

Charlie Company, 312th MI BN

1st Cavalry Division

Iraq Newsletter



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Iraqi Days, Iraqi Nights

Happy Valentine's Day from Iraq! Hard to believe it's been five months since we left. It's been another exciting month here in Junction City, with two of our soldiers returning to us. We were glad to welcome SPC Keck and SPC Shumate back, though of course we wish the circumstances were different. They have settled into their routines, though not without a bit of complaining.

We were lucky enough to be able to watch the Super Bowl, even though it was on at three in the morning. All the football games this year were in the middle of the night, so we are used to being up to watch football. And though most of us were rooting for Carolina, it was still great that we were able to watch it live, and not a delayed taping.

Sadly, our wooden walls for our rooms had to go, as they were assumed to be a fire hazard. Walls that took days to build were torn down in a matter of hours. We've replaced them with ponchos and 550 cord, so we still have some semblance of privacy and our own space. But ponchos don't block the sound out as well as the wooden walls!

We have an Internet Café and Phone Center up and running now! This has made it easier to get in contact with our loved ones, though the connections are patchy. Mail is still sporadic; so don't worry if you aren't receiving anything from us. We love hearing from you and await your letters, cards, and packages. We love you all and miss you, and can't wait to return.

10 Things You Should Never Do Or Say As A Member Of The US Army

Irish MPs are not after 'Me frosted lucky charms'.

On Sports Day PT, a wedgie is not a legal tackle.

'To conquer the earth with an army of flying monkeys' is a bad long-term goal to give the re-enlistment NCO.

If the thought of something makes me giggle for longer than 15 seconds, I am to assume that I am not allowed to do it.

No, the pants are not optional.

An EO briefing is probably not the best place to unveil a new off color joke.

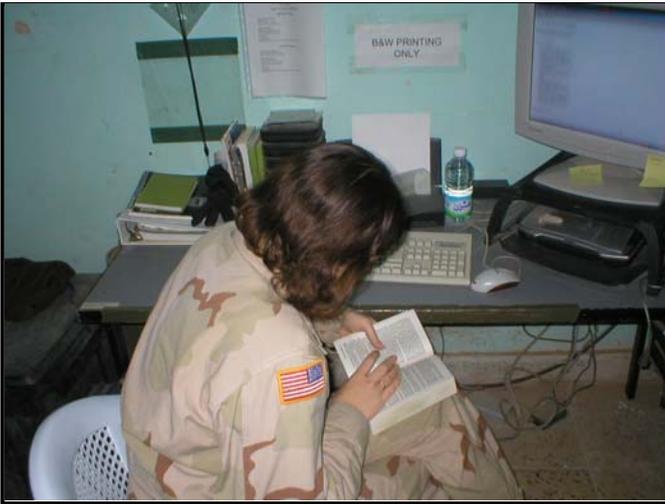
'Make my Boots black and shiny' does not involve electrical tape.

May not pronounce myself as either the king or queen of cheese.

Not allowed to use a broadsword to disprove 'The Pen is Mightier than the sword'.

Not allowed to play 'Pulp Fiction' with a suction-cup dart pistol and any officer.

A Day in the Life...



SPC Scotton takes time to relax from a day at work by reading a book.

Photo by PFC Rioflorido



SSG Goodman (left) and **1LT Tobin** discuss "very important" things at Camp Manhattan, like whether or not to go to dinner.

Photo by SPC Hildrich

Quote of The Month

"Be glad of life, for it gives us a chance to love and to laugh and to look up at the stars."

~Author Unknown



1LT Niemeyer takes a break from cutting his hair to smile for the camera at Camp Junction City.



SGT Wetzel spends his free time surfing the Internet at Camp Manhattan.

Photo by SPC Hildrich



SPC Derrick (left) models a dish dash, also known as a "man dress", and a headscarf for **SPC Keck** at Camp Junction City.

Command Corner

Greetings from beautiful Camps Junction City and Manhattan!

You'll be pleased to now that your soldiers are safe and sound and continuing to distinguish themselves as some of the most technically proficient intelligence professionals in AO Topeka. You name the Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) and I'll tell you how each and every soldier is contributing to making our area of Iraq a better place for the citizens here. We've received kudos from Battalion, Brigade, and Division leadership on how our folks are performing and the accolades keep piling up!

We welcome back SPC Shumate and SPC Keck from Ft. Hood as they return to us after a brief respite at Ft. Hood. We're anticipating the return of SPC Lopez after his recent bout with chicken pox. We're praying for him to come safely back to us healthy and ready to get to work.

Our FRG remains strong and the 312th MI Battalion's Rear Detachment Headquarters is poised to assist in whatever needs Charlie Rock may have. We're strengthened each day to know that we have a support network that helps with our dependents as well as keeping us straight while we're away from home. We can't thank everyone enough for the personal attention, hard work, and dedication that is being put into the mail, calls, website, and "family maintenance" that keeps us going and mission focused while we're out here. You all are the true heroes and combat multipliers for us that allow us to get the job done. Everything you can do to keep safe and sound and happy at home makes us all a better company. We think of home often, but are resolute in the knowledge that our deployment is making a difference and that we will be home when our job is done.

We wish a Happy Birthday to: CPT Akin's daughter Jessica, SPC May, SPC Derrick's daughter Kimiko, SGT Robinson's wife Jennifer, SSG Sitler's wife Dawn, and SSG Wolf's daughter Madison.

~ CPT Akin
~ 1SG Forsman



(From l-r) **SSG Wolf, SPC Derrick, SPC Keck, and SPC Diaz** demonstrate that attitude is one of the most important factors while preparing for a convoy.

Design and Layout by SPC Scotton

Photos by SPC Diaz unless noted otherwise

"10 Things You Should Never Say Or Do As A Member Of The US Army" were taken from a list online entitled "213 Things Skippy Isn't Allowed To Do In The US Army." Regretfully, we do not have the actual web page of the list. This list is used for entertainment purposes only.