



# The Bark



2<sup>nd</sup> BN 27<sup>TH</sup> IN REGT WOLFHOOUNDS

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May 2004



*“Those who expect to reap the blessings of freedom must, like men, undergo the fatigue of supporting it.”*  
- Thomas Paine

## Two Months...

This is our second month in-country. The beauty of Hawaii begins to recede in memory. However, the light that is the memory of our loved ones at home glows more brilliantly with each passing day. Back there is the home of our parents, our spouses, our children, our family and friends... the people we love, and who love us! Back there are our aspirations and dreams. Back there are our hopes and our future. Back there are the reasons why we are here.

Home was attacked on September 11, 2001. It was attacked in the most cowardly way by the most cowardly of people. They want to attack us again, and then again. We are here to stop that! We will turn over the rocks leaving those cowards to twist and wither in that brilliant light. We will take away their leaders; we will take away their will. We will capture them or we will kill them.

We have met with many of the good people of this country. We will meet with many more as we visit each corner of our area of operations in Paktika province. These are people who want peace, they share with us a desire for a tranquil life. They work hard to live on a hard

land. We offer our hand and most have clasped it. We have left those people better off for having known us. Where we find ourselves today skepticism, suspicions and wariness are survival skills. We will be ever watchful, even dubious, but we will leave improved lives with better prospects everywhere there are people sincerely willing to accept our hand. We offer those people hope.

We have also encountered people foolish enough to point their guns our way. These are the parasites who once infected this country. We will meet more of these people – in fact we will seek them out. We will go where we have to go, we will do what we have to do. No corner of this land will be denied to us in the completion of our mission. We have the right people, with the right mission; and we have the will! The long Wolfhound tradition of success, and the forty one Tropic Lightning Medal of Honor holders would expect nothing less. You would expect nothing less!

MH 

### Inside This Issue

- Pg.1 **Intro: Two Months**
- Pg.2 **Commander’s Forum  
So You Think You Know**
- Pg.3 **Pashto Phrases  
Exercise For The Brain  
Wolfhounds Capture Suspect**
- Pg.4 **Chaplain’s Corner**
- Pg.6 **Memorial Day**

# Commander's Forum:

May 2004

Dear Wolfhounds:

It is spring in Paktika province. A time of year that in most cultures means life, but in Afghanistan, spring is often the season of war and death.

Soldiers everywhere were touched by the death of Pat Tillman. He was a real soldier and he represents all that is good about being an American. Pat Tillman did not have to join the Army; he wanted to. He simply wanted to serve his country. With no fanfare he volunteered for the Rangers and became a soldier. His story is the story of us all. We all volunteered for this life because we believe in what our country stands for. Most of America is honoring the life of Pat Tillman because he was a famous football player. I think he was much more; he was a soldier; willing to sacrifice his very life so that others may live in freedom.

Many have died in the mountains we currently live in. Be proud that you are able to help the victims of this war, close with the enemy, and live in terrain where few survive.

From the jungles of the Philippines to the mountains of Afghanistan and the many places in between, we Wolfhounds live the life that others only read about. We are placed on point for our nation in the Global War on Terrorism. Know that all the Wolfhounds of wars past are proud of you.

See you on the mountains where we will stand for freedom with **No Fear!**

No Fear 6



Ladies and Gentlemen, our very own Wolfhound PT Stud, CPT Kelley Litzner. -RPM

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## So You Think You Know Everything

- February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.
- In the last 4,000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.
- It's impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.
- Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.
- No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.
- The words 'racecar,' 'kayak' and 'level' are the same whether they are read left to right or right to left (palindromes).
- TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be made using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.
- "Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "mt".
- A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.
- Butterflies taste with their feet.

MH

## Pashto Phrases

hello – *salâm*

please - *hela*

thank you – *manana*

yes – *ho*

no - *na*

goodbye – *khudây pâ mân*

excuse me – *wëbakhsha*

what is your name? – *num de tsë day?*

my name is Joe – *zmâ num Joe day*

MH 



Brothers separated at birth or mere coincidence?

## Exercise for the Brain

- You have 10 stacks of coins.
- Each stack contains 10 coins.
- 1 complete stack (10 coins) is counterfeit.
- The other 9 stacks (90 coins) are genuine.
- Each counterfeit coin weighs 2 grams.
- Each genuine coin weighs 1 gram.
- You have a pointer scale to use.

What is the least amount of times you would need to use the pointer scale before determining which stack is counterfeit? Ok, I'll make it easier. The answer is one time. How can this be done? Remember, you can weigh the coins anyway you choose but can only use the scale once.

The first soldier with the correct answer will win a free membership to the soon-to-be completed Orgun-e FOB Health Spa. The new spa comes complete with an indoor swimming pool, Jacuzzi, steam room, and on-site masseuse. In addition, you will be awarded an all expense paid trip to the island of Oahu redeemable no earlier than May 2005.

MH 

## Wolfhounds Capture Al Qaeda Bombing Suspect

A suspect was detained by Soldiers from the 25<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division (Light), 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment, following a failed bombing attack in the Afghan city of Sharona.

Command Sgt. Maj. David Yates, 2-27 command sergeant major, said authorities believe the suspect, Genat Gul, was used as a local guide to lead outside al Qaeda operatives on a suicide bombing mission, intended to destroy the police station in retaliation for the town's pro-western attitude. Gul reportedly spent several months at an al Qaeda training camp before the attack. When he was stopped at the town's security checkpoint, said Sergeant First Class Timothy Delarosa, Platoon

Sergeant for 1<sup>st</sup> platoon, Co. B, said Gul began shooting at authorities.

“He [the suspect] came through with the suicide bomber,” said Delarosa. “He was stopped by the police at the security checkpoint located at the city’s front gate. As the police approached, he began firing a shotgun.”

As Gul was being subdued, Delarosa said, the bomber fled the city. Afghan police are currently searching for the suspect, who has been identified as Ali Mohammed.

“He’s on the run,” said Delarosa. “But we know who he is, and we’re going to find him.”

Delarosa said since his capture, Gul has provided authorities with information and leads that will help local police efforts to maintain stability.

LC 



CPT Higgins gives medical aid to an Afghan boy.

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## Chaplain’s Corner

May 2004

Jesus said in Matthew 7:13-14, “*Enter by the narrow gate. For the gate is wide and the way is easy that leads to*

*destruction, and those who enter by it are many. For the gate is narrow and the way is hard that leads to life, and those who find it are few.*

The last time I checked the religious preferences of 2-27 soldiers about 70% claimed to be Christian, about 20% of those are catholic and 50% protestant. That’s about 350 confessing Christians out of 500 or so. This is the majority of 2-27 soldiers. In light of these statistics, you would think that if a total stranger spent a couple of weeks visiting wolfhound soldiers that he or she would leave with an experience of God’s presence and be impressed with the fruit of the Holy Spirit (love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control) exhibited in the lives of these Christian soldiers. I have been the 2-27 Chaplain for about 10 months now and I can tell you that if a stranger came to 2-27 looking for the evidences of the Christian life, he or she could find it in a few, but it would not be out in the open like you would expect in a battalion that has 350 proclaiming Christians.

Why is this? Let me first say, that I am not picking on 2-27. I think 2-27 represents what is true all across America. Many claim the name of Jesus, but few have fallen at the Saviors feet with tears of repentance and a sincere desire to follow and obey Jesus as the Lord of their lives. Christianity is much more than joining a church, being baptized with water, or putting Christian on your dog tags. Christianity is dying to yourself and offering yourself to be a servant or slave of almighty God.

We should not be surprised that so few that say they are Christians actually live out the Christian life. The verses I quoted above clearly state that many will enter through the wide gate

and take the easy way that leads to destruction, but few will find and enter the narrow gate and take the hard road that leads to life. God is not a God that we can serve at our own convenience. God is an all consuming fire! He has given His Son as an offering for our sin and He has graciously given us a narrow and hard road in which to walk. We dare not cast His grace aside or take it for granted, for one day, it will be too late. Today is the Day of salvation, we may not have a tomorrow. One day the door will be shut.

I will leave you with this story that Jesus gives us in Luke 13:22-30, *“He went on his way through towns and villages, teaching and journeying toward Jerusalem. And someone said to him, ‘Lord, will those who are saved be few?’ And he said to them, ‘Strive to enter through the narrow door. For many, I tell you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the master of the house has risen to shut the door, and you begin*

*to stand outside and to knock at the door, saying, ‘Lord, open to us,’ then he will answer you, ‘I do not know where you come from.’ Then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in your presence, and you taught in our streets.’ But he will say, ‘I tell you, I do not know where you are from. Depart from me, all you workers of evil!’ In that place there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but you yourselves cast out. And people will come from east and west, and from north and south, and recline at table in the kingdom of God. And behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”*

Please join me in praying that many 2-27 soldiers, by God’s grace, will get off the way of destruction and follow Jesus on the way to life.

Blessings in Christ alone,  
Chaplain Bo Welch

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**Mujad Muhammad's**  
**Clip n Thump**

**Act Now!!!  
Buy one free haircut, and get a head thump, at no extra charge!**

Elder Davis says, "I get my straw chopped by Muhammad; you should too!"

Remembering...

# Memorial Day

## (Monday, May 31)

Back stateside, Memorial Day will be celebrated Monday with the usual flags, fireworks and fanfare. As the Wolfhounds sit 12,000 miles from home, it only seems fitting that we should remind ourselves why we celebrate this holiday.

Memorial Day, first celebrated in 1868, is now a Federal Holiday set aside to honor our fallen war heroes. Those who paved the way for us; those who died for America.

Heroes like our great-grandfathers, who fought shoulder-to-shoulder with the Allies to break through the fabled German Hindenberg Line on Sept. 29, 1918 in World War I.

Heroes like our grandfathers, who with disregard for their own safety, stormed Normandy Beach 60 years ago on June 6 (D-Day) or died in shock as Japanese planes surprised Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941 dragging the U.S. into World War II.

Heroes like our fathers who attempted to set up a roadblock at Taep'yong-ni and Taejon roads, only to be overrun by North Korean troops on July 16, 1950 during the Korean War.

Heroes like our uncles, who marched through dense jungles in terrible conditions, trying to stop supply lines on the Ho Chi Minh Trail from 1968-72 during the Vietnam War.

Heroes like our brothers, who died during the 100-day ground war, fighting as the first warplanes buzzed through Baghdad on Jan. 16, 1991 during Desert Storm.

Heroes like our Marine Corp brethren, who fought to hold turf at Fallujah, just weeks ago during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Heroes like SPC Phillip Witkowski, who traveled with us these 12,000 miles to ensure victory during Operation Enduring Freedom, only to have his life end too soon.

These are the heroes we honor. These are the heroes we remember.



### Bark Staff:

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