

PAW PRINTS

1-5 INF BOBCATS

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 5

MAY 2005

COMMANDER'S CORNER

Each day it's easy to see that the long hot summer of Iraq is beginning. Temperatures are rising daily and our soldiers continue to execute their mission with skill and professionalism. The last two months have seen much progress here. People are more helpful in identifying terrorists and their caches. Local Iraqi police and Army units are becoming more skilled and now really contribute to the fight. Your Bobcats continue to patrol and raid day and night in an effort to consolidate our gains and further stabilize Mosul.

As all of you know by now, the battalion suffered another tragic loss in early April. SSG Ioasa Tavae, a squad leader in A Company, was killed 2 April 2005 while leading his squad in a firefight in Tal Afar. SSG Tavae's death hit all of us hard. He, like all of our losses, was an American hero and taken far too early from our ranks. He died leading men into fire- we will remember him always for his leadership, friendship, and personal courage.

Our companies continue to excel. A Company, still in Tal Afar under command of 2-14 Cav is never far from our thoughts. They're continuing to carry the heavy load in Tal Afar and have made incredible strides in bringing a level of stability to a town that has not existed since the war started. Their fight is dangerous and active yet they go out daily and continue to capture

out daily and continue to capture and kill the enemy. I've been able to visit the soldiers several times and CSM Mercado has spent time with them on patrol- their morale is high and their unit spirit is that of combat seasoned veterans- calm, collected, and very mission focused.

B Company has a very active fight in southeastern Mosul and has had a dramatic impact on the neighborhoods where they patrol. Local citizens who previously shied away from US soldiers now provide tips on the enemy and warnings of IEDs. B Company's mission still remains dangerous, but their discipline and maturity in dealing with the complexities of combat where civilians and enemy look alike is awe inspiring to observe. The unit works closely with several Iraqi Army units and has taken ownership and control of a previously very nasty area.

C Company has a complex fight of culture, emerging Iraqi Security Forces, and continuing insurgent hideouts and caches. Their efforts over the last two months have reduced much of the insurgent's attacks on them and have allowed significant progress in construction, police development, and governmental growth in the Tigris Valley. All of C Company's soldier now live at FOB Marez and only spend mission time at their previous home at FOB Aggies.

This move has allowed soldiers better access to Morale and Wel-

fare activities and better living conditions.

HHC remains the bedrock of our support. From maintenance to reconnaissance, Hawks ensure the battalion remains focused on the fight and undisturbed by administrative and logistic challenges. The HHC soldier's efforts are an indispensable aspect of our success here.

Each day is one day closer to redeployment. Well over half of our soldiers who are here for the full year have taken leave and less than 25% will remain by the end of May. All soldiers going on R&R leave will have the opportunity by the end of July. Our Relief in Place with the Alaska Stryker brigade remains on schedule and we should all be home by early October- just about a year to the day from when we left Fort Lewis. The summer months will fly by and very soon we'll be planning redeployment activities. Your efforts and sacrifice there remain critical to our success. My personal thanks go out to the FRG leadership and our Rear Detachment Commander for all they do to take care of soldiers and their families. I look forward to seeing all of you soon.

Respectfully,
Todd McCaffrey
LTC, IN
Commanding

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

May 6
Spouse Appreciation Day Breakfast 8:30 AM at Post Exchange Food Court

May 8
Mother's Day Brunch at American Lake Club. 9:30 AM—2:30 PM. Reservations taken through May 5th. Call 964-0331 or 967-4986

May 13
Volunteer Recognition Dinner. Location & Time TBD.

May 21
Armed Forces Day: Battalion fundraiser TBD

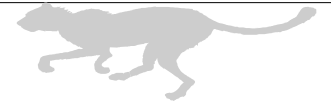
May 24
Battalion FRG brief -Stone Ed. Center auditorium, 6:30 PM

May 31
Free photo opportunity by emages photo studio. 4:30pm -6:30pm at the South

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CSM CORNER



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 secure 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! When this deployment is over, this is the reason why it will all be 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 Tal 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 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, SGT Sherman, and SSG Van Komen. 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 in our Bobcat Trophy Case in front of the Bobcat and National flag (See picture). This is a reminder that even though 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 have occurred in leadership positions. I will comment on the Senior Enlisted changes because I know my boss will mention the officer moves on his update. Apaches(Aco), Deathmasters(Bco), and Rock (Cco) Companies received highly motivated First Sergeants to fill the shoes of three outstanding and experienced 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 additions 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 con-

fidant that we will see their names on a Sergeant Major Promotion list in the future.

We also bid farewell to our former HHC First Sergeant known 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 of you 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 there for the Bobcat families.

All the companies and soldiers are doing an outstanding job. Your continued 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 keep your warrior 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 focused and alert at all times. This war is not over until the last Bobcat returns home with their loved ones.

Lastly, I would like to thank everyone for your continued support. Our excellent FRG leaders are one of 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





MILITARY SPOUSE CAREER CENTER

Washington, DC - April 4, 2005

A new Military Spouse Career Center commissioned by the Department of Defense Office of Military Community & Family Policy launched today at www.Military.com/spouse. The new resource connects America's 1 million military spouses with education options, scholarships, training programs, career planning tips and employment opportunities.

The new Military Spouse Career Center was developed under contract by Monster, the leading global online careers property, and it's Military.com subsidiary.

"Military spouses also serve, and we aim to put career, education and training opportunities and resources at their fingertips," said John Molino, Deputy Under Secretary for Defense for Military Community and Family Policy.

"We aim to make it easier for employers and educational institutions to reach this large, attractive talent pool that has proven elusive to-date, says Christopher Michel, President of Military.com, a subsidiary of Monster.

The new Military Spouse Career Center offers an extensive job board that includes hundreds of thousands of jobs

from the public and private sectors. A list of Military Spouse-Friendly employers is included, and will grow as more employers step forward to participate. The new Career Center includes information on entering and advancing in popular career fields, especially when military relocation requires finding a new role. The Career Center covers many so-called "portable" career fields that lend themselves to continuity despite frequent relocations. Also included is information regarding jobs on military installations, overseas employment opportunities, and volunteer options.



For those exploring career options, the Military Spouse Career Center has a "Career Advice" section outlining a step-by-step approach to career planning. Tools and tips for assessing personal goals, skills and interests are included. This section culminates in tips for job searches, resumes, interviews, and starting a career, as well as, family support resources that can be key enablers to pursuing a career. Topics include career counseling, licensing and certification, childcare and youth programs.

The Center also includes links to the personal support services offered to military families at Military One-Source 24/7 at 1-800-342-9647 and www.militaryonesource.com.

A Large, Attractive Talent Pool

Military spouses number over 1 million and comprise a large, attractive talent pool. Military spouses are engaged in the full spectrum of career fields, including healthcare, teaching, childcare, real estate and administrative professions.

Employers often cite the skills and attitudes of military spouses. Companies such as Adecco, Home Depot and Cintas value the military spouse talent pool.

Getting Involved

Employers seeking to hire military spouses indicate their interest at www.Military.com/spouse. Educational institutions and other service providers can also indicate their scholarships or programs for military spouses.

For more information, contact, Vince Patton, Director of Business Development for Military Advantage [Military.com], at 703-269-0154, or by email: vince@militaryadvantage.com.

SPOUSE APPRECIATION DAY

Fort Lewis MWR and AAFES will salute our community military spouses beginning with a free breakfast from 8:30—9:15 AM, on 6 May, at the Post Exchange Food Court. During the breakfast there will be a drawing for some very nice door prizes and a singing performance by special guests. Throughout the day, the Post Exchange, AAFES, concessionaire and MWR facilities will offer special programs and sales in honor of our military spouses. For more info: www.lewisfamilyfocus.com

CHOCOLATE DIPPED BANANAS

Ingredients:

- 4 bananas
- 8 wooden popsicle sticks
- 3 cups good quality chocolate bar
- 3 teaspoons butter, cut up

Toppings:

- Chopped nuts, Toasted coconut, Cookies crumbled, Colored Sprinkles or Granola Cereal.

What to do!

1. Peel and cut the bananas in half crosswise, so that you have 8 pieces.
2. Place peeled bananas on sticks.



3. Line a cookie sheet with waxed paper.
4. Place bananas on cookie sheet in the freezer, keeping them there as long as possible--at least 10 minutes.
5. Heat chocolate bits with butter in a double boiler over low heat until the melted chocolate and the butter are incorporated.
6. Dip the chilled bananas in chocolate and roll with your favorite topping.
7. Chill or freeze until ready to serve. If frozen, allow 30 minutes to thaw before serving.





GET TO KNOW US—THE SALAS FAMILY

Names:

Jessica & Benny Salas

Place of Birth:

Guam

Kids:

Benicia (13), Jenna (8), Benny Isaiah (3 months)

Education:

Oceanview High School, Agat, Guam

Current Occupation:

Benny (Infantry Squad Ldr) Jessica (Bank of America)

Favorite Things to do Together:

Family Time

Things most people don't know about us:

We've been together for 17yrs.

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

Benny is home for RNR.



The Salas Family



Benny Isaiah, the recent Salas addition.

The Salas Family's Favorite Recipe: Fried Rice

Ingredients:

- 3 Cups of cooked rice
- Half of an onion chopped
- 1 1/2 Cups mixed vegetables
- 2 cups chopped meat (chicken, beef, ham or spam)
- 1 TBSP cooking oil
- 3 TBSP soy sauce (Kikkoman Soy Sauce) or desired taste

What to do:

In a non stick wok saute onions in oil over medium heat, add your desired meat to the onions and cook for 5 min. Add mixed vegetables for additional 3 min, mix cooked rice to all the ingredients and then add Soy Sauce.

Other substitute instead of Mixed vegetables use Peas and Carrots and for your meats ensure that the chicken and beef are pre-cooked.



FREE SUMMER CAMPS FOR MILITARY CHILDREN

ALEXANDRIA, Va., April 7 - The National Military Family Association (NMFA) and Sears, Roebuck and Co. today announced the sites for the 2005 *Operation Purple* Summer Camps. The camps provide unique experiences to more than 2,000 children whose parents are deployed with the U.S. Armed Forces. The 22 *Operation Purple* Camps provide children from U.S. military families with fun and memorable opportunities to learn new skills for coping with deployment-related stress. The camps are funded through the Sears American Dream Campaign, a \$100 million commitment to strengthen families, homes and communities.

The camps, which last from five to seven days, give kids ages eight to 18 an exciting and memorable camp

experience, providing tools to help them deal with the stress resulting from a parent's deployment.

Each camp is joint and "purple" -encompassing all service branches, including the National Guard and Reserve -and offered **free of charge** to all participants.



Interested children from military families are encouraged to apply for the camp located nearest their home. More than 30 weeks of *Operation Purple* camps are offered in 18 states (Alaska, California, Colorado, Florida, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana, Montana, New Hampshire, New York, North Carolina, Ohio, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, Texas and Utah), three international locations (Germany, Italy and Japan) and one unincorporated U.S. territory (Guam). A list of camp dates, sites and other information is now available on NMFA's web site. Applications will be available on April 15.

<http://nmfa.org/>

FT. LEWIS MOVIE SCHEDULE

THU: 28 APR 05, 1900 hrs, THE RING 2 (PG-13)

FRI: 29 APR 05, 1900 hrs, ROBOTS (PG)
2130 hrs, HOSTAGE (R)

SAT: 30 APR 05, 1400 hrs, ICE PRINCESS (G)
1900 hrs, ROBOTS(PG)
2130 hrs, HOSTAGE ®

SUN: 01 MAY 05, 1400 hrs, ROBOTS (PG)
1900 hrs, THE RING 2 (PG-13)

For the most current activities on Fort Lewis visit : www.fortlewismwr.com

MONTH OF MAY FEATURED COMPANY: A CO

By CPT. T.J. Siebold and 1SG Jerry E. McCullough



Dear Apache family and friends,

Hello to all from Tal Afar. The Apaches have been extremely busy the last couple weeks to say the least. We have had our share of tragic occurrences to be sure. None the less your husbands have shown that their professionalism, resolve and dedication to duty are not to be questioned. During hard times great men do great things is a true statement, and the men of Apache Company have proven this.

I cannot continue without expressing the sincerest condolences to Sarah, the wife of our fallen warrior SSG Ioasa F.

Tavae. Sarah your husband is missed, but his memory and example will never leave us. He always led from the front no matter



what. He is a hero. You and your family remain in our prayers. I know your husband is in a better place watching down on us.

I also must say that we are so proud of 1SG Jason Roach, SGT Brian Cassidy, SGT Christopher Gordon, and PFC Bobby Rosendahl. You guys are always with us in our thoughts and prayers. You and your families will always be Apaches. Keep fighting the good fight, and get better soon. The four of you showed true bravery during tough times. I thank the Lord that you are still with us, and I really look forward to seeing all of you soon. Hold your loved ones close, and concentrate on getting well. We got the fight over here.

I don't want to concentrate on the sadness of our set backs, because the

Apaches have shown no sign of retreat or quit. We continue to take the battle to the enemy. Your men are truly awesome.

The Apaches have a great new senior NCO, 1SG Jerry McCullough. He has come in to fill the huge gap left when we lost our 1SG, 1SG Jason Roach, to injuries sustained in combat. 1SG McCullough is a seasoned veteran, and carries the awesome load of the 1SG position with ease. We also welcome 1SG McCullough's wife Melanie, and kids Ryan, Alexa and Cydni. We are thrilled to have all of you in our family, and look forward to our lasting friendship.

We have also begun to work closely with our Iraqi comrades in the 12th Battalion, Iraqi Army. These men have showed that they are here to take

over this fight. They are committed to destroying the terrorist that threaten this area with even more zeal and dedication than U.S. Forces. I have been nothing but impressed with their professionalism and bravery; Iraq is heading in the right direction.

The Apaches are a great company, and is it all due to the greatness of each soldier and NCO. Let no one ever think that this company is ready to stop the fight. These great Americans have proven themselves time and time again. They are always ready to take the fight to the enemy, and assist the innocent. The resolve these men have is awe inspiring. I am truly honored to be a part of this fighting unit. Be proud of your soldier.

Lastly I want to thank all of you back home. It is not easy to do the thankless job you all do. Please know all of us are very appreciative of all you do. You are all missed and loved. We have made it past the halfway mark. We will finish our mission here with honor; then we will come back to you to catch up on the time missed.

Thank you for your support and God bless you, God bless our warriors and God bless America.

CPT T.J. Siebold



1SG McCullough's letter on next page.

MARINER'S GAME

July 29th— 7:05 PM

Tickets—\$10

Mariner's Play
Cleveland



Contact

CPT Mickey Traugutt:
www.michael.traugutt@us.army.mil

Please let CPT Traugutt know if you will be attending by May 24th.

A CO CONTINUED



Dear Apache Family and Friends,

I would like to take this time to share some things that Apache Company has been accomplishing during our tour here for OIF III. Our schedule has been very fast pace and the soldiers, NCOs and Officers have been maintaining a very upbeat operations tempo here in the city of Tal Afar. Everyone here has been doing an outstanding job in maintaining the best level of motivation and performance dedication that I have ever seen in a unit. We are definitely taking the fight to these terrorist that has disrupted the way of life for the Iraqi people. All of you should be very proud of the way that our soldiers are performing their duties as American soldiers.

As most of you already know I have just recently become a part of the Apache family. We are all saddened as to what has happen to 1SG Roach, SGT Gordon, SGT Cassidy, and PFC Rosendahl. All of you are always within our hearts and prayers for a speedy recovery. I have been a part of the Bobcat family for over 2 yrs, where I was a Bravo Company Deathmaster. As I had stated in my previous letter to the FRG, I have always heard great things about Apache Company and I must say that everything that I have heard is true. This organization is outstanding and truly dedicated to accomplishing any mission that is given to us. My wife Melanie and 3 children, Ryan, Alexa, and Cydni are very proud to be part of this great family.

Recently we have lost one of our family members SSG Ioasa Tavae on 2 April 2005. For those of you that did not

know this great leader. I will say that he never knew the meaning of the word quit. He took the fight to the enemy without any hesitation to lead his squad forward to pursue and destroy the enemy. He will be truly missed not only by his family, but by the family of the Apache Company. Our prayers continue to go out to his wife Sara and the rest of the Tavae family and friends. Through this NCO's positive leadership that has had a great impact on us all. We have dedicated a COP (Combat Out Post) in his name. The name of this outpost is Fort Tavae and we feel his guiding spirit every time we enter and leave this compound.

The commander along with myself would like to thank all of you for your support and dedication that you have given this great company. We will continue to keep all of you informed on our achievements over here. And look forward to meeting each and every one of you upon our return to Ft Lewis, WA. This would not be the great company that it is without the support that all of you have given us. Once again thank you very much.

Thank you very much, God Bless you, and God Bless all of the families of the deployed soldiers as well as them.

1SG Jerry E. McCullough



SSGT IOASA F. TAVAE 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.



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

THIS FATHER'S DAY: FREE PHOTO OPPORTUNITY

**Emages photography studio invites
you to celebrate your hero this
Father's Day.**

Come to the South End of the Parade Field
on **May 31, 2005 from 4:30 pm - 6:30pm** and
enjoy a complimentary sitting and **FREE 5x7**
to send to Dad this Father's Day, or a Happy
4th of July picture for those single couples.



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