

Dear ALL,

Received a late afternoon email from LTC Robert Forrester, the DIV Rear Det Cmdr...a great American. In it he gave a brief synopsis of where we are regarding information flow out of theater. I found it very reassuring and wanted to share some of his thoughts.

He says it is a very awkward time for the DIV... they are everywhere and nowhere. "They are not in charge of their sector yet...are on the move, setting up forward operating bases and command posts and beginning the transition with 1st AD (1st Armored Division). Everybody is busy and the DIV's access to communication is poor in most cases right now. "So if you feel as though you are not receiving much info from theater, its probably because you are not receiving much info from theater."

He goes on to say that in the past 36 hours he's received calls from Kuwait, Baghdad, and the road in between...thus the everywhere/nowhere piece. But for us, the silence adds to our stress level. LTC Forrester urges us all to give it a couple of weeks...the first wave of letters should arrive, phone and email will improve as our soldiers assume more of the responsibility for their sector and 1st AD moves out. He comments that everyone he talks with assures him that the 1st TEAM is performing magnificently.

Bottom line: Have faith...our 312th Silent Warriors are no doubt thinking of us as often as we are thinking of them!! As soon as things settle in a bit, I have no doubt that communications will improve. If you haven't already, check the activation date on your loved ones mailing address and start sending those letters, cards and packages. Can't you just see the look on their faces when something you've packed from home arrives?! Don't forget that Holy Week and Easter are right around the corner, and if that is a significant event in your home, get that Easter card in the mail!!

And finally, never, ever forget that the work you do day in and day out to keep your home and family running smoothly and efficiently while your soldier is away is heroic...and an accomplishment within itself. I've said it before: "We also serve who stand and wait!"

God bless you all and thank you for your service!

Warmly ,
Michelle