



PAW PRINTS

The Family Readiness Group Command Information Letter is provided to all spouses of soldiers within 1-51N with the sole purpose of providing for the well being of family member of 1-51N, as authorized by DA PAM 608-7 and verified by my signature.

Todd B. McCaffrey
LTC, IN—Commanding

VOLUME 3, ISSUE 2

FEBRUARY 2005

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

January 29 & 30
Prayer Vigil

February 12 Valentine's Dinner 5:30 p.m. at American Lake Club

February 4 Half Way Party for March to Iraq and Back.: 4:30-6:30 p.m. at the FRC

February 28 A CO FRG Meeting—6:00 PM at the FRC

B Co has adults only bowling nights the first Tuesday of every month at Ft. Lewis bowling alley. Starts at 6:30pm.

BN FRG Briefs will be the last Tue of every month at 6:30 pm.... location TBD

BDE HQ has computers with webcams 24 hours/7 days a week for family use.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Prayer Vigil | 2 |
| V-Day and Your Children | 2 |
| Recipe: Raspberry Hearts | 2 |
| CSM Corner | 3 |
| Get To Know Us The Camachos | 4 |
| Tribute to SSG Julian S. Melo | 4 |

COMMANDER'S CORNER

The passage of the Holidays and arrival of the New Year marks an important milestone in our battalion's deployment. Being separated from family and friends during the Holiday Season is always difficult. This year that separation was even more difficult due to the ruthless and tragic attack on our Dining Facility on 21 December. As you all know by now, SSG Julian Melo (HHC) and SSG Darren VanKommen (A/2-14 CAV-attached to 1-5 IN) were killed in that attack with a number of other soldiers from the battalion task force wounded. In all, 22 people lost their lives that day. All of us will remember those events for the rest of our lives.

When faced with adversity, men have a choice – cower and flee, or stand up and fight. The men of this battalion have stood and fought and continue to take the fight to the enemy every day throughout our large area of operation.

A Company remains detached from the battalion and works under the command of 2-14 Cavalry (RSTA). CSM Mercado and I have traveled to FOB Sykes twice to see those soldiers and have returned each time impressed with their esprit and skill. They are executing a very challenging mission with incredible skill and professionalism. While they're detached physi-

cally from the Bobcats, not a day goes by where we don't remember their efforts in the western Ninewa Province. Of note, CPT Chris Bachl, the commander of A Company for the past 18 months, relinquished command to CPT T.J. Seibold on 3 January. Chris is currently on leave and once returned will take command of HHC. A Company will remain at FOB Sykes for the foreseeable future.



**Battalion Commander
LTC Todd B. McCaffrey**

Here at FOB Marez, A Troop (2-14 CAV) and B Company continue to interdict enemy movement into and from Mosul and operate over an extremely large area west and south of the city. Daily, these professionals capture insurgents, find enemy weapons caches and make enemy movement more and more difficult. The job is challenging, dangerous and often frustrating but I

remain incredibly impressed with their actions, courage, and skill- they are truly making a difference in this fight and are combat tested veterans.

C Company continues to occupy and serve out of FOB Aggies, located in the town of Hammam Al Alil about 15 km south of FOB Marez. Aggies is a small, austere, combat outpost in a critical area of the Tigris River Valley. C Company has made significant improvements to the living conditions there, but the duty remains hard. The company is making a phenomenal difference in the Tigris Valley, engaging with local leaders, interdicting enemy movement, and working a number of civil affairs projects.

HHC continues to secure our positions in FOB Marez, a task brought into much greater focus following the DFAC bombing of 21 December. The company and its platoons conduct the daily grind of battalion support, detainee guarding and life support- essential tasks for a battalion in combat. 1SG Charles Stanley, recently selected and soon to be promoted to Sergeant Major, will transfer responsibility to newly promoted 1SG Jeff Sweezer on 15 January- an important event in the life cycle of this company and these two fantastic NCOs. Later, in mid-February, CPT Curt Sawyer will relinquish command to CPT Chris Bachl,
Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

another major company event.

The soldiers of the battalion continue to take the fight to the enemy. We've experienced loss and sorrow in Iraq yet our soldiers remain as focused on accomplishing this task as they were when they arrived. We have invested our most precious resource in this emerging nation- the blood of young American men and women. The Bobcats pledge is to ensure that investment is not made in vain. Your support from home has been inspiring- the packages you send, the cards you write, and the banners you sign mean much to these men. Thank you all for your efforts in supporting your Bobcats.

Each day I travel the field here reminds me of how fortunate we are to have men such as you have provided and to have a nation as blessed as America. American soldiers have brought freedom and peace to war torn lands for generations. The soldiers of this battalion and the Lancer Brigade continue that noble tradition. Serving along side your men remains a privilege and an honor. Until next month, God Bless you and your families.

Respectively,
Todd McCaffrey
Bobcat 6

**Valentine Recipe:
Raspberry Hearts**

- 1 store-bought pound cake
- 1 pint raspberries
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 1/2 teaspoon fresh lemon juice
- 1/2 cup chilled whipping cream



Slice pound cake into 4 (1-inch) slices. With a medium-sized heart-shaped cookie cutter, cut out hearts from each slice of pound cake. Set aside. In a medium bowl combine 1/2 the raspberries and the sugar. Crush berries with a fork. Add remaining raspberries to the bowl. Add the lemon juice and mix well. Whip chilled cream until the soft peak stage. Using 2 dessert plates, place 1 heart on each plate. Pour 3/4 of the raspberry mixture over each cake. Cover cakes with another pound cake heart. Top with whipped cream and remaining raspberry mixture. Yields 2 servings.

THE POWER OF PRAYER



A Fort Lewis Faith-community **PRAYER VIGIL** supporting successful elections in Iraq and the protection of our soldiers serving to ensure those liberties will be held on **29 and 30 January 2005** Main Post Chapel Bldg. 2001 6PM Saturday, 29 JAN thru Morning Services 30 JAN 2005

This will be an **UNCEASING Prayer Vigil**, allowing members of the entire Fort Lewis Community to offer their prayerful support on this historic occasion.. Anyone...may sign up to cover a portion of the schedule to ensure that our **UNCEASING PRAYERS** will be offered. While sign-up is not required and anyone may participate at anytime across those many hours, sign-up helps us to ensure that the entire schedule is covered—and that our prayer efforts remain UNCEASING. To obtain additional information, or to sign-up for participation email to hamitup76@aol.com

JOIN together to proclaim your support for these national elections and for those heroes who are serving to ensure their success.

This opportunity is gifted to the community by The Task Force Olympia FRG.

**HELP MAKE VALENTINES
DAY SPECIAL FOR YOUR
CHILD**

by Lee Jackson

Valentines Day is not only a day for celebrating “romantic love” but it can be a day of expressing love between parents and children. One of the most important things parents can do for their children is to show them they are loved, accepted and appreciated. In her book, *Cooking Around the Calendar With Kids — Holiday and Seasonal Food and Fun*, Amy Houts offers many ideas for helping parents and children find joy in working together.

Spending focused time with children shows them they are special and loved. Here are some easy suggestions you can do to express love and appreciation for your child in a fun way on this Valentines Day.

- Hide candy hearts or chocolate kisses in your child’s cereal.
- Make pancakes in the form of a heart. Serve with strawberries and whipped cream.

- Set out paper place mats and help your child decorate them with a Valentines Day theme.
- Send a note in your child’s lunch box or backpack thanking them for something they did or simply telling them “I love you”.
- Plan a treasure hunt by leaving little notes around the house expressing your appreciation for something they did. End with a riddle or clue to the next hiding place where they will find a candy or special memento.
- Have something special at the last hiding place such as a toy or treat.
- Give lots of hugs and kisses. Don’t let your child grow up without them. There is no greater reassurance of their lovability and worth than to be affectionately touched and held.
- Affirming statements such as “I love you just the way you are; I’m so glad you’re my son (or daughter)” need to be given often, not only on Valentines Day



CSM CORNER



Hola from Iraq,

I do hope that your holidays were better than ours. It was very hard to even think that everything was okay with the loss of one of our own and many other wounded. We had little time to stop for a Christmas meal and are missing all our Bobcats that were casualties. Our thoughts and prayers are with them and their families, especially the Melo's family. Norma, remember we (the Bobcats) are always here for you and Joshua.

This past month was one of the toughest since our arrival in country. The mess hall incident really brought us back to reality. We're more protective and alert about our surroundings. Force Protections is our number one priority in and out of the wire. Your Bobcats have stepped up to the plate again. Our area in the FOB is the most protective and guarded than any other area. Every contractor and anyone that is not a US soldier or Bobcat gets an ID card check and escorted. Your spouses are doing an outstanding job in making sure to maintain this standard from the private to battalion commander. During Christmas Day the senior leadership pulled two hours of tower guard duty. This is the kind of protection that I am talking about. I won't go to any other operational detail do to operation security reasons. Please continue to have us in your daily prayers.

The battalion leadership has been working very hard to improve the moral, recreation and welfare of our soldiers. Within our living area

(Bobcat Country) we have opened three wood buildings. They are

called Bobcat Internet Café, Bobcat Hope Chapel, and Bobcat Mailroom. Two days ago we opened our Bobcat Internet Café. In this wood building there is an internet service, TV room, game room, and shack area. Next to this building is our own Bobcat Mailroom. The last building is our Chapel. The battalion does have a Phone Center located within

walking distance from the living area. All of these buildings are open 24/7. The reason for this is because our Bobcats are working different hours of the day. War makes us act and operate differently. The soldiers are very pleased that these facilities are established and close to them. The new dining facility is still under construction. We have been told it will open in the next two months. Our soldiers are still getting fed well. Besides all the tragedy, the battalion has continued to drive on with the mission because that is the what all our casualties would have wanted.

I have to inform you that this month we promoted the following soldiers to their respected rank; 1SG Stanley to SGM, SFC, SFC Sweezer to 1SG, SFC Barefoot to MSG, and SFC McCullough to MSG. Also, there were many promotions in other ranks. Last month our soldiers received awards ranging from Purple Hearts, Combat and Battalion Coins, 1st Cavalry Coins, Combat Infantry Badge, Combat Medic Badge, and Combat Patch. Every Bobcat has earned their award and received it proudly especially the Combat Patch. All of us (including our families) are officially veterans of 5th Regiment and 25th Infantry Division. My boss and I were very proud to present these awards to our soldiers. I wished that our wounded soldiers were here with us. LTC McCaffrey and I are going to present

them their awards when we take our mid-tour leave.

Now I would like to highlight our Family Support Group

and CPT Iannuccilli for their continued commitment to duty and outstanding support to our Bobcats families. This was demonstrated during our tough time last month. Their continued support to our wounded soldiers and their families has made the Bobcat family much stronger. I continue to receive comments from

Norma Melo about how well they took care of her and her son. I have told her that "Once a Bobcat; Always a Bobcat" and to always remember that we will be here for her and Joshua. This is a trade mark of our strong Bobcat family.

In my last letter, I mentioned that I was going to highlight a platoon or section in every newsletter. I'm not going to do this in this newsletter because everyone is doing their part to keep us alive and protected. I do want to recognize our medics because they have saved many lives. If I ever go down, I know for a fact that they will do everything and anything to save my life. Our Bobcat Medics are the best trained and prepared for any combat emergency.

I will conclude this with a BIG Thank you to all our spouses and to our 5th Regiment Association for all the Christmas care packages. Our soldiers are very thankful

“Every Bobcat has earned their award and received it proudly especially the Combat Patch. All of us (including our families) are officially veterans of 5th Regiment and 25th Infantry Division.”

and grateful for the overwhelming support of our American people. Your love and support for what we do have kept us driving on with this difficult mission. We are not going to quit or let you down. I hope and pray that these upcoming months are less violent than last month.

Robin and I wish you all a new year filled with happiness and prosperity. We have you all in our daily prayers. Your commitment to stand beside your spouse during these tough times will not go unnoticed. Thanks for your support and willing to answer that call.

God Bless you and your family!
Victor and Robin



GET TO KNOW US—THE CAMACHO FAMILY

Names: Joseph D. and Jacqueline J.T. Camacho

Place of Birth: Joseph was born in Tamuning Guam. Jacqueline was born in Saipan.

School: We both Graduated at Marianas High School, in Saipan. Joe graduated in 1983 and Jacqueline graduated in 1987. Jacqueline is continuing to work towards her AA at Pierce College.



Joseph and Jacqueline Camacho

Children: Kaisha Camille T. Camacho, she is 14. Her birthday is December 14. Joseph D. Camacho, Jr., he is 10 and his birthday is March 08. Pedriane Margaret T. Camacho. She is 9 and her birthday is September 4.

Wedding Anniversary: Our Wedding Anniversary is on the 29th of April. We have been married for



about 15 years.

Special Occasions: “Special Anniversary or occasion coming up will be preparing for Joe to come home. Just for the children to call someone dad is special for me. Seeing their smiles and being able to see them showing their dad their true affection toward him...that is always something I love to see.”

The Camacho Family’s Favorite Recipe: Steak and Fries

The children enjoy eating steak(fried) with their grandpa's homemade fries. They love the idea of seeing how the fries are made.

My dad takes a fresh potato cuts it up to the size they like and deep fries them in oil. The children think it is better than McDonald’s but let’s not tell Ronald that.



MARCH TO IRAQ AND BACK

Congratulations Ladies!! The March to Iraq is currently at 9,308.71 miles ... somewhere on our return route from Iraq the Half Way Party for participants will be held on **4 Feb at the FRC from 4:30pm-6:30pm.**

SPRING SOCCER REGISTRATION

Registration for Spring Soccer begins January 18th and ends February 2. The cost for ages 3-4 is \$35 and 5 to 14 is \$40. Includes team photo & medal. Register at Child and Youth Services Central Registration Offices Bldg 2166, 12th & Liggett Ave, from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Call 967-2494 for more information.

SSG JULIAN S. MELO— WE REMEMBER YOU

THE FINAL ROLL CALL

We thought of you with love today- But that is nothing new.
 We thought about you yesterday
 And days before that too.
 We think of you in silence
 We often speak your name.
 Now all we have are memories
 And your picture in a frame.
 Your memory is our keepsake
 With which we'll never part
 God has you in His keeping
 We have you in our Heart.



Julian,
 Thank you for your service and your sense of humor.
 - Bobcats -

VALENTINE’S DAY DINNER

You’re Invited!

What: Relax with other spouses for an adults only spaghetti dinner and activities.

When: Saturday February 12th
 Time: 5:30 p.m.

Where: Lake Side Room at the American Lake Club.

Price: \$11.00—must prepay and **RSVP no later than Monday, February 7th.** Make checks payable to C CO 1-5 INF. Send check or cash to

Deborah Hayward
 3836 Goldfinch Dr. SE
 Lacey, WA 98503