

The Diehard Standard



From the desk of Diehard Six...

Greetings from Camp Junction City!

The battalion continues to get more missions than we have soldiers for, but the good thing is no one has time to be bored and it helps the time go by faster. HHC's latest camp improvements are the new softball complex as well as ongoing construction of the new post sewage system. A Company continues with force protection and cache search missions. B Company remains in the Habbanyia ASP and does a number of other missions for TF CENTURION. C Company are becoming quasi-Marines given their close association with 2-4 Marines and acquitted themselves superlatively during the fighting two weeks ago. Many Marines live today due to Coldsteel's quick and decisive action. We are all tired, but doing superbly! I couldn't be prouder of all of these great soldiers. I really appreciate what all of you do at home for us! Finally, I'd ask each of you to keep the families of our lost soldiers in your thoughts and prayers. Take care, and God Bless!

- LTC W.D. Brinkley

Assassin Company

Happy Easter from the Assassins of Alpha Company! It's been another busy month for the company. The majority of the company (1st Platoon, 2nd Platoon, and part of the Headquarters Section) just returned from a brief trip up north to Al Asad Air Base, assisting the Marines with the search for weapons caches. Everyone learned the ins and outs of Al Asad and realized just how small Camp Junction City is in comparison.

As always, 1st Platoon had another successful month of weapons cache finds which ended the month with the transition to force protection at Ogden Gate. 2nd Platoon has also had great success in finding weapons caches and not to be left out, shares a portion of the duty at the gate. 2nd Platoon will say goodbye to their platoon leader of 1+ years, 1LT Smith, at the end of April as they welcome 2LT Richard Knox from Michigan. A&O Platoon spent the month of March supplementing 1st and 2nd Platoon on cache missions and the remainder of the month conducting force protection on Ogden Gate. They have been a vital part to the protection of Camp Junction City.

No matter what the task, the soldiers of A Company continue to perform admirably.

- CPT Moen - 1SG Houston

From the desk of Diehard Seven...

Hello members of the Diehard Family. Again, I am proud to say thanks to all of our soldiers and family members for yet another successful month. It is indicative that our soldiers and leaders enjoy what they are doing by the battalion exceeding the reenlistment goal for 2nd QTR, FY04. Congrats to Coldsteel for leading the way. Great job goes out to 568th CSE for completing construction of our latest additive to Camp Junction City, the softball field. Our monthly promotion and awards ceremony was the largest one since our arrival. Absolutely outstanding work and congrats goes out to SFC Gendron and SFC Milton, both were selected for promotion to Master Sergeant and notably, SFC Milton, currently the 1SG of Coldsteel, now officially wears the rank as he was frocked on 03 April. Superb job to SGT Ruthig, HHC and PFC Kelly, ACO. They were decorated with an Army Commendation Medal for being selected as Brigade NCO and soldier of the quarter respectively. Congrats to our newly promoteable specialists: SPC Glab, HHC BDE, SPC Barrett C CO and to all the family members, we love you and cannot thank you enough for your support and dedication. Always First, Diehard!

-CSM Bush



ABOVE: SFC Pohahau, 2nd Platoon, removes a bag of weapons from the ground that were buried in a weapons cache.

Coldsteel Company

Greetings ColdSteel fans! April has arrived and marks the halfway point in our deployment!

Since our last installment we have had numerous changes in personnel and mission set which greatly increase ColdSteel's ability to provide combat power to the fight and support the efforts of the coalition. First we would like to extend congratulations to 1SG Milton and SFC Gendron for making the E-8 list! Personnel changes include, 1LT Oborski assuming the company XO position, 2LT Johannes becoming First Platoon's platoon leader, and SFC Cates has been brought back from the minors to be 2LT Johannes' right arm (we think it is his feeble attempt at another farewell gift).

March concluded with Assassins relieving us of access control responsibilities at Ogden gate, and the return of the Maddogs, battle hardened from their support of The Red Devils in Fallujah.

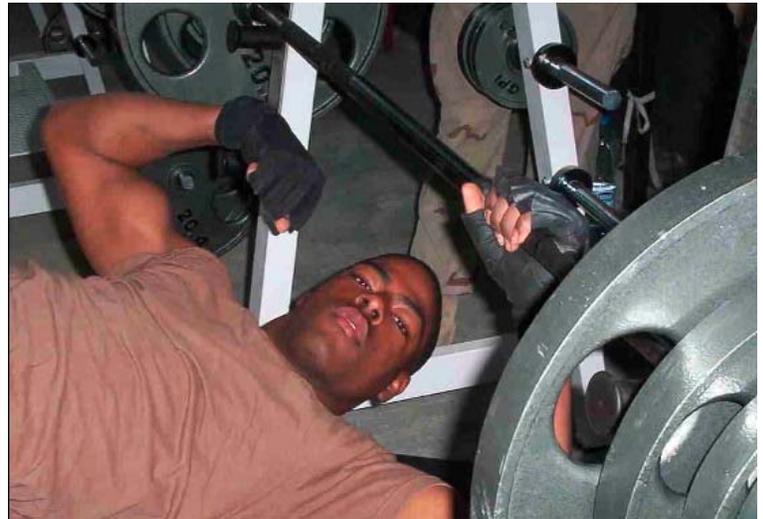
April is already proving to be another exciting month as the Marines have continued to increase their operations and have required ColdSteel to bail them out on several occasions. During one day's fighting, second platoon performed with distinction and due to the Outlaws' numerous acts of heroism many Marines are alive today. Several Outlaws even distinguished themselves to the extent of being submitted for valor awards.

The Maddogs of First Platoon were undergoing their vehicle services and reintegration plan when the call for help was again heard from marines in distress. Their chance came the following day as both line platoons were called upon to provide support to the once again besieged Marines. ColdSteel proved their mettle as they repeatedly entered the fight and recovered wounded marines and transported them to the landing zone for medical evacuation.

The Headhunters of A&O platoon have been reequipped and transformed into a lethal fighting force; and are currently assisting Bravo Company to allow them to get some much needed maintenance and deserved rest.

Headquarters is still supporting the fight and welcome our newest additions, PFCs Went and Griego. With the help of the entire headquarters platoon we have transformed the tactical operations center into a well-oiled machine; continuing to provide the critical command and control and logistics functions the company needs to operate.

We greatly appreciate the unwavering support of our friends and families. We ask that everyone continue to send messages of encouragement and continue to support each other on the home front. -CPT Faulk -1SG Milton



C/312 MI Company

Greetings once again from beautiful Iraq! We're working on month seven now and wish you all a belated Happy Easter. Spring is making its' presence known here. What can flower is and the heat is coming with it! It's great suntan weather, but the beach is a ways off.

Our company is at a robust 70 soldiers with our attachments and they are all continuing to excel. We've even added a couple of Marines to assist with our Signals Intelligence effort. Who would have thought that would happen?! Our jobs haven't gotten any easier as you may have seen in the recent news, but our guys are staying hard at work to support the 1st Brigade Combat Team with the best intelligence available.

Belated congratulations go out to newly promoted SSG Gonzalez who won a recent battalion NCO of the Quarter competition. He received an Army Achievement Medal for his hard work and it was well deserved! We have many quality soldiers who attend these types of boards monthly and we trust you'll be hearing about them soon!

Our operational tempo has been hectic recently. This is the reason for the reduced calls and e-mail from us. Please know that we will contact you when we're allowed to. As always, our mission comes first; however, our families and loved ones are in our thoughts and prayer always. As long as you all continue to see us through until we're done here, then we can't go wrong.

Please continue your awesome support through your letters, e-mail, and most especially your packages. I'm positive that we have the best support from back home due to the boxes I see come in the mail for the soldiers. You all are great!

We sincerely wish that we could be home to hunt for eggs with you all, but know that our thoughts and prayers are with you.

Wishing a Happy Birthday this month to: SPC Allen's daughter Alexandra and husband Charles, SPC Derrick, SPC Rioflorido, and PFC Smith. Happy Anniversary to SPC Derrick and his wife Cheylene, and 1SG Forsman and her husband Eric.

-CPT Akin -1SG Forsman



ABOVE: SPC Johnson lifts some weights at the 1EN gym. LEFT: Soldiers of First Platoon's second squad pose in front of a mural of Saddam during their last mission in Fallujah.

Hammer Company

This month's focus for HHC is the PSD – Personal Security Detail. In the past, this detail involved driving Diehard 6 to visit our Bulldog brothers at Camp Manhattan.

Lately this detail has expanded its duties to escorting all convoys around town, to Camp Ridgway, and attempting trips to Camp Anaconda for resupply. The detail has also expanded from three gun trucks to six gun trucks. We combined the Operation Section, Decon Platoon, and Support Platoon to ensure these trucks are always ready to roll with the right personnel.

Our trips are well rehearsed with multiple routes planned in case of enemy activity. Our platoon leaders are perfecting their sand table briefing skills and beating up the S-3 shop for maps of the area. With this new PSD, we have gone through many windshields!

-CPT Pendry -1SG Hall



Bulldog Company

Mid March through mid-April has been a trying time for the BULLDOGS. Our mission load has not let up until recently with the aid of a platoon from C Company spending two weeks with us, allowing some BULLDOGS to finally get some rest and relaxation. We continue to do rotations at FOB Killeen where we play infantry and serve as the presence force in Khalidiyah and the QRF for Task Force Centurion. It is a rotation that most of us enjoy, but it is extremely tiring and trying. Since the enemy has decided to step up his attacks, there has been an increase in cache search operations, the past couple of days netting two surface to air missiles, over a dozen RPGs, two complete mortar systems and over 50 mortar rounds.

The BULLDOG family lost five of our brothers on 31 MAR to an improvised explosive device. This tragedy has been hard on the BULLDOGS, and when most people and units would fold, the BULLDOGS have, in traditional BULLDOG fashion, rebounded, rallied and are again out to complete the mission that our country has sent us here to complete. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families of 1LT Doyle Hufstedler, SGT Sean Mitchell, SPC Michael Karr, PFC Cleston Raney, and PFC Brandon Davis. None of you will ever be forgotten.

We are attempting to get the remaining soldiers in the company on leave or pass. This month we are able (so far) to get about 15 soldiers on leave or pass. The response is good and the soldiers that have been afforded the opportunity so far have come back relaxed, revitalized and ready to go.

Our maintenance section is doing an outstanding job as always. With vehicles that are driving on average of 100 miles a week, there have only been two deadlined vehicles. SGT Ball, SPC Smith, SPC Mazingo, and SPC Padillia are the reason that we are capable of doing what we do. Also, thanks to SPC Dade who came to the company for about a month, from HHC, to help out with maintenance. His skills were also vital to our success.

We would like to thank the BULLDOG FRG for all their support. The sports equipment has been a hit! We are preparing to (try) begin our tournaments again, football, soccer, and basketball. Darts have also become popular, I am afraid that when we return to the Ft Riley area, that many a BULLDOG soldier maybe taking money at the local bars as a result...either way, it is a much welcome, and needed break. You have made it easy for us to do our jobs, by taking care of the things at home. Thank-you for the letters and packages, nothing brings smiles to the soldiers' faces like mailcall.

-CPT Bavlnka -1SG Simmons



LEFT: HHC's Personnel Security Detachment.

ABOVE: PFC Simental works on a track.