



THE MILITARY'S STRONGEST UNIT:
THE FAMILY

Greetings from Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan!



The battalion finally completed our historic deployment to Iraq and Afghanistan in May 2004. The battalion staff arrived in late April and early May and we've been busy ever since. We completed our transfer of authority on 15 April, taking over from the 10th Mountain Division. Charlie Company also completed their transfer of authority in Kandahar Airfield on 6 May, taking over from Alpha, 41st Engineer Battalion. It's great to see Charlie Company sappers and familiar faces on the ground. I had the opportunity to see

some of the squads at Bagram before they headed out to other locations. Bravo Company Bushmasters with attachments from HHC continue to do incredible work in Iraq. I have no doubt they are doing more than any equivalent light engineer company in OIF. Bravo Company continues to clean up the battlefield by destroying unexploded munitions and constructing or improving base camps. I've received nothing but laudatory comments from many on how great they are doing. To top it off, Bravo Company re-

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Aloha from CSM Gutierrez!

It's with great pleasure and enthusiasm that I address you on this forum. LTC Jasaitis and I are proud and awed by the contributions of all of our soldiers and families. As we get around the country of Afghanistan and communicate with our soldiers in Iraq it becomes evident that our efforts are worth while. Our soldiers are engaged in a noble endeavor that brings hope to the citizens and the children of these two countries.

Recently I attended the opening of the first all girls' school in Afghanistan in the city of Jalalabad. As you can imagine this was an impressive accomplishment achieved by the citizens of this country. We can be proud of this important milestone in their history by sharing in the knowledge that we were

participant in this accomplishment. This serves as a testament that the innocent victims of 9/11 didn't give their lives in vain. Due to their sacrifice and that of all of you back home that continue to care for us we're able to shed some light into the future of these proud and awesome countries that currently need our help.

Thanks you for all that you do for us back home, without you we could not focus on the task at hand.

We're proud of you and we miss you.

Aloha!

Very Respectfully,
JLG
CSM

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Greetings from Bagram Airfield in Afghanistan! (continued from page 1)

cently won the Department of the Army's Deployment Excellence Award for small units. This is a tribute to all the hard efforts of Bravo and HHC to push them out. SSG Kazanchyan and SGT Sonera will fly to Washington, DC in June to represent the Company and the Battalion. Wish I could be there with them, but they definitely represent our best and finest. Charlie First In arrived in Afghanistan and immediately began providing engineer support to the Bronco Brigade. Charlie Engineers are busy doing similar things, providing construction support to the Infantry at base camps, clearing the way on missions and managing construction projects for the reconstruction effort. In beautiful Hawaii, I'm tremendously proud of what the Rear Detachment has been doing. There is no doubt that we couldn't continue on our mission here without their support. Plus, I hear that we've got some awesome softball teams, especially our co-ed one.

I was sorry to hear of our five Bravo Company (3rd Platoon) and three HHC (one Medic, two Assault and Barrier Platoon) casualties in Iraq on 30 March. Four were

returned to duty and remain in Iraq, but unfortunately four others had to be medically returned to the United States. Thanks to everyone who helped give three of them a warm ALOHA welcome back in Hawaii and for all of your thoughts and prayers. They truly serve as an inspiration to all of us and I wish them the best.

You should all feel extremely proud of what your spouses are accomplishing. They are making a significant contribution to the global war on terrorism. The upcoming year will be an historic time with elections in Iraq and Afghanistan. Sappers will be there, continuing to make a difference - whether in small towns or villages or on our own base camps.

Keep enjoying the sunshine and beautiful beaches in Hawaii...we'll definitely be ready to join you upon our return!

LTC Andy Jasaitis
First In! Lightning Sappers!

Aloha Bushmaster Family!

Aloha to everyone – hope all of you are well and adjusting to this long deployment. We can only hope it passes quickly and for every one's safe return home.

We recently had 2 fundraisers – one being the game booth at the "Family Fun Fest" where we raised some extra cash for our FRG Funds. We all felt like Carni's but we had a great time. I would like to thank Jennifer Bryant, Janice Snyder, Brenda Nicholson, Diana Harry, Brenda Muniz, Cherlyn Elayegie (Duran), Rebecca Williams, and Julie Kuhar for all the great donations and for volunteering at the booth. Couldn't have done this without your support.

Our 2nd, is an ongoing fundraiser where we are selling the "Support Our Troops" magnets. We did have a booth sale at the PX and sold quite a few but we still have some left where we would like to have another booth sale at the NEX. If we feel a need to continue to sell these magnets we surely can do that, but for now once we sell all the magnets, I would like to discontinue selling them. Thank you to Cathy Howell, Janice Snyder and Keilah Davalos for volunteering at the booth sale.

Our next fundraising event is a CAR WASH, which is scheduled for 5 June from 10:00 – 3:00 at the Schofield



Barracks main gas station. Any volunteers for this please feel free to come out and enjoy the day.

Monthly meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month. Next meeting is scheduled for 5 May at 6:30 p.m. at the Nehelani on Schofield. I try to provide valuable information and give you the opportunity to participate.

The meetings have been at different locations but I am trying to keep it at the Nehelani from now on to make it more convenient for everyone, plus you can order FOOD. Please feel free to come and join us at any of our meetings. I would like to have the chance to meet each and every one of you.

On to better news, we have had 2 new additions to the "BUSHMASTER FAMILY" during this deployment. Congratulations to the following:

**Brad & Nicole Reigel – BOY
NAME: Levi Bradley Reigel
DATE: 20 April 2004
WEIGHT: 9lbs. 13.3oz. LENGTH: 20 ½ in.

**Eric & Mollye Long - GIRL
NAME: Madison Renee' Long

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Aloha Bushmaster Family! (continued from page 2)

DATE: 22 February 2004
WEIGHT: 8lbs.9oz LENGTH: 20in.

I would also like to congratulate the following on the birth of their son before the deployment:

**Daniel & Jessica Jones – BOY
NAME: Cadin Sklyer Jones
DATE: 25 December 2003
WEIGHT: 7.5lbs. LENGTH: 20in.
ENJOY !!!!!

If anyone else is expecting or know of anyone within the Company that is to deliver during the deployment please let me know, we would like to announce it in the Newsletter.

I would like to wish a HAPPY BIRTHDAY/HAPPY ANNIVERSARY to those celebrating in the months of MAY and JUNE. WISH YOU ALL THE BEST.

Also HAPPY BELATED BIRTHDAY/ANNIVERSARY to those that have gone and passed.

If anyone needs more information, or would like to participate in our FRG please feel free to call me at 808-624-0094.

Thank You
Amy Hargrave

Chaplain's Corner

Family separation is never easy. Whether it's TDY or JRTC or PCSing overseas or a combat tour, the stress on families during deployment and separation is hard. What can we do?

The Chaplain finds there are a few helpful hints that can ease the burden of this stress during separation.

First, the reality of a faith in God makes all the difference in the world. Without faith in God, without a faith in Something or Someone bigger than ourselves, our hope is limited to what we can provide ourselves (personally, I know that my own limitations don't allow me much hope). Having faith in God is the starting point to easing this burden. Faith allows for an understanding that God is truly in control of our lives and is at work around us in the processes of our personal growth and development—even when difficulties arise! Understanding this can make all the difference in the world!

Second, pray. When our hearts or minds are troubled, we should talk to God about it. Even medical studies
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have shown dramatic results related to patients who pray. Prayer helps our attitudes and offers us an outlet to talk about our true feelings. Praying for our families, our loved ones, and our own circumstances can make a difference--never underestimate the power of prayer!

Third, keep your mind focused on positive and encouraging thoughts. This is often the point where personal discipline is lacking. It's all too easy to allow ourselves to

Easing the Burden of Separation

dwell upon what is difficult or wrong with our situations until we find ourselves wallowing in a pit of self-pity and despair. Catching ourselves before we sink too deeply is a disciplined habit that we must develop in order to achieve the personal goals we have set for ourselves. Keeping our minds on the good and positive things only strengthens our ability to finish these tasks.

Lastly, give thanks and rejoice! This ties all the other points together: recognizing there is a God Who is in control, praying to God for help in times of need, and maintaining control of our thoughts enables us to be thankful people. In turn, thankfulness brings joy to our lives. When you "count your blessings," you discover the many reasons to rejoice, which makes even today a good day.

Each day brings us another day closer to being reunited with those we love—why not do this work to make those days good and help yourself ease the burden of separation?

May God bless you,

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Changing of the Colors



Atop HQ



CJTF –180 Staff

Here are a few pictures sent back from the early stages of the deployment. Since this newsletter is seen by both families and soldiers, we'd like to post pictures of activities in the deployment areas and in the rear. If you have any photos you would like to see included in the newsletter or posted on www.65thEngineers.com, send them to mcquearyk@schofield.army.mil

Family Projects *submitted by Christina Cook*

Red, White, and Blue Frame

You will need:

- 2oz. Each oven bake clay - red, white, blue
- 2 Wood stars
- Acrylic paint - white
- Clear plastic page protector
- Scissors

- Cardboard
- Glue
- Paint brush
- Ruler
- Plastic knife

Instructions:

1. Paint wood stars white. Set aside to dry.
2. Knead one package of blue clay until soft and smooth.

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Family Projects (Continued from page 4)

Divide the clay into fourths. Roll out each piece on a flat surface into 3½" long ropes. Twist two pieces together. Repeat with remaining two pieces. Lay both twisted pieces of clay side by side on a flat surface. Gently press together.

3. Knead one package of red clay until soft and smooth. Roll out two lengths of clay into 5" long ropes. Roll one more length into a 3" long rope. Cut the 3" long rope in half.

4. Repeat step 3 for one package of white clay.

5. To assemble flag; lay the tip of one 5" long white rope against the twisted blue clay, pressing the end in slightly to the blue clay. Next, lay the tip of one 5" long red rope along side the white rope. Then lay the short ropes along the outer edge of the frame, lining up the outside

tips of the ropes. The last two rows of the frame will be the remaining two 5" long ropes; one white, one red.

6. Place flag on an oven proof glass surface at 275°F for 15 minutes per ¼" of thickness, with good ventilation. DO NOT USE A MICROWAVE OVEN. Avoid over baking. Let cool.

7. Glue two wood stars on top of blue section.

8. You will have approximately a 2" x 3½" opening in the flag for a photo. Measure and cut a 2½" x 4" piece of clear plastic. Measure and cut a 3" x 5" piece of cardboard.

9. Apply a small bead of glue along two sides and bottom edge of cardboard. Apply to back of frame. Let dry. Slide a photo along with the piece of clear plastic in between frame and cardboard.



Slow Cooker Enchiladas

This is a super easy recipe that I use when I have family coming to stay. I do the skillet preparation before they arrive and then later put everything in the cooker.

- 1 lb ground beef
- 1 c. each chopped onion & green pepper
- 1-16 oz. Pinto/kidney beans, drained
- 1-15 oz. Black beans, drained
- 10 oz. Diced tomatoes & green chilies
- 1/3 c. water
- 1 tsp. Chili powder
- ½ tsp. each Ground cumin & salt
- ¼ tsp. pepper
- 1 c. each shredded cheddar & Monterey Jack
- 6 flour tortillas

In a skillet, cook beef, onion, and green pepper until beef is browned and vegetables are tender. Drain. Add the next 8 ingredients; bring to a boil. Reduce heat; cover and simmer for 10 minutes. Combine cheeses. In a 5-quart cooker layer about ¾ cup beef mixture, one tortilla, and about 1/3-cup cheese. Repeat layers. Cover and cook on low for 5 – 7 hours. The longer it cooks the better it taste. It is also great the next day.



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First In!

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