

HHC, 312th MI

Headhunter Newsletter

May 5, 2004

A Note from the Commander

HAPPY MOTHERS DAY FROM BAGHDAD!! While this year is a little difficult to celebrate properly and to spoil the mothers out there in a manner they would like to become accustomed to...we all recognize you out there! We have numerous soldiers here serving in the Company who because of their role as soldiers, have had to leave children behind to serve their country in Iraq. We also need to recognize all of you mothers out there on the home front...Some of you have sons or daughters serving in the Company, some of you are a spouse to a soldier. Regardless, you also are serving your country just as we are in Iraq. So if you're like Kristen and I, we're saving up all of these holidays we're missing and merely delaying them until we can catch up and enjoy them together upon redeployment.

The Company is doing exceptional work at a number of locations around the world. C CO TUAV PLT is continuing their training out at Ft Huachuca, Arizona and we look forward to their arrival here in Iraq in a few months upon completion of training. B CO TUAV PLT has completed the split of their operations with half of the PLT now at Victory North, Baghdad and the remaining personnel at Camp Cooke, Taji. These two platoons are really on the cutting edge of emerging doctrine and equipment fielding for the U.S.

Army and it is exciting to see all of the great work, tactics, techniques and procedures that are being generated not only for the 1st Cavalry Division but for the entire Army. The ACE continues to provide top-notch intelligence analysis to not only the Commanding General, but to all of the subordinate units in the 1st Cavalry Division area of responsibility. The ACE and the Battalion TOC personnel (S3/S2/Command Group) are still working out of the DRASH tent and EXPANDO van but look forward to moving over to a more permanent facility which is still (VERY) slowly taking shape. For the rest of the Company working out of the ALOC (S1, S4, Maintenance, C&E, Chaplain, S6, HQ PLT) we are now happy to call the official Battalion Headquarters home. Our building has been complete now for several weeks and we are gradually making improvements. We had furniture delivered this week, have the internet café up and running, have cable TV working at a few locations and even have up our jersey barriers (huge cement blocks about 8-9ft tall) to give us a little more measure of protection.

While the situation here in Iraq has been a little rough, we are all hanging in there. We are fighting through a few annoyances that occur from time to time such as backed up sewage tanks, no hot water...or any water, and planned and unplanned power outages that

generally last a few hours a day. Despite some of the supply problems, we are still getting three meals a day in the DFAC...sometimes good...and sometimes not so good. All of these serve as great reminders at how darn good it' will be to get on home to you all once we finish the job here! Rest assured that despite some of the challenges, everyone is doing a fantastic job over here. We're hoping to get the block leave program in full swing here starting in June so hopefully we'll be able to get a few smiling faces back home soon for a few weeks of well deserved rest. Take care and God Bless!
Dan Bishop
"Headhunter 6"

Kristen's Corner

Thank you to each of the spouses that have volunteered to help with Meals on Wheels this month. We had two families that needed the service and they have both expressed their sincere gratitude and asked me to pass on to you all their thanks. If you have not yet signed up and would like to **volunteer to take a meal** to a new mommy or someone who is ill, please email our Meal Coordinator, Angie Carrisalez, with your name and phone number, at angecarrisalez@yahoo.com I am sure she would appreciate a few more volunteers.

Thank you to the ladies who volunteered to watch our sister unit's children during

their FRG meeting this month. For all future volunteers, that building is HOT, so dress cool. If you are able to help with this service, and have not yet signed up, let me know. **I still need two more volunteers**, to get a once per quarter, schedule down.

Thank you to all of you that sent paint brushes to the soldiers in Iraq. They are used every day to get the sand out of different crevices.

Don't forget to check the battalion web site. We will be updating it weekly throughout May and June with photos of the soldiers in Iraq.

http://www.hood.army.mil/1CD_312thmibn/312%20BN%20FRG.htm

My family had a wonderful time playing mini golf and air hockey at the Family Fun Center on the 24th. My son loved playing w/all the kids & it was a good opportunity for all us spouses to sit around and compare notes on the difficulties of deployment. Thanks to everyone who joined us! I am looking forward to our BUNKO night at the next FRG meeting. I hope you are too!
-Kristen Bishop (FRG Leader)

CW2 Killingsworth (ACE)

The new chapel is finished as well as the new post office. The new PX was postponed but should be open in a week or two. The MWR facility looks like it is almost done and they just started building a new gym right by the Division HQ. We're told the Division Internet will be started soon which is supposed to provide high speed access to the soldiers so that will be nice as well.

C Co TUAV Platoon in Arizona

I just got back from Fort Huachuca, AZ where I had the opportunity to observe the Tactical Unmanned Aerial Vehicle's (TUAV) first week of NET training, where they actually got to fly. They were held up for almost two days do to strong winds, but Wednesday morning, they got the bird in the air. The platoon has been training on a rugged 6-day training week. They are performing all the deployment tasks they must complete, in addition to all of the UAV tasks they need to accomplish to become an effective and cohesive team. The level of professionalism and motivation I saw from these very young soldiers is amazing. The platoon is in the crawl stage trying to make sure they are going by their checklists and doing everything right, but I would venture to guess that by the time I get out there in May, it will resemble something out of NASCAR where the "pit crew" is getting the aircraft ready in record breaking speed. This is a tough mission for these soldiers. They are away from their families, but they are not quite deployed yet either. They have shown the greatest of dedication, motivation, and mission accomplishment.
-CPT Erin McIntire (Rear Detachment Commander)

Treasury and Fundraising

Battalion ordered 250 **312th MI magnetic car ribbons** originally and those were sold within about a week. They have submitted a second order. If you would like to reserve one or more ribbons please contact Kristen, as we have already pre-sold 100 of the ribbons in HHC

alone. They will go quickly, when they arrive in Mid-May. They will have 'God Bless the 312th MI BN' on one tail and the DIV CAV and 312th MI BN patches on the other tail. They are 5 inches tall and CAV yellow. They sell for only \$5.00 each.



Thank you to all who ordered our Battalion T-shirts. That was a huge success. We sold almost 300 shirts across the Battalion. They will hopefully be here May 17th, in time for the FRG meeting. I will begin shipping shirts and magnets when both orders have arrived here. If you have not yet sent a check for your order, now is the time to do it, so shipping is not held up.

Community and Unit Calendar

May 17: 6pm. FRG meeting at Montague Village. We will have a **meeting/Pizza/BUNKO** party. The meeting will begin at 6pm. We plan to show a lot of photos from Iraq then have a short meeting to put out any pertinent information. Then we will move on to BUNKO! If you would like to join us for BUNKO, please bring a simple wrapped (less than \$5.00) gift as a prize. I have played

BUNKO once and was shocked at how much fun it was. I promise you will enjoy it. Kids are invited to eat pizza and view the photos with us, then the sitters will watch them while we play our game. **I need card tables for this meeting.** If you have one, please let me know. Everyone is invited to bring a dessert to pass.

June 3-5: Killeen Rodeo located at Little Nolan Road & South W.S. Young. Tickets are \$6 for adult, kids 7-12 are \$3.50, under 6 is free.

August 14: BLORA End of Summer Bash. We have reserved the Cedar Grove Pavilion, located directly in between the water slides and the lake for swimming. **If you would like to help with the planning or executing of this event, we are looking for committee members to handle Food, Entertainment, Set-up and Clean-up.** Please let me know if you would like to help and I will get you in contact with the committee chair. Planning is beginning now.

IRAQ MAIL:

I am still getting mailing address questions, so here is the address to mail items to the soldiers in Iraq once more. Some packages are being handled roughly. Please use LOTS of tape.

The address for soldiers in Baghdad/Victory North (HHC):
Rank, Last Name, First Name
HHC,312 MI BN (1st CAV DIV)
APO AE 09344

The address for soldiers in the UAV platoon that are in Taji is:
Rank, Last Name, First Name

B Co, TUAV Platoon **APO AE 09313**

WAYS TO HELP FROM AFAR **Military Phone Card Donation Program**

Goes Public. DoD announced today that any American can now help troops in contingency operations call home. They have authorized the Armed Services Exchanges to sell prepaid calling cards to any individual or organization that wishes to purchase cards for troops who are deployed. The "Help Our Troops Call Home" program is designed to help service-members call home from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom.

For those wishing to donate a prepaid calling card to a military member may log on to any of the three Armed Services Exchange web sites: the Army and Air Force Exchange Service
<http://www.aafes.com/>

Click the "Help Our Troops Call Home" link. From there, a prepaid calling card may be purchased for an individual at his or her deployed address or to "any service-member" deployed or hospitalized. The Armed Services Exchanges will distribute cards donated to "any service member" through the American Red Cross, Air Force Aid Society and the Fisher House Foundation.

The cards available through the "Help Our Troops Call Home" program offer the best value for calls made from the call centers, never expire, and there are no added charges or connection fees.

Individuals and organizations also can show their support to deployed troops and their families with **gift certificates.** The "Gift of Groceries" program allows anyone to purchase commissary gift certificates at <http://www.commissaries.com> or by calling toll free 1 (877) 770-GIFT. The Armed Services Exchanges offer the "Gift From the Homefront" gift certificate for merchandise at the exchange web sites: <http://www.aafes.com> or by calling toll free 1 (877) 770-GIFT. Gift certificates may be purchased to be mailed to servicemembers and family members or will be distributed to "any servicemember." Only authorized commissary and exchange patrons may redeem the gift certificates at military commissaries and exchanges, including those stores supporting deployed personnel around the globe.

SEARS HOME FRONT Cards **ENCOURAGE AMERICANS** to show appreciation for military families **"Thank You" Cards,** **Now Available at Sears,** **Benefit Military Families**

WASHINGTON, DC, April 26/PR Newswire - The National Military Family Association (NMFA) announced today the availability of HomeFront Cards in all Sears Full-Line stores nationwide. During these challenging times with more than 300,000 service men and women deployed, this greeting card outreach program gives Americans the opportunity to thank military families for their courage and sacrifice.

Using these specially-designed greeting cards featuring an American flag with a yellow ribbon, Americans can write a personal message of gratitude and support for family members of military personnel. The cards will be delivered to military families across the country living on or near installations with high deployments.

The cards will be available for \$2 at Sears stores between April 17 and May 16, while supplies last. Approximately \$1 from the sale of each card will be donated to NMFA to fund a unique summer camp for children of military families nationwide.

More details about the program can be found in local Sears stores.

CONGRATULATIONS

Please welcome the Companies newest additions. SPC Babcock and SPC Mesa are proud to announce the birth of their first child, son Dominic. SGT and Mrs. Christmas proudly announce the birth of their second child, son Stephen Gerrod.

PHANTOM DISTRO INFORMATION

Father's Day photos Killeen Mall will be offering 5x7 Father's Day Photos for \$5 each and include a special card to send to dad. Proceeds will benefit AUSA's Adopt-a-Unit Program. Dates and times are:

May 14 - 15	10:00 - 8:00
May 16	12:00 - 6:00
May 21 - 22	10:00 - 8:00
May 23	12:00 - 6:00

May 28 - 29	10:00 - 8:00
May 30 - 31	12:00 - 6:00

There is a website dedicated to Fatherhood and communication with children for while they're away.

<http://www.fatherhood.org/military-fams.htm>

Apache Arts and Crafts - the newest class we are offering is beading and free knitting classes. Knitting classes will begin 4 May - every Tuesday from 11 - 3 pm - we have an instructor you will be coming in to teach from the basics to advance knitting. Each customer needs to bring a set of knitting needles and some yarn. Also learn the art of beading - start each patron out with a precious heart beaded bracelet. Classes given each Friday from 5-7 pm - only \$10.00 per student.

Learn to Swim Program - The Post will be providing an American Red Cross Learn to Swim program this summer. Registration will be accepted on a first come first served basis. Class enrollment will be limited to the first 12 students enrolled for each lesson.

There will be 4 two-week sessions, Mon thru Thurs. You may sign up for multiple lessons or sessions. The cost for each session is \$35 per student. Payments accepted are by check, cash or money orders.

ABOUT THE SCHEDULE

Session 1	June 7 - 17
Session 2	June 21 - 1 July
Session 3	July 12 - 22
Session 4	July 26 - Aug 5

Call (254) 287-9430

The Educations Services Division presents the following programs:

May 10,17,24 - 1pm Newcomer's Briefing for those new to area. Learn of the many educational opportunities at Fort Hood.
 May 10 - Tarleton State University Registration begins.
 May 12 - 1800 - Excelsior Briefing for military personnel, family members, and civilians on degree programs and new Master Degree programs.
 May 20 - 1800 - Just for Spouses Briefing. Evening session for spouses who desire to attend college.
 May 26 - 1300 - Troops to Teachers Briefing. Examine the public school teaching opportunities, qualifications, and requirements.
 All events will be held in the Soldier Development Center, Bldg 33009, 761st Tank BN Ave, Fort Hood. For more information call: 287-4432

Georgetown FunFest 2004

Sunday, May 16th 1-4 PM
 508 East 8th Street (corner of 8th and Ash) Behind Williams Elementary in Georgetown.
 EVERYTHING'S FREE!!!
 Moonwalk, Climbing Wall, Food, Horses, Carnival Games, Prizes.

PLEASE RSVP IF YOU THINK YOU CAN MAKE IT
 For more info or to RSVP, please contact Vicki Gibson at gibsonv@georgetown.txed.net or (512) 943-5196

NEWSLETTER

Have something to add to the newsletter? Please contact me by May 30th.

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 254-542-4794

kristen.bishop@us.army.mil

