

Greetings From Striker Six:

Greetings to all the Iron Brigade members in Baumholder. The 2nd Brigade Combat Team has successfully transitioned with the 2nd Brigade of the 3rd Infantry Division. Soldiers are settling in to a routine, yet they are not getting complacent. They are very aware of their surroundings and will continue to watch out for themselves and one another. Mail has started to arrive and go out. We have gotten C 2-6 Infantry back with the Brigade and are taking good care of them. They are earning a well deserved break!
God bless you all.

JD Johnson, Striker Six

WELCOME TO BAGHDAD!



Elements of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team entered the heart of Baghdad, Iraq. These crossed sabers were built to celebrate the killing of Iranian soldiers during the Iran-Iraq War. The hands holding the swords are replicas of Saddam Hussein's hands. Thousands of Iranian

DEPLOYMENT TIP:

Medical Care for relatives visiting Germany

If relatives are visiting you from the states assure that they either have a health insurance which covers medical care overseas or buy temporary travel insurance for them. If you have a relative who achieved dependent status, like parents, parents-in-law, or any other member of household, you have to know that those dependants are only eligible for Direct Care in a Military Treatment Facility (MTF). They are not eligible for TRICARE. That means if the patient is being transferred to a civilian host nation medical treatment facility, even in an emergency situation or when the Health Clinic Baumholder is closed, the government can not and will not pay for the treatment, under no circumstances. The patient is responsible for the entire bill.

Also be aware that, even if your relative/dependant is eligible for Medicare in the states, Medicare does not pay for care received outside the United States (no exceptions). If you need any further information or have questions about health care benefits contact your Beneficiary Counseling and Assistance Coordinator (BCAC), Gabi Martini at DSN 485-6205 or commercial 06783-6-6205 or visit her during duty hours at the Baumholder Health Clinic, Bldg 8744, Room 213, Monday – Thursday 8:00-12:00 and 13:00-16:00, Friday 8:00-12:00 and 13:00-14:30.

The **Dental Clinic** is accepting family members for appointments at this time! Due to soldiers being deployed now is the time to get your dental work done (oral surgery, fillings, cleanings). Please call or come by the clinic for an appointment.

485-2210 or 2211

06783-99-2210

Monday - Friday 0730-1630

2-6 IN

Internet access is basically non-existent here; Im trying to mail the 3rd newsletter now but cannot. Everything is fine. The TF is getting along well. Charlie Co is doing extremely well and are still the picture of professionalism. They are also all getting new socks, t shirts, and underwear soon. The PX is very limited here. Together Again! After a 630km road trip and three weeks of deployment, the Gator battalion and Charlie Company have been reunited

in Baghdad. Since leaving Kuwait, we've additionally taken on a company from 1-35 Armor BN, a company from 40th Engineers, and one squad of artillerymen, to make up what is now called Task Force Gator. Task Force Gator's mission is clear: to establish and maintain a safe and secure environment for the emerging Iraqi government and its people. To accomplish this mission, among other actions, TF Gator is setting up checkpoints throughout Baghdad, enforcing a citywide curfew (2300-0430), and confiscating any weapons that are publicly displayed.

The road to Baghdad for TF Gator (minus Charlie Company) was a 3-day trip that took soldiers on the outskirts of about five Iraqi towns. At every stop (which was nearly every few hours), Bedouin men and children would run barefoot to the highway to try to barter or sell Saddam dinar (money), beads, and headdresses. Closer to major cities, more westernly dressed individuals rushed to sell coolers, ice, and sodas to the soldiers sitting atop American trucks and armored vehicles. Inside of Baghdad, TF Gator was greeted by the waving hands of thousands of children and older men as it drove towards its future headquarters.

Immediately upon arrival, TF Gator began integrating itself into the environment. Already, the TF is trying to coordinate for a PX, air-conditioned or cool buildings, trash removal services, and port-a-johns. Leaders are also coordinating with Brigade HQ to establish a regular mail schedule. Local interpreters, bi-lingual men and women who advertise their services from street corners, must be put on American payrolls. Government buildings must be cleared of U.S. Army personnel and equipment to make room for the emerging government. And routes must be reconnoitered so presence patrols can be planned and executed.

C 2-6 IN IS BACK WITH THE BRIGADE:

The Gator BN and Charlie Company have finally been reunited after C Co. was deployed over two months ago in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the last two months, Charlie Company has worked with Special Operations groups, conducted dozens of raids, and even acted as emissaries of the U.S. by being the first Americans to enter key small towns in the Iraqi countryside. Though the rest of the battalion convoyed north into Baghdad, Charlie Co. had a very different experience.

Bumpy stretches of desert, numb rear-ends, and sporadic gunfire punctuated their three-day trip northward

as they drove without the benefit of National Guard flatbed trucks. PFC Kreg Winn explained, "We had a gunfight with paramilitary forces in the first major town we 100s of people with weapons were shooting at us and shooting at looters for about 5 hours." C Co. was shot at with rockets, mortars, and bullets; other people threw rocks, sandals, and vegetables at them as they made their way north.

After talking to several dozen Charlie Rock soldiers, it became clear that they had had a very successful first two months. Charlie Company has captured hundreds of assault rifles, rocket launchers, and explosives in its numerous raids. One raid described by several soldiers yielded over 60 high-power weapons. 3rdACR had tried to raid the market before but noisy Bradleys betrayed their coming and only a few weapons were left to be seized by the time the armored vehicles arrived. Charlie Co. had better luck coming in with quieter modes of transportation.



SGT James Smith, PFC Nick Sandelbach, PFC Carlos Molina, and SPC Jason Gordon man Charlie Rock's temporary TOC on the lawn of the Al Rasheed.



PFC Daniel Eckert, PFC Anthony Mack, SPC Nate Porter, SSG Eric Knott, SGT Peter Davenport of 1st and 3rd platoons.

B Company of 1-35 Armor Battalion

The crews and tanks of B Co. 1-35 provide the heaviest firepower and armor in TF Gator. Led by CPT Doboszanski, Blackjack Company guards some of the most important sites in the sector. The main check point to the Baghdad Convention Center –the Center where world leaders meet to hammer out the future government of Iraq– is protected by 1-35's armored tanks. So is Baghdad's most congested gas station. Since fuel rations were ceased, getting gas in the city is a 'first come, first serve' affair. Fuel is so crucial to the Iraqi citizens, who are without city electricity and clean water, that the station has become a target for people who would try to violently take over and monopolize the resource.

If the CO could communicate one thing to the families at home its that "Blackjack Company has good living conditions and we are making due with what we've got. Every soldier has adequate food, water, and access to routine medical care, etc. We're just now settling into our new task of helping out the city." Over the next few months, B Co 1-35 is going to play a pivotal role in history as they help make possible a new and fair Iraqi government..

B Company of 40th Engineer Battalion

The Sappers from B Co., 40th EN BN (Mech) give TF Gator capabilities beyond those of an ordinary Infantry BN. B Co. brings with it six highly versatile sapper squads who specialize in using demolitions and ingenuity to break through obstacles to keep the TF agile. Another Assault and Obstacle platoon specializes in construction. Using heavy wheeled and track equipment, they can build fighting positions or improve roadblocks to fortify the TF's positions protecting soldiers against enemy attacks. In addition to their combat role, the Sappers also provide 'survivability support.' They are improving living conditions by providing flowing water, using bulldozers and digging equipment to remove rubble and debris, constructing burn pits for field sanitation, and otherwise making the area safe for daily activities. The Sappers' mission spans a wide spectrum from patrolling infantry style to building and digging engineer-style. The TF looks to the Sappers to be ingenious and accomplish the mission with only the assets found in and around the local area. The Bravo "Bulldog" Sappers are proud to a part of TF Gator and are ready for whatever missions may lie ahead. "Essay ons!"



Fisters from 4-27 Field Artillery are disbursed throughout TF Gator to help coordinate all kinds of fire support --mortars, artillery, even air support assets. These fisters are from C Co. PFC Allen "Moonlight" Radkovich says "We're called TEAM THUG because we were additionally tasked to handle all the POWs and detainees...We wrap up the thugs."

EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES:

The tuition assistance for spouses is up to 50% (not automatically 50%) and must be applied for in advance. There are other programs also available that might cover the other 50%. The 10 June workshop will cover all of that.

On the 3rd of June the Education Center will conduct a meeting for potential new students interested in vocational technical programs to be offered by Central Texas College beginning with the August term. Central Texas College is a new provider under contract and will be offering Automotive, Law Enforcement, Emergency Medical Technician, Early Childhood programs in Baumholder beginning in August. Our current provider is University of Maryland for those programs. The Dean from Central Texas College Europe and several of his staff members will be here on 3 June at 1200 hours to answer questions students may have regarding how programs will be conducted once they take over in August.

The Education Center is currently trying to get family members that are interested in course to get their paperwork done and into the system before they go on summer vacation. That way, it will meet the deadline and folks can be positioned to attend classes in August, after they are back.

Financial Assistance for Education

The Spouse Education Assistance Program (SEAP) is a need-based education assistance program to provide Army spouses with financial assistance in pursuing educational goals. It is only available to spouses residing with active duty soldiers in Europe, Korea, Japan and Okinawa. In order to receive SEAP, spouses must apply for it in advance. Since it is need-based, financial information must be provided. Adjustments are made to income based on number of people in the family. Once adjustments (which actually lower the income-received) are made, assistance can be provided for anyone with an adjusted gross income of \$69,000 or less. To learn more about the SEAP and other financial assistance programs that can be combined with SEAP, come to the Financial Aid Workshop being conducted at the Baumholder Education Center, building 8332 (Ironworks) at 1000 hours on Tuesday 10 June 2003. For more information, contact the Education Center at DSN 485-7557.

HHC 2BDE:

The Brigade Headquarters company has settled into one of the Presidential Palace. The unit made the long roadmarch of up to 24-36 hours without incident. It was a long trip and the soldiers did very well watching out for one another and being safe.



SFC Walker, HHC 2BDE



Bravo Co.'s weapon squad carries the biggest guns of the dismounts.



PFC Jonathan Manley, PFC Jim Samaroo, and SGT Karl Skelton of C Co. stand behind their Bradley



SPC Clerk, SPC Hunter, PFC Daryl, PV2 Cook, and PV2 Szczublewski in the side entrance of their hotel.



C Co., 2nd pl^t had been living in the hotel auditorium. They shared the 1st floor with elements of 1-64, 3ID



SFC Devos, 1LT Brown, and PFC Fry of HHC convoy north on a command vehicle.



PFC Carl, SPC Parks, PVT Henderson, SPC Faraon from HHC DFAC – Faraon and Parks were attached to C Co for last 2 months.

