.



One of the cooks makes final preparations before the hungry soldiers come into the DFAC.

C. Company Birthdays

20 Mar SFC Hayes

22 Mar Cpt Graves

23 March Battalion-wide reunion training with ACS. Call 06783-67307 or your FRG leader for details.

27 March Battalion Easter Party at Smith Elementary From 14:00-16:00. Contact 06783-67307 or your FRG leader for more details.

GATORS

"Toothless Gator" Awarded Again

The month of March brought with it the second awarding of the "Toothless Gator Award". The





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awarding of the "Toothless Gator" was created to recognize an officer with TF 2-6 who, through his day to day actions, amused his fellow officers in one way or another. Hot dogs, hamburgers, soda and near-beer were all supplied in fair quantity. Nominations were made, as they were last time, through a series of skits, PowerPoint presentations and plain old vanilla "war stories".

Although this is only the second awarding of Toothless Gator, the award itself has improved in quality greatly. The award previously consisted of a small blue noisemaking device that has a plastic gator head on the end. Thanks to some hard work by Iraqi contractors the award has evolved into a fine brass model of a gator on a wooden board. It will continue to be improved as each awardee will affix their name and a brief comment about the circumstances of the award on the wooden base. Oh, and need we mention that the brass gator has **no teeth?**

The next time that the officers of TF 2-6 will be able to gather for the Toothless Gator will be after redeployment. All of the officers look forward to continuing the trend of getting together to poke fun at themselves and maintain the bonds of brotherhood.

CIB/CMB Ceremony Conducted

In front of the headquarters building of TF 2-6 IN the Combat Infantryman Badge (CIB) and Combat Medics Badge (CMB) ceremony was held. The Combat Infantryman's Badge was awarded to the men in the Gator Battalion who hold the military operational specialty (MOS) of 11B or 11A and who served with the Task Force during Operation Iraqi Freedom. The Combat Medics Badge was awarded to all medics who served in support of combat operations alongside infantrymen in the designated infantry battalion.

Much effort was put into preparing the event. The area in front of headquarters was cleaned, painted, and cleaned again. Potholes and broken stairs were repaired in preparation for the high traffic that was expected in the area. The ceremony went off without a hitch. The ceremony was held during a beautiful March afternoon and it lasted about one hour. There were numerous VIP's attending and media covered

the event. One of the notable refreshments served after the event was the CIB cake and the CMB cake.

In the weeks to come many of those at home will be sure to hear from many of the proud recipients of the CIB and CMB because it is an extremely coveted award by those qualified to receive it. These awards represent month after month of dedicated service and sacrifice to each other and to the unit.



The "CIB Cake" that was diligently prepared for the CIB and CMB ceremony (with one corner piecing missing...)

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



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Ryan.Bromenschenkel@us.army.mil. All photos submitted are subject to submission by the Editor.

also believe that being in Iraq together has made the separation easier.

“Being away from our son is really hard right now,” says Jeff. “But being deployed to Iraq together with my wife makes it a little easier to be away from Andrew.”

RAMS

Married Soldiers Enjoy Deployment Together

By 2LT Erik Thorvilson, B Co, 40th EN

Being deployed away from their families is a difficult situation many troops must face as they serve their country in Iraq. However, two officers from the 40th Engineers, 1st Armored Division, are in a very unique situation. Jeff and CeCe Carlson were lucky enough to be deployed to Iraq last December together from Baumholder, Germany. Presently, Jeff is a line platoon leader for Bravo Company and CeCe is a support platoon leader for Headquarters Company.

After graduating from the Engineer Officer Basic Course (EOBC) in October 2002, Jeff was stationed at Fort Bragg, North Carolina, and CeCe was stationed in Vilsek, Germany. After graduation, Jeff and CeCe were married but still had to remain apart due to Jeff’s stop loss at Fort Bragg. “It was a tough time for both of us since we had just been married,” says Jeff. “Not even being on the same continent caused some communication problems right from the start,” Jeff added. “But we made the best of it knowing that eventually we would be back together.”

After nearly a year apart, Jeff’s stop loss was lifted and the couple was stationed together last September in Baumholder, Germany. As soon as the couple arrived in Baumholder, they were informed they would be deploying to Iraq. Within a few weeks, the couple deployed to Iraq to meet up with their battalion already in theater.

Jeff and CeCe also have an eight month old son named Andrew. Because both parents are currently in Iraq, Andrew is presently residing with his grandparents in Minnesota.

“No mother wants to be away from their child for any amount of time,” states CeCe. “We are very lucky to have loving parents who were more than happy to take care of Andrew while we were in Iraq.” Although being away from their first born son for such a long period has not been easy for the couple, they



1LTs Jeff and CeCe Carlson in Baghdad, Iraq.

After serving with their fellow soldiers in Iraq, the couple is looking forward to reuniting with their son. “After being apart from either my wife or child for the past year and a half, it is going to be really nice to reunite together as a family when we return from serving in Iraq,” Jeff states. “We are very fortunate to be in this unique situation where we both work together in the same battalion,” CeCe adds. “It may be hard being away from our son right now, but we know that soon we will all be back together as a family.”

Soon, the 1st Armored Division will be completing its tour of duty in Iraq and thousands of soldiers will be reuniting with their loved ones. Jeff and CeCe will share in this joy and happiness of coming back together with their family after serving their country together in Iraq.

CHAPLAIN’S CORNER

God’s Word Is Like A Seed

LUKE 8:11

Now the parable is this: The seed is the word of God.



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A seed is powerful. As a seed begins to grow, it will push up dirt, rocks, etc. Whatever the obstacles are, God's Word planted in your heart will push them out of the way. A seed begins its growth in secret (underground). The only way to tell if a seed is growing is to dig it up, or wait for a plant to appear. If you dig up a seed, you may kill it.

A seed takes time to produce. No one expects a seed to produce a harvest the same day that seed is planted. Sometimes the Word of God seems to spring up and bear fruit immediately. Yet, if we knew the details, we would understand that the fruit of the Word grew in that person's life over time.

A seed is persistent. A seed never gives up, but works day and night. Even when you are sleeping, the seed you have planted is working to grow and express itself in a fruitful harvest.

A seed is not affected by other seeds. Whatever happens to other seeds does not make any difference to a specific seed. Each seed sticks to its own task. One wheat seed planted in a corn field will still produce wheat. Seed does not become discouraged, or quit, even if other seeds die.

A seed will stop growing without nourishment. Planting a seed is not enough to assure a harvest. Seed must be protected and taken care of until harvest time. A seed which is dug up, or not watered, will not produce. More seeds planted produce a larger harvest.

2 CORINTHIANS 9:6
But this I say: He who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will also reap bountifully.

Think on these truths about seeds. Allow the Holy Spirit to help you apply them to the role of God's Word in your life.

SAY THIS: God's Word is the most important seed. I will diligently plant it in my life, so God can be glorified in my life.

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

MARCH

- 26 Volunteer reception
- 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

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





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PUBLIC AFFAIRS HOST NATION EVENTS

- 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

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

- 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.**

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 22-25th from 8:00-11:00, **Level II**
 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.

RE-INTEGRATION AFTER DEPLOYMENT

Training can help reduce reunion stress, improve marital communication and teach signals that may indicate a need for help.

Many training sessions (day and evening) are already in place. You can go with your unit/company or go on your own to any session with available seats! Contact ACS at 06783-68188 for more information!

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)



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- 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
 - 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

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.

GIRL SCOUTS

Baumholder Girl Scout Bridging Ceremony

Date: April 24, 2004

Time: 1 p. m. – 3 p. m.

Location: Neubrueke YS

Girl Scout Bridging: Celebrating Growth

- All bridging girls who complete the requirements for their level of bridging will receive the bridging badge
- Brownies ready to bridge will also receive "wings"
- All Scouts will receive the membership pin



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