

Hello Bobcats Families and Friends,

As I write this latest update on the Bobcats, all is going as planned. We continue to take it to this evil terrorist enemy. The days are becoming longer but our commitment to put a stop to this madness makes the days go quicker. Your Bobcats are doing everything in their power to make this country better and more secured place for the people of Iraq to live, especially for the youth. Last month I wrote how the children will line up on the streets, waving and giving us the thumbs up sign. I want you to know how these soldiers, your loved ones, bring smiles on these children's faces. Children who up until these past two years, really did not feel like they would ever be able to have some sort of freedom. As we go onto the streets of Mosul, there are smiles on the faces of these children, a very rewarding sight! This is the reason why when this deployment is over it will be all worth it.

The commitment that we have to complete this mission has come with a high price. We lost one of our own this month in the city of Tala Afar. SSG Tavae (May he and the other fallen Bobcats rest in peace) died leading from the front like every good leader. We miss him and his leadership. No matter how hard the mission was or how bad the day was going, SSG Tavae (Aco) would bring a smile on your face. He was a true leader who installed honor, integrity, and commitment to duty. Although it has been difficult, we have reached a closure with his passing, just as we have done so with SSG Melo (HHC), SGT Sherman(Cco), and SSG Van Komen (A-Troop). These soldiers are our true heroes who gave their lives to help this country obtain their freedom. In honor of these great warriors, I have displayed their ID Tags inside our Bobcat Trophy Case in front of the Bobcat and National flag (See picture below). This is a reminder that even thou they are gone; they will always live among us. Please keep them and their family in your daily prayers.

Since my last update many changes has occurred in the some leadership position. I will comment on the Senior Enlisted changes because I know my boss will mention the officers moves on his update. Apaches (Aco), Deathmasters (Bco), and Rock (Cco) Companies received highly motivated First Sergeant to fill the shoes of three outstanding and experience 1SGs. The reason for the switch was because we (The big Army) had to give others the shot for the title. 1SG McCullough (Aco), 1SG Matau (Bco), 1SG Lewis (Cco) will be great addition to their respective company. 1SG Roach (Aco), 1SG Douglas (Bco) and 1SG Burt (Cco) will be a big addition to any organization they are going to work for because of their experience and success as a First Sergeant. Robin and I wish them and their families the best luck and we are confident that we will see their names on a Sergeant Major Promotion list in the future.

We also bite farewell to our former HHC First Sergeant now know to all of us as SGM Stanley. This great warrior was recognized for his excellent work and commitment to service by being promoted to the highest position in the enlisted rank, SGM Stanley is in

the states getting ready to assume his new job as the Operation Sergeant Major for 1-23 IN 'Tomahawks' at Fort Lewis. Robin and I would like to wish him and his beautiful family the best too.

This month we have promoted and awarded many soldiers. Congratulation to all and best wishes in the future. I would also like to wish good luck to our new Bobcat Rear detachment Commander CPT Traugutt. He is now in charge of taking care of the home front and the Bobcat families. "Sir bring us home". CPT Iannuccilli (Former Rear-d Commander) did a commendable job and now he is here next to us helping with the fight against these insurgents. We want to pass on a big thank you to CPT Iannuccilli and his beautiful wife, Judy, for being their for the Bobcats families.

All the companies and soldiers are doing an outstanding job. Your continue support keep us in our day to day fight. We are well aware that in less than six month we will be back home, but we are not getting too excited because we do not want to lose our focus. We do know that we can be here today and gone tomorrow with a blink of an eye if we do not stay focused inside and outside the wire. Your loved ones recognized that it can happen that quickly. Please help me and my boss to keep your warriors spouses focused in this war until the last day by letting them know that you are taking care of the home front and reminding them to stay focus and alert at all time. This war is not over until the last Bobcat returns home with their loved ones.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for your continue support. Our excellent FRG leaders are the main reason our families are doing as well as they are. If you do not know by now, our 1-5 IN Family Readiness Group was recognized as the runner up for the Volunteer of the Year Award for City of Lakewood. This is a great honor and they were the only military organization that was nominated. The Bobcats wants to send big "Kudos" to all of the group leaders for all of their volunteer support to this great organization. The Bobcats are so thankful and grateful to have each and every one of you fighting the fight back home for us. HOOAH!!

God bless you all!

BOBCATS!!!!

*CSM Mercado
Command Sergeant Major*

