

31 January 2008

Dear Family and Friends of the Wolfhounds,

Greetings from Iraq! The 1st Bn Wolfhounds closed on Iraq's Camp Taji in support of Operation IRAQI FREEDOM after the new year. I want to apologize to you for not writing this letter sooner. Operations must take top priority as we build



a strong and capable Iraqi Army. I would like to thank everyone for all the love and support that we have received over the last few months. The support from our Wolfhound Family is completely overwhelming and it makes doing our job so much easier despite the hardships that come from being in combat.

Soon after we rang in the new year, we started our transition with 2nd Battalion, 8th Cavalry. This went very well, and on 13 January 2008, we uncased the Wolfhound colors and performed our Transfer of Authority ceremony. Effective 14 January 2008, the Wolfhounds had possession of our operating area where we immediately began counter insurgent operations.

This past month has been busy for the Wolfhounds. Throughout January, we received numerous turn-

ins of weapons, found many cache sites,

and got to know the local Iraqis. Our

Companies averaged about 60 patrols

each a week with at least half of those

with our brother Iraqi units. Results

have been better than expected. Our

Iraqi Army Partners are working,



training and fighting alongside us every day. Working with our partners, almost every day we meet with the local leaders in our sector to find Iraqi solutions to Iraqi problems. It is obvious the people of Iraq want to be independent. With our help, they will be.

It is with a heavy heart that I tell you of the tragic loss of SGT Jon Michael Schoolcraft III. On Friday, January 18, 2008, while out conducting route reconnaissance in another Battalion's AO, one of Coldsteel's Strykers was hit by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). This enemy action took the life of a truly gifted Wolfhound. Our wounded Wolfhounds from that night are all recovering. They continue to make progress and the diagnosis is good. These brave Wolfhounds are PV1 Zachary Ashbaugh, SGT John Hanson, PFC Jeremy Thomas, PV2 Jaylon Ward, PV2 Toby Wilson, and PFC Bradley Thomas. We pray for their full recovery.

Please keep the family of Sergeant Schoolcraft in your prayers. We ask that God will be with them and strengthen them; that they may endure this loss, and know that the entire Wolfhound Family is with them for all time. Take care of, and seek out and help each other during this stretch of the deployment as the love and support of our Wolfhound Family is undeniable.

Until next month!

ONCE A WOLFHOOUND, ALWAYS A WOLFHOOUND!

Respectfully Yours,

RICHARD A. WILSON  
LTC, IN  
Commander, 1-27 Infantry "Wolfhounds"