



**506th Regimental Combat Team
Forward Operating Base Loyalty
Baghdad, Iraq**



4 July 2006

Dear Currahee Family and Friends,

Greetings from Baghdad on this the 230th anniversary of our Nation's Independence. It is indeed remarkable that our Regiment is once again deployed in our Country's defense, as we have been so many times throughout our history. Like those before us, it is our honor to do so.

Right off the bat, I want to recognize the tremendous support we receive from our Families, Friends, Veterans, the Fort Campbell community and support organizations! The Family Readiness Groups have made a huge difference and the Rear Detachment cadre has performed magnificently! Currahees know their country is behind them and we appreciate the constant letters and packages. In addition, Veterans everywhere have raised money for contributions, visited our wounded Currahees and attended ceremonies all over America. Thanks to all of you.

The camaraderie, acts of valor and raw courage are a constant among our Currahees. The hardened resolve and vigilance to protect each other prevails, along with the pride of protecting Iraq. Our commanders and staffs are brilliant and have developed precision targeting plans resulting in the demise of hundreds of insurgents. Currahees have directly impacted the GWOT through aggressive combat in Baghdad and Ramadi. Our Soldiers are well led and disciplined.

The Army is taking good care of our Regiment. Over 70% of the Regiment has taken EML (R&R) and many have taken a break at the Freedom Rest hotel in Baghdad. All Soldiers will take EML by the end of our tour. The quality of life at the Forward Operating Bases continues to increase. Since our dedication of our Chapels, the ministerial support and participation has been superb. Our Safety record is the best in country and the force protection enhancements arrive each week.

Leadership changes since the last letter include: CPT Nathan Guthrie, C/1-506 IN; CPT Eric Tapp, D/1-506 IN; CPT Chris Beal, B/2-506 IN; CPT Jaron Wharton, C/2-506 IN; CPT Joshua Ginn, F/801 BSB; 1SG Robert Lillie, HHT/1-61 CAV; CPT Ivan Anaya, A/1-61 CAV; 1SG Keith Arnold, C/1-61 CAV; 1SG Travis Risley, A/4-320. The Regiment bid farewell to MAJ Brent Decker, transferred to 159th Aviation Regiment and welcomed MAJ Jeff Poisson, from the 159th Aviation Regiment.

We are excited to officially announce our honorary COL and CSM of the Regiment! The Honorary Colonel is LTG (R) James W. Crysel and our Command Sergeant Major is CSM (R) Robert G. Nichols. We are both privileged and fortunate to have such dedicated veterans as part of our leadership team.

Last month, we were the first Brigade to reach 100% in all Reenlistment categories and will soon re-enlist our five hundred and sixth Soldier, SGT Joshua Wicker, 1-61 CAV. In some units, we are above 200%. Reenlistment bonuses are approaching \$7 million dollars for the Regiment. Our current lifecycle ends in September 2007 and many Soldiers have opted to remain with the Regiment for the next lifecycle, which extends through September 2010. With the reenlistment options for "duty station of choice" and tax free bonuses remaining available, Currahees will continue to make our Army stronger.

Lastly, our Currahee Regiment reflects the strength and honor of our fallen and wounded heroes. We will never forget them.

Currahee!!

COL Tom Vail
Cdr, 506th RCT
Baghdad

