



82D AIRBORNE DIVISION

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM NEWSLETTER



Dear Family and Friends of the All American's,

I would like to wish the families and friends of the All American Division a joyous Holiday Season and a Blessed New Year. The separation from loved ones during this time of year can be difficult, but it is important to celebrate this season no matter the circumstances. Many years from now we will likely look back and realize that this was one of those events that strengthened our relationships. I can speak for the vast majority of the troopers in Iraq when I tell you that we want you to enjoy this Season even while we are not able to be with you.



Given some of the news reports and stories in the national papers and on T.V., it is sometimes difficult to sort out fact from fiction. Let me set the record straight - - we are absolutely on track and moving in the right direction here in Iraq. After the news reports are complete and the media has moved on to the next story, the All American's remain in Iraq continuing the mission, undeterred, unwavering, and unstoppable. And, while our story may not make the nightly news, it will certainly be recorded in the history of this time and of this place.

We continue to take the fight to the enemy. Our success is measurable and we continue to press our advantage against these unscrupulous thugs. We are sophisticated, not just in the application of our over-

whelming technological advantage, but in the application of combat power. We have the enemy on the run and we will keep him on the run until we have killed or captured those responsible for creating instability and attempting to disrupt our progress towards a free, independent, and prosperous Iraq. We can and do apply devastating effects against the enemy while maintaining the capability to conduct humanitarian tasks to support an Iraq on the path to self governance.

We continue to help the Iraqi people and our efforts have increased in span and scope. I believe job creation - - putting able bodied Iraqi's to work - - is the key component to creating a secure environment in Iraq. To that end, we continue to look for opportunities to create jobs for the Iraqi people. One example of our successful efforts is the recent completion of coordination with the Al Faris State Company for the installation of two large generators. These generators will enable the company to hire approximately 800 additional employees. We also continue to work diligently to ensure that the schools in the Al Anbar region have the tools they need to succeed. In a small town outside one of our operating bases, we completed the final payment to the Al Taghwa Girls School which will positively affect over 500 students. We distributed school supplies and backpacks for 1000 students in Ar Ramadi. The backpacks were distributed to 550 primary and 450 secondary school students. Tribal leaders in Ar Ramadi continue to express their appreciation for the support coalition forces have provided to the schools in the area. Finally, we continue to improve the hospitals in our area of operations and we recently completed renovations to three municipal hospitals in the Iskandariyah area. These projects were completed at a cost of \$23,000 and will positively affect approximately 200,000 residents.

Safety and force protection continue to be our highest priorities. We have improved facilities, vehicles, and the most advanced individual gear, all of which

increase our force protection. Our leaders account for safety and force protection as a formal part of all mission planning, and I continue to emphasize their importance as part of everything we do.

These are challenging times and information will be coming at family members from many directions. Fort Bragg is fully engaged in providing the assistance necessary to family members of deployed troopers. Each deployed unit has a fully functioning Rear Detachment, led by a hand picked team of mature leaders who understand Army systems critical to the families of deployed troopers. I can not overstate the importance of our Family Readiness Groups and the instrumental role they play in this deployment - - they are there for you. Our Family Readiness Groups and Rear Detachment Commanders continue to be the most timely, accurate, complete source of information on all matters related to operations here in Iraq. If you



the United States. As a result your loved one has answered the high calling to protect the liberties our forbearers earned. That is why we are here in Iraq today and why others like us are spread across the globe in other remote areas - - we have been charged with protecting our great Nation and for that responsibility and trust we are also thankful.



have a question or cannot resolve an issue with an organization on Fort Bragg, let your Family Readiness Group leader or Rear Detachment Commander know, it is very likely that they know what systems to activate to resolve most issues.

Celebrating Thanksgiving in Iraq provides a unique opportunity to see why it is that we should be thankful. We are blessed to live in a nation as unique as

Let me close this month's edition of the newsletter with sincere thanks for all that you have done and continue to do during this deployment. What you do on the home front make a substantial difference to us here in Iraq and contributes directly to safeguarding the gifts of liberty and freedom that we treasure. You are carrying more than your share of the load, especially during this Holiday Season, and your efforts are appreciated. Happy Holidays, and, I pray the blessings of the season upon you, your families, Task Force All American, 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,

Airborne! Your paratroopers continue to excel here in Iraq and their performance while in harms way is inspiring. Their efforts in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom are having a direct and measurable impact on the safety of our Nation.

We take the fight to the enemy daily and our efforts have paid off. We captured senior members of the former regime and placed several evil doers into custody. We also captured numerous weapons, ammunition, bomb making materiel, and devices to make mines and explosives. You should be very proud of your husbands, wives, sons, and daughters because they are making a real difference in Iraq.

The base camps that house Division paratroopers are under continuous renovation and upgrades in order to improve living conditions. Our efforts to upgrade and improve the facilities and morale sites has a two fold purpose: we first want to ensure that our troopers are taken care of and secondly, we want to leave each site better than they were when we arrived.

Our Thanksgiving Day celebration was a total success. While all of us would have much rather been at home with our loved ones celebrating the holidays in our own tradition, we could not have asked for a better celebration here in Iraq. More leaders and troopers than I can mention, went the extra mile to create a wonderful series of events across our entire area of operation. Our cooks, who take an extraordinary degree of pride in putting out the best spread possible during Thanksgiving, worked through the night and allowed the rest of us to share the holiday in style. I could not be more proud of their effort or determination to do the job right, it was a tremendous lift to all of us.

Even while taking time to celebrate Thanksgiving, our troopers were out on the line protecting us or out on patrol tracking down the enemy. Our mission continues and your paratroopers take their parts seriously. Force protection and safety are a part of everything that we do and I am personally involved with ensuring that we never become complacent in anything we do here.

Our success at providing the Iraqi people with the basic services and systems they need for independence continues. Everyday your troopers interact with the Iraqi people in their area of operations. The vast majority of Iraqis respond positively to these interactions and are glad to have the support we are providing. Our efforts to improve schools and the quality of life in the towns are having a measurable affect.



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. The President himself commented on our great warriors during his surprise visit on Thanksgiving.

We just had our first big rain of the winter season, it was nothing like the rain we get at Fort Bragg, but the change was nice - - all except the mud we have tracked all over the place! Temperatures should continue to get cooler and we can expect some more rain, but if this is as cold and wet as it gets, our troopers will easily handle it.

Your continued support is directly contributing to our success and I hope you can see the results of your efforts - - we certainly can. Our sacrifices today will ensure a safer tomorrow for our families and friends. I am proud to be an All American and to serve with the fine paratroopers of this Division. Thank you for all you do everyday to support us.

ATW!

CSM Wolf Amacker



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 officially started the American Holiday season with a traditional Thanksgiving meal. All of the soldiers of Task Force Panther were able to enjoy a traditional Thanksgiving meal complete with pumpkin pie and all the trimmings.

Full spectrum operations continue throughout our area of operations. Recently our effective operations have led to a decrease in enemy activity. We believe that this is a good sign- a sign of our success. Additionally, we are working hard with our Civil-Military Operations. We have delivered two generators to a local cement and tile factory. Once the generators and systems are completely hooked up, we will be adding approximately 750 jobs for the Fallujah work force. We are also adding jobs in other parts of the zone through the efforts of our Civil Affairs teams working with local Iraqi leaders.

Task Force Panther continues to engage the media to tell our story of life in Iraq. We have been quite successful with the assistance of the addition of a public affairs team from the 350th Public Affairs Detachment. We have had almost every major news agency operate inside our area of operations. Panther Six (Colonel Smith) just completed an interview with Christiane Amanpour for "Sixty Minutes II" the program is scheduled to air in January. The story focuses on operations in and around the city of Fallujah. It includes interviews with soldiers from 1-505th and 1-504th. We have also had major coverage from the

print media to include the New York Times, Washington Post, Wall Street Journal and the LA Times.

The units continue to focus on quality of life improvements at their FOBs. Barracks for the Red Devils, 1-504th PIR, are currently under construction on FOB St Mere. We are planning to move the Red



Devils to their new homes some time in mid-December. Additionally December 1st marks the grand opening of our newly remodeled AAFES PX building on FOB St Mere.





see improvements in our zone. We are currently enjoying a period of stability through out our AO. However, the enemy remains active and we still have some more hard work ahead of us. We intend to build on our 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

We are currently in the process of installing our first two internet cafes at FOBs St Michael and St Mere. The internet café at FOB St Mere is fully functional and St Michael should be operational shortly. Soldiers at these FOBs now have the ability to call home at a cost of approximately five cents a minute. They also have access to the internet for sending email. The remaining seven packages will be arriving in December. We hope to have these systems up and running in time for the Christmas holidays.



The members of the brigade combat team continue to





325th AIRBORNE INFANTRY REGIMENT

Task Force Falcon



Colonel Kurt Fuller

Commanding Officer, 325th AIR

Dear Falcon families,

Happy Holidays! This holiday season we be deployed and will miss spending time with family and friends. Nevertheless, we understand our purpose and mission here in Iraq and are proud of our accomplishments and recognize the Brigade Combat Team could not succeed without your loving support and prayers. Thank you for your continued unwavering support it means everything to the paratroopers of the Regiment.

During the month of November, we celebrated two important holidays of reflection, Veterans Day and Thanksgiving Day. Both of these holidays were allowed us to reflect upon the sacrifices made by past generations and to give thanks that we were fortunate to be born in America as part of a free and united nation under God.

These holidays reinforced for each of us why our country is so great. This past Thanksgiving, I asked our soldiers to reflect and give God thanks for the many blessings and opportunities we have as Americans. In the spirit of giving thanks we opened

up our dining facility on Camp Falcon to local community leaders to share in our celebration of giving thanks. The BCT also invited orphaned children to spend a day with troopers. Both of these exchanges proved valuable in the next step of building and creating new relationships with the Iraqi people. There is such potential here that we are certain that we move a step closer to a free and democratic Iraq every day



and you can be proud that your soldier is taking part in a great chapter in America's history.

On the frontlines, the Brigade Combat Team continued to do well. The BCT implemented new tactics, techniques, and procedures that has defeated and destroyed many terrorist cells in our sector of Baghdad. As a result, we have confiscated many illegal weapons, jailed bad guys by the truck load, and disrupted the enemy's ability to organize and create havoc in our sector. We are winning this fight and each day that our successes grow the enemy is weakened. We will continue to stay on the offensive for the entire time we are here.

Community relations in our sector continued to improve. During the past month local Iraqi community leaders and neighborhood representatives, met with





leaders of the Falcon Brigade Combat Team during the grand opening and dedication of the AL Rashid town hall, the first district advisory building in Baghdad. The building, a former hunting club frequented by Uday Hussein, is a tribute to the soldiers and the citizens who gave their lives in the fight to liberate Iraq. The Al Rashid District Advisory Council was the first of the nine non-judicial interim councils created under guidance provided by the Coalition Provisional Authority, and is the example by which the others are measured.

Other highlights for the past month included visits from congressional representatives and senators from

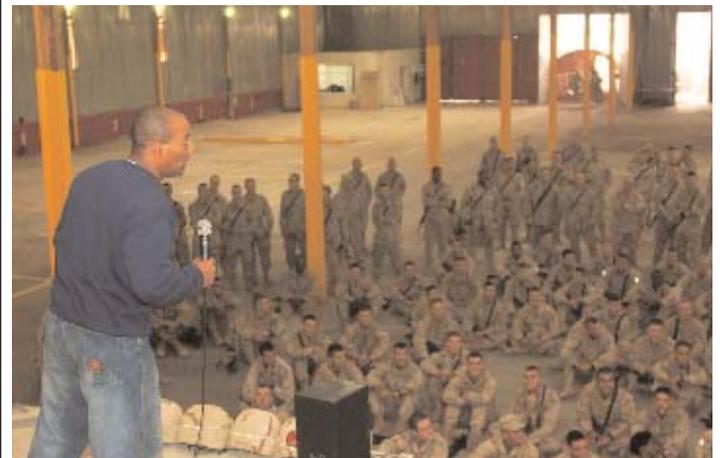


AZ, IA, MN, NY, RI, FL, NC, MO, and VA. Our camp also hosted a traveling comedy show in one of our motor pool warehouses at Camp Falcon. We planned to have it outside but the weather forced in into the warehouse which served as the theater and we used a shipping container as the stage. Over 300 soldiers, paratroopers, and reservists showed up to enjoy The Comics On Duty World Tour, run by Armed Forces Entertainment, featuring five headline comics, Scott Henry, Gary Brightwell, Danny Villalpando, Kevin Jordan and Robert Hawkins. This event was enjoyed by all who attended.



In closing, as the commander of this outstanding team, I am thankful and proud of the quality paratroopers, soldiers, and family members that make our success a reality. Again I want to extend a warm holiday greeting to all and blessed and prosperous New Year!

All the Way! Let's Go! Airborne!



319th AIRBORNE FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT



Loyalty

Colonel Scott Thein Commanding Officer, 319th AFAR

Dear Friends and Family of the DIVARTY,

The paratroopers of DIVARTY remain steadfast in our commitment to our missions. The Mayor Cell at Champion Base is making progress daily on the improvements we have undertaken for our living and working areas.

The mission of consolidating and destroying enemy ammunition continues, with more and more dangerous munitions being accounted for and destroyed each day.

This month we are focusing on the Civil Affairs mission. COL Thein has been appointed by MG Swannack to be his personal representative to the local government.



DIVARTY is involved in weekly meetings with the Governor of the Al Anbar province, and the heads of the Al Anbar Provincial Council. We have been especially busy lately coordinating the meetings between Iraqi government representatives, the Civilian Provisional Authority (CPA) and the CENTCOM Commander, GEN Abizaid.

The Iraqi government will be going through major changes over the next few months, preparing for the complete turn over of the civilian government from the CPA to the Iraqi Governing Council in June 2004, and your paratroopers are playing a vital role in preparing the Al Anbar province for it.

Continuing our efforts to improve the life for our neighbors here in Ar Ramadi, the DIVARTY has adopted two

schools. Both are in dire need of assistance, and we are working overtime to ensure that they get the remodeling, and supplies they need. As important as our other missions are, we are most gratified by the assistance we are able to provide to the school children in our area. Their future is more secure because of our and the HHB DIVARTY FRG efforts.



As the holidays approach, we are all reflecting on why we are here so far from hearth and home. None of us would wish to be away from our loved ones during this time of the year, yet we all realize that our efforts today mean that our children inherit a safer world tomorrow.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to our family and friends who are back in the U.S. keeping the home fires burning. We miss you all and are thinking of you during this holiday season. We are looking forward to getting home to you all when the time comes. In the meantime, we are working closer and closer to our goal of self-government for the Iraqi people.

CSM Michael W. Williams, Command Sergeant Major

COL Scott E. Thein, Commanding





82D AVIATION BRIGADE Task Force Pegasus



Colonel Perry Wiggins **Commanding Officer, 82D AVN BDE**

Dear Family and Friends of Task Force Pegasus,

As I write this newsletter I realize a number of you are either preparing for or traveling to enjoy the Thanksgiving Holidays. On behalf of each and every member of Task Force Pegasus I want to wish each of you a safe and Happy Thanksgiving.

Temperatures here in Central Iraq have cooled off considerably with lows ranging in the mid 40s and highs ranging in the mid 70s. The Grand Opening of the new Dining Facility on FOB Ridgway has soldiers looking forward to a traditional Thanksgiving meal. As I walk around this place I must admit that the changes (for the better) are incredible. A significant amount of effort has gone into improving the quality of life for our soldiers. The next milestone is



the Grand Opening of the new AFFES PX scheduled for the first week in December.



On the entertainment front we conducted the second installment of the Iraqi Idol Talent Competition. The word most critics used to describe a majority of the acts was "interesting". Not sure that's a good thing but I can tell you that for the 400 to 600 in attendance it sure was entertaining. We recorded the event and will be forwarding the tape to family readiness groups or America's Most Funniest Videos (whoever offers the most money) soon.





the mightiest nation in the world.

Once again I want to express my gratitude to those of you who have continued to support our troopers with thoughts, prayers, packages and letters. You have been a true force multiplier and your contributions are immeasurable. I consider it an honor and privilege to be counted among the member of Task Force Pegasus. They continue to demonstrate daily the character that has earned this nation the reputation as

In closing I have but two wishes for the Thanksgiving Holidays, first, that each and every member of the Task Force Pegasus Team have a safe and enjoyable holiday and second, the University of Georgia wins its Bowl Game. "GO DAWGS!"

Pegasus 06





Division Support Command Task Force Provider



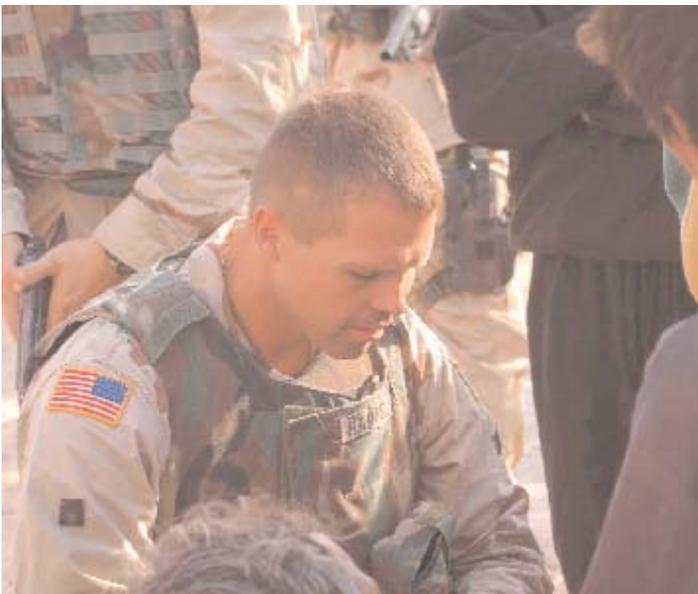
Colonel Glen Takemoto Commanding Officer, DISCOM

To our DISCOM Family,

This last month has seen a flurry of activity. Here at FOB Ridgway and our remote locations, our DISCOM soldiers have continued providing world-class support to the All Americans. Whether by daily convoys, maintenance, medical, or a myriad of other support functions, our soldiers are making it happen.



FOB Ridgway is taking on new life. We opened a \$25 million dining facility complete with TV's and



that serves 4 meals a day! The dining facility was completed just in time for a truly wonderful Thanksgiving meal. We hosted a "Comics on Tour" show here at FOB Ridgway that put smiles on many peoples' faces for a few hours and more shows are coming in December. We also opened our second impress PX located with the 782d Main Support Battalion and our 7,200 square feet AAFES PX opened on 30 November. Two internet cafes are up and running with 10 more in the works! All areas now have shower points and troop living areas all have power. As for force protection, we have continued to build up our base to ensure the greatest safety for your loved ones and ensure that all of our soldiers remain trained on their combat tasks.



The morale of our troopers is high thanks to the constant improvements to our quality of life, the recognition of the impact we are making here in Iraq, but mainly it's because we know that we have the support and caring of our family members. A special thanks to our Family Readiness Group volunteers for all you do. We wish you all a Happy Thanksgiving. You will be in our thoughts and prayers.

All the way, Airborne!

COL Glenn H. Takemoto
Commanding



82D Signal Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Crawford
Commanding Officer



Seasons Greetings and Happy Holidays to the All-American Signal Battalion Family. Our troopers continue to excel and are truly doing yeoman's work providing tactical communications to the Division's Deployed Task Force, here in Western Iraq. Although we all miss our friends and families, morale remains high and our resolve remains firm. As technology improves, the troopers of this battalion continue to

enjoyed a special meal with all of the trimmings. Truly a heartwarming sight to see. Although we are still trying to figure out how they were able to pull it off, we are definitely thankful they did.

Everyone remains focused on what we have to do here and I'm confident that you would all be proud to see them in action. I'm especially proud of the Non-



make history every day, devising and implementing new tactics, techniques, and procedures to meet the ever-changing operational communications requirements. The fruits of their labor and diligent efforts enable this Division to both continue their combat operations here and keep everyone in touch with their loved ones back home. Simply put, the All American Signal Battalion continues to make a difference, and add value to the mission of improving the lives of the Iraqi people.

My sincere and heartfelt thanx to all that were responsible for the spectacular Thanksgiving Meal at all of our locations around the Division Area of Operations. Our cooks, contractors and senior leadership (both military and civilian) went all out to ensure we

Commissioned Officers, for it is the NCO Corps that sets and maintains the standards and the discipline



required to succeed here on the battlefield. They have done a tremendous job and I just wanted to take yet another opportunity to recognize them for their efforts. CSM Hammonds and myself see on a daily basis, the professionalism and dedication these troopers maintain.

Quality of life for our troopers continues to improve as we head for the winter months. Over the next few weeks, all areas will be winterized (heaters, additional walls in living areas) to combat the anticipated 40-60 degree weather here in Iraq this time of year. Our troopers now have access to additional AFN Cable Television (24 hr News, Sports, weekly television shows), and were entertained by a very funny group of traveling comedians two weeks ago, "Comics on Duty". The first of a series of "internet café" packages have started to arrive and are currently being installed. Although our troopers from 2d Brigade have had access to this service for some time (based on having been in country since Feb 03), the bulk of them are coming in slower than anticipated. We will continue to work on opportunities for our troopers to have access to the services required to keep in touch with their loved ones.

On behalf of the deployed Signal Battalion Task force, I would like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all the family members, family support groups, Alumni and the Rear Detachment, for the sincere and uplifting messages and letters of support, as well as the great care packages that keep flowing in. Our Parents Of Signal Troopers (POST) initiative was a resounding success and thanx again to all of the parents for your support; again, I truly wel-



come your inquiries and we appreciate the kind words of encouragement. It means a great deal to all the troopers knowing we are in your thoughts and prayers. Additionally, we understand the sacrifices and hardships that deployments create and we are forever grateful to those back home for "lending a hand" and providing that much needed 'shoulder to lean on' to our families who remain at Bragg.

I thank you all again for your support to this battalion and I ask you to please keep in your prayers, those families across the country, that have lost loved ones here in Iraq. You are all in our thoughts and prayers as well and we look forward to that day when we



return. Until then, please keep those e-mails, cards and letters coming.

In closing I leave you with a couple of thoughts:

First, please remember why we are here and never "take for granted those freedoms that we enjoy" especially during the holiday season; second, regardless of the situation, always remember that somewhere, someplace there is someone else in a worse situation than you are. God bless and Happy Holidays to you all.

Airborne, All the Way.

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



307th Engineer Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Wehr
Commanding Officer



From Champion Base

Hello from Iraq, to the friends, families, and alumni of the 307th Engineer Battalion and Alpha, 27th Engineer Battalion, all part of the All American engineers of the 82d Airborne Division team. It is an amazing team that all of you are part of in your support through email, letters, packages, occasional phone conversations, and prayers. This note provides an opportunity for a public thanks to you, from the command team of LTC Mike Wehr and CSM Steve Stegich. We are indebted to you and acknowledge that your reinforcement allows us to focus overseas on



doing our nations work. The Family Readiness Group and Rear Detachment made the Yule Fair with Santa's Workshop an amazing success with raising over \$10k. Mailing of single soldier Christmas stocking stuffers and the battalion newsletters only touch on a few of the results of all the hard work. HHC truly complements the over 10 locations of the battalion around the globe. Alpha Company and 1st Platoon of 618th Light Equipment (LE) Company are extremely busy with support to the rear detachment and training again on the drop zones of Fort Bragg. The Bravo Company team, setting records for recent continuous deployment, is incredibly motivated. The Charlie Company team is fully integrated with their parachute infantry regiment, having executed the full array of engineer missions. The balance of 618th LE Company and A Company of 27th Engineer Battalion continue to provide the most flexible reinforcement for the engineer mission within the division.

The following narratives may be a bit shorter than last month, but we've added some pictures that provide a better glimpse into our lives in Iraq.

Rear Detachment: CPT Mike Kovacs holds down the fort as the rear detachment commander at Fort Bragg. It is not a simple task to muster a staff with just a few people. The S1 shop is tracking the personnel changes as people deploy and a few return for specific reasons. The S3 shop is making it all work with tracking the missions, organizing jumps, and synchronizing training requirements to sharpen the edge for A Co.

Alpha Company: As the sole company "Maintaining The Right" at Fort Bragg, CPT Checco and 1SG Simon are truly juggling the multiple tasks with jumps, clean sweep, and ranges, let alone preparing for a company change of command in December. A recognized challenge for any company, they are truly doing a fine job of taking care of the holiday requirements for the battalion and those required at the division level.

Bravo Company: It was a wet, cool morning on Thanksgiving when CSM Stegich and LTC Wehr rolled into the 2nd Brigade base camp where Bravo Company continues



to provide great engineer support to the Falcon Brigade. CPT Borg, 1SG Bezerra, and CPT Wisniew were great hosts as the command team received an overview of operations from each platoon leader, platoon sergeant and some of the squad leaders. We had the opportunity to travel out to 2nd PLT's location to see how 1LT Sean Shields and SFC Reynolds are directly supporting 2nd Battalion of the 325 Airborne Infantry Regiment, the White Falcons. The entire company and elements of 2nd platoon of 618th Light Equipment Company with SSG Atkinson are all doing phenomenal work.

Charlie Company: The past month of combat operations continue to reveal C Co's effectiveness in achieving positive results. In addition, it demonstrates the significance of supportive family and friends to maintain high moral and motivation among all of us. The Warrior Sappers continue their diligent effort in construction, locating enemy munitions cache sites, combat patrols, and many other tasks. This month, despite combat operations, presented two significant invaluable morale changes: the video teleconference and Thanksgiving. Soldiers, family, and friends all thoroughly enjoyed this different method of communication. During this early November visit of LTC Wehr and CSM Stegich, each platoon had the opportunity to show the command team how motivation stays high within their base camps. All in all, the month of November was great, not to forget that Thanksgiving offered a refreshing and motivating stress-free dining experience, which was a welcome change.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company: The multi-role company continues to support the battalion across the theater of operations. We have paratroopers living and working at over 10 different base camps and forward operating bases. Our mechanics and medics are doing a superb job keeping our equipment and the soldiers who operate that equipment, all up and running. Our communications section helps keep us in touch with each other and our loved ones at home. Many Meuse Stick paratroopers serve in



other capacities guarding our camps, providing security for our convoys, and working daily to improve and maintain the quality of life for not only our battalion, but also the entire 82d Airborne Division.

618th Light Equipment Company: The Nasty continues to rebuild the airfield and improve the overall quality of life for everyone at FOB RIDGWAY. Their efforts paid off when the entire new dining facility was flown into the airfield and served an outstanding Thanksgiving meal. They continue to receive your mail and appreciate all the support from the Family Readiness Group.

Alpha Company, 27th Engineer Battalion: The sappers and vertical construction soldiers of A/27 have continued to improve the quality of live and force protection posture for all the soldiers at FOB RIDGWAY. They have finished construction on the Sapper Village shower, complete with changing room and hot water heaters! Also, they are making their area safer by removing captured enemy ammunition. In conjunction with their engineering brothers from HHC, 307th and 618th Light Equipment Company, they have been improving life on FOB RIDGWAY by installing electricity, heaters, and generators in each soldiers' room.

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



82D Soldier Support Battalion (Airborne)

LTC Ryan
Commanding Officer



Dear Family and Friends,

Greetings, blessings, and thanks to the Soldier Support Battalion families and many friends who seem to anticipate our every need with your generous care packages and letters of encouragement. Whether it be through email, phone calls or letters - contact with home is the #1 morale builder for soldiers throughout the theater.

The month began on an ominous note - with the loss of one of our own. But as a result of this incident, the resolve, sense of purpose, and camaraderie among SSB paratroopers has magnified. To

everyone in Iraq and at Ft. Bragg who took part in ensuring that a true hero will never be forgotten - Thank You. SSG Martinez - In both life and death you have made a deep and lasting impact on the SSB



family.

Throughout the month, Bravo, Charlie and Delta FASTs along with the 316th Postal Company continued making a measurable difference in the lives of 2 BCT and Task Force All American soldiers. Our finance teams have distributed over \$7.5 million to sustain soldiers and help improve the quality of life on our operating bases. Our personnel teams are engaged in their full range of missions including preparing promotion packets, updating ERBs, delivering mail, conducting manifest missions, and serving as liaison NCOs at Combat Support Hospitals and regional airfields. And to date, our postal team has processed over 1 million lbs. of mail, a threshold that we expect will double through the holidays.

Thanksgiving provided a day of minimal operations, and a feast beyond compare. Although, the

comforts at home were not readily apparent, I think our austere surroundings did give us a much greater appreciation for the many, many things we do indeed have to be thankful for as Americans, as soldiers, and as sons, daughters, spouses and friends to those at home who keep us in their thoughts and prayers. Thank you for all of your work and support on our behalf.

All the Way, Airborne!
LTC Tim Ryan
CSM Marion White



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



Dear family and friends of the 313th MI Battalion,

On behalf of CSM Kolenc and myself I want to wish you all a Happy Holiday Season. While I'm certain it is difficult to be away from friends and family during this time, have comfort knowing that we will share each other's camaraderie and the pride that comes with providing a great service to our country. I want you all to know that our paratroopers are doing great. Everyone is working very hard and the results show. I am extremely proud of everyone's individual effort and how each person contributes to the team effort. We are taking care of each other and doing everything possible to keep each other safe.

Fall is finally upon us and the change in weather is turning from refreshing to down right chilly overnight. The temperatures are beginning to drop to the 50s at night and during the day reach the high 70s. We expect this

dramatic swing in temperatures to continue on a downward trend through December.

Our quality of life continues to improve daily. The food is getting better and our living conditions continue to improve. Most of us had a great Thanksgiving Dinner. The effort by our Kellogg, Brown, and Root



(KBR) contractors and volunteer troopers was first class. Everyone has started to break out their winter gear, and we have recently started a winterization effort to make sure we can stay warm this winter. The USO tours have started to come through our area. Last week most of us had the opportunity to see a tour of comedians. It was great to have a couple of good laughs. For example, have any of you ever used the spell checker on your computer and realized that the geniuses that made the program weren't smart enough to help you out and your computer comes up with "no suggestions" for what ever word you have atrociously



the soldiers are committed to their duty and truly believe in one another and what they are doing. The incredible drive and leadership of our junior NCO team leaders particularly impressed me. It is clear that this is where the real work is accomplished and their successes are feeding the overall success of the battalion and division. We had an incredible sense of pride and shared accomplishment watching a LRS Team Sergeant conduct a rehearsal, a D Co Interrogator conduct a screening, a C Company analyst brief, a B Company GSS Team emplace REMBASS, and a HSC mechanic fix a generator. They

misspelled? This happens to me a lot. There's plenty more entertainment that will continue through December as we expect to see the All American Band; the USO is also looking at sending a NASCAR tour, and maybe a WWF tour; and country singer Craig Morgan is expected to spend Christmas with us. On most forward operating bases we now have "Haji" gift shops, and we will soon have access to Internet cafes, exercise facilities, libraries, and movie theaters.

A handful of troopers have had the opportunity to go to Qatar for R&R leave and a select few from B Company have gone back to the United States for Environmental Moral Leave. Troopers who have gone on R&R leave report that the Dining Facility in Qatar rivals that of most restaurants in Fayetteville, that the water sports were great, and that it was a welcome break from the daily grind.

CSM Kolenc and I spend most of our time at the Division Main Command Post and travel frequently to the Division Rear Command Post, so we see the troopers of HSC and D Company on a regular basis. This past month we also had the opportunity to visit the rest of the battalion seeing B, C, and E Companies. In this environment, soldiers seem to be brutally honest regardless of the questions they are asked. One common theme across the board is that

are all doing spectacular and are taking care of each and every soldier.

I am extremely proud of our families and FRGs. We know how hard you are working and appreciate everything you do for our paratroopers. I am equally proud of our rear detachment, and their efforts to not only keep the battalion functioning but continuing to train and support A Company to assume the DRB Mission. We will keep you all in our thoughts and prayers throughout this holiday season.

All The Way!

Very Respectfully,
LTC Nick Guarino





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



From Guardian City at Forward Operating Base Ridgway,

Holiday 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 remainder of the Skystricker Battalion providing Base Camp Security at Forward Operating Base Ridgway.



This month I was able to spend time with Bravo Battery "Bulls" during the Thanksgiving Holiday at Forward Operating Base Falcon. We had an unfortunate incident on the eve of Thanksgiving involving SSG Craft and PFC Snuden who were wounded from an improvised explosive device. PFC Snuden is doing fine and back in action and SSG Craft is currently recovering in Landstuhl, Germany and should be moving to Walter Reed Hospital soon. I awarded

him the Purple Heart on 27 November, his courage and confidence left me inspired and grateful to serve with an American Hero.



We have seen a lot of activity at our living area at Forward Operating Base Ridgway and base camps that house Skystrickers throughout Iraq. We continue to improve the quality of life for each paratrooper. We now have new shower facilities, Internet Access, Armed Forces Network television and power generators. We are receiving a steady flow of mail for the holiday season; keep sending the letter and packages. I sincerely appreciate the efforts to date of our Family Readiness Groups and Rear Detachment Command Teams.

Iraq is still a very dangerous place as we found out this month, but we are still conducting our daily missions to defeat those who do not want to see a democratic Iraq. As I conduct weekly visits to the village of Al Kabani and witness the performance of our troops throughout Iraq we are making a tremendous impact in the security of the Iraqi people. This month we transferred over 1,500 gallons of fuel for the people of the village. This fuel was taken from Iraqi army



war stocks. The fuel will be put to good use this winter. As we continue to improve the school and making their environment safe, we realize what we are thankful for during this holiday season. The freedoms associated with the greatest country in the world, friends, family, loved ones and the opportunity to do the nations work.

As the Battalion Commander, I have never been prouder of our paratroopers, their efforts and the professional manner in which they have gone about

doing the job that is asked of them. Please say a special prayer for the troops and know that you will be in our thoughts this holiday season. We will be on guard doing our duty and know that we are performing an important mission. Enjoy the 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,
Merry Christmas!!

Airborne, All the Way.....By Daring Deeds!!!
Skystriker 6





HHC
82D Airborne Division
Commander: CPT Trehan

at an ammunition storage point. The Food Service Section was responsible for making the Thanksgiving Day meal a huge success. SGT Hernandez, the Senior Cook planned and supervised the execution of an outstanding Thanksgiving Day meal.

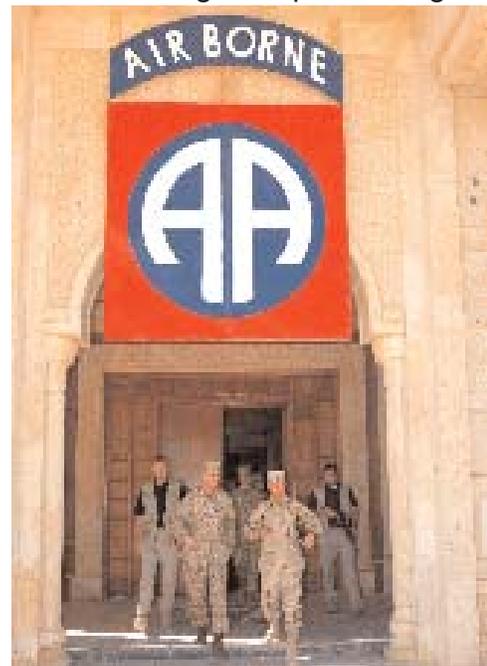
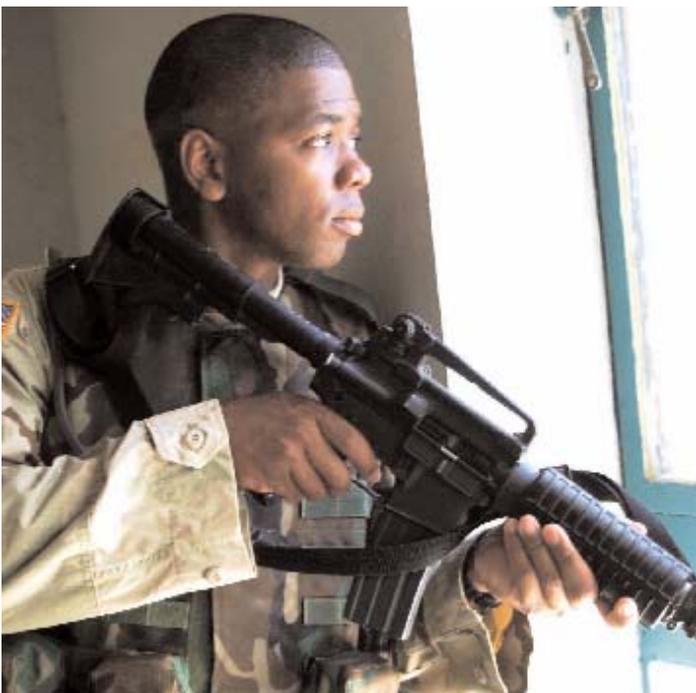
The entire Division Staff logs long hours at the

Happy holidays to you, friends and families of the Troopers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 82D Airborne Division. Though it is the holiday season your Troopers remain vigilant and hard at work supporting the Main and Rear Command Posts and helping to rebuild Iraq. Every section makes a significant contribution each and everyday. A few of the highlights are outlined below.



Within the Logistic Support Area (LSA) the Maintenance section completed annual services on eight vehicles within the Headquarters fleet. Our goal is to perform annual services on the entire fleet prior to redeployment. The Medical Section augmented the Division Artillery Medical Section with support at Forward Operating Base Ridgway. The Medical Section provided medical coverage to Troopers working

Main and Rear Command Posts. Each section provides command and control and technical expertise within their specific area of concentration. The Staff Judge Advocate section makes a special contribution with their support to both our Troopers and Iraqi citizens. Specifically, PFC Grant has been integral in processing and inves-





The following Troopers celebrated birthdays during November while serving in Iraq: CW2 Berry (G4), PFC Grant (SJA), SFC Maynes (G3 Plans), CPT Melo (G3), MSG Morrison (G3), SFC Smiley (G3), SPC White (LSA) and 1SG Wilhoite (First Sergeant).



tigating claims made by Iraqi citizens. PFC Cantrell has been preparing information on the visa process for Iraqi citizens. SPC Bradley provides assistance to soldiers who are eligible and want to complete their application for citizenship.

Within the G2 section, the Vice Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, General Pace presented SFC Miles, SSG Nucci, SPC Caputo and PFC McCurry with a coin for their outstanding performance and service to our or nation during his recent visit to the Main Command Post.

Several Troopers will be recognized for their performance and potential for continued success by being promoted at the end of the month. The promotions for the month of December are PV2 McPhaul (G4 DTO) to PFC, SPC Caputo (G2) to Sergeant, MSG Belush (G4 Food Service) was selected for Sergeant Major, WO1 Chandler (SJA) to Chief Warrant 2, WO1 Jones (541st Terrain Detachment) to Chief Warrant 2 and 1LT Brogden (Executive Officer) to Captain.

Congratulations to the following families for their wedding anniversary and support to each other during our time of service and sacrifice: SGM and Mrs. Rodriquez, 21st wedding anniversary and LTC and Mrs. Grove.

Thank you all for your continued prayers and letters of support. God Bless.

All the way, Airborne!





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

Happy Holidays and a warm hello from the 82d MP CO!

Another month has transpired since the company's departure from Fort Bragg, North Carolina in SEP03. All paratroopers of the unit and division realize the increased stress all parties experi-



ence during deployments spanning the winter holiday season. Although all would like to spend said time with family and loved ones in the states, paratroopers of the 82d MP CO realize the significance and dire necessity of their mission and how it must take precedence at the current time in our nation's history. Likewise, the unit through holiday dinners, sporting events, and MWR activities constantly provides your loved ones with venues and outlets in which to spend the holiday season joyfully.

As always, the paratroopers of the 82d MP CO continue to set the standard for excellence in the division. The company recently promoted SPC Steven Ramirez to the rank of SGT. Assigned as the squad leader of 1st squad, fourth platoon, SGT Ramirez immediately assumed a key leadership position within the unit. SGT Ramirez



typifies the young, highly proficient, tactical small unit leader of the 82d MP CO.

SGT Riecan, 3/82d MP CO, recently became a father! On 26NOV03 Mrs. Reican gave birth to a baby girl! The birth of their daughter has undoubtedly caused the Reican family to experience added bliss this holiday season. SGT Reican, as expected, looks forward to re-uniting with his newly formed family.

On an extremely sadder note, the 82d MP CO must say farewell to the 82d Airborne Division Provost Marshal, MAJ(P) McCloskey. A 26-year career soldier, MAJ(P) McCloskey served as both Deputy Provost Marshal and Provost Marshal during two consecutive tours to Iraq. MAJ(P) McCloskey provided invaluable guidance





and direction for the 82d MP CO and served as the focal point for all MP operations, concerning the 82d Airborne Division, in Iraq. MAJ(P) McCloskey will retire to Pennsylvania, where his family currently resides and

eagerly awaits his return. Sir, from all the soldiers and family members which compose the 82d MP CO I wish you only the best in your future endeavors and continued prosperity. The unit and division will severely miss your presence and leadership. AIRBORNE SIR!

MAJ Layton, the current Deputy Provost Marshal, will assume the duties of the division Provost Marshal. MAJ Layton has 15 years experience in both Corps and Division MP doctrine. The 82d MP CO and division will flourish under his leadership and subject matter expertise.

Both GS and DS platoons continue to conduct



PSD, convoy security, force protection, and area security missions. Make no mistake- there is no unit in division which daily logs more miles through contested territory than the 82d MP CO. The unit sets the standard for combat maneuver



and combat support units alike, concerning convoy security operations and immediate action drills involving improvised explosive devices. Your spouses and loved ones are the most sought after commodity in the division.

Lastly, I would like to take this time to welcome CPT Steve Hill and his family to the 82d MP CO. CPT Hill comes to division from the 16th MP BDE, experienced and more than capable of providing combat leadership to the 82d MP CO.

It goes without saying, the unit will continue to grow and flourish under his command.

Take care and may the Lord continue to bless this unit, the 82d Airborne Division, and the United States paratrooper!

**ALL THE WAY!
AIRBORNE!
CPT Brown**

PARATROOPERS IN ACTION!



MAKING A DIFFERENCE IN IRAQ!

