



Deuce Four



Volume 2 Issue 7 1st Battalion 24th Infantry Fort Wainwright, Alaska July 2009

Notes From the Commander

Friends and Family of the Legion:

As I write this excerpt for the July newsletter, we have just passed a historic milestone in the history of Iraq. 30 June 2009 marked the departure of U.S. forces from the cities of Iraq. For Deuce Four this involves the closure of Joint Combat Outposts Blackfoot, Zaganiyah, and Key West, and the re-location of our units to FOBs Grizzly and Warhorse.

We are still very much on track to redeploy in early September. Block leave is scheduled for 9 October to 2 November, and the Battalion Redeployment Ball is scheduled for the Westmark Hotel on 13 November. As redeployment dates become firmer, the rear detachment leadership and FRG chain of concern will ensure that everyone is notified of flight and reception arrival times.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers.

STRENGTH AND HONOR

Brian Reed
LTC, IN
Cdr, Deuce Four



This Newsletter Contains Official Information.

A Thought from the Chaplain

Legion Family and Friends,

We have moved and our lives are again busy getting used to new things. The blessing of a move at this time is it takes our minds off the deployment slowly winding down. Just so you know the place we have ended up is really a nice place to be for a few short months. By the time we finally get unpacked and settled it will be time to pack up for the final push home to see all of you. Getting to Grizzly is not the end of the deployment, but you can see it from here.

Last time I wrote you I asked you to think about all the changes and to make sure to take note of them so we will know what to expect. I do hope you are doing this. It does not have to be a big deal; just remember the changes and what it means for day to day parenting.

If your Soldier is not mentioning the return too much, do not worry. We have a lot ahead of us from the move, our continuing mission and the redeployment. Remember that many want to remain focused on the mission in order to remain sharp outside the wire and thus remain safe outside the wire. They will push the happy thoughts of reunion to the back of their minds in order to concentrate. That is a legitimate way of operating. My last deployment I scarcely believed it was ending until I was in

Kuwait. I say this to remind you to perhaps understand why your loved one is not yet bubbling over with reunion excitement. They do love you, but want to remain focused in order to safely return home.

Do not worry, we will return about the same time as the frost returns to Fairbanks. I know you will soon be given the opportunity to go to some reunion training. This training will focus your thoughts in the area of what to expect when your Soldier comes home, including some of the common difficulties you may have. I suspect they will be set up in co-operation with the FRG/ACS and the Garrison Chaplain's office. It would be of benefit for you to go to one of these training sessions. I urge you to go even if you are a veteran Army Wife; your experience may be helpful to someone new to redeployment reunions.

I will leave you with this, we are busy, we love you and we are thinking about you and the reunion even as we are trying so hard not to let it show. We will be back with the cooler weather to a warm reception.

Take Care and God Bless,

Brian Palmer
Legion Chaplain

Army Community Service Reunion/Reintegration Workshops

1st Tuesday of each Month:

- Mindful Money matters 1-2:30 pm
- Post Deployment BATTLEMIND for spouses..... 6:30-8 pm

2nd Tuesday of each Month:

- Kids and Reunion..... 1-2:30 pm
- Making Marriages Work After Combat 6:30-8 pm

3rd Tuesday of each Month:

- Post Deployment BATTLEMIND for spouses..... 1-2:30 pm
- Mindful Money matters 6:30-8 pm

4th Tuesday of each Month:

- Making Marriages Work After Combat 1-2:30 pm
- Kids and Reunion..... 6:30-8 pm

1st Wednesday of each Month:

- Homecoming Basic 1-2:30 pm
- Hot Monogamy..... 6:30-8 pm

2nd Wednesday of each Month:

- Return/Reunion Workshop for Marriages..... 1-2:30 pm
- 7 Habits of Highly Effective Military Families 6:30-8 pm

3rd Wednesday of each Month:

- Hot Monogamy..... 1-2:30 pm
- Homecoming Basic 6:30-8 pm

4th Wednesday of each Month:

- 7 Habits of Highly Effective Military Families 1-2:30 pm
- Return/Reunion Workshop for Marriages..... 6:30-8 pm

1st Thursday of each Month:

- Adults Working Together in Families..... 1-2:30 pm
- Internet Safety 6:30-8 pm

2nd Thursday of each Month:

- Anger Management from Combat to Home 1-2:30 pm
- His, Hers and Theirs Step Parenting 6:30-8 pm

3rd Thursday of each Month:

- Internet Safety 1-2:30 pm
- Adults Working Together in Families..... 6:30-8 pm

4th Thursday of each Month:

- His, Hers and Theirs Step Parenting 1-2:30 pm
- Anger Management from Combat to Home 6:30-8 pm

These classes are taught in a small group setting.

Classes available through June 2010.

Occasionally, special classes/workshops with out of town guest speakers will be available.

Contact Army Community Service at 353-4331 to RSVP or for information on a specific class.

At this time, childcare is **not** provided.

Check with CYSS to see if respite care is available for

Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Friends and Family of the Hammer Soldiers,

Throughout the past 9 months in Iraq, the enemy has used many tactics against the battalion. They have employed Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), thrown grenades at convoys, and fired rifles and machine guns at Soldiers on patrols. One of their favorite tactics is the use of rockets. The enemy enjoys setting up rockets, firing them at FOB Warhorse, and then quickly leaving so that they can live to fire another day. This is why the Fusion Cell exists. Luckily for the battalion, the enemy is human and often times set in his ways. It is the job of the Fusion Cell to determine who is setting up rockets and to figure out when they will fire at the FOB in order to keep the many service members and civilians safe. The Fusion Cell is comprised of CPT Dolan (Effects Coordinator), 1LT Andersen (Assistant Effects Coordinator), SFC Allen (Fire Support NCO), SFC Bretches (Targeting NCO), CPT Buckingham (Civil Military Operations Officer), and CPT Motter (Assistant Civil Military Operations Officer). Each member plays an important part in helping to prevent rockets from being launched at FOB Warhorse and denying the enemy use of terrain.

CPT Dolan and SFC Allen plan the lethal fires against the enemy rocket teams. They have a variety of tools to use for terrain denial of the rocket teams. One of the tools that are available to the battalion are the mortar sections in each company. Each of the mortar sections in the battalion have fired terrain denial fires



against the rocket teams. They are able to set up in the battalion motor pool and fire on locations that the enemy has used to fire against FOB Warhorse. As a part of our Brigade, 2-8 Field Artillery (FA) has provided many artillery fires in support of the terrain denial missions against rocket teams. They help provide the distance that the battalion mortars cannot. Like the battalion mortars, the artillery can fire during any weather conditions and are very effective. Finally, both Air Force jets and the AWT (Attack Weapons Team), which consists of two AH-64 helicopters, provide a

deterrence by flying over the areas that the enemy uses, in addition to firing rockets or dropping bombs to deny use of the terrain.

1LT Andersen and SFC Bretches have taken a nonlethal approach to prevent rocket teams from firing at FOB



Warhorse. They work directly with the Psyop team that is supporting the battalion and help to get the message out to the locals to put a stop to rocket fires against the FOB. They are able to arm the patrols that go through the area with both leaflets to hand out and messages for the locals. Information is the weapon of choice for 1LT Andersen and SFC Bretches.

CPT Buckingham and CPT Motter take a different approach to help keep the rockets from flying into FOB Warhorse. They take advantage of the CERP (Civil Emergency Relief Program) to employ local citizens and help put money into the economy. This is a great tool because they can use it as an incentive for locals to help ensure the enemy is not using the area to fire rockets at the FOB. Throughout these communities, CPT Buckingham and CPT Motter have spent thousands of dollars to help rebuild and revive the communities. This has been an invaluable asset. They have also distributed humanitarian aid to many of these villages. The people see the reward for doing the right thing and keeping rocket teams out of their communities.

So far, the Fusion Cell has helped nearly eliminate the rocket threat against FOB Warhorse. The many lethal fires using mortars, artillery, helicopters, and jets have severely reduced the rocket attacks. Through the use of the CMO and the non-lethal, the battalion has been able to gain the confidence of the population and win many of their hearts and minds. This has helped keep the rocket threat from reemerging and has helped keep the many men and women living on FOB Warhorse safe.

HAMMER TIME!!!
CPT Matthew Mackey
HHC , 1-24 Infantry
Commander

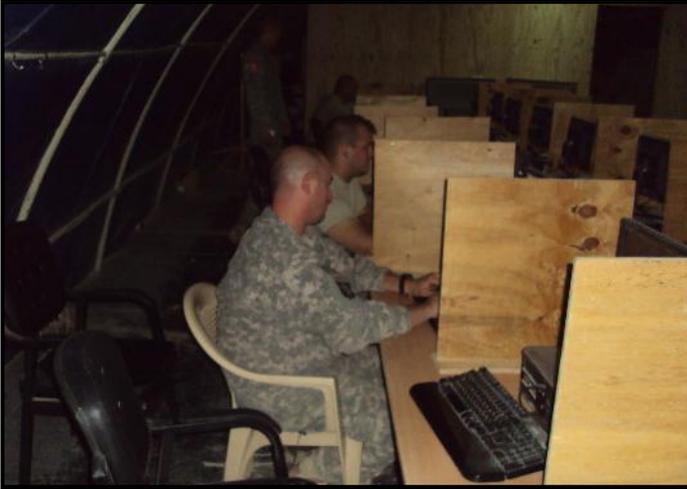
HHC Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Mackey	matthew.mackey@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Brooks	edwin.terrell.brooks@us.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Sarah Mackey	strwbryp@yahoo.com

Alpha Company ATTACK!

Family and Friends of Attack Company,

June has certainly been an interesting and busy month for Attack Company, and one with some pretty significant events, both for the Company and for the people of Iraq.



SFC Barbour at new MWR

For the first couple of weeks of the month, we found ourselves in a frenzy of packing and preparing for the Company's move from JCOP Blackfoot to FOB Warhorse. This move was planned in compliance with the United States Status of Forces Agreement with Iraq, and marked a major milestone on the path to Iraq's sovereignty and eventual independence. JCOP Blackfoot was the first of the Battalion's three JCOP's to close, and on June 15th, we signed custody of the land and buildings that had housed JCOP Blackfoot for more than 2 years back over to the Iraqi Ministry of Youth. It was a simple ceremony, but the significance of it will have a lasting impact on Iraq.

Once back on FOB Warhorse, the Company had to adjust our way of doing business in several ways. As I described in the last newsletter, several aspects of our day to day lives got much better and easier, but some simple things, like keeping track of where everybody was, did get a little complicated and took the implementation of some new procedures to overcome. Our mission



in sector remained primarily the same, but we did notice some increased tension in our Iraqi partners and the local populace. Many were concerned about what our withdrawal from the JCOP would mean for their security. They wondered if we would continue to work on projects in their towns, if we would continue to participate in joint patrols with the Iraqi Security Forces, and even if we would still be able to visit with some of the friends we've made here. As June 30th approached, the designated deadline for



SSG Coffey training his soldiers at the range 3rd Platoon conducted on 26 June

Coalition Forces to withdraw from the cities, there was a tangible sense of anticipation, and even trepidation, in the citizens. As I write this, that day has come and gone, and the jury is still out on what the public's reaction will ultimately be...I'll let you know next month!

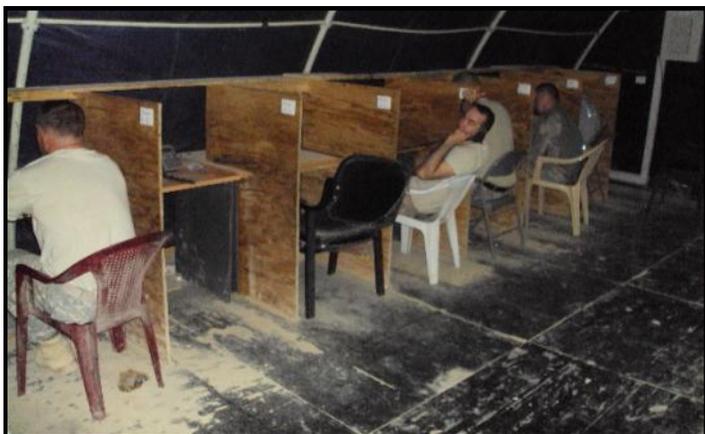
Another big event this month was that SPC Farrell and SSG Clark were presented medals for their actions during 1st Platoon's Stryker roll-over which occurred back in December. Brigadier General Nixon flew into FOB Warhorse to present SPC Farrell with the Soldier's Medal and



2nd Platoon's new home

SSG Clark with the Army Commendation Medal. The event received Army-wide press coverage, and you may have seen it in your local papers back home, as well.

I expect to be able to start releasing some redeployment dates to you by the end of this month, or early next month, as well. We are currently working on putting together the



Calling home....

manifests for flights back to the U.S. Obviously, we won't all be arriving back in Alaska at the same time. As our relieving unit begins to arrive in Iraq,

some soldiers will be able to begin movement back home. Others will have to stick around here a little longer in order to show the incoming unit around the area of operations and conduct the Relief in Place/Turnover of Authority.



SGT Norton, A31 Vehicle Commander, commanding his vehicle

Well, I guess that's about all I have for you right now, but I would like to give one it of guidance regarding mail. Any last packages or letters you have to send should be postmarked by July 15th, to ensure your Soldier receives them. In preparation for redeployment, the Battalion Mailroom will be shut down in early August, and any in-coming mail after that date will be returned to Fort Wainwright to be distributed upon our return to home station. Thanks again for your continued support, and best wishes for a happy Independence Day!

Very Respectfully,
CPT M. Scott Jones
Attack 6

A CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Jones	matthew.s.jones@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Long	sanford.e.long@us.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Karen Lewis	ACo124FRG@yahoo.com

Bravo Company Barbarians

Barbarian Friends and Family,

June has come and gone and we are nearing the end of this tour. As you know, we are preparing for the move into our new area of operations where we will see a completely different problem set than that of Khan Bani Sa'ad. In accordance with the security agreement we have made with Iraq, we will be moving to a location further away from the major population centers. This will give the Iraqi people back some of the autonomy they deserve after coming so far, while still giving us the ability to help them when necessary.



June 30th has become a national holiday here in Iraq, they are calling it National Sovereignty Day, similar to our Independence Day. The Iraqi Security Forces and the Local Government trained and mentored by your husbands and sons, is now ready to take ownership of their towns and villages. For the last nine months, each platoon has conducted numerous patrols and training events with each of the three Iraqi Security Forces in Kahn Bani Sa'ad. We have taught them everything from individual marksmanship, to company level operations here at our outpost and during combat operations in sector. The platoons have also spent time teaching them about dignity and respect for the population they are now responsible for, something the former regime did not understand. While these forces do have some growing to do, they are ready for the challenges ahead thanks to what your sons have done.

There have recently been some articles in the New York Times and from the French Press (on Yahoo News) about Diyala Province and Bravo Company. These articles provide an interesting perspective on what is going on right now in this transition period, and also come with some great photos of the area and your soldiers. We also learned some important media lessons; they are always on the record! I am going to forward them to the FRG so that they can be posted on the FRG website for your viewing.



Next month you will receive photos of the new area that highlight the differences. Instead of flat farming plains and orchards, we will have 150 foot cliffs, a fjord-able river, a part of a large mountain range, and some serious desert spaces. There are even a few villages to patrol. The change in scenery and people along with the new living arrangements will serve to keep the soldiers focused on the mission at hand as we sprint through the finish, while allowing them a little more room to relax and rejuvenate prior to their homecoming in the next few months.

The 1SG has already moved north to the new base with a team from the company in order to start furnishing and preparing the new barracks and operations center for the company's arrival in a few weeks. He has taken some of the company carpenters and electricians up there to start repairing the wiring for lights and air conditioners in addition to building some of the quality of life things we'll need once we get our entire element up there.

Take care; write your soldier, and we'll see you soon.

CPT Jeffrey Harmon

-Barbarian 6



B CO Points of Contact

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

Charlie Company Centurions

Dear Centurion Families,

Moving. It is a fact of life in almost every military family. Whether moving across the town, country, or world, most times it is a bittersweet moment; missing the times you've had at your former home but looking forward to the memories you'll make at your new one.



The Centurions were reminded first hand of what that is like this month as we moved from COP

Zaganiyah about 13 miles north to FOB Grizzly. Much like a fire sale, everything at COP Zaganiyah had to go, not just Soldiers' personal gear and property. Beds, refrigerators, company communications equipment, shower and latrine trailers, the cooks' kitchen, MWR equipment (computers, phones, and servers), Generators, guard towers, and a whole bunch of other stuff had to be cleared and moved from COP Zaganiyah in support of the "out of the cities" plan that you might have read about in the news.

As if that wasn't enough, the platoons had to conduct left seat/right seat (LS/RS) rides with the two



units coming in to take over our area of operation (AO). This allowed the Centurion Soldiers to share with the incoming unit (C/3-21 IN) the wealth of knowledge they had accumulated

over the previous nine months so that the transition of power would be as seamless as possible. Upon handing over their former AO to C/3-21, the Centurions began LS/RS rides with A/3-21 IN to

become familiar with our new AO. It is much bigger than our last AO, consisting mainly of open desert throughout the majority of the AO with a "mountain" range to the east. I put mountain in quotes because to those of you who live between the Brooks and Alaskan Ranges (REAL mountains) these sand hills would seem more like speed bumps than mountains.

Throughout all of this, your Centurions performed outstandingly. Without a doubt, we left COP Zaganiyah in much better condition than Coalition Forces found it. This is one of the many reasons I am proud of every member of this company, and you have every reason to be as well.

This month was not without some excitement. On the outskirts of one of the towns in our former AO, two of our platoons received small arms fire on 3 separate occasions. Through the enemy's fire was extremely inaccurate, it served as a reminder that though it is relatively calm throughout Iraq, there are still dangers out



there and people who wish us ill-will enough to conduct attacks. However, the potential enemy that has interacted with the Centurions knows the risks in targeting us.

In closing I want to, as always, thank you for everything you do. From sending care packages, letters and also waiting by the phone at all hours of the day waiting for your Centurion to call, to missed birthdays and anniversaries, you, the families, are what makes it possible for us to do what we do. Without family and friends back home, Soldiers would have little motivation to help in pushing them on. Someone once said "Sometimes the most important things can't be counted." That is no truer than in describing the support and love that you provide to your Soldier. We'll be home soon.

-CENTURION 6
CPT Dale Terrill
C CO, 1-24 Infantry
Commander

C CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Terrill	cdale.terrill@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Dang	ramon.dang@us.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Melanie Terrill	melanie.terrill@us.army.mil

COMMUNITY ACTION COUNCIL MEETING – 30 JUNE 09

- **Director of Emergency Services, Mr. Maurice Fischer, 353-6548**
 - If firearms are brought onto post, they must be registered.
 - Click-It or Ticket Campaign is in full force.
- **DPW, Mike Meeks, 353-77287**
 - 5 Barracks should be available for FRGs to enter on July 13th. A schedule will be available to Rear Detachment for more openings. Work will continue on the barracks until close to redeployment time.
- **Director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation, Randy Blanchard, 353-7611**
 - Drag Races are back on the airfield!
1000 - 2100 between Hangers 2 and 3.
18-19 July. FRGs are allowed to conduct fundraisers. Contact Randy Blanchard with requests. Approvals have already been obtained for fundraisers.
- **Army Community Service, Denise Mitchell, 353-4243.**
 - EFMP is hosting a conference “Putting the Pieces Together in Order to be Successful” July 23-25.
 - ACS Birthday Celebration July 24, 11:30-14:00 at Bldg 3401.
 - Stress Management Classes available on Mondays.
 - Reunion Reintegration Classes every Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 1300-1430 and 1830-2000.
 - August 12th Newcomer’s Briefing has been cancelled.
- **Chaplain’s Office, CH Vanderjagt, 353-9825**
 - Youth of the Chapel Leadership overnight camp Adv. Scheduled for July 13-14, 29-30. There is still room in the second session.
- **CYSS, Tammy Ford, 353-9505**
 - FAME sign up for September begins 20 August.
 - CYSS is in need of home childcare providers.
- **ASYMCA, Chris Mott, 353-5962**
 - Camp Purple is in need of female volunteers for 19-24 July.
 - Volunteers are needed for the “Snack Attacks” program for soldiers returning from Iraq.
- **PAO, Linda Douglas, 353-6773**
 - Golden Days Parade, 25 July 10:00 at the Carlson Center.
- **DOL, Mary Kay, 361-7641**
 - Preparations are starting for redeployment of 1-52 Aviation and 1-25 Stryker Brigade.
- **DHR, Charlie Carr, 353-7612**
 - Registration for July 29 Golf Tournament is still open.
 - Post 9/11 GI Bill: Read up on the particulars before transferring from the Montgomery GI Bill. Contact the Education Center for more information in order to make an informed decision.



Welcome to the Legionaire Family!



*A son,
Jack Abraham,
Born to
SSG Robert &
Amanda DuPont
May 22, 2009
7 lbs 13 oz
21 1/4 inches*

If you are the proud parent of a new baby that was born after our soldiers deployed in September, please send a photo along with the following information (Baby’s name, Parent’s Name and Rank, Birth date, weight and length) to:
sherilin.m.andersen@us.army.mil.

We will be sure to include them in a future newsletter.

Echo Company — Rear Detachment

Summer in Full Swing

Summer is in full swing. Summer temperatures and nearby wildfires are making everyone wish they had central air, but we have been lucky enough to have a few days of great, uninterrupted sunlight.

More and more tourists are showing up, and it should continue throughout the summer. Restaurants and other businesses around town will remain crowded, and roads will remain congested. Just remember to be patient and to plan ahead.

July is a very busy month throughout the Interior. Golden Days kicks off in Fairbanks on the 21st of July. If you haven't been to this great event, it is worth it to plan a family outing. The celebration is a commemoration of the original discovery of gold in Fairbanks in 1902, which was the catalyst to populating the interior. The busiest day of the celebration is Saturday the 25th, which includes the Golden Days Grande Parade, street fair, and rubber ducky Race down the Chena River. Also, at the beginning of August (probably before the next newsletter) is the Tanana Valley State Fair. The fair is held yearly at the Fairgrounds off of College Road, next to the Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I'm not sure who the band will be this year, but the fair usually has a little bit of something for everybody. It is a definite don't miss.

July is also a very busy month, safety-wise. For whatever reason, whether it is the good weather, the congregation of tourists, or the alignment of the sun and moon, people seem to do strange things during the month of July that put themselves and

others at risk. Never drink and drive. Watch out for others while you're driving. Always keep an eye on your watch. Just because the sun is out, doesn't mean you should be. If you leave town, always prepare for the worst. Have safety and survival kits handy at all times. Don't swim in the rivers... ever. If you go hunting and fishing, know the regulations for the area that you are at, and know exactly what you are trying to get. If you go into the woods (away from civilization) always plan to stay overnight. Generally be safe at all times, and enjoy this great month.

As the Battalion's tour in Iraq comes to an end, different nodes will slowly begin to close out, the first of which will be mail. The last day to send mail will be July 15th. If it is sent after this date, it may not reach your Soldier.

Stop by and see us at the Battalion, building 3214, across from the bowling alley. SGT Garza and SPC Sandifer are available to help with any paperwork issues. If we can't help you, we'll find somebody that can.

Sincerely and Respectfully,
 CPT Joshua P. Bost
 E Co., 1-24 IN
 Commander

- Numbers of Importance:
 Military Family Life Consultants – 388-2552
 Army Community Services - 353-7298 or 347-4636 after hours
 Social Work Services – 361-6284
 Community Mental Health – 361-6059
 Alcohol/Substance Abuse - 361-9872
 Family Advocacy – 353-7315
 Financial Readiness – 353-4369
 Army Emergency Relief – 353-7453
 American Red Cross – 353-7234 or 1-877-272-7337 after hours
 Brigade Family Help Desk – 353-4180

E CO Points of Contact

Company Commander:	CPT Bost	353-2453	joshua.bost@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	SFC Reich	353-2494	eric.reich@us.army.mil
Family Readiness Support Asst:	Sherilin Andersen	353-2424	sherilin.m.andersen@us.army.mil