

# 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

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### March 11-12

Women's Conference at the Stone Ed. Center.  
Pre-registration required.

### March 16

C Co Social at the FRC.  
6:00 PM

### March 18

Denim and Pearls Dinner Party. American Lake Club, time TBD.

### B Co

Has adults only bowling nights the first Tuesday of every month at Ft. Lewis bowling alley. Starts at 6:30pm, March 1.

### BN FRG Briefs

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

### BDE HQ

Has computers with web-cams 24 hours/7 days a week for family use.

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## COMMANDER'S CORNER

Greetings once again from Mosul:

As all of you know from your soldiers, we have been exceptionally busy this past month. We have experienced the satisfaction of helping the Iraqi people stage their first free elections in over 50 years coupled with the indescribable sorrow of losing another comrade in combat.

While our emotions have run the full spectrum, our focus remains on accomplishing our mission to assist Iraq toward democracy and supporting the development of capable Iraqi Security Forces. Time is marching by as all of our soldiers have now eclipsed the four-month mark in Iraq and our early advance party has been here more than five months. While its way too early to say the end is in sight, it's obvious that the road is being paved.

The Bobcats continue to excel in this dangerous place. Your men face danger daily, but continue to place themselves in harms way for their buddies, their units, and their country. It is an amazingly humbling experience to be amidst heroes every day. These men deserve every accolade given and every praise received.

As most of you know, the Bobcats suffered our third combat loss on the early morning of 3 February 2005. SGT Stephen Sherman, C Company, was killed south of Mosul by a roadside bomb- the unfortunate weapon of choice of our enemy. SGT Sherman's legacy will live on in C Company and the scores of soldiers he

touched on a daily basis. Our prayers continue for his parents and extended family. He, along with SSG Julian Melo and SSG Darren VanKomen, will not be forgotten. Our efforts here remain a testimony to these

hero's lives and are a legacy to their service.

The elections in the greater Mosul area would not have been possible were it not for the efforts of the soldiers of this battalion and others in the Lancer Brigade. Each of the companies played a pivotal role in securing the area that allowed Iraqi troops to man and assist at polling stations.

A Company continues its fight in Tal Afar. The Apaches are heralded time and again by observers noting their combat prowess. Their efforts have not been without cost as several soldiers from the unit have returned stateside to recover from

wounds received in combat. We pray for their continued recovery and return to our ranks.

C Company has recently begun operations in a new area of Mosul. Their immediate impact there has included killing off several insurgents, recovery of a significant cache of weapons and munitions, along with frequent raids to capture suspected terrorists. The company is performing absolutely incredibly.

C Company has made a lasting impact on the Tigris River Valley. The company lives and works from a remote combat outpost, FOB Aggies, and is truly embedded in the area. Their ability and success in generating intelligence and capturing insurgents, despite the danger and loss from the IEDs, like the one that killed SGT Sherman, is testimony to their skill and bravery.

Headquarters Company recently changed command with CPT Chris Bachl, formerly of A Company, taking the helm. HHC is the most diverse outfit in the battalion- their support from medics to clerks is indispensable to the battalion. As you can imagine, following the suicide attack on FOB Marez in December, the focus on FOB force protection has intensified. HHC is the lead player in synchronizing those efforts for the battalion and we all sleep (Continued on Page 2)



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better for their efforts.

The next several months will be a period of change across Iraq. As the media reports, the coalition's focus over the coming months is on improving the capability of emerging Iraqi Security Forces. While the details for our battalion are still being worked, we all see a closer relationship with the forces that will eventually assume full security for this nation. No doubt, your Bobcats are up to that task and a ready to assume any new requirements presented.

We are well into our mid-tour leave program with over 25% of the battalion task force members having gone or on leave as I write this. That program will continue and I expect every soldier who serves a full year tour here to receive leave. Again, dates remain flexible due to mission requirements so please do not make inflexible plans based on anticipated leave dates.

The efforts of the Family Readiness Group back at Fort Lewis and extended across the country are critical to our soldier's morale and focus here in Iraq. I appreciate the efforts of all involved in taking care of our own and am pleased to hear of the ties developed between our family members. While separation is difficult for all of us, I believe it is just a little more tolerable with the efforts you have made back home. Thank you all for your service- your job is difficult and challenging as ours.

Each day I serve with your Bobcats reminds me of the greatness of American soldiers. No one is more noble, brave or compassionate as these heroes. In time, history will note their accomplishments and sacrifice as a high point in our nation's growth. I am privileged to serve at their side.

Take care and God Bless all of you.

Todd B. McCaffrey  
LTC, Infantry  
Commanding

## CSM CORNER

Greetings to All,

Once again, I am writing this update from the new country called the New Iraq. We continue to make a big difference despite what has been written or reported on the news. You should be very proud of all the Bobcats to include our KIAs, WIAs and those still serving in this country. The election was a true testament of your loved ones continued commitment and sense of duty to make this country a better and more secured place for the Iraqis. Please continue to have us in your daily prayers. We could not have done this without your support and encouragement. Your continued support is what keeps us motivated and disciplined in order to keep an aggressive fight against these insurgents. Little by little we are disrupting their command and control, supply flow, and their ability to get around the battlefield to plan any future attacks. I know for a fact that they will not face us head on. They are taking the cowardly way out by attacking, running and hiding. We have a saying around here, "You can run but you can't hide". Sooner or later we will find them and their ammunition supplies by conducting house to house searches and traffic control points. All of us understand very well that this may take years, and all will not get fixed during our tour of duty. The best thing we can do for now is continue to bring order and discipline to the city of Mosul so that the following units can continue to build on what we have established. We are very confident that Iraq is going in the right direction.

The hardest part for me during this whole war business that I do not like (and many of our veteran friends can attest to) is the pain of losing a battle buddy. This pain was once again inflicted upon us with the loss of SGT Sherman. Our Bobcat Flag flew at half-mass until his funeral back home. This is one of many ways that we pay respect to our fallen heroes. Both SSG Melo's and SGT Sherman's spirits will be among us, always. There isn't a day that goes by that their names are not mentioned. They are true heroes to all of us. We really miss their company and sense of humor. Memorial Services are another way of honoring them and remembering them the way we all want to remember them. We will always feel the pain but knowing that we gave them the proper honors for their bravery and courage makes it much easier to drive on with the fight against this enemy. I want to recognize our Chaplain Carrothers and his assistant SGT Clark for making the ceremony a special and professional event.

Four months has gone by and we continue to receive letters and packages.



Thank you for the continued support from our wonderful organization. Every package and letter that a soldier receives brings new life and meaning to why they are here in Iraq. I know all the Bobcats are very appreciative and thankful for your support and commitment in making the soldiers feel happy and wanted.

I would like to clue you all in on a little secret. There are many pictures of our soldiers and the country of Iraq posted on this website address <http://www.bobcat.ws/iraq.htm>. This site is sponsored by our veterans (5th Infantry Regiment Association) that fought in previous wars. The webmaster is Randy Kethart ([randy@bobcat.ws](mailto:randy@bobcat.ws)) and I know he will be honored to post any pictures that you have of your spouse in action. I recommend this website to anyone who is interested in knowing what, where, and how we are fighting this war.

Robin and I would like to take this time to welcome CPT Burke, 2LT Saeu, MSG Lewis, SFC Williams, SFC Jackson, SGT King, SGT Leslie, and their families to our outstanding organization and team. I want to wish CPT Brown, CPT Sawyer, CPT Landsee, CPT Kuether and their families, good luck in the future and on their new assignments. Remember always, "Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat". HOOAH!

All the companies and A-Troop are doing an excellent job. As I have stated on the first paragraph, the reason we are doing so well against this mean enemy is because of the outstanding team work and leadership at every level. I could not have asked for a better group of leaders and units to be with during this time of war. Every soldier in our outfit is and continues to be a true professional. My boss and I are very lucky and proud to lead this fine group of warriors. We will continue to take this charge to the end.

I would like to thank the FRG leaders who so graciously volunteer their time to take care of our families. You are the guardian angels of the battalion. You have earned your wings everyday with your kindness and dedication.

And finally, Robin and I would like to thank each and every soldier and family member personally once this tour is all said and done. Please take good care of each other and stay safe.

God bless you all,

Robin and Victor





The reunion of your family can be a building block or a stumbling block. Here are some ideas of things you can do to help you and your children prepare for the return of the deployed parent.

Take time to talk and listen. Tell your children what is happening. This will give them time to think about the parent's return, begin to accept it, and get used to their feelings about the reunion to come. Be available whenever your children want to talk. Show patience when your children ask the same questions and you repeat the same answers. Treat all of your children's questions with respect and seriousness.

Encourage your children to talk about their feelings. Help your children express their

feelings through talk, play, drawings, etc. Be aware of your own emotional reactions around your children and do not rely on them for emotional support.

Remind your children to be patient. Remind them that everyone has changed somewhat while the parent has been away. Talk about how it may take time for everyone to adjust to being a family again. Assure them that it is okay to be excited about the return of the parent and worried about what it will be like to have the parent home again.

Help your children tell the returning parent about life at home. Ask your children to think about how family life may be different

when the parent returns. Ask them to find pictures, books, homework, artwork and other things to show the returning parent. Prepare children for how things may be different when the parent returns and talk about what the returning parent likes to do.

Source: For the Homefront Parent

Being that our spouses are returning for R&R, I thought this article would be appropriate during this time. As our husbands return make sure you RELAX together as a family. Share stories of what has been accomplished in the past months. For those

couples who don't have children, get away on a short vacation and head to Oregon and stay at a bed and breakfast. Take advantage of this time and make this experience joyful for both of you.

## AVOCADO DIP AND FILLING

2 avocados—peeled, pitted and diced  
2 tomatoes, diced  
2 (2 ounce) cans chopped black olives  
2 (4 ounce) cans diced green chiles  
1 lemon, juiced  
Salt and pepper to taste

Directions:

In a medium bowl combine avocados, tomatoes, olives and chilies. Stir until ingredients are well mixed. Squeeze lemon juice over mixture, and sprinkle with salt and pepper to taste. Serve with chips.



All avocados are of good eating quality when they are properly ripened becoming slightly soft. This ripening process normally takes from 3 - 5 days at room temperature. Ripening can be slowed by refrigeration.

**LOOK FOR:** For immediate use, select slightly soft avocados that yield to gentle pressure on the skin. For use in a few days, buy firm fruits that do not yield to the squeeze test. Leave them at room temperature to ripen. Irregular light-brown markings are sometimes found on the outside skin. These marking generally have no effect on the avocado's flesh. **AVOID:** Avocados with dark sunken spots in irregular patches or cracked broken surfaces. These are signs of decay. **EXTRA TIP:** When preparing avocados, to avoid the browning of avocado flesh when exposed to air, immediately place the peeled fruit in lemon juice until ready for use.

## THE TOP 10 GOOD THINGS ABOUT THIS DEPLOYMENT

Bobcats:

One of the many things you will find during a deployment are the different personalities that make up the Bobcat Battalion. At the Valentine's Day Dinner —where we had a complete blast— hidden talents were revealed: cheerleaders, musicians, actresses and more came out of the woodwork. Another group, "Closet Comedians" (C.C.) revealed themselves. *Tracy Jones, a C.C.*, shared her special talent with us—the ability to make others laugh.

### The Top 10 Good Things About This Deployment

By Tracy Jones

10. All that extra space in the bed!
9. Getting to watch all the chick flicks we like!
8. Don't have to shave our legs!
7. If you come to my house for dinner, you'll find I haven't cooked it!
6. Lots of time to make those changes in hair, weight, lifestyle, etc.
5. We can go shopping to show off those changes with all that extra money!
4. All the independence we've acquired learning to do everything ourselves.
3. Wonderful friendships with our sisters-in-waiting.
2. Realizing we're even stronger on the inside than we thought.

And the number one best thing about this deployment....

Four months of it are over!



## GET TO KNOW US—THE SIEBOLD FAMILY

**Names:**

T.J. and Rae Siebold

**Place of Birth:**

T.J. – Wisconsin, Rae – Texas

**Kids:**

Noah, age 7 and Autumn, age 5

**Education:**

TJ, B.A. Education; Rae, B.A. Health and P.E. and M.Ed. Early Childhood.

**Current Occupation:**

TJ, Alpha Company Commander, Rae, part-time P.E. teacher, Community Christian Academy.

**Favorite Things to do Together:**

Family weekend trips getting acquainted with the Pacific Northwest.

Mariners games; Hiking and picnics at Mt. Rainier; Watching the kids play soccer.

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

TJ has a brother, Ben, who is also a company commander currently serving in Iraq

**Anniversary:**

We will celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary later this year.



The Siebold Family



### The Siebold Family's Favorite Recipe

**Anniversary Chicken**

- 1 lb. bacon, cooked and crumbled
  - 1 onion, chopped
  - 6 boneless, skinless chicken breasts
  - ½ c. soy sauce
  - 1 c. Ranch dressing
  - 1 c. grated parmesan cheese
- Cook bacon and set aside. Saute' onion in bacon fat. Add to bacon, minus the fat. In a baking dish, add chicken topped with soy sauce. Spoon Ranch dressing over chicken, add parmesan cheese, and top with the bacon/onion mixture. Bake at 350 degrees for 30 to 35 minutes or until cooked through.

## CREATE AND CELEBRATE CRAFT PARTIES FOR CREATIVE KIDS!

At the Fort Lewis Arts and Crafts Center **Select a Project**

Choose one of these eight exciting projects that each child will make and enjoy: candle holder \$10; fancy mug \$10; chocolate candy \$10; fish mobile \$15; jewelry box \$15; refrigerator foam picture frames \$10; and tabletop wooden picture frames \$10.

**Schedule the Party**

Meet with our party planner to schedule your party and plan your project. Parties should be booked at least two weeks in advance.

**Remember**

You bring the cake, refreshments, party goods and decorations. Project prices are per child. (5 children minimum) Guests should be dressed with crafting in mind. (Paint, glue, etc. may damage clothing) Birthday child's parent/guardian MUST remain at the party at all times—all other parents are welcome to stay and join the fun.

For more information or to schedule a party call 967-2494.

## BOBCAT WEBSITE

Check out the Bobcat Secure Website to access current FRG and Rear detachment contact information. Plus, look at past issues of Paw Prints to see if you missed any important information. Log on with your AKO name and password.

<http://www.lewis.army.mil/15inf/>

## SGT STEPHEN R. SHERMAN 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.



Stephen,  
 Thank you for your honorable service.  
 - Bobcats -

