

# BRAVO



# BULLDOGS

APRIL/MAY 2004  
ISSUE #2



## GSR Leads the Pack

From the west side of the city of Baghdad to the east, south or north, the Bulldog Ground Surveillance Radar (GSR) soldiers have a difficult task to ensure our Tactical HUMINT Teams as well as our key leaders reach their final destination. With two gun trucks mounted with 50 caliber machine guns, they provide escort and security to the traveling Bulldogs. The roaming Bulldogs have logged over 2,500 mission miles on the streets of Baghdad under all kinds of adverse situations. The primary Top Dog guns are “Bulldog – 24”, “Bulldog – 22” and on occasion, the mini gun truck “Bulldog – 23”. They communicate with “Bulldog Mike” to navigate around obstacles and danger zones throughout the city. These top dogs lead the pack and bring up the rear keeping the Bulldog pack together. Hooah Bulldogs!!!

## March/April Bulldog Bone Awards

For the month of March 2004, the prestigious Bulldog Bone Award goes to SPC Esther Adegbite who is the unit supply specialist. This leader of the pound really demonstrated superb leadership skills and in-depth knowledge of basic soldiering while competing and winning the 91<sup>st</sup> Engineer Battalion Soldier of the Month for March 2004. Her stellar performance earned her the right to represent the 91<sup>st</sup> Engineers at the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team Soldier of the Month Board where she made an admirable appearance. Without a doubt, this soldier clearly excels in all facets of the job while roaming the streets of Camp Black Jack. She is a leader of the pack for other young Bulldogs to emulate. This Bulldog definitely took the meat off the bone and for a job well done, you deserve more than the meat. Here is your bone “Bulldog”.



Bulldog Bone award winners for March and April: SPC Adegbite (top) and SGT Young (bottom)



At the 2<sup>nd</sup> Brigade Combat Team TOC, the show must go on. The ACT (Analysis and Control Team) makes a daily appearance at the Commander’s morning Intelligence Brief. The soldier who sets the ACT in motion is SGT Adrienne Young. She briefs the Brigade Commander and other key leaders on emerging threats and current target development. SGT Young’s thorough research and intelligence reporting is key in giving an accurate representation of the enemy’s activity. SGT Young is a highly motivated soldier who recently made a commitment to defend the constitution of United States by re-enlisting. The Bulldog family is proud to serve with SGT Young and be part of her continued service to the country. For the month of April 2004, the prestigious Bulldog Bone Award goes to SGT Young. This Bulldog definitely took the meat off the bone and for a job well done, you deserve more than the meat. Here is your bone “Bulldog”.

# Commander's Corner

by Cpt. Bryan LeClerc

Bulldog families and friends,

Four months and still rocking! It's hard to believe we've been here this long, but thankfully time keeps slipping by. We'll all be home before you know it!

After returning from some emergency leave, I find our team has grown quite a bit. A warm welcome into the Bulldog family goes out to our new human intelligence soldiers from the National Guard and Reserve. CW3 Stromvall, SGT Coughlin, CPL Lanclos, SPC McDonald, SSG Martin, SGT Kittle, SPC Varela, SPC Bogert, SGT Vincent, SPC Lee and PFC Underhill are all making significant contributions to our mission and our success. Sadly however, our mechanics have reverted back to the control of our headquarters company. Even though they are living and working a mere kilometer away on the same base camp, SGT Christmas, SPC Bayless, SPC Maguire and PFC Campbell are sorely missed. Thank you for your service and your expertise. We could not have accomplished our mission without you. You will always be BULLDOGS to me.

After a short spike in activity in our sector, our soldiers remain safe as we execute our mission to our usual high standards. And of course, morale is excellent. Our brigade is truly making a difference here in Baghdad and the Bulldogs are a big part of that. Just a few short days ago our soldiers identified and captured two Iraqis who were likely digging a trench to emplace an improvised explosive device (IED), making that route safer for local Iraqis and follow-on coalition patrols. In addition, we have written hundreds of reports and conducted hours of in-depth analysis that has led to the detention of hundreds of Iraqis who want nothing more than to create chaos and disrupt the peace in Iraq. The bottom line – the Bulldogs are making a difference in improving the security and quality of life for the Iraqi people. I'm extremely proud of their tireless efforts.

Thanks so much to the Family Readiness Group for the wonderful Cinco de Mayo care packages! We all had a great time tearing open those piñatas! What you do for us at home makes our jobs easier out here. Keep them coming! I hope this newsletter finds you all well at home! Enjoy the pictures and see you next month!

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Special Congratulations:  
SPC Adegbite – Soldier of the Month  
SGT Young – re-enlistment  
SPC Sandoval – promotion to SPC/E4  
SGT and Mrs. Christmas – new baby boy



# From The Top by 1SG Bernardo Serna

**Calling All Bulldog Elements this is Bulldog-9 over Bulldog-9, All Bulldog Elements monitor (family members, friends) over Bulldog-9 text follows**

*Family members and friends of the B/312<sup>th</sup> Military Intelligence soldiers, the soldiers continue to make great advances in their daily missions across all spectrums of soldiering. As we start our fourth month of the deployment, there have been several dramatic changes to the Bulldog team structure. First, we have to say farewell to SGT Christmas, SPC Bayless, SPC Campbell, and SPC Maguire who are all returning to HHC 312<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion. A special thanks to them for all their hard work and dedication to duty. The Bulldog maintenance team will definitely be missed. Additionally, we have acquired three new Tactical HUMINT Teams (THT) to supplement our existing teams. These new THTs from the 502<sup>nd</sup> MI have transitioned smoothly into our operations and are already making an impact on our daily missions. Finally, we welcome the arrival of the rest of our fellow comrades, the 312<sup>th</sup> MI Battalion. We are confident we will receive any additional support that might arise, one team, and one fight.*

**Break...**

*As we finally start settling into a good battle rhythm, our Environmental Leave, Rest and Recuperation (R&R), and Freedom Rest programs have started up. The command's intent is to make every effort to maximize these programs based on mission priorities and requirements, minimizing the impact on manning levels. On a negative note, it's important to address the possibility that some soldiers are not going on environmental leave back home. We, the leaders and key personnel, realize we have a moral obligation and duty to oversee the welfare of the larger group of soldiers throughout the entire deployment. The command will make an extra effort to give these soldiers some well deserved R&R and Freedom Rest. Some soldiers have already started taking advantage of these programs with great reviews and feedback.*

**Break...**

*The Family Readiness Group continues to do an excellent job by informing spouses of any significant changes and creating activities for families. Initial feedback from the Easter Egg Hunt was that it was a huge success. You are the true heroes that make our job easier under these difficult circumstances. Thanks for all your efforts and continuing support.*

**Break...**

*The standards of living at Camp Victory North continue to improve dramatically. Some upcoming improvements are a new large PX, more telephones, and more Internet cafes. To the family members of the prophet soldiers, their living accommodations are not the best but I'm actively working some issues to provide them better living amenities. Hopefully, the small changes to their environment will improve their quality of life.*

**Break...**

*In summary, all the Bulldogs are performing at high levels producing exceptional intelligence that will help steer Iraq in the right direction. These soldiers put in anywhere between 12 to 14 hours of hard work everyday. The Bulldog's morale and positive attitude always stays steady. George Washington once said, "Liberty, when it begins to take root, is a plant of rapid growth." This describes how the foundation we are now laying will assist a once struggling nation flourish in the future. Supporters don't forget the military profession is a patriotic and noble one. The B/312<sup>th</sup> MI soldiers are always making us proud. "HOOAH BULLDOGS!!!" Take care and God bless your families and friends.*

**All Bulldog Elements this is Bulldog-9, Did you receive a good cop Bulldog-9 this is All Bulldog Elements that was a good copy roger over Roger All Bulldog Elements, Bulldog-9 out**





# The Doghouse



*“Action springs not from thought, but from a readiness for responsibility.”  
- Dietrich Bonhoeffer*

# FRG Notes by Chris LeClerc

As the weeks and months pass by, we look back and all of the sudden realize that four months are gone. The FRG is keeping busy and charging forward. We are so proud of all of the soldiers, and just as proud of the family members who keep things together while you are gone.

We wish a fond farewell to the Headquarters maintenance section, but not goodbye. We will always consider you to be bulldogs, and hope that you will feel like part of our family, no matter where you are. We also extend a hearty welcome to the new families of our new tactical HUMINT teams. If there is ever anything I can do for any of you, or any of our current Bulldog family members, please don't hesitate to email me at [Christine.Leclerc@us.army.mil](mailto:Christine.Leclerc@us.army.mil).

I want to thank everyone who supported our bobble head fundraiser, and who bought battalion t-shirts and magnets. There are more 312 MI yellow ribbon car magnets available, and I hope that everyone will put one proudly on the car or the refrigerator. They are \$5 each. Please contact me if you are interested in purchasing one or more. They go quickly, so act fast!

The Easter party was a great success, and we have a few events coming up for the family members. The May FRG meeting is on Tuesday, May 18<sup>th</sup> from 6:30 pm to 8:00 pm at the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Family Readiness Center. We are tentatively planning to have a self-defense class taught by the MP's, so I hope that you all will attend. We are also planning our end of summer bash for August 15<sup>th</sup> at BLORA. Please let me know if you would like to be any of the planning committees (food, Entertainment, Set-up/clean up), or if you have an idea where we can get donations to make this part happen.

I want to address communication with our soldiers. I know that at times communication is not what we hope. We wait anxiously for a phone call or email, but the lines go down, mail is slow, and time is hard to find. Please know that our letters, packages, and emails are well received and mean the world to our soldiers, even if there is not an immediate response. Keep trying, the time when our soldiers do get the chance to call or email makes all of the effort worthwhile! There is an article in this newsletter with information on how you can buy phone cards through the PX for your loved ones, even if you are not in the military. If you have an emergency (death or hospitalization of an immediate family member) you need to contact the Red Cross to let your service member know.: 1-877-272-7337. You will need your service member's name, rank, social security number, base camp (Camp Victory North), unit (b/312 MI BN 1<sup>st</sup> Cav). If it is not an emergency listed above, the Red Cross cannot deliver the message. They are overwhelmed with only a few resources and must limit their deliveries to such emergencies. However, there are other resources you can use. The Army's Public information "Hot Line" is 1-800-833-6622. This hotline will give updated soldier patient status, and information in the event a soldier has become injured or hospitalized for any reason. If you have another message that is critical, but not urgent (such as birth of a baby, non-life threatening accident, etc.) you can let me know and I will contact the rear detachment and we will find a way to pass that message through official channels. Please be aware that it is difficult to ensure immediate response of the messages, even through the American Red Cross. Communications just are not advanced in Iraq, but we will do our very best.

Thank you all for your efforts. Our heroes in Iraq could not do their jobs without the heroes that keep life going on as usual at home. I am proud to be a part of the Bulldog family, and I hope that we can continue to work together through the rest of this deployment with courage, a great sense of humor, and wonderful friends!

As always, if you have any questions, concerns, or issues that I can help with, please email me or give me a call!

## Heroes of the Homefront

This is a new section to the newsletter. Just as we have heroes in Iraq, there are family members who make substantial contributions to the FRG, Ft. Hood, their families and communities. I would like to highlight two heroes this month: Angie Kern and Michelle Cotto.

Angie Kern is our newsletter editor, and spends countless hours assimilating all of the pictures, stories, and anecdotes that keep us informed. Along with doing our newsletter, Angie successfully keeps her family of three children and home together. She is active at First Baptist Church, and plays violin in their orchestra. Her dedication to family, church, community and the Bulldogs makes her a true hero.

Michelle Cotto is our FRG fund raising chairwoman. When she learned we needed to raise money to send packages to our troops, she found the bobble heads and put our fund raiser together. Besides her tremendous contributions to the FRG, Michelle takes care of her family, and is quick to come to the aid of her fellow FRG member no matter what the situation. She keeps in touch with spouses, parents, and significant others, keeping them informed on what's happening with our troops. These two ladies truly are heroes of the homefront, and we salute them!

## Help Our Troops Call Home

The Defense Department has announced that it will allow the purchase of prepaid phone cards from service exchanges by anyone, military or not, that wishes to buy one for service members deployed to Operations Iraqi Freedom or Enduring Freedom. The cards can be purchased by clicking on the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link on anyone of the three service exchanges' websites: Army/Airforce-[www.aafes.com](http://www.aafes.com), Navy-[www.navy-nex.com](http://www.navy-nex.com), Marine Corps-[www.usmc-mccs.org](http://www.usmc-mccs.org). These cards can be sent directly to an individual soldier's deployment address or can be donated to "any soldier" for distribution through the American Red Cross, the Air Force Aid Society or the Fisher House Foundation. The phone cards sold through this program also offer the best value for calls made from call centers and carry no expiration, added charges or connection fees.



## 312 MI FRG Easter Egg Hunt

The FRG's of the 312 MI BN gathered on April 3<sup>rd</sup> for an Easter Egg hunt at the 1<sup>st</sup> Cav Museum. The children colored bags for collecting their Easter loot while the moms vied for one of the many door prizes that were given away.

The children hunted for candy filled eggs around the grounds of the museum's various pieces of Army equipment and vehicles.

The highlight of the event was a special appearance by the Easter bunny. The children gathered to have their pictures taken with the bunny before it was time to go home and eat all of their candy.

## April FRG Meeting

The Bulldog family members had a fantastic time filling pinatas and making decorations for a surprise Cinco de Mayo box for the troops. The tons of chips, salsa, candy and decorations will go over to our soldiers to be showered with love!



