



1st Battalion-14th Infantry Regiment "The Right of the Line" OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM 07-09



Official Battalion Newsletter

Volume I, Issue I; 29 February 2008

HERE'S OUR ADDRESS!!!

PVT John A. Smith
2nd SBCT, 25th ID, Unit #6260
Alpha Co / I-14 IN
APO, AE 09378

Inside this issue:

A CO	2
B CO	3
C CO	3
HHC	8
PICTURES	4-6
BATTALION STAFF	7-10

Aloha Dragon Families,
It's been nearly three months since we left and it's very hard to account for this time when a homecoming seems so distant. The best method is to develop some "waypoints." Declaration of guilt upfront: I don't practice what I preach...wish I were better staying connected. The best waypoint is the countdown to R&R Leave. We will soon begin the R&R program. We'll be sending our first batch home the first week of March (83 total Dragons). This program will continue through November. It's 18-days long and the clock starts once your Dragon is in Hawaii. Another way to develop routine contacts in the form of weekly mail back and forth, Sunday phone calls on the speakerphone or a monthly VTC. Any method you choose... it's all about contact. Notes and photos are every bit a morale boost as a big care package. We are not living two parallel lives. We may not be enduring the tough times side-by-side, but we are still with you and want you to know

that we are sharing your hardships, too.

The Dragons are doing great. I am so impressed by their military discipline and their social grace. It is evident they can bring the heat to those who need it and display compassion to those who deserve it. It's really hard to put into words, but I am sure you've heard on more than one occasion that they are the Brigade's main effort. The practices we've created are adopted by others across the Brigade and in the Division. Every Soldier has an effort that he/she provides to our goal. Some suffer the monotony of staring at a display screen in the Tactical Operations Center (TOC), while others are staring at the display screen inside their Stryker vehicle while on patrol, but both show eternal vigilance to be ready when they are needed. Amazing, they never break. They do what is asked of them and more...always more.

The war is a bit different. It's a time of agendas, influence and

alliances. Your Dragons have exceptional logic. They are able to see the unseen, figure out the hidden agendas and nearly always pursue fact among the vagueness. They do it everyday by finding hidden caches...huge caches. They are eroding the enemy's resources. If an enemy decides to go active, it's his last decision. We've already disintegrated three of the largest IED cells in our area of operation. Daily, we build our replacements by training Iraqi Jenude (Soldiers). The atmospheric we get from the population is they feel safer with Americans around, which takes my breath away.

Over the next two months, we will continue to expand into our area. We will secure the population where they sleep. We will ruthlessly pursue the enemy – anywhere, anytime. Our presence is known – the Golden Dragons are here and they are safe.

God Bless You.
Golden Dragons!
"Right of the Line"

Dragon 7

To the Golden Dragon Families,
The deployment to Kuwait up to the transfer of authority in Camp Taji, Iraq couldn't have been any better. Due to the hard work of your Soldiers, the transition went without a single incident. However, on our first day here we missed the warm and nice breeze of the island of Hawaii and we got hit hard medically with coughs, fevers, and sinus infections. Yet, your loves ones continued their missions regardless of their symptoms. We are richly blessed with such hard working American Soldiers and their perseverance to complete their mission with

Dragon Pride. Your Soldiers are gaining confidence, as they gain experience, knowledge and familiarity with their areas of operations. They do all of this while, of course, focusing on the safety of each individual Dragon.

We try our best to occupy our time, so we won't miss our Family as much; we spend most of our time patrolling, eating, building stuff, and watching two dollar movies. With the daily stress, it's always nice to get mail from our families; the goodies really bring joy to your loves ones but also to his friends (sharing is always wel-

come!).

Life in Camp Taji is good but at JSS Mushada (C Co) and JSS Tarmiyah (A Co), life is not as good. But your Soldier's morale and motivation remains unquestionably great.

We will soon be sending a few troops home for their 18 day vacation. I know that you will take care of them at home just as much as we take care of them here in Iraq. Please continue to support our Soldiers, as we Soldier on. Thank you very much for all your support and I hope to see you all soon.

Golden Dragons! Hooah!
Respectfully,
-CSM Lito Ordonio



“The Right of the Line” came from the Civil War when General Mead was asked during the Victory Parade in D.C. where the 14th Regiment should be placed in the order of march. General Meade replied that the 14th Regiment should be placed at the right of the line, the position of honor, since the 14th Regiment was at the right of the line throughout the entire war.



A Co Soldiers making improvements to the JSS in Tarmiyah



A large cache turned into Alpha Company by one of their local security groups working in the area.

Golden Dragons Steadfast at the “Right of the Line”

The Golden Dragons are once again positioned at the “Right of the Line,” as the Warrior Brigade’s main effort in Northern Baghdad. The Golden Dragons are professionally performing several highly important and diverse missions. The Golden Dragon’s most important missions include securing the population centers within Tarmiyah while simultaneously denying access to Al Qaeda, capturing Al Qaeda members and denying them a Northern access route into Baghdad, making the roads safe for the entire Brigade to drive and assisting the local

government and its leaders in making economic and civil service improvements. Our Soldiers have never before been given such a broad scope of duties and responsibilities and they are performing superbly while continuing the tradition of remaining steadfast at the “Right of the Line.”

Our infantry companies are living amongst the population in Joint Security Stations (JSS) in order to keep the residents safe and to deny the area to Al Qaeda. Our Engineer Company (66th EN) is conducting route clearance for the entire

Brigade, ensuring that all of our key roads remain safe. The Combat Repair Team (CRT) is maintaining all of our Strykers enabling us to stay in the fight, and the staff is coordinating the all efforts and providing key resources to the companies.

I-14th IN’s accomplishments frequently receive praise from the Brigade, Division, and Corps leadership as we make improvements and headway everyday. I know you’re proud of your Soldier’s accomplishments as they truly remain at “The Right of the Line”.

–ILT Calvin Kline, HHC

Reapers: Holding the Front Line

A Co “Reapers” are the farthest away from the Battalion Headquarters, stationed at the Joint Security Station (JSS) in Tarmiyah. When they first took over the JSS, there were many improvements that needed to be made. ISG Mapu championed the improvement efforts of JSS Tarmiyah to bring it from a very rudimentary and quite shabby living quarters to a high tech and extremely functional mini-fortress that better accommodates our Soldiers’ needs.

Soldiers are living away from their higher headquarters is an effort to push maneuver units out into the population in order to deny the area to Al Qaeda and to provide increased security to the populace. Since A Co has been living in and protecting Tarmiyah, the local economy has soared, government participation has increased and essential services are improving. A Co Soldiers are actively meeting with the local nationals, government officials, shop owners and secu-



rity leaders on a daily basis.

CPT Loftis controls his troops in Tarmiyah and also helps coordinate the efforts of the Iraqi Police, Iraqi Army and Concerned Local Citizens (an armed type of neighborhood watch) (CLCs) in an effort to rid Tarmiyah of Al Qaeda influence. Already, A Co has severely hindered Al Qaeda’s ability to operate within the city of Tarmiyah. Reaper Co is

the Battalion’s main effort and is doing an outstanding job in capturing insurgents, finding weapons caches, coordinating Iraqi Security Forces, and enabling government functionality. The Reapers are providing a safer and better way of life for the Tarmiyah residents. How very proud you must be of your husbands, sons, and brothers in A/I-14 IN as they lead by example and leave a positive impression of America.

Bushmaster Company

Dear Loved Ones or Habibis (as the Iraqis would say),

The men of Bravo Company are doing very well. We have been running missions non-stop since putting our boots on the ground. There have been some long days and nights for the men. Though they may be tired and drained, the men continue to hold their heads high and conduct themselves in a manner becoming of the Bushmasters. The impact they have made in the lives of Iraqi people in just a short time is truly amazing. When the men of Bravo conduct patrols in the towns throughout our area of operations, the Iraqis greet us with thumbs up, waves, and smiles. We are always putting smiles on the Iraqis except when we are kicking in doors late at night capturing the AQIZ.

The Bushmasters have the

majority of the supplies, vehicles, and equipment of what they need to operate. However, I often here of devious plans to try and smuggle loved ones into Taji.

During the last month, we have had three new Bushmasters arrive in the world: SSG Ream and his wife, Jessica, are the proud parents a brand new little boy, Liam; PFC Bennett and his wife, Crystal are also the proud parents of a brand new little boy, Sheldon; and SPC Hicks and his wife, Ivett, are the proud parents of a brand new little boy, Anthony. So, the next time you see them be sure to congratulate them.

The weather here is on the chilly side. It dips down to just below freezing during the night time. It has hovered in the 50-60s during the daytime. There have been periods of light rain and mist which lead to the men

running around out side with furry mud slippers.

Finally, the men have been enjoying a lot of mail, packages, phone calls, and emails from you all. Please continue to send mail to the men. It does wonders for the morale. It is very wonderful to see the smiles that creep onto the men's faces as they slowly read through their letters hanging on every word. You ladies are doing a wonderful job of supporting us. Without you all, we could not do as much as we are doing right now. Keep up the support and we will keep our heads high. From all of the Bravo Company men, 'Thank you so much'. I hope you realize that we are already a quarter of the way done.

Take care,
The Bushmaster Men



B Co. commander, CPT Veath in the command post (CP) where the tracking of tactical operations happens.

“Nothing motivates a Soldier more than receiving mail after being at the JSS for awhile.”

Rock Company

Aloha from “The Rock”! We would like to send out a thank you to all the ladies and family members who keep us in their thoughts and prayers (and also for sending us care packages!). Nothing motivates a Soldier more than receiving mail after being at the JSS (Joint Security Site) for awhile. We are staying busy with our operations here and time is flying by; we will be down three months soon. I am sure our families are also busy back home with juggling all the extra work and responsibility that comes with taking care of a family or household by yourself. We have improved our

JSS a bit since we have arrived, but our biggest limitation is space. We share the JSS with the local Iraqi Police and every day is in some respects like a movie with all the drama and action with a hint of comedy thrown in for good measure. We have been on a variety of missions over the past two months; everything from engaging local merchants to chasing the elusive IED emplacers. The men of Charlie Company are focused on their mission and performing with distinction and honor. We look forward to returning home to our families, yet are still very

focused on the task at hand. We all wish you the best. Know that everyday day and night you are in our prayers.

Take care.
Aloha!
-The Rock Team



The Gazebo can be a great place to just kick back at night and enjoy the night breeze.

1-14 IN Picture Book



Hasty planning for a time sensitive mission in the Fusion Cell with MAJ Woodruff, CPT Burke, CPT Rhodes and ISG Young.



Charlie Company providing security for a local pay day of the local Sons of Iraq security forces.



Charlie Company takes the picture of a local during a patrol along route Coyotes.



SGT Cham training an IA soldier in basic rifle marksmanship.



IA Soldiers pose while at the range.



SPC Cooper "Dragon Mike" monitors the radio and reports company mission operational statuses.



SSG Wessling along with the rest of the TAC take a break from work to take a photo.



MAJ Craig discussing operations.



This is where the Strykers are staged before a mission for easier accessibility.

"The Dragons are doing great. I am so impressed with their military discipline and their social grace."



The "TAC SHACK" Built by the soldiers of the "TAC".

1-14 IN Picture Book



CSM Cooke Dining Facility better known as the "Chow Hall"



Soldiers from Bravo Company pose in front of their Strykers before they go on patrol.



Soldiers from 3rd Squad, 2nd PLT Bravo, Bravo Company patrol the streets of 14th Ramadan, Iraq.



NCOs from Bravo Company take a knee as they do a quick leaders huddle on patrol in Rowad, Iraq.



Medics from the I-14 IN BN treat Local Nationals during medical evaluations in partnership with Iraqi medical doctors and staff. The combined efforts provide additional training to the Iraqi medical staff as well as additional medications for the people.

"Though they may be tired and drained, the men continue to hold their heads high ..."



SPC Haney provides over-watch down a road in support of offensive operations in the rural areas of Tarmiyah, Iraq.



ILT Jayson Williams training Iraqi Army Soldiers.



Even in Iraq, ESPN is a must.



The future of Iraq depends on training the Iraqi Army to ensure security after we leave.

1-14 IN Picture Book



CSM Cooke Dining Facility better known as the "Chow Hall".



U.S. and Iraqi Army work together to distribute goods to the community.



Some of the locals show some Island spirit.

"...every day is in some respects like a movie with all the drama and action with a hint of comedy..."

Everybody puts a hand in to help.



Help comes in many forms— here you see food and various supplies delivered to the Iraqi People from Iraqi Soldiers.



Even in Iraq ESPN is a must.

LTC Boccardi meets some Iraqi locals, extending his respect and service.



PFC Scott of Charlie Company, on security.



Called a "CHU" (pronounced 'chew'), this is Home Sweet Home for many. 'CHU' stands for Container Housing Unit.

Ramp Brief

The ramp brief is used to let the personnel participating in a mission know all the details. The brief covers all the radio frequencies and alternate frequencies, the route, the weather and time the sun sets. The ramp brief tells what the

commander is looking for while on the patrol. It also gives the significant actions of the enemy in the last 24 hours. More than anything the ramp brief is a safety precaution to let the most junior private know what the mission is and how it is

going to be executed, and what to do if things don't go as planned. Every mission requires a ramp brief and will not be executed without one.



Most used quote: "Keep on keepin' on"
-Joe Dirt

Fusion Cell: Winning the War One Power Point Slide at a Time

The Dragon Fusion Cell consists of the operations planner, CPT "Rocky" Rhodes, the Fire Support Officer CPT Shea Asis, the Electronic Warfare Officer Navy Lieutenant Bernard "Tom" O'Neill, the Civil Affairs Team Leader CPT Eric Litteer, the Information Operations Officer 1LT Calvin Kline, the Civil Affairs Officer 1LT John Kim, the Assistant Intelligence Officer 2LT Chet Lau, the Operational Planner NCOIC SSG

Thomas Massey, the Information Operations NCOIC SGT

PSYOP Detachment SSG John Francis, and CPL John Mulcahy. The Fusion Cell members all work in one room where information is easily shared and planning is conducted.



Chad Basden, the Tactical

The Dragon Fusion Cell, lead by our fearless leader CPT "Rocky" Rhodes may break the Army record for the most power point slides created in any single deployment.



SFC Hughes and PFC Lyme. The FSE section hard at work.



SFC Locklear and SGT Rohloff look on during a ramp brief.

Retention / Re-enlistment

Aloha Golden Dragon Families! This is SSG Ricardo Castanon, the Battalion Reenlistment NCO. This is the first of many columns that I'll write for this newsletter. I hope this note finds you in good spirits and trust you're praying for us all to come home safely. As of this date, the Golden Dragons are

leading the way in Reenlistments for the Warrior Brigade-reenlisting nearly 80 Golden Dragons and 66th Engineer "Sappers". As a reward for this continued service, the Army has paid almost \$1,000,000.00 in bonuses. There was a temporary hold on the bonuses for the Army. But I am happy to

announce that as of January 31st the reenlistment monies have already come back. We hope that as a Battalion we can keep more of these great Soldiers in the US Army. That's all for now. I'll give updates in the future. Take care.

-SSG RC



Soldiers from A Co re-enlist early in 2008.

Headquarters Company, the "Hellhounds"

Hello Hellhound Families.

The Hellhounds have been doing great things here over the past few months. In this dynamic environment it is extremely important for Soldiers to be flexible and ready to adapt to any situation. The Hellhounds have proven to be more than up to the task. From conducting Air Assault operations to humanitarian assistance, the Soldiers and leaders in HHC have been excelling at every turn. The 3rd Platoon of Bravo Company has also joined the Hellhound Family and is conducting operations side by side with the Scouts and Mortars.

January started us off with a battle handover with HHC, 4/9 IN, another Stryker company just like ourselves. Things went very smoothly and our Soldiers learned a great deal in

the process, from tactics to battlefield familiarization. During this time, the Scouts and Mortars took part in two Kinetic operations resulting in the capture of two of the Division's most important High Value Targets (HVT). As a direct result of this strike, two key terrorist leaders removed from the battlefield. The battalion staff of HHC works countless hours to help prepare us and provide us with the assets and information to succeed.

The company has also conducted a joint operation with not only the Iraqi Army but also with the Macedonians. This operation resulted in the capture of a potential Vehicle Borne IED in the making and the disruption of a terrorist support zone. All thanks to the hard work of your husbands and sons.

Without a doubt, this line

of success will continue and I look forward to keeping you informed and passing along good news. Take care and know that you are in our hearts and thoughts every day.

-CPT ERIC BURKE
(HELLHOUND 6)



Complex Times. Diverse Missions. Persistent bravery. The Soldiers of HHC on the job.



Third world country!?
Check out this stunning architecture in the Taji community.

“Our end state is to provide the best intelligence we possibly can to our Commanders and Soldiers on the ground.”



Take in the sights and sun of Iraq.

S-2

The Golden Dragon S-2 section has done an outstanding job providing intelligence and useful analytical products to the company commanders and D6 of the 1-14th IN Golden Dragons Infantry Battalion. The Soldiers and NCOs of the S-2 provide 24 hours of battle tracking and intelligence support to the company and platoon level, as well as graphical depictions and assessments for the Warrior Brigade and elements of the Iraqi Army.

The Noncommissioned Officers of the S2 lead from the front, day in and day out. SFC Brown, the most recent arrival to the Intel section and the NCOIC, has done an absolutely excellent job as Interpreter Manager and Detainee Operations Sergeant, working sporadic hours and with little guidance or continuity.

SGT Albert Sankey and SGT James Herzog, the night and day Intelligence Operations Sergeants respectively, continue to perform high in the tier of excellence, managing products, reacting to dynamic

taskings and requirements from the staff, and providing information and facilitating collection support to the battle captain for current operations.

The high speed analysts are the soul of the S2 section. SPC Bennett Strobel and SPC Joseph Watts of the day shift and SPC Israel Arenas and PFC Angel Martinez of the night shift, single-handedly produce the Dragon Quicklook, Dragon Intelligence Summary, Commander's Update Brief, Commanders Operations and Intelligence Brief, link diagrams and map and route imagery products. They also conduct research assessments and analysis of events and human terrain in our battle-space. Their energy and technical competence motivates and inspires their leaders.

The Dragon Assistant S2, 2LT Chet Lau, has done an outstanding job performing the thankless duties of Plans Officer and Collection Manager. He is the essential element in determining the enemy's most likely course of action for

planned operations, and requesting collection coverage of routes and areas where our Soldiers go into harm's way. His products are instrumental in CONOPS and targeting operations.

CPT Chantal Dupuis, the S2 OIC, manages and supervises the efforts of the shop. She is the conduit for massive amounts of information and intelligence. The S2 section must sort, analyze, process, then disseminate the relevant data, then file through the database.

The Golden Dragon S2 Section is shaping and refining its production capabilities and analytical skills daily. We are constantly seeking self-improvement. We provide the best intelligence we possibly can to our Commanders and the Soldiers on the ground.



SSG Boots talking to some local kids in the town of Rowad.

From the Adjutant...

Greetings to all! I thought I might write about what is so great about working in the Battalion S1 Shop (our unit's administrative & finance office). Certainly, it's a whole lot of work! Day in and day out, my nine-man crew spends hours and hours (and hours and hours) of typing, filing, phone calls, and endless meetings. It's relentless, ruthless, and in the case of any mistake, unforgiving. So, what do my Soldiers and I find joy about in what we do? Simple: because everything we do either directly or indirectly helps other people, and that's such a great feeling. Consider the list of the things that we normally work on in

the S1 work environment: promotions, awards, ceremonies, finance, leave, evaluation reports, Morale Welfare & Recreation (MWR) coordination, press releases, personnel accounting, and personnel management... The list goes on and on, but everything ties into the object of our daily job, helping your Soldier. And it is our honor to do so. Your Soldiers are always doing the challenging combat missions and are out in harm's way virtually everyday. Your Golden Dragons are leading the fight to ensure the safety and prosperity of another people- a task of historical proportions. Especially because

of this, the Soldiers of the 1-14th Infantry S1 team take great pride in doing their best to assist our fighters by reducing our comrades' administrative and financial worries. After all, these Warriors have a war to fight and win. The 1-14th Infantry S1 Shop works in shifts, 24 hours a day, seven days a week in order take care of your trooper. We just wanted you to know that your Soldier is deeply cared about, and not just on the home front. Your Soldier is cared for on the war front, too, by the commanders, supervisors, peers, and supporting staff. And especially by your Battalion S1 Shop. ;o) -CPT C



The Soldiers of the S-1 shop are happy to support the Golden Dragons and their Families.



SPC Meier is the Golden Dragon Soldier of the Month for January 2008



GOLDEN DRAGON SOLDIER SAVES IRAQI GIRL

CAMP TAJI, Iraq 20080129 — On 17 January 2008 at 1233 hours, a young Iraqi girl who had been involved in a car accident was brought to JSS Mushada, Iraq. She had stopped breathing and been diagnosed with a possible inter-

nal head injury. SPC Wade acted professionally, without hesitation, and began the res-cue breathing process. He was able to restore the little girl's breathing and continue to sta-bilize the child so she could be transported by the IPs to the

local hospital in Tarmiyah. SPC Wade's quick actions proved to be instrumental in saving the young girl's life. *-This actual press release was written and prepared by SPC Auvenshine*