

BRAVO



DEATHMASTERS

VOLUME 1, NO. 2

FEBRUARY/MARCH 2005

MOSUL, IRAQ

Dear Family and Friends,

First I would like to apologize for not getting this newsletter out sooner. The pace here is extremely taxing and we all try our best to accomplish all missions.

During February and March our soldiers have seen their share of tough combat. The men are all doing extremely well and I am so proud to lead such a bunch of outstanding soldiers. Our soldiers have done an excellent job getting to know and understand the Iraqi people. They are really getting the message out to the innocent civilians. Letting them know that we are here for them and will not leave until they have the security that they deserve. What we are seeing now is that the civilians, getting used to our presence, are reporting suspicious activity to us. Allowing us to separate the insurgency from the local populace.

Unfortunately we have taken some close calls as well as a few injuries, but we continue to fight on. Our injured soldiers want it that way, and our soldiers that are still in the fight are very eager to give them what they want.

On April 1st we will say goodbye to truly remarkable NCO. 1SG Douglas will be leaving us after being with the company for three years. He has kept this company on solid ground. He is without a doubt the most knowledgeable Non-Commissioned officer that I have had the honor to serve with in 15 years of service. A true professional whom the men love and will miss. I want to publicly thank him for his loyalty and support to the United States, to the Army, to 1/5 Infantry and to me. 1SG Douglas epitomizes Army's values and will always be an asset on any team. He truly be missed and his shoes will be hard to fill. Replacing 1SG Douglas comes a man with high recommendations, 1SG Matau. I welcome him to our company and look forward to working with him. 1SG Matau will have his first entry to our newsletter next month.

Lastly I would like thank all of the wonderful families back home. The men are getting lots of mail and it is evident that we have a lot of support back home. Without that support we would not enjoy the success that we are enjoying now. Our soldiers are more focused because they know you care. I thank you for that.

Sincerely,

CPT Steven J. Szilvassy
"DEATHMASTER 6"





FROM THE TOP



Hello Deathmaster Families & Friends,

All is going well for the Deathmastrers; since the last "From The Top" we have moved our Area of Operations to the east side of the Tigris River to a section of Mosul we call Palestine. We have been kept very busy here. When we first arrived the locals were not all that happy to have us around, but the charisma and charming smiles from our boys has changed a lot of minds. It is truly amazing to watch the changes in their demeanor. Not only do the kids come out, but the local ladies and some of the men will initiate the waves.

Not every thing is peaches & cream, but we have made great progress. The boys have done and continue to do great work. We are finding way more IEDs than are detonating. We have found truck loads of weapons and explosives before they can be employed and we have sent a few of the fighters to meet Allah sooner than they had bargained for.

We've had a good couple of months for promotions too. Way too many to write up here, but I would like to extend special recognition to 1SG Jerry McCullough. He was laterally promoted to 1SG and unfortunately for us will be moving to Tal Afar to take charge of Apache Company. Good Luck & God's speed to you 1SG.

Alas this will be my last "From The Top" as the powers that be, have decided it is time for me to give the next generation a shot in the spot, light. I will hand the guidon off to 1SG Matau on 1 April and I will be moving on to the dreaded palace at Brigade. I have had a great run here with the company and have made some friends that I will never forget. I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to everyone who has supported me and the company and made my job that much easier. I have watched this company grow into a powerful effective fighting force and could not be prouder of the men of B Co. I have had generally the same core of NCOs and watched new privates grow into team leaders. This job has been the pinnacle of my career and I could not have asked for a better bunch of men to have served with.

I wish everyone a happy Easter and if I can ever do any thing for anyone, just let me know. I will be just down the road.

1SG Kirk Douglas
B/1-5 IN

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PROMOTIONS

MSG Jerry McCullough to 1SG
SGT Jimmy Novak to SSG
CPL Howard to SGT
SPC Jericho Sink to SGT
SPC Anthony Martinez to SGT
PFC Daniel Hullett to SPC
PFC Richard Martel to SPC
PFC Yuslandy Figueredo to SPC
PFC Joshua Pol to SPC
PFC Jason Jones to SPC
PFC Derk Walter to SPC
PFC William Edwards to SPC
PFC Chris Machado to SPC
PV2 Dan Nava to PFC
PV2 Joshua Bluemel to PFC
PV2 Michael Taber to PFC
PV2 Jose Soza to PFC
PV2 Joshua Murray to PFC
PV2 Steven Davies to PFC
PV2 Anthony Lynch to PFC
PV2 Tyson Nebecker to PFC
PV2 Omar Santans to PFC
PVT Josiah Summers to PV2
PVT Brian Curl to PV2
PVT Andrea Blouin to PV2

HAIL & FAREWELL

FAREWELLS:

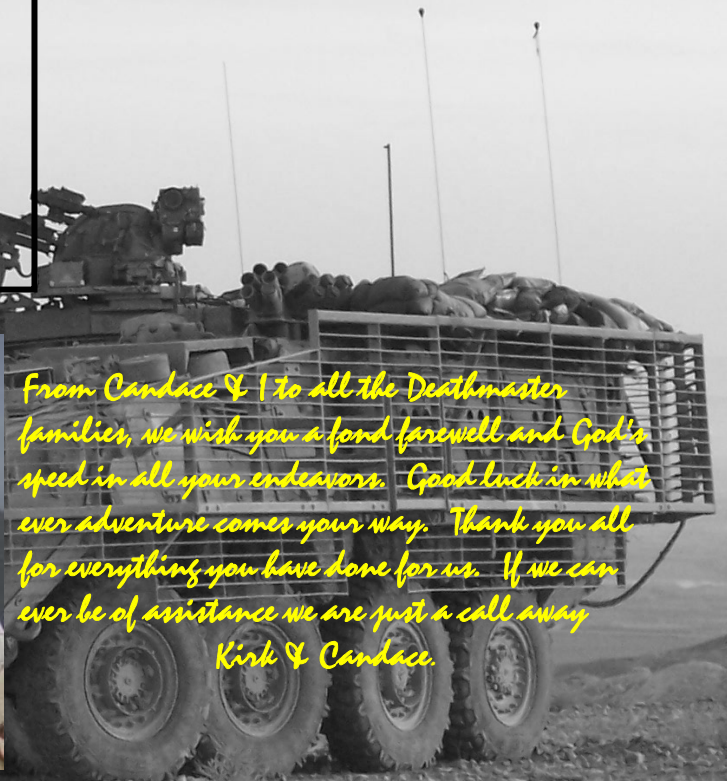
1SG Kirk Douglas to 1st BDE
1SG Jerry McCullough to Apache Co
SSG Pelayo to the BN S3
1LT Josh Behsudi to BN S3

HAILS:

2LT Soinson from Rear D to MGS PL
SFC Williams from BDE S3 to 3rd PSG
SGT Lesile to 3rd PLT
PVT Feak to 1st
PVT Busch to 2nd
PVT Hennivig to 3rd



*From Candace & I to all the Deathmaster families, we wish you a fond farewell and God's speed in all your endeavors. Good luck in whatever adventure comes your way. Thank you all for everything you have done for us. If we can ever be of assistance we are just a call away
Kirk & Candace.*



1st Platoon, Bravo Company

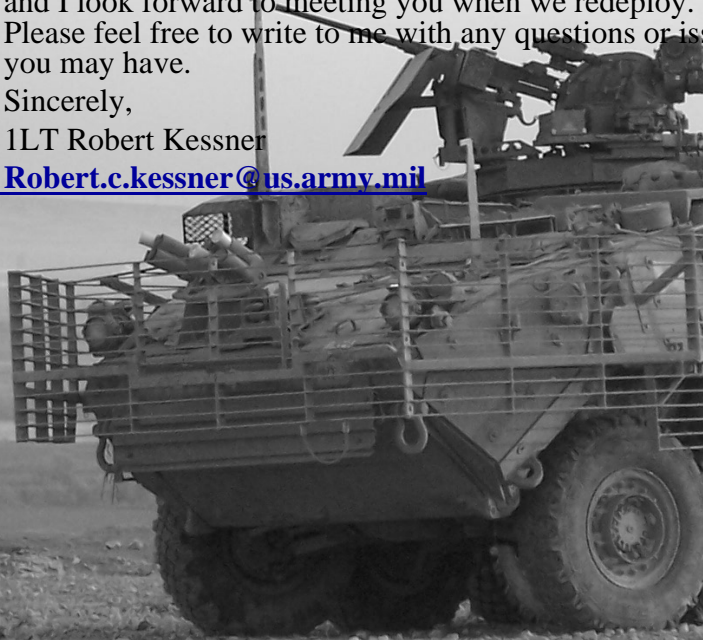
DOGS OF WAR

Well, the past month or so have brought about many changes. Bravo Company has inherited a new area of responsibility that includes part of the city as well as a huge area Southeast of Mosul. Our new sector has kept us busy and the Dogs of War have been working hard. Every day brings us new challenges, whether we are finding IEDs and caches or chasing down mortar teams firing onto the FOB. As I'm sure you have heard our second squad is attached to the Company's MGS platoon. While we would love to have them back, they are bringing necessary combat power to that platoon to allow them to accomplish their mission. Since we have been in our new sector first platoon has killed four confirmed enemy, neutralized several IEDs, and detained numerous targeted individuals as part of Company raids. We are getting a great response from the people and are constantly offered to come into their homes to drink tea and eat. The platoon is working long hours but it is a rewarding job and you would all be proud of them. Congratulations to SSG Dukes for reenlisting and to SGT Betts, CPL Howard and PFCs Hanson and Simpson on their upcoming promotions. We all think of home often and the thought of returning to you all keeps us going day after day. It is a continual pleasure to work with all of your husbands, fathers, and boyfriends and I look forward to meeting you when we redeploy. Please feel free to write to me with any questions or issues you may have.

Sincerely,

1LT Robert Kessner

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To the brothers, sisters, wives, mom's, dad's, son's, daughters, and loved ones of Bravo Company 2nd platoon 1-5 INF Death masters. We are at the half waypoint. Our deployment has been tough being that we are separated from the ones we love. But we are sticking together like the brothers we are.

The operational tempo at times can be intense and the days can go on forever but the prayers you all send keep us safe, strong and fill our hearts with love. As the platoon leader for such an awesome group of men I can only say it is an honor to serve with the men of 2nd platoon. We have taken control of a sector that was once a hot bed for insurgent activity. With our recent efforts and focused combat power we have become a relentless force not to be messed with.

As part of a company effort 2nd platoon has uncovered numerous caches, conducted several targeted raids on high value insurgent leaders, detained many bad guys linked to terrorist activity and neutralized countless explosives aimed towards coalition forces. We are most definitely making a profound influence here in Mosul.

We often patrol through villages and interact with the local community. We are very respectful and show a genuine concern for improving their way of life. I can honestly say we are winning the hearts and minds of the Iraqi citizens.

The Iraqi children in the streets and villages are always the first to smile and wave whenever we are near. They gather in groups and surround us during the stops we make. The other day we visited a village with a civil affairs team and brought them toys, soccer balls, school supplies and candy.

The Iraqis are very hospitable and always offer us tea or to stay for lunch or dinner.



Right now our second squad is attached to our MGS/4th PLT providing them with the dismounted infantry necessary to fight effectively. In our current set we have been able to find, fix, maneuver and destroy the terrorist as they attempt to attack us. In the last two days we have 4 confirmed kills on insurgents.

In other news I would like to congratulate Mr and Mrs William Edwards who are expecting their first baby this month. SGT Joseph Gamboa and SGT Abraham Bitolas who have both re-enlisted, SPC Theodore Amell recently promoted. And SPC Robert Wood who will be promoted to SGT. We are also eagerly awaiting the return of SSG Verle Smith

In addition to this letter I would like to thank all of the parents. Your sons have volunteered to do a job fully knowing the hazards of there chosen profession. The infantry is not for the faint of heart. They are the front line defense and the best our nation has to offer. They are defending freedom for all Americans. You should be extremely proud of your sons.They are performing magnificently.

Your sons are all heroes in my eyes and it my continual pleasure to lead them in combat. They are steadfast, courageous, and truly are the heart of the fight.

We think you all always and that keeps us going everyday. We all cannot wait to be back home and until then we will most definitely keep up the fight and continue to stay safe.

POC is 1LT PACQUING, JOSEPHER

2nd Platoon Deathmasters "the heart of the fight"

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Please feel free to contact me for anytime for anything

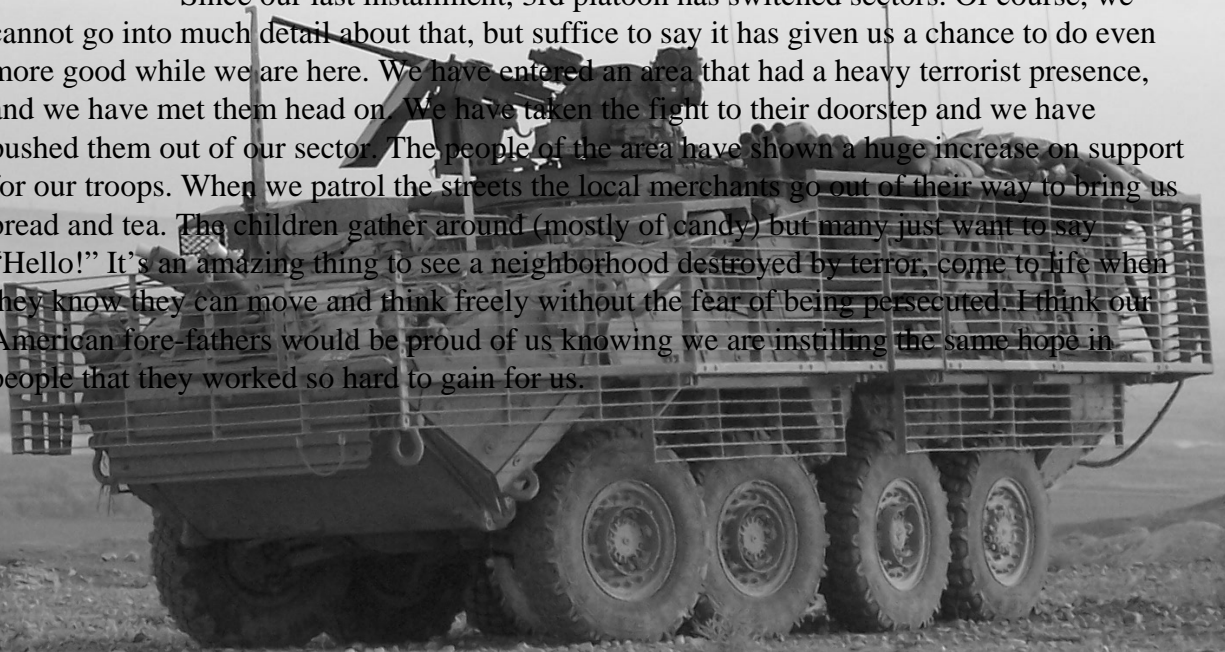


HELLRAISERS

Its been almost two months since I've updated all the friends and family of the Hellraisers about are life in Iraq. Let me tell you, it has been an exciting two months fraught with change. First off, I'd like to congratulate MSG Macullough (formerly SFC Macullough) on his promotion to E8. It has been a long time coming and I can think of no one who deserves that more him. With this promotion though, comes change. The powers that be have determined they have bigger and better things in mind for our old MSG and moved him to brigade. I must say I am saddened at the loss of his presence in 3rd Platoon. His maturity and experienced will be missed.

As with every sunset, there is a new day and our dawn is SFC Williams; a fresh face directly from brigade to help lead the platoon. He's young (29 years old), he's eager, and he is ready to keep taking the fight to the enemy. I only wish every Platoon Leader could have a fresh infusion of motivation halfway through a deployment like we have had. We are extremely lucky. So I would like to take this opportunity to welcome SFC Williams into the fold of 3rd platoon. In the future expect to see pieces of this newsletter devoted purely to his meandering thoughts, so look forward to that!

Since our last installment, 3rd platoon has switched sectors. Of course, we cannot go into much detail about that, but suffice to say it has given us a chance to do even more good while we are here. We have entered an area that had a heavy terrorist presence, and we have met them head on. We have taken the fight to their doorstep and we have pushed them out of our sector. The people of the area have shown a huge increase on support for our troops. When we patrol the streets the local merchants go out of their way to bring us bread and tea. The children gather around (mostly of candy) but many just want to say "Hello!" It's an amazing thing to see a neighborhood destroyed by terror, come to life when they know they can move and think freely without the fear of being persecuted. I think our American fore-fathers would be proud of us knowing we are instilling the same hope in people that they worked so hard to gain for us.



Your sons and husbands, brothers and boyfriends, are doing a commendable job out there. They are working long hours, with little personal time (for that matter little sleep time) always giving 100% for the team and this country. I would like to thank-you for your letters and packages that you send them. Every one of those is a dose of motivation they need; keep it up!

The Hellraisers thoughts and prayers go out to SSG Darrell Rowe, our weapons squad leader. His family has been going through some rough times lately and he is home now with his family where he needs to be. We hope for a speedy recovery and a quick return to us, as we all miss your spirit around here...

1LT Joshua Daily
3/B/1-5 IN
“Hellraisers”



4th Platoon Newsletter

We have made it almost half way through our little trip. Seems like time has flown by; especially in our current area of operations. Initially, Palestine (a southeastern neighborhood in Mosul) was fairly volatile in terms of insurgent activity. But the company's efforts in the past month or so have been extremely effective. We have really cleaned up the community and continue to deny its use a safe haven for anti coalition forces. Lately while on patrol the people have been very receptive to our presence and the streets are teeming with kids. Lots of candy from all of our care packages has been given to the local kids. Our patrols usually consist of everything; lots of dismounted patrols, distributing pamphlets and information to the local populous, conversing with locals, busting down doors and getting the bad guys. When we do catch these guys it is a huge morale boost for all of the soldiers. We actually see our efforts paying off as we take insurgents off the streets which has become a daily activity.

Some days our patrols are long and tiring but we manage to make the best out of every given day. The jokes and tricks continue non-stop. Maybe this is our coping method but it seems to work. Just last week the platoon managed to tape me (1LT Behsudi) up to a litter and then leave me in front of 1SG Douglas' room. Many pictures were taken so most of you might get to see these shenanigans first hand. The other day while in a meeting with a Muktar (town mayor) in a town down south I sat down to retrieve a notebook out of my cargo pocket only to have handfuls of sunflower seeds and M&Ms fall onto the floor. Very embarrassing but I'm sure the guys who so kindly placed that stuff into my pocket got a laugh. Other various activities include some fun that SFC Stephen and SSG Nixon are having with eggs bought from the locals. They are currently tied in their egg feud but I'm sure there is more to come.



The platoon is currently made up of 3 infantry squads and one ATGM Stryker. SSG Nixon is 1st squad leader with SGT Bitolas (team leader), SGT Lappi (team leader), SGT Pyle (platoon medic), SGT Gamboa (vehicle commander), PC Parsley(driver), PFC Walding, PFC Kubiak and PFC Billingsley. SSG Kerns is the 2nd squad leader with SSG Steen (team leader), CPL Cherry (team leader), SGT Hailestock (vehicle commander), PFC Elizarde (driver), SPC Cole, PFC Rodriguez, PFC Nebecher, and PFC Daily. SSG Gilmore is the 3rd squad leader with SGT Herst (team leader), SGT Padilla (team leader), SSG Moore (vehicle commander), PFC Soza (driver), PFC Neal, PFC Anderson, SPC Mueller, PFC Landry, PVT Worsham, and PFC Bluin. SFC Stephen is on the ATGM Stryker with SGT Bledsoe (gunner), SPC Tasi (loader) and SPC Hodge (driver). All of our soldiers are doing great and looking forward to leave. Our families and friends are always on our thoughts and make up most of our conversations. Thanks for all the support especially the 100 plus care packages donated to us by Mrs. Erica Stephen, her family and the community of Spokane. Considering we are still waiting for the new chow hall to open these packages end up making up most of our meals and snacks while on patrol.

4th platoon is doing great and greatly benefiting from all the support coming from home. My platoon leader time is coming to a close and I'll be moving to battalion to work on the staff. My experience in Bravo company has been invaluable and will miss working with all the superb soldiers in the company. Again thanks for all of the support. Our families and friends are constantly in our thoughts and are valued as the cornerstone for our success.

Joshua F. Behsudi
Platoon Leader

SFC Jeramy Stephen
Platoon Sergeant

