



# 82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

## OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM NEWSLETTER



Dear Families of Task Force All American,

As we near the conclusion in this period of our storied Division's history, we can be justifiably proud of all that we have accomplished. The paratroopers of Task Force All American began their preparations for Operation IRAQI FREEDOM long before we departed and their effort has paid great dividends, both for their units and for our Nation and the Iraqi people.

The superior training conducted at Fort Bragg was instrumental to our success. The commitment of Task Force All American paratroopers to mission accomplishment was only matched by the dedication of our families at Fort Bragg. As a team, those of us who have served here in Iraq and you at home, we have pulled through this experience stronger than ever.

We have made a very real difference in the lives of people from this nation ravaged by war, mismanagement, and brutal authority. We have improved the lives of Iraqis and have given them a chance to forge a better future. Seldom in history is such an opportunity presented to those already free and rarer still is such an opportunity seized upon. We stepped up when called and in the process have directly and positively affected the future security of our children and their children.

We have participated in some of the most dramatic events in our nation's history - - events that will have a lasting impact on our future. This period of strife will pass as others have, but we will always be able to proudly tell what we did when our Nation called.

Together we have done great things for our Nation.

The magnitude of the projects and programs developed and executed by paratroopers of Task Force All American are immense. We have facilitated the reconstruction of water and power systems that provide hundreds of thousands of people clean drinking water and power necessary for basic and functional living. We have reestablished schools that now teach



young Iraqi children what they need to learn in an environment free of politicization. We have made extraordinary strides in the establishment of an Iraqi security force representative of its people and their security needs. The recent heroic acts by dedicated men within the Iraqi Security Forces clearly indicate that we have succeeded in our efforts to foster Iraqi ownership in the pursuit of their future. We

have facilitated the establishment of local and regional governmental systems that are representative of the people and determined to forge a better future for Iraq.

It is said that freedom is paid for by those that are already free. We have provided freedom and the expectation of a better future for the people of Iraq in a way that will directly impact the freedom and security of future Americans. Freedom gives one hope for a better future - - for oneself and for those who follow. Task Force All American has provided that hope to the people of Iraq and we can be justifiably proud that we have set the people of this region on a new course.

The tenacity and heroism of the paratroopers of Task Force All American during the execution of combat operations has demonstrated our resolve. Our paratroopers have conducted thousands of patrols and combat missions with professionalism and dedication that ensured outstanding results. We have not been spared the hardships of combat, but our great paratrooper's determination in the face of adversity has been insurmountable. I am honored to have served with the fine men and women of Task Force All American.

The backbone of any great military unit is the Noncommissioned Officer Corps. It is the noncommissioned officer who is relied upon to accomplish every mission. It is the noncommissioned officer who ensures the welfare of their paratroopers. The Noncommissioned officers of Task Force All American are a special breed - -

skilled and competent in their responsibilities, they always lead from the front with initiative and appropriate action in the heat of battle. We are blessed to have such fine leaders in our ranks and they have made all the difference during these challenging times.

The deployment of Task Force All American to Iraq was successful due in no small part to the outstanding efforts of our Division's Family Readiness Groups and unit Rear Detachment Commanders. Both served a vital role for the families and loved ones of deployed paratroopers and the commitment of FRG and rear detachment leaders to Task Force All American was extraordinary.

Earlier this month we had the opportunity to demonstrate the unique capability our Division provides our Nation during the execution of an airborne operation in western Iraq. Numerous national and international

media outlets were provided the opportunity to witness our outstanding paratroopers in action. The message is clear - - when necessary, the paratroopers of the 82nd Airborne Division, in concert with the Air Force, can reach out and strike the enemy wherever they hide. The airborne operation was a phenomenal success and I was very proud of our paratroopers.

Fort Bragg is fully engaged in assuring that the loved ones of paratroopers are cared for during this deployment. Your rear unit detachment commanders, selected based upon their experience and ability to tap into all of Fort Bragg's systems, are prepared to assist you.

I will ensure they have accurate and timely information on the status of units as we transition back to Fort Bragg. If you have questions, issues, or concerns contact your family readiness group representative or rear detachment commander because they remain your most consistent and accurate source of information on the status of this deployment.

information on the status of this deployment.

I will close this month's edition of the newsletter by thanking you once again for all that you have done and continue to do for the paratroopers of this Division. Our efforts here have had a direct impact on the future of Iraq and on the safety and security of America. And your support and prayers have been indispensable to our efforts, our morale, and any successes we have had. We look forward to returning home to you soon and we truly appreciate all that you have done for us.

May God continue to bless each of you and our great nation!

**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,

What an outstanding time to be a member of Task Force All American! We are doing great things in Iraq - - making a difference in the lives of the Iraqi people and providing them with the opportunity for a better future. Everyday the paratroopers of Task Force All

American eliminate the remaining enemy resistance by executing combat operations with ruthless efficiency. Our leaders, who are keenly aware of their responsibility for force protection, are out front taking charge making every mission happen.

This last month troopers of Task Force All American were able to do what we do best - - execute an airborne operation. What an outstanding experience for our troopers and for the entire Task Force. Numerous media outlets were present during the airborne operation and they conveyed our message clearly: we can go anywhere the enemy does and when we get there we will be ready to fight. It was truly a great airborne day and I was immensely proud of our paratroopers.

We are drawing near the end of our deployment in Iraq and it is right to reflect on all that we have accomplished. Task Force All American operated in some of the toughest regions of Iraq. The people

were poor, their political and economic infrastructure was in disarray, and many were doubtful about our intentions. The fine leaders and paratroopers of Task Force All American made a dramatic difference everywhere they operated. Whether conducting combat operations or humanitarian and civil military operations, our troopers accomplished every mission professionally and to standard.



The quality of life of the Iraqi population in our area of operation improved dramatically. We have provided basic essential services including fresh water, electricity, and schools to educate the young. We provided meaningful jobs and business opportunities for Iraqis who might otherwise be swayed to fight the progress we are making. We

provide the Iraqi people with a professional security force and we see the evidence that our efforts have taken hold - - the Iraqi military and police are fighting back, on their own accord, against those that would see them fail. It is an awesome feeling to be part of their success.

As we begin the next phase of this deployment, we are reminded that our job here is not done and that we must continue to operate with our force protection as the highest priority. I will ensure that our leaders understand the importance of maintaining standards of discipline and focus on the task at hand. I am

absolutely confident in the determination of the troopers and leaders within Task Force All American to continue to set the standard for all to follow.

We will continue to take the fight to the enemy ensuring that there is no opportunity or gap available to exploit. It is clear to me that we have the enemy on the run and we will keep them on the run until we are home. We are in the early stages of integrating our Marine counterparts and we will provide them all the lessons we have learned over the past six months. We are working very hard to ensure that the Marines have all that they will need to continue the fight.

During this time of transition you can be sure of one thing: there will be friction. Not serious friction, but the friction that can be expected anytime there is a movement of an Army unit. We are moving a vast quantity of equipment and a many troopers over a



great distance. Schedules will inevitably be modified as we close in on Fort Bragg, but you can be sure that we will do all we can to provide you accurate information on your loved ones movement schedule. I'd ask for your patience during the transition period.

I would like to close this month's newsletter by once again thanking you for all that you have done for us during this deployment. Task Force All American is made up of more than the great paratroopers serving far from home - - the heart and soul of this organization is at Fort Bragg in every family member who was there for us. You and all that you have done for us is amazing and for that you should be justly proud. Thanks.

All The Way!

All The Way!  
CSM Wolf Amacker





**504th PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT**

# Task Force Devil



**Colonel Patrick J. Donahue II  
Commanding Officer, 504th PIR**

Dear Family and Friends of Task Force Devil,

We have finally completed the brigade's deployment to Iraq. I want to personally thank each and every one of you for the tremendous sacrifice and efforts that you put forth to make our deployment a success.

Our enemy seeks to destroy the way of life we enjoy. If it were not for our paratroopers and other coalition forces taking the fight to the enemy, the enemy would take the fight to us. Thanks to the support provided by Task Force Devil and other troops, Iraq is steadily progressing towards sovereignty. In the past weeks, Task Force Devil soldiers have paid the ultimate sacrifice while serving our country. I want to express my deepest sympathy to these families and friends of the fallen paratroopers.

Task Force Devil is making a difference in Iraq. Our redeployment is still on schedule which will allow these brave soldiers to spend quality time with their families. I am very proud of each and every soldier. I am also very proud of all the families who support us each and every day.

**2nd BN, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment**

2nd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment conducted a Relief-In-Place (RIP) with 2nd Battalion



**White Devil Soldiers work to return fire on the enemy by launching 60mm mortars.**

325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, who had been deployed for almost 12 months in Iraq. Within 24 hours of assuming control over our Area of Responsibility the White Devils were again conducting their first combat operations, just five months after the redeployment from Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan. Instead of conducting air assault mission into specified landing zones, the White Devils found themselves conducting motorized infantry missions into the heart of Baghdad. The paratroopers of this battalion were quickly put to the test, and responded in true White Devil fashion, overcoming all obstacles that stood in their way of achieving success.

The officers, non-commissioned officers, and paratroopers of this battalion would like to express to our family members and friends back home that we are extremely thankful for all your continued support. With your vital support, the White Devils will continue to defend our nation, our freedom, and way of life and return home safely.

**2nd BN, 505th Parachute Infantry Regiment**

Alpha Company has been doing some great things while working under 1st Armor Division, attached to 1-4 Air Defense Artillery. On a daily basis, Platoons from Alpha Company patrol around the Baghdad International Airport as a new effort to prevent surface-to-air missile from taking out friendly aircraft. Among their other tasks, the boys of alpha company have done a great job through their constant presence on the ground by keeping looters and terrorists off the street.

Bravo Company has been keeping the south straight by providing security for a remote firebase and patrolling the area around the main supply routes. They have done an outstanding job ensuring supplies and convoys arrive safe between the various remote sites throughout Iraq. Under the leadership of CPT Matthew Hardman, various patrols have also been monitoring villages and seeking out enemy, specifi-



**2 Panther soldier's train on close quarters combat training. Assaulting on objective is key for Squad Infantry Tactics in theatre.**

cally focused on preventing IED transport and emplacement.

The unsung heroes that tie 2 Panther together are the soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company. They have expertly provided all levels of support for every mission the Battalion has executed. From the convoy trucks provided by the S&T platoon under SSG Ladig, the never-ending maintenance provided by SFC Charles Gardner and his men, or the chow served by the "spoons" at the firebase, HHC is truly the backbone of this Battalion. Without them all aspects of support would come to a halt.

**3rd BN, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment**

On LSA Anaconda, Delta Company, led by 1SG Edson DeLeon and CPT Lucien Campillo began revamping the training program for the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps (ICDC). They essentially take civilians off the street and transform them into soldiers supporting the people of Iraq. Taking combined foreign and U.S patrols outside the LSA, Delta Company has been integrating the Iraqis into every aspect of security in and around the Balad area. The company's increased it's presence outside the wire of the LSA which increased the logistics flow into the base camp by 85 percent. All personnel on the LSA sleep better at night knowing that the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment is keeping them safe.

On, 24 February the Blue Devils along with other

units from Task Force Devil executed an Airborne Operation in western Iraq. The Airborne Operation was flawlessly executed and showed our Nation's enemies just how quickly the 82d Airborne Division



**Soldiers from Charlie Company 3-504 prepare equipment to get ready to jump on the 24 February 2004 Airborne Assault.**

can project combat power, despite being deployed in the Global War on Terror.

Thanks to the hard work of the Blue Devil paratroopers, the 81st ESB will have an easy and smooth transition into the mission supporting force protection in and around LSA Anaconda.

"Strike Hold"

Devil Six





## 505th PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT



# Task Force Panther

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

Dear Panther Families,

The intent of this update is to provide the families with as much predictability about our redeployment as I can at this time. Flexibility and patience are essential ingredients to good morale and encouragement throughout the redeployment process. Invariably there will be changes to timelines and flight schedules. I hope the next few paragraphs help you understand the bigger picture and the dynamics of the largest movement of troops since World War II.

The redeployment process will take about 30 days. This includes transition of our zone to the Marines and redeployment of our troops back to Ft Bragg. The process will start around the 18th of March. The vast majority of people will return within the first 15-20 days of starting relief activities with the Marines, however, some troops will stay behind a few extra days to close

out the ship and air movement requirements. We will keep the trail party to a minimum number of troops. Units will redeploy through Kuwait or directly from Iraq to Ft Bragg. Those troopers involved in prepar-

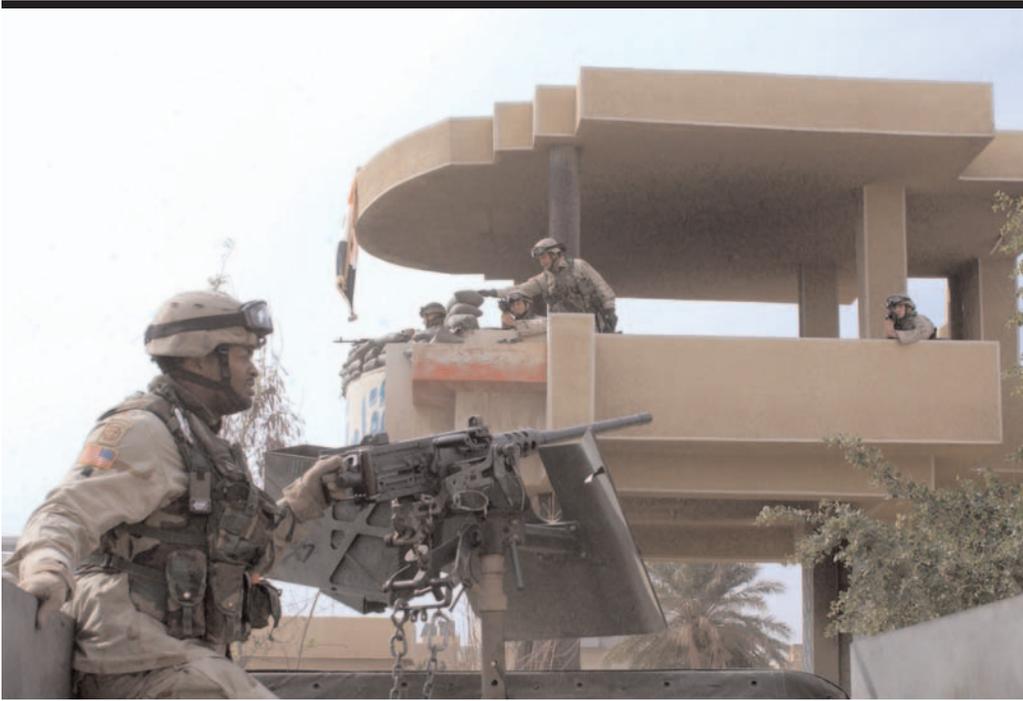


ing vehicles for sea movement will convoy vehicles from Iraq to Kuwait, process the vehicles for sea movement, then move to Kuwait City International Airport for a flight to Ft Bragg. Troopers not

involved with shipping vehicles will depart directly from an Iraq to Ft Bragg. Your spouse should be able to tell you within the next two weeks where he or she is departing from.



What flight is my spouse on and when will he or she arrive at Ft Bragg? I don't know yet. It is too early to know the exact date and time for redeploying flights. I want to dispel all rumors. At this time we do not have aircraft identified by day and



time....THIS MEANS NOBODY KNOWS EXACTLY WHEN WE WILL BE HOME YET. We do not expect to know the details on departure and arrival flights for several more weeks. Please don't be alarmed. This is normal for a strategic military air movement.

With the exception of the Brigade Advance Party we anticipate flights departing in three time periods. The time periods are 11-18 Mar, 25-31 Mar and 2-12 Apr. Each one of these groups will contain about one third of the Brigade Task Force. I must caution that these time periods are what we have requested. They do



not reflect approval and do not have airplanes programmed against them. They merely represent what we have asked for based on our transition plan with the Marines. The exact dates and times are still to be determined and are subject to change.

My final thoughts are to thank all of you for the wonderful support you have given the Brigade Task Force during this deployment. Like we said up front, it takes a combined team to successfully win and you have certainly

done your part for the team. Hard work is ahead of us as we prepare for redeployment, assist the Marines with their arrival and continue steady state operations in Iraq. Every battalion and separate company and platoon in TF Panther is doing an outstanding job.

They have made improvements in every measurable category, enhanced the Iraqi Security capacity, improved the economic opportunities for Iraqis and continue to take the fight away from the enemy. This has not been done without sacrifice and has not done be done in vain. When we leave Iraq, every battalion will be able to reflect back to Aug and Sep 03 and

know that they are leaving the Marines a better place than we received it. The challenges in Iraq will require long-term solutions. We are the tip of the spear that has successfully penetrated many of the problems. The Marines along with other follow-on forces in OIF II will continue to push the arrow along the right path. We are looking forward to the day when we can see you at Green Ramp. Until then, thanks for what you do.

H-MINUS!  
COL Jefforey Smith

# 319th AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT



## Loyalty

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

DEAR FAMILY AND FRIENDS OF THE DIVARTY,

It has been a long six months with a tremendous effort by all of the DIVARTY paratroopers. We have been given several diverse missions, most of them not traditional artillery missions, and our troopers have accomplished every task with outstanding results

We have previously described the various missions of the DIVARTY, from the HHB providing the Mayoral Cell covering base defense and base operations, the DIVARTY TAC overseeing the consolidation of enemy ammunition, the FSE working the Division information operations (IO) duties, to the fire support being provided to 3rd BCT by the troopers of 1-319th.

The HHB has consistently risen to the challenge of managing the day-to-day operations on Champion Main. Our troopers have been involved in tasks that are equivalent to running a small town. Their efforts have enhanced the living conditions for nearly 900 paratroopers and civilians who have lived and worked on Champion Main. And the work continues as we receive the 1st Marine Division. We are working on projects that will

help to house these great Americans and facilities that will allow us to smoothly transfer our responsibilities to them.

The DIVARTY TOC and ALOC have done an outstanding job as the command posts for the base defense and base



operations in addition to planning and overseeing the other ongoing DIVARTY operations. And as if that weren't enough, the staff has continued to work the normal duties that come with being a brigade headquarters. This is even more challenging due to the geographic separation of our subordinate battalions, and the time differences between Iraq and Fort Bragg.

**COL Thein and Sam Abb talking with the sheiks.**



The DIVARTY TAC has spent the past several months as a forward deployed command and control element overseeing the actual consolidation and destruction missions of the captured enemy ammunition. The troopers of the TAC have lived and worked in some of the harshest conditions the desert of Iraq offers. The TAC remained focused and exceeded even the most optimistic expectations.

The FSE has contributed to the Division with its traditional Fire Support role as well as working as the primary Information Operations (IO)

**SPC Ledezma and PFC Fitzroy and interpreter at a cache.**



cell. The IO mission has been critical to distributing information to the local, regional, national and international populations. During the past month, members of the IO team have been actively involved in helping the Iraqi people participate in the Hajj, a fundamental requirement in the Islamic religion. In the past, very few Iraqis were allowed to attend the Hajj. This year, thanks in large part to efforts of the 82d Airborne Division, almost 30,000 Iraqi Hajj pilgrims transited the division's battlespace and were able to safely cross the international border and participate in the Hajj in Saudi Arabia. The quality of life is on the rise for all of the Iraqi people.

1/319th's troopers continue to do great things in support of 3rd BCT. We expect to see their redeployment beginning towards the end of March. Once the battalion has returned to Fort Bragg they will take some well deserved leave, and then begin the process of training and refitting for the next mission that may come their way. They have, and continue to excel in the execution of their missions. We hope

**SSG Alcedo and MAJ Velesaris at Rock ASP**



they have a safe trip out of Iraq and we look forward to welcoming them back to Fort Bragg.

The 2-319th has already redeployed to Fort Bragg. We hope that they are enjoying the time back with their families and the normal routine of being at home station. They will be working hard over the next couple of months to get their equipment and soldiers ready to assume the DRB mission later this spring. Right now though, they are getting a much deserved rest. They did an outstanding job here in Iraq, and really made a difference for the people.

After re-deploying from Afghanistan in August of 2003, 3-319th AFAR is once again deployed to support the Iraq war effort. The Brigade FSE deployed in early January and was quickly followed by the BN FSEs from 2-504th PIR, 3-504th PIR, and 2 -505th PIR. Their missions in OIF vary from combat operations to assisting in training the new Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. The Paratroopers of the 3-319th AFAR are ready for any mission that may come their way.

On a sad note, one of our own lost his life to a roadside bomb. SGT Cory Mracek was killed 27 January 2004. He was the first DIVARTY soldier to lose his life in either Operation Enduring Freedom or Operation Iraqi Freedom. Although he had been a Gun Devil for less than 2 months, he left a lasting impression on everyone that knew him. SGT Mracek was proud to be a paratrooper and proud to be in the 82nd Airborne Division. We are proud to have called him friend, and his passing has left a hole in our hearts.

As we prepare for the redeployment process, please remember that we will do everything we can to provide up to date information about the schedule. Any questions or issues should be directed to the Rear Detachment team. We will not know our exact return times until we actually receive our call forward to the airport, so we cannot give you dates at this time, but rest assured that we are doing everything we can to ensure the safe and speedy return of all the troopers of DIVARTY.

We are looking forward to getting home and seeing you all.

**ALL THE WAY!**

COL Scott Thein and CSM Michael Williams



# 82D AVIATION BRIGADE

## Task Force Pegasus



### Colonel Perry Wiggins

#### Commanding Officer, 82D AVN BDE

Dear Families of Task Force Pegasus, The Marines have landed here at FOB Ridgway and I must admit I have never seen Army paratroopers so glad to see their Marine counterparts. The arrival of the Marines symbolizes the start of the transitional period that will ultimately lead to our redeployment. The Relief in Place (RIP)/ Transition of Authority (TOA) is one of the most important and critical phases in the deployment/redeployment process. Task Force Pegasus' troopers must maintain a three-pronged focus during this timeframe. First and foremost they must continue to provide the steady state mission support to Task Force 82. Secondly, they must prepare all personnel and equipment to redeploy to Fort Bragg. Lastly, they must set their Marine counterparts up for success by ensuring a smooth transition of the mission set in sector. As you can clearly see this will be a challenging period but as



evidenced over the past several months the members of this task force are ready to meet all challenges.

As we begin this busy period your continued support and patience are going to be invaluable to the members of the task force. As we conduct the transition process with the Marines soldiers may not be able to e-mail or call for a few days. This is due in large part to the movement associated with redeployment. Troopers have also been told not to give specifics on the dates and times associated with the redeployment process. The rear detachment commander LTC Terry Morgan will relay the information to family members at the appropriate time. This process will minimize confu-





sion/misinformation and maintain the appropriate level of security.

As for steady state missions, Task Force Pegasus reached the 10,000 flying hour milestone this month. Although the flight hours flown by our aviators are an accomplishment they alone do not tell the full story of the amount of effort and teamwork that goes into reaching this impressive milestone. My thanks go out

to each and every member of this task force. It is indeed an honor and a privilege to be counted among the members of Task Force Pegasus.

Once again I just want to say thanks for the invaluable support you have rendered the members of this task force.

Pegasus 06





# Division Support Command Task Force Provider



## Colonel Glen Takemoto

Commanding Officer, DISCOM

To our DISCOM Family,

The 21st Chemical Company continued their great work eliminating enemy ammunition throughout Iraq. Building on their proficiency at eliminating enemy ammunition, they finished their final site 2 weeks ahead of schedule. As a result of accomplishing the mission so quickly, the 21st Chemical Company capitalized on the opportunity to conduct a two-day smoke operation refresher, which proved to be the most fun these "Chem Dawgs" have had in a long time.

The troopers of HHC DISCOM held their second "Hammer Social" that fed over 70 of the company's soldiers allowing them time for fellowship. HHC DISCOM also continued to do great work in its sponsorship of an Iraqi secondary school by providing additional reading material and school supplies.

The 782d Main Support Battalion completed another challenging month providing support to



Division troops. The 782d MSB medical providers hosted and participated in a seminar to identify issues in the medical supply system and made recommendations to better care for soldiers. COL(Dr) Adams and a small team from 782d served as lead for the Iraqi Medical Association National Conference in Baghdad. The conference was an overwhelming success with over 350 physicians from Iraq and around the world attending. The momentum of the battalion also increased with planning and executing the Division's redeployment.

The 782d MSB is charged with running multiple aspects of the redeployment process ensuring the Division's paratroopers and equipment smoothly transition from Iraq back to Fort Bragg. Key leaders rotated in the Battalion as command of Foxtrot Company passed from CPT Charlotte McClumpha to CPT Matthew Bresko, also CPT Tyke Hillmer joined them as the Battalion S-3. The 782d MSB also continued its support to Sinn Ad Dibban school by constructing new recreation equip-





ment and providing additional school supplies. The soldiers remain focused on all tasks at hand and are preparing for a much awaited redeployment.

Our 407th FSB Griffins have concluded their outstanding support to the Falcons for Operation Iraqi Freedom. All have made it home and



should now be enjoying a well-deserved block leave. We are all very proud of them.

The 82d FSB Gators are hard at work supporting the 3rd Brigade Combat Team while simultaneously receiving 1st Marine Expeditionary Force units at FOB St Mere. The pace has picked up considerably as planning for the coming transfer of authority and redeployment activities has gone into high gear. Meanwhile, the Gators have continued to: build up all classes of supply for the

Marines, lower the number of open maintenance job orders in the Brigade, harden vehicles to protect our paratroopers, and care for sick and injured soldiers and local nationals. As warmer weather greets, the Gators have found time for weekly Commander's Cup sporting events including ping pong, soccer, dodge ball, and softball. They look forward to rejoining their loved ones as quickly as possible.

We are now entering a peak period of simultaneously sustaining Task Force All American, running redeployment operations and support, conducting civil-military support, facilitating the transition to Marine forces, and redeploying our own troopers and equipment. Our DISCOM troopers continue their historic accomplishments thanks to your love and support. We are all looking forward to our redeployment and being with our loved ones again. We thank you, we could not do it without you.

All the way, Airborne!

COL GLENN H. TAKEMOTO  
Commanding  
and  
CSM KENNETH V. TAYLOR  
Command Sergeant Major



## 82D Signal Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Crawford  
Commanding Officer



Dear Families of the Commander's Voice,

Greetings, and Happy St. Patrick's Day to the All American Signal Battalion Family. As I type this final Edition of the Battalion's OIF News Letter, troopers are busy conducting Relief in Place Operations here in the Al Anbar Province of Iraq, as we prepare to transfer authority. Although we all miss our friends and loved ones, the focus here continues to be the mission at hand while ensuring that our replacements are indeed set up for success.

As the Battalion Commander, I have never been more proud of our troopers, their efforts and the professional manner in which they have gone about doing the Nations work. Our soldiers have represented the battalion well and continue to amaze me with their positive, team player attitudes and ability to overcome the toughest day-to-day challenges. Both Command Sergeant Major Hammonds and I would like to extend our heart-felt thanx to the families back in the states that have persevered and continued to make sacrifices, while providing steadfast support to our deployed troopers.



A special thank you goes out to our Rear Detachment Command team (FRG leaders & Battalion Chain of Command) for their patience, diligence and most importantly for the "genuine care and concern" for the welfare of our families back home. You have raised the bar of excellence and for that you are to be commended. This truly has been and continues to be a "team fight", to include the efforts of the Fort Bragg and Division Community Service Agencies and Representatives.



This battalion is what it is because of the "people" with whom it's associated; past and present, young and old. To the alumni, you can rest assured that your legacy is in tact. The heart (Great NCO's) and soul (Dedicated Troopers) of this battalion have never been more tactically



In closing I'd like to say that none of what has been accomplished here in Iraq to date, would have been possible without your support, encouragement, guidance and counsel; I salute you all for being there through some very tough times. Although we still have "many miles to go before we sleep", just knowing that we had both your approval and your support made all the difference. God Bless you all, God Bless this Great Nation that we serve and God Bless the All Americans.

Airborne, All the Way.

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

proficient nor technically competent. This is truly a testament to the foundations that you laid long ago. As we continue the process of "Transforming" our Army I'm delighted to report that "The All American Signal Battalion stands trained and ready".

To the Parents of our Troopers, I cannot thank you all enough for the overall support and words of encouragement over the last six months. After we re-deploy, the offer stall stands to contact me if you have questions or concerns about our most treasured assets, your sons and daughters. I welcome your inquiries.





# 307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Wehr

Commanding Officer



Dear Family and Friends of the All American Engineers,

The battalion continues to perform superbly here in Iraq. Our paratroopers everyday, whether conducting combat operations or improving the overall quality of life of the Division, help to make Iraq safer and more secure. We could not be more proud of our fine paratroopers and their families for the tremendous efforts and accomplishments. Preparations are ongoing for the arrival of the Marines! As you could imagine, our sappers are extremely motivated in making sure this is accomplished in a very timely manner!

During this period of troop movements in and out of Iraq, we have emphasized continued force protection and safety to our leaders and soldiers. Over the next several weeks, as a battalion, we will have many moving pieces, in many directions. The time all of us have patiently waited for, redeployment will soon be here. For the majority of the battalion, a number of our paratroopers will begin the redeployment process and soon be reunited with loved ones. Others will



begin preparations for movement and follow shortly after. A Company soldiers both hold the line in Iraq, while remaining prepared to reinforce there if necessary.

I know many of you are becoming anxious about the return of your loved ones and wanting to know the exact dates and time of flights. As we get closer to





redeployment you will be able to obtain this information from the rear detachment commander. I would ask that everyone remain a little flexible and as patient as possible during redeployment. We all know planes will be coming in at all hours of the night. Prepare for the late night schedule changes and layovers. The rear detachment will continue to provide updates.

As we draw towards redeployment, we remain focused on accomplishing our mission and setting the Marines up for success. We are very proud of everyone's hard work and selfless service. Our rear detachment and Family Readiness Groups have been an absolute model of teamwork and support through a very long deployment. It is a privilege to be part of

such a talented and dedicated team of engineers. We thank you for all of your support and encouragement. See you on Green Ramp!

All The Way!  
LTC Wehr  
and  
CSM Stegich





# 82D Soldier Support Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Ryan  
Commanding Officer



Dear Family and Friends,

As redeployment planning begins to unfold, I find it both humbling and awe inspiring to look back and appreciate the cumulative contributions made by the troopers of this great battalion. It seems just a few months ago that our Advanced Parties were shoveling out mountains of debris from work and living areas, and we collectively wondered what technical capabilities might be compromised in the midst of the heat and sand.

Through initiative, commitment and a "no mission too tough" attitude, SSB teams stationed throughout the theater overcame these obstacles and continued adding skills to their tactical and technical toolboxes. And by sharing our lessons learned and applying these newly acquired skills, the battalion now serves as a tremendous enabling force for TF All American. Not a single day passes that the paratroopers and postal soldiers of the SSB are not contributing to the morale and well-being of their individual customers or supporting the vision of a stable and secure Iraq. But as a matter of perspective, those single day successes have amounted to quite a record of tangible achievements:



Thanks to our brother and sisters in the 316th Postal Company from Queens, New York, and the selfless efforts of the 782d MSB and the 101st FSB, we ensured the delivery of over 4 million lbs. of mail since arriving in Iraq. On average, mail was distributed 5 days each week, within 14 days of the postmark. Our finance teams were on the road constantly, obtaining additional cash reserves or providing mili-





tually every technical function available in Gavin Hall.

Team Ridgway comprised of the SSB, DISCOM HQ, 82d Signal Battalion and the 142d ROC have been steadily helping the families and children build a brighter future by supporting the Al Abdul Nassar

tary pay support to outlying Forward Operating Bases. Once the last check is signed, we will have committed over \$100 million towards force protection, quality of life, local infrastructure improvements, business capitalization, and the training and equipping of select Iraqi professionals. Winning the peace can be every bit as challenging as winning the war, and in this respect, our finance teams managed the commander's weapon of choice - the dollar.

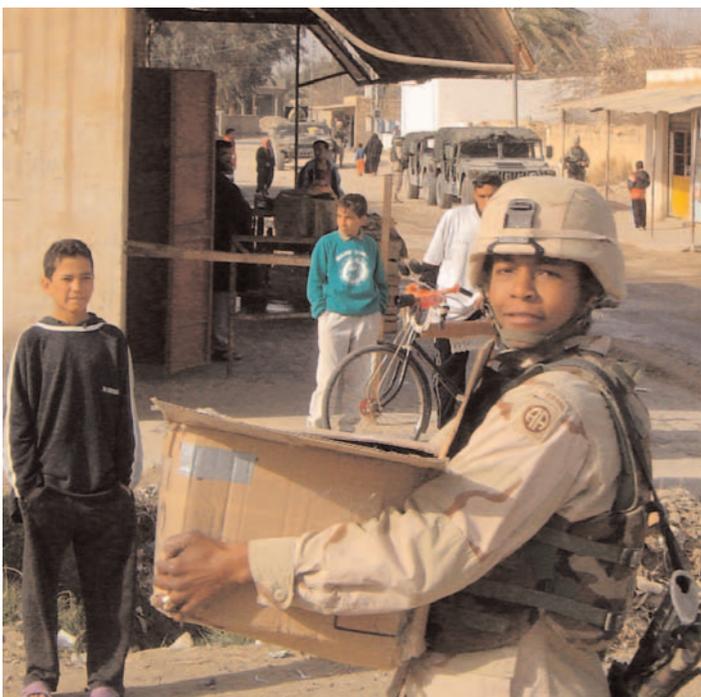
Our personnel and finance offices, the epicenter of our customer service mission averaged a total of 300 customers per day, and with the tremendous support of the 82d Signal Battalion and our own world-class communications team, we were able to replicate vir-

Secondary School - after years of neglect and misinformation, your contributions have allowed the local populace see, first hand, the generosity and kindness of the American people. Through your gifts, they know that our intentions are honorable and that we are committed to the success of future Iraqi generations.

By the time this edition reaches you, an SSB trooper will be preparing a manifest for the first of our returning heroes. We have teams from Incirlik, Turkey to Kuwait City, Kuwait and all points in between to support TF All American's redeployment. Even though several SSB troopers have taken one step closer to their loved ones by manning these redeployment sites, we are aware that there is still much work to be done, and we remain focused on the most important aspect of our operation - getting the All American team home safely. This mission, like all before it, will succeed with the tireless professionalism of our troopers and with your continued thoughts and prayers.

In reflecting on all that this unit has achieved, I have become convinced of two truths. First, to doubt the experience or ability of our paratroopers is to underestimate their potential; and second, God will continue to honor the prayers for safety and well-being that our nation professes on our behalf. Thank you again for your love and support. We do what we do because of you, and we could not do it without you.

All the Way - Airborne!  
LTC Tim Ryan and CSM Marion White





## 313th Military Intelligence Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Guarino  
Commanding Officer



Families of the 313th Military Intelligence Battalion,

The New Year has come and gone and our enthusiasm is steadily increasing as we draw closer to the end of our mission in Iraq. We continue to be focused on the mission at hand, but also excitedly look forward to our reunions with loved ones. As many of you already know, LTC Guarino is home on emergency leave as Noel Guarino has gone through surgery. She is now out of surgery and a full recovery is expected. Our prayers go out to the Guarino family. 1SG and myself Wagner are holding down the fort and have begun the process of redeployment back to Fort Bragg.

We are extremely proud of our troopers and their multitude of monumental achievements. Bravo Company is well on its way into the reintegration process, and they are happy to be with their loved ones back in the states. Alpha Company troopers are on the ground here in Iraq, and already they are beginning to make an impact on the War Against Terrorism. CPT Strider returned from his unexpected "vacation" in Germany, and is reunited with his Company.



It is extremely rewarding to me, to see our troopers work so diligently. Our living conditions continue to improve as we begin to receive elements of the US Marine Corps. The large majority of us continue to enjoy living in buildings, regular hot showers, great mess halls, and such.

Troopers are taking advantage of the improving weather and the Brown and Root sponsored gymnasiums. Even though living conditions continue to improve, we are still very anxious to get back home to our families. We are constantly thankful and appreciative of everything our families have done to support us while we have been away from home.



Echo Company is fully engaged in operations

throughout Iraq. It is great to see the Company conduct its mission as a cohesive unit during the execution of critical operations. They just completed their latest mission and are quickly preparing for another. While their work is tiresome and extensive, these troopers are truly enjoying the fact that they are making great contributions to the Division's fight.

Charlie Company's work in support of the Panthers continues, as they execute multiple operations within their area of operations. Their collective contributions continue to be significant towards our attempts to capture anti-coalition members and our assistance with the Iraqi rebuilding process. These fine troopers have truly performed remarkably. Delta and Headquarters Companies are now tightening their "redeployment belts," as they prepare to bring the Battalion home. With the focus now shifting to redeployment, an already high motivation level is now going through the roof. From mechanics to intelligence analysts, everyone is engaged in the process to move the Battalion, deliberately and safely, back to Ft Bragg. Finally, the lead elements of the I Marine Expeditionary Force are on the ground and we are making great strides towards executing a smooth transition with them. As we draw towards



the end of our deployment, we will continue to focus on our mission and will set the Marines up for success. I am very proud of the tremendous hard work and selfless service demonstrated by all. It continues to be a distinct privilege to lead this great team of talented and dedicated troopers. Thank you for all of your support and encouragement from the home front.

All the way!  
MAJ Ross





## 3-4 Air Defense Artillery Regiment (Airborne)

LTC King  
Commanding Officer



Dear Families of the Skystrikers,

Greetings from Iraq. Skystrikers continue to conduct operations with the same motivation, vigor and zeal that have sustained all of us over the past six months. Charlie battery continues to support the Panther Brigade, Delta and Headquarters Battery continue to support the Division at Forward Operating Base Ridgway. Thanks again for your continual support as we approach the end of a long and historic deployment for the Skystrikers. Our troopers amaze me daily with their commitment and their work ethic that has not faltered in a long and dangerous deployment. The morale and professionalism of your husbands, wives, daughters and sons has contributed significantly to the success of the battalion in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

As we get ready for our return home we are preparing each trooper for life with family and friends through counseling and training. Life will be different for each of us as we have all been under great pressures over the past months and I request your patience as the troopers adjust to life at home. We will begin reintegration training

and leaders will continue to communicate with troops as we prepare for a major change, that we all welcome, in each of our lives. I would ask that each of you take advantage of the redeployment training that is offered for families it will assist in easing tension and assisting with a smooth homecoming. Contact your rear detachment commander if you have any questions reference reintegration training.

As I write my final letter from Iraq I want to take this time to salute each of you for what you have done over the past six months. We often talk about heroes and sacrifices that troopers make daily as we answer the call of duty. Your husbands, wives, daughters and sons are today's heroes in this war on terrorism. However, they are not the only heroes in this war, those of you that read this letter are the unsung heroes. The news media may not rush to you for interviews even though you support troopers that fight for a cause much bigger than themselves. Without your support we could not win this war on terrorism; without your support we could not deploy, train, conduct daily operations in garrison; conduct permanent change of duty station; attend





has been many firsts as we have performed missions that have significantly improved the security and stability throughout Iraq. As we end our civil military operations in support of Al Kabani a village near FOB Ridgway the Iraqi people again thank you for your support to their village. Family readiness groups and individuals provided many gifts, clothes and school supplies that will never be forgotten by the Iraqi people. All of us are excited about our return home and we know that we have improved the quality of life for the Iraqi people and accomplished our mission. The work in Iraq is not finished and there is much to do but we can all be proud of our contributions in this war.

professional development schools and all of those other tasks that we often take for granted. Prior to our deployment I stated that we would all become better because of our deployment to the Country of Iraq and individually and collectively I believe we are much better.

Thanks for your continued support and look forward to seeing you at Pope AFB in April. Continue to stay in-touch with the rear detachment commanders and Family Readiness Group Leaders for information on redeployment.

Over the past six months we have accomplished much as an organization. The Skystrikers have again proved that it is a valued member of the division and has performed exceptional throughout Iraq. This is a historical deployment as there

God Speedy Blessings,

By Daring Deeds  
Skystriker 6





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

Dear Families of HHC 82D Airborne Division,

Salutations from Iraq! Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 82d Airborne Division has completed yet another month of hard work. The Company's focus has been preparation for redeployment. We have spent the month of February, packing and marking containers, finalizing movement plans and preparing equipment. All tasks were completed to standard while continuing to support the rebuilding of Iraq.



have returned to Fort Bragg, all Troopers will undergo financial, medical, and personnel screening. The training at Fort Bragg will take about 7 working days and then Troopers will be allowed to begin some well-deserved leave.



This month SFC Eric Maynes (G3 Plans) will be promoted to Master Sergeant, SSG Carlos Castaneda (G3 PSYOP) will be promoted to Sergeant First Class and SPC Kyle Spade (Command Group) will be promoted to Sergeant.

The following soldiers celebrated birthdays in February here in Iraq: SGT Jillian Basso (PAO), CPT Patricia Cika (SJA), LTC James Iacocca (All American 1), SFC David Lewis (G3), MAJ James Skrabacz (G4), CPT Richard Tackett (G3), SFC William Vinston (G1), and PFC David Zamora (G5).

In order to make our transition from being deployed to home station smooth, all Troopers are receiving reintegration training. The training begins here in Iraq and continues once we return home. Once we

We appreciate your continued support and words of encouragement. We look forward to seeing you all real soon.



All the Way!  
CPT Trehan





## 82D Military Police Company (Airborne) Commander: CPT Hill

Dear Families of the 82D MP Company,  
We are hoping that this is will be one of the last letters form Iraq and that soon it will be written from Fort Bragg, NC. As always the paratroopers of the 82d MP CO continue to be the standard bearers for the division. The trooper's motivation level just seems to get more intense as the days go by. We are all excited about returning home and we anticipate a smooth transition back to Fort Bragg.

The unit is preparing the relief-in-place with the incoming unit. We are hoping that this transition is quick. However we will never lose focus on our mission as long as here are still in Iraq.

4th Platoon and the HQ Platoon continue to provide outstanding military police support to Champion Main. Recently, 4th Platoon has been involved in conducting customs operations. They are responsible for ensuring that every container leaving Champion Main has been properly checked for customs violations. 4th Platoon has completed another 42 convoy/combat escort missions and continue to provide 24/7 security to the DMAIN. PSD has continued to do a great job securing the Division Commander and other dignitaries that visit Iraq.

The unsung heroes of this deployment have by far been the paratroopers in the Provost Marshal's Office. SPC Avery, SPC Aldridge, and SPC Daniels have been key players in the division TOC, providing a vast amount of assistance to the PM and DPM. There dedication has made the PMO a very successful cell within the D-MAIN. In the D-REAR, SSG Bowen, SPC Cushionberry and SPC Ramirez have done a great job providing military police



support to the division. These three paratroopers have completed a work load consistent with that of a 15 man unit. They provide the D-REAR with staff NCO's, customs inspectors, military police investigations, and they run the local national weapons program. Great job by all.

3rd Platoon is doing a great job supporting the 3rd Brigade Combat Team. The soldiers are doing a great job and look forward to getting home. SPC Barton and PFC Scott provide excellent automatic weapons coverage while conducting daily missions in their AO. Whereas, SPC Castorena and SPC Serrano have done an excellent job as drivers totaling over 3000 accident free miles. The entire platoon has performed remarkably throughout the whole deployment.

After a long year, 2nd Platoon has finally redeployed back to home station. The entire platoon deserves a much needed break. The support they gave to 1st Armored Division has not gone unnoticed. 1LT Oman and SFC Frahm did an outstanding job leading the paratroopers and being the standard bearers for 1AD.

Overall, what a great month the company had. Unfortunately, PFC Strike, PFC Scott, and LT Baker were all injured while conducting their mission. They all are doing fine and will make complete recoveries. The unit would also like to congratulate SSG Arnold on his recent selection to attend Office Candidate's School (OCS) this fall. This month's promotions included CPL Mosley to SGT and SGT Figueroa to SSG. On a belated note, the unit would like to congratulate CPL Pehowic, SSG Graff, 1LT Behler and SSG Thiele on graduating from the Jumpmaster course last month.

The paratroopers of the 82d Military Police Company would again like to thank everyone for their support while we have been gone. Well see you all soon.

ALL THE WAY! AIRBORNE! CPT Hill

# PARATROOPERS IN ACTION!



# MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN IRAQ!

