



# THE STRIKER STATEMENT

Issue # 5 OIF

12 JUNE 2003



## DOWN RANGE NOTES:

The following units should have access to phones and email during the dates noted below:

- 1-35 AR: 30 June – 3 July
- 1-6 IN: 4 July – 7 July
- 4-27 FA: 8 – 11 July
- 1-6 IN: 12 – 15 July

## Change of Command Time Line:

- B CO 1-6: 7 June
- B CO 1-35: 8 June
- B CO 40<sup>th</sup>: 12 June
- HHC 1-6, BRT 14 June
- HHC 2-6 15 June
- A CO 47<sup>th</sup> 15 June
- 1-6 IN BN: 16 June
- C CO 40<sup>th</sup>: 17 June
- 1-35 AR BN: 20 June
- 2-6 IN BN: 20 June
- B CO 47<sup>th</sup>: 21 June
- HHC 40<sup>th</sup>: 21 June
- A 1-6 IN: 25 June
- A 1-35 AR: 1 July
- HHD 47<sup>th</sup>: 1 July
- 2<sup>nd</sup> BCT: 9 July
- 40<sup>th</sup> EN BN: 13 July
- 4-27 FA: 17 July

All dates are tentative and can change without notice.

## REDEPLOYMENT OF PCS'ing Soldiers:

Soldiers should receive 30 days in Baumholder prior to their PCS date, or Avail date on orders.

## ANNIVERSARY:

July 3rd: 2 year anniversary of SPC Kenneth Reed and Shirin Caiola-Reed!!

Chaplain and Mrs. Sorenson celebrate their 15th Anniversary on July 2

2-6 IN:  
SSG William "Billy" & Nicole Micklus for July 25th. Billy is in Bravo 2-6. Nicole Micklus's Birthday is July 9th

## 1-35 AR

### Birthdays:

- Tiffany Stokes 19 June
- Malia McCullar 10 June
- Abel Tavera Jr 12 June
- Christine Harris 6 June
- Cherie Smith 6 June
- Karli Searcy 12 June
- Shelley Feathers 12 June
- Audrey Newman 14 June
- SFC Cormier 25 June
- 1SG Wolborsky 27 June
- SFC Harris 4 June
- 1SG Martin 16 June
- 1LT Searcy 23 June
- SFC Wilson 22 June
- 2LT Kalicharan 3 June

### Anniversary's

- 2LT Jason & Katie Eason 22 June
- 1SG Jose & Annette Alonso 4 June
- SFC Paul & Audrey Newman 7 June
- 1SG Diego & Siegrune Wolborsky 20 June
- Cpt Chris & Danielle L'Heureux 5 June
- 2LT James & Rebecca Fournier 12 June

### Births

Conner Lane Logan June 6, 2003 parents CPT Brain & Michelle Logan

1-35 Armor is holding a Battalion Wide FRG BBQ/Picnic on 21 June. Please check with your company FRG leader for more information.

## 40<sup>th</sup> ENG

### BIRTHS:

MAJ and Tammy Bayham recently had twins. Robert and Jennifer were born on 4 June 03.

### 4-27 FA:

Mrs. Jennifer Boyles Birthday ( C Btry 4-27 ) is 14th June





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## DEPLOYMENT TIP:

Early Return of Dependent orders. Changes to the Joint Federal Travel Regulation (JFTR), Volume 1, have resulted in the following:

(1) The term "Advance Return of Dependents" is no longer used. The current terminology is either "Early Return of Dependents for Official Situations" or "Early Return of Dependent for Personal Situations."

(2) The correct authority, which must be cited on the orders, is JFTR, Volume 1, paragraph U5900, (with sub-paragraph).

## GOVERNMENT FUNDED STUDENT TRAVEL

(Reference AR 55-46/JFTR, Vol I)

High school graduation time is coming soon. Graduating students who plan to continue their education by attending college in the United States may be eligible for Government-funded travel to the college.

Once attending college, the student may be eligible for annual round trip travel between the sponsor's duty station and the school.

A full-time college student who is a dependent of a soldier serving an accompanied tour may be entitled to one Government funded round trip per fiscal year (1 October to 30 September) between the student's school and the sponsor's duty station.

The travel also includes free shipment of up to 350 pounds of the student's belongings. An option to this is for the student to store his/her belongings near the college and the Government will cover the cost of the storage up to what it would have cost to ship the 350 pounds. The transportation or storage of belongings must be used in conjunction with the student's travel dates.

To qualify for the free student travel the military sponsor must be accompanied on the tour by command-sponsored family members. The student must be under 23 years of age, unmarried, and attending an accredited college in CONUS on a full-time basis. Other restrictions apply.

**IMPORTANT NOTE:** Do not ever use the "Early Return of Dependents" in lieu of the Student Travel entitlement.

Applications for Student Travel may be submitted on the web at <https://www.students-travel.hqusareur.army.mil>.

to have 12 months remaining on tour, the request for command sponsorship must be forwarded to 1<sup>st</sup> PERSCOM for action. For further information, contact Mr. Walter Erzar at the 1<sup>st</sup> Personnel Command Family Travel Branch at [family-travel@hq.1perscom.army.mil](mailto:family-travel@hq.1perscom.army.mil).

1-6 IN:



HHC 1-6 MEDICAL PLATOON SOLDIERS





HHC 1-6 MEDICAL PLATOON SOLDIERS

## Scouts Out

During their training for high intensity conflicts at the Combat Maneuver Training Center, Hohenfelds, Germany, the scouts of 1/6 Infantry Battalion would often move out 24 to 36 hours before the main effort. It was not uncommon for them to move into the woods, hide among the trees, gather intelligence and be away from all the other soldiers for days at a time. Their goal was to see with out being seen. They wanted to gather the information that would make the job of the follow on forces that much easier.

That training in the forests of central Europe was a far cry from the reality of urban stabilization operations on the streets of an urban center like Baghdad. Though the force on force fighting for Iraq's capitol city is over, the streets of Baghdad continue to be a less than safe place. Thieves, armed with the weapons lost and discarded by Saddam's crumbling forces can show up unexpectedly. Those who had a position of prominence and power in Saddam's administration or among his secret police, paramilitary forces, and foreign nationals can be poor losers and try to get payback at US expense. This environment creates challenges for the scout platoon.

SFC William Groene, the Scout Platoon NCOIC, described several typical missions his troops had

been called to perform on the streets of Baghdad; Personal security for the senior leaders of the battalion, Quick Reaction Force, Convoy escort, and of course the tradition information gathering.

On the streets of Baghdad the Americans are greeted with mixed emotions. Many, especially the children, seem truly happy to see the US soldiers. SSG Paul Perez described the people: "The little girls are adorable, the little boys a pain in the rear, and the adults can't get enough to eat."

As the soldiers of Scout Platoon reflected on their recent missions, they agreed it is hard to trust the locals. They said the vast majority of people seem to be truly relieved to have the stabilizing presence of the US forces present. One older woman was quoted as saying: "Thank you for coming. Please, don't leave. You can stay in my home. I will cook for you." But because some of the bad guys mix with the local population, even though their numbers are small, their presence can never be neglected.

When asked about what was most challenging; it was not the possible danger from the thieves and former Iraqi soldiers. This they said was exciting. SFC Groene said, "[that] gets your adrenaline pumping. It keeps things interesting." Most difficult was being away from family, particularly for the young married soldiers. Like all soldiers of 1/6, the scouts looked forward to mail call. This represents their lifeline back home in the absence of phones and e-mail, and offers a constant source of encouragement.



47<sup>th</sup> FSB:



SGT Green A 47<sup>th</sup> FSB



Church Service



SGT Moody A 47<sup>th</sup> FSB



Make-Shift Showers



## 2-6 IN:

Patrolling in Baghdad takes planning and attention to detail. For now, the majority of Gator patrols have been presence patrols and/or reconnaissance patrols. A presence patrol is conducted primarily to establish an American presence in the community and to get "face time" with the people in a platoon's particular zone. A presence patrol simply reminds people that the Americans are in Baghdad and are ready and able to apply force wherever necessary.

During a reconnaissance patrol, U.S. soldiers actively look for sites such as mosques, schools, banks, and other places of importance. Businesses and stores might be pinpointed as well as certain persons' houses. All information goes through the Intelligence shop, S-2. Either Intel asks the patrol to verify the location of a site or the patrol verifies a site on its own and reports it up to the shop.

Each patrol begins with an Operations Order --a meeting between leaders, or sometimes the whole platoon, where the plan for the patrol is disseminated. After working together for so many months, most aspects of the patrol are addressed in terms of "standard operating procedure." Tasks and actions within the platoon are usually done by the same people each mission so everyone gets used to their role. Operations orders discuss details like the route, the order squads will move in, and what different flare or smoke signals will mean.

A single patrol has soldiers out for about four hours but some platoons run up to three patrols a day. Soldiers are dropped off by Bradleys at one point and then over watched by the vehicle as they inspect the nooks and crannies of the city. After roaming in and out of alleyways and neighborhood streets the soldiers link back up with their vehicles and drive to either a new point or back to base. Though most of the Iraqi citizens are calm and mindful of the American presence, the difference between day and night patrols is like the difference between day and night.

Daylight movements feel more like parades than patrols. Hundreds of children,, mostly between the ages of 4 and 14, crowd around the Bradleys and

soldier begging for pictures, candy, and money. Some children dart in and out of patrol formations for miles. Soldiers must divide their time between watching out for the children's safety and looking for enemies or notable buildings. Though the children can be annoying, they are often the ones who point out unexploded bombs or people with illegal weapons during afternoon hours.

Night patrols yield curfew breakers, drunken men, and illegal firearms, all by the dozens. On a single patrol, a platoon can expect to find all three plus other incidences such as citizens attempting to inform Americans of illegal activities in buildings. It is usually difficult and sometimes impossible to tell if a person is telling the truth or simply trying to get American soldiers to shake down their personal enemy.

Finally, in post-war Iraq, alcohol is much easier to attain. Many Iraqis are having their first experiences being drunk and some display impaired judgment to the point they must be flex-cuffed for their own safety or the safety of American troops. Patrolling at night requires a different attitude than patrolling during the day.



*Today is PFC Nick Fry's day to burn poop. Poo-houses [BACKGROUND] last longer than giant holes in the ground (called "cat-holes") but are higher maintenance. Lit fuel and a stick to stir with eventually empties the buckets. Trash is burned separately.*



HHC BDE:



A view from the Presidential Palace the BDE is set-up in.



MAJ Martin Bixby (BDE Signal Officer) Holds a Tomahawk missile motor part that hit the presidential palace.

2<sup>nd</sup> BCT Change of Command is set for 9 July 2003 in Baghdad.

Baumholder Events:

## July 4, 2003

Get ready! Baumholder will be celebrating July 4th with the American Pride Celebration. The day will be full of food, games, sports, live entertainment and of course FIREWORKS! The fun begins at 11 am and will be held on Minnick Field, so mark you calendars!

**Youth sporting competition** – we will also have a youth sporting competition with several different events. Sign up deadline is June 27. Youth can sign up at the all YS locations. Call DSN 485-8779 for more information! Do you have a private organization or FRG that wants to raise some money? We have the opportunity for you! You can hold your fundraiser at the American Pride Celebration and keep what you raise! If you are interested, please call DSN 485-8779!

## LIVE FREE CONCERT

On July 30, Baumholder MWR will host Amy-Jayne McCabe LIVE in concert! This is a free concert so come out and enjoy the show! Watch for more details to come!

## METZ Flea Market

Looking for antiques, furniture, souvenirs and other items? Join Baumholder Outdoor Rec on June 21 as we load up and head out to Metz, France for their popular Flea Market! This is a stroller friendly trip and is a mere \$35! Call to reserve your seat now! DSN 485-7182

## NIKE Demo Day

On June 26, Rolling Hills Golf Course will host a NIKE Demo day! Come out and visit with the NIKE representative and check out their products! You will receive a discount on all NIKE products you purchase in the pro shop during the day! Heineken will also be on hand for a tasting and will have many giveaways! The fun will take place noon – 6 pm! Call DSN 485-7299 for more information!

## Bowling Center Hours

Beginning June 9, the Baumholder Bowling Center will be operating under new hours. The hours will be as follows:

Monday – Wednesday: 4-11 pm

Thursday 3-11 pm

Friday 2-11 pm

Saturday 1-11 pm

Sunday/Holidays 1-9 pm



## Kids' Cinema Night

Every Thursday from 5-7 pm the Baumholder Rod and Gun will host Kids' Cinema Night. We will play a movie and give the kids free popcorn and kool-aid! This wonderful weekly event is open to kids of all ages! Call for details DSN 485-6345.

## KIDDIE BINGO

If you have kids ages 5-12 bring them out to Kiddie BINGO at the Rod and Gun Club on June 22. The fun runs from 3-5 pm and kids will win toys as prizes! Call DSN 485-6345 for more information!

## Six Flags here we come!

Feeling the need for a roller coaster? Baumholder Outdoor Rec is going to Six Flags Belgium this month! Great prices and Great Fun! Get your friends, your kids and their friends together to enjoy the day! The day of fun is June 8. Call to reserve your seats today! DSN 485-7182



2<sup>nd</sup> plt, B, 1-35 –The bathroom plumbing for these men is a very low-pressure system. The toilets flush but can't take too much paper; toilet paper must be bagged and burned.



B, 40<sup>th</sup> ENG --SPC Michael Smith, SPC Andre Ferguson, and SGT Juan Johnson live in a quaint cubby hole in a building without AC. The co. fixed the plumbing pipes on their own time.



Water pumps like this one used to run the moat surrounding the zoo. Ingenuitive soldiers re-routed the water to provide buildings with plumbing.



C Co 2-6 IN, 3plt –These soldiers play bones in one of the nicest buildings in their company. Surrounding windows let in a lot of light, a cool breeze, and enough mosquitoes to make deet a necessity.



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B Co 2-6 IN., HQ plt –SPC Raymund Labayog and SPC Dan McGoldrick live with one other person in this reviewing stand room. A hole in the center of the floor lets up cool air.



These HHC 2-6 IN, Support plt soldiers watch a DVD powered by a generator. They sleep in a large bay with their trucks and about 2 plt's worth of people share the shower point.



The medics sleep outside entirely. Theater pictures have been used to decorate the columns and they just recently were able to tap into a pipe to build a shower. They do have 1 highly prized, functional, toilet.



Soldiers from C Co. 2-6 HQ plt play a game of dominoes in their open-air living room.



Tankers from 2plt 1-35 AR sit outside their home. Creative men like SFC Rodney Wilson [LOWER LEFT] put in the camp's plumbing and electricity.

