

# PAW PRINTS



The Family Readiness Group Command Information Letter is provided to all spouses of soldiers within 1-5IN with the sole purpose of providing for the well being of family member of 1-5IN, as authorized by DA Form 608-7 and verified by my signature.

Todd B. McCaffrey  
LTC, IN Commanding

JUNE 2005

VOLUME 4, ISSUE 5

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### June 4th

Pet vaccination Clinic—0900—1500 at the PX Garden Center

### June 5th

Last day to RSVP Battalion FRG Leader for Lancer Summer Bash.

### June 11th

Sound to Narrows Walk/Run Vassault Park—6:45AM

### June 19th

Father's Day Brunch Cascade Community Club 10AM—2PM

### June 21st

LANCER SUMMER BASH, 4PM, Holiday Park at MCCORD AFB

### June 28th

Battalion FRG brief -Stone Ed. Center Auditorium, 6:30 PM

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER— By Major Cannon

The weather has started to turn hot on the Bobcats here in Mosul, Iraq. We have seen temperatures as high as 95 for days at a time, but the soldiers still fight on with determination and dedication. Your Bobcats are truly amazing!

This past month has been bittersweet with the loss of a great Troop of soldiers. Archer Troop has returned to their parent unit, 2-14 Cavalry. We are proud to receive Alpha Company back after 7 long months. They both served with distinction while separated from their parent units and we could not be more proud of the efforts of these two great units. As you know, the Bobcats lost two soldiers from Alpha Company prior to their return to our Task Force. 1st LT Will Edens and SGT Eric Morris were killed 28 April 2005 while leading soldiers from 3rd ACR on a patrol in Tal Afar. These heroes and leaders will be missed by all. They died leading soldiers in combat and will always be remembered for their courage, enthusiasm, and friendship.

The battalion has been busy with a change of battle space and the reintegration of Alpha Company. There have been several large scale missions that showed a large co-

lition presence in areas that have not previously seen any Iraqi or US soldiers. Our presence continues to receive a warm and positive reception from the local populace. Your soldiers' professionalism and caring distinguishes themselves from all others.

Thanks to the soldiers of Deathmaster southeast-ern Mosul, has for the first time, witnessed the construction of civil affairs projects to include soccer fields and playground for children. These projects could not be possible without their hard work and skill.

Charlie Rock continues to build upon the great relationship they have made with the local government and police of Haman Al Alil and the people of the Tigris Valley. Their efforts have made such an impact that a new army facility and police station are in the process of being built to provide even more stability to the region.

HHC continues to work hard to support the entire Battalion.

We sadly said goodbye to a great officer, CPT Paul Bradley, the Fire Support Officer who rejoined 2-8 Field Artillery to work as their Battalion Adjutant. A warm welcome goes out to CPT Tim Gatlin, his replacement. He has hit the ground running and already



Photo by Peter Haley/ News Tribune

is a significant contributor to battalion operations section.

The months will continue to fly by and very soon we will be in the thick of the redeployment process. Your continuing sacrifice is crucial to the success of the Battalion and I want to thank you and the FRG for all your work taking care of our soldiers and families.

Respectfully,  
David S. Cannon  
Battalion Executive Officer

## BOBCAT-LANCER FAST PITCH TEAM



This year our daughter Jazmin's high school fast pitch team, at Lakes H.S., dedicated their entire season to our battalion and renamed the team Bobcat-Lancers. The girls on this team as well as their coach emailed us and our wounded soldiers throughout the season with game highlights and pictures. I posted a scoreboard so that the soldiers could see how their favorite team has been doing. I am very proud to announce that I received an email from the coach, Gerry Nuss telling me that the team took the League Championship and are now headed to districts and onto state.

This is something that the school has never accomplished. Every player on this team plays as a team, offering encouragement and motivation. This is how we the Bobcats are winning this fight over here, by battling as a team. At the beginning of the season, I sent the team two banners that were signed by bobcats. These banners are hung up and displayed proudly at each and every game. This is our way of supporting each other. The team and I have been interviewed by both the Seattle PI and the District Newspaper.

Please check out the website: [http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/preps/223462\\_lancers09.html](http://seattlepi.nwsourc.com/preps/223462_lancers09.html) to read this great article on a team of girls who have dedicated their season to us and have given the bobcats something to look forward to daily.—Victor and Robin

## CSM CORNER

Hello Bobcat family and friends,

Another month has gone by and your Bobcats are more pumped up than ever. The reason for them being pumped is because everyday they are making a difference. Our battalion is back together as one with the return of the Apaches. We are very happy to be together as a battalion and I know they are happy to be back with us. Having them back in Bobcat Country and knowing they will be with us until the end is the best thing a unit in combat can wish for. The Apaches fit right in as if they had never been separated from us. They bring with them a lot of experience in our battle space. The unfortunate thing is that we had to leave two soldiers behind. The loss of 1LT Edens and SGT Morris was a big blow for all the Bobcats. We were still mourning the loss of SSG Tavae when 1LT Edens and SGT Morris were KIA. We have honored these two Bobcat Warriors in a big way and now we are continuing to take this fight to the enemy as a whole unit with Apaches on our side. Please keep your daily prayers going for the Bobcats. Your prayers help to keep us focused and ready at all times.

We hated to lose Archer troop but we understood fully that their parent unit feels the same about having them back like we feel about our Apaches. I would like to personally give my thanks to their outstanding leader and especially to CPT Shark and 1SG Watson for always trusting in us and supporting our decisions 100%. The Bobcats wish them the best of luck in their new combat mission. Archer troop does understand perfectly that phrase. Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat?. HOOAH!

I want to dedicate the rest of my article to our outstanding Family Readiness Group because without them my boss and I could never have focused on our war time mission. Every volunteer family member and leader has done and continues to do



an excellent job taking care of our Bobcats families and each other. I know our soldiers and leaders appreciate their hard work and

honest, selfless service to our battalion. I have asked my wife Robin to join me in recognizing the leaders and the group of volunteer that have brought this battalion together and much closer during this hard time of war. I'll now turn it over to Robin (BC 7W).

Any type of deployment is hard on families; however, when it is deployment during war, more stress, crisis and family emergency seem to arise. Our FRG leaders are the core of our battalion and the ones who provide the critical flow of information and support. These great leaders assist in reaching a solution or more importantly, preventing the problem in the first place.

Not only do they assist with family members here at Fort Lewis, but many times they have received a phone call from a worried parent out of state. They are there at Madigan to greet our wounded soldiers when they arrive for treatment and care. They help arrange meals and transportation for family members who arrive out of state to be with an injured soldier, they do so much more and I could go on and on, unfortunately the amount of space I was given to write about these "angels" is not enough! We have recognized our ladies for their works at our appreciation dinner. But one thing you must all remember is that these women are the wives of deployed soldiers working along side your own. They have busy lives like yours and mine. Some of these women work outside the home some have children and others are attending college courses. All this, but yet they find the time to "volunteer" to be these leaders. The soldiers and family members should all be very grateful to this great group of women who I am so very proud to be a part of their lives. I can not imagine what it would be like not to be working with such dedication and commitment. Thank you to our wonderful FRG leaders, Cathy Bachl, Holley Aaron, Julie Hall, Rae Siebold, Kim Roach, Anne Tucker, Linda Lusk, Sue Larsen and Davina McNulty, who have made Lisa's and my job a lot easier. Thank you also to Deborah Hayward for her past and continued support for the bobcats and their families. Thank you also to all of the point of contact ladies who continue to make the information flow down to our families.

As you can see this has been a team effort. The mission is not over yet. The hardest part of any deployment is the redeployment. We start smelling the barn and have a tendency to lose focus. Please continue to tell your loved ones to stay alert and focused at all times. Remember, we are mission complete (MC) when the last Bobcat is back in the USA with their loved ones. Take care and stay safe. God Bless you all,

Victor and Robin





## ALLERGIES AND KID'S BEDDING

One of the key things parents or others tend to think about when considering buying kids bedding or baby bedding is the way it looks and whether or not the size is correct for their bed. These are, of course, very important considerations, because if the bedding won't fit the bed you bought it for, it obviously won't be of much use. On the same note, if the child hates the cartoon character or colors of their blanket or sheets, they are much less likely to be willing to sleep with them. What many parents don't consider when purchasing kids bedding or baby bedding for a child are allergies that the child may have.



One thing most people may not even think about is the allergy to latex. One thing most people may not even think about is the allergy to latex. While most of the time, there is no latex added into the fibers that are in almost all sheets, blankets, or pillows, it is important to know that many times elastic or elastic threads are often used, and can cause problems for those with a latex allergy. While it isn't very common that a pillow or blanket would have any elastic for any reason, do not forget that fitted sheets do use them around

Most of the time, there still wouldn't be any need for concern about this, because the elastic will be under the mattress, but this is one reason it is very important to buy sheets for the correct size mattress. It may be tempting to use a bigger sheet when necessary, or even try to stretch a smaller sheet to fit, but both of these could easily come undone after any tossing and turning, and could cause the elastic to end up on the bed, and up against the child.

Lycra is also made up partially of latex, so it is not a material that should be used by a person with a latex allergy. Usually there is no lycra in bedding products, but it is always best to find this out before purchasing. If you know that it is 100 percent cotton, though, it should be of no concern. Most manufacturers of lycra are moving away from latex because of new technology, but until they quit using it completely, it is good to be safe.

Another allergy concern in kids bedding for children is how the bedding affects allergies to dust mites and asthma. Dust mites are the microscopic

creatures that often live in pillows and mattresses, and their covers. In fact, bedding is known as a sort of haven for them, and it is the place they are most commonly found because they feed off of hair particles and shedding skin. Some baby bedding is designed to reduce the exposure to dust mites and other allergens. Many times these are recommended by allergists to prevent the person from inhaling dust that carries dust mite droppings, because doing so can cause allergies and worsen asthma. There are dust-mite-proof covers that are recommended for sufferers of these types of allergies. While many studies have shown that people who used these covers actually suffered the same from these conditions as those who did not, it is likely that those were situations where the person was using that as the only method of prevention. When used in conjunction with other ways, it is very possible that they will help, and will definitely do no harm.

While studies have shown that using allergy-proof bedding alone doesn't decrease a person's allergies, the bedding itself actually has been proven to reduce a person's exposure to dust mites, which leads to the conclusion that they should be used, but they should be used in conjunction with other preventative measures.

Article by Avid Amiri  
President of The Kids and Baby Bedding Company

## EASY FRESH FRUIT SALAD

### Ingredients:

- 6 peaches, peeled, pitted, and chopped
- 1 pound strawberries, rinsed, hulled, and sliced
- 1/2 pound seedless green grapes
- 1/2 pound seedless red grapes
- 3 bananas, peeled and sliced
- 1/2 cup granulated sugar (Splenda), or less, to taste

### Dressing:

- Juice of one lime
- 1/2 cup pineapple juice
- 1 teaspoon ground ginger

### Preparation:

Combine chopped and sliced fruits in a large serving bowl;



toss gently. Sprinkle with sugar. Whisk together remaining ingredients in a small bowl or 1 cup measure. Pour dressing mixture over fruit and toss gently to combine. Cover and chill the fruit salad thoroughly before serving.

This fruit salad recipe makes enough to serve about 10 to 12 people.



## ANNUAL VACCINATION CLINIC

Does your puppy or kitty need to get caught up on shots? Join us **June 4, 2005 from 0900 -1500 at the PX Garden Center.** Veterinary Services personnel will provide vaccinations for healthy cats and dogs. There is no need for appointments and payments must be made by cash or check only. Prices are as follows: Canine Distemper Combo \$13, Rabies \$7, Bordatella \$15, Feline Distemper Combo \$11, Feline Distemper with Feline Leukemia \$24 and a DOD User fee of \$2.





A study released in July adds new perspective to the age-old question of why soldiers fight.

Dr. Leonard Wong, associate research professor at the U.S. Army War College's Strategic Studies Institute said the paper "Why They Fight: Combat Motivation in the Iraq" validated the popular belief that unit cohesion is a key issue in motivating soldiers to fight. But, the paper also produced some "surprising information on soldiers' patriotism."

Originally, the question rose from Samuel Stouffer's "The American Soldier" study released in 1949 chronicled the World War II soldier's attitudes about facing battle.

Combat infantrymen returning from the war most often said they kept fighting to "get the war over so that they could go home."

The second most common response and the primary combat motivation, however, referred to the strong group ties that developed during combat," Stouffer reported.

Stouffer's conclusions supported historian S. L. A. Marshall's "Men Against Fire" released in 1942. "I hold it to be of the simplest truths of war that the thing which enables an infantry soldier to keep going with his weapons is the near presence or the presumed presence of a comrade... He is sustained by his fellows primarily and by his weapons secondarily."

Another noted research paper by Edward A. Shils and Morris Janowitz surprisingly showed similar results among Germany's Wehrmacht soldiers who fought on even as Berlin fell. Since these papers, the desire of "not letting your buddy down" has been the conventional wisdom as to why soldiers fight.

"Recent studies have questioned this traditional wisdom," Wong said.

Shortly after major combat operations ended in Iraq May 1, Wong and a team researchers from the War College

headed to Iraq to find out firsthand if the traditional wisdom remains valid.

The team went to the battlefield for the interviews because they wanted to speak with the soldiers while events were still fresh in their minds.

The team asked the soldiers the same question Stouffer asked soldiers in his 1949 study -- "Generally, in your combat experience, what was most important to you in making you want to keep going and do as well as you did."

American soldiers in Iraq responded similarly to their ancestors about wanting to return home, but the most frequent response given for combat motivation was "fighting for my buddies," Wong's report said.

The report uncovered two roles for social cohesion in combat.

One role is that each soldier is responsible for group success and protecting the unit from harm. As one soldier put it, "That person means more to you than anybody. You will die if he dies. That is why I think that we protect each other in any situation. I know that if he dies, and it was my fault, it would be worse than death to me."

The other role is it provides the confidence and assurance that someone is watching their back. In one infantryman's words, "You have got to trust them more than your mother, your father, or girlfriend, or your wife, or anybody. It becomes almost like your guardian angel."

Once soldiers are convinced their personal safety will be assured by others, they are empowered to do their job without worry, the study stated. It noted that soldiers understood totally entrusting their safety could be viewed as irrational. One soldier shared his parents' reaction -- "My whole family thinks that I am a nut. They think, 'How can you put your life in someone's hands like that? ... You are still going to be shot.'"

Despite the occasional skepticism of outsiders, the report concluded, soldiers greatly valued being free of the distracting concerns of personnel safety.

While Wong's study showed Stouffer's concept on the value of soldier cohesion remains valid, it had a different view of patriotism's value.

Stouffer argued that ideology, patriotism, or fighting for the cause were not major factors in combat motivation. "Surprisingly, many soldiers in Iraq were motivated by patriotic ideals," Wong said.

Liberating the people and bringing freedom were common themes in describing combat motivation, the report stated.

Wong credits today's volunteer Army having "more politically savvy" soldiers as the reason for the change. He said today's more educated soldiers have a better understanding of the overall mission and provide a "truly professional army."

"While the U.S. Army certainly has the best equipment and training," the report said. "A human dimension is often overlooked. ...Its soldiers also have an unmatched level of trust.

"They trust each other because of the close interpersonal bonds between soldiers. They trust their leaders because their leaders have competently trained their units. And, they trust the Army because, since the end of the draft, the Army has had to attract its members rather than conscripting them."

Wong said the trust his report shows is high, but warns, "Time tests trust." He said uncertainty can unravel trust and today's environment of open-ended deployments and talks of downsizing could reduce the trust if not carefully managed.

A copy of the report can be found on the institute's Web site at [www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi/](http://www.carlisle.army.mil/ssi/)



# GET TO KNOW US—THE BENGE FAMILY

## Names:

Jared and Stacey Bengé

## Place of Birth:

Jared was born in New Mexico. Stacey was born in New Hampshire.

## Kids:

Theresa 7, Meghan 5, Caleb 4, Ethan 19 months.

## Education:

Jared is a graduate of El Dorado High School, has taken some classes for a degree in criminal justice. Stacey is a graduate of Gorham High School and has taken business management courses through previous employers.

## Current Occupation:

Jared is a vehicle commander for Weapons Squad. Stacey is doing the stay at home mom thing for now. (Stacey is the new FRG leader for B CO)

## Favorite Things to do Together:

We love to take the kids to the beach to run around. Hang out around the house or in our garden. As long as we are together as a family we are happy to do just about anything.

## Things most people don't know about us:

## FOR MILITARY WIVES

Things are different now than in the Vietnam War. Our land's been attacked unlike before.

Our aim is now altered, our goal is defense, and from tracking the enemy we must not relent.

Then a young nineteen-year-old bride, with only six months an infantry soldier by my side. He left on a plane, three phone calls between, 'Til eighteen months later at last he'd be seen. No e-mails or voice mails, no visits back when. (I'm still as proud of our soldiers as I was of him then.)

I stayed at home and, yes, it was tough, while he fought through the jungle, toiled in the rough.

Our first anniversary came and it went, Birthdays and Christmas since he was sent.

Yet to our country we wives remained true, we supported our men and the red, white and blue.



Grandmothers of ours in a previous strife, each did their part as a military wife.

Now, dear, it's your turn, the torch has been passed. We need your devotion, remain faithful, steadfast.

Your support from at home plays an invaluable part. Stay strong and committed and keep a brave heart.

Have courage, seek strength while he is away, and each day you're apart, a prayer to God

say.

He gave you a man of whom to be proud, one that stands out, in front of the crowd.

Be grateful your husband will step up and say, "I'll fight for America's freedom today."

For you also, the wives, so grateful are we, for you likewise serve in securing liberty.

Thank you.

*September 19, 2001*

We were engaged before we ever met in person.

## Any other birthdays, anniversaries or special dates coming up for your family.

Our 8th anniversary is on 2 June.

## The Bengé Family's Favorite Recipe: Lemon Basil Chicken Pasta

### Ingredients:

- 1-1 1/2 lbs Chicken breast chopped
- 1 clove garlic pressed
- 1 fresh zucchini and summer squash sliced
- 1 orange bell pepper chopped
- 1 small onion sliced or chopped to your taste
- 2 whole lemons
- 1 box of pasta, we use bow tie
- Fresh Parmesan cheese, grated

### What to do:

Brown chicken in olive oil with pressed garlic, season with basil and pepper. Add vegetables, squeeze one lemon over mixture. Cook until vegetables are soft. Cook pasta, toss in meat and vegetables. Squeeze second lemon over pasta. Serve with Parmesan cheese and garlic bread.



The Bengé Family

## LANCER SUMMER BASH JOIN THE FUN!

For the spouses, children, rear detachment and wounded soldiers of the Lancer Brigade.....Bring your lawn chairs and dress comfortably for an exciting "Northwest" afternoon of barbeque, music, games and GREAT prizes!!

4p.m. – Doors open  
4:30p.m. – Ready to eat  
5:30p.m. – Volunteer Recognition

\*\*\*\*\*Very important - Please RSVP to your battalion representative with name, number of children AND their ages by June 5.\*\*\*\*\*



# MONTH OF JUNE FEATURE: B CO

By CPT Steven Szilvassy and 1SGT Mulivai Matau



Dear Bobcat and Deathmaster family and friends,

Greetings to all of our family and friends from sunny Iraq. By now I am sure that your loved ones are telling you how hot it is getting. At night the temperature sits around 70 degrees and during the day it has been hitting 100 degrees and that's without a cloud in the sky. Most of us would have never said that we miss the Washington weather but we are finding that not to be the case. Rest assured our soldiers do have some comfort from the heat. All of our rooms have air condition and we do have access to as much ice as we want.

For the past six weeks the Deathmasters have had a wonderful opportunity to have a photojournalist attached to the company. Mr. Cris Bournocle from the Agence France-Presse has shot thousands of photos for our soldiers. He went on patrol everyday and became very good friends with many of our soldiers. His friendship and camaraderie with the men of Bravo Company boosted morale and motivation. Cris's efforts effectively portrayed our men as the hard working selfless soldiers they are. You can find some of his pictures on Fox News, Getty Images, Yahoo, and Stryker Brigade News. Last week before he departed he graciously took a very professional picture of the company, which you will see in this month's Paw Prints. As a lasting gift he recorded all of the pictures he took on multiple CD's and distributed them to the leadership of the company and all of our soldiers have the ability to get copies. He will be missed.

Not too long ago, we said goodbye to our former First Sergeant of Bravo Company First Sergeant Douglas, who had been leading the company for over twenty-four months. He always went above and beyond and gave much of his time and knowledge for the betterment of the company. We wish Candice and their family the best and hope that they have a very prosperous future. With the loss of such a friend, leader, and senior

level soldier, most companies would usually go through a transition period that is often difficult to adjust to. However, we have had great fortune again and welcome First Sergeant Mulivai Matau and his family, wife Tanja and son Vai. The officers, non-commissioned officers, and soldiers are very excited to have a man who comes to us with such a great reputation. The transition has been seamless and 1SG Matau has fit right into the Deathmaster family with ease.

Back at home, we'd like to send a big thank you to Anne Tucker for all of the hard work and time she has given as the Deathmaster Family Readiness Group Leader. Being an FRG leader in a time of war is very strenuous, and time demanding. It requires a person who has great decision making skills, a person who has compassion, and a person who flat out cares about the Army and the men who serve. Anne is all of those things and she has done a remarkable job. Our soldiers would not have had the focus that they have displayed if they had to worry about certain things back home. With Anne's leadership she was able to assist those soldiers in need so they can do their jobs without worry. As Anne departs her post we welcome Stacey Bengé to her new role as FRG Leader. Stacey comes to us as a long standing member of the FRG and we thank her for stepping up to her new role. She will do a great job and is an excellent choice to leading us in the future. 1SG Matau and myself look forward to having a great working relationship with her as we close into our final months of deployment.

One of the best things about my job is to see soldiers grow and to further their career. This month I wanted to say thanks to some of your men for choosing to continue their selfless service in the

Army. Laauli Utopo, Kelly Berniss, Robert Wood, Christopher Oaks, Norman Betts, Anthony Martinez, Michael High and Andrew Steen all extended their commitment to serve our great country. Congratulations are also in order for SSG Anthony Aranda, SSG



CPT Steven Szilvassy & 1SGT Mulivai Matau

Robert Ward, SSG Brian Hailestock and SGT Dustin Cherry for their recent promotions. Their hard work has paid off and the Army as well as the Deathmasters have properly recognized their achievements. Congratulations, gentlemen.

Turning now to anticipated news, we hope to accomplish the last of our missions and then turn over our area of responsibility to the incoming Stryker unit around the middle of September. The goal for the unit is to have everyone back safely with all of you during the first week of October. The Deathmasters have been accomplishing many things and will continue to set a great example for professionalism and discipline throughout the brigade. What they do is extraordinary and I cannot ask more out of our soldiers. I am proud and I know you are proud of what they've done, what they do and what they will do over the next four and a half months. Know that they serve with honor and believe in their mission. With that in mind, I'd like to thank all of you back home for your outstanding support that has never waned. It is without a doubt that these great soldiers come from a great network of families and friends. Please know what you are doing to support us is very much appreciated. You are all in our thoughts! We will see you soon.  
—CPT Steven Szilvassy and 1SGT Mulivai Matau





Mariners VS. Cleveland-July 29th-7:05 PM \$10-Email: [www.michael.traugutt@us.army.mil](mailto:www.michael.traugutt@us.army.mil)

# WE REMEMBER YOU



1st LT. William A. Edens



**Will,**  
 Thank you for your  
 honorable service.  
 - Bobcats -

## 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.

SGT. Eric W. Morris



**Eric,**  
 Thank you for your  
 honorable service.  
 - Bobcats -



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