

31 July 2008

Dear Family and Friends of the Wolfhounds,

Happy Independence Day! As we celebrate the birth of our nation, it gives me a great sense of pride to know that we are helping the Iraqi people come closer every day to know the freedoms we so many times take for granted.

As we begin the second half of our deployment, we started out this month by promoting a group of our 1LTs to CPT. These worthy officers were Ryan Clay, Christopher Hellie, Devon McRaine, Pete Walther, Sean Hollars, Sean Dickens, Dustin Lujan and Rick Pace. We also finally promoted John Busuego to 1LT. These were all long awaited, well deserved promotions.



Even though we are far from home, we still managed to celebrate the Fourth of July. The headquarters company started the day with a softball tournament pitting the officers against the Senior NCOs. We had a great time with the NCOs winning the day. During the tournament, we had some of

the guys cooking up steaks, wings, and burgers. It was a great day. Meanwhile, Bravo Company had a competition going on out at JSS Sheik Amer. Throughout the day, the Iraqi Army competed against the Soldiers of Borzoi in friendly competition improving the bond



between the IA and CF. They even had a band out there performing for them. Everyone involved had a great time.

Missions throughout our area have continued at a steady pace. Just this past month, we helped a general store, a restaurant, three grocery stores, a metal shop, a barber shop, a tea shop, and a photo and electronics store by providing them small monetary grants for improvements to their businesses. It is wonderful to see these businesses beginning to thrive. In fact, there has been such an overwhelming increase of business in the Taji Market that it has become the gathering place for all visitors. Also, along with this surging growth in

business comes the need for more electricity. As a result, power upgrades have been ongoing in the area to provide better, more reliable electricity to shop owners.



Another need the people of this area have is clean water. Over the past several months we have been working on getting clean water to the local residents. This past month a compact water treatment unit (CWTU) was installed providing clean water to over 12,000 people. There is currently a plan in place to get more of these units installed.

In an effort to help some of the orphaned children here in our area, CPT Lu Makinde, working with the Iraqi Army, started a program called “Children of God”. This program gives Iraqi Soldiers the opportunity to donate clothes, toys, food, and money to these children. Some of you may have heard or read the media release in reference to this program. There are so many children over here who have lost their families to this war.

Some of you may have heard that the Wolfhounds have a new battle space. In the last weeks of July, we turned over our old battle space to other battalions within the brigade, and moved across the Tigris River to take over a new operational environment from another unit in a different brigade. This change in mission offers some new and different challenges for our Stryker Battalion Task Force. At the same time, we also detached B/52 from our formation so they can continue their progress in security and reconstruction operations with 2-14 CAV. Right now the Wolfhounds are spread throughout the brigade doing a myriad of missions bringing honor to the 27th Infantry Regiment and their families.

As we roll into the second half of this deployment, I want to thank everyone for your support which is inspirational to each warrior in our ranks serving the nation in this Global War on Terrorism! Continue to take care of, seek out and help each Wolfhound family during this stretch of the deployment as the love and support of our Wolfhound Family is undeniable.

Until next month!

ONCE A WOLFHOUND, ALWAYS A WOLFHOUND!

Respectfully Yours,

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