



Deuce Four



Volume 2 Issue 3 1st Battalion 24th Infantry Fort Wainwright, Alaska March 2009

Notes From the Commander

Dear Family and Friends of the Legion,

As I write this, we are into the first week of March and well on our way to another milestone...the 6 month mark. As I reflect on the Legion's achievements and accomplishments over the course of the past several months, I am overwhelmed by our success. We operate in a complex and complicated area with numerous challenges. Every day presents a new problem or issue that requires our attention. The leaders and Soldiers of this great Battalion have forged new paths in essential services, governance, and security with our Iraqi partners. With the President's recent announcement of a drawdown in 2010, we realize that every moment is critical in our efforts to leave Iraq a better country than when we first arrived.

There has been some recent discussion of redeployment. Personally, I would rather focus more on the mission at hand and the several months remaining in theater, but I do need to put to rest some of the redeployment rumors. Many of us have been through this before. Quite simply, if information is not coming through official channels, it's a rumor. There is open media reporting that 4/2 SBCT from Ft. Lewis will replace the Arctic Wolves. Their timeline is not officially established. Once this is known, we will have a more solid understanding of our timeline. In the meantime, we will continue to focus on the task at hand.

This past month we have seen several officers join Deuce Four, and several leave. MAJ Michael Manner (BN Operations Officer) and his wife Sharla, 2LT David Kimsey (C CO), 2LT John Derossett (B CO), 2LT Graham Reynolds (B CO), and 1LT David Rhoads (C CO) are recent arrivals. With a Hail and Farewell this month we said goodbye to MAJ Scott Moore (Brigade S3 Plans) and his wife Sharyn, CPT Bert Ferguson (Special Forces Q-Course) and his wife Dusty, and 1LT AJ Redden (2-8 FA). We wish the best for all our departing officers and look forward to developing the same great experiences with our new officers and their families.

Thanks for all that you do. Our Soldiers and their families represent all that is good in our great Army.

STRENGTH AND HONOR!

LTC Brian Reed
LTC, IN
Commanding
DEUCE FOUR – THE ARCTIC LEGION

A Thought from the Chaplain

Friends and family of Deuce-Four, the deployment is still going well for us out here. We are quickly nearing the halfway mark and are still busy with operations. It is at this point where we all have the chance to see what makes us tick. We have the opportunity to look at our role or our purpose and see how we are holding up despite the messages around us. We are constantly bombarded by commercials telling us what we want and movies and shows telling us what the good life to live is. They can affect us so that our entire sense of self worth or our joy for life is affected.

Military families live a different life from most we see portrayed on television or movies. Our sense of purpose should not be dictated to us by them. Each of us has a different role to play, with each role being valuable on its own. A few weeks ago the brigade commander, COL Thompson, happened to have dinner with me and the other chaplains I was eating with. I took this opportunity to taunt him a bit. I told him that I had the best job in the brigade. I was serious about that because I am the Deuce-Four Chaplain, which really is the best job in the brigade. COL Thompson countered seriously that he had the best job in the brigade.

I got to thinking about it and I realized that others I knew also had the best job in the brigade. So, someone must be right and the rest are wrong. There can be only one best job in the brigade, right? Just like the media influences us, the best way of living, the best coffee, the best pair of jeans, best city to live in, and the list goes on. The truth is, both COL Thompson and I are correct; we both have the best job in the brigade. The best job is the one that helps us each fulfill our individual purpose. My purpose (for now) is to be the Deuce-Four Chaplain; your purpose in Wainwright or wherever you live as an Army family is different, but no less important. As Army family members you support both a Soldier and the rest of the family keeping all going. My purpose begins with the belief that, as a Christian, I believe Christ called me to this as He calls other people to their purposes.

Knowing my purpose in life, I am now faced with a choice. My choice is to fulfill this purpose with enthusiasm here separated from my family, whom I love, or to be upset that I am not living the life portrayed as ideal. You face the same choice. The point is we have the opportunity to find joy in what we are doing and where we are placed in this world or to CHOOSE to hate our situation in life and not enjoy a single day. That is our choice. The problem is that once we choose to not enjoy our present situation and only be content when we get into the ideal situation, we will never be content. The ideal situation will always escape us because there is always something missing. We must learn to enjoy what we have when we have it.

I, being a Christian, find my joy and purpose in Christ. This radiates out so that I can bring that joy and purpose of life to bear on any difficult circumstance and not let it overwhelm me. I have the freedom to choose to enjoy life. Yes, sometimes I choose poorly, usually I realize that and change my perspective. This change often comes when my friends point out to me that I am a bit "off the bubble", or even that I need to see someone who can help. I encourage you to meet with a trusted friend. If you have few or no friends who encourage, then it is time to get some! I will suggest a couple of places of hope; the Protestant Women of the Chapel (Northern Lights Chapel, Thursday at 0930) or the Catholic Woman's Study (Southern Lights Chapel, sorry I do not know a time).

It is not time to bemoan our lot in life. That takes too much away from enjoying what we have. Do not let yourself go through this deployment without help, hope or joy. Take this deployment as an opportunity to renew your faith, renew your joy and reinvigorate your purpose in life. There are people out there who want to share their joy with you, seek them out find the hope you need.

Take Care and God Bless,
Brian Palmer
Legion Chaplain

Headquarters & Headquarters Company

Greetings Family and Friends of Hammer Company,

Thanks again for taking an active interest in Hammer Company and your loved ones who proudly serve. Since the elections of late January, the men and women of Hammer have been tirelessly working with Iraqi security forces and their government. Specifically, we have been working with the Udaim council which has been working hand in hand with Hammer Company on improving its community. The local market is undergoing a refurbishment, a medical clinic has been opened, and the community is improving its water and trash systems.



Training the IA continues to be a major focus for our company. Recently Onager (Mortar) PLT's soldiers got to help blow up over 200 pounds of captured enemy munitions that our Iraqi counterparts had confiscated. These munitions are now off the streets. And, while the 2-19 Iraqi Army Battalion is very appreciative of our help and guidance, their soldiers have much to offer us as well. On one recent occasion we had gotten our vehicles stuck and it was the IA who worked to secure the area and help in the recovery operation. The medics of HHC are continually working to keep all of us safe and healthy. They provide each patrol with a trained combat medic, run the BN aid station, and make sure we are getting our flu vaccines and shots, even when we don't want to. Most recently Hammer's medics attended the opening of a clinic in the town of Udaim. This clinic will allow Iraqi's to receive much needed care that they could not previously get without traveling

great distances.

SFC Shack recently represented the BN and the entire Multi-National Division- Iraq in the Army Retention board. He was chosen in large part due to the staggering number of Soldiers he has reenlisted. SFC Woodward and Sergeants Flemming, Mason and Thomas are just a few of the many soldiers who have chosen to reenlist. The fact that your loved ones are staying committed to the Army team and Hammer Company is a testament to their dedication and duty. The decision to serve your country is more than an individual decision; it requires the support of your entire family. I thank you for continuing to support your loved ones and their mission.



Again, I want to thank each and every one of you for your continued support throughout the deployment. The love and understanding you are providing gives each and every one of us strength. I encourage those in Alaska to continue to utilize the FRG and rear detachment for your needs. For those of you currently living elsewhere, the FRG is still only a phone call away and can provide you with needed support.

CPT Matthew D. Mackey
HHC, 1-24 IN
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!



Dear Family and Friends of Attack Company,

I believe I speak for everyone in the Attack Family (at least, those of us on this side of the Atlantic) when I say we cannot believe we are already through 5 months of this deployment. The fast paced operational tempo of daily security patrols, logistical patrols, maintenance, meetings, key leader engagements, joint training, and COP improvements eats up time in a way that home station training never could. Only when we find ourselves unoccupied, missing loved ones on the other side of the world, does time seem to drag along.

I feel I should warn the families back stateside that you may not recognize your soldier upon our return. If you asked me back in December, I would have said that the Company had collectively lost several hundred pounds. Now, however, I would say we've gained it all back, but not in a bad way. Hardly a minute goes by when our gym is left empty. Some of these boys are getting BIG.

As Attack Company rolled into February, we were really starting to understand some of the characteristics of our company AO. The platoons had established close relationships with various leaders and key personalities in their respective sectors. We were beginning to get to the root problems of some of the more complex essential services like potable water and electricity, however, we were also learning about the systemic problems that presented major obstacles in the Iraqi government. Bureaucracy ran rampant at the Provincial and National level, which translated to significant delays down at the Nahiyahs and Qadas. To add to the problem, the sitting officials essentially comprised a "lame duck" government, reluctant to make any decisions pending the installation of the newly elected government officials. We occasionally see this same problem in American politics to some extent, but in Iraq, it practically causes the government to come to a standstill.

Over the last couple of months, we've added some soldiers and their families to the Attack Company fold, and I'd like to take this opportunity to welcome them to the Company: SPC Taurean Ballard came from the Battalion S-6 shop. SFC George Barbour came from the HHC TAC. His wife's name is Genevieve Barbour. SPC Best, Eric, came from the HHC TAC. He is single. SGT Shawn Bigelow came from Rear D. His wife's name is Carrie Bigelow. They have three children: Blakeley age 4, Riley age 2, and Miley 3 months. SSG Jeffrey Bucklin came from the HHC Training Room. His

wife's name is Sabrina Bucklin, and they have two children: Samantha age 3, and Brook who is one year old. PFC Brian Doyle came from Basic Training at Ft. Benning. PFC Robert Harris came from Rear D. His wife's name is Amber Harris, and they have one child, Laci age 1. PV2 Morgan Hudnall came from Basic Training at Ft. Benning. SSG Cedrick James came from Rear D. His wife's name is Angela James, and they have two children: Cedrick age 3, Aiyanna age 2. SGT Marques Johnson came from S-4. His wife's name is Ashley Johnson, and they have three children: Armoney age 8, Kaliyah age 2, and Mayah age 1. 1LT Don Meihaus came from HHC. PFC Thomas Miller came from Rear D. 1LT Joshua Reed came from S-3. SSG Robert Vanvarick came from the Battalion Recon Platoon. His wife's name is Arlene Vanvarick. They have one child, Brittany age 2. SGT Jimmy Wilkes came from Rear D. His wife's name is Kimberly Wilkes.

1LT Thomas Rodebaugh came from Barbarian Company. We also said farewell this month to CPT Bert Ferguson and his wife Dusty (also a Captain...I didn't forget). CPT Ferguson will be returning to Alaska to PCS to the Maneuver Captains Career Course at Fort Benning, Georgia. Upon completion of that course, he will go to Fort Bragg, North Carolina, to continue his career with the Special Forces. Best of luck, Bert!

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



CPT Jones learned that you have to be very careful when an Iraqi invites you to stay for lunch.

A CO Points of Contact

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

Bravo Company Barbarians

Barbarian Friends and Family

For the month of February, Barbarian Company continued to march forward in Iraq conducting a wide range of successful operations. From finding multiple caches, to helping local businesses get up and running, the men of Barbarian Company continued to achieve outstanding results. The outcome of their hard work and dedication was evident in the plethora of promotions seen throughout the company in February.

SFC Taylor went on leave, handing the PSG responsibilities of 1st Platoon to SSG Jesse Gilchalmed. 1st Platoon once again discovered cache after cache and quickly built a strong reputation as cache finding masters.

Training the Iraqi Police of Kan Bani Saad, the men of 2nd Platoon conducted themselves as true professionals. They were recognized by the Battalion Commander for the extra effort they give to better the local police force. SGT Pedro Galaviz and SPC Christopher Smith enjoyed their promotion and the 1st Platoon celebrated by taking them on patrol.

3rd Platoon welcomed the arrival of their new Platoon Leader, LT John Derrosett. SFC Grothouse wasted no time in handing the patrol debrief duties off to the new PL who has done an outstanding job. On one of his first missions the platoon unearthed a large cache. Earning his stripes, SGT Zachary McIlwain was promoted

to the NCO corps. SSG Charles Hemmer took over as a squad leader following his promotion, moving over from 1st Platoon.

SFC Haney left for some R&R and SSG Ronnie Gibson who came to us from HHC, stepped up to lead the heavy weapons platoon. 4th Platoon conducted a variety of missions to include engaging local nationals and Sheiks, providing Humanitarian Assistance, and gaining a better understanding with battlefield circulations.

The men of Bravo Company enjoyed sweet candy treats from their sweethearts on Valentine’s Day, thanks to the FRG. Another morale booster at JCOP Key West was the addition of three water tanks, allowing the men to shower more frequently. CPT Harmon left on leave and will soon be enjoying the beaches of Hawaii. As the XO, I have been welcomed to the company and have thoroughly enjoyed working with the men of B Co. They are working hard and always look forward to receiving your mail and care packages. Keep sending, as it always brings smiles. As we enter March the sun is starting to send its heat and we are one month closer to being reunited with the warmth of our families.

Thank you for all your support,

Barbarian 5

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

Another month has come and gone. C CO has continued to make great strides in improving the lives of the locals in our area. This month we said goodbye to LT Ouimet, LT Redden and CPT Pfeiffer, who went to Mortars/1-24, Recon/2-8 and Special Forces, respectfully. All had significant impacts on the betterment of the company and will be sorely missed. With their departure we would welcomed some new members of the Centurion Family, CPT and Raya Shibilski, LT and Rebecca Rhoads as well as LT Kimsey. This month we also promoted the following soldiers: SPC Hummel, CPL Frank, CPL Oliver, CPL Robinson, CPL Barton, CPL Beecher, CPL Linam, CPL Oaks, CPL Chavez, CPL Chumm, CPL Cuellar, SGT C. Williams, SGT Chacon, SGT Charles and SSG Fitzgerlad. Congratulations!

As the temperature starts to rise again, your husbands have picked up the pace clearing palm groves and old weapons caches. Each platoon works hand in hand with the local government, tribal leaders and Iraqi Security forces daily. Their cooperation and hard work continues to pay dividends that cannot be described in our area of operation.

Although our AO has been quiet, activity has not stopped at the COP. A few weeks ago we conducted our CIB ceremony where some of your husbands were awarded the coveted Combat Infantrymans Badge, the Combat Action Badge or the Combat Medical Badge.

They receive this award for executing their jobs under contact from the enemy. Most of the combat actions that the awards were given for had taken place in previous months; however, this was the first opportunity after the awards were approved to recognize your husbands. Although these awards may be commonplace in recent years, these are the same awards that were issued to many of your fathers and grandfathers in WWII, Korea and Vietnam. Your husbands have joined a long history of American Warriors that have defended our country and beliefs for generations.

We have also received a new shower unit and continue to make improvements to our living conditions daily. Most of your husbands will come home with new found handyman skills to be put to use around the house. I've already heard that many of you have already discovered this while your husbands were home on leave.

We are at about the mid-point of the deployment now. This is usually the hardest part of the deployment for the family and the Soldier. Remember that we are thinking about all of you daily and are counting the days till we see you again.

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

C CO Points of Contact

C CO Points of Contact		
Company Commander:	CPT Hurley	jeremiah.hurley@us.army.mil
Company First Sergeant:	1SG Dang	ramon.dang@us.army.mil
FRG Leader:	Dawn Hurley	dawn.hurley@gmail.com



The **Walk to Iraq and Back** program is still going strong, and 1-24 Infantry continues to represent themselves well among the other units involved. The following individuals have contributed:

Adahmarie Chum, Andrea Ryker, Ashley Frenette, Dawn Hurley, Dee VanAcker, Jeanette Mitchell, Joy Martin, Julie Green, Karen Lewis, Kirsten Reed, Lindsey Parish, Lisa VanAcker, Maren Best, Maria Bretches, Mary Cheney, Melanie Terrill, Melinda Quick, Michelle Porreca, Michelle Whittier, Misty Hack, Natalea Andersen, Peri Lund, Rebecca Woolwine, Sharyn Moore, Sherilin Andersen, Steven VanAcker, Tanya Dalton, Tawny DeBolt and Trisha Kaer

Congratulations to all of the participants!



Military One Source offers a tremendous amount of resources for the Military Family in one convenient location. This month we are focusing on **Relationships**.

Using the left navigation boxes, when you click on **Relationships**, a wealth of information is provided. Following are a few of the subcategories:

- Deployment and Return
- Military Families
- Personal Issues
- Couples
- Family Communications
- Single Service Members
- Single Parenting

Take a few moments and click around the website. You will find ideas to keep your relationships strong, whether it be with your deployed soldier, your children, extended family members, co-workers, or within yourself. This information is provided **free of charge** to you as a military family! If you have any kind of question and need immediate help, they are just a phone call away! Their phone line is staffed 24/7 by trained professionals who have a connection with the military, either as a family member or prior service. They have helped people with referrals for counseling, pet care, elder care, education questions including helping to find scholarships and grants, moving in the military, local childcare providers....if you have a question, they will research and answer it! Remember, the only bad question is the unasked question! Visit the website at www.MilitaryOneSource.com or call 1-800-342-9647.

Military OneSource Presentation and Battalion Meeting

March 26, 2009 * 6:00 - 8:00 pm

Held in the Battalion Classroom

Childcare is available through the CDC
from 5:45 - 8:45.

Call 353-7713 to pre-register your child
by March 19th.

Please RSVP for the Presentation/Meeting to:
sherilin.m.andersen@us.army.mil

This is your opportunity to see what Military OneSource is all about and ask questions of their representative for Alaska.

You will also have an opportunity to ask questions to
1-24 Rear Detachment.

We look forward to seeing you there!

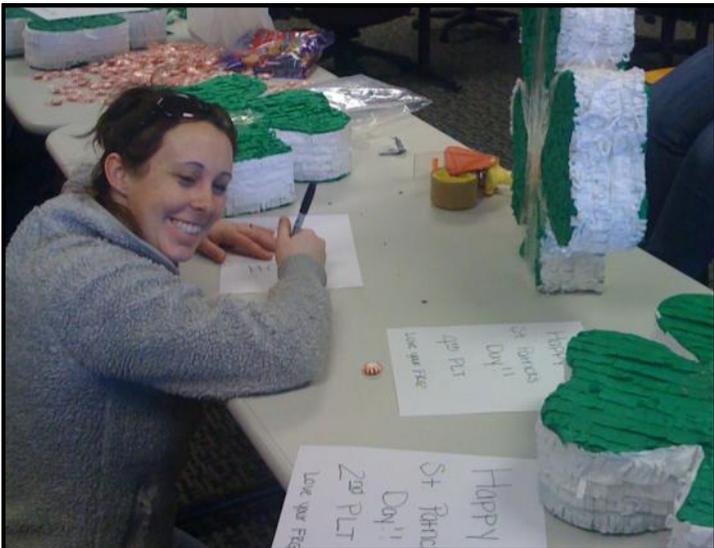
Battalion Spring Party

Be sure to mark your calendar for April 11, 2009....we will be hosting a get-together on that date. If you would like to be a part of the planning or volunteer to help on the 11th, please contact Sherilin Andersen at 750-2191.





ALPHA CO FRG



Community Action Council Meeting – 04 MARCH 2009

Director, Family and Morale, Welfare and Recreation (DFMWR)

- Birch Ski Hill is open Spring Break, Sunday – Sunday. Noon to 8:00 pm.
- FRG Snow Machine 101 – Outdoor Recreation. 361-4089
- Spring Break Ice Skating – Physical Fitness Center (PFC) 1:15 - 4:00 Daily, March 7-15. 353-7223
- 8 March: 2nd Annual Chili Cook-Off – Last Frontier Community Center (LFCC) 1:00 – 4:00. \$2 Laser Tag. 353-7755
- 22 March: Bowlopolis – 12:00 – 4:00 pm. LFCC, Free bowling, activities for ages to 12. Prizes/drawings. 353-2654.
- 27 – 29 March: March Madness – Birch Ski Hill. Three day celebration of spring with family activities. 353-9131
- Look up DFMWR on Facebook. dfmwr_marketing@wainwright.army.mil

Child and Youth Services (CYSS) - 353-9505

CYSS will be at the Women's Affair held at the Carlson Center 20-22 March. They will have job applications and people you can talk with if you are interested in working at CYSS. The Women's Affair is a gathering of various employers and vendors in the Fairbanks Area. If you are interested in seeking employment, this is a good place to start.

Army Community Service – 353-4243

- The Family Advocacy Program is looking for your input as to what you feel needs improvement. Go to http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=9KJMqZvpGPLeylGOkAOZw_3d_3d to take the survey. Help affect the program for our Post by getting involved.
- Military Spouse Appreciation Day will be held in May, specific date to be determined.
- FRG Symposium with various workshops, specific date to be determined.
- Active Parenting Classes are being held at the LFCC. Contact ACS for specific dates and times.
- Volunteer Recognition Ceremony will be held 22 April. All volunteers, regardless of whether you volunteered for one hour or several hundred hours are eligible to be recognized at this ceremony. Contact your FRG Leader or Sherilin Andersen, Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA) to be sure your name and hours have been submitted. sherilin.m.andersen@us.army.mil

Garrison Chaplain's Office – 353-9825

- Parish on the Hill (Church at the Birch) – 8 March, 1230. Catholic community event, snowboarding/ tubing/skiing. POC: Leslie Coffey, 361-4261.
- Memorial Ceremony for 3 Soldiers from 1/25 SBCT, 10 March, 1330, Northern Lights Religious Education Center. POC: CH Neetz, 353-9825. Childcare available onsite.
- FOOD (Feeding Our Outstanding Dependents) Program, Southern Lights Chapel, 15 March 1700-1930. Menu: Breakfast for Dinner. POC: Bill Chrisman, 361-4261
- Chaplain sponsored NFL Football Clinic for youth (all ages), 18 March, PFC, 1800-2000. Meet the players, get autographs, ask them how faith gets them through tough times!
- Operation Touchdown. 18-22 March. Keith Davis will be speaking to our military students at various school assemblies. POC: Staci Biggs (353-9879) or CH Neetz (353-9825).
- Fort Wainwright National Prayer Luncheon – 19 March 1145-1300. Northern Lights Religious Ed Center. Guest speaker, Keith Davis (NY Giants) and panel of Christian NFL players. Meal card or \$3.85 at the door. POC: SSG Roberts, 353-9825.
- Youth of the chapel vs. NFL – 22 March 1600-1800. CYSS Youth Center. Meet with players, group games and dinner. POC: Mr. Auken, 353-2088
- Watch the movie "Fireproof" 22 March 1800-2000. Northern Lights Religious Ed Center. Childcare will be available onsite.

Director of Emergency Services – 353-6548

Trailers in Bear Paw and Siku housing areas are creating safety hazards for emergency vehicles. If you live in this area and have trailers parked along side of the road, please relocate them.

Community Action Council Meeting, continued

Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) – 353-6353

- Tax Center, located at Bldg 3450, is open to file your taxes for free. 353-7783
- National Health Care Decisions Day is 16 April. There will be various informational booths available around post to raise awareness for issues such as Medical Powers of Attorney, Advance Directives, etc.
- There has been a rise in incidents of identity theft and internet harassment. If you have fallen victim to one of these issues, contact SJA.

ASYMCA – 353-5962

- Please be aware they are very short staffed. If you call and leave a message, they will do their best to return your call in a timely manner, usually within a couple hours during normal business working days and hours.
- Teddy's Child Watch program at Basset. They are looking for volunteers to help staff this free childcare program for family members who have appointments at the hospital. For more information, contact 353-5962.
- Fathers' & Daughters' Ball – 17 April at the Princess Lodge. There are 100 tickets available (200 people). Cost is \$10 per couple.
- Free Ride Program is in operation again. Contact 353-FREE.

AAFES – 356-1357 ext 300

- Look for sweepstakes as you enter the PX. Also, the exchange mall online has auctions with no reserve.
- AAFES is looking for vendors who would be interested in being a short term vendor. Contact AAFES at the number above for more information.

DECA – 353-6770

Gift Checks from the Commissary (vouchers given out by the Chaplain's Office) can no longer be cashed at the Commissary, due to the Company who underwrote the checks going "under". If you have these checks, contact the Commissary for information on where to send them to try and get reimbursement. If you have these checks are still in need of services, contact your Chain of Command, the Chaplain's Office or ACS and they will direct you to potential services which may be of assistance.

Public Affairs Office – 353-6701

Ice Art at the Ice Park, Phillips Field Road is open through 22 March. 14 March is Military Appreciation Day. Show your ID card and get \$5 off the price of admission.

Ready Army Campaign

You will hear more about this in the upcoming weeks. If you are interested in being a part of the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT), contact Russell Ackerman at 353-9755. Upon completion of the CERT Training, you will receive an emergency kit and can be a part of a valuable resource should your neighborhood be effected by an emergency.

Director of Human Resources (DHR) 353-7612

Substance Abuse Counseling Programs are available for soldiers, spouses and family members.

Safety – 353-7078

Carbon Monoxide Safety. Alaska is #1 per capita in fatalities in the US due to Carbon Monoxide. Please contact the Safety Office for information regarding Carbon Monoxide safety.

Director of Public Works – 361-7287

Construction will begin at SAS on/about 28 March. Pile driving may cause car alarms to sound. Please be aware that this construction will continue for approximately 12 hours a day. They realize this will cause a lot of noise interruption, especially for those living in housing around SAS. Please bear with them as they work through the project as quickly as possible.

Echo Company — Rear Detachment

At the Halfway Point

We've come to the halfway point of the deployment, which just so happens to coincide with Spring Break for many people. CPT Joe Bolcar has finally made it out of Alaska, and is now in Iraq with the rest of the Battalion. I have my first full month of command of the rear detachment under my belt, with all of the unique and joyous challenges that are presented. It has been a fun month, and I look forward to many more as the Soldiers of the Arctic Legion fight on in Diyala Province.

Last month I brought up many safety issues involved with Alaska's winters. This month it is more of the same, but with a slightly different flavor. The Army has begun a big push for safety called Ready Army. This program is grounded in community awareness and preparedness for natural (and unnatural) hazards. This is especially important in Alaska and at this time of year. We recently received over a foot of snow as part of the winter storm that came through the Fairbanks North Star Borough, which helped to underline the unique hazards that are presented to us as Arctic Families. With warming temperatures, expect more snow fall in the near future. The Ready Army program helps families and communities with getting together emergency kits, response plans, and training for community leaders. For more information go to www.ready.army.mil. There will be more to follow with Fort Wainwright's own Ready Army program soon.

March is a very exciting time in Fairbanks and North Pole. Hopefully some of you were able to get out to the annual Tired Iron snowmachine races at Pike's Landing on March 7th. If not, don't worry, there are many other things to do. One of the most exciting events of the year is March 14th and 15th in Chatanika. Chatanika Days is a unique event that could only happen in Alaska. Located along the Steese Highway north of Fairbanks, Chatanika Lodge hosts this exciting annual event which includes human bowling, raffles, snowmachine tug of war, and Outhouse Racing. That's right, outhouses on skis. Come out to watch or participate; just be very careful driving out there. Also this month, Ice Art 2009 wraps up in Fairbanks. Single block and multi block competitions have

been completed and judged, so get out to see all of the winners and other competitors. March Madness at Birch Hill is March 27-29. This event includes skiing and snowboarding competitions for all ages, skeet shooting, tubing races, and eating contests. The Hill closes for the season at the end of the day on the 29th. Finally, on April 4th is the installation Easter Egg hunt. More to follow with times and locations. Get out and enjoy Alaska. There is no other place like it.

Rear Detachment's numbers are dwindling as we speak. What that means for us is that more and more of the support will come from Brigade as our Soldiers move on. Feel free to stop by Battalion Headquarters, and we will point you in the right direction.

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

Deployment Mailing Address

SOLDIER'S RANK AND NAME
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.

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