

31 May 2008

Dear Family and Friends of the  
Wolfhounds,

Greetings and Happy Mothers' Day from Camp Taji, Iraq! I hope that all Mothers everywhere had a great day. It is starting to really warm up. We have been experiencing temperatures in the triple digits. It has been a long six months, but we will persevere as we continue to bring reconciliation to the area.



As we continue to do our mission we reflect back on what we have accomplished so far. You may know the old cigarette commercial that says “You’ve come a long way baby.” That is the relationship we currently have with our Iraqi Army counterparts and the local leadership. They have come a long way.

Our relationship with the local leaders took a hard hit this month when we lost one of our Sheiks to a drive-by shooting. This sheik gave his life to secure and promote the safety of the families of this community. This was a blow to the progress we have made thus far, but the local community has recovered and is moving forward.

The Iraqi Army battalion partnered with us has been getting out there more and more. They have been providing security for medical operations and have been assisting the residents in the area for over a month now. Additionally, they have been doing a vigorous patrol schedule, and have been instrumental in capturing members of various terrorist organizations. Their efforts have made it possible for Coalition Forces to concentrate on building the relationship between the local leaders and the local populace while at the same time showing the local community that the Iraqi Army is here to protect them.



Within the Taji market area, we now have store owners starting to sell luxury items. This is a great boost for the local economy. It shows that there is a market for these goods, and that the people have the means to purchase them. This truly is an exciting time for the Iraqi people.

A very exciting event took place this month involving the leaders. For the first time, over sixty local leaders from the New Taji Nahia came together to discuss community needs for all regions. The Nahia is the local governing body; similar to a township. It is our hope that these leaders will continue to meet, and that good will bloom from these meetings.

I will finish this here with the continued request for your support and prayers. Continue to take care of, and seek out and help each other during this stretch of the deployment. I know that the support you give us, and our entire Wolfhound Family, is unbreakable and enduring. Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated, and it helps us to know that you are taking care of each other in our absence.

Until next month!

ONCE A WOLFHOUND, ALWAYS A WOLFHOUND!

Respectfully Yours,

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