

the Alpha Leader



A-Btry, 1-377 FAR CPT Nathan King

August 10, 2003

LEADERS OF ALPHA BATTERY

CPT KING -
Battery Commander

CPT KIM -
Rear Detachment
Commander
(910) 432 - 8881 (O)
(910) 303 - 0549 (Cell)

ALISON HURLEY -
FRG Representative
(910) 480 - 0512 (H)
hurleyalijim@earthlink.net

Useful

Information

CLARK HEALTH CLINIC
(910) 907 - 2575

BATTERY WEBSITE
[http://
www.bragg.army.mil/1-
377far/
a_btry_gators.htm](http://www.bragg.army.mil/1-377far/a_btry_gators.htm)

FT. BRAGG WEBSITE
www.ftbragg.com

OTHER HELPFUL SITES
[www.military.com/
deployment](http://www.military.com/deployment)
www.serviceflags.com

CPT King Assumes Command of A/1-377 FAR (AASLT)

Outgoing Commander CPT Barlow to DLI and posting as Foreign Area Officer in Germany

-Mosul, Iraq

On Wednesday evening, 16 July 2003, CPT Mark W. Barlow ended his 24 month command of Alpha Battery by handing the guidon to CPT Nathan King in a traditional

"I look forward to accomplishing any assigned missions and taking each of you home safely when the time comes." CPT King

Change of Command Ceremony. The Gators' Executive Officer, 1LT Benjamin Shepherd, narrated and explained the symbolism of the ceremony as the old and new commanders leadership was evident in the soldiers in front of them, he paused briefly to lead the audience in applauding the battery. He also took the time to reiterate the Gunslingers' mission of "modeling values, training soldiers, and developing leaders."

CPT Barlow, in an emotional speech, thanked everyone he had worked with in his long tenure as Battery Commander. He

reviewed the Gators' accomplishments and the time they shared, including training center rotations, the 720 mile ground attack convoy from Kuwait to Mosul, shooting their howitzers to support the 101st, providing force protection for various military and civilian organizations in Iraq, and the ammo and equipment clean up around Mosul that has collected over 300,000 rounds of small arms, artillery, and other ammo and 400 vehicles and weapons systems.

"To the soldiers of Alpha Battery - You are the reason I am here today. I look at some of you as my sons. I have seen you grow from privates to NCOs and mature from a new kid off the block to a proven combat soldier." He closed his speech by apologizing to his wife, Amy, for all of the time he had to spend away to lead the Gators but that he was now coming home.

The new commander, CPT Nathan King, followed with a very brief speech thanking the Battalion Fire Direction Center personnel, LTC Lear, and his mother. He called CPT Barlow and Amy "inspirations" and said they were leaving big shoes for him to fill. He expressed his respect for and confidence



in the
b a t -
tery.

Above: CPT King, the new Alpha Battery commander, stands in front of the Gators at the conclusion of the ceremony.

The ceremony ended with the battalion lining up to shake CPT Barlow's hand and wish him well. Afterwards, soldiers enjoyed a generous buffet set up in the warehouse to the rear of the assembly area.

CPT Barlow is a native of Boise, ID and will be proceeding to the Defense Language Institute and pursuing a Master's Degree to become a Foreign Area Officer in Germany.

CPT Nathan King, from Fishers, IL received his commission from the ROTC program and undergraduate degree from Indiana University in 1997. His previous assignments in the Battalion include the Assistant S-3 and, just previously, the Fire Direction Officer.



Greetings from CPT King, Mosul

16 July 2003

Families of Gator Battery,

Greetings from Iraq. My name is Nathan King and as of 16 July 2003 at 1830 I am the commander for Alpha Battery. Mark Barlow and myself have completed the changeover for the Battery. I wanted to send you a letter of introduction and report the status of your loved ones deployed here with me.

In the battalion for 19 months now, I have held the Liaison Officer and Battalion Fire Direction Officer positions. I am from Indiana where I went to Indiana University. I spent the first 3 years of my army career at Ft Carson in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Since I am not married, I have accepted the nomination of Alison Hurley to take the position of the Alpha Battery Family Readiness Group (FRG) representative. I would like to thank her for

volunteering for this responsibility and for her help. Alison will have several ladies helping her directly, since this position can be very demanding and at times overwhelming. Alison will be assuming the responsibilities previously held by Amy Barlow, effective 7 August 2003. She has been working with Amy and is more than capable of assisting you with any needs that you may have. If you have anything that requires my assistance or from CPT Kim in the rear detachment, please work with Alison and she will help you.

All of the men of Gator Battery have done an outstanding job throughout this deployment. I will do everything I possibly can to ensure that each soldier returns to you safely and in good health. I am looking forward to my command of the battery and working with each of the soldiers here as well as ensuring that each of you back in the US are taken care of while we are away.

I would like to thank Mark and Amy Barlow for everything they have done for the Battery during the last 2 years. The soldiers and families have had so much success throughout the deployment due to their leadership and devotion to each of us. I wish them lots of luck in California and wherever they may go in the future.

—CPT Nate King



Redeployment Information

In late July, the expected return date of the soldiers from 1-377 FAR (AASLT) was released. The soldiers are to return within the February / March time frame of 2004, along with the 101st.

FRG activities will kick into high gear from here on out. Every spouse, child and extended family member is encouraged to participate in all activities. On page 3, fundraisers and other upcoming events can be found. Mark your calendar and plan on attending! Please contact Alison Hurley if you can volunteer or assist in any activity.

The last ~~Battalion-wide~~ FRG meeting was a huge success. More are planned for the future. A huge thank you to Ann Ice and Bobbie Lear for providing such a great opportunity for all the ladies of the Battalion to have their questions and concerns addressed.

Alpha Battery FRG meetings are held on the first Thursday of every month at 6:30. Attendance has diminished as time has gone by — please support your FRG and



Above: CPT Barlow poses with Alpha Battery after the ceremony.



Dear Alpha wives, families and friends,

I am sure most of you have heard about the change of command that recently took place in Alpha Battery. Due to this change I will be replacing Amy Barlow as the FRG representative for our battery. I know you will agree with me when I say what a wonderful leader and supporter Amy was for our family. Also, I can not say enough about how appreciative I am of all the ladies that I have come to know and the friendships they have extended to me. Also, I am looking forward to meeting those of you that I have not yet had the privilege. Please feel free to call with any question or concern. We are all in this together.

—Alison Hurley



Alison Hurley & Amy Barlow

Upcoming Events

A Military Wife's Prayer

Give me the greatness of heart to see,

The difference between duty and his love for me.

Give me understanding so that I may know,

When duty calls him, he must go.

Give me a task to do each day,

To fill the time when he's away.

When he's in a foreign land,

Keep him safe in your loving hand.

And Lord, when duty is in the field,

Please protect him and be his shield.

And Lord, when deployment is so long,

Please stay with me and keep me strong.

submitted by Monica Walbruch

We will be having a rummage sale on September 13th. Please bring any donated items to the war room in battalion. All unsold items will be taken to goodwill for donation. This will be a BN wide fundraiser to help raise funds for our guy's welcome home victory party. The location of the fundraiser has not yet been determined, if any of you would be willing to volunteer please let me know as soon as possible.

September 25th at 6:30 in the Watters Center we will have

another Battalion wide FRG meeting. We will have a health care representative come to talk with us about how to deal with anxiety and the stress from separations. Also, we will have a representative from Michael's crafts to work on small craft projects with the children. In order for Michael's to prepare adequately, please let me know as soon as possible if you plan to attend and how many children you will have with you.

We are also in the beginning stages of planning a fall festival

for around the beginning of November. We would like for the event to be centered toward our children. If you have any suggestions or ideas, we would love to hear them.

—Alison Hurley



| September | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------|---------|-----------|--|-----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
| | | 1 | 2 | 3 | A-Btry, FRG Meeting 6:30 War Room | 5 |
| | | | | | | 6 Rummage Sale |
| 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 | 11 | 12 | |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | Battalion-wide FRG Meeting 6:30 Watters Center | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 | | | | |

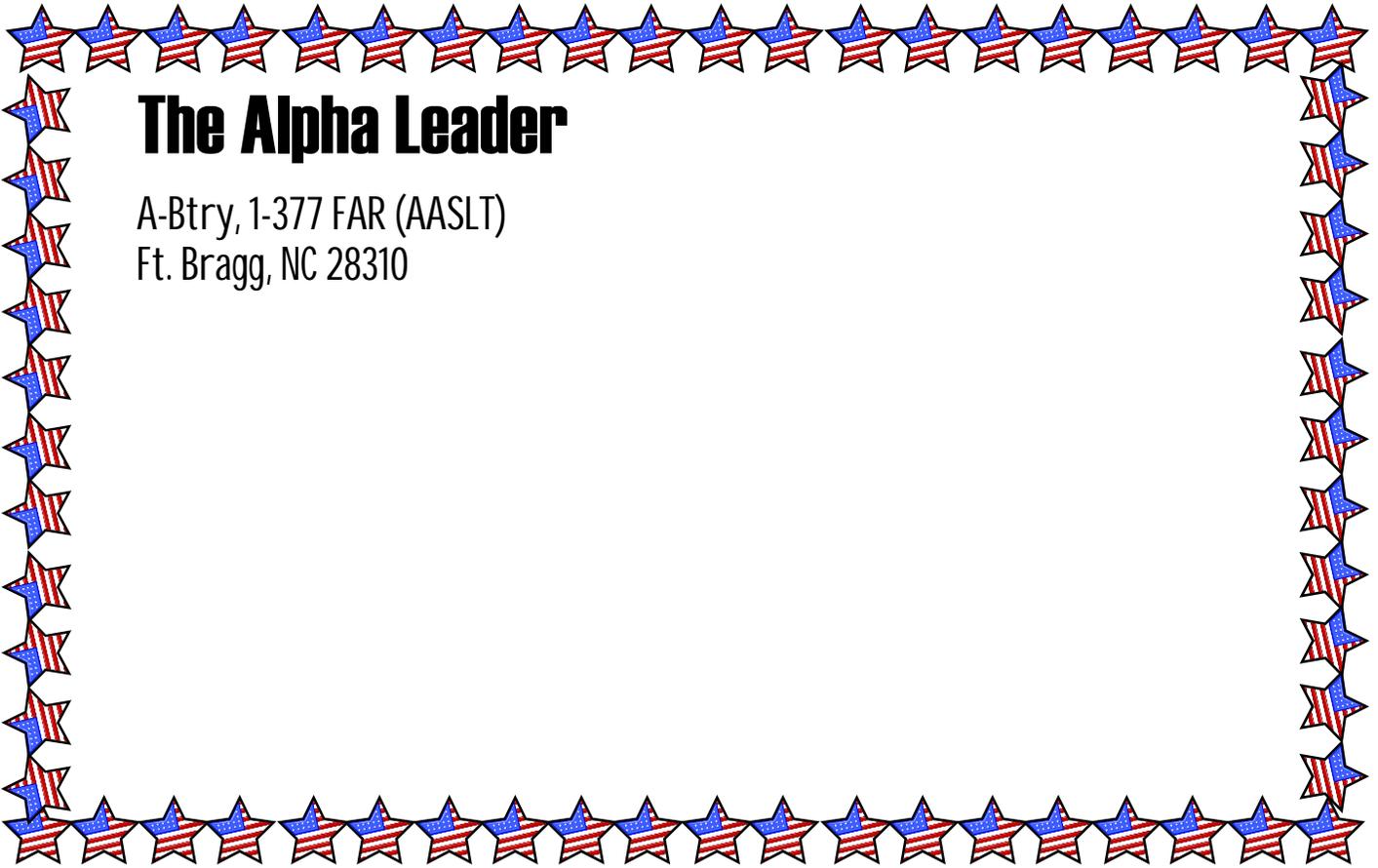
A Word of Thanks to our Volunteers

As a battalion we raised \$774.98 dollars at our last fundraiser held at JFK school. We then split the money three ways between the batteries. This gave Alpha \$258.32 to use for leadership expenses reimbursement, childcare at some meetings and other ways we vote to spend it. A big Gator thanks to all those who helped especially Monica Walbruch, Jennifer Henderson and Joy King. This fundraiser would not have been as successful without your help!

Money raised at each function will go toward a Victory Party in honor of the soldiers in our battalion upon their return home, as well into the general fund of Alpha Battery.

With other opportunities on the horizon for all of us to volunteer our time, we must also recognize that these are opportunities to share in fellowship with one another; the support of other wives is invaluable during this deployment.





The Alpha Leader

A-Btry, 1-377 FAR (AASLT)
Ft. Bragg, NC 28310

The Alpha Leader

DID YOU KNOW?

- * Alpha Battery soldiers have a microwave
- * Alpha Batter soldiers can boil water
- * An Internet Cafe has been established for Alpha Battery's use
- * Digital copies of pictures of Alpha Batter soldiers are available by calling, emailing or writing Alison Hurley
- * Suggestions or comments regarding the newsletter and/or articles for the newsletter can be emailed to Alison Hurley
- * Donations for the benefit of the Alpha Leader can be sent to :
Alison Hurley 3375 Galleria Drive Apt. 27 Fayetteville, NC 28303
- * Unit pins (as shown below) are now available. Just contact Alison!

