



# 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM NEWSLETTER



Dear Family and Friends of the All American's,

As the Division expands its influence in the Al Anbar province of Iraq our successes mount. We engage the enemy on our terms and hit them with everything we've got. The troopers of this Division are relentless in their pursuit the enemy. We will go to where they hide, we will find them, and we will destroy them.

We are winning! Everyday troopers of the great 82D Airborne Division make a direct impact on the well-being of the average Iraqi. Everyday our paratroopers give their full measure to stamp out the influence of those who would attempt to destroy the unique opportunity the average Iraqi now has - - to live free, under a government representative of their needs, goals, and potential. In every region that we operate, we have seen immediate and posi-

see that more often than not it is the Iraqi police who are first on the scene when duty calls. We work tirelessly to coordinate and execute numerous upgrades and improvements to those critical systems necessary for a stable Iraqi society. We will return to Iraq much better nation than the one into which we arrived and one capable of meeting the needs of its people.

Our accomplishments are many and with the completion of each project another Iraqi social or governmental system is on its way to self sufficiency. Improvements to public utility systems, advice to the leaders within the Iraqi political and legal systems, structural improvements to 70 mosques, and projects to improve over 95 Iraqi schools serving over 68,000 students are just a few examples of the good that we are doing every day. This is an enormous undertaking and your paratroopers make history with their every action - -

great Americans one and all. They truly represent with distinction this great Division's motto as "America's Guard of Honor."

Our superb safety record continues and I will emphasize the critical need for safety to be factored into each mission and all activities executed by the Division. I have underwritten any paratrooper who stops an action that he deems unsafe. Safety and force protection will continue to be our highest priorities.



tive changes in the quality of life of the Iraqi people. We have made a substantial and measurable difference in the lives of the Iraqi people and we have provided what many Iraqis have never experienced - - Freedom!

We are not an occupation force; we are here to provide the Iraqi people time to achieve the equilibrium necessary to ensure stability and success. We are in the process of standing up the New Iraqi Army and reintegrating the Iraqi police force. These fundamental institutions are critical to the long term success of Iraq and we now

Your efforts in support of our paratroopers have enabled us to focus on our mission. The significant sacrifices made on your part are always in our thoughts. You maintain those things we hold closest to our hearts - - our family, home, and way of life. I realize the challenges you face on a daily basis and I want to thank you for everything you do for the All Americans.

**TROOPERS FIRST, MISSION ALWAYS!**

**Charles H. Swannack, Jr.**  
**Commanding General, 82D Airborne Division**



**CSM Wolf Amacker  
Command Sergeant Major  
82D Airborne Division**

Dear Families and Friends of the All American Division, Airborne! The All American's are doing great things on behalf of our Nation. Everyday our troopers go into harms way and perform their duties with pride and distinction. We have the enemy on the run and our paratroopers will not let up! You should be very proud of your husbands, wives, sons, and daughters because they are making a real difference in Iraq; I certainly am.

Our living conditions improve with each passing day and we will not stop improving and upgrading until the day we leave. The way every paratrooper measures how good they have it when deployed is getting better...better chow, better living areas, more Morale Welfare and Recreation activities, and more opportunities to communicate with loved ones back home. We will continue to make things better for ourselves and for anyone who follows us.

We will leave Iraq a better place than we found not only for ourselves, but for the Iraqi people. Your loved ones are making a difference for the average Iraqi every day. Our projects to improve schools, mosques, the power supply, rail operations, and basic public services are happening now! It is hard to argue that things are not improving when you stand in a school yard with children who have the supplies they need to learn and teachers excited to teach them. The success of our mission here is tied in the most fundamental way with success of young Iraqis. The Iraqis that don't want us here are a small minority.

I continue to receive compliments on the caliber



of the paratroopers in the 82D Airborne Division. We operate with incredibly high standards of conduct, performance, and professionalism and our actions have been noticed. It is clear to all that the 82D Airborne Division is on the ground and making things happen. I accept each compliment knowing that it isn't me, but your loved ones who are truly earning this reputation.

Mail service continues to improve, but we are



entering into the holiday season and it will be important that you send packages forward before November 15th to give them the best chance of arriving before Christmas.

We just had our first cold snap and temperatures dropped below 50 degrees overnight. The change was a welcome one and I think a lot of us were glad to have to break out our snivel gear. We expect temperatures to continue to get cooler and we are now out of the hot season and approaching the coolest part of the year.

Improvements in phone and internet access for morale calls are underway, but we will always have limitations given our austere location and limited infrastructure. Troopers will still be challenged in their effort to get access to phones and the internet and normal mail delivery is the most reliable method to pass information back to Fort Bragg. We will continue to make improvements and do everything in our power to provide our paratroopers with the ability to call home.

Your contributions to our success here are significant, measurable, and have not been underestimated. I want to thank you for all that you are doing for us and let you know that at the end of every day the last thing most of us think of is the most important thing - - our loved ones. The sacrifices you are making and the sacrifices made over here will ensure our long term safety. I am proud beyond words to be associated with the men and women of this great team and I know you are too.

ATW!

CSM Wolf Amacker

82D Airborne Division Command Sergeant Major



505th PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT

# Task Force Panther



**Colonel Jefforey Smith**  
**Commanding Officer, 505th PIR**

Dear Family and Friends of Task Force Panther,

Greetings from TF Panther in Iraq. We have just begun the month of Ramadan - the Islamic holy month. In recognition of this season, we are working to promote greater understanding and appreciation of the Iraqi Muslim culture. Each member of the task force received a class on the significance of Ramadan to the Muslim culture. In the spirit of building stronger ties with the local population, our Civil Military Operations forces have focused on improving the conditions of the local mosques in our towns.

During Ramadan, we still remain focused on disrupting hostile elements and creating a safe environment through out Iraq. Combat operations continue, but nation building is also growing in importance. Slowly but steadily, we find more and more of our time and effort devoted to restoring basic services, mentoring local councils, developing a political system, teaching the New Iraqi Security Forces how to secure their country and cities, and developing the economy through promoting local businesses. In the world of economics, business, and banking, we've

recently begun supporting the exchange of Iraqi currency as they transition to the new Dinar.

The units continue to focus on quality of life improvements at their FOBs. As our stay progresses, so does the "affluence" of our surroundings. Our AAFES PX is open at FOB St Mere providing a limited amount of personal consumption items. At FOBs



Chosin and St. Michael, the battalions operate their own AAFES PXs. The Kellogg, Brown and Root (KBR) dining facility is open for business on FOB St Mere providing food service to five of our seven Battalions. The KBR dining facility provides a greater variety of meal choices and side dishes. The Platoon R&R Site is operational and soon will be the "home" of two platoons at a time. As part of the continuing improvements at the site, the swimming pool has just opened. The site also includes weight lifting equipment, wide screen TVs, sodas and snack foods, and a basketball court.

On 2 November we will begin sending soldiers on 4 day passes to the theater R&R facility in Qatar. Slots for this program are very limited, so not everyone will get an opportunity to go on pass.



We are one step closer to receiving and installing our internet cafes. We sent soldiers to training last week to learn to set up and maintain the computer and phone packages. These packages will include telephone services that will allow soldiers to call home using phone calling cards. Such systems will allow soldiers to call more than the 10 minutes currently authorized per week. Plus, the systems will be more reliable, provide better quality, and will be more accessible to all soldiers. We hope to have these systems up and running in time for the holidays.

The members of the brigade combat team continue to see improvements in our zone. With each week we see more cooperation with local Iraqi leaders and the population. More importantly we continue to defeat enemy and destabilizing forces. With each week, we add to our list of enemy detained or killed. We intend to build on these successes as we move towards mission accomplishment - and our return to you, our friends and families, who are constantly in our thoughts.

H-Minus!  
COL Smith



325th AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT

# Task Force Falcon



**Colonel Kurt Fuller**

**Commanding Officer, 325th AIR**

Dear Falcon families,

The month of October rapidly descended upon us and seems to have passed just as fast as it arrived. The Falcons continue to make a difference in Baghdad and have made a positive lasting impact on the lives and security of the 1.4 million people of Southern Baghdad.

Last week, I had the privilege to address the ninth graduating class of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corp training company on a base many miles away from Baghdad. In my remarks I reminded these new patriots not to fear the changes they would encounter as Iraq transforms. As I reflected on this point, I was reminded that it was not that long ago that our country experienced some of the challenges that all Iraq will face in the coming weeks and months. There are many parallels between Iraq today and the US of yesterday. Both countries experienced two major wars and had to recover from a depressed economy. Although the circumstances that brought about these predicaments are different, the resolve and effort required of these nations' people to recover and prosper remain the same.

The US had to overcome the fear of other nations impinging upon our national sovereignty, gen-



eral hopelessness, and we had to learn to tolerate the differences of other people in order to make general improvements for the opportunities for all people. We did as President Roosevelt said, "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself." The recent attacks in Iraq were designed to cause fear here in Iraq and abroad, but the people that engineered these attacks will never win,





as long as good people of the world stand together across the globe and fight this evil. The Iraqi people will overcome these cowardly acts. The children of Iraq will prosper with the aide of our troopers.

This is what the Falcons and the troopers of the Brigade Combat Team represent. We understand these parallels. We understand the challenges and we recognize that changes in Iraq will occur one block,

one district, and one city at a time. You should know that your husbands, wives, sons, and daughters are the driving force behind these great historic changes. We are proud of our small, but significant role in this fight against terrorism. We will win!

Finally, we will never forget our fallen comrades. These troopers paid the ultimate price and we are forever grateful for their service and contribution to our great nation. They will always have a place in our hearts.



Airborne! Let's Go! All the way!



# 319th AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT

## Loyalty



### Colonel Scott Thein Commanding Officer, 319th AFAR

Dear Friends and Family of the DIVARTY,

Paratroopers of the 319th continue to perform their assigned missions with outstanding results. We remain fully engaged in our three missions: Base Operations, Consolidation of Enemy Ammunition, and Civil Military Affairs. The 21st Chemical Company and 234th Field Artillery Acquisition Detachment continue to be task organized under the DIVARTY. In addition we are working closely with the 41st Field Artillery Brigade out of Germany, and the 307th Engineer Battalion from Fort Bragg.



"Paratroopers waiting in the rigger shed prior to departing Ft. Bragg"

1-319th continues to provide outstanding support to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT) in both combat operations and their Civil Military Affairs efforts. 2-319th continues to support 2nd BCT in combat operations under the control of 1st Armored Division in and around Baghdad. HHB, 319th AFAR remains fully engaged in the Base Operations of Champion Base while simultaneously supporting both the Consolidation of Enemy Ammunition and Civil Military Affairs missions.

With the variety of missions being performed by the paratroopers of DIVARTY it is easy to overlook the impact of our efforts. To shed more light on the types of tasks being performed by our troopers we intend to highlight one mission per newsletter. The selected mission this month is Consolidation of Enemy ammunition (CEA).

Throughout Iraq and the Al Anbar province there are literally hundreds of ammunition storage points or ASPs. These ASPs are the remnants of the failed Saddam Hussein regime. In his paranoia Saddam stockpiled thou-



"Officers of the DIVARTY Staff in front of an ammunition bunker at Rock ASP"

sands of tons of munitions of all types. One of the missions that DIVARTY is tasked with is the assessment and consolidation of these dangerous munitions.

The first step in this process is the assessment of the ASPs to determine the type and amount of the ordnance stored there. The DIVARTY Staff plans the assessment mission and hands the plan to the 21st Chemical Company. 21st Chemical Company along with troopers from DIVARTY, and several U.S. civilian firms conduct the assessment and provide a detailed listing of the munitions found there and a diagram of the ASP. Once the assessment is completed, the site is scheduled for reduction. Loading and transporting the munitions to a consolidation site accomplish the reduction. The soldiers of the 41st Field Artillery Brigade, along with newly contracted local Iraqi workers, currently accomplish this task. At the consolidation site, the ordnance is inventoried, sorted and stored pending destruction. U.S. civilians with DIVARTY oversight are handling the bulk of this task.



"DIVARTY paratroopers next to an SA-6"

This mission is critical to the success of the 82d Airborne Division, and all U.S. and coalition forces. Removal and destruction of these dangerous explosives leads to making the Al Anbar a safer place for the Division's paratroopers conducting other missions as well as making it a safer place for the families that call Al Anbar home.



"Paratroopers in the craters from a daisy-chained IED"

DIVARTY paratroopers continue to accomplish every mission with the utmost professionalism and enthusiasm. We are proud of our accomplishments to date, and continue to work towards our goal of providing a better life for the people of the Al Anbar province. We are especially thankful for all of the support of our friends and families.



"Assessment team taking inventory of ammunition at an ASP"



"Paratroopers staying fit in the DIVARTY area"

We wish our families and our fellow paratroopers of 3-319th the best during the approaching holiday season. We have much to be thankful for over the course of this last year. We have been extremely fortunate with the safe return of our troopers from numerous deployments. Our thoughts are with the families of those paratroopers who have given their lives in order to make the world a safer place. While we wish we were able to be at home with our families, we have the best alternative by sharing Thanksgiving with our family here.

Michael W. Williams  
CSM, U. S. Army  
Command Sergeant Major

Scott E. Thein  
COL, U. S. Army  
Commanding



"Convoy heading into the sunset in Iraq"



# 82D AVIATION BRIGADE

## Task Force Pegasus



### Colonel Scott Wiggins Commanding Officer, 82D AVN BDE

With the lack of trees here and the temperatures still hovering around the mid 90s one could almost forget that Fall has arrived back home. Time sure has flown and the members of Task Force Pegasus have settled into Forward Operating Base (FOB) Ridgway and steady state operations. Steady state refers to those tasks that we perform day in and day out. Although each day brings with it unique challenges the members of Task Force Pegasus have met each challenge head on and produced brilliant results.



As I mentioned in my earlier newsletter development of the Life Support Area (LSA) is in full swing. Just last week the barbershop, and unit run AFFES opened. The living tents are on-site and ready for set-up. Each and everyday quality of life gets better. Just yesterday they off-loaded the new shower trailers. It was interesting to watch the members of the task force do a walk through inspection of the trailers as if they were potential homebuyers. Needless to say the thought of a short walk to warm showers raised morale to an all time high. Many of the units here have satellite television and have been following the baseball playoffs despite the change in time zones. Kudos goes out to the dining facility folks who served steak and eggs for breakfast. Don't get me wrong I'm not advocating that we eat steak every night but I do know that if don't watch yourself you will gain weight here.



On behalf of all the members of Task Force Pegasus I want to thank each and every one of you for your dedicated support. The cards, letters and packages you send absolutely make a difference in the lives of our soldiers. Whenever possible I like to position myself right outside the mailroom when a new batch of mail arrives. To watch soldier's face when they receive mail reminds me of my son's expression as he receives a package on Christmas Day.



I am extremely proud of our soldiers and all that they have accomplished in fighting this war on terrorism. As I have stated many times this nation can stand proud in the fact that the members of Task Force Pegasus are helping to make Iraq a better place for the Iraqi people. Please be sure and keep us in your prayers. All the way!

Pegasus 06



# Division Support Command Task Force Provider



## Colonel Glen Takemoto Commanding Officer, DISCOM

To our DISCOM Family,

The majority of the DISCOM is now supporting Task Force All American from here at Forward Operating Base Ridgway, but we also have DISCOM troopers spread throughout Iraq and Kuwait ensuring the All American's are receiving world class support. In fact, we now have our railhead and runway operational and are now moving supplies by air, rail, and ground!



As I mentioned last month, FOB Ridgway is very austere and had been bombed and looted prior to our arrival. We're working hard to overcome the harsh conditions here and improve the quality of life for our troopers at all of our camps. At the end of October/beginning of November we will have an internet café in place. In the last two weeks we have opened a small impress fund PX, set up another shower point, continued building tent cities with air-conditioning, began laying gravel for dust abatement, and continued our emphasis on force protection and security in and around our location.

Again, thank you for your continued support to our paratroopers knowing that you are behind makes all the difference and a special thanks to our great family readiness group volunteers, we could not do what we do without you. I can attest to you that every package and letter is truly appreciated, it is like



Christmas at mail call. Speaking of Christmas, packages should be mailed NLT 15 November to arrive here in time.

All the way, Airborne!

GLENN H. TAKEMOTO  
COL, QM  
Commanding





# 307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Wehr  
Commanding Officer



From Champion Base

To the friends, families and alumni of the All American Engineers, thank you for your continued support as we contribute to the 82nd Airborne Division team. Your husbands, wives, sons, daughters, and friends carry on the heritage of "Maintaining the Right" across the globe. Our Family Readiness Group, Rear Detachment, and Alpha Company with 1st Platoon of 618th Light Equipment (LE) Company remind us of the loved ones and airborne operations that await us at Fort Bragg upon return from deployment. Bravo Company, with a few members of HHC and 2nd Platoon of 618th LE Company, all approaching 9 months of deployment in Iraq, represent the tenacity and strength of our leaders and soldiers. Charlie Company, HHC, the balance of 618th LE Company, and our attached A Company of 27th Engineer Battalion, all form the team in direct support of the most recent deployment of the 82nd Airborne Division in Iraq. If it's hard to picture all that integrated engineer support, just remember that each of you have an instrumental role in making it all work. The following narrative lists just a few examples of how your contributions continue to build the legacy of the 307th Engineer Battalion, the 618th LE Company, and A Company of the 27th Engineer Battalion over the month of October, 2003.



Friends, Families, and Alumni: Your support has been tremendous. Boxes, letters, emails, 307En Family Web page postings, and the occasional phone conversations; each keep us motivated. No one can simply summarize the impact you have, but I can assure you that the life of each individual soldier changes for the better with every form of contact made with you. It is noticeable on their

faces, in their actions, and in the effectiveness of the team they are a part of. To highlight one of our alumni that's back in theater, Brigadier General Bo Temple is now serving as the senior engineer in Iraq for Coalition Joint Task Force - 7. He served most of his career within the 307th, finishing his command of the battalion back in 1995. In a recent discussion he relayed that the strength of the battalion resides in the soldiers, spouses, families, friends and alumni. One of the best opportunities that we can all look forward to for sharing our experiences will be a battalion level organizational day that will occur sometime between redeployment and All American Week this spring.

CPT Brent Legreid has held down the fort on Rear Detachment at Fort Bragg with the help of 1SG Simon of Alpha Company. CPT Mike Kovacs will take the lead



starting in November. The team at Bragg continues to do amazing work. They dedicate their efforts with the Family Readiness Group, provide a battalion level of effort for A Co's mission assumption, and sustain & prepare the functioning systems of the battalion for when our companies start to re-deploy. It takes months of planning to synchronize the schedule and resources for our battalion to function again at Fort Bragg. They are working all three areas at once.

Alpha Company has prepared itself for their mission assumption as part of the Division Ready Brigade, as well as taking care of the daily tasks at Fort Bragg. They have also conducted readiness training events such as brigade airfield seizures on Sicily Drop Zone during the

October Large Package Week with the 1st Brigade Combat Team (BCT). Their schedule has also included the conduct of ranges, airborne proficiency, soldier readiness preparations, and FRG meetings to welcome new soldiers into the battalion.

Bravo Company truly "Maintains The Right" as they continue to remain deployed in support of 2nd BCT since February. With the company change of command we recognized the tremendous leadership and service that both CPT Dave Fielder and Kathryn provided. The company is in great shape as CPT Jason Borg moves from the Assistant Brigade Engineer to command the company with the family support of his wife, Jessica. The chance to capture the change of command on the video-tele-conference (VTC) was truly motivational for the families at Bragg. Through the strength of the truly awesome Non-Commissioned Officers with 1SG Bezerra at the top, the soldiers continue in their combat operations and their training of others on unexploded ordnance, humanitarian work in the communities, even coming in second in the White Falcon Kickball tournament.

Charlie Company is completely integrated with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. Since arriving in theater, Charlie Company has orchestrated construction at over 4 different forward operating bases. Emplacing force protection in the form of barriers and obstacles has kept them busy. However, like all engineers in country, the ability to improve the quality of life has been a great contribution to the Panther team. "Outside the wire" they have maintained the mobility of routes by locating Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and have improved the local community with construction projects.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company has made a huge impact with soldiers positioned at every division location in theater. Members of the company support B Co with and BCT, C Co with 3rd BCT, 618th in the Division Rear (DREAR), and the battalion headquarters in the Division Main (DMAIN). In addition, the Rear Detachment continues to staff the battalion headquarters at Fort Bragg. A&B Platoon and the team of carpenters attached from A/27th EN run a carpenter shop and self-help work area that allows soldiers here at Champion Main to build walls, shelves, tables, and other additions to their living areas. The Operations cell is managing, coordinating, and conducting missions such as Civil Military Operations (CMO), Captured Enemy Ammunition (CEA) destruction, and Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and minefield tracking for the 82d ABN Area Of Responsibility (AOR).

618th Light Equipment Company is also located across the division. However, elements of every platoon did assemble on October 18th for the change of command between CPT Mike Kovacs and CPT Steve Sucic. Morale was high as the families had the opportunity to observe the ceremony and see their loved ones during the VTC cover-

age of the event. CPT Kovacs and Dawn will continue their great contribution to the battalion while serving on the Rear Detachment Command team back at Fort Bragg. As always, the 618th LE Company provides a unique capability for the 82d Airborne Division. At Fort Bragg, the 1st Platoon prepares to assume mission with A / 307. Out with B / 307 there is a core element of 2nd Platoon lead by SSG Atkinson. C / 307 is a complete team with the heavy equipment and talent of 3rd Platoon. At FOB RIDGWAY the company headquarters with the remainder of 2nd Platoon have done what they do best with the repair of an existing runway.



Alpha Company, 27th Engineer Battalion is a great member of the All American team. They brought with them the unique skills of carpenters, electricians, and plumbers. With a little cross-training they have multiplied their expertise across the 307th Engineer Battalion. With this awesome company, the quality of life across the division is improving daily. Also, they have leveraged their sapper skills against an impressive obstacle emplacement. This has made the Division Rear a little safer for all the soldiers located there. We've learned that we cannot leave Ft. Bragg without something from the 20th Engineer Brigade. Many thanks for their support.

In closing, on behalf of the battalion, thank you again for supporting our paratroopers as they continue to stabilize the country of Iraq and prepare for future encounters. Your service at home continues to motivate all members of the battalion and reinforces the legacy of the battalion.

You are the team that makes it happen,  
Airborne All the Way....  
Sapper 6 and Sapper 7  
LTC Mike Wehr and CSM Steve Stegich



## 3-4 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Airborne) LTC King Commanding Officer



From Guardian City at Forward Operating Base Ridgway.

Greetings to all from Forward Operating Base Ridgway in Iraq. First and foremost I want to thank you for the great support you have given to your sons, daughters, husbands and wives; they are representing you well. As we perform our important mission here and throughout Iraq you are always in our thoughts and prayers. We continue to support division operations with Skystrickers in direct support of the 2nd Brigade Combat team (Falcons) and 3rd Brigade Combat Team (Panthers) and the remaining of the Skystriker battalion providing Base Camp Security at Forward Operating Base Ridgway.



This month we saw the remainder of Bravo Battery link-up with 2nd Brigade Combat Team (Falcons) and move to Forward Operating Base Falcon. It is great to have all of Bravo Battery together, the Bulls were separated for six months and now they are catching up on old times as they become integrated in the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. At Forward Operating Base Ridgway we continue to provide security and improve the quality of life for each trooper. The first week of November we should see the cyber (internet) café, phone banks and new shower facilities open. We are receiving a steady flow of mail and we hope that continues; keep sending letters and packages it is the #1 motivator. Remember that any mail for the holidays should be mailed mid-November to ensure that all paratroopers receive them on time. The holiday season is fast approaching and it can become a depressing time away from home but



your letters and packages are great anti-depressants.

Iraq is still a dangerous place as we conduct our daily missions to defeat those who do not want to see a democratic Iraq free from tyranny. As I conduct weekly visits to the local villages and communicate with them they are extremely glad we are here and are reaping the benefits of our presence. I have been able to see and understand the true impact of our presence in this country, and it makes all of us value family, home and all of the freedoms associated with living in the land of the free and home of the brave. As we develop a plan to sponsor one of the local villages in our area we may ask for some assistance from home there will be more to follow as we develop our plan. The troops are very excited about the opportunity to assist the Iraqi people and improving their way of lives by assisting in improving their schools and making their environment safe.

As we approach the Thanksgiving season all of us will be having visions of turkey, cranberry sauce, pumpkin pie, football games and all of the other fixings and we ask that you say a special prayer for the troops and know that you will be in our thoughts. We will be on guard doing our nations work and know that we are performing an important mission. Enjoy the beginning of a great Holiday season and thanks for all that you do. It is indeed an honor and privilege to serve with your sons, daughters, husbands and wives.

God's Speedy Blessings,  
Airborne, All the Way.....By Daring Deeds!!!  
Skystriker 6



## 82D Signal Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Crawford  
Commanding Officer



Greetings and "Happy Halloween" to all members of the All American Signal Family. Our troopers continue to perform magnificently as they go about the business of serving our Nation here in Iraq. Over the last month, Command Sergeant Major Hammonds and I have had the opportunity to visit just about every location inhabited by our troopers and I'm happy to report that "morale remains high and our resolve remains steadfast". Their level of motivation is uplifting as they go about the business of providing tactical communications support to this Great Division. Our troopers have continued to perform in a manner that makes us proud to be in their presence.



Quality of life for our troopers is at the forefront of my mind and the minds of the leadership of this battalion. The mail is averaging about 10-14 days for delivery. However, during the holiday season we recommend that you mail all packages no later than 15 November to ensure delivery before Christmas. The living conditions are improving with each day as almost all units now have added laundry service and satellite telephone calling capability to the list of available services. Although it has not materialized as quickly as I would have liked, the "internet café" capability is just weeks away. My intent is to have it available to all locations prior to the Thanksgiving Day.

Throughout the history of this great Nation we have recognized many heroes when our armed forces have been called upon to support and defend our way of life. This deployment is no exception; The only difference is that the heroes that I'd like to recognize are the families and friends of the many troopers that are deployed here in Iraq or have recently redeployed from Afghanistan. For all that you do, from the 600 paratroopers of the All American

Signal Battalion, I thank you.

I've had the pleasure of communicating via e-mail with many concerned parents of some of our deployed troopers. I welcome your inquiries and to date, it has been my pleasure to answer any questions that you may have in reference to welfare of your sons and daughters deployed here in support of this operation. Thanks to your many inquiries and requests for information, this edition of the Family Readiness Group update marks the start of Operation POST (Parents Of Signal Troopers). This will be our first attempt at communicating in mass to the parents of some of our deployed troopers. For those parents that I've communicated with previously, I'd like to pass on a big Airborne Hello; for those that are new additions, welcome to the All American Signal Battalion Family.

The performance of our Rear Detachment Team back at Fort Bragg has been absolutely outstanding. The Bake Sale and the Halloween party were well attended and most importantly, it appears that you all had fun. Keep up the good work and just know that your efforts have not gone unnoticed. I thank you for all that you have and will do in support of this deployment.



In closing, as we rapidly approach the holiday season, I ask that you keep those families across the country that have lost loved ones in this operation, in your thoughts and prayers. The troopers of this battalion both here in Iraq and at Fort Bragg are proud Americans and knowing that we have your support helps to keep things in perspective. God bless you all and keep the cards and letters coming.

LTC Bruce T. Crawford, Commander  
CSM Cecil W. Hammonds, Command Sergeant Major



## 313th Military Intelligence Battalion (Airborne) LTC Guarino Commanding Officer



Family and friends of the 313th MI Battalion,

I hope everyone back home is doing well and that you all had the opportunity to enjoy Jammer Day. September was a very busy month for us. The Battalion is spread out in several different locations that stretch from Baghdad to Iraq's western borders. CSM Kolenc and I have taken the opportunity to visit the troops in these locations, and you would be very proud of the way they are performing in this austere environment. The troopers are hot, dirty, and tired while out on missions, but flat out getting after those that mean to do us harm or who oppose peace in this region. Not a day goes by without a successful operation that was supported by good intelligence and analysis.

Living conditions at our base camps continue to get better every day. The newest improvement is that most of us have access to television. After church services on Sunday we were able to watch the weekend news line up and catch some NFL football. Yesterday we saw Game 5 of the World Series! The mail keeps on coming, and we appreciate the efforts of those who send it. Those of us that like to read are very appreciative of the Birmingham Alabama United States Postal Service, D Company FRG, and the



### OBJECTIVE PYTHON

Mardis family for sending the many boxes of books and magazines.



Charlie Company Platoon Headquarters

For Bravo Company operations continue to go well in southern Baghdad. The last two weeks have been relatively calm for the Black Sheep, and they are doing great. All the troops continue to work hard and stay motivated. The teamwork by those who execute intelligence collection, conduct analysis, or maintain the equipment is phenomenal.

Charlie Company has been very busy. They are spread out across the entire Panther sector and are providing incredible intelligence support to the Panther team. They have taken quite austere living



UAV Crew prepares a Shadow 200 for launch.

conditions and turned them into a comfortable home away from home. It is absolutely amazing how well these soldiers adapt and overcome survival issues. Of course, they are equally as skilled in conducting intelligence operations.

The LRSD is now decisively engaged in operations with the Brave Rifles of the 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment. Each team has successfully completed missions, and they are keeping very busy. They are operating in very tough and demanding conditions, but continue to achieve remarkable results. This team never ceases to amaze me in their physical and mental abilities to conduct extended dismounted movement and surveillance operations.

HSC and Delta Company continue to support

operations from the Division Main and Rear Command Posts. Delta Company recently established a Division Central Collection Point for those we detain, and they continue to break new ground in collecting, analyzing, and disseminating intelligence. HSC has now fully integrated an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Platoon. The platoon brought a great group of troopers, and once they are in full operations will bring an incredible capability to our collection operations.

I want you all to know that our deployed paratroopers are doing great. Everyone is working hard, staying motivated, and doing an outstanding job. We are taking care of each other and doing our best to keep everyone safe. We all understand how difficult and stressful it is for families while troopers are deployed. It was encouraging to us that our families had the opportunity to enjoy each other's company during Jammer Day. Events like this give troopers the confidence that our families are safe, healthy, and happy. This in turn allows us to keep our eye on the ball and stay focused on the job at hand. Thank you for the teamwork and everything you do as we continue to fight our nation's Global War on Terrorism.

All The Way!  
Very Respectfully,  
LTC Nick Guarino



D Company conducts liaison with local nationals.



## 82D Soldier Support Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Ryan  
Commanding Officer



Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings and blessings to the entire FRG and our extended SSB family who continue their overwhelming support through letters, packages and prayers. Since our last update, I've had an opportunity to visit C FAST in Baghdad and B FAST near Al Fallujah and was immediately struck by their incredible teamwork and cohesion. Every paratrooper is committed to improving their team's technical capabilities and living environment with a long-term focus of leaving this area in better shape than they found it.



While it was great to see the progress made by all, it was especially encouraging to reunite and talk story with C FAST. After eight months "on the road to Baghdad," C FAST has reinforced the importance of integrating personnel and finance professionals into our BCTs by contributing to the morale and well being of paratroopers while materially effecting the rebuilding of Iraq. They were also quick to share their lessons with those of us arriving in theater. And after a few short weeks and a lot of dedicated work by our PEROPS and FINOPS experts, both B and D FAST have truly become an extension of Gavin Hall.

While I would never characterize this work environment as routine, I certainly believe that we have hit our stride in terms of providing first class finance, personnel and postal support across the task force, and if I had to single out one overarching success, it would be the development and professionalism



of our junior paratroopers. At each phase of this operation, we have asked our junior troopers to rise above their previous experience and assume responsibilities associated with much higher pay grades. CPL Sprague, SPC Torres and SPC Mack are the division's senior representatives at critical personnel nodes throughout SWA and Germany. Everyday we ask our



troopers learn and succeed at non-traditional missions, and everyday they impress with their commitment and results. Tomorrow's leaders are making a powerful difference today.

As always, thank you for your generosity, your prayers and the way you continue to look after one another.



**82D Military Police  
Company (Airborne)  
Commander: CPT Brown**

Once again a sincere "Hello!" from the paratroopers of the 82d MP CO. It is difficult to believe yet another month has transpired. During said time a great deal has occurred throughout the unit.

It is with great pleasure I announce the newest addition to the 82d MP CO family- Luis Ramirez Jr. This 8lbs. 2oz. bundle of joy became a part of the 82d MP CO on 15OCT03. Congratulations to Amanda Ramirez and husband SPC Luis Ramirez! Everyone wishes you and your new family continued blessings!

Continuing with the accolades, the 82d MP CO has a new senior rated jump master- CPT Barry Winnegan. CPT Winnegan successfully met all requirements for this prestigious and coveted badge. As a senior rated jumpmaster, CPT Winnegan will now serve as the primary jumpmaster for airborne operations, concerning 82d MP CO currently at Fort Bragg.

Promotions, promotions, promotions!! The unit has three individuals which advanced in rank during the past 30 days. Both PV2 Adams and PV2 Brewster now hold the rank of private first class. Both individuals serve as gunners in their respective MP teams and continue to develop and mature into outstanding military police soldiers. The latest addition to the non-commissioned officers in the 82d MP CO comes in the form of promotable SPC Galaviz. SPC Galaviz recently made "cut-off" for promotion to the rank of sergeant. In the near future, SPC Galaviz will receive his well-earned promotion and join the legendary and esteemed corps which composes the "backbone of the army." Undoubtedly, his expertise and knowledge will continue to strengthen an already impressive and cohesive command general PSD.

As if the previous achievements were not enough plentiful, the company recently received the XVIII Airborne Corps Army Excellence of Maintenance of Award. Bestowed upon the company or unit within the XVIII Airborne Corps with the best maintenance program, this extremely prestigious award directly reflects a





unit's level of commitment and discipline, not only in maintenance, but in all endeavors. Likewise, receiving this award directly reflects the professionalism and technical proficiency of the 82d MP CO's motorpool personnel, specifically SSG Sanchez, SGT Jasinski, SGT Karnes, SPC Colocho, SPC Goetchell, PFC Pak, SPC Harrison, SPC Davidson, and SPC Roark. Again, I am extremely proud of all motorpool personnel and all paratroopers, regardless of MOS, in the unit for winning this award. It was the dedication, attention to detail, and commitment all personnel of the 82d MP CO consistently displayed which won the award for the unit. Believe me, this achievement is quite indicative of the paratroopers in this unit.



Here in Iraq, SGM Demmitt spearheads the Al Anbar province, Iraqi Security University. As the commandant, SGM Demmitt established and executed a curriculum and training module to certify select Iraqi personnel for civil security and police work. Working in conjunction with DIV engineer, civil affairs, and military police agencies, SGM Demmitt literally built and established the university from the tattered rubble left by the Saddam regime. SGM Demmitt has an excess of 23 years experience as a military police leader in both corps and division military police doctrine and tactics. The 82d Airborne Division truly selected the best qualified person, with SGM Demmitt's selection, to take the lead on ensuring a key focal point, concerning re-establishment of stability and security in the local region, came to fruition.





**HHC**  
**82D Airborne Division**  
**Commander: CPT Trehan**

Family and friends of the troopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 82D Airborne Division, Greetings! Your troopers, as usual have made numerous contributions in a multitude of areas during the month of October.

At the Division Main Command Post troopers interact daily with Iraqi leaders to assist in rebuilding local institutions and public works facilities. The troopers of the Public Affairs Office have worked with local and national news agencies to publicize the great work that is being accomplished. The Staff Judge Advocate section has made significant strides in assisting the Iraqi judicial system while simultaneously providing troopers with legal assistance. The Chaplain's section has seen a considerable rise in attendance at all religious services to include bible study, which is led by Master Sergeant Harris.

The Logistic Support Activity (LSA) conducted over 30 vehicle convoys to re-supply the Main Command Post. The LSA will conduct less convoys



in the upcoming months because of the recent addition of the 782nd Main Support Battalion, Forward Logistic Element (FLE). The FLE and the LSA work closely together in order to maximize both element's logistic capabilities and communication links. Of note, the FLE and the LSA worked together to coordinate a laundry service for the soldiers at the Main Command Post so troopers don't have to wash clothes by hand. The LSA assisted with preparations for a Commander's Dinner, Sergeant's Major Dinner and several visiting VIPs.

The following troopers will be promoted at the

end of October: SGT Jones (G3) to Staff Sergeant, PFC Agripa (LSA) to Specialist, PFC Brink (G2) to Specialist, PFC Lucero (Command Group) to



Specialist, PFC Ocampo (G1) to Specialist, PV2 Allen (G5) to Private First Class, and PV2 Zamora (G5) to Private First Class. Additionally, the following troopers celebrated a birthday here in Iraq during the month of October: SFC Imes (G1), WO1 Chandler (SJA), PFC Hurlbrink (G2), MAJ Heatherly (G5), SGT Palmer (Command Group), SGT Wallace (Command Group), SGT Wallace (Aid Station), LTC Ayres (SJA), SSG Tabberer (Command Group), SGM Rodriguez (G2), SGT Coffen (G3), SSG Hurst (G3), CW3 Texidor (G4), SGT Hernandez (DFAC), SPC Kuns (DFAC), PFC Peer (Aid Station), SPC Tsepelev (Surgeon), and SGT Jones (G3).

All of us in HHC would like to sincerely thank all of our family members and friends for continued support, words of encouragement and prayers. You are all in our thoughts and prayers as well.

All the way, Airborne!



# ALL AMERICAN'S IN ACTION!



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN IRAQ!

