



# THE STRIKER STATEMENT

ISSUE # 2 OIF

22 MAY 2003



## Greetings From Striker Six:

Greetings to all the Iron Brigade members in Baumholder. We miss you all!!! Sure hope you are all doing well there; we are doing great, here. All the units made the long road march up to our final area, over 300 miles, took about 24-28 hours, very minor accidents, all arrived safely. A real testament to the professionalism of all the soldiers of the Iron Brigade. Stay safe back in Baumholder, enjoy the weather there and know we are always thinking about you. We are continuously watching over one another here, so you do the same in Baumholder. God bless you all.

JD Johnson, Striker Six

## POST ANNOUNCEMENTS:

New Gym Hours effective 19 May 2003.

### Hall of Champions

Mon-Fri - 0600 - 2100

Sat-Sun - 1200 - 2000

Holidays - 1200 - 2000

### Mountaineer

Mon-Fri - 1500 - 2000

Sat-Sun - Closed

Holidays - 1500-2000

### Neubruecke

Tue, Thur & Sat - 1000-1800

Sun, Mon, Wed, Fri - Closed

### Strassburg

Mon-Fri - 0630 - 1400

Sat - 1000-1600

Holidays - 1000-1600

Clothing Sales is not closed, you have to walk around to the back of the building to get in. Remolding should be complete soon.

## DEPLOYMENT TIP:

**Emergency Leaves:** The only emergency leaves that are currently allowed during this deployment is immediate family

members of the soldier. This does not include in-laws of any kind. Only immediate family members of the soldier, included in immediate family members are "loca-parentis". There is no such leave as "Baby Leave". If you have a baby you should contact the Red Cross to send a note to the soldiers about the birth, in almost all circumstances, the soldier will not come home for the birth of a baby.

## 1-6 IN:

Anniversaries: May 26 MAJ Brian and Kimberly McHugh (13 yrs. and still going strong!) May 29 CPT Mark and Carla Federovich , Birthdays: May 11 PFC Brian Lake May 21 SFC Greg Mundt May 29 Kimberly McHugh (29 again!), May 29 LT Mike Peterson, May 24 SPC Mahendra Thomas \* Connor McHugh: 1st Place for 2nd graders at Smith Elementary for ACS Protecting Our Children Poster Contest

\* Dylan McHugh: 1st Place for K-garteners at Smith Elementary for ACS Protecting Our Children Poster Contest.



1-6 IN Colors at the Baumholder Farwell Ceremony.

## 2-6 IN:

Happy Birthday, CPT Chris Hormann, 5/21,

Happy Anniversary, CPT Andy and Amy Chenoweth, 5/4.

BN FRG meeting 11 JUN, Time and Place TBA, Polish Pottery Bunco!

1LT Jess Rankin of A Co. 2nd Platoon has a birthday on June 15<sup>th</sup>





2-6 IN Colors at the Baumholder Farwell Ceremony.

## 1-35 AR:



1-35 AR Colors at the Baumholder Farwell Ceremony.

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

11 MAY 2003

Hello everyone,

It's been a pretty nice day today. The temperature reached 133 degrees Fahrenheit. I can honestly say that I've never been so hot in my life. The wind kept up all day, and that made the heat more bearable. I think by now, we're starting to get acclimated to the heat. I see a few more soldiers out in the hottest part of the day with each passing day. We're also getting mail. But we had church services today and steak

and lobster for dinner to celebrate Mother's Day. The mess hall also handed out a rose to every soldier mom in the camp. I said it in my last newsletter, but no doubt it is worth repeating. Happy Mother's Day to all you moms and moms-to-be.

Normally I'd talk about what the companies did today, but there's really nothing new today. We're still getting ready for the road march north. We still have equipment at the port. I did get a few snapshots though.

The first one is of SPC Frahm and SPC Croft working on an Armored Combat Earthmover, we call it an ACE for short. The second picture is of SPC Belcher and SPC Westbrook working on and training with a Small Earth Excavators, which we call a SEE.

A Co's PFC Andres Herrera, from Los Angeles, California says, "Virtually nothing and no one could ever have prepared a soldier for the many challenges we have encountered daily. With difficulty comes a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction, for no good thing in life comes easy. We came here with different personal goals and missions along with the one all of us share. We hope to complete a mission of freedom for the people we came here to defend to the best of our ability, so help us God. To my loving wife - Baby, I love you so much and I can't wait to see you again. K. A. S." C Co's SPC Frahm said, "Hello everyone, I'm doing fine."

12 MAY 2003

Hello everyone,

LTC Porter told me today that there has been some confusion about whether the First Armored Division will return to Germany or to the States.

Apparently this has been the source of some reasonable concern. We don't know if the Division will re-deploy to the States or to Baumholder, but we do know that no matter what happens, the soldiers will return to Baumholder.

We may send our equipment to the States, but we will return. Some soldiers will PCS as normal, some will ETS, and others would PCS with the Division to the new post, all of these actions would require soldiers to return to Baumholder to out-process the post, even if only for awhile.

We are expecting to leave in the next week or so. Most of the companies spent today loading their vehicles for the road march north.

Assassins' soldier today is SGT Checchia from Los Angeles, CA.

Unfortunately, I don't have a picture of him for you. He says, "Since we left, the platoon has become closer and

everyone is in good spirits. We've been doing some training that we usually don't do back home and everyone is more than anxious to move north, get the job done, and then come home. Take care back there. I love you Nadine."

Bulldogs are represented by SGT Wacker today. He didn't have anything to say, though. We have a picture of him preparing his gear for the move north.

Charlie Rock's SSG Oliver said, "Hi Baby. I love you. Kiss the kids for me and you will see me when I come home."



And look CSM Lawrence Miller has found his long lost twin brother all the way here in Kuwait, CSM Andrews 1-6 Infantry, way to go guys!



CPT Juan Zapata BN S-1, nice try, I think you need to get out of your tent first!



SPC Juan Carrillo from B co giving us his combat ready but yet very Stylish pose :)



SSG Stuart

### 47<sup>th</sup> FSB:

The 47th has the following planned for the rest of this month.  
29 May - Bunco at the Rhinelander,  
31 May - Bazaar trip to the ROB site,  
June we have the Lua (potluck) at 1730 hrs at the Rhinelander park.

Congratulations to:

SPC & Mrs. Stuart, who gave birth to a baby boy.



## 4-27 FA:

As the sun steadily rises in the sky over northern Kuwait, the soldiers of the mighty 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery are already hard at work. The area in and around pad one of Camp New Jersey is alive with activity. Everyone from the newest private to the battalion commander, are busy training and making preparations for the pending move into Iraq. As you watch these soldiers you see the focus and dedication in their eyes. The members of this battalion know what lies ahead of them and are determined to meet those challenges head on as they have done throughout their career. Although all the elements to the units mission are not clear the training has been tailored to meet a wide range of contingencies and the environment. Each one of the batteries were tasked to complete a broad required set of difficult training objectives ranging from close combat marksmanship and tactical patrolling to the identification and treatment of heat injuries. Throughout the training the soldiers have not only had to learn subject matter foreign to their primary jobs in the Army but learn to cope with the elements. The days are long and hot with temperatures consistently passing the 100-degree mark, and the ever-present danger of sandstorms or chimals, as they are referred to in Kuwait. Despite the adverse conditions they drive on fueled by their belief in the need to assist the people of Iraq in developing a free and democratic state, and even more so by their dedication to their unit and each other.



A heart felt hello to the families of the Iron Thunder Battalion. I want to take this opportunity to inform you about what the battalion has been doing since our arrival

to Kuwait. Since arriving in country, the days have been filled with various training and preparations for the Battalion's movement north. Physical training (PT) in the desert for acclimatization, rehearsing close quarters marksmanship, and unloading and convoying our vehicles 4 hours northwest to our temporary home in the Kuwaiti desert are but a few of the tasks that we've accomplished during the short time we've been here. You can all be very proud of your loved ones; they have met each challenge with the pride and professionalism I have come to expect from each and every one of them. As the next phase in the deployment nears, you can have faith that all the soldiers will be prepared for the tasks that lie ahead. The members of this Battalion draw a large amount of strength from the support every spouse and child has provided them. Take pride in what these men are doing, their country has called on them, and they will not falter.

Hello Hurricanes. What a great day to be an American Soldier. The Hurricanes are continuing to train as hard as ever. We have secured our stake in Camp New Jersey and are awaiting the arrival of our equipment. The Hurricanes start every morning with physical training, followed by lots of water, and then we move on to the training events for the day. We are motivated, dedicated and willing to go the distance if our country calls. I've never been more proud of the Hurricanes than I am at this time. You made this deployment possible with the continued support of your husbands. Thank you for all that you do and until next time.



Hurricanes learn room clearing techniques

A 4-27 FA: The Gators arrived in camp as the lead element of the Battalion, and immediately set to work



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allocating Tent space, work areas and police call responsibilities. They identified the Dinning facility, the MWR tent and the PX. In an effort to get acclimated, the first full day in the desert A BTRY set the standard with a rigorous 3 mile run around the perimeter of the camp. The lines are bad every were except at the PX were SSG Farmer and a six man detail worked for one day receiving accolades from the mayoral cell, for a job well done. In spite of being amphibians in the desert the Gators are all doing well, motivation is high and spirits strong, for a safe, and effective deployment.

B/4-27 FA:

The Bears are doing extremely well since deploying. Soldiers have been training hard and drinking about 9-10 liters of water daily to avoid heat injuries, but amidst these new adjustments, soldiers have the best possible support. Some resources are limited like showers and Internet connections, but every soldier has the opportunity to access all facilities. Phone calls *are* possible but the waiting lines are long. Continue to write to loved ones and send packages; however, until further notice perishables like food, candy, and items that have the potential to melt in extremely hot temperatures (above 120 degrees Fahrenheit) like bar soap, oil-based products, gel-type items, and wax-based items should not be sent.

The soldiers look forward to gaining the equipment and beginning the next phase of the mission. Remember that the soldiers' thoughts are continually on the spouses and friends at home in Baumholder. Remember that rumors will abound, so always refer to CPT Vensor/SFC Britcher/SSG Summers to verify the truth. Bears!!!

C/4-27 FA: April was a very hard-working month for the Cobras. The battery went through a "Two-minute-Drill" designed to hone our skills one last time before we deploy to Operation Iraqi Freedom. Our vehicles and equipment safely on the boat, we turned to the readiness of soldiers and their families. After the family SRP, where all families had the opportunity to get everything they would need while the spouse was away, our battery had a farewell barbeque and some time off to say goodbye. Once we hit the sand on the first of May, we began to get used to the sun, heat and wind and learn valuable skills we will need in Baghdad to accomplish the mission and come home safely. Already, the Cobras have provided Force Protection for our entire Camp New Jersey, letting our

fellow soldiers know all is well, because the Cobras are out there in the night.

SPC Culver would like to tell his wife "you hold a special place in my heart, that nobody could ever fill, I will be home soon." SPC Randolph says to his family, "my love for you increases everyday, making me stronger and able to carry on. I miss you, but I'm still there by your side in spirit." SFC Gittens would like to let his wife and family know, "how much I appreciate your understanding and patience throughout our marriage, and how much I will miss you and the kids in the days and months to come. You're always in my heart and thoughts." Smoke Jackson says "I really do miss you, may you have God in your life to help through this deployment. I miss you." 1SG Esmurria says "Honey, I'm doing ok, the weather here is tremendously hot, but I'm getting accustomed to it. Miss you very much and if all goes well, I'll be home soon, love you and take care of my brat." Lastly, CPT Francis says, "Michelle, before you know it, we'll be sitting in the rapids in the middle of the Mulberry river, drinking wine and laughing." In closing, all the Cobras are fired up to get our job done well, and come back to Baumholder. Without your support for us back home, life would be pretty darn hard. Thanks again for all your thoughts and prayers and see you soon. Thank-you.

SVC 4-27 FA: Hello to all Stallion Families from Kuwait! Service battery has kept up their reputation of excellence by deploying from Baumholder to the Central Command's Area of Responsibility without injury or incident, with all soldiers safely in Camp New Jersey Kuwait. Immediately upon our arrival we have been supporting the Battalion, providing cooks to the consolidated dining facility. Upon receipt of our vehicles we will of course be providing the full spectrum of support operations to the Battalion as we prepare to move North. Morale across the battery is high and we stand ready to complete every mission. Currently, the best means of communication with your loved one continues to be the mail system. When sending care packages, please be mindful not to send anything that will melt or spoil as temperatures are currently in the 100's and will continue to climb to over 120 degrees as we approach July and August. All of the Stallions join me in thanking our Stallion Families back home for supporting us through this deployment.





Stallions learn hand-to-hand combat



Hard workings from the S3 shop prior to deployment.



4-27 FA FISTers



CW2 Nero on Mothers Day.



HHC BDE at the Farwell Ceremony.

**HHC BDE:**

HHC Brigade has closed on their new area of operations. They had a very safe and successful convoy operation of over 300 miles. It took them about 24-28 hours to complete the trip from Kuwait to their new home away from home. They are settled in, nice accommodations, a cold shower about every 3 to 4 days, and a good hot MRE everyday.

All soldiers are safe, morale is high, and we miss our families but are focused on the mission at hand.



## BAUMHODLER EVENTS:

Baumholder held a Daisy, Brownie and Girl Scout Bridging ceremony on the Saturday prior to Mothers Day. Here are some photos of the event.



Baumholder also had the annual Kids Fest day, here is a photo from that event also.



Baumholder Wetzel Elementary School held a Talent Show.



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Maggie Irby



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