

FRG Notes

With the close of the summer, many of us look forward to the return to school, and more importantly, the return of our soldiers! We will be getting information about the redeployment by the end of this month. I will be putting it out to everyone that I have an email address for as soon as I have it, and updating as any updates become available.

As of right now, the current redeployment plan still stands at 11-14 months. We will narrow that window down within the next month or so, and it will narrow further down as the days pass. But I want to caution everyone on getting their hopes set on a specific date. Don't buy a non-refundable ticket for a trip around the world, remember the mission dictates our soldiers' actions, and the enemy ALWAYS gets a vote. That being said, I know we are all looking forward to the days ahead with our families intact again! If you have not contacted me via email in the past, but want to receive redeployment information, please send your address to me: Christine.Leclerc@us.army.mil and I will include you in any distribution of information that I put out.

The FRG continues to be active, and will stay active until, and even after our soldiers return. Thanks to everyone who came to the End of Summer Bash – it was a fantastic time for everyone! We will be having, in addition to our usual monthly meetings, a reintegration briefing in early November. If you have never made it to a meeting before, this is the one to attend! Various sources from around Fort Hood will describe the things to expect upon your soldier's return, some issues to be on the lookout for, and share some first hand experiences that we should learn by hearing, and not by doing. I will put the exact date out via the internet, and also call all of the spouses with a reminder. If you are planning to return to the Fort Hood area for the redeployment, please let me know so I can make sure to include you in all of our redeployment activities! We will be making banners, decorating the motorpool fence with messages, cleaning out the barracks, and getting everything ready for our heroes welcome!

I have a very few 1st CAV "Pray for Our Troops" car magnets. These magnets are \$5 each. Please contact me at Christine.Leclerc@us.army.mil if you are interested in purchasing one. Also, please remember to check the battalion website: http://www.hood.army.mil/1cd_312thmibn/ for information and pictures of our soldiers. We are also selling the Bulldog Operation Iraqi Freedom t-shirts for \$10 (\$11 for XXL). The design and order information is in another article in this newsletter. I will be placing the order on October 1st, and only one order. So if you are interested, make sure you get me your order prior to that date! Checks can be made payable to "B/312 MI FRG". If you are outside the Fort Hood area, please include \$4 for postage and I'll get them in the mail to you as soon as they are ordered and in.

I want to thank everyone for your continued perseverance and strength. Having a spouse or family member out of town is difficult, but doing it for an extended period of time while adding the worry of having them in a combat zone almost looks impossible. I am so proud of all of us thus far. Please remember, though, this is a marathon, not a sprint. We have to keep working together and stick it out a little bit farther – we can almost see that finish line, don't give up, now!! If you ever have questions or concerns, remember that I am here to help and together we will find whatever resource you might need. We are all heroes in this historical time!

Thanks!

Chris Leclerc

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September Heroes Of The Homefront

This month we honor two heroes that fight the fight at home, as well as in Iraq: SSG Jimmy Ha and SGT Marie Powell. SSG Jimmy Ha recently returned from fighting in Operation Iraqi Freedom with 2-8 Infantry, part of the 4th Infantry Division. He continues to serve with 4th ID at Fort Hood as well as take care of their daughter. SGT Marie Powell is an analyst with the 15th Aerial Exploitation Battalion out of the 504th MI BDE here at Fort Hood. Although she is not currently serving in the Iraqi theater of operations, her daily analysis serves the soldiers in that theater.

We would be remiss if we didn't honor SPC Sheila Baumann (married to our own SPC Marshall) who currently serves in Iraq with the 303rd MI BN, 504th MI BDE, III Corps. These spouses are heroes, both of the homefront and our country. We are proud to include them with our Bulldog family and name them as this month's Heroes of the Homefront!

BRAVO



August/September 2004

Issue #4

BULLDOGS

HUMINT Team Returns From Najaf

Bulldog Team 507 returned back home to Camp Black Jack after nearly a month (August) engaged in Tactical HUMINT Operations in the city of Najaf. The HUMINT team, consisting of SGT Lanclous, SGT Coughlin, SPC McDonald and SPC Smith, provided support to 1-5 Cavalry and the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit executing full combat operations against insurgents. These ferocious Bulldogs demonstrated superb combat skills and Soldier savvy on numerous times, from receiving the warning order, to movement south, and the continuous daily operations within the Najaf sector. These battle seasoned puppies clearly have shown what it takes to take the fight to the enemy. Once again, the amazing Bulldogs, Team 507, excelled and made their family, friends, comrades, and the Bulldog pound proud. We salute you, Bulldogs,



Prophet Platoon Rules



Located in the remote Patrol Base BANZI, the mighty Prophet Bulldogs engage themselves in gathering intelligence and providing force protection against the enemies of freedom. These Bulldogs extraordinary ability to monitor the radio waves and use of their language skills enable the 1st Cavalry Division to better assess Baghdad's citizens' viewpoint. Some of the Top Dogs accomplishments included SSG Smith, SGT Powell, and SGT Frost being awarded the Commanding General's "Coin of Excellence" for outstanding performance. Furthermore, the Commanding General visited the remainder of the Bulldogs and was thoroughly briefed and impressed in the Bulldogs operational capabilities and team's success. The Prophet leadership and team members have created a tight group of soldiers who are willing to share experiences, camaraderie, and take care of each other under any circumstance. Congratulations to SGT Powell in his successful SSG board appearance. His performance on the promotion board was truly a direct reflection of the Prophet's platoon team effort. Without a doubt, these independent Bulldogs have stood their ground with minimal guidance and excelled under extenuating conditions. Hooah

Commander's Corner

Cpt. Bryan LeClerc

Bulldog families and friends, Nine months down and most likely just a few more to go. Seems like just yesterday I was saying we were seven months into the deployment. How time flies! As usual, it's been a busy time for the Bulldogs in Baghdad. For the first time in a while, our team has stayed the same, though we have picked up a new soldier, PV2 Brian Bisgaard. He's a 96R (Ground Surveillance Systems operator) recently graduated from basic training and advanced individual training. He's a very welcome addition to our team and I know our "Romeos" are glad to have him aboard. In late July, we deployed one of our human intelligence teams to An Najaf to support Task Force 1-5 CAV and the Marines in their fight with Moqtada al Sadr's Milita. SGT Lanclos, SGT Coughlin, SPC McDonald and SPC Smith made the long trip to the holy city and performed extremely well under some very intense conditions. They returned to Camp Liberty safely on September 4th and we are all very proud of their efforts and glad to have them back.

While this team was away, things didn't slow down for the rest of the company. Our other human intelligence soldiers worked extra hard to pick up the pace to cover for our deployed soldiers with lots of success. Their reporting has allowed our task forces to detain terrorists across the city and has provided much needed clarity to the threat situation in Baghdad, allowing the Brigade Commander to direct our targeting efforts with more precision. Both the Analysis and Control Team and the Prophet Platoon continued their collection and analysis and have produced excellent assessments that have been read by the leadership within the Brigade and at Division. Through all of this the GSR platoon remained steady, transporting our soldiers safely and securely all over Baghdad. They also ran all the small arms ranges we needed to qualify our soldiers on their individual weapons and trained and qualified 12 soldiers on the M2 .50 caliber machine gun. As usual, life in Baghdad has been busy for the Bulldogs. But the busy times make the days and weeks go by much quicker and I know we'll be home before you know it. The First Sergeant and I continue to be proud of the remarkable efforts of our soldiers – they never slow down! Thanks to all our families and friends back home for their love, support and perseverance. Enjoy the pictures!

CPT Bryan Leclerc

From The Top

1SG Bernardo Serna

First, I would like to extend a special thanks to all the family members and friends of the mighty Bulldogs. As the First Sergeant, I know and realize that the only reason our Bulldogs have such a positive attitude and a high morale is because of you. There are not enough words to explain how much a difference you've made on these Soldiers' lives with your support. You've really made our job easier, and the Commander and myself appreciate all your efforts and support. By the time you all receive this newsletter, the Bulldogs would have been deployed just about 10 months. Incredible!!!

The Bulldogs welcome newly arrived, PV2 Bisgaard, to the GSR platoon. I'm sure the GSR platoon will take him under their wings and prepare him only for success. On the same note, the Bulldogs welcome back the maintenance and mechanics crew, SGT Christmas, SGT Bayless, SPC McGuire and SPC Campbell. I'm sure them Grease Dogs will keep our wheels moving. The month of August was very challenging for the mighty Bulldogs, SGT Lanclos, SGT Coughlin, SPC McDonald and SPC Smith, who were called upon to support our comrades with some Tactical HUMINT operations down in the troubled and unstable city of Najaf. The Bulldogs are extremely happy you all have return safe and sound.

I would like to conclude this article with a message on voting. As the time draws closer to the Presidential election, I encourage you all to exercise your right to vote. I'm a strong believer and supporter of the United States of America election process. Many nations in the world, including Iraq have not experience the freedoms of voting. Soon, they will experience it. Bulldogs, you can make a difference with your vote, exercise it. All soldiers were given an opportunity by the Voting Assistance Officer to register for absentee ballots; those interested in their future will cast their ballots. Even though the issues, candidates, and point of views are different, we must never fail to exercise the right to vote. Choose one, your duty an obligation to vote can make a difference in all our future. HOOAH BULLDOGS!!! You make us proud. Take care and God bless your families and friends.

BULLDOG 9... OUT

Bulldog Bone Award

When it comes to gathering and reporting intelligence, this difficult task falls on the Prophet platoon. One Bulldog who exceeds the standard is SGT William Frost. SGT Frost is a 98G Voice Interceptor operator. Patrol Base BONZAI is where this watchdog ensures all reports are meticulously reviewed for quality control prior to release. His excellent computer skills facilitate and streamline the reporting processes. SGT Frost is one mean Bulldog who keeps in top physical condition with daily swims and runs. For the month of July 2004, the prestigious Bulldog Bone Award goes to SGT Frost. 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".

In The Doghouse

Every day they "suit up" and execute their mission "Black Jack" soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team improve the security and living conditions of local Iraqis.

Our focus continues to be ensuring the security of the citizens of Baghdad, redeployment from combat operations in Najaf, and the restoration of critical infrastructure and essential services in Western Baghdad. Here is a taste of what the "Black Jack" soldiers did during the week:

1-5 Cavalry After a political solution between the Iraqi government and Muqtada Sadr was agreed upon 1-5 troopers have been prepping their equipment and getting ready to re-deploy to Baghdad. 1-5 CAV continues to provide security and assistance to the citizens of Najaf while prepping to return "home" to FOB Bonzai.

2-12 Cavalry troopers continue conducting security patrols to prevent the enemy from using mortars and emplacing Improvised Explosive Devices in the

Abu Ghuraib district. They continue to manage over 35 re-vitalization projects in and around the Abu Ghuraib area. One of those projects was the removal of rubble and debris along the roads that employed 40 Iraqis and made it harder for the enemy to hide IEDs. 2-12 CAV is coordinating with local leaders for the implementation and execution of the \$ 8million water and sewer projects that will begin next month throughout their area.

91st Engineers soldiers provided security along critical supply routes throughout the city of Baghdad for all division and theater convoys. They have coordinated with local leaders for trash and sewer cleaning projects employing approximately 600 Iraqis. 91st is in the process of receiving bids for sewer line cleaning, manhole, and gutter repair throughout the Mansoor and Khadimiyah districts.

3-82 Field Artillery continued operations in the Khadimiyah area and along many of the main routes in the city. Dismounted patrols throughout their area of responsibility increased the interaction with the civilian population maintaining a US presence, and improving security on the neighborhood's streets. 3-82 is currently working a project to repair 4 existing sewage pumps, generators, crane, and station operation house, which will greatly help, move the sewage into the system and off the local streets. Additionally, they installed air conditioners and a stove in the Yarmouk Rami Institute in preparation for the beginning of school this week. They have also complete renovation of the Isra'a School, which employed 25 Iraqis.

15th Forward Support Battalion continues to provide logistical support for the Brigade, including 1-5 Cavalry who are deployed to Najaf. This split operation has been executed flawlessly and provided superb logistical support for all Black Jack despite the Brigade being separated by more than a 12 hour drive over unsecured roads to Najaf. 15th FSB continues to execute renovations and repairs of the Baghdad Agricultural College.

4-5 Air Defense Artillery handed off the security of the Baghdad airport to a private security firm. They are now securing a critical stretch of road that runs from the airport to the Baghdad city center and other very sensitive areas. This mission is a high profile one that demands constant vigilance and 24/7 persistence.

D/9 Cavalry continues to provide reconnaissance on key highways in Baghdad in order to stop the enemy from emplacing IEDs. Additionally, they have been protecting the Explosive Ordinance Disposal Teams and other Brigade Convoys by escorting them around Baghdad.

The 303rd Iraqi National Guard Battalion continues operate with success within their area of responsibility and was able to take over additional battle space. They also were able to rapidly respond by sending a unit to protect a vital storage site for the Iraqi Police. The storage site has weapons, bulletproof vests and thousands of patrol vehicles made in good ole USA.

