



THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 45 OIF

April 1, 2004



Editor

This is the last issue of the OIF Striker Statement. I want to thank all who contributed to this newsletter over the past year. The upside to the OIF edition ending is that the 2BCT will be coming home soon.

CPT Jonathan Cornett
2nd Brigade Rear-D Commander

HELLRAISERS

Happy Birthday Wishes to CPL Griswold!

REGULARS

This week will always be remembered by the men of the Regular Battalion. Most of the soldiers in the Battalion have been looking forward to this week for their entire careers. This was the week that the infantry soldiers were awarded their Combat Infantry Badge (CIB). The medics received their coveted Combat Medical Badge (CMB). Everyone received their wartime service award and their badge of honor: the combat patch.

Only the most senior men of the battalion previously had these noble awards. These awards are a physical icon that tells the younger soldiers that they have proven themselves in combat. The young men know that a leader with those awards is proficient in battlefield safety; they know that he will train them to also come home safely.

Those young men are now at the point in their careers where they have become experienced with the rigors of war and how to operate safely. They will someday be another young soldier's mentor. They will repeat the same grueling drills in the scorching sun that they had to do. They will not quit training until *everyone* is proficient in their job. Finally, they too will someday beam with pride as they pin hard earned awards on the chest of America's next generation of patriots.

You could feel the honor in the air as LTC Peter L. Jones pinned the Bronze Star over the heart of CPT Gerd Schroeder, the HHC Commander. You could see the pride in the

eyes of medics like SPC Chad Abbott as he wears his CMB. The emotion that stirred within the men here will never be forgotten, but will be second to that of when they finally are able to return home to their loved ones.

CONQUERORS

TF 1-35 Scout Platoon Prepare for Smooth Transition and Redeployment

For the past three months, Task Force 1-35 preparation and planning for redeployment has been at full speed to ensure a smooth transfer of authority in Central Baghdad, Iraq, with Task Force 3-8 of the 1st Cavalry Division. Just like preparing to deploy, redeploying requires multiple tasks to be completed in order to allow an organized and manageable movement process. Conducting inventories and equipment packing have taken a great deal of energy and concentration, but being thorough reduces the potential for problems to arise later in the process. Extensive planning has been ongoing since last December; however, the recent preparation of vehicles and packing of equipment has made the redeployment process more tangible to the Task Force 1-35 Scouts.



One of the basic rules for a successful redeployment is to keep things as simple as possible. In doing so, soldiers of the Scout Platoon recently packed all of the personal items they had accumulated since being deployed. Soldiers received care-packages from family members and friend that included merchandise ranging from music compact discs to personal computers. The soldiers also got the opportunity to purchase merchandise from the local economy. Limited space to re-deploy military equipment forced soldiers to identify the



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need to begin early shipment of personal property back home. The platoon has also begun packing equipment not necessary for use during day-to-day operations. Now, the only property remaining is the equipment needed to continue and accomplish the mission. The Scout Platoon is concentrating on completing their ongoing tasks while preparing to transfer authority to their 1CD replacement unit.



The Scout Platoon continues to do its best to set the conditions for replacement units from 1st Cavalry Division, preparing to conduct relief in place operations with Task Force 3-8. One of the main requirements for redeployment is the establishment of continuity books with standard operating procedures and techniques for executing tasks. Although the platoon will have the opportunity to physically show their counterparts how to execute many of the tasks, the allotted time will not allow every task to be covered. Continuity books will provide insight and how the Task Force Scout Platoon conducted operations even after Task Force 1-35 has redeployed. As redeployment approaches, the scouts have found it easier to concentrate on their every day mission. They are motivated and focused on doing their jobs safe to ensure a successful return to family and friends at home.

While the soldiers in the Scout Platoon work toward their homecoming, they are also preparing to say goodbye to some wonderful friends in Baghdad.

Many soldiers and Iraqi citizens have exchanged emails in order to stay in contact with

each other after redeployment. In the upcoming weeks, the platoon and other task force units will likely plan a social gatherings and meetings with their local friends to say their farewells, and introduce their Task Force 3-8 counterparts. The scouts could not have accomplished their missions without the cooperation of several courageous Iraqi friends. These Iraqi patriots have taken an active role in helping Task Force 1-35 conduct its day-to-day tasks to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are Iraqi Heros and will continue to assist Task Force 3-8 and other units from the 1st Cavalry Division in supporting security missions in order to maintain a secure environment.

It has been a long year for the Task Force 1-35 Scout Platoon, but the time has come for them to return home. They have begun shipping their personal property back home and packing nonessential equipment. The platoon has developed a continuity book to aid in a successful transition with Task Force 3-8 Scout Platoon. With the little time remaining, the soldiers will bid their farewells to the many Iraqis they have befriended. In the mean time, however, the Scout Platoon remains focused on mission accomplishment.

GATORS

In March, C Company finally brought a finish to renovation efforts on three area schools. Al Khabour, Al Gharaf, and Al Sanabul Kindergarten received renovations courtesy of the Commander's Emergency Relief Program (CERP) sponsored by 1AD. Effort toward school renovations was initiated in August of 2003, but was slowed due to delays in the CERP Program. All area schools have suffered from years of neglect under the former regime of Saddam Hussein.

A large part of the company, as well as TF 2-6 elements, brought these projects to completion. CPT Prior initiated the effort for addressing school renovations and supervised the process. He was supported by 1LT Andrew Schwartz as the company Civil-Military Operations (CMO) Officer. C Company's Headquarters Platoon and a fire team from one



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of the rifle platoons provided the countless patrols necessary to ensure proper communication between the company, the NAC, contractors, and school administrators. TF S-5 and B (Mech) Company FSO 1LT Jon Adams also played a fundamental role in providing a team of engineers to provide project quality assurance and assessing project scopes of work for CERP approval. 1LT Adams also selected the contractors to perform the improvements on each school through a bidding process. These efforts were important to TF 2-6's desire to engage the public and win the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people in the area.

Contractors conducted school renovations on several levels to include interior and exterior improvements, as well as limited furnishings in the buildings. Contractors replaced window and door glass broken due to poor maintenance and vandalism. They painted interior and exterior walls to improve the schools' appearances among the neighborhood. The crews also restored the bathroom plumbing which the company found in utter ruins in all the buildings. Ventilation systems and water coolers were installed to improve the quality of life among the students. Local artists painted cartoon-like pictures on the walls to conceal the propaganda of the former regime (AK-47s and pictures of violence formerly on walls). Contractors provided limited furniture restoration to desks and chalkboards as well. Although more improvements can still be made, the NAC, contractors, teachers, and students greatly appreciate the effort displayed by the soldiers of the company in providing much needed improvements to schools neglected under the previous regime.

C Company still looks to open Quteiba bin Muslim School which is under construction. The company has been seeking renovation for this school since August, also. The soldiers of Charlie deserve great credit for facilitating the restoration of these area schools.

FRG NEWS

By Helen Williams

Great Day for 2-6!! On March 18th we successfully welcomed a good portion of Charlie

2-6 back to Baumholder just shy of 10am. We had a great turnout of support from 2-6 and the other units on Post. These 115 soldiers are the first of the Gators to return home. The ceremony was wonderful, sweet & straight from the heart. The love, smiles & joy were overwhelming and there wasn't a dry eye in the gym. All were in good spirits and our soldiers are the true representatives of the heroes we're all so proud of and grateful for their safe return. We now await the return of all of our Gators who remain steadfast in their mission and we will continue to pray for all our heroes until they are returned home safely.

HHC FRG Meeting April 5, 6:00 pm Wetzel FRG Room

ALPHA FRG Meeting April 5, 6:00 pm Alpha Co Top Floor

BRAVO FRG Meeting April 6, 5:30 pm Bravo Company Day Room

Alpha will be having a Bake sale at the PX on Sun April 4th; you can bake for it or come and sit at the bake sale. POC: Lisa Box BC: 186-043.

Please contact SSG Leonard at 485-8601 or matthew.k.leonard@us.army.mil and give him your home or cell telephone number so he can notify you when the time comes to meet your spouse at the Hall of Champions! When contacting him please give your full name and the company your spouse is in.

Congratulations to Lisa Box, Lisa Jordan and Lisa Proctor on receiving the Distinguished Volunteer of the Year award.

Congratulations to Tina Olson on receiving the STC Exceptional Volunteer of the Year award.

Congratulations to Cristine Holtgrewe, Timmy Milligan and Kaye Reed & Linette Lahan on receiving the BSB Angel award for outstanding volunteer service within a unit.

Thank you to all of the 2-6 volunteers who selflessly donate and dedicate their time in helping others within the Gator battalion.



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For 2/6 Charlie Company's redeployment, every returning soldier had a flag placed outside the company with a name ribbon attached to it. Each name was machine stitched by Linette Lahan, C. Company FRG leader.

THUNDER

By CPT Shawn Martin

Hello to all Team Hurricane families and friends from Baghdad. I am incredibly happy to report that this is the last newsletter for Operation Iraqi Freedom. It has been a long and difficult journey, but it is now near an end. Over the last year, every single person here in Baghdad and back at home greatly exceeded our expectations. The successful completion of our mission here is a direct result of the masterful performance by every family member; you allowed us to focus on finishing the fight here.



We are currently supporting the battalion's gunnery density. Our fire supporters, signalmen, artillery surveyors, and battalion tactical action center are ensuring that we

redeploy with all gun crews qualified. In addition, we are continuing the fight here in the zone. Although we have broken the back of the enemies of a free Iraqi, we want to ensure that we destroy every remnant before we hand the zone over to our replacements.

Our success in zone is once again attributable to masterful performance of every one of our soldiers. They have truly risen to every challenge, and they continue to impress me and every person that comes in contact with them.

Many of us are becoming increasingly busy with the preparation for redeployment down to Kuwait and back to Germany. We will ensure that we execute this mission with the same intensity and focus on safety that we have for every other mission. I want to get every soldier home to you as quick and safely as possible. The rear detachment and the FRG will have further information on our redeployment as we get closer to the date.

We will have a battery organizational day on July 16th to celebrate our successes here and at home. Please come and enjoy some fellowship. When we return, we will publish more details on this event. We are all looking forward to seeing you when we return to Baumholder. May God bless all of you. Hurricanes!

RAMS

By PV2 James Austin
B Co, 40th EN BN

Since arriving in Baghdad, the close interaction with the Iraqi people and our platoon has been minimal. What little interaction we have had has mainly been with the interpreters at our checkpoint. They have greatly helped our effort in communicating with those people that travel through our checkpoint daily. On an intellectual level, they help us to learn more of the fascinating culture and help us to communicate with the local citizens.

In addition, they have helped us to communicate with the Facility Protection Service (FPS) personnel that work at our checkpoint. The FPS workers help to enforce the rules of the checkpoint but the only way they truly understand is because of the interpreters. The

interpreters have a strong grasp of our expectations of FPS and help us to ensure they act properly on the checkpoint.

We work with three interpreters daily, those individuals are Ziad, Haifa, and Shirin. These outstanding individuals have greatly helped our communication with the local nationals. Upon the arrival of coalition forces to Baghdad these three immediately rushed to translate for the coalition forces in hopes of helping to oust the Ba'ath regime from this country.

These interpreters have helped me to understand how miserable this country was under the rule of Saddam Hussein. All three individuals have led a difficult life with constant fear from the ousted regime. Haifa worked as a translator



FPS workers inspect a vehicle.

for the government; however, the government closely watched her in concerns of her leaking information. Ziad held a peaceful job as a taxi driver prior to our occupation. Shirin was working towards her college degree to be a librarian. She immediately dropped her studies to help the coalition forces.

I will never forget these outstanding individuals that I have met during my deployment to Iraq. Without them we would have had a near impossible task. Due to their undying effort to help us we succeeded with our mission. We would not have been able to make the Iraqi workers and contractors understand the procedures of the checkpoint. The interpreters

made our time on the checkpoint free flowing. I have made three great friends as I have worked with these individuals and I will never forget them.

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By: Ch Stevan Horning

As each week passes, our enemy reveals more of his nature and we are learning what we must do in order to defeat him. That statement applies equally to the enemy of our civilization and the enemy of our souls. Regarding the first case, Al-Quaeda reveals itself as an evil, restless impulse to destroy people indiscriminately; an insidious sickness that senses ways in which we are weak, and then malicious exploits those.

We see that in Baghdad, and also in Tashkent, Madrid, London, Manila, Istanbul, Marrakesh, and on 9-11. We learned that we can prevent AQ's attacks by persistent detective work and multiplying eyes and ears (alert citizens). The enemy of our souls, the spirit of sin, reveals itself in that same character, aim, and method. Sin wants to destroy every person made in God's image, wants to corrupt civilization, and wants to destroy all the work of God. So long as we call things by their proper name, we gain control because of how the truth works. Seen this way, the issue becomes clearer. Our enemy never has been Islam as such, or any person or group of persons by themselves. Neither Al Qaeda nor sin represents merely a "different religion", meaning a spiritual discipline, but rather these represent lawlessness and no religion at all.

Remember when the word *religion* meant something positive? Time was, until recently, when we said a man had "got religion", we meant his manners had improved or even that his heart was changed for the better. A "religious man" in our grandparents' time was one understood to behave in humane, temperate ways; he exhibited a winsome humility, for he subdued his passions out of reverence for God, and God's better way of love. Even the word "fundamentalist", until the 1920s, signified some good person who conducted his life according to fundamental principles of honor.





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But now-days, we've let finger-pointers tell us that religion itself is the enemy, and that we may call those wild-eyed criminals "religious" who bomb Red Cross clinics and who victimize women and children. Let's turn back the tide of sloppy language, and recover the good sense of "religion."

Recently during an FRG briefing, a spouse told me that her husband had become religious (in the good sense I advocate). She finds herself suspended in the excitement between fear that he might find her spiritually dull, and eagerness to see him start leading the family in a new model of virtue. She smiled to imagine her whole family sitting together during church worship. What she said helped me glimpse afresh the happy appeal of changes made for the better.

That's why we welcome the Re-Union, Re-Integration process: the pain of deployment will give way to the peaceable enjoyment of our loved ones. It's not merely back to normal; instead, we're expecting a re-negotiated normal that will incorporate family members who have matured, who display new graces, whose "love tanks" long to be filled again in legitimate ways. Those who saw the video about "Tony and Sylvia and their daughter Maria" learned these tips for a profitable re-union: expect some anxiety, dismiss your daydreams, patiently manage changes, share your feelings, and envision your partner's point of view. And now both Soldiers and their families are ready to express love by giving gifts, quality time, tender touch, sincere praise, and cheerful service to one another.

For a more pleasant re-union, I encourage all of us to tame our tongues, and especially to uproot whatever habits we've allowed of vulgar speech and thoughtless profanity. Protect civilization from its own home-grown barbarians! Look up our Lord's words in Matthew 12:33-37, and humbly repent. I know we're going through some high-pressure weeks right now, and we want to vent our stress. Please believe that bad words provide no relief, especially to sensitive ears around us; they also degrade those who speak them. On the positive side, remember that if you replace one bad habit with a good one, you've gained two-fold.

Striking Scripture

Here's an apt saying for this week: *Better a patient man than a warrior, a man who controls his temper than one who takes a city (Proverbs 16:32)*. Certainly a warrior can be noble and admirable, and those who interpose their own lives to defend the well-being of others have a virtuous profession. Yet if you must choose between being called "ready to fight" and "slow to anger", which will you choose? History pages are filled with tragic tales of mighty conquerors who could not master their own violent passions.

Our heroic General Patton nearly shipwrecked his career because he lost his temper when he should have held it. Our chosen proverb reminds us of some others in that same inspired collection: *Like a city whose walls are broken down, is a man who lacks self-control (25:28)* and *He who guards his lips guards his life, but he who speaks rashly will come to ruin (13:3)*, along with *James 1:19, Everyone should be quick to hear, slow to speak, and slow to become angry*.

I consciously link rashness and violence, tongue and temper, in choosing these verses. Why? -- Because often we experience them together. That's why, on the eve of reunion with our loved ones, we must exert extra efforts to be patient, understanding, and self-controlled. Believe it or not, we find re-union as an event just as stressful as the day of separation for deployment. In that setting, we'll find it's better for all of us if we set aside our battle-armor and swords, and ease into our family life patiently.

BAUMHOLDER INFORMATION

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

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

- **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

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

- Adult Education English as a Second Language (ESL) Course T/Th 9-11. 30 March – 21 May. Sign up at the Ed. center.
- 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



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- 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

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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