

B/312 MI FRG Meeting – September 9, 2004

AGENDA

Treasury report:                      Currently:              \$453.63  
New Assets:                      \$195.00 (t-shirt and magnet money, and \$150 donation for spurs)  
Expenditures:                      \$182.58 (spurs – the Battalion FRG paid the remaining \$255)

Fundraising Opportunities:

- \* Magnets – 312 MI magnets (1 left) and also 1<sup>st</sup> CAV “Pray for our Troops” magnets (8 left) - \$5 each
- \* Bulldog Operation Iraqi Freedom commemorative T-shirts – I will have the design no later than the beginning of next week, and hope to place ONLY ONE order no later than 1 October for delivery by the end of October. The sizes will range from youth 2-4 up through adult XXL. The shirts will be light gray with a bulldog wearing a 1<sup>st</sup> CAV patch and a flag on the front, a map of Iraq and bulldog on the back that says “Taking a Bite out of Terrorism”. I will email the design out, and put it in the newsletter. Please see me for orders – pre-order money is always appreciated. Checks should be made to B/312 MI FRG.

Cost:    \$10 for Children’s 2-4 – adult XL  
          \$11 for XXL

Volunteer Opportunities: I would love to have help with the following:

\*\*25 September – barracks clean- up for C-company returning soldiers. We are going to meet and make sure the barracks are swept up and aired out for the returning single soldiers and geographical bachelors, and fill welcome home baskets for them. Please see me if you are interested in helping with this. It will be good practice for our own coming up very soon!!!

\*\*October 28 Blood Drive!!! Please consider donating an hour of your time to either donate blood or help people who are donating. If you cannot donate time, please consider donating baked goods, or store bought sweets to help people get their blood sugar back up again after a donation. See me for the sign-up sheet. PLEASE give the gift of life!

Upcoming events:

SEPTEMBER

16 September – 2<sup>nd</sup> BDE VTC (2pm-3pm, Soldier Family Readiness Center)  
23 September – **I Love You, You’re Perfect... Now Change** Free presentation to our spouses at the VLA Center in Killeen (see below for more information)  
25 September: C-company welcome home prep (more information to follow; time will be from 12:30pm to 3:30pm)  
25 September – Saturday Getaway at CDC (free childcare from 12pm to 4pm)

OCTOBER

13 October – FRG Meeting (tentatively scheduled for the Family Readiness Center)  
23 October – Make a Difference Day (choose your favorite charity and make helping out a family affair!)  
28 October – Halloween Blood Drive at Robertson Blood Center (PLEASE either donate or help out in this worthy event)

NOVEMBER

Meeting date to be determined – possible Reintegration training (if you are going to make one meeting this year, this would be the one to make!)

R&R/ REDEPLOYMENT

The bad news is the R&R program will be coming to a close for our unit in October, as we will be into our 9<sup>th</sup> month of this deployment (it goes from month 3 through month 9). The good news is that means we are nearing redeployment. We are currently scheduled for redeployment any time between 11-14 months, and that has NOT CHANGED!!! The company will be returning as a complete unit. To my knowledge and that of the commanders, there is no plan to leave soldiers behind, or switch units at this point. I will be attending a VTC with MG Chirelli (1<sup>st</sup> CAV CG) on 22 September about the redeployment plan, and I will certainly pass that information along as soon as I have it. I know we are ALL looking forward to that! Please hang in there and understand that the time frame is four months by design; things are fluid and ever changing depending on the needs of the military, transportation issues, and of course the enemy gets a vote. But no matter what, we are well on the downhill stretch!!!

DONATE BLOOD

The Army is critically short of blood. These are OUR soldiers fighting the war on terror, and in need of our help. In response to this desperate need, 312 MI is hosting a community Halloween Blood Drive on October 28<sup>th</sup>, 2004 at the Robertson Blood Center (POC – Chris Leclerc). Let’s keep Dracula hungry this year; please consider donating at the Robertson Blood Center on post. All blood donated goes directly over to our soldiers in Iraq. Also, please tell extended family that if they donate at a military facility or VA hospital they can also request that their blood go to our soldiers in Iraq. Please help with this critical gift of life!!! If you cannot donate for some reason, but still want to help on this day, please consider donating an hour of your time. We will be volunteering to keep an eye on the children of our donating heroes for the approximately 20 minutes it takes for them to actually donate. We need at least three volunteers per hour from 9:30 am until 5:30 pm to make this a success. We are also looking for donations of cookies, cakes, candy, and juice to help our blood donors raise that blood sugar after their donation. Please consider giving either home-baked

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or store-bought goods if you don't have the blood or the time. For more information or to help out in any way, please call Chris Leclerc at 680-4386 or the Robertson Blood Center: 285-5808. Thank you!!!

### Santa's Workshop

Santa's Workshop provides toys and other Christmas necessities to families at Fort Hood who need a little help over the holidays. In order to do this, they are holding a Santa Buck fundraiser. I currently have 5 of these to try to sell within our FRG, but can certainly get more! Each Santa Buck is of course \$1 and the name of the individual and/or unit goes on the Santa Buck which then decorates the 1st Cavalry Division tree at the Santa's Workshop Headquarters (also known as the Tax Office!!). Needless to say, it is a bit of a competition with 4th ID, COSCOM, OTC and other units but 1st Cav usually does well. You can also "Adopt A Child" for a \$25 donation. This is about the cost for us to provide a nice Christmas to one child. This is a wonderful program designed to help everyone have a wonderful holiday season. For more information contact Santa's Workshop at 287-TOYS and leave a message. One of our wonderful elves will get right back to you. Contact Chris Leclerc if you would like to buy one (or more!) of the Santa Bucks. Let's have a good showing for our families in need.

### A Night of Culture in Killeen

#### **I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE**

23 September 2004: Don't miss a chance to see this special invited dress rehearsal of the first of musical of the 2004-2005 Vive Les Arts season.... a hit off-Broadway, on tour and in regional theatres!! *I LOVE YOU*...explores modern courtship in a whole new way, from dating, mating and falling in love to marriage, in-laws, children, and romance in the retirement set.

The chartered bus leaves the Fort Hood O'Club parking lot at 6:45P.M. **Or** perhaps you would prefer to join us at the theatre at 7:30P.M. where you'll greeted by a wine and cheese reception and welcomed by the Theatre's director before the show begins. Coffee and desserts follow during intermission and the evening ends with a chance to greet the actors. Bus service is available to return patrons to the FHOC parking lot. Email your RSVP's to [sixballards@earthlink.net](mailto:sixballards@earthlink.net) so we can plan bus and reception accommodations for the evening. **This is a FREE theatre event, open to spouses of deployed service members.**

### MAKE YOUR VOICE HEARD – VOTE!

Please make your vote count! September is Register to Vote Month. If you want to register in Bell County, please call 1-800-460-2355 and ask for "Voter Registration." The Registration Office will mail you an application. If you want to register to vote elsewhere in the country, go to the website at <http://www.fec.gov/votregis/vr.htm> and download the National Mail Voter Registration Form. If you plan to vote in Bell County and would like info on the candidates running for the US House of Representative in District 31 (Bell County is no longer District 11) use the following link:

[www.congress.org/congressorg/e4/clist/race/?raceid=1141&district=31&state=TX](http://www.congress.org/congressorg/e4/clist/race/?raceid=1141&district=31&state=TX)

**Spouses of Deployed Soldiers Support Group** meets on the first and third Tuesday of each month at the Lane Volunteer Center, Building 16005. The support group offers a forum where family members can share their experiences and expectations. **Childcare is free, on a limited basis.** For more information please call Martin Bonner at 288-2863 or 288-5155.

**Saturday Getaway:** CYS offers childcare on the last Saturday of every month through Sep 25, 2004. For children ages 6 weeks to 5 years old, CYS will offer care at Fort Hood CDC from 1200-1600. Children ages 6-10 years old will be offered activities at the Walker School Age Services site from 1200-1600. All children participating in these Saturday Getaway days will need to be registered with CYS. **Services for families of deployed soldiers are free of charge.** This would be a great way to let your kids play with other kids while you help out with the C company welcome home preparations!!!

### PAY ISSUES

I want to address the OPTEMPO money. Once upon a time if a soldier was deployed for more than a certain number of days over a certain period of time, he or she received additional money for increased OPTEMPO. This is no longer the case as a majority of the Army (and Armed Forces for that matter) is deployed for extended periods in support of the War on Terror. The program was suspended with the onset of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Fortunately, funds are going to things that keep our soldiers safe such as ammunition, body armor, and hostile fire pay, unfortunately that means we won't be getting any extra money if we go over 12 months.

### VTC's

2<sup>nd</sup> BDE is one of the best for hosting VTC's for our soldiers. We have the hour block between 2pm-3pm (local time) each time there is a VTC. The next one is 16 September. If you are interested in seeing your soldier, please let him/her know to let the chain of command know, and let me know so I can schedule you.

### QUESTIONS, COMMENTS, SUGGESTIONS

Thanks for coming!

Chris Leclerc