



# THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 47 OIF

June 8, 2004



## **Editor**

Please send news, meeting announcements, and birthdays to [sarah.wellman@us.army.mil](mailto:sarah.wellman@us.army.mil)

## **CPT Jonathan Cornett**

2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Rear-D Commander

## **HELLRAISERS**

The brigade headquarters is a dynamic place. So many things happen there in a single day. As I well know, staff is a difficult place and often the staff officer's or NCO's accomplishments are overlooked. Here is some insight on how the staff is organized and what they do.

Every day, the brigade commander receives an update from his entire staff on how they are enabling the fight, coordination they have made and work on his priorities. A useful analogy would be a constructor and his orchestra. Over the past year, one could say the brigade staff has started to sound like the New York Philharmonic. The staff consistently overachieves and keeps the commander well informed.

The two leaders of the staff are the deputy commander or DCO, LTC Peeler and the executive officer or XO, LTC Danna. The DCO is in charge of daily operations and acts as the second in command. The XO is the chief of staff. He ensures that the entire staff is working on the brigade commander's priorities and focuses his primary efforts on the administrative and logistical support of the brigade. Working together, they keep the brigade moving in the right direction and provide the brigade commander the freedom to circulate the battlefield and lead from the front.

The NCO leaders are the Sergeants Major. The sergeants major provide the wisdom and insight of seasoned warriors and a whole lot of common sense when the staff gets "off course". The operations SGM, SGM Paul is in charge of the brigade headquarters and has the responsibility for everything that goes into it. He ensures that the work

environment is professional and conducive to the brigade commander's, DCO's and XO's requirements. SGM Hall is our liaison ICDC SGM. He has provided mentorship to countless future Iraqi NCO leaders on what it takes to be a professional non-commissioned officer. Both of these leaders are key to the success of our mission.

At the Operations Desk, soldiers like SPC Atwood and SPC Perez are loading C2PC graphics and preparing the brigade commander's update or feverishly trying to capture every last word of a Task Force spot report. NCOs like SFC Walker and SSG Goetzinger are constantly coordinating with adjacent units and higher headquarters on everything from sending up the myriad of daily reports to linking up critical logistical and tactical assets on the battlefield to support brigade and battalion missions.

In the S2 shop, soldiers like SPC Leonard and SPC Shorter are compiling lists of possible Mujahadeen and Militia targets in order allow the Task Forces to conduct combat operations designed to stop attacks on Coalition Forces and innocent Iraqi citizens.

The Fires and Effects Coordination Center or FECC provides the commander with a number of combat multipliers. One capability is the "King of Battle". The FECC coordinates the 155mm Paladin, 120mm mortars, Q36 and Q37 radars providing indirect and counter fire capability to the brigade combat team. Second is Information Operations or IO. Information is power in Iraq. The insurgents use pamphlets and newspapers to spread false information about coalition forces and to promote their agendas. Anti-coalition rhetoric is blasted from loudspeakers on top of mosques to promote attacks on coalition forces. The FECC is constantly working on ways to counter these negative messages while promoting goodwill towards the Iraqi people and encouraging them to work with the coalition to reduce the numbers of weapons, explosives and unexploded ordnance. Lastly, the FECC conducts public affairs operations designed on getting the media to see the brigade at work and giving the commander the ability to show



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the media the progress the brigade has made. MAJ Frisbee and CW3 Valerio are the leaders of this element.

The S4 shop coordinates the logistical support of the brigade. From day one on the ground, they have worked tirelessly to get our soldiers all the comforts of home, well at least most of them! The brigade seamlessly transitioned from operations in Baghdad to our new mission largely in part of the hard work of this element. CPT Bednarzyk, MSG Trendel and SSG Blaziak work wonders in order to keep the brigade fed, fueled, outfitted, and maintained.

The S1 or Soldier Support Center has greatly improved over the past six months. The work of CPT Schoenfeldt, SSG (P) Uribe, and SSG Gibson has provided brigade soldiers with excellent personnel service support. They have assisted in bringing in much needed replacements, managed the environmental leave program and kept soldiers in the Iron Brigade.

The S5 shop is responsible for the civil-military operations in the brigade's area of responsibility. They have worked to provide support to local governance and humanitarian and emergency relief projects. Their tireless work with the Iraqi people is an important focus for the brigade and promotes Iraqi cooperation with coalition forces. CPT Lauchengco and CPT Swope are leaders of this element.

The S6 shop is responsible for all communications. They install secret and non-secure Internet lines and ensure the brigade headquarter can command and control the fight. The brigade RETRANS team lead by SGT Batista works extremely hard to ensure the brigade can communicate throughout the AO. MAJ Hinkel and MSG Stokes lead the S6 Shop.

The brigade commander also has special staff officers such as the brigade chaplain, surgeon and equal opportunity NCO. This staff gives the commander subject matter advice on religious, medical and equal opportunity issues in the unit. The brigade chaplain is Chaplain (MAJ(P)) Woodberry.

The brigade surgeon is Dr. (CPT(P)) Wood. The EO NCO is SFC Mason.

Congratulations to SSG Uribe of the S1 shop. SSG Uribe will be promoted to SFC effective 1 June 2004.

Congratulations to the following HHC soldiers on their promotion in May 2004: SPC Glenn Cummins was promoted to SGT. PFC Allen L. Duke, PFC Raymond F. Hannagan, PFC Daniel A. Dunn and PFC Larry Ray were promoted to SPC.

## **CPT AROSEMENA Hellraiser 6**

## **REGULARS**

Over the few weeks since the last FRG Newsletter, things have greatly improved at Fob Chosin. Additional air-conditioners have arrived, along with daily shipment of ice helping to combat the Iraqi summer temperatures that reach over a hundred degrees at midday. We've also have brought Iraqi barbers on board to help put end to the eighties big hair, and bring the FOB's haircut standards back within Army regulations.

Outside the Fob things are steadily improving with the TF 1-6 IN teaming up the local Neighborhood Advisory Councils (NACs), which are like US versions of city councils, to create initiatives to get much need medical supplies for local hospitals and to build and refurbish nearby schools. All three of TF 1-6 IN's NACs will start to become major players in Iraq's democratic future come July 1<sup>st</sup> when transfer of authority takes place between Coalition Forces and the new Iraqi government. With the continued efforts of TF 1-6 IN's soldiers to teach these NACs the American values of democracy and freedom, we will ensure the freedoms of the local Iraqi populace long after the unit has rotated back to Baumholder.

The unit has also been engaged in a successful weapons buyback program, denying they enemy much needed ammunition and explosives. The program has thus far bought back over \$40,000 worth of ammunition, which keeps the FOB's engineers busy cataloging, tracking and destroying



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the vast quantities of munitions. The only major problem we have had so far is keeping enough cash on hand, to buy the large amount of ammunition flowing in from the local communities.

The Headhunters have continued to work hard to support the battalion's operational needs this week. All elements of the company have been extremely busy further improving our base camp, patrolling our sector, gathering and processing intelligence, maintaining the massive rolling fleet, and keeping the men healthy and fed.

The Support Platoon conducts a weekly convoy to the Baghdad International Airport to pick up critical supply items and repair parts as well as food and drinks. These convoys led by 1LT Mark Grado and SFC Michael Norwood are conducted with the utmost professionalism, demonstrating the tactical expertise of the entire platoon. Just this past week members of the platoon, while traveling between Baghdad and the base camp encountered several insurgents suspected of detonating IEDs along their route. The fast reaction of the Support Platoon and their Scout Platoon escorts (SSG Carey, SGT Lucero, SPC Samarron, SPC Uzelac, SPC Patterson, and PV2 Andrews) led to the apprehension of several suspected insurgents.

The Medical Platoon along with its attached Forward Surgical Team rehearsed reaction drills designed to streamline the management of a mass casualty (MASCAL) situation. The medics continue to provide superb medical coverage to the battalion, saving lives and "conserving the fighting strength".

The Mortar Platoon presses on with its vital mission of escorting the Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) crew as they find, disarm, and dispose of dangerous explosives. In addition the Mortars continue to man mortar firing positions in the base camp, always ready to launch a fire mission.

The rest of the company continues in its seamless support of the battalion. The Headquarters Maintenance section led by SFC Harvey Marrow and SSG Kevin Stanton conducted annual services on a

total of ten vehicles in the past two weeks. Doing this they were still able to perform numerous unscheduled maintenance jobs on the fleet, maintaining a high state of operational readiness.

Despite the hot climate and hard work, the men of HHC have continued to persevere and lead the way in the war on terror, supporting the battalion all the way. In the coming weeks we will continue to work toward the missions at hand and the tough business of preparing to redeploy.

Alpha Company has been busy learning and meeting the people in it's new area by getting out on the ground and talking with everyone they encounter. Many here have not seen or been exposed to American troops. The company is hoping to soon help start the process of fixing up a children's hospital and a local school. Projects like these help people in the area get a sense of the good things to come from their new neighbors. Soldiers also enjoy projects like these because it's progress at a small level that we can participate in and take pride in.

The soldiers of Attack Company has been working hard conducting patrols in its new area in order to ensure a stable environment for the June 30<sup>th</sup> transition to Iraqi sovereignty. Also, Alpha Company conducted successful Traffic Control Points. All Platoons have been focusing all of their efforts working around the clock.

Recently our new FOB was outfitted with high speed internet so family members and soldiers can stay in contact with greater regularity. The weather here in Iraq has been warm, but the very hot summer is right around the corner.

Also, while out on patrol 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon found and adopted a new puppy that has become a welcome addition to our Army family.

Alpha Company also wishes a speedy recovery to PVT Ladroga who broke his leg while out on patrol and SGT Crespo who underwent surgery to repair a torn shoulder.



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Although, the company has been working hard, plenty of time is available for activities like reading, watching movies, playing basketball and the new company favorite pastime of horseshoes. When not working these activities help pass the time until the company rotates home.

The Warriors of Bravo Company continue to perform magnificently in the conduct of their duties. CPT Mark Federovich keeps his boys busy working on checkpoints and security patrols while enlisting the aid of his fire support officer 1LT Michael Breen in focusing on the rebuilding effort. "It's kind of hot, but this is not so bad. New faces and new places with lots to do makes the time go faster" stated CPL Mathew Garrick as he headed to his vehicle join yet another patrol.

C Company, 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon has done a great job since receiving the difficult news that their time in Iraq would be longer than expected. The broad geographic area that C Co has been tasked to patrol has brought a new sense of urgency to the platoon. SSG Leon Richardson and SSG Pastor Valdez have done an excellent job maintaining the momentum that carried their squads through the Baghdad experience during the platoon's new mission. SSG Esperidion Jaramillo and SGT Daniel Ketron have been stretched to the limit with the added wear and tear on the Bradley sections' vehicles, but like the squad leaders they have responded admirably. The platoon as a whole is still eagerly awaiting redeployment and reunion with family and friends, but is more committed than ever to performing their mission professionally.

C Company, 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon has adapted to the new C co area of responsibility well, learning new ways of dealing with the enemy in their own backyard. The Hooligans have had to make some adjustments because of our new mission, and all the soldiers are exceeding the standard. SSG Travis Loest, previously from 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, has returned from Master Gunner school and is now the Alpha section leader and platoon Master Gunner, replacing SGT Christopher Garabitos, who has been tasked to train the ICDC in our new zone. ICDC is the Division main

effort, and SGT Garabitos has been working long hours every day of the week training them so they can one day take our place. PFC Shaun Jones who is working in the Battalion Detention Cell, continues to set a high standard of ethical treatment at a job which has been receiving national attention in the past few weeks. The rest of the platoon has been working very hard as well, and we are all eager to accomplish the mission and return home to our families.

The following soldiers were promoted May:

Company	Name	Rank	Position
A CO	Keller	SGT	Squad Leader
A CO	Crespo	SGT	Section Leader

Over the next few weeks TF 1-6 IN will continue to conduct aggressive patrols in our area of operation to ensure Iraq remains a safe and stable environment for a budding Iraqi democracy. We also start leaning forward to redeployment, preparing our vehicles for long road march to Kuwait and preparing our soldiers for a transition back to a garrison environment.

*"Regulars by God"*

## **CONQUERORS**

Since being relieved in place by units from the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division in Baghdad, TF 1-35 has been working hard to accomplish its new mission. The unit has been tasked to secure a portion of a main supply route that extends from Baghdad to Kuwait. The task force is accomplishing its mission by conducting operations from three separate command posts simultaneously from three different locations, Camp Striker, Forward Operating Base (FOB) St. Michael, and FOB Kalsu.

Charlie Company/1-35 recently spent several days on a rotation at the most southern located FOB, FOB Kalsu. The company's mission was to protect two bridges on the main supply route from attacks by anti-Iraqi forces. Operations also consisted of daily area combat patrols to kill or capture anti-Iraqi forces





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trying to emplace improvised explosive devices along the main supply route. Besides fixed site bridge security and combat patrols, initial tasks included assessing the area of operations to gain an understanding of its people and its infrastructure. Execution proved challenging as Charlie Company investigated the new area. Staying aware of the current environment and paying close attention to maintenance issues were a must. With initial assessments complete, the company began conducting tactical missions. Raids were executed to capture individuals involved in anti-Iraqi force activity.

When the soldiers were not conducting combat operations, they returned to their temporary living area at FOB Kalsu. The unit, along with elements from C/40<sup>th</sup> Engineers, immediately began work on a life support area inside the camp. Improvements to the area included the establishment of electrical power, air conditioning and the opening of a dining facility. The camp also has internet and telephone services available for staying in contact with family members and friends. Life support improvements will continue to provide the best living environment possible while operations continue.

Although redeployment was delayed, the soldiers of TF 1-35 understand the importance of the mission at hand. Securing a main supply route from destruction and the threat of improvised explosive devices allows other coalition forces to operate freely and accomplish their mission. Charlie Company and the rest of the Conqueror task force will continue to defeat anti-Iraqi forces until its mission is complete.

## CPT GRAVES

### **GATORS**

The last week in May 2004 finds TF 2-6 continuing operations and maintaining vigilance. The leaders and soldiers of Task Force Gator bravely face the enemy every day while out on missions. TF 2-6 is also fighting complacency within its own ranks at every opportunity. Fighting these two battles becomes more of a challenge with the increasing heat of the Iraqi summer season. Despite the

challenges, our forces are emerging victorious in all aspects of our operations.

Company B, 2-6, is continuing to do an excellent job in the new sector. The "Death Dealers" have had a lot of varied missions to tackle recently. They have been working on Task Force Iron Claw which consists of working with an Engineer platoon clearing the roads in our sector of improvised explosive devices (IEDs) and ordinance. They also have been working with our intelligence teams to gather information so that we may help secure our area. The tankers attached to TF 2-6, consisting of Company B, 1-35, "Blackjack," is also driving forward successfully. Many men in "Blackjack" have shaved their head in anticipation of the rising mercury as the days pass. A "Camel Bak" hydration system is very popular while out on one of their numerous missions. "Blackjack" has the ever important job of escorting explosive ordinance disposal (EOD) teams around our sector to detonate potential IEDs and unexploded ordinance, making the Task Force area safer for all who travel through it. "Blackjack" also guards a number of sites in our area that are critical to success of Coalition Forces in many surrounding areas.

The "Gators" would also like to welcome Charlie Company back to Iraq. After a brief redeployment and leave period, "Charlie" was informed that they would be redeployed from Baumholder to support continuing operations in Iraq. "Charlie" has not missed a beat and has fallen in on their area of responsibility. "Charlie" is already knee deep in daily operations such as: civil military operations, raids, patrols, quick reaction force (QRF) designated units, as well as escorting Task Force Claw.

Our troops efforts are multiplied by the numerous "combat multipliers" that we possess, such as interceptor body armor (IBA) and most recently the addition of numerous uparmored HMMWV (aka Humvees) to our arsenal. Task Force 2-6 is striving to stay "in the groove" on this 13<sup>th</sup> month of the deployment while at the same time maintaining caution against adopting the attitude of "business as usual," because in Iraq there is no such thing as business as usual. All the soldiers of TF 2-6 are



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continuing to perform efficiently and professionally so that all will be safely reunited with our families in the future.

## THUNDER

Never has the expression "Battle Focused Training" had such a prolific meaning, as when the Battalion commander stated that we had two to three weeks to get the battery ready to go back out in zone. This was in the wake of two devastating attacks on Charlie Battery, 4-27 Field Artillery, in which we suffered massive losses. In all we had eight of our brothers killed and another seven evacuated to Germany for severe injuries. With a new Platoon Leader, Gunnery Sergeant, and three new squad leaders, we were faced with some challenges in Charlie Battery.



**Charlie Battery conducting MOUT operations**

After receiving some guidance on our future mission, we developed a training plan that allowed the unit to use the "crawl, walk, run" methodology. We identified the tasks we would be expected to accomplish, and learned each one as a building block. For each of these tasks, the Battery Commander gave specific guidance to the Platoon Leaders on how the training would be conducted, followed by the Commander and First Sergeant taking time to train the trainers. We then conducted squad level training and rehearsals, supervised by the platoon leadership. When ready, the platoons conducted training and rehearsals, supervised by the battery leadership. In some cases, such as house clearing procedures at the MOUT site, we mated

each of the squads from 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon with the squads from 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon to ensure both platoons were on a common azimuth. It took us two weeks of hard and rigorous training to graduate to battery-level training missions. Charlie Battery is determined, focused, and ready to take its place alongside the rest of 4-27 Field Artillery in zone.

We will never forget our fallen comrades, but in combat one has to be able to control the sorrow, anger and hatred, and focus the energy from those emotions toward getting ready to go back out into combat. The loss of such great men actually strengthened the resolve of our unit. The junior leaders in this battery have stepped up to the challenge, and our soldiers have shown amazing resilience. The men of Charlie Battery are courageous and truly inspirational. The First Sergeant and I could not be more proud of these heroic young men.

**CPT Jim Hickman  
COBRA 6**

## PIONEERS

Hello from Iraq – post extension that is. We are Alpha company 47<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, the Assassins, and support the 2d Brigade Combat Team with all the supplies they use. Since the extension life here has endured and every soldier is doing an outstanding job continuing the mission.

Our mission has changed dramatically in the way that we support the 2d BCT and has stretched my company more than ever. Essentially we send convoys on a 120km road march every day to provide water, food, repair parts, and construction materials to all the other battalions in the 2d BCT. This has stressed every soldier and piece of equipment in the company more than ever before – however, they are doing a fantastic job.

Of course we couldn't go anywhere without the help of security provided by the Brigade Reconnaissance Troop, the Ghosts. These soldiers have helped



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provide outstanding security, which allows us to push the supplies through unharmed each and every day.

We miss our loved ones and thank you for everything that you do in the rear to help take care of us. I appreciate the manner in which you have dealt with this deployment – although it is difficult on those of us deployed, your ability to deal with the situation in the rear has been remarkable. Your constant love and support continues to inspire us to do our jobs under the most difficult of situations.

**KC Bradford**  
**1SG Willie Shinholster**

## RAMS

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 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.

**By PV2 James Austin**  
**B Co, 40<sup>th</sup> EN BN**

## CHAPLAINS CORNER

*We Receive From God By Faith*

MATTHEW 9:29

*Then He touched their eyes, saying, "According to your faith let it be to you."*

Have you ever wondered why God blessed someone -- when it was obvious they did not deserve it? Do you wonder why you are not more blessed -- even though you are doing your best to be a good Christian? The answer is faith. We do not receive from God based on what we deserve, but on what we believe.

GALATIANS 3:9

*Abraham believed this, and because he believed, he was blessed. It is the same today.*

All who believe today are blessed just as Abraham was blessed. Our receiving from God is not based on our works, but on God's grace. We have access to God's grace by our faith -- not through our merit.





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ROMANS 5:2

*through whom also we have access by faith into this grace in which we stand . . . .*

Many try to earn something from God when He has already given us all things through Christ. Now by faith we must appropriate what God has provided. Don't despair if your faith is not too strong. The cure for weak faith is to feed on the Word of God, the Bible.

ROMANS 10:17

*So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.*

If you feed your heart and mind the Word of God, your faith will grow strong. You feed it in by reading it, hearing it, speaking it, and meditating on it.

**SAY THIS:** I will feed on God's Word and my faith will grow. Then I will receive all God has for me.



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