



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 44 OIF

March 25, 2004



Editor

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jonathan.cornett@cmtymail.104asg.army.mil

CPT Jonathan Cornett

2nd Brigade Rear-D Commander

REGULARS

The number of weeks until the Regulars rejoin their families is dwindling down into the single digits. It took an enormous amount of work and discipline to get the Regulars to this point. This week invigorated some of the men with a few chances to unwind and some high adventure.

The leadership of the battalion saw an opportunity to have a little entertainment with the 1-6th Dining In. A Dining In is a chance for the leaders to gather together, socialize, and have some well intended fun. The men who participated in the event had a wonderful time at Freedom's Rest. They were able to dine on fine food while conversing with each other and the visiting dignitaries.



1-6 Leaders enjoying their Dining In

Alpha Company's men were not bored with their special guard missions. Their 1st and 3rd Platoons guarded the bridge, between patrols. Their second platoon was welcomed as a guard force at the Baghdad International Airport (BIAP). The units stationed at BIAP are even commenting on the professional security being brought by Attack Company.

Bravo Company continues to patrol its High Value Areas (HVA's). Whether or not some soldiers find

this mission exciting or tiresome, they all continue to recognize the significance of their duty. PV2 Onwuka commented on the operations, "Yeah its pretty boring but I know it's a pretty important mission."

Charlie Company saw the most excitement with several raids that captured a few important enemies. Their second platoon was able to catch the last of a group of enemies that they had been hunting for. Another raid, also with second platoon, was conducted with the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) in effort to help show the new Iraqi army how professional raids are conducted. The two newest soldiers in the platoon, PVT Steven Price and PVT Albert Bretado, were an invaluable asset to the entire operation.



Bravo Company's PV2 Onwuka on patrol

While the end to their mission in Iraq is getting closer and closer, the Regulars are not forgetting all the work they have put into the security of this nation. They continue to drive on with the highest degree of professionalism. No one can fault them if they have a little fun in the process.

CONQUERORS

FRG NEWS

Charlie Company FRG met on 18 March with a potluck and bingo! The ladies have been planning for the return of their husbands with banners and baked goods!



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The FRG officially welcomed Mrs. Cheryl Wheeler to the group. FRL SGT Tasker was on hand to answer questions about homecoming and to call out Bingo numbers.



C. Company wives Sunny Graves, Gina Hern-Martinez, and Cherish Mitchell were all smiles after winning a prize for Bingo!

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

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY TO:
30 Mar SSG Thomas & Darlene Revette

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.

THUNDER

Much like the cold weather, February has come and gone and we find ourselves one month closer to the much anticipated reunion with our loved ones. February has been a busy month for the Bears. The skilled "infantryman" of Bravo Battery eagerly shook off the cobwebs to once again display our skills of the King of Battle. All eight sections made it through section evaluations looking like the true professional they are. Patrolling "our" sector remains the top priority as the fragile new government finds a place in the history books.



The Bears perfecting their aim on the range.

Thanks to the hard work of Bravo Battery a few more criminals/terrorists are off the street and the law abiding citizens are grateful. The respect displayed on the faces of the citizens of Baghdad is the legacy that the Bears are honored to eventually leave behind. In other news we welcomed several new soldiers into the Bear Family; PVT Hernandez, PVT Howes, PVT Garcia, PFC Topping, PVT Olson, SGT London, PVT Mihalich, PVT Hodges, PFC McKinzie,





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 44 OIF

March 25, 2004



and SGT Johnson, PFC Myers. It is great to see so many new faces. CPL Evans and SGT Rodriguez decided to extend their careers in the Army by re-enlisting---CONGRATULATIONS. We even had the honor to induct SPC Noak to the Non-commissioned Officer Corps; we expect great things from SGT Noak.

From all the soldiers in Bravo Battery 4-27 Field Artillery--to all the family and loved ones in Baumholder: Thank you for the hard work and patience and we will see you soon.

RAMS

2nd Platoon, C Company Reenlists Seven Soldiers
By 1LT Galeazzi

The Crossed sabers arch into the sky, grasped by mighty hands that seem to explode from the ground below. The monument carries the legacy of a fallen regime and a nation caught between sanctions and war. Yet to the American soldier, the sabers are a well know meeting place; a rally point for units to establish link-up and conduct final preparation before a mission. It is a symbolic step-off point before any journey. On this day, a group has gathered at the sabers once again. Standing in a horseshoe to get a good view, soldiers of all ranks have come to witness SGT Lear of 2nd platoon C company reenlist. SGT Lear, already with 8 years in service, is a veteran to reenlistment ceremonies. As he awaits the arrival of the Battalion Commander and SGM, he recollects past reenlistments and expresses some regret that his wife has yet to watch him reenlist. The platoon, however, has had the extreme pleasure of already attending six reenlistments this quarter, so they now know the drill for this seventh.

A reenlistment ceremony is the point from which a soldier continues his military journey. With the American flag as a backdrop, the soldier swears under oath to bear true faith and allegiance to the military and the United States Constitution. It all kicked off on SGM Millers desk in February. SPC Gearhart, with a somewhat ambitious demeanor, received permission to reenlist at this unusual spot. As he repeated the words of the oath, the room stood quiet, but as he gave a final salute, the soldiers in attendance erupted into cheers and

then song, for it happened to be his birthday. "Now clean of those footprints from my desk," demanded the SGM in a jovial tone



About a week later, 2nd Platoon gathered in the same office. It took the S-1 at least ten minutes to clean off the Battalion Commander's desk, it being stacked high with paperwork, forms and manuals. Once it was cleared, SPC Fonseca and LTC Coats himself jumped up onto the desk and read the oath. As he held his reenlistment certificate up for everyone to see, SPC Fonseca, encouraged other soldiers to reenlist. His next duty station will be Fort Drum, New York.

The first week in March brought three more reenlistments. SPC Duer, going to Fort Carson, reenlisted at the Tomb of the Unknown soldier along with SPC Crews, who will be going to Fort Stewart. For SPC Duer, reenlisting brings job security. His wife is attending college and so the army was a sure way to stay employed and support her. For Crews, his next duty station means being closer to home, but more importantly, over the next four years he wants to gain experience, become qualified on heavy equipment, and save money for a new truck.

SPC Riddle was the next to reenlist, but chose a location much closer to the company. He stood before a large red engineer castle within the courtyard of the former Iraqi Republican Guard headquarters. From here, SPC Riddle will go to Korea where he wants to work as a recruiter and slowly ease back into civilian life. Soldiers stay in the army for all sorts of reasons. For SPC Roberts, as the next 2nd platoon soldier to





THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 44 OIF

March 25, 2004



reenlist, Baumholder was his first duty station and now wants to serve in the states.



He will be going to Fort Leonard Wood, home to the army's engineer school, and says that the bonus of over nine thousand dollars helped him decide to 'Stay Army'. SPC Roberts' reenlistment took place at the PV2 Falaniko Inn near Baghdad's Freedom Rest resort. Once again, all of 2nd platoon gathered for the ceremony and filed by afterward to shake his hand or express their congratulations.

Just two days later, the platoon piled into vehicles once again and made their way to the crossed sabers to watch SGT Lear reenlist. They knew this would be the seventh and last reenlistment for the platoon this quarter. They realized also that, although the soldiers were staying in for different reasons, and going to different places, each was setting off on a new journey, beginning right here in Baghdad. This is where, over the past year, these soldiers have lived, worked, and bonded. Their careers in the army are taking them elsewhere, and the bonds they have made will have to be left behind. However, these soldiers will take a lot of knowledge, many stories, and extensive experience with them to their new units.

"Reenlisting seven soldiers from one platoon in a single quarter is not very common," says SGT Griffin of 2nd platoon, C Company and the company reenlistment NCO for the past eight months. "It is actually quite an outstanding accomplishment."

Soldiers are bombarded by t-shirts, posters, pamphlets, and email proclaiming the great benefits

of reenlisting. What it comes down to is each soldier, looking within himself and asking if the army is the way to go. While some soldiers have decided to get out and try life as a civilian, these seven have signed up once again to serve the nation, the constitution, and the soldiers around them.

SGT Lear repeated the last line of the oath "...so help me God.", and lowered his right hand. After delivering a final salute, he turned towards 2nd platoon and various other soldiers from the unit that had come to watch. His face held a large smile that seemed to show both relief and anticipation. The next five years may not be easy for him. They will be challenging, even difficult at times, yet this does not discourage him. "I'm nearly halfway through," he tells us "I think I'll stick it out."

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

The Greater One Is In You

1 JOHN 4:4

You are from God, little children, and have overcome them; because greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.

There are two vital points in this verse, which is addressed to believers. First point, God is IN you -- not far off somewhere. Yes, God is in Heaven -- but that is not the only place He is. By the Holy Spirit, God now has His dwelling place in you! You don't have to "try to reach God." He is right there! What you need to do is to cultivate an awareness of His presence. This, along with communication, is the way to develop a closer relationship with God.

Knowing that God lives in you, and that He loves you, should banish all fear from your life. Fear of failure should have no place. Fear of what other people think should not bother you. Fear of problems that may come up should be of no concern. You have God living in you!

2 CORINTHIANS 6:16

And what union can there be between God's temple and idols? For you are God's temple, the home of the living God, and God has said of you, "I will live in



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THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 44 OIF

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them and walk among them, and I will be their God and they shall be my people."

Second point, God, Who is within you, is greater. Greater than any problem. Greater than any difficulty. Greater than the devil. Greater than anything you will ever face.

1 JOHN 4:4

My dear children, you belong to God. So you have defeated them because God's Spirit, who is in you, is greater than the devil, who is in the world.

This is the Word of God. We must embrace it and live in the light of it. We must meditate on it and speak it. We must resist any contrary thought the enemy might try to place in our thinking.

SAY THIS: God, Who is in me, is greater than anything I will ever face. The Greater One is in me.

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

PUBLIC AFFAIRS HOST NATION EVENTS

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.
- **BUS TRIP TO HOLLAND.** 8 April (leave early, come back late) Only €57 per person! Kids welcome! Call 485-1530 for more information.

CYS

POC: Joanne Hernandez, 485-7198



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THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 44 OIF

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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

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)
 - 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



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Issue # 44 OIF

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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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