



Battle Boar Newsletter

"Our Country Not Ourselves"

1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment
1st Heavy Brigade Combat Team
1st Armored Division
FOB Warrior, Iraq

AUGUST 2010

Commander's Corner

Families and Friends of the Battle Boars,

Kirkuk is a large city at the foot of the highlands of northern Iraq. The land around the city is flat, but rolls more frequently and rises higher the further north you go. Cutting through the center of the city is the winter-bourne Khasa River which divides the city in two as it flows sporadically southward before it feeds the Tigris River north of Baghdad. At the center of Kirkuk City is a large mound, which is crowned by an ancient settlement, with still standing fortifications, known as the Citadel. The Citadel has existed for five thousand years and is easy to see throughout most of the city. As the US Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry move through the city, the Citadel is a constant reminder to us of the rich and varied history of Kirkuk. Every day we are immersed in the diversity of Kirkuk. It is a city composed of many ethnicities, many religions and many political parties- a very real melting pot of Iraqi culture. Driving through the city, our Soldiers see signs in four languages, a colorful rainbow of political banners, very old buildings standing next to brand new construction sites and advertisements, everywhere. We see everything from billboards for French cigarettes, cars, electronics and plumbers, to signs for women's support groups, computer stores and restaurants. The people of Kirkuk take great pride in their city and their history. It is a city blessed with a rich diversity of cultures and more importantly, tolerance. The citizens are proud to tell us that everyone respects each other and that Kirkuk has always been a flourishing cultural capital of the region. This year the city was named "The Capital of Iraqi Culture". For our Soldiers moving past the markets, the schools and the neighborhoods it is a city rebuilding itself, mending itself, and rising from neglect and oppression.



The changes we have witnessed in Kirkuk are being replicated throughout the country and are an important step to building a self-reliant Iraq. Over the next two weeks, United States Forces throughout Iraq are transitioning our mission. On 1 September 2010, the role of US Forces will change, honoring a promise made by President Obama to the Iraqi people. Operation Iraqi Freedom will come to an end, Operation New Dawn will begin and the US Mission will evolve from being led by the US Army to the US State Department. Throughout the country, significant changes have taken place. By 1 September, US Forces will be reduced to 50,000 Soldiers (from a peak of 160,000 in 2007), over 400 bases will be transferred to the Iraqi Security Forces, and over 2.2 million pieces of US equipment will have left Iraq. These momentous changes are part of long-term US Strategy to transition our role throughout the country.



LTC Daniel J. Cormier
Battalion Commander



CSM Thomas S. Hitch
Battalion Command Sergeant major



1-30 Infantry Medal of Honor Recipients



- PVT Wilburn Ross
- CPT Maurice Britt
- 1LT Charles Murray
- T/SG Russell Dunham
- T/5 Eric Gibson
- PFC Lloyd Hawkes
- PFC Alton Khappenberger
- PFC John Dutko
- PFC Patrick Kessler
- SGT Harold Msserschmidt
- SGT John Squires
- SSG Lucian Adams

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Commander's Corner



Kristy Cormier
Battalion FRG Advisor



Rachael Luna
Battalion FRSA

All of these changes are simply the next step in the US mission in Iraq. This is an important step as US Forces move aside to allow the Iraqi Security Forces to step forward and fully assume responsibility for securing their own country. US Forces throughout the country will continue to conduct missions with our partners, but more and more, the missions will rely on Iraqi Forces to execute everything from the planning to execution. These changes will allow Iraqis to assume their full independence, take their place among the free nations of the world, and resume their role as a respected nation in the Middle East.

For the remainder of our tour, the Battle Boars will continue to support the State Department's Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT). The PRT works closely with the Kirkuk City and Kirkuk Provincial governments, executing a wide range of efforts which have made significant progress throughout the area. Their endeavors led to the renovation of over 90 schools, established medical training programs, resulted in significant improvements in crop yields in the surrounding farmlands, completed several bridge and road repairs and improved essential services, to include providing clean water to over 300,000 people in the city.

Our Soldiers will also continue to prevent violent extremists from attacking the city through our combined checkpoint operations, the Combined Security Force and through partnered operations with our Iraqi Police partners. Our partners have had responsibility for security in the city since June 2009. Since that time, we have seen an 80% reduction in violence and crime. The robust police forces are divided into many departments- traffic police, facilities protection services, neighborhood police and emergency services (like SWAT). The police forces of Kirkuk are professional, trained and have demonstrated their capability to secure their city of close to 1 million people.



Battle 6

Daniel J. Cormier

Our Country Not Ourselves!



Visit our website at www.cityofkirkuk.webs.com/





Battle Boar Snap Shots



PFC Gray and SGT Gallegos of Gator Company work to train Iraq Security Forces on medical skills.



LTG Cone visits Warlord Company's checkpoint to visit Soldiers and check out operations.



CPT Gary Whidden of Dragon Company presents a trophy to 1LT Muhanad Jaseem of the ESU.



CPT Kuykendall and CPT Wallace exchange the Cobra Company Guidon at the Change of Command ceremony.



CPT Rhodes presents Army Achievement Medals to SPC Perkins, PFC Peck, and PFC Krawczyk for the 4th of July Fire Fighter's Challenge.



PFC Bauer, PFC French, PFC Lambert, and PFC Purvis of Warrior Company receive promotions to Specialist.



Battle Boar Snap Shots



The Mortar Platoon of Headhunter Company delivers brand new generators for poor and needy Iraqi Families.



SSG Johnson and SGT Bean of Warlord Company are presented coins by COL Swift for excellence in their duties.



SPC Harris, SGT Hays, and PFC Hodal enjoy decompressing with music and a grill-out.



PFC Harris of Barbarian Company is congratulated on his promotion to Specialist by his Platoon Leader, 1LT McClanahan.



Cobra Company Soldiers stand in formation at the company's Change of Command ceremony.



CPT Stubblefield of Headhunter Company works with Iraqi Security Forces to train them to become certified EMTs.



Commander's Update



CPT Nicholas Loudon
Company Commander

Headhunter Friends and Family,

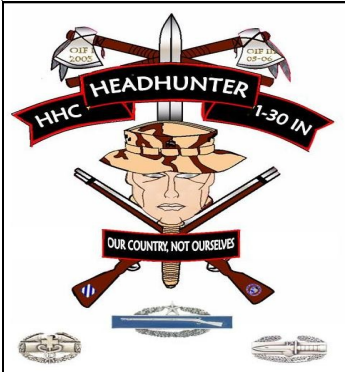
I'm pleased to announce that this is my second to last FRG newsletter from Iraq. We are in the home stretch of this deployment and I am pleased to say that your Soldiers, NCO's and Officers have continued to work relentlessly on a number of fronts. As we near our relief in place, we are beginning to make slight adjustments to our task organization and platoon manning. While these changes should be transparent to you, they will undoubtedly set the Scouts and Mortars up for a successful battlefield handover to the incoming unit. That being said, our specialty platoons are continuing to have a measurable impact in disrupting violent extremists attempting to infiltrate into Kirkuk City and also in bettering our Iraqi partners. Their work ethic has been nothing short of amazing as they have slugged through some of the hottest days on record over the past month.



1SG Terry Daniel
First Sergeant

While the Mortars and Scouts have continued to man our Checkpoint and patrol AO Headhunter, our Medical Platoon is on their third iteration of running a legitimate EMT course for our Iraqi partners. This EMT program has received Government of Iraq visibility and is poised to become a model for the entire country. Needless to say, the medical platoon will be incredibly busy over the coming month as they teach this course, prepare for redeployment, and continue to provide valuable medical support to the Battle Boar Battalion.

The one thing that makes HHC so much different from my first experience as a Company Commander is the fact that we have a staff. While the staff doesn't directly work for the Company Leadership Team, we do take care of all administrative and logistical support for them. Even though the Soldiers and Leaders of the Battle Boar Headquarters don't work for ISG Daniel and I in the traditional sense, we do take great pride in ensuring we take care of them just as we would if they worked for us in a line company. It has been an absolute pleasure getting to know the Soldiers of the Headquarters better over the past couple months. Without the support of these Headquarters personnel the Battalion would cease to function.



Finally, as we near redeployment, I would like to caution everyone on certain expectations. ISG Daniel and I would like to remind everyone that, while you may have heard of specific redeployment dates, those dates are by no means set in stone. As many of you know, there are a million and one variables that could expedite or delay our personnel flow back to Fort Stewart and I urge all of you to be patient and not become emotionally or financially tied to specific dates. As we get closer to coming home, our stalwart Family Readiness Group will be in touch with exactly how the information flow of who is on what flight will work. One of our biggest limiting factors is something known as Operational Security, which basically means that we don't put numbers of personnel in conjunction with dates and times in the public domain prior to the actual movement. I can assure you this won't be an issue. Units have been redeploying this way for the last 9 years and their families have stayed well informed.

As always, ISG Daniel and I look forward to assisting the Soldiers and Families of Headhunter Company in any way possible.

-CPT Nick Loudon



Danuella Williams
HHC FRG Leader



Commander's Update



CPT TJ Tepley
Company Commander

Families and Friends of Gator Company,

Hello again from Kirkuk, Iraq. As the finish line to this marathon draws closer, we continue to stay busy and reach new heights with our Iraqi partners. I'd like to thank all of you up front for the endless support you provide. With a journey this long, your efforts and commitment are incredible and very much appreciated.

Although not new to Alpha Company, Sergeant First Class Steve Stutzman took over as First Sergeant and is already making a significant impact. 1st, 2nd, and 4th Platoons, with extremely hard work and patience, are taking the Combined Security Force (CSF) to the next level. It is no secret that our CSF is the model for all of Iraq and we are setting the example with our performance. Your soldiers deserve the bulk of this credit because, day after day, they are determined and put forth the effort to make the CSF better.

In July, the CSF did a surge into Kirkuk City to increase security and prevent attacks. Your soldiers and their Iraqi partners did an amazing job, showing the diverse people of Kirkuk just how serious we are when it comes to their protection. In addition, 1st Platoon has seen the fruits of their labor over the past month by successfully detaining one of the Battalion's top ten bad guys. 2nd Platoon continues to make the eastern outskirts of Kirkuk better by developing lasting relationships with the locals and locking down the checkpoint bypass routes. 4th Platoon refuses to let their guard down and has developed their area so well, that it might lead to the capture of more insurgents.

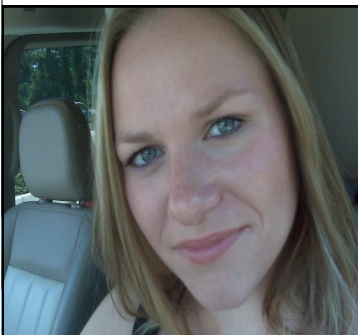
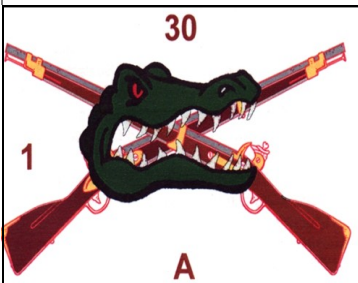
3rd, 5th, and 6th platoons have all found a home in Cobra Company. These platoons consistently produce successful results for the Battalion with their around-the clock checkpoint duties and Kirkuk City operations. There is no question, I am anxious to get the Alpha Company team back together after we arrive at Fort Stewart.

In closing I'd like to recognize Gator soldiers who received a promotion since July 1st. Aaron Olsen, Bryson Brink, John Greer, and Clayton Rice were promoted to Private First Class. Thomas Kasza, Ryan Miller, Lewis Gelinas, and Corey Barr received a promotion to Specialist. Alpha Company also expanded their NCO Corps with well deserved promotions for Brett Mango and Alfred Gallegos to Sergeant. Congratulations to these soldiers and their families for a job well done.

v/r
CPT T.J. Tepley



SFC Steve Stutzman
First Sergeant



Johanna Mango
Alpha Company FRG Leader



SPC Holwerda and PFC Heiar scan the horizon during a mission with the CSF.



SSG Doscher, SPC Maynard, SGT Barnes, and PFC Farley navigate an obstacle course.



BARBARIANS

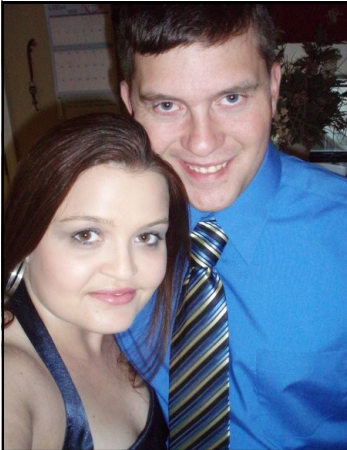
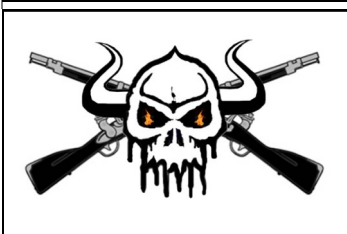
Commander's Update



CPT Dru Rhodes
Company Commander



1SG Jamie Phillips
First Sergeant



Brandy Sulewski
Bravo Company FRG Leader

Dear Barbarian Families and Friends,

Happy August! I don't know about back there, but the time seems to be flying by really fast here. It's an average of 115 degrees these days and we all wish we had a pool here (or maybe a big, clean lake). There are a bunch of lakes in Iraq, but they're not clean and swimming parties aren't too conducive to good order and discipline while on patrol. But it's starting to get cooler out...

The Barbarians continue to impress at all levels and I continue to be proud of their extraordinary work. It doesn't matter how long you've been here, you never know all the right answers and you can never stop training to get ahead of the enemy. We've recently spent a lot of our free time training on the FOB, trying to master some security fundamentals and exercising some tough scenarios for the leaders. I've seen some great results, and the Barbarians keeps getting better.

Attacks have been lower this month. There's a steady flow of indirect fire onto the FOB at night, but it usually lands far away. One of B Co's efforts is Operation Total Recall, which consists of inserting teams in an area to engage the enemy should they fire rockets toward the FOB at night. One of the hardest parts to this operation is getting the teams inserted uncompromised. Unfortunately, there are plenty of curious people and a ton of barking dogs that make any secret movement almost impossible. Also, we recently surged out into the city to prevent VBIEDs (car bombs) from going off by doing a lot of random traffic control points in the city and screening cars. Our actions were successful, but as I've said before – the enemy gets a say eventually. A VBIED went off in a market area (only the 2nd VBIED we've seen on our watch), injuring one of our partners. 4th PLT responded to the chaos first and they managed everything extremely well.

At the beginning of the month, 3rd PLT took Brigadier General Donahue, a Deputy Commanding General in 3rd ID, out to Qoria to introduce him to the awesome police station there. It was a great visit and 3rd PLT displayed our tactical expertise and fantastic partnership directly to Division.

While we're getting after the enemy every day, we're also focusing a lot on the relief in place (RIP) with the incoming unit and our own redeployment. This means doing a lot of administrative paperwork, like awards, evaluation reports, and leave forms. We're also organizing all our equipment to begin packing our containers and to begin inventories for the property hand-over. And on top of all that, we're seeking to re-energize our partnerships with our Iraqi Police brothers in order to facilitate a smoother RIP with the incoming unit. Frankly, it's a lot of work, but it's well worth the end-state of having a professional RIP to set the new guys up for success, and more importantly, getting home safely and healthy to reset our operations.

On a larger picture, it's quite amazing what we've done here, really. GEN Odierno, the commander of all forces in Iraq, said a year ago that his biggest concern was the situation in Kirkuk and how unstable it was. Here we are after 8 months of operations and GEN Odierno doesn't mention Kirkuk anymore because we have made the area so stable with our efforts here. And of course, the word is out – plenty of other units in northern Iraq routinely call our Battalion and the Barbarians asking for help with their own operations.

At the end of July, we said goodbye to 1st (Red) Platoon. Even though the other platoons benefited by getting 7-8 Soldiers from 1st PLT to help beef up their numbers, it was a hard decision to make because 1st PLT has been such a great team (from EIB in Dec 2008 until now). They worked extremely well together and they accomplished my intent every day. 1LT Raines and SFC Brown built an amazing organization, and they will both be missed a great deal in the company. I am sad to see 1st PLT no longer together, but I am excited that the former 1st PLT Soldiers will make their new platoons even better.

I hope everyone continues to have fun back home. A few reminders: check out the Barbarian Facebook page for the latest pictures and stories. Also, remember that September 1st is the cut-off for mail, so if there's any birthdays or special events around that time, please send stuff early. I hope everyone back there is doing great. We're inching toward redeployment one day at a time and despite the incredible amount of tasks it'll take to get home, we're doing well. Please don't hesitate to contact Brandy or me if there's anything you need. Cheers - CPT Rhodes.



Commander's Update

Greetings to the entire Cobra Family,

It brings me great pleasure to be able to write my first newsletter as the commander of Cobra Company. I have been on board now for a few weeks and have settled in as your new commander. It took a few days but I have spent time out with all the platoons while they conduct missions and occupy their checkpoints, and every time they have shown how successful they are. My wife JoAnn and I are very happy to be here, and have both hit the ground running. I have great leadership around me and have no doubt that we will stay successful through the end of this deployment.

Although new to Cobra Company, JoAnn and I have been at Fort Stewart since October 2008, where we previously were in 3-7 Cavalry in our same Brigade. I commanded their headquarters troop from October 2008 until May 2010. After being refreshed from leave, I came back, packed my stuff, and flew to FOB Warrior and joined Cobra Company. Coincidentally, I worked with Cobra Company during our Spartan Focus training exercise and then again at the National Training Center, so I was already familiar with most of the key leaders and the great reputation of this company. With 1LT Murphy and SGT Ryckman getting us through a pretty painless change of command property changeover, I took charge of the company and CPT Cory Wallace, who thought he was doomed to desk duty, was pleasantly surprised with another command opportunity in my old unit, being given command of D Troop, 3-7 Cavalry. It is a small world sometimes.

Into the month of August, Cobra and your loved ones still find themselves protecting the city through a series of jointly manned checkpoints and partnering with the police districts on the eastern side of Kirkuk. Lately our operations as a part of the battalion's overall efforts have seen some great successes in detaining many warranted individuals. Even better, the Iraqi's conducted some of these operations with little of our help, which is ultimately our goal. Attacks on US forces and the FOB are decreasing, and although much work in the political spectrum is to be done, Kirkuk is considered to be a big success story when relatively compared to other cities in Iraq. The successes of the Iraqi Security Forces have been noticed and envied across all of Iraq, especially considering all the ethnic diversity they have to face here.

With the Army meeting its reenlistment goals for 2010, Soldiers have been waiting for October to come around and reenlist. The fact that we have a list of known Soldiers who are planning to reenlist is just another example of their unselfish service and the positive atmosphere in this battalion. The leadership here works very hard to try and get as close to what each Soldier wants as their next assignment and duty position, along with any bonuses that may be available. I am very fortunate and grateful to be here, and I appreciate all the support you give us and your patience in waiting for our lengthy return. Hang in there, and I look forward to meeting all the families of Cobra Soldiers, with my wife JoAnn getting quite a head start on me before I get back.

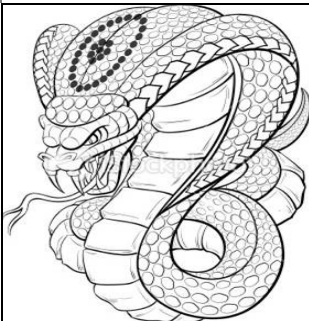
-CPT Aaron J. Kuykendall, Cobra 6



CPT Aaron Kuykendall
Company Commander



1SG John Hamilton
First Sergeant



JoAnn Kuykendall
Charlie Company FRG
Leader



CPT Kuykendall and 1LT Murphy enjoy some Cobra Company Cake after the Change of Command.



DRAGONS

Commander's Update



CPT Gary Whidden
Company Commander



1SG Marlon Knight
First Sergeant



Alli Whidden
Delta Company FRG Leader

Family, friends, and loved ones of Dragon Company,

I hope this letter finds you all well and in good spirits. By the time you have read this, all of your Dragon Soldiers will have taken leave and the Company will be at full strength for the first time since January. This is yet another significant milestone in the deployment because it means that we all have our sights on finishing the mission and returning home to you. I recently just returned home from 15 days of R&R. Although I was home, my mind never completely left Iraq. I was constantly asking myself a litany of questions—“Were the men safe? Has our mission changed? How is the Company running? How is troop morale?”. I found this constant longing to know how everything was going and how everyone was doing to be somewhat frustrating and taxing. About a week into my leave, my executive officer, CPT Freeman, sent me an email that said both the men and the Company were doing well. Upon reading it, I felt instant gratification and a sense of relief. It was also at this point that I made the startling discovery that the feelings that I had felt up until receiving that email was just a small taste of the emotional roller coaster that our loved ones go through over the course of a deployment. Words cannot express the amount of admiration I have for what you all go through every day. You hold down the fort for us so that we can concentrate fully on our mission here. I thought it would be appropriate to share with you “The Army Wives Seal”. The Seal was created to honor the Army wife; however, I think many of its principals can be applied to not only wives, but anyone that has a loved one in the military. Thanks for all of your love and support!

Warmest Regards,
Captain Gary Whidden
D/I-30 IN
“NO SLACK!”



The Army Wives Seal

The eagle at the top of the circle represents the Army Wife, who in protecting her nest, also protects the flag and the future it represents. Alert and poised, she is ready to defend either when the need arises.

As the ultimate goal of her husband's profession is peace, so it is hers. The olive branch held by the eagle represents this peace; her hope for an end to wars for her husband and her children.

The lyre, symbol of harmony, gentility and romance, surrounds the four phases of her life that she holds dear. The cradle represents her children, her Mother - her own Motherhood. The sheaf of wheat represents the staples and stability she provides for her family - her duty. The grapes represent the social life, the wine, fun, sense of humor - her lighter side. The open book represents her individuality and personal self-fulfillment thru knowledge and wisdom. The person she is and becomes - her personal self.

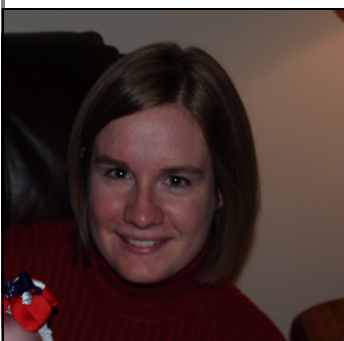
The double circle enclosing all is her wedding band, symbol of eternity and never ending love. This circle is broken only by the eagle, here a symbol of her duty to country. For the Army Wife, the break in the circle represents the many separations and the possible ultimate sacrifice.



CPT John Johannes
Company Commander



SFC Nakia Snell
First Sergeant



Erin Johannes
Echo Company FRG Leader

Commander's Update

Greetings E Company Families and Friends,

We are right at the two month mark to get home, and I know everyone is excited. Our redeployment will be a little bit different than the rest of 1-30 IN. We will redeploy with 2-3 BTB (who we are attached to) from Mosul. Please keep flexible and remember that what you heard from your friend in A or B Company doesn't necessarily apply to us. Please ensure that your Soldier updates his chain of command with changes to Spouse or Family address phone changes immediately. If you can't get through his thick nugget, you can contact the FRG Leader, Erin Johannes (e.1.30.frg@gmail.com) directly.

E Company continues to great work here in Mosul. SSG Petty was named the 2-3 BTB NCO of the Month for July. I had the honor of promoting the now SPC Bauer, SPC French (F/26 BSB), SPC Lambert, SPC Purvis, and SPC Maxfield. SPC Hooker (F/26 BSB) also reenlisted to become a 15U, Chinook Mechanic. The individuals of this unit definitely make it great. Your Soldiers put in a lot of extra work to better themselves and it shows with all of the individual achievements on this deployment.

The three line platoons are still working on driving the tires off their route clearance vehicles. They continue to clear the routes each night to make the roads safer for everyone. The line platoons are also gearing up for a company Squad Sapper Stakes competition. The six squads will compete against each other. The events will all be based on engineer tasks, some that we don't get to use so much anymore. There will be a best overall squad, best NCO, and best Soldier awards.

A&O has been very busy. SGT Oliver's crew has been spending about a week at a time away from the company working on checkpoints around the city. They are improving the perimeters and safety measures around living areas for the Soldiers that live at the checkpoints. They are receiving praise from all sides and definitely deserve it. They are doing great.

Again, we're getting very close. Keep listening to the FRG and the Rear D for the most up to date info on redeployment.

CPT Johannes



Warrior Company Soldiers from 3rd Platoon prepare for the weapons lane on the Sapper Stakes competition.



SPC Hooker of Warrior Company is given the Oath of Reenlistment at COS Marez.



WARLORDS

Commander's Update



CPT Samuel Wiggins
Company Commander

Hello Warlord Families!

Soldiers are getting excited as Fox Company closes out yet another extremely hot and busy month of summer here in Kirkuk and slides a little closer to redeployment in October. The month of July flew by as there were many missions, events, and celebrations. On the operations side, some highlights include LTG Cone visit to Combined Check Point (CCP) one, partnerships, logistical patrols, and maintenance operations. As for entertainment, FOB Warrior kicked off the 4th of July festivities with a 5K run, a Soap Box Derby, and several other events. Later in the month several entertainers performed at FOB Warrior; these included the Air Force Jazz Band, the Four Horseman of the Arockalypse of the 31D, and rapper JaRule.



1SG David Taylor
First Sergeant

On 23 July, Lieutenant General Robert Cone, Deputy Commanding General of United States Forces and Commanding General of III Corps and Fort Hood, touched down on CCPI's newly renovated HLZ at approximately 1530. LTG Cone, along with his Personal Security Detachment (PSD), were met by CPT Wiggins and SFC Thompkins and escorted to the Command Post where they received a short brief. LTG Cone talked to Soldiers in the Command Post about some of his experiences in the military and asked Soldiers about some of their experiences and background as well. His approachable manor ensured the Soldiers were comfortable and at ease talking to him. After speaking to the NCOs and Soldiers in the Command Post, LTG Cone was escorted to the search area and briefed on the search procedures and daily operations that occur on the CCP. LTG Cone was very impressed with operations at CCPI.

In other news, the Distribution Platoon has been busy with both logistical pushes and security patrols for Key Leader Engagements (KLEs). The platoon continues to support all six CCPs by transporting fuel and other essential supplies and equipment. There seems to always be a transportation need, whether it is backhauling broken equipment for repairs or simply supporting basic CCP needs. Additionally, the platoon has been providing security escorts for KLEs with partnerships and conducting vulnerability assessments at these key partnership locations. These assessments are completed so that the incoming unit will have an understanding of the security at the various locations they will conduct operations.

F Company remains committed to enduring partnerships and hosts events to ensure strong bonds and good relations. On 31 July, Soldiers from the CCPI platoons invited Iraqi Partners CPT Abbas and ILT Jihad onto FOB Warrior. CPT Abbas and ILT Jihad arrived to Warrior early that morning and were escorted to Fox Company's Command Post (CP) where they were greeted by CPT Wiggins and ILT Bush. After the visit to the CP, CPT Abbas and ILT Jihad were taken to FOB's Dining Facility where they sat and ate lunch with CPT Wiggins and Soldiers from Distribution Platoon. CPT Abbas and ILT Jihad enjoyed the lunch and break away from everyday operations. CPT Wiggins and SFC Thompkins later presented both CPT Abbas and ILT Jihad with framed photographs taken during VIP visits at CCPI. One photo was of CPT Abbas with General Odierno and the other of ILT Jihad with LTG Cone.



The F Company Maintenance Team has been extremely busy keeping all vehicles in the battalion operational. The extreme heat is hard on the Battalion's vehicle fleet. With temperatures reaching over 115 degrees, vehicle parts are much more susceptible to damage. Some vehicle systems have to work harder, such as the Air Conditioning systems, and therefore require more frequent maintenance. Supporting the crews with AC is one of the primary missions of the GSE shop. Recharging systems that have leaked out, replacing lines, replacing and rebuilding compressors, replacing fuses, and testing systems are all a part of the shops day to day operations. Although the GSE shop is made up of many Soldiers with many MOS's, SPC Holzendorf is the only AC Technician in the shop and also in the Battalion. Through her expertise and hard work, she has cross-trained and mentored three other Soldiers to help her perform her duties. SPC Holzendorf and team work long days diligently striving to maintain the battalion vehicle's ACs, with an increase in work load to approximately 20 vehicles a week during the summer. The team hasn't missed a beat in keeping the battalion fleet above a 96% Operational Readiness Rate. They truly understand the importance of keeping Soldiers cool while they are out in sector conducting operations in the harshest environments.

Fox Company would like to congratulate the following Soldiers for their promotion to the rank of Specialist: SPC Stirrat, SPC Timmons, SPC Burrus, and SPC Parker were all promoted in July. Many Soldiers have been promoted during this deployment with several more already on the list. SPC Woolridge recently obtained promotable status for Sergeant by attending and passing the promotion board with excellent results. Another highlight, SSG Johnson and SGT Bean were presented coins by Ready 6 for outstanding performance while executing Escalation of Force measures at CCPI. These two NCOs successfully stopped a potential threat from entering the CCP without injury or damage to equipment. Overall, many NCOs and Soldiers are accomplishing great things resulting in mission success.



Laurie Abraham
Fox Company FRG Leader

In closing, all of us here in Kirkuk would like to thank all of our friends and Families back home for your continuous support. Our thanks also goes out to the Family Readiness Group volunteers who have worked hard to make this deployment a huge success both here and back home. Your efforts do not go unnoticed, and we look forward to our return.

Sincerely,
CPT Wiggins



CONTACT INFORMATION

Emergency Numbers

Dial 911

Poison Control Center

1-800-222-1222

American Red Cross

767-4747 (M-F 0800-1630)

1-877-272-7337 (After Duty Hrs)

Winn Army Hospital

Information 435-6965

Appointments 435-6633

Translators 435-6747/6748

Frequently Called Numbers

Post Directory 767-1411

Army Community Service

767-5059

Army Emergency Relief

767-5058

Child Development Center (CYS)

767-3202/3203

Legal 767-5748

Military Family Life Consultants

912-492-6367/6428

912-230-8735

OFF POST 912-230-8425

* When contacting ANY agency, ALWAYS record names of people who provide assistance.

FAMILY READINESS GROUPS

BATTALION FRG ADVISOR

KRISTY CORMIER 912-877-9111/912-432-9464

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BDE Chaplain

Chaplain Summers

912-767-8541

On-Call/After Hours/Weekends

912-767-8667

Family Readiness Support Assistant

Rachael Luna

912-767-7695/315-489-1433

Rachael.luna1@conus.army.mil

www.stewart.army.mil

www.tricare.mil

www.dod.mil/dfas

www.militaryonesource.com

www.armyonesource.com

Other Resources:

Tri-Care: 1-800-444-5445

WIC: 1-800-228-9173

YMCA Hinesville: 368-9622

Family Readiness Center: 767-1257

New Parent Support Program: 767-5036