

31 March 2008

Dear Family and Friends of the Wolfhounds,

Happy Saint Patrick's Day from Camp Taji, Iraq! Well, we are now almost four full months into our deployment. We continue to be very busy as we increase our efforts to help the Iraqi people stand on their own.

We have made amazing progress in our area of operations. Our companies continue to find caches of weapons as well as receive caches turned in by the local population. Every cache found means that much less for the enemy to use against us or the local people. We also had the first Iraqi Army led patrol this month for our area as they took the lead with the Gunslingers providing back up. The Iraqi Army continues to make great strides on a daily basis.



Throughout the month, we have provided an assortment of training classes to the Iraqi Army Soldiers. We focused on basic life-saving skills training that will help them save lives in the field. Additionally we have provided them with maintenance training that has given them the skills to repair and sustain their own equipment. Finally, we provided the Iraqis basic small arms weapons training. They have become extremely skilled with their new M16s and have made amazing progress.



One of the programs we have here is called Operation Junior Hero. This is an exciting program where we go to different schools to introduce the children to the Iraqi Army Soldiers. Through this program, the children take an oath to be loyal and honest to their family and country, and promise to

be a Junior Hero and the future of Iraq. During these visits, the Iraqi Army provides the children with backpacks, pencils, notebooks, stickers, calendars, and coloring books. The children love getting these things, and the Soldiers enjoy passing them out.

We help to enable the local economy by providing micro-grants to local businesses. These businesses use these small grants of money to improve the services they provide to the local population. Each time a new business opens, the economy of this area improves. The local populace appreciates these businesses because they no longer have to travel to other towns and villages to get the services they desire.

I wish to close this month's letter thanking everyone for all the love and support that we have received thus far in our deployment. Your support is greatly appreciated.

As I write this letter, I am once again saddened by the loss of one of our fellow Wolfhounds. On 26 March 2008, while on guard duty in his tower at JSS Sheik Amer, SPC Gregory Rundell received a fatal gunshot wound from an enemy sniper. His dedication to his service to the nation is a testament to all of us here serving our country. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the family of SPC Rundell as they endure this loss. I ask that you please keep the family of Specialist Rundell 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.

Pray for our deployed Wolfhounds that we may be granted the strength and patience that will enable us to endure the next 12 months.

Until next time!

ONCE A WOLFHOUND, ALWAYS A WOLFHOUND!

Respectfully Yours,

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