



Deuce Four



Volume 1 Issue 2 1st Battalion 24th Infantry Fort Wainwright, Alaska September 2008

Notes From the Commander

Friends and Family of the Legion:

As everyone knows, the Battalion is now back from a well deserved block leave. Prior to that, we had a great rotation at the National Training Center. By all accounts, the Battalion performed extremely well. You should be very proud of your Soldier. We were able to stress and test all Battalion systems. We were responsible for the fictional town of Medina Wasl and the surrounding areas. This town realistically represented an Iraqi town and allowed us to conduct security patrols, work civil-military projects, and ultimately made the town a much better place to live for the populace of Medina Wasl. Following the rotation we prepared our equipment for deployment and outloaded that equipment at the Port of San Diego for onward movement to Kuwait where we will link up with it in the next couple of weeks.

The Brigade deployment ceremony is scheduled for 11 September 2008 at 1300 hours. I encourage everyone to attend. We will case the Battalion colors and company guidons, to be uncased in a similar ceremony in Kuwait. We also have the privilege of hosting COL(Ret) John Komp, the Honorary Colonel of the 24th Infantry Regiment, and a veteran of 3 wars – World War II, Korea, and Vietnam. He's a true American hero.

This will be our last edition of the Deuce Four FRG Newsletter prior to deploying. We will continue to publish newsletters from Iraq to keep everyone updated on the latest news from our deployment.

CPT Bolcar and SFC Reich (the E CO Commander and 1SG, respectively) will be your primary contacts back here at Ft. Wainwright while the Battalion is deployed. They stand-by to assist in any way possible.

DEUCE FOUR— THE ARCTIC LEGION

LEGIONAIRES

STRENGTH AND HONOR!

SEMPER PARATUS

LTC Brian Reed

CDR, 1-24

Headquarters & Headquarters Company

Event Roll Up from July to September 2008

HHC deployed to Fort Irwin, CA to conduct the Mission Readiness Exercise (MRE, no not the delicious meal we are issued) to prepare to deploy to Iraq in support of the Global War on Terrorism. The temperatures topped 127 degrees and the training included everything from mounted desert patrols to intense medical trauma lanes. All Hammer Soldiers performed outstandingly and many vital lessons were learned. The lovely wives of the Hammer Soldiers kept the home fires burning through one of the wettest summer months Fairbanks has seen. The wives gathered to make a great Welcome Home banner which is displayed outside the CDC as you enter the main gate.

Hammer Soldiers have been preparing these last few weeks for the upcoming deployment. The work days vary from normal hours to shortened days depending on the tasks needed to be completed. The Battalion Commander's guidance of maximizing family time was enforced as often as permitted. Recently the Warriors and Families gathered for Brigade Sports Day on 5 September all over post. I want to personally thank those wives who sacrificed their personal time to support our FRG concession stand at the Assembly Building. Those wives are: Sarah Mackey, Christina Bost, Amanda Weisbrich, Trish Kaer, Christina Martinez, and Angela Smith.

The Soldiers and Families will be gathering on September 11, 2008 at 1300 between Hangars 2 and 3 for the Brigade Deployment Ceremony. All families

are welcome and shuttle busses will be running from three locations on post to alleviate the traffic congestion. Among the speakers will be Governor Sarah Palin, Commanding General of USARPAC LTG Mixon, Commanding General of USARAK MG Layfield, and Commanding Officer of 1-25 SBCT, COL Thompson.

CPT Matthew Mackey
HHC, 1-24 IN
Commander



Headquarters & Headquarters Company



HHC Points of Contact

Company Commander: CPT Mackey
Company First Sergeant: 1SG Brooks
FRG Leader: Sarah Mackey

matthew.mackey@wainwright.army.mil
edwin.terrell.brooks@wainwright.army.mil
strwbryp@yahoo.com

Alpha Company ATTACK!

110 degrees. That was the average daily high temperature that your Attack Company soldiers were training in while deployed to the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California, and it felt 15 degrees hotter than that due to the 40+ pounds of equipment each man carried on every mission. It was a far cry from the 60 degree temperatures that they left behind at Fort Wainwright. However, whether it's 110 degrees or -50 degrees, the men of Attack Company seem to just take it in stride and focus on the mission at hand.

Overall, it was an outstanding training event. The Company was able to train on just about every task they'll be called on to perform during the upcoming Iraq deployment. From deployment and redeployment activities, to casualty treatment and evacuation, to raids and cordon and searches, and even to interaction with the local populace, Alpha's soldiers conducted themselves as highly trained professionals, and they should be proud of their accomplishments. The training event only confirmed what the Battalion Commander had said before we loaded planes bound for California; that the Battalion is ready to deploy NOW.

Attack Company managed to put a few feathers in its cap during the NTC rotation by having 2 of its soldiers chosen as the "Heroes of the Battle" for the Battalion during the RSOI and STX portions of the rotation. Alpha was also the first company in the Brigade to achieve a successful flight with their Raven (a small, unmanned aerial system), gaining valuable intelligence on a cordon and search objective. Due to their thorough evidence collection and detainee processing, the Company also had the first ever conviction of a detainee in a simulated Iraqi court at NTC.

Three events in particular were the highlights of the rotation. The first was the Platoon Live Fire which was conducted in the second week of the deployment. Each Platoon conducted blank and live iterations, attacking an enemy compound consisting of 6 buildings. The men did extremely well, and the exercise solidified the training they had conducted earlier during Operation Kopsis at Fort Greely.



An Alpha Company squad exits the back of their Stryker to clear a building during the Live Fire Exercise conducted at NTC.

The second big event was a Company Cordon and Search, also in the second week of the rotation. For this mission, the

Company had intelligence on an insurgent cell leader located in a village called Abar Layla. For this fight, the Company made use of several combat multipliers which we had not previously had the opportunity to train with. The general scheme of maneuver was that the Company would conduct a two-pronged attack made up of a ground infiltration of three platoons and an air assault of a fourth platoon. The ground forces left FOB King, our base of operations, about three hours ahead of the air assault forces and conducted a security halt out of sight and sound distance from the objective. From this security halt, we launched our Raven to overfly the objective and gather



Snipers from Attack Company move to an elevated position in order to provide overwatch during a Cordon and Search mission.

intelligence. With the Raven, we were able to positively identify our target, as well as three vehicles he was likely to try to use to escape. We were also able to get a rough estimate of how many people were on the objective and identify the high speed avenues of approach into and out of the village. This intelligence caused us to make some modifications to our existing plan. These modifications later proved to be key to the success of the mission.

Once the air assault took off, the ground forces moved into positions in and around the village, simultaneously isolating the buildings our target was located in and sealing off the objective so no one could enter or leave the village. The timing was perfect and we were able to synchronize the emplacement of the ground forces with the landing of the air assault forces, which then moved unimpeded directly to their target. The Company proceeded to capture our target as well as several other individuals suspected of working with him. The Platoons worked with a Military Working Dog Team to conduct searches of various suspected cache sites. They also utilized a couple of Iraqi Army squads to assist in securing and searching various sites on the objective. A Human Contact Team was used by the Platoon Leaders and Commander to assist in engagements with local leaders and tactical questioning of detainees.

This was the first company-sized mission Attack Company had conducted since the last deployment, and it showed that trained squads equal trained platoons which equals a trained company.

The final big mission came just a couple of days before the end of the Force-on-Force portion of the training rotation. This was a Battalion mission consisting of Alpha Company, Charlie Company, and the Battalion Headquarters. For this mission, Alpha conducted a ground movement with the Battalion Headquarters and a platoon of Iraqi Army to attack and clear an insurgent training camp, while Charlie Company conducted an Air Assault to our northwest to provide overwatch on the camp and prevent the enemy from flanking

Alpha Company ATTACK!

us. The plan proved to be a very good one as we took the enemy totally by surprise, coming from a very unlikely direction. After using an element of Attack Aviation consisting of a couple of Apache helicopters to soften up the objective, our men assaulted to clear the objective. Our direction of attack wasn't the only surprise to the enemy. The platoons also decided to get creative about how they gained access to the various walled compounds on the objective, using their Strykers to crash through and drop off their dismounts as close as possible to their target buildings. The NTC Observer/Controllers (O/C's) were also very surprised by this tactic.



Why bother knocking on the door? With a Stryker, you can make a door wherever you want one.

All in all, it was an outstanding training exercise that validated our home station training and allowed us to train with several force multipliers which we had not previously been able to work with. The big lessons learned for the soldiers typically revolved around interacting with the local populace, the Iraqi Police forces, and the Iraqi Army, all of which we'll deal with in country, as well. The sweat shed at NTC will definitely limit the blood we shed in Iraq.



NOTE: During our NTC rotation, Channel 2 out of Anchorage did a news story on our unit which can be seen at: http://pmcsc.dyndns.org/K'TUU_200807241821027225_3809914.flv

CPT M. Scott Jones
A CO, 1-24 IN
Commander



A CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Jones	matthew.s.jones@wainwright.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Hansen	donald.hansen1@wainwright.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Melody Hansen	melody.hansen@us.army.mil

Bravo Company Barbarians

Bravo Company has completed the final training event prior to deployment at the National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, California. The company made drastic improvements throughout the rotation in their skills with the Arabic language, IED recon and defeat, small unit tactics, and working with the Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army units. At first the company established some check points along major roads in the desert searching vehicles, not very exciting duty. Soon



though, we were able to find multiple enemy caches and mortar points as well as caught two groups trying to emplace IEDs in our area. What seemed like a quiet area was actually very active. During this time, 2nd and 3rd platoons were moved north to support a large scale operation by 5-1 CAV. These platoons ended up seizing the CAV's objectives for them, two Iraqi villages, and started the rebuilding process in there



prior to moving back south. Eventually we moved into the city of Medina Wasl in order to locate and destroy terrorist cells and help rebuild the city's infrastructure.



This city, while a training village at NTC, was very large. It contained nearly 250 people at one point, had nearly 40 buildings, and was complete with palm trees and a goat farm – right in the middle of the Mojave Desert! Here, soldiers went on foot patrols, talked with locals, found IEDs and caches, and even went to an Iraqi wedding with traditional dancing. The soldiers were challenged by every possible aspect of operations that they'll face while in Iraq, and overcame them each with ease. Coming back from this event, the company stands ready and poised to deploy.

Other notable items:

- SGT Bookout is back and healing, he should be 100% next summer.
- LT Weigle has moved from 4th Platoon to take 1st Platoon.
- PFC Gagnon and his wife have given birth to a baby girl.
- SSG Pearson was awarded the hero of the battle award for the entire rotation from the NTC Commander for his actions during an enemy attack in the city of Medina Wasl.

CPT Jeffrey Harmon
B Co, 1-24 IN
Commander

Bravo Company Barbarians



B CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Harmon	jeffrey.harmon1@wainwright.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Black	william.black1@wainwright.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Kristin Harmon	theharmons02@hotmail.com

Charlie Company Centurions

Welcome Back!

I just wanted to say welcome back from a long and well deserved block leave. This break was truly deserved based on the performance of the Centurions at the National Training Center in July and August. Upon arrival to Ft. Irwin, C Co began preparations of their equipment and conducted additional training prior to entering the "Box," the large training area at NTC that closely replicates Iraq to include the hundreds of Iraqi-Americans that serve as role-players. While in the Box, Centurion Company conducted a week of STX lanes, which replicates common situations in Iraq, and a week of Full Spectrum Operations (FSO.) FSO is a very realistic scenario that crams roughly two months of activity into 5 days. My personal favorite event while at NTC was the Company live fire exercise. This was the company's first opportunity to conduct an operation together in the last year. You should all be extremely proud of your husbands; they continued to perform at the highest levels throughout the exercise.

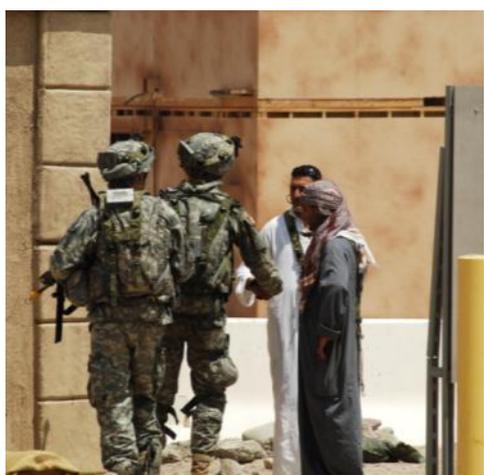
While deployed to NTC we had some new additions to the Centurion Family. Welcome to the newest members of the Centurion family: Charlie Hammer, Juliegh Ryker, Neveah Garcia, Noah Oliver, Tiffany McArthur, Anthony and Hailey Porreca, Crystal Tangard, Trina Cuellar and Sarah Tyo. It also saddens me to say that SSG Bise, SPC Apodaca, SPC Zaphris, SSG Walters, SGT Jones, J., SGT Jones, T., SGT Curran and their families have left the company. We will miss them and wish them well.

LEAD THE LEGION!

-CENTURION 6
CPT Jeremiah C. Hurley
C CO, 1-24 IN
Commander



Charlie Company Centurions



C CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Hurley	jeremiah.hurley@wainwright.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Dang	ramon.dang@wainwright.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Dawn Hurley	dawn.hurley@gmail.com

Echo Company — Rear Detachment

Shaping Up for Deployment

As I hope you are now fully aware, E Co. was activated on 29 May 2008 and upon activation received the rear detachment mission in support of Deuce Four's coming deployment. Like our brother companies, NTC was an opportunity for E Co to test its systems prior to the actual deployment to OIF and determine how best to serve both the unit and the Families left behind. It was also a great opportunity for a brand new Commander and 1SG to get a taste of the privilege of company command. I will take this opportunity to admit that as a brand new company and command group, we did experience what we like to refer to as "growing pains" or essentially a lack of experience in certain areas that made things more complex and difficult than they are once a bit of experience is ascertained. NTC was a terrific learning experience in that respect, and gave us as a company, the experience we need to help us provide as much support as possible to the Legion and see it through a safe and successful deployment.

Now that we have discussed NTC let us touch on the future for a moment. First, it is important for all of the families to understand that E Co will not be moving and will be operating out of the Battalion area for the duration of the deployment. For those who may or may not be aware, this is building 3214 on Ft. Wainwright. It is also important that it is clear to everyone that we are here to help solve problems for both Soldiers and their families; so I invite you to call on us if you are ever in need of assistance. We are excited to be able to post the official mailing address for our fellow Legionnaires once they are established overseas because this means that care packages will hopefully be following shortly thereafter to bring our brothers a taste of home. It is also exciting to be able to offer company FRG's who are sending care packages to the unit, the opportunity to ship those packages free of charge

via the Battalion mail room located in building 3214.

I cannot stress enough the importance of families ensuring that they are constantly communicating their most up to date contact information possible to both the FRG and E Co., which could definitely become important in the event the unit needs to contact you.

Deployments are never what I would consider a fun time especially for families, however, I am confident that if we work together, we as a unit and a family will meet with success over the course of the next year. We remain at your service!

Strength and Honor!

CPT Joseph M. Bolcar
E Co., 1-24 IN
Commander

Deployment Mailing Address

SOLDIER'S NAME AND RANK
COMPANY, 1-24 IN
FOB WARHORSE
APO AE 09336

You may give out this address to your family and friends. Please check www.usps.com for guidelines on what can and cannot be mailed. A customs form will be required for all packages. Please allow a minimum of 2 weeks for delivery, with most mail/packages taking longer to arrive.

E CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Bolcar	353-2490	joseph.bolcar@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	SFC Reich	353-2211	eric.reich@wainwright.army.mil
Family Readiness Support Asst:	Sherilin Andersen	353-2450	sherilin.m.andersen@wainwright.army.mil