

September 2004

Dear Family and Friends of the Wolfhounds:

September brings a milestone for the deployment. It is our sixth month here. Some see a light at the end of the tunnel. I caution all though to focus instead on the service and not the absence. Your service is vital if we are to win this war. None of us can ever forget that our sacrifice is more than our individual hardship; our sacrifice is for our very freedom. All of you have sacrificed much and many hardships remain but we are tougher than we were six months ago. We are more determined than ever to not just complete our tour but to win this war for our nation.

History is full of examples of family sacrifices during time of war. One such example occurred here in Afghanistan. In the mid 1800s the city of Kabul was occupied by British forces and many soldiers had their families with them. When the Afghans turned on the British, the soldiers with their families were forced to leave. The departure of more than 4,000 British soldiers and 12,000 family members from Kabul was one of the worst catastrophes military history. All but one soldier died on the retreat. Most families were killed, those not killed were captured. One wife and her daughter survived the year long ordeal. Lady Sale was the wife of General Sale. The General would later rescue his wife but the captivity divided the family for over a year. During Lady Sale's year long ordeal she lost all of her worldly possessions but managed to keep a journal of this extraordinary episode in her life. Her story is the one of selfless service to the military and her nation. After her husband's death Lady Sale was awarded a military pension from Queen Victoria for her service to the crown.

Many of you may be struggling to make it through the rest of this deployment. Understand that your service is vital to the war effort. Be proud and reach out to others to make them feel proud. All of us here need your support.

Thank you for your service and may God bless you and may God bless the United States of America.

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Walt Piatt
Wolfhounds!