

# BRAVO



## DEATHMASTERS

VOLUME 1, NO. 3

JUNE/JULY 2005

MOSUL, IRAQ

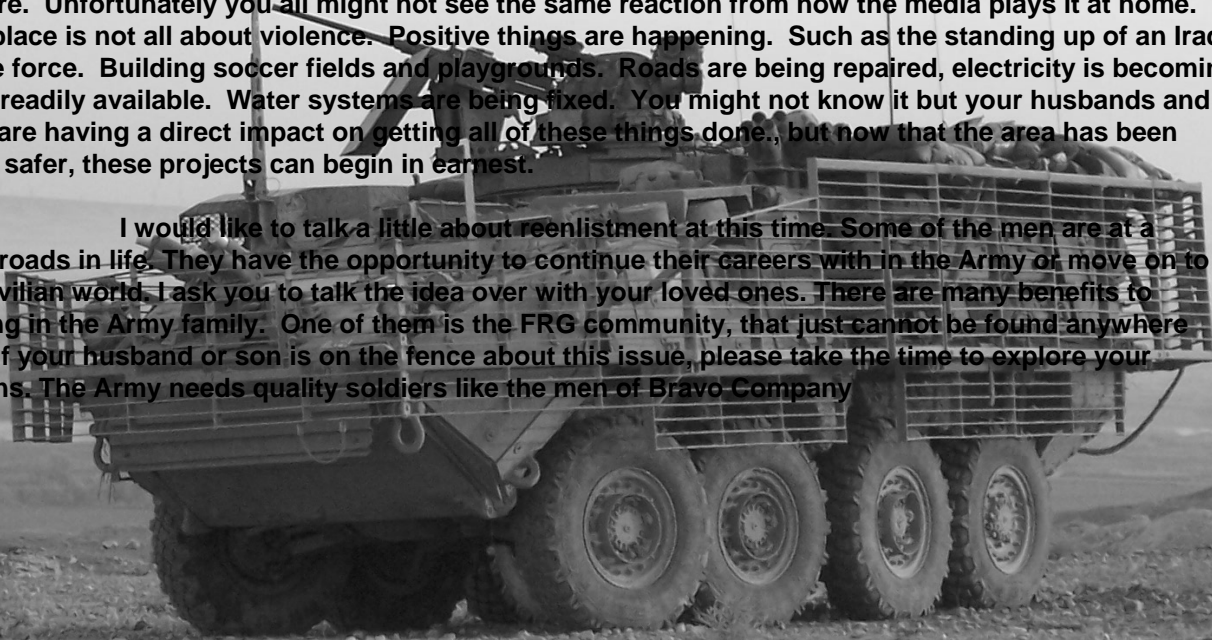
Dear Family and Friends,

First, I would like to say that the men are in great shape and are still fighting hard. I want to thank all of you for that. If it wasn't for your dedication and support for these men, my job would be near impossible. Your letters, your packages, your phone calls all remind the men that you are there behind them. This is important, because as the end of our deployment draws near, they need to remain focused so we can accomplish our mission without fail.

The Deathmasters have been working very hard on making Mosul a more secure and safe place to live. Our efforts are starting to show. As a company we would be fighting every single day during the first 4 months of this year. Today we hardly see any direct action. This is solely attributed to the efforts of our soldiers, NCO's and officers. They have exceeded all expectations and have done a flat out remarkable job. We have been working hard with local police, and the Iraqi Army to root out the terrorists within the city and to bar them from ever coming back. It has been difficult at times but we have not seen anything that we could not handle. Deathmaster soldiers have sharp eyes and a keen sense of prowess that enables them to have the edge that they need to win.

We have been working hard to win the hearts and minds of the local population. Many people would be surprised to see the similarities that the Iraqi people and Americans share. For example they all want a safe neighborhood to raise their children. They want to have educational opportunity's, they want peace and stability in their lives. Although their lives have changed dramatically in the last few years they do see a better place. Almost every Iraqi that I talk to appreciate our presence and want us here. Unfortunately you all might not see the same reaction from how the media plays it at home. This place is not all about violence. Positive things are happening. Such as the standing up of an Iraqi police force. Building soccer fields and playgrounds. Roads are being repaired, electricity is becoming more readily available. Water systems are being fixed. You might not know it but your husbands and sons are having a direct impact on getting all of these things done., but now that the area has been made safer, these projects can begin in earnest.

I would like to talk a little about reenlistment at this time. Some of the men are at a crossroads in life. They have the opportunity to continue their careers with in the Army or move on to the civilian world. I ask you to talk the idea over with your loved ones. There are many benefits to staying in the Army family. One of them is the FRG community, that just cannot be found anywhere else. If your husband or son is on the fence about this issue, please take the time to explore your options. The Army needs quality soldiers like the men of Bravo Company



Finally, the soldiers of Bravo Company are eager to get home, they are tired but are filled with a sense of accomplishment. They will continue to fight and make you proud. I can say I could not ask for a better group of men to command. Thank-you again for your support.

CPT Steven J. Szilvassy

DEATHMASTER 6







# FROM THE TOP



Hello families and friends back at Fort Lewis,

I hope you all are doing well, and this edition of the Deathmaster Company News Letter finds you in the very best of health.

For those of you who I did not have the opportunity to meet at the last FRG meeting, my name is Mulivai A. Matau and I am the new First Sergeant of Bravo Company. Although this is my first edition of "FromThe Top", I will strive to maintain contact with you all and give you the latest update of the company and your spouses from sunny side Iraq. I want you all to know that I am proud to be the 1SG of the Deathmasters. The boys are continuing to do a phenomenal job in taking the fight to the enemy day after day without loss of effectiveness. They are true professionals in their calling.



I want to take this opportunity to thank CPT Traugutt and all of you ladies for an awesome job you all are doing back there on the home front. Our mission here could not have been accomplished without your hard work and dedication in keeping the morale of the men at such a high level with the mail (packages included). Thank you for your support.

Deathmaster 7  
1SG Matau  
[mulivai.matau@us.army.mil](mailto:mulivai.matau@us.army.mil)

## Hail & Fairwell

I would like to extend our Deathmaster welcome to:  
1LT Jarrel Delottinville from Alpha Company; 2LT Augusto Giacomani right out of Infantry Basic Course; SFC Mark Meikle from HHC; SSG Mark, Brooks from BN S-4 shop; SSG William, Shaw from BN S-3 shop

We wish the following God's Speed in their next adventure to:  
CPT Jonathan Rittenburg going to the BN S-4 shop; 1LT Josh Daily going to the BN S-4 shop; SFC James, Lusk going to HHC; and SGT Anthony Walton going to BN S-4 shop

# Dogs of War

As we near the end of our deployment here, thoughts of home and family are always present in our minds. I know I speak for everyone in First Platoon when I say that we are all counting the days until we get home to you. The last few of us should be coming home on leave within the next week or so and everyone else is looking forward to coming home for good. The weather is finally what we expected it to be like in the desert, with warm nights and hot days- often into the 130's. We are working as hard as we ever have, but the Dogs of War are living up to the high standards I have always expected of them.

Looking at the last few months of our deployment, it is rewarding to look at the part of the city we work in and see the positive changes Bravo Company has made in the time we have been here. Whether we are passing out newspapers to local shop owners or handing out candy to children, the work your men has done here has not gone unnoticed. Our work with Iraqi Security Forces too is making progress. When we first began working alongside Iraqi Army units, we had to literally hold their hands on every patrol. Now though, they work very much independently and are well on their way to becoming a force that can secure and control this country. Through all the work this company and battalion has done, I can confidently say we have made a difference in the lives of the people living here and have set the Stryker Brigade coming from Alaska up for success in their deployment here.

You may have heard about some personnel moves and changes that have been made in recent months. These have all been to allow soldiers to move into positions of leadership or to prepare them for future positions and career progression in the Army. Overall, we are doing well and looking forward to safely completing our deployment and returning home.

Sincerely,

Robert Kessner  
1LT, IN

As always, any questions or concerns can be addressed to me at [robert.c.kessner@us.army.mil](mailto:robert.c.kessner@us.army.mil)





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The soldiers of 2nd PLT, B Co, 1-5IN have done absolutely fantastic over the past nine months in theater. We have captured numerous terrorists and cell leaders and forced the remnants of their organization to go into hiding. The Iraqi people are now safer and happier thanks to the hard work of the soldiers of 2nd platoon.

Mosul is the second largest city in Iraq and one of the most diversified. Sunnis, Christians, and Shias all live together here. Our company is responsible for a small district in the city called Palestine. We patrol there everyday hunting down terrorists. However, hunting the bad guys is not the only thing we do. We also help the district by contributing with the rebuilding efforts as well. Soldiers pass out weekly newsletters, fix roads, and rebuild schools. Our hard work is recognized by the smiles and praises we receive from the Iraqi people everyday. Together we are all building a new and free Iraq.

We are now approaching our ten month mark in theater and will soon be flying home. Morale is high and soldiers are already making plans for all the great things that they will do at home with their families. I can honestly say that this war has been a life changing experience for all of us. We have all learned to appreciate the important things in life: family, a strong government, and a free country. May God's blessing and protection be upon us and his comfort enfold us as we seek him for guidance and safety. We thank you all for your support. God bless America.

1LT Daniel S. Eusebio  
2nd PLT, B Co, 1-5IN  
Platoon Leader



# Hellraisers



The last time I wrote this update, I told you about an area called Palestine that we have been working in. This area has been since the beginning, a bastion of fear and an alcove of terrorist activities. We threw ourselves at the area hard as a company, and hard as a platoon. There are many things the platoons in Bravo Company excel at, but for the Hellraisers it is getting to know the people and we have worked much to reach out to the people of Palestine.

Everyday 3rd platoon is walking the streets and meeting the people. We have finally built some individual relationships with the citizens and they now recognize us by name. It is the individuals of this platoon that make public relations so successful. Your husbands and sons love to sample the local culture. Walking the streets is an excellent opportunity to do this. When we go out on patrol, we make an effort to visit the local bakeries and buy some of their excellent flat bread. There are other products to buy, from brooms to clothing, that the soldiers need to brighten up the rooms. Many of the shop owners recognize us and have their wares laid out especially for us. It gives us a chance to talk with them about recent events and activities in the area.

We have come to know many of the locals personally. Their shops and homes have become livelier and our conversations no longer consist only of the enemy or the hardships in the area. We are finally getting the opportunity of talking to locals about culture, philosophy, and politics. It's a chance to see these people as actually citizen and not as obscure pieces on the battlefield. It has been good for the soldiers to finally begin to understand the culture and people we are trying to protect.

The rewards for our interaction with the public are tips on enemy activities and general public safety. More and more we are seeing the local populace come forward and offer up tips. Even though some of them do it to protect their homes, especially if a bomb is located near their front door, and some do it to protect the children on the street, but whatever the reason it shows that the people are taking an active role in their future. This is something they never would have done if we were not building the relationships with them as we are.

It is a great thing to work in a community and see it take shape and begin to function as a normal place to live. It is an even better thing to know that the result is due to your own hard work. Your husbands and sons deserve much more credit than they are given on TV or in the papers. They are allowing people to live normal lives in a place that has not been normal in some time.

On the personal side of 3rd Platoon, we had a few changes and I'd like to say a couple of thank-you's. I'd like to congratulate SPC Landry on his recent promotion. Also, I wish to congratulate PFC Blouin and PFC Lopez on their promotions as well. They've worked hard and they deserve it. We are beginning to get near the end of the deployment and our attention is again turning towards home. We want thank-you for all the packages, letters, and reminders of home that you have sent to us. Your support keeps the men in high spirits and keeps us in the fight. We will all be home soon...



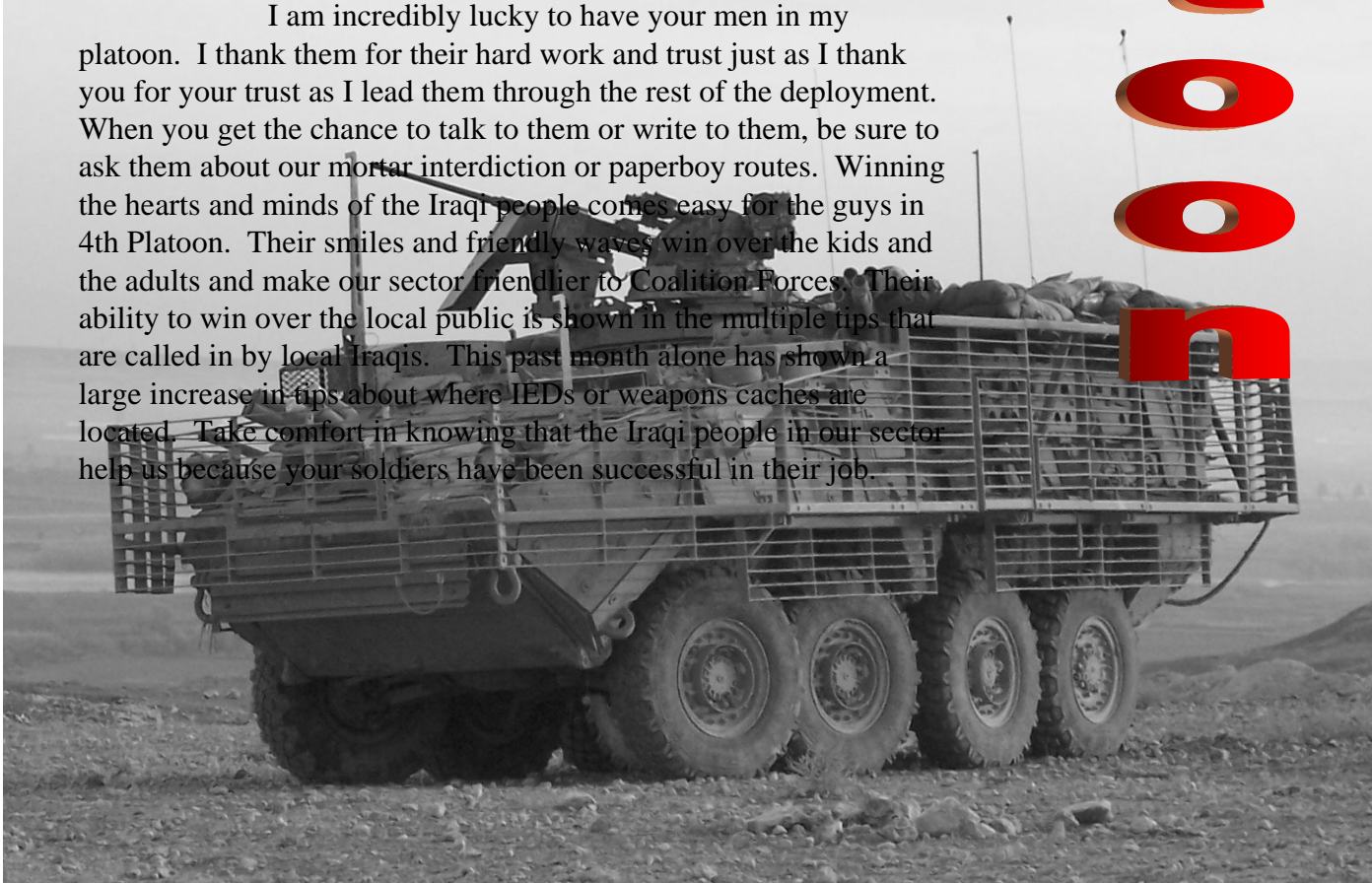
4th Platoon family and friends,

This is officially my first newsletter to the platoon's support back home since taking the platoon leader position back in March. Much of how I feel can be summed up in one word...Amazing. Your husbands, sons and brothers are the most amazing soldiers I've ever encountered. Being a "cherry" platoon leader, as they like to call me, I was initially worried about coming to an ad hoc platoon. I worried about the cohesion the squads would have coming from different platoons. After 5 months, I can honestly say that I have no worries or reservations being in combat with your men.

(1st squad) SSG Chekal's squad (used to be SSG Nixon's squad) can always be counted on pouring miscellaneous objects in your pocket or going after you to tie you up. (2nd squad) SSG Kerns' squad can always be counted on with their mighty pellet gun. It stops birds dead in their tracks. (3rd squad) SSG Aranda's squad (used to be SSG Gilmore's squad) can always be counted on to make you laugh. I don't think I've laughed any harder in my life than when I'm listening to Neal's stories, stories that they have about each other i.e. Blouin and Padilla, or the rest of the squads thoughts and opinions on every single subject matter in the world. Aranda and Chekal have been great additions to the platoon and the ability for all of the leadership to work so fluidly together is simply amazing.

I am incredibly lucky to have your men in my platoon. I thank them for their hard work and trust just as I thank you for your trust as I lead them through the rest of the deployment. When you get the chance to talk to them or write to them, be sure to ask them about our mortar interdiction or paperboy routes. Winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi people comes easy for the guys in 4th Platoon. Their smiles and friendly waves win over the kids and the adults and make our sector friendlier to Coalition Forces. Their ability to win over the local public is shown in the multiple tips that are called in by local Iraqis. This past month alone has shown a large increase in tips about where IEDs or weapons caches are located. Take comfort in knowing that the Iraqi people in our sector help us because your soldiers have been successful in their job.

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We all look forward to coming home and seeing you all again. There are some special hello's from SGT Padilla and SPC Tasi as they both welcome new additions into their family. We're all anxious and ready to come home as I'm sure you're ready to welcome us home. As the days are counting down, please continue to send your support, your cards, your prayers and your love. We will see you soon and we appreciate everything you've sacrificed for us. Even when we aren't able to call or email because of the "Brigade Surges", we think about you everyday. We know how hard it is for you to be both parents or to simply miss someone you care about. Those feelings are reciprocated thousands of miles across the ocean. Thank you for being strong and for continuing to be strong. It makes my job as a platoon leader easier knowing that my guys are ready to do their job because of the support they get back in the States. So for all of the sacrifices and hardships you've had to endure, I thank you for letting me lead the amazing soldiers you are proud to call your loved ones. We will be home soon and we miss you all.

Sincerely,

2LT Noel Sioson

[Noel.sioson@us.army.mil](mailto:Noel.sioson@us.army.mil) (feel free to email me if you have any questions)

