



“EXPECT NO MERCY” FRG NEWSLETTER



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Dear “Expect No Mercy” family & friends,

As I sit here and write this letter, we are finally on the downhill side of this deployment. We continue to face challenges and difficult moments on a daily basis, but our Soldiers continue to come together as a team to get through it all.

We have made huge accomplishments over the last 8 months of the deployment. Recently, our battalion has undergone some significant personnel changes. I look toward each of these with enthusiasm, as each new Soldier who comes to the battalion brings their own unique experiences and abilities, enhancing our effectiveness as a unit. Conversely, every outstanding officer and Soldier who departs our ranks takes the “Expect No Mercy” ethos out to share



SSG Givens is promoted to E-6.

with the rest of the Army. Words from some of our departing key leaders are contained herein, and they are truly a testament of the special place this unit and these fellow Soldiers have in each of our hearts.

I want to continue to share our heartfelt appreciation to all our families at



SGTs Conrique and Tanner take care of E Company’s “dirty work.”

home. We could not have accomplished all we have done without your kindness and support. I would also like to thank our Soldiers for all they have done to enable us to execute combat operations.

strength of our unit, our Soldiers, and our ability to operate as a team will carry us over the challenges we will face in the upcoming months.

Sincerely,

More than ever, the

LTC Douglas Gabram



SSG Burnett fields a grounder.



SGTs Morris and Artin receive the Army Commendation Medal.

SPECTRES

I would like to begin this newsletter congratulating two of our recent promotions, CW3 Stanley Pebsworth and CW3 Eugene Murphy. Both of these men have been a tremendous asset to the Spectre Team. Unfortunately, with all the movement of personnel in the battalion, I would also like to farewell SSG Diane Garver who moved to D Company as part of the Quality Control Shop. SSG Garver will be missed by all, but like all Spectres of past, she will continue to help spearhead the battalion as we enter the last half of the deployment. We are fortunate to replace her with SSG Rimeras, who arrived from D Company's Maintenance Shop and has

been doing an outstanding job as a Platoon Sergeant.

Since January, our mission set has increased as we welcomed the spring weather. The Spectres took lead on two of the largest missions since arriving in country, conducting "Operation Katrina" and "Operation Swarmer," supported by our outstanding maintenance team.

Block leave is at its highest with less than half of the tour in Iraq remaining. After April, we will only have 15% of the company remaining to take leave. If you have not heard, Tara and Keith Neiman delivered their first child, Nathan Andrew Neiman, born March 15 at 3:45

p.m., weighing 7 pounds and 6 ounces. The next Spectre newborn will be in early June from Lisa and Mark Jernigan.

I would like to end this newsletter thanking the Spectre FRG for their support to the Spectres as this will be my last newsletter. The support from our friends and family have a direct impact on our ability to accomplish our mission. I would like to recognize the new FRG Leaders, Sheila Jones and Cristy Wellinghurst. As a team, they have taken the reigns from Angela and will head the FRG until we return home safely to Fort Campbell. Unfortunately the Army says my time as a Commander has to come to an end. I am currently moving on to the Brigade Assis-

tant Operations Officer, a move consisting of about 100 yards. Without a doubt, the Spectres are absolutely the best team I have ever had the honor to serve and Soldier with. I could not have asked to be part of a better team and family. A Company will be in good hands with a competent and well respected new Company Commander, CPT Tim Rose, who assumed command on April 3. Once again, Angela and I would like to thank every one of you for your support during these challenging times of separation from our loved ones. It has definitely been one of the greatest honors of my life to Soldier with the Spectres and the "Expect No Mercy" Battalion!

~CPT Tyquiengco

BEARCATS

The Bearcats have suffered an enormous tragedy. SPC James W. Gardner died on April 10, 2006 in Tal Afar, Iraq. James was an excellent Soldier and a great American. His death was a terrible loss to the Bearcats and to all the Bearcat families. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the Gardner family, and I extend my sincerest gratitude to all the wonderful people who have supported the Gardners throughout this most difficult time. SPC Gardner served his country, and the Bearcats, with honor. His spirit will live-on within the company for years to come.

The Bearcats have made a huge impact in Northern Iraq. The company played a

leading role in three Air Assaults, capturing and destroying insurgent strongholds in vicinity of Tal Afar and along the Syrian border. We are still flying in direct support of 1st Brigade, 1st Armored Division, and have been instrumental in eliminating enemy attacks against Coalition convoys and interdicting terrorist smuggling operations along the border, and continue fly and fight throughout Northern and Western Iraq, protecting U.S. Soldiers on the ground.

We have made vast improvements since our arrival at FOB Sykes, and have put a lot of effort into repairing and upgrading our equipment and our facilities. Most notably, the Bearcat Crewchiefs

upgraded their aircraft parking pads with their Tail Numbers, as well as each of their State Symbols. We have Oregon (Long), Ohio (Hudson), New York (Seco), California (Jones, Caballero), Texas (Nelson), Oklahoma (Shacknies), and New Jersey (Andrews). Lots of state pride, and hopefully, that will make their home-states proud, as well. The weather continues to get warmer, and as we know, summer is fast approaching.

Recent highlights include the selection of CW4 Nick Caudill to serve as the No Mercy Task Force Production Control Officer at FOB Sykes. CW4 Caudill's outstanding skills will allow him to perform these duties flawlessly, while continuing to be an instrumental member of

the Bearcat Team. CW3 Chapman and CW2 Sitter continue to perform as the Task Force Aviation Safety Officer and Tactical Operations Officer, respectively. Their contributions to the Bearcats and to Task Force have been phenomenal. Our Maintenance NCO's: SFC MacLaughlin, SGT Barillas, SGT Artin, SGT Rojas, SGT Fred, and SGT Despiou continue to perform magnificently.

I truly appreciate everything the FRG has done for us. We are extremely grateful to have such an outstanding group of spouses and families supporting the Bearcats. Thanks for everything.

~CPT Halsey

Farewell from Paladin 07

First of all let me say that the last year and a half or so that I've spent as Paladin 07 has been a memorable one. From the challenges of flying in Garrison during reset while preparing for deployment, the back to back turns at JRTC supporting the 159th Avn Bde in preparation for our current deployment, to the move into theater in support of OIF 05-07, the Officers, Warrant Officers, NCOs and Enlisted of Charlie Company have stood up and taken on all tasks, missions, and challenges and succeeded above and beyond the standards. I am extremely proud to have been allowed the opportunity to be their First Sergeant, I cannot think of nor have had the privilege to work with a more loyal, hardworking, and dedicated group of professional Soldiers than those of Charlie Company.

I will be moving the first week of April to become the First Sergeant of the Dragon Slayers of Delta Company and wanted to take this opportunity to say thank you, to you, the family and friends of these fine Soldiers. Your devotion to these extraordinary warriors has truly made the difference. You have the tough task of taking care of business at home by yourself, a job hard enough for two, but essential to allow your Soldier to stay mission focused here. To date this company has been involved in numerous combat operations in support of ground units throughout Iraq and flown over 2500 combat flight hours, a task that seems almost impossible. But a Paladin always gets it done, from the Pilot and Co-Pilot putting steel on target to the Crew Chief standing by, ready to make immediate repairs, to his or her Apache

PALADINS

back in the fight to even the most mundane tasks as ordering supplies or painting the CP, these Paladins make it happen knowing you love and support them. A wise old Command Sergeant Major once told me that you're only as good as your Soldiers. If this is true then I have to think I'm the best First Sergeant in the United States Army because these Soldiers have put in the long hours, accomplished the impossible tasks, and put up with my unbearable moods and did it all with a smile on their face and a positive attitude and always made it happen.

To Paladin 06, Captain Scott Harrington, thank you for the honor and privilege to be your First Sergeant and allowing me to do things my way. Your counsel and

mentorship have been invaluable and will always serve me well as I move on to bigger and better things in my career. I think we made a very dynamic and successful combat team. To SFC Mycyk, the new Paladin 07, you have before you a group of Soldiers that can seek out, find, engage, and destroy the enemy anytime, anyplace, anywhere, they truly are one of a kind. Take good care of them and their families and they will always make you proud. So, on behalf of my wife Lynell and I, Thank You once again for everything. I will always consider myself a Paladin no matter where the road may take me in the future and will always wear the colors proudly.

Have Guns, Will Travel!

~1SG O'Leary



1SG Brian O'Leary, CPT Anthony Cassino, and 1SG Kevin Taylor at the D Company Change of Responsibility on April 3.

DRAGONSLAYERS

The Dragonslayers had a productive month in February at COB Speicher. Your Dragonslayers supported the fight with a maintenance program that allowed 1239 hours flown with an 83% Fully Mission Capable rate for the month.

This unit finished its seventh month of deployment. During this time the Dragonslayers went through some changes. We said goodbye to 1SG Taylor, SFC Mycyk, and SSG Ramirez. We welcomed into the Dragonslayers 1SG O'Leary

and SSG Garver. Additionally, the unit promoted SSG Givens, SSG Vinso, and SGT Peszeki.

R&R leave has been going very well with a total of 68 Dragonslayers having already completed mid-tour leave. As always we are very proud of our Soldiers and you should be as well.

~CPT Cassino

EXECUTIONERS

Split operations are still going strong at Tal Afar, Sinjar, and Tikrit. Although soldiers are spread out and the workload remains considerable, morale is high. This is in part due to the softball team who, after starting 0-4, have come back and won their last 5. We also just recently had a birthday party

for those folks celebrating birthdays in April. The heat is increasing gradually with cold fronts appearing sporadically, and the always occasional dust storm. We are making an attempt to prepare for the insane summer heat which is just around the corner. We are well past the half way point and are al-

ready planning for redeployment.

We would like to welcome 2 new soldiers to the Executioner family: SPC Jason Mott and PV2 May Gregorio. We would also like to congratulate the following soldiers on their promotions: SGT Marisa Conrique, SGT Cristel Tanner, SGT Joshua Hardy, SGT

Kristin Howard, SGT Mark Mills, SPC Patrick Baird, SPC Chelo Rodriguez, SPC Sylvester Williams, SPC Gilberto Gutierrez, SPC Tiki Bell, SPC Anthony McNeese, SPC Nanetta Milici, SPC Dakari Davis, SPC Carlos Nunez, SPC Coty Simpson, and SPC Marcus Swint.

~CPT Reyes

AVENGERS

This is a sad day for me and my family. Today will be my last newsletter as the HHC Commander. CPT Michael Shaner will assume command at the end of the April. CPT Shaner is a former "No Mercy" Soldier from our last deployment to Iraq. I know everyone will welcome CPT Shaner and his family with open arms.

It has truly been an honor serving with the Avengers and their families. Our journey together has incredibly active, exceedingly joyful and at times sorrowful. My family and I will never forget the Avengers or their families.

On June 24, 2004, I assumed command of the Avengers. I had no idea the changes in store for myself and the company over the next 20-months. In July 2004, the company deployed to Fort Knox, Kentucky, in order to execute aerial gunnery and advance gunnery tables. Unfortunately, this training event would be the last the Company would perform under its old configuration.

On October 15, 2004,

the Avengers held one final formation encompassing the TOC platoon, ALOC platoon, Motorpool platoon, and III/V platoon. On that day, Soldiers in the Motorpool platoon, and III/V platoon departed as Avengers for the final time. On October 18, 2004, they established E Company, 1-101st Aviation Regiment, the Executioners. It was very difficult for me to watch these Soldiers depart. In many ways, I still consider the Soldiers who departed that day as my Soldiers.

In fall of 2004, our Battalion received orders to prepare for another deployment to Iraq. To this end, we began to train in earnest for the challenges we would face and the pace drastically increased. In November 2004, we supported an aerial gunnery and Battalion Field Training Exercise. In December, the Avengers participated in a Brigade Field Exercise in a cold driving rain.

In January and February 2005, the Avengers deployed to the Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, Lou-

isiana, supporting Division training and proving ourselves mission ready for our deployment to Iraq. Once again the training was mostly conducted in driving rain storms. In May 2005, we returned to Fort Knox, Kentucky, this time training in sweltering heat, for an aerial gunnery and advanced aerial gunnery tables.

In September 2005, the Avengers deployed to Kuwait in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. The company eventually made it to COB Speicher, Tikrit, Iraq, and operated there at full strength until January 2006, at which time the company split, with half the company moving to FOB Sykes, Tal Afar, Iraq supporting the operations of 1 Brigade, 1st Armored Division.

During this time of constant change, only God knows what will happen next. If I surmised the experience of HHC in the last 20-months in a single statement, that statement would be "Perpetually in motion." I want to thank the Avenger families for supporting their spouses over the last 20-months. Most Americans have no idea what you put up

with or understand the strength of Army families. I can attest that the loving support of families have helped a number of our Soldiers during this trying deployment.

I want to thank Lisa Nall for her work with the Family Readiness Group during this deployment. Many of you know that my wife, Alisa, was pregnant during this deployment. Lisa really stepped up to the plate and for that I'm eternally grateful. I want to thank my Soldiers for the honor of leading them in garrison and throughout this deployment. It has truly been an honor and I will always remember each of you.

Lastly, I want to thank my wife, Alisa, and my kids, Mara and Jansen. I have always been amazed by my wife and the strength she possesses. She has never given me a moment of grief over the many things I can't control, she has always supported me. I know that without her in my life, I would be a complete mess.

God bless you all and God bless America.

~CPT Yochim