

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, 1N Commanding



VOLUME 3, ISSUE 4

APRIL 2005

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 3

Mrs. Wheeler's Farewell, 2:30 PM at the Family Resource Center (\$7 donation at door) open to all.

April 12

Kidfest: Summit Skating Arena

April 17

Puyallup Spring Fair: Military Appreciation Day. Free gate admission to all active, reserve, retired military and their dependents.

April 22

Team Lewis Night: 4:30 PM at Cascade Community Center (free food, cash bar)

April 26

BN FRG Brief: Briefs will be the last Tue of every month at 6:30 pm in the Stone Ed. Center Auditorium.

May 21

Armed Forces Day: Battalion fundraiser TBD

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COMMANDER'S CORNER

Hooah! The Bobcats are approaching our half-way mark of this deployment. By early April we'll have completed just over six months in Iraq and be looking at the down-hill side of this deployment!

Our pace of operations against this insurgency remains high and your soldiers have made substantial progress against their determined enemy. All of our companies have captured or killed terrorists, discovered caches, and partnered with rapidly improving Iraqi Security Forces in the last 30 days.

A Company remains attached to 2-14 CAC in Tal Afar and continues to be the backbone of their operations-delivering the infantry punch when and where required. A Company's efforts have not been without cost. As many of you know, we continue to pray for the recovery of three A Company warriors recently wounded in a large IED explosion. 1SG Roach, SGT Gordon, and PFC Rosendahl are now, fortunately, returned to the United States and recovering from their wounds. MSG McCoulaugh, most recently a platoon sergeant in B Company, will assume 1SG duties as he returns from leave. The Apache's spirit and morale remains unwavering through their losses and their efforts have been noted by

senior leaders as critical to the neutralization of the insurgency on the major avenues from Syria to Mosul. They remain warriors of the highest caliber-aggressive, professional, well led, and compassionate.

B Company has been operating in a new part of Mosul for nearly six weeks. Their aggressive patrols and targeted raids have displaced a well-entrenched enemy from a former safe haven. The Deathmasters has killed or captured scores of terrorists including some very important insurgent leaders. The caches found by B Company have been enormous. I remain amazed at the amount of munitions and weapons maintained by the insurgency each time I see one of these caches. B Company's efforts have made a significant dent in the enemy's ability to wage violence against the Iraqi Army or us. Over the next several weeks we'll bid farewell to 1SG Kirk Douglas who has served as B Company 1SG for over two and a half years. 1SG Douglas will have an opportunity to bring his leadership skills and remarkable intelligence to the complicated world of the brigade headquarters. His movement there will be a great loss to the Deathmasters but allow him to influence operations from an even higher level.

C Company recently had a significant change of company leadership and continues to

make great impacts in the restive Tigris River Valley. CPT Kevin Burke recently relieved CPT Ron Schow as C Company Commander. Ron will report to the brigade staff following his return from a well deserved R&R. In Ron's 18 months as commander, he's trained the unit through two Combat Training Center Rotations and deployed them to six months of combat from Fallujah to Mosul-quite an impressive resume for an outgoing commander. 1SG Bryon Burt recently reported to the brigade staff as well and was replaced by an equally capable senior NCO- 1SG Lewis, formerly on the battalion staff. The company continues to excel in one of the most complicated environments I could imagine. Of note, we recently completed movement of the company HQ and soldiers from FOB Aggies to FOB Marez. This move provides the soldiers better living conditions and access to benefits ranging from improved maintenance facilities to gyms. Soldiers are very pleased with the move.

Headquarters Company has a new name! CPT Bachl submitted a request to change to company's name from Hobo's to Hawks. The Hobo name originated from the unit's Vietnam fights in a place called the Hobo Woods. Given the nature of this fight with our reliance on speed and

aggressive attacks, Hawks seemed more appropriate. We bid farewell to Hobos and welcome The Hawks. HHC continues with the widest range of missions in the battalion. The Recon Platoon and Snipers are making a real difference here. The enemy fears snipers, knowing that they bring death each time they take positions in the city. Our Snipers have delivered on that promise! Mortars amaze me with their flexibility- they provide indirect fire, guard detainees, conduct reconnaissance and execute every other task we could give them- they are the epitome of agile and adaptive. The soldiers of the TOC, TAC, Medics and support elements remain unsung heroes. Their efforts save lives, ensure supplies flow, and maintain a clear operational picture of the battlefield- truly great Americans.

The foundation of our success here remains your bedrock support at home. The FRG continues to provide the backing we need to be successful. As you probably know by now, CPT Dave Iannuccilli, our Rear Detachment Commander for the last six months, will soon deploy to join us for our remaining months in Iraq. CPT Mickey Traugutt, most recently A Company XO, has returned to Fort Lewis to assume that most critical position. I can't say enough about Dave's efforts- Rear Detachment Commander is not a job anyone seeks, but is the most critical position I could assign. His efforts have been phenomenal and your comments again and again convince me Dave was the right man for the job. I have equal faith in Mickey's abilities and know that he will provide you the same level of support that Dave has given these last six months.

CSM CORNER

Greetings,

Another month gone and your Bobcats continue to set the security for the Iraqi people. They are making a difference daily in many towns and villages. The best part of my job is when I see the Bobcats bring a smile to the faces of children, who before all of this did not have a future. These children are the innocent victims and it is our hope that they now will have a more secured and peaceful life. The highlight of our day is when we see the children line up on the road waving and giving us the "thumbs up" signal. They are the most appreciative for us being here. They are the reasons why we get up every morning motivated and ready to attack any challenge that awaits us. Please continue to keep us and all of them in your daily prayers.

The weather has been very nice. We are in for a very hot summer. Since the last newsletter a lot has happened in Mosul, especially in our battle space. Many Iraqi leaders have come forward and are manning position in the new Iraqi government. The Iraqi police forces have reorganized their police headquarters and are manning it with new recruits daily. The Iraqi Army is now more confident and taking charge of their country. They are serving proudly and doing a great job. Our bobcats are very excited and proud about what is taking place because they



Mid tour leave continues on pace and we expect all year-long deployed soldiers to have the opportunity to return home for two weeks. Again, dates remain flexible based on operations and flights, but we're quickly getting to the point where 50% of our troops will have taken leave.

Again, thanks for your continued support. Your thoughts and prayers sustain us and we know our efforts here are necessary and just. We look forward to completing this mission in the months ahead and returning safely to all of you early this fall. Thanks again, and until next month- Bobcats!

Todd McCaffrey
LTC, Infantry
Commanding



know that the reason this is possible is because of their commitment to duty. Your Bobcats are the only reason these areas are taking a turn for the better. We continue to remind ourselves that this is a small step to the long road ahead and that this country is still not totally secured.

We continue to receive attacks against us. Almost daily we continue to apprehend insurgents and discover caches of weapons and ammunition. As long as we continue this pressure, the insurgents will eventually get the message and cross over the line to the good side. Many of the captured are helping in the location of other insurgents and caches of ammunition and weapons. Your Bobcats have become very good at identifying caches, IEDs and the "bad guys", especially during the TCPs (Traffic Control Points). They sense when something bad is about to happen or just does not look right. My boss and I are very proud of our soldiers. In my 34 months as the Command Sergeant Major of this outstanding battalion, I have seen us grow from a peace time unit to an outstanding combat unit. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve proudly with these fine Bobcats, and to be called Bobcat 7 during these hard times.

Our prayers continue to go out to all of our wounded Bobcats. We know for some that the road to recovery will be an uphill battle and a very long one. I know they are living up to our motto "I'll Try Sir", because they are recovering well. I cannot wait to be united back with all of them. THEY are my true heroes. They continue to make all of us very proud. Please continue to keep all of them and their families in your prayers.

Everyone in the battalion is doing great things. From the private to colonel, each soldier is making a difference in and outside the wire. All of the companies are doing an excellent job in controlling and securing the area of operations. They face everyday with the challenges of earning the confidence and respect of the Iraqi people. We know for a fact that if we get them on our side, they will come forward with information about the insurgents and their operations.

Once again I want to take this time to send out my Kudos to our Family Readiness Groups, Bobcat families and all of the organizations that continue to show great support to our soldiers.



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You have all given us the motivation to continue with the fight of this evil enemy. We will not let you or our country down.

This is all for this months newsletter. Robin and I wish you all the best in the upcoming months. Our prayers are with all of you. Take care of yourself and one another. Stay safe.

God bless you all,
Victor Mercado
Command Sergeant Major

PRAISING YOUR CHILDREN

When we raise children we are doing our very best to prepare them to cope with and have the best life possible and there are so many things we can do to ensure this happening. We need to provide love, concern, affection, build self-esteem, and have respect for our children. We also need to accept them for the person that they are and show our approval and beyond that need to have a good understanding of discipline techniques.

We need to set strict and firm limits and be consistent in handling our children and let them know our reasonable expectations of them. By the way we praise or criticize them can mean a lot in the manner in which they grow up. There is a fine line between criticizing and being

negative and in giving them a negative attitude which may follow them for life. Parenting is not easy, but we can excel if we really think about raising our children in the most positive way for the most quality and positive results.

For an example, say Susie wants to go visit a friend next door and you think it is getting too late and also her homework has not been finished, then you tell her no and Susie than starts yelling that she hates you and you deny her all the things she wants to do. Now sure you are very mad at the words she has used towards you because you would not let her do as she pleased. Can a parent get a child to gain control after an outburst as this one, sure she can. She might have told her, well not tonight, but if you ask early enough tomorrow afternoon and can tell me your homework has been finished then I will say yes. Then let Susie know that when you give her a decision such as this one that you expect her to behave in a mature manner. Perhaps even after Susie has come out of her room and is acting with respect, tell her, well you got your anger in control and I am really proud of you and we can discuss the matter further.

We can give our child praise and attention to get the behavior that we require of them instead of always giving them negative criticism, it can be done. It can accomplish so very much more and actually cause the parent much less stress and the child will have more self-esteem.

Sit down and think about the things you like most about your child, we know you love him/her, but the things you like about him/her. Sure this is hard when you have a teenager out of control, but surely you can find some good qualities. Some qualities of good in your child might be organizational skills, neatness, dedication to projects, even honesty and humor or even that they are friendly, look for the good in your child and praise the good and don't always look for the bad.

Don't forget when a behavior is bad and we pay attention to it then we are reinforcing that behavior, so look for good behavior when it appears and give that behavior praise and admiration, you may have some positive results.

Perhaps your child is a really caring person for others such as an elderly neighbor, a grandparent, etc. reinforce that quality by telling them you really to admire that quality. Also your child may have a sensitivity for others, praise that quality, reinforce that quality. Try some positive parenting, it works.

Source: <http://me.essortment.com>



THE TOP 10—BY CATHY BACHL

Top 10 Things I Have Realized Since This Deployment Begun....

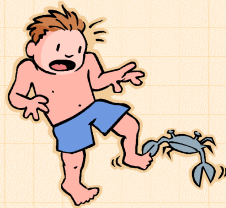
10. I may actually get to go to the Tulip Festival this year
9. My friends are like my family.
8. The lawn mower is harder to start than it looks but once going, not difficult to operate.
7. The true definition of snail mail.
6. I can watch romantic comedies not Sports Center.... every night of the week.
5. I never grow tired wearing sweats and a pony tail.
4. My husband is truly my best friend.
3. Eating cereal three times is not a balanced diet.
2. I am surrounded by amazing women of strength and courage.
1. I only have 7 1/2 months left to accomplish what I was supposed to accomplish in 12.... Let the diet begin tomorrow.

EASY AND YUMMY CRAB DIP

If I made it and it turned out okay — so can you!

What you need—

- 1 can cream of mushroom soup
- 1 8 oz. package cream cheese
- 1 packet Knox gelatin
- 1 cup mayonnaise
- 1 cup diced celery
- 1 cup diced red onion
- 2 cans drained crab meat Lump or flaked—make sure it's real crab meat!



Over low heat melt cream cheese with cream of mushroom soup. In another bowl mix 1 package Knox gelatin with 3 tablespoons water. Add the gelatin to the mushroom soup and cream cheese mix. Stir. Mix in the celery, onions, mayonnaise, and crab meat. Cover and refrigerate for 12 – 24 hours. Dip with chips, crackers or bread.

Everyone will love it!



GET TO KNOW US—THE SWEEZER FAMILY

Names:

Jeannie and 1SG Jeffrey Sweezer

Place of Birth:

Jeannie was born in Abilene, Texas.

Jeffrey was born in Salina, Kansas.

Kids:

Joshua David, age 2. Jonathan William, age 1.

Education:

We are both working towards an associate in Criminal Justice.

Current Occupation:

Jeffrey is HHC 1/5 1SG and Jeannie is a housewife.

Favorite Things to do Together:

Our favorite things to do together beside spend quality time together are yard work and shopping (of course).

Things most people don't know

about us:

The one thing that most people don't know about us is that we are family oriented. For us, it is all about family and it did not use to be that way for either of us!!



The Sweezer Family

The Sweezer Family's Favorite Recipe Enchilada Casserole

Ingredients:

- 1 LB Ground Beef/Chicken
- 2 cans cream of mushroom soup
- 2 cans chopped green chili's
- 1 can chili (no beans)
- 1 can refried beans
- 1 can enchilada sauce
- 2 cups cheese
- 8 corn tortillas
- 1 can sliced black olives

How to make:

Mix cream of mushroom soup and green chili's together. Mix chili and refried beans (heat up). Brown hamburger/chicken (taco seasoning optional). Spread a layer of soup and green chili mix on bottom of pan. Place 4 tortillas over mix. Spread another layer of soup mix

over tortillas. Spread 1/2 chili and refried beans over soup mix. Spread 1/2 meat over chili and refried beans. Pour 1/2 can enchilada sauce and spread evenly. Cover with 1/2 cheese. Place another 4 tortillas on top of cheese and repeat steps 3-7. Place can of olives on top. Bake for 30 minutes at 300 degrees.

THE SILENT RANKS

I wear no uniforms, no blues or army greens.
But I am in the military in the ranks rarely seen.
I have no rank upon my shoulders, salutes I do not give.

But the military world is the place where I live.

I'm not in the chain of command, orders I do not get.

But my husband is the one who does, this I cannot forget.

I'm not the one who fires the weapon, who puts my life on the line.

But my job is just as tough. I'm the one that's left behind.

My husband is a patriot, a brave and prideful man. And the call to serve his country, not all can understand.

Behind the lines I see the things needed to keep his country free.

My husband makes the sacrifice, but so do our kids and me.

I love the man I married. Soldiering is his life.
But I stand among the silent members. Known as the military wife.

Author Unknown

HELLO AND GOODBYE

FRG Members,

First off, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and dedication to the Bobcat Battalion. During my tenure as Rear Detachment Commander it was your commitment to the soldiers and families that made our (all volunteer) organization extremely effective. And I know that our injured soldiers and their families would agree that the FRG can be counted on 24 hours a day, 7 days a week! Working closely with the FRG Leaders and POC's was a very rewarding experience. Without question, the 1/5 IN FRG is the best team around and continues to raise the standard of excellence. The cohesion and teamwork within our battalion is truly inspirational.

As I head off to rejoin the unit in Iraq I know that the FRG will drive on and support the battalion in every way possible, as you have during my time back here. Furthermore, CPT Mickey Traugutt will be heading up the rear detachment and will be a super addition to the team. He is one of the most determined and committed officers and shows a genuine concern for soldiers and their families. I don't believe that there is a better officer for this difficult position than he.

Sincerely,
CPT David Iannuccilli

