

The Diehard Standard



From the desk of Diehard Six...

Greetings from Camp Junction City!

The DIEHARD Battalion continues to take the fight to the enemy here in Iraq. I'm immensely proud of all of the soldiers, and all that they do daily. In the last month we've captured and destroyed nearly 20 tons of enemy weapons and munitions, included several hundred artillery and mortar rounds, thousands of small arms rounds, and large numbers for rocket propelled grenades, rifles, machine guns, and pistols (including a pearl handled one captured by COLDSTEEL!) All three line companies and HHC are striving to have the *nom de guerre* of "King of Caches"! 568th and 248th continue to aggressively repair the camp and create miracles with gravel and dirt. Between them, they've move nearly 300 loads of gravel and rubble to raise the camp's water level and improve the camp's drainage. C/312th MI remains the best MI Company in the theater! I hope all of you are doing well back home! Take care, and God Bless. - LTC W D. Brinkley

Assassin Company

Happy New Year from the Assassins! The company just moved into different barracks and now has more room, not to mention a shorter walk to the dining facility. Again, we have transitioned back to manning the gate. Even in Iraq, we just cannot seem to get away from Ogden Gate. The platoons rotate responsibilities and still continue to perform missions both on the camp and outside the wire. Here is a look at the past month:

- First Platoon led the company in the training and fielding of new mine detector equipment. They also continued to assist TF 1-16 during the search for caches of enemy weapons as well as pulling the night shift on the gate.
- Second Platoon performed reconnaissance missions, assisted TF 1-16 with a highly successful demolition mission and the search for caches of enemy weapons. They also pulled a shift on the gate.
- Assault and Obstacle Platoon assisted with the training of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps, escorted convoys, supported base camp construction, logistic convoys, and TF 1-16 in the search for enemy weapons caches. Not to be left out, they also had a shift on the gate. - CPT Meen & 1SG



Assassins at Camp Junction City, Iraq



312 MI plays a pickup game of basketball down at Camp Manhattan.

From the desk of Diehard Seven

Hello to all from Camp Junction City, Iraq. We enjoyed several events during the holiday season. On 17 December, we had a traditional Christmas Tree lighting ceremony in which the Battalion Choir performed, singing a few Christmas carols. This ceremony turned out to be a great success and a morale boost for the soldiers. A few days later, on 20 December, we held our Battalion Holiday Celebration in the Chapel. Again, the Battalion's Choir performed, integrated a skit, and some comedy in which the Battalion Commander stated, "It was the best show that I've seen in my career". Kudos to all of our participants. On Christmas day, most of the soldiers were allowed to relax as the dining facility served us a traditional meal with all of the fixings. Camp Junction City added an AT&T Phone center and a Morale Support Package. The battalion recently took control of a morale support package consisting of 18 Internet terminals and 6 telephone lines. The soldiers, for the most part, now have bunk beds to sleep in. Finally, congratulations to SPC Sanders, Soldier of the Month, and SGT Gonzalez, NCO of the Month. Congratulations also goes out to the following soldiers for passing the promotion boards: SPC Stephen Sandefur, HHC, SPC Matthew Ploeger, HHC, SPC Justin Casson, C CO, SPC Joshua Michaels, HHC BDE, SGT Ronald Breland, HHC, and SGT Joan Gonzalez, C 312th MI. Again, thank you for your continued support. -Always First. CSM Bush

C/312 MI Company

Hello from good 'ole Iraq! The rainy season has come and continues to hit and miss us. We're staying as dry as can be though and all of us are safe, sound, and warm. The mission remains here as we close in on month four. The holidays proved to be a trying time, but we made it through. We did decorate for Christmas and got in the cheer of the season. Numerous folks had individual trees, and all the goodies that we received were shared throughout the company. New Year's came and we had a chance to celebrate the New Year, and even if we couldn't have any champagne, there was sparkling grape juice all around. January has all our noses back to the grindstone. We are making a difference here and you can see the job satisfaction in our soldiers as they work tirelessly to support our fellow troops. I have to tell you that the soldier's work is noticed by the Division as being some of the best, if not the best, that is being provided across the Division's area of operations.

On the home front, we want to specifically thank LT Matt Tobin's parents LTC (Ret.) Daniel J. and Mary Ann Tobin who graciously donated their own funds toward our Family Readiness Group (FRG). We also owe a great deal of gratitude to SGT Russell Robinson's family who keeps the mail flowing! Know that we would be a sad group of soldiers without good people like the Tobins, the Robinsons, and the numerous folks in the FRG that have devoted their time, efforts, and resources to ensure that Team Charlie is taken care of at home and in Iraq. Our soldiers continue to succeed each and every day. CPL Gustin has been promoted to SGT and definitely deserves this. Also, we will present SPC James Smith with his Purple Heart soon for the shrapnel that he took from an Improvised Explosive Device. Finally, we anxiously await the return of our "lost soldiers" who were delayed in their process of leaving the Army, SPCs Keck, Shumate, and Lopez.

- CPT Akin -1SG Forsman

Coldsteel Company

Life in Camp Junction City continues to improve a little bit every day for ColdSteel Company. Thanks to tremendous amount of work from the soldiers of ColdSteel as well and the rest of the Battalion, quality of life projects continue to transform our camp into a habitable home suitable for Diehard soldiers.

On the 2nd of December the Army Entertainment Center sent a small troupe of comedians to Camp Junction City to perform for the benefit of the troops. The job of housing the comedians and arranging the show was given to ColdSteel and in typical fashion, the mission was accomplished with great success. The show was good, and even though we were misidentified for the credit, the comedians and the camp were thankful.

As one of our last acts as the Battalion Force Protection Company, the Headquarters Platoon ("Death's Head" PLT) designed and built a mortar proof shelter for Ogden gate. The structure is a mammoth combination of lumber and sandbags and greatly increased the safety of the soldiers working at the gate. On the 5th of December, ColdSteel officially handed over the reigns of the Force Protection mission to HHC. Though this was not a sad day in our lives, the soldiers reluctantly walked away from their posts, feeling that the job was not done yet. That being said, no one has volunteered to pull extra shifts at the gate for sentimental value. The Company is proud though, of the high standard that the soldiers worked so hard to set.

Never one to slow down, ColdSteel immediately jumped into several other missions. One of them is the construction of a complete mine extraction lane for the entire Camp to train on. The "Outlaw" Platoon (2nd Platoon) planned out the lane, executed the construction and then developed the training plan for this highly effective training lane.

The "Headhunter" Platoon (A&O) continues to provide support to everyone by sending SEEs and ACEs on every type of mission and repeatedly keeping the Battalion supplied by sending its HEMMTs on logistics convoys on an almost daily basis.

Now that the company is free of the Force Protection mission, we are working hard to cement working relationships with the Field Artillery Battalion as well as a Florida National Guard Battalion that works in our same area. ColdSteel is quickly gaining the reputation of "Go Getters" due to our hard-working, results-oriented style with these units. We are already getting requests to come and work for them at any time, and we hope to continue that.

The "Mad Dogs" of 1st Platoon remain separated from the rest of the company in Camp Mercury. There they are still working for the 1st of the 504th Parachute Infantry and have already established themselves as experts in the engineering field. They are sought after by every unit on that camp for use in every type of mission. No one else can boast of such a workload or of so many accomplishments. They remain motivated and are now ready for any missions that come their way. -CPT Faulk -1SG Milton

C CO: "Gun Runners" checking out their new pedestal mount.



248th Dozer is strategically demolishing a building to clear fields of fire and create rubble for motor pools.



248th

The 248th had a very busy month with electrical work, drainage, and motor pools the focus of our efforts. With redeployment on our minds we are giving the final push to get as much work completed at Camp Junction City as we can.

The rain hit us in December and everything turned to mud. While this is likely the dustiest place on earth in July and August it very quickly turns to mud in the winter months. As we are near a river and the water table is just 4 feet down when it rains the mud lasts for weeks. We are fighting this problem by reopening the abandoned drainage canals and preparing to install a pump house to send rainwater to the river. We have also developed methods for knocking down bombed out buildings and using the rubble to build roads and motor pools on. The technique has worked well and with a two-pronged attack with our horizontal construction platoon and the 568th CSE platoon the end is in site for the mud problem... just in time for the heavy rains in January and February.

The quality of the barracks and administrative buildings on base is coming along well. There have been some hurdles to cross but permanent wiring is being installed along with large generators to provide not only heat, air conditioning and light but also enough power for TV's, radios, and other entertainment. Things to make life a little better here in Iraq. The 2nd platoon has provided a squad to work for HHC to do 'work orders and repairs' at the camp. We are also training some Ft. Riley soldiers on electrical, plumbing and carpentry so they can take over when we leave. 1st platoon is setting up a supply building for construction supply deliveries and installing permanent wiring in many of the buildings.

Last but not least the maintenance folks are helping to make all of this happen. With equipment older than most of the soldiers their hands are full. But they keep the equipment running and the missions moving forward. With power at a premium and the generator mechanics part of maintenance they are critical to the life support operations of the base.

-CPT Guv D. Joseph -1SG Robert I. Desiardin

Bulldog

Hammer Company

Happy New Year from the maintenance section of Hammer Company!

We've been extremely busy since we arrived four months ago. We've been challenged in many ways with people shortages and vehicle increases. We gained two other companies' worth of vehicles from the engineer National Guard units on Camp Junction City. They have the big equipment that doesn't like to stay fixed.

We also get to go on a lot of trips around the area. The chiefs have maintenance meetings that have us traveling to a new camp once a week. The chiefs also take us around the area to scavenge for parts. It's like an Easter egg-hunt every week!

PLL has been keeping busy with three trips a week to Camp Ridgeway to pick up the parts that actually come in when we order them. They still have to update the vehicle maintenance paperwork every week.

We appreciate all the support with the care packages and letters that we have received! Mail has sure slowed down since Christmas, but we appreciate all mail!

-CPT Pendry -1SG Hall

Happy New Year to the Bulldog families! We had a great holiday season thanks to the gifts that we received from Bulldog Family Support Group. Christmas dinner was a sight to see as the contractors provided a feast much like Thanksgiving. We wish we could eat like that more often. With two satellite TVs, we were able to watch some of the many football games even with the time difference and we fielded a basketball team for a task force tournament. Christmas was a great opportunity to unwind and relax a little.

The weather remains constant and relatively comfortable with a few nights that get pretty cold. We have now have heat in the main barracks for the Bulldogs, which is needed throughout the night. Some of the soldiers have been volunteering to finish up work in our second barracks, which should be complete in a couple of weeks. Once this second barracks is done, everyone will have plenty of personal space to enjoy some quiet time. A new MWR facility consisting of eighteen computers and 8 phones is now up and running which will provide another opportunity for Bulldogs to communicate with their loved ones. The task force built a quality gymnasium on camp with a good variety of free weights and an indoor basketball court, which is open 24 hours a day. Camp Manhattan is becoming a little bit more like an Army post each day. It is a huge morale booster to have all of these things available when we are not out on missions.

Our mission cycle has not slowed much as we are the only Engineers in our sector. We continue to build our reputation within the Task Force as a reliable unit, which they can count on to do a variety of missions. We still maintain guard posts, conduct cordons and searches, clear rubble, and conduct patrols. The soldiers dedication to their mission has made them indispensable to the units they support and you should be proud of your Bulldog's accomplishments.

We would like to say a fond farewell to LT Peterson and family as they move on to 1-16 Infantry. His contributions to the success of the Bulldogs are greatly appreciated. We would also like to welcome a new member to the Bulldogs, LT Ferguson, who has taken the reigns of 2nd Platoon.

Mail is starting to be a little more reliable. We continue to receive items anywhere between one and three weeks, but mail is still a very anticipated event. Thank you for your continued support. With the new MWR facility I hope that you are getting to hear from your Bulldog more often now. Thanks once again for everything you are doing to allow all of the Bulldogs here to focus on their mission. We would not be successful and safe without all of you handling all of the challenges at home. We as a Bulldog family are making a difference in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

-CPT Matthew August -SFC James Hoffman



Above: PLL Posing for a picture.

Left: choir singing for the Christmas Celebration.



B CO: Docking after a training patrol on the water. Left: in formation.



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