



The Bark



2nd BN 27TH IN REGT WOLFHOUSES

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“The God who gave us life, gave us liberty at the same time: the hand of force may destroy, but cannot disjoin them.” - Thomas Jefferson

Rest, Rejuvenation, Recuperation, Relaxation, Reality Check?

R&R has been around the US Army since its establishment in 1775. In the early days, Service members were periodically granted extended furloughs from their duty stations on the frontier to return home. During World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and Vietnam, R&R centers were established in relative proximity to combat zones. It is no different now. We have an R&R program today; and we get to go home. And, home – this time – is all too close to the combat zone. The first combat in this war occurred on our soil! Our mission, above all else, is to ensure that does not happen again. Everything we do, from combat to giving a piece of candy to a local child, we do to achieve this mission. Getting our head right is critical to our mission.

In every way the folks back home are in this with us. Their support for us is total. In every way they share the benefits of R&R as much as we do. They get to see and touch us; they get to

confirm that we are well. They get to embrace us one more time. For a brief time, they can set aside their fears for our safety. And we are rejuvenated!

We have no less zeal for our mission than we had on the day we left Hawaii. Our bugle call is as loud and as powerful as it was on that day - it is still being heard by those who need to hear it! However, we can not but feel reinforced by the touch of our family and friends. Even so, if any of us feel our purpose needs reaffirmation: it will come from your child’s touch on your face; it will come from watching your nephew hitting his first home run in the pee wee league. It will come from the back slaps of your buddies at home. It will come from your mother’s home cooked meal. It will come from the nod of respect from strangers on the street who see you in uniform.

When you return from R&R you will certainly be rejuvenated, you will be

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recuperated, you will even be rested. You will, however, not be relaxed because you are coming back to a place of danger. Here relaxation is a killer. What about those who we leave behind yet again? They will leave you at the airport with a smile on their face and water in their eyes. Just as they did the first time. They will be saddened by your leaving but their spirits will be higher for having held you. Your mother will worry more, your wife's fears will come back, your father's chest will swell just a little more with the pride he feels; your children will be as puzzled as ever by your leaving, some of your friends will hide their envy of your life – they can't do what you're doing. None of them want you to go, but they all need you to go. So you go!

Some of us have returned from our leave, others are home now. By next January we will all have had our chance to visit home. We will see that they are safe, they will see that we are OK. We all be rejuvenated and our spirits will be recuperated, no one will be relaxed- but the days of being relaxed will come again.

- MH 



Commander's Forum:

July 2004

228 years ago “we the people” of the United States declared our independence and founded a free nation. Since that time we have celebrated our independence in times of peace and in times of war. This year our nation is again engaged in war and that war started when our nation was deliberately attacked on September 11th 2001. I will never forget that dreadful day. I watched, as the world watched, planes crash into the world trade towers, the Pentagon and a field in Pennsylvania – 8 miles from where I grew up. But, just as ordinary citizens in 1775 chose to pick up a musket and fire the “shot of freedom” heard around the world at Breed's and Bunker Hill, so too did the citizens in the skies above Shanksville Pennsylvania fire the first shot in this war heard by terrorists around the world. When Todd Beamer and the passengers of United Flight 93 shouted “let's roll” they awoke the sleeping patriot.

On the days and months that followed September 11th, the world watched the American spirit rise to accomplish the extraordinary. Our nation went to war and many have not returned.

There will be more battles in this war and more American blood will be shed. We must remain ready—but we must not be afraid—we must not take counsel of our fears. For if we do, the enemy wins—and our freedoms are lost.

We must fight this war on all fronts; we must share our love of liberty in our homes, our schools, our churches, and in our communities. Our children must learn that freedom is not free, and we will be called upon to defend it.

America did not change on September 11th—it is the same as it has been for the past 228 years. There remain plenty of evil people in the world who will attempt to deny us our freedom. We have acted like Americans have always acted when faced with adversity—we chose to fight back. It is our basic belief that all humans, regardless of race or religion, deserve to live in a free world.

This 4th of July let us embrace the patriot in us all and remember the words of our first President. It is time for us all to “Be Americans!”

May God bless you and May
God bless the United States of America.

- NF6

On Leave from Afghanistan

By: SPC Martin

Some of us have already had the opportunity to go on leave for a couple of weeks and are now back in OE for the remaining nine months of this combat tour. And, it has been suggested that something be written about the leave experience and its significance. I'm letting go of my routine sarcasm to try and say a little bit about the process of getting from here to the States and back.

Obviously, taking leave is important because it provides us with an opportunity to thaw out and clear our heads a little. Everyone gets sick of this place and after several months, it becomes difficult to put the same spirit into our work. The intent of this leave program is to provide a short vacation

that will allow each soldier to come back recharged, and that because of this break the quality of the work we are doing in OE will continue to be high.

If you are slotted for leave, there are a few things that you must remember. First, don't take any plants, animals or dirt samples home. If you take supplements with you, make sure they are in the original bottle – otherwise you may hold up everyone because some DOD civilian thinks that powder you have in the plastic bag is wacky dust. (remember that Afghanistan is the heroine capital of the world.) And, if you have any prescriptions, such as your malaria pills, also bring them with you in the original bottle. There will be searches at various stops on the way there and back where you will be made to empty out everything you have in your bag.

Paperwork: don't lose it. You will most likely receive your leave papers when you get to Bagram. (Those who left for leave three weeks ago went through Kandahar and received their briefings and forms there. But, Task Force Wolfhound now falls under BAF's jurisdiction.) And just in case, it is advisable to bring a photocopy of your original orders for deployment to Afghanistan.

If you had gone on leave three weeks ago, there were two different routes you might take. Depending on where your final destination was, you were either sent on the plane going to Atlanta or the plane going to Dallas. The Army paid for the whole trip including the tickets that got you from Dallas/Atlanta to the major airport closest to your final destination. (FYI: No tickets were required for those whose *final* destination was either Dallas or Atlanta. Those who proceeded beyond

Dallas or Atlanta, to an airport closer to home, received their tickets in Kuwait.)

Both flights home began in Kuwait, which should – but may not – be the same for future groups. From Kuwait, the Dallas flight flew through Hungary, Ireland, and Newfoundland. Soldiers were allowed off the plane for approximately an hour in both Ireland (Shannon Airport) and Newfoundland. I heard the Atlanta flight stopped in Germany for approximately an hour.

These flights were civilian chartered aircraft and included troops from both Afghanistan and Iraq going on leave. All soldiers were required to wear DCUs on the flights departing from Kuwait, but many changed into civilian clothes once they arrived in Dallas or Atlanta.

Lastly, the biggest issue – the one which most people have approached me about: Baggage. The first group that left for home was told, here in OE, that they were authorized one duffle bag and one assault pack. The duffle bags were used to carry a sleeping bag, pillow, extra clothes, (etc.), for use while in Kandahar. (Some were held over in KAF for a few days.) These bags stayed in Kandahar until the soldiers returned from leave. (Weapons, body armor and Kevlar were also stored in KAF) Most likely, for new groups going on leave the same items will be stored in BAF, since Bagram has replaced KAF as our higher headquarters.

One more thing: if you plan on taking your carry-on with you on the plane, make sure it is literally the size of an assault pack. If it's too large (for example, if it is the size of a ruck), the DOD civilians will put it in the belly of the plane. "That is all."

- RPM ✎



Anagrams

GEORGE BUSH: *When you rearrange the letters:*

HE BUGS GORE

DORMITORY: *When you rearrange the letters:*

DIRTY ROOM

EVANGELIST: *When you rearrange the letters:*

EVIL'S AGENT

PRESBYTERIAN: *When you rearrange the letters:*

BEST IN PRAYER

DESPERATION: *When you rearrange the letters:*

A ROPE ENDS IT

THE MORSE CODE: *When you rearrange the letters:*

HERE COME DOTS

SLOT MACHINES: *When you rearrange the letters:*

CASH LOST IN ME

ANIMOSITY: *When you rearrange the letters:*

IS NO AMITY

MOTHER-IN-LAW: *When you*

rearrange the letters:
WOMAN HITLER

SNOOZE ALARMS: *When you
rearrange the letters:*
ALAS! NO MORE Z'S

A DECIMAL POINT: *When you
rearrange the letters:*
I'M A DOT IN PLACE

THE EARTHQUAKES: *When you
rearrange the letters:*
THAT QUEER SHAKE

ELEVEN PLUS TWO: *When you
rearrange the letters:*
TWELVE PLUS ONE

- MH 

“Unbreakabulls”

The B 3-7 Review

Many changes have and will occur in the next few weeks here at Orgun-E. We have three new soldiers and are in the middle of moving a gun section to FOB Salerno to join Alpha battery Gators in support of Task Force 2-5. We are one third of the way through our 12-month deployment and have started sending soldiers home for some much needed R&R.

Each section is dealing with this deployment in different ways:

1st section has one soldier on leave, PFC Foster, and have also received one soldier, SPC Mills who came from KAF with the HQ (Hardcore) battery. Along with this jumble of people they have served as hot gun, 24 continual hours of being on call waiting to support our brothers in arms.

2nd sections' chief, SSG Chrisco, who is on leave, went home to meet his new daughter. They also received one new soldier from Schofield, PV2 Moore who, like many of us, leaves a wife and children back there. Their gunner, SGT Lake, is being swapped out with fourth sections gunner and will be leaving with them to Salerno. He will be missed but is being replaced with an equally talented gunner who will do well.

3rd section has a chief who is considering buying land out here in scenic Afghanistan due to this being his second deployment in country. The section has one NCO on leave, SGT Billings, and they also have a new member to their gun crew who arrived from Schofield, PV2 Miller. Along with losing an NCO for leave they are also serving the TF as hot gun on numerous occasions.

4th section has been working hard on their lollypop (gun position). The battery has nominated them for yard of the month. Their reward, along with the front parking spot at the Bazaar, is an eviction notice with plans for them to move to FOB Salerno.

The FDC section has swapped chiefs with Shkin and we want to welcome SGT Olivares to Orgun-E. The soldiers in the section are inspired by the Incredible Hulk and are all striving to be his size. They seem to have more money invested in supplements like Nitro-tech and Cell-tech than they do in the Bazaar.

As our soldiers find their way back to Afghanistan from leave they bring with them many stories of the adventure. I heard one such story when I walked over to the basketball court the other day and came upon SPC Williams standing in front of a bunch of guys. He



was telling stories of Camp Doha, Kuwait.

He was talking about the gym and how it was separated into rooms for each part of the body, one room for just abs, one room had only free weights, and yet another had a boxing ring with punching bags on the side. He was telling everybody how they had an area off to the side with a little food court that had Popeye's and Burger King. Every time that he changed the subject of his stories his eyes would light up and he would get this burst of enthusiasm making his stories just that much better. I'm sure that the guys' right they're listening could probably picture the whole base in their heads as I could.

Bravo Battery is continuing to serve as base security manning the towers and PUC (person under confinement) facility as well as the main and AMF gates, and we take this mission very seriously knowing that it means the safety and well-being of all who live within the FOB's walls. We still have a vacancy at the wonderfully accommodated OE holding facility; please make your reservations at least two hours in advance. Our soldiers are doing an outstanding job with the mission at hand and we expect no less.

- BS 

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