

#### A message from Tiger 6



In this, our final and special edition of the Tiger Tracks while deployed, we will focus on the powerful images of the Tiger Brigade which capture the essence of the BCT more eloquently than any words I could say.

What you will see are the faces of caring leaders, powered by amazing NCOs and superb Soldiers bound by a cummon purpose and committed to each other and our mission. You will see the confidence and competence of professional warriors. You will see bravery and courage in action against a savage and ruthless enemy. You will see compassion and generosity for the Iraqi people.

You will see dedicated and patient trainers/helpers/partners of the Iraqi Security Forces. You will see tremendous initiative and resourcefulness in solving problems. You will see many outstanding accomplishments and enormous progress. You will see boundless camaraderie and solit-de-corps. You will see hard work and determination. You will see sacrates and patriotism. You will see faith and devotion. You will see discipline and focus. You will see strength and endurance.

In the end, what you will see is a superb team of professionals that live and embody the Army values that have answered their nation's call. You are magnificent ambassadors of the United States of America; the greatest and most powerful nation on earth. Words cannot describe how enormously proud I am of you. You did your duty and Iraq and the world are better for it. Mission accomplished!

TIGER BRIGADE!

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"Why am I here?" Every Soldier, at one point or another, has asked themselves this very question. Some may tell you that your own personal reasons are irrelevant because you're a Soldier. You are here because you were ordered to be, whether you liked it or not. While this may be true, who can endure a year of an experience like this, and not struggle to search for personal meaning in it?

Maybe you are like Spc. Casey Carroll—the Soldier from Raceland, La., who is so determined to make this world a better place, that he came back to Iraq after being sent home for injuries he sustained in a VBIED attack—an attack that killed his friend. He said he came back so that his children would not have to.

So maybe like Carroll, you did it for your kids. Or maybe you did it because you have a family lineage to continue, or perhaps you are here because you are a platoon sergeant or leader, and you would have trusted no one else to lead your Soldiers.

Not unlike Sgt. 1st Class Don Robinson of A Co. 1/156th

AR, maybe you need to find purpose in knowing that your decisions potentially saved your troops' lives. His biggest struggle, he said, was keeping his guys from becoming com-

placent, as they patrolled the same streets, day in and day out. He changed their schedules, and tried to give them more time to sleep, because that was their main adversary.

Sgt. 1st Class Orise Cormier, platoon sergeant for 3rd Platoon, C Co. 3/156th Inf. Bn., Charlie Rock, found justification in knowing that he and his men played a role in capturing the killers who took the lives of four of their Soldiers. It was determined through various intelligence and evidence that a family of five brothers placed IEDs in the path of Charlie Rock's patrols, IEDs that ultimately killed the four American heroes. Iraqi Special Forces killed one brother and detained the rest after finding a weapons cache on their property. In a separate case, a sniper who shot another of Charlie Rock's Soldiers turned himself in, rather than have his family involved in a search.

The Soldier survived.

To find meaning and purpose in something like a combat deployment may prove difficult for many. I like to think of our Soldiers who are proven survivors and have stayed the course throughout the year, despite tragedy.

Soldiers like Staff Sgt. Chad Chapman of B Co. 3/156th Inf. Bn., who was shot in the head by a sniper and lived to tell the story; or his brother Spc. Daniel Chapman, who was in the command post and heard the call come in over the radio. I think of Sgt. Jason Olmo and his platoon leader, 1st Lt. Rakesh Ramnarine, both infantry scouts with 1/69th Inf. Bn., who bear the loss of more friends than they care to imagine. Olmo has a picture of himself and four of his friends from the scout platoon as a reminder of the ramifications of war—of the Soldiers in the picture, he is the only survivor. Think of those heroes who not only

survived combat, but saved lives, as well. Heroes like Pfc. Harold Sandoval of Headquarters Co. 3/156th, who saved the life of an Iraqi man following a VBIED attack in their sector. I am reminded of Spc. Diane Rich of 1088th Eng. Bn., who transferred to the Louisiana National Guard from her unit in Florida, just to come to a combat zone with her brother and his wife. She ultimately became the medic attached to her brother's platoon, and received a Combat Medic Badge for pulling a Soldier from a burning humvee. I can never forget Sgt 1st Class Patrick Sandel of Charlie Rock, who has lived through more than twenty IED explosions, or the infamous Spc. Stephen Tschiderer, the Mendon, N.Y. medic, who treated the wounds of the very sniper who tried to kill him. To find meaning in this deployment, to me, is to reflect upon these people and Soldiers like them, who sacrificed, did their jobs, and gave all for the one next to them.

No one can tell you where to find the justification in what has been taken away from yourself, your famlies, or the families of our fallen Soldiers. But each individual in

> this brigade contributed to than themselves. Each Soldier played a part in the Class Daniel Rachal, of

**Our mission, YOUR mission, to assist in** something that is greater history of this world. Sgt. 1st Headquarters Co. 256th,

> took his knowledge as an instructor for the Primary Leadership Development Course, and converted it into an actual Non-commissioned Officer Academy for the Iraqi Army. Before that, the Iraqi Army had no official NCO Corps. Spc. James Montesano of D Co. 101st Cavalry, attached to 2/156th Inf. Bn. said participating in Iraq's first election is an experience he'll never forget. Just prior, he was involved in one of the most intense fire fights of the 256th BCT's deployment, and said many times that night, he just knew that would not live to see the next day.

But he did.

the reconstruction of this country was

not an easy one. I know at times some

have questioned it.. ? ?

And Montesano said having an Iraqi man bring him a Coke on Election Day, just to say "thank you," made him realize that this was about something huge. The man told him, "I'm 67 years old and this is the first time in 67 vears that I've had freedom."

If you are a New Yorker, those of us who are not, can only imagine the personal affiliation you must feel to this mission. Someone came into your backyard and attempted to destroy everything you stand for-everything America stands for.

The attacks on New York City were not only on the city itself, but on America as a whole. We should never forget that the Pentagon, the center of our national defense, also felt the blow of terrorism. The events that took place, not so long ago, were the catalyst to Soldiers of the 256th Brigade Combat Team being called to serve in Operation Iraqi Freedom. We sat in our living rooms, our offices, and our schools as terrorists took our Twin Towers, our Pentagon, and our fellow Americans.

#### The Soldier's Creed

T am an American Soldier.
am a Warrior and a member of a team.

I SERVE the PEOPLE of the United States and LIVE the Army Values.

I WILL ALWAYS PLACE
THE MISSION FIRST.
I WILL NEVER ACCEPT
DEFEAT.

will never quit.
will never

- am disciplined, physically and mentally tough, trained and proficient in my warrior tasks and drills.
  - **I** will always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.
    - I AM an expert and I am a PROFESSIONAL.
- engage, and destroy the enemies of the United States of America in close combat.
  - I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

I AM an AMERICAN SOLDIER.

#### A reason of your own

(continued from page 2)

As Soldiers, we should always remember what we felt that day; the fury, the frustration, the desire to help. Someone said of the attacks, "in that instant all Americans felt like New Yorkers and we all wanted to be there."

It's usually unorthodox for a military journalist to give their own personal testimony, yet somehow I feel compelled to do so.

In the very beginning, I had a hard time dealing with this deployment. It was not so much that I did not want to be here; rather, I had a difficult time justifying the reason for it.

The bottom line is, whatever the reason, I was called to serve. In my family, I have an uncle who lost his arm in World War II and another uncle, who was forced into early retirement as a Colonel due to failing eyesight. He is a member of the Greatest Generation who stormed the beaches of Normandy on that fateful day. After hours and hours of relentless fighting, something hit him in the head and knocked him unconscious for two days .Thought dead, he woke up in the back of a cattle truck under a pile of fallen Soldiers. This man, my hero, survived.

But perhaps the biggest hero and "Soldier at heart" of all, is my father. He never was in the military, but he sure wanted to be. He tried to enlist on his eighteenth birthday, but was denied, due to a bought with asthma. My dad, who I affectionately refer to as a "cheesy patriot," will stop any Soldier in uniform, in any store, in any town and thank them for HIS freedom. He flies the American flag in the front yard, has yellow ribbons tied around every tree, and his truck is so full of "support our troops" bumper stickers, it could be a billboard on the side of Interstate 10. He gets emotional during the "Star Spangled Banner" and holds special prayer meetings specifically to pray for the troops overseas.

He is the best kind of American.

Is my dad unique? Not at all. From the overwhelming support I have received from friends, family, and even perfect strangers, I see that the American citizens are just as supportive of the armed forces as my father.

Just think back to the day that you, a Soldier, left your hometown in your military vehicle on your way to join the fight against terrorism. Think back to the streets of your hometowns and bases. Do you remember the scene? I do. They were decorated adoringly with patriots. Mile after mile, Americans were waving their flags and holding their signs while standing next to their vehicles adorned with yellow ribbons and patriotic bumper stickers. And some, the truly patriotic at heart, followed us down the interstate, as if to tell us, "I would take this journey with you if I could."

Our mission, **YOUR** mission, to assist in the reconstruction of this country was not an easy one. I know at times some have questioned it—"why are we helping a country whose people attack us when we are on the streets trying to make it better for them?"

This is an answer that each Soldier should find within themselves.

We have come so far in helping the people of Iraq liberate themselves, but there is still a ways to go. It is pertinent to remember that if our forefathers did not follow the very same path we are on at this moment in Iraq, we would not be the fighting force we are today. History is, in fact, repeating itself. In the end, a safe and secure Iraq is a safe and secure America.

If you ever need a reason to cling to, a reason for being here, think of my father or better yet, think of yours. They represent the countless Americans who are praying for our safe return. They represent the Americans who died in the attacks on New York City and the Pentagon. And they represent our fallen Soldiers, whose sacrifices should not be taken in vain.

Those Soldiers died for something, for a cause, and how dare we, as sometimes bitter Soldiers, ever forget that? To blaspheme this mission, to downgrade our battle against terrorism, is to say our friends, America's Soldiers, and someone's son died for nothing. The reason for sending United States armed forces, and you, a National Guard Soldier, to fight a war in Iraq shouldn't matter. Maybe we came over to find weapons of mass destruction. Maybe we came to weed out the terrorists. Maybe we came to rebuild Iraq and help the people of this country have the same privileges we do. The fact is, this is all true, and as Soldiers we should already know the only thing constant is change.

Although the political reason we are here is not the same as the day the first American forces stepped on Iraqi soil, the fact is we are here, and since we are, why not do some good? Political officials, mainstream media, political analysts; it doesn't matter what they say or think, because the day Sgt. Christian Engeldrum, the 256th BCT's first fallen Soldier, of A Co. 1/69th was killed by an IED, politics went out the window. One weekend a month suddenly became a distant memory. We were now Soldiers, fighting for our lives and the lives of our buddies.

Our ultimate goal is to stop evil and to protect the rights, the freedoms, of Americans. That fight must begin where the evil originates, and to put an end to the fouls of insurgency in Iraq is to ensure for a safer United States.

I personally never want to see the fury in my father's eyes or feel that same fury in my gut as I did the day we watched the suffering in New York. It could happen anywhere, even in our own hometowns. More frightening than the thought of feeling that anger again is the thought that somewhere in the United States, someone, someday will be watching their television and see my father and loved ones suffer just as those patriots did on September 11, 2001.

And that is why I'M here.

# FPBBILL BUBLE













# Soldier and NCO of the YEAR

Two Soldiers from the 256th Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division stood before a panel of senior non-commissioned officers to prove why they should be chosen

as the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter.

Cpl. Jeffrey Abadie from Mandeville, La., of C Company, 3rd Battalion, 156th Infantry Regiment, attached to 1st Battalion, 156th Armor Regiment, 256th BCT, competed against fellow Soldiers of the 256th for the coveted title of Soldier of the Quarter. His leaders helped him prepare and in the end, it paid off.

"I'd never gone before a board before, so my NCOs set up a mock scenario to help me get ready for it," Abadie said.

Though his questioning at the brigade level lasted only a few minutes, Abadie's leaders had previously drilled him for a 20-minute question-and-answer session, so he would have as few surprises as possible. He also prepared by reading a study guide provided by his leaders, though he said the mock board helped him more than anything.

"My NCOs purposely asked me the harder questions to better prepare me," he said.

There was no way of knowing what level of difficulty the questions would be for the actual board, but Abadie's tutoring from his leaders helped him stay calm under pressure. He said this was also something the panel looked at when deciding a winner.

"I was pretty confident in most of my answers, and when I wasn't, my composure was never shaken," he said. "One thing that helped me a lot was that if I didn't know the answer, I always knew where to find it, so I stated the appropriate field manual to reference."

Ultimately, Abadie said this quality is what makes a good Soldier. You may not always know the answer, but knowing where to find it is a step in solving a problem.

Staff Sgt. Daniel Slone from New Iberia, La., with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 156th Inf. Reg., attached to C Company, 1st Bn., 156th Armor Reg., 256th BCT, earned the role of NCO of the Quarter.

As a chief operating officer for single-shareholder companies in the civilian half of his life, he has quite a bit of experience dealing with numerous employees in a leadership role. As a Bradley Fighting Vehicle commander and patrol leader, he deals with fewer subordinates, but said due to the conditions around them and the nature of the job, it is much more challenging.

"Being shot at and seeing what we've seen as



a section changed my outlook and actually put things into perspective," he claimed. "When I go back

to my civilian job and have to work with a difficult person, I'm going to think, 'You're not that big of a problem, are you?'"

Slone and the other NCOs were questioned by the board on the same topics as the junior enlisted Soldiers, in addition to leadership procedures.

"When we walked in we had to do a series of facing movements so the panel could see how we moved and iinspect our uniforms," he said.

Each senior NCO on the panel asked two questions about a topic, which included maintenance, current events and first aid. Slone said one of the most difficult topics dealt with weapons systems, since there are so many different lengths, weights, and ranges.

Even under the pressure of difficult questions, he said he never faltered in his confidence, and attributed his calm head to his civilian career.

"I felt like I had an advantage because I speak before a lot of large groups and often run meetings and conferences," he said.

As well as Slone felt he performed, he never knew how he fared in the overall spectrum of the competition, because each NCO separately faced the judges. In that respect, he said winning was a total surprise and very gratifying.

Both Abadie and Slone showed unwavering selfassurance in their answers and learned quite a bit, in addition to winning a competition.

"I realized that I could maintain my composure under pressure, and I think that's something that I can take home with me, and know that I can have confidence in difficult situations," Abadie reflected.

Slone said it helped that most questions seemed to be directed towards their lives in Iraq, and that each topic may have already pertained to any number of experiences since arriving in Baghdad.

"Well, they certainly didn't ask me any questions about cold weather injuries," he smirked.

















#### I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST...





## TOSK FORCE 1/156Th

To the Soldiers of Task Force Geronimo:

Almost a year ago, you presented yourselves upon the battlefield of Iraq — in defense of your nation, in defiance of terrorism, and in support of the oppressed Iraqi people. This is a scenario that you bravely elected to face when you first joined the United States Army, and as we approach the end of the deployment, I want you all to know the magnitude of what you have accomplished, and the depth of my gratitude and pride in having served as your commander.

You shared in great triumphs, and suffered unspeakable tragedy. This task force lost fourteen of its finest soldiers. Over 100 of you have been wounded in battle, several of you remain hospitalized to this date, and many of you narrowly escaped a similar fate. Through all of this, you honored our fallen and continued the mission.



You lived up to our motto of "First to Fight!" First in the brigade to fire both mortars and Artillery in Anger. First to employ attack aviation. You crossed first into Iraq, as you led the 256th Brigade Combat Team across the berm from Kuwait. For over 300 days you conducted highly lethal combat opercess. You fortified Main Supply Route You protected Baghdad International Airport, Southwest Baghdad's rural suburbs, and in the assault on Abu Ghraib Prison you held firm along the Main Supply Routes to facilitate coalition reinforcement and the defeat of AIF forces. In April, you began training the Iraqi Army; today they are capable of conducting independent operations. You secured the first free elections in Iraq's history. YOU made an impact. You made history.

Over here, thousands of miles away from your home, your friends, and your loved ones, you fought for the freedom, the lives, and the ideals of all Americans back at home. Your comrades, your Nation, and the free world all owe you a debt of gratitude.

FIRST TO FIGHT!

-Geronimo 6

# GERODIMO



I WILL NEVER ACCEPT DEFEAT.



#### Who: The Soldiers of the 256th BCT



ALWAYS
ALWAYS
PLACE
THE
MISSION
FIRST.





### hhc 256Th BCT



Thunderbolts,

As well worn this message sounds, I would like to tell you that I'm honored to be your commander. I would also like to point out how you have been tested and proven yourselves to be among the best. Words of praise and accolades for HHC and the 256 BCT resound throughout both 1st CAV and 3rd Infantry Divisions. Grudgingly at first, then with conviction, active duty units have acknowledged our skills, professionalism and dedication. Truly, in everyone's eyes, we have risen above expectations and surpassed the standard. You know this in your hearts, by proof in the awards that lay in stacks and from the words of every person you have worked with. You should be proud of yourselves, just as I am proud to be writing of your

successes.

It is our more discrete achievements and our future that I would like to draw focus on. We have made it through this deployment without loosing a single soldier. For this I am thankful to God, and deeply appreciative of your commitment to taking care of each other. You had made friends with people from a culture so different from ours that it was never believe possible until now. We have also put our lasting mark upon history, which your great grand children will learn about in school and politicians will speak of in reverent prose.

HHC has reached out through the Brigade and beyond. Members of HHC deployed to lead TF Bengal, a dedicated team who were responsible for directly influencing the success of newly formed

THUNDERBOLT





units of the Iraqi Army. Other members dispersed to Military Transition Teams who also played a crucial role in the fledgling military. The MP section spent countless hours influencing, training, and overseeing the Iraqi Police forces as they literally pulled themselves up by their bootstraps. For these and so many other achievements, HHC has distinguished itself and directly affected the future of Iraq. What is normally not mentioned is the league of



Soldiers who quietly work behind the scenes in areas that do not normally get the spotlight trained on them. The mechanics, supply, admin and support staff who ran operations around the clock to enable the elements of the 256 to go forth and do great things. These section personnel, I am also thankful to have and fully acknowledge the sacrifices they have made which are not always as obvious and often go unappreciated. This common indiscretion I would like to rectify now. Thank you for everything you have done.

As for our future, there are many aspects we can not predict, but there are a few which you can influence. The experience you have amassed here should not be taken lightly. Pass it along to those who will be joining our ranks. Encourage them to

#### 256th Essential Service Team





#### **Completed Projects:**

- 1. Sewage 25 \$ 5,082,055.00
- 2. Water 10 \$ 2,470,779.00
- 3. Electricity 14 \$ 3,580,711.00
- 4. Academics 7 \$ 361,446.00
- 5. Trash 36 \$ 4,628,062.00
- 6. Other 44 \$4,009,427.76

**TOTAL** = \$20,132,480.76





# I AM an expert and I am a

#### **Projects In-Development**

- 1. Sewage 3 \$33,000,000.00
- 2. Water 2 \$122,000,000.00
- 3. Electricity 5 \$ 904,282.00
- 4. Academics -14 \$ 3,149,092.00
- 5. Trash 3 \$567,900.00
- 6. Other 13 \$ 28,040,335.00

TOTAL = \$187,661,609.00

#### PROFESSIONAL



#### **Ongoing Projects**

- 1. Sewage -26 \$ 25,366,576.00
- 2. Water -12 \$ 6,483,913.00
- 3. Electricity 17 \$ 65,618,763.00
- 4. Academics -17 \$ 989,647.00
- 5. Trash 20 \$ 1,776,010.00
- 6. Other 66 \$ 51,326,345.00

TOTAL = \$151,661,254.00

#### BRAVO 134 REO BUIL

To the Soldiers of B Company, 134th Signal Battalion:

Thank you for all that you have done to make our mission a success. We have truly stepped up to the plate and hit a grand slam. Communications will never be the same in this theater of operation.

Here is a look at some of the missions we accomplished:

TOC Operations	JLENS-Liberty/Mosu	REDBULL 83 & V3 Teams - Liberty
Maintenance Operations	I31 — DIF/BIF	I41 — Stryker/Constitution
Electronic Maintenance	I32 — Taji/Justice	I42 — MPs/SPO
Division G6 Mailroom	I33 — Falcon/Honor	I43 — Mayor/St. Michael/Constitution/Stryker
BCT LNO	173 — BCT HQ	174 - TMC
SuperAerostat	SR82 - Butler Range	SR83 — Justice
Convoy Operations	Hawk	BIF Security
Tigerland Sweep	PSD Personnel	REDBULL 82 — Prosperity/Liberty
Supply Operations	LR82 — Signal Hill	Wire Dogs — Liberty, Justice, St. Michael,

Keep up the good work!! God has brought us together and I pray that He blesses us with a safe return to the USA.

-CPT SHELLEY HERMES







## 256Th Mi. CO RAPTOR

To the Soldiers of the 256th Mi. Co.:

As our time in Iraq draws to the end, I reflect on many fond memories from the mobilization, from Fort Hood, from the National Training Center, and here at Camp Liberty. As the Ground Surveillance Radar Platoon transformed into the Brigade Reconnaissance Platoon, all the other platoons of the 256th Military Intelligence Company transformed, as well, into one of the finest in the Army. As Soldiers from across the United States (Washington, Indiana, Nevada, Wisconsin, Tennessee, Pennsylvania, Texas, and South Dakota) joined the team, we melded into one team to complete one mission and one fight. The Analysis Control Element became the BDE S-2 Fusion Cell and integrated into the BDE S-2 section where they successfully gave up-to-date intelligence analysis for the Tiger Brigade. The Prophet Platoon collecting signal intelligence from Slayer Hill and the tactical human intelligence teams, collecting information throughout the 256th BCT area of operations. All of these platoons together assisted the BDE S-2 to paint an accurate picture of the enemy situation in the 256th BCT's sector. Last but not least, we must not forget the Headquarters section, without this incredible group of Soldiers the company could not be successful.

The 256 MI Co. Family Readiness Group was more supportive of us than we ever thought imaginable. A big thanks goes to them and all of the family members at home who endured this hardship with us.



We did not come through unscathed; we dedicate our page of the Tiger Tracks to Spc. Benton and Cpl. Wells, who will be waiting on us when we return to "home sweet home" Louisiana. I would like to convey my heart felt thanks to all of the 256 Military Intelligence Company for being professional Soldiers and being a part of the 256th Brigade Combat Team's unprecedented success during Operation Iraqi Freedom III and the global war on terrorism.

CPT Bobby J. Lee, Jr. "RAPTOR 6"



#### Humanitarian Aid

Over the last 11 months, the 256th BCT Brigade Surgeon Section has worked to provide medical support to U.S. soldiers, local nationals, Iraqi Police, and Iraqi Army alike.

Medical Civilian
Assistance
Projects
(MedCAP's) are
missions used to
bring medical care
to local nationals

who could not afford or reach Iraqi health-care clinics. The hope was that these missions would deter AIF violence against coalition forces by gaining local support. Over 20 MedCAP's were conducted throughout the Tiger AO treating over 2000 men, women, and children with acute medical problems.

"Golden Children" were children with medical problems which exceeded the medical capabilities of the local healthcare system or a single MedCAP. These children



were assisted with frequent visits for dressing changes, re-examinations, and provided with ample medical supplies. These children were also brought to the attention of the 256th JAG section to receive condolence payments

for their injuries.

Medical support to the Iraqi Police recruiting process was accomplished through medical screening exams. Over 1500 recruits were screened by 256th BCT physicians and medics. The BSS also visited 15 hospitals and clinics throughout the Tiger AO. These visits were used to assess the medical capabilities of the healthcare in that area. If clinics were found to be lacking, recommendations for improvements were submitted.





### and Goodwill



Visits to Baghdad Pediatric and Kadhamiya Teaching hospitals provided the opportunity to meet local providers, set up guest lectures for the students, and distribute medical supplies. Donated clothing and toys were also passed out during these visits.

Distribution of humanitarian aid supplies was another mission of the 256th BCT Brigade Surgeon Section. Medical supplies were distributed to clinics and hospitals throughout the Tiger AO. The BSS worked with the battalions to identify facilities in need of assistance. These supplies included adult and pediatric medications, crutches, bandages, respiratory care items, wheelchairs and medical textbooks.

Finally, the Brigade Surgeon's Section assisted in the training of Iraqi Army as well as U.S. combat medics. This training included basic combat medical skills as well as more advanced clinical assessment training for the medics working with detainees in the Iraqi Internment facility.

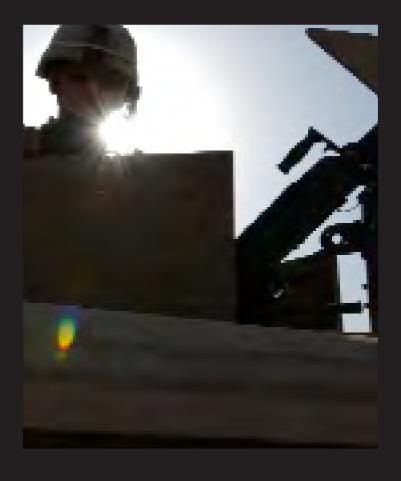
Through MedCAP's, clinic assessments, medical training, and interactions with Iraqi healthcare personnel, the BSS assisted in the 256th BCT's overall mission of securing a future for the Iraqi people.



#### 1088Th ENG BN

To the Soldiers of 1088th Eng. Bat.:

The 1088th Engineer Battalion, "Bayou Sappers" continue to conduct outstanding engineer operations in support of the 256th Brigade Combat Team. Each Soldier and family member should be extremely proud of our accomplishments. We should end this deployment knowing we made a positive and lasting effect on the mission of Multi-National Division-Baghdad and the citizens of Iraq. Throughout our deployment, the engineers fought beside every task force in the 256th BCT, and also reinforced Division by conducting engineer operations in support of the Commandos of 2nd Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, and the Brave Rifles of 3rd ACR. Our diverse missions included fight-as-Infantry tasks, cache searches, deliberate route clearance missions, IED/UXO mitigation, force protection construction at outlying Coalition and Iraqi Army bases, checkpoint construction to strengthen the Iraqi Army, quality of life improvements for the work and living areas of the 256th BCT, and management of over 500 infrastructure enhancement





# Bayou sappers



projects totaling over \$350,000,000 to improve quality of life for the citizens of

Iraq. On every mission, the Bayou Sappers performed exceptionally and earned the praise and adoration of each unit and each Iraqi citizen with which we have worked.

Success is not with-

out sacrifice. Each Soldier and family member endured a long separation that will be met with celebrated reunion. Some of our comrades made the ultimate sacri-

Our hearts are heavy in their loss and our prayers will remain with their families.

Edwards and I are tremendously proud of the successes that you accomplished. You should also be proud of the list of achievements of the Bayou Sappers. Your contributions ensured

that the 1088th Engineer Battalion will be "Always in Front and Never Behind."

-Bayou 6

fice in support of Operation Iraqi Ereedom.

# I will always maintain my arms, my equipment and myself.

### TOSK FORCE 1/69Th

Gentlemen of Task Force Wolfhound,

I've been asked to write this small piece to you but as I sit to write this I find that the words don't come easily. How can I say to you what I feel and make it come out right? I don't think I can. I'll try though because I don't want to miss this last opportunity to tell you how well you've done. I've been in the 69th for fourteen years and I've learned much of its history, always magnificent, always full of sacrifice, and always successful. Our efforts here rose to the same level. Fewer men died or were wounded in our war than in our previous wars but I say: Thank God. If great battles are measured by dead men than I want none of it but if they are measured by mission accomplishment then you've met every expectation.

None but us will ever remember names such as Route Red Legs, or Hora Al Basha or Awad Al Hussain or Route Rams. None but us will know of Route Raiders or the bridges into Al Taji. No one will ever



remember Hagar Thunder Runs or the treacherous mud of the endless canals except you and the men with you in the gun trucks or the Brads. Only a very few will know what Bridge 540, 541, 542 or 543 over Route Irish mean.



### WOLFhound



Only you will remember the Red Sniper Building, The boat Factory, The Medal Factory and the desperate calls over the radio net from a unit in contact or the report of men hit. These memories are yours and they will resonate in your minds and hearts only. The rest of the people in your lives can only watch you and wonder what you still hear and see and feel.

Whatever you do with the rest of your lives, my New York and Louisiana brothers, you must always remember that you served with pride and distinction in Task Force Wolfhound.

Remember our honored dead and wounded, and remember your honored service. God bless you.

Garryowen in Glory!

LTC Geoffrey J. Slack CDR, Task Force Wolfhound



### TOSK FORCE 199Th

199th Forward Support Battalion Soldiers,

Congratulations on the completion of the OIF-III deployment with the 199th FSB! During our activation, we were successful in supporting the BCT during postmobilization training at Ft. Hood, during an mission readiness exercise at the

National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, RSOI operations at Camp Buehring, Kuwait and combat operations at Camp Liberty, Iraq. In addition to supporting the Tiger Brigade, you also supported three other battalions and two separate companies for a grand total of ten battalions and four separate companies supported. Your service in Iraq included over 8,800 direct support maintenance jobs while maintaining over a 90% OR rating, treatment of over 12,600 patients at the troop medical clinic, plus over 4,000 patients at the brigade internment facility, completion of 72 ground evacuation missions to the 86th CSH.

Additionally, you executed 1,250 Mayor's Cell service order requests, completed over 218 CST missions and over 400 logistical transportation missions, processed over 23,000 requisitions, 19,800 MROs and over 1000 unserviceable turn-ins. You also achieved an unheard of 86% retention rate during combat operations The 152nd

for the 3rd Infantry Division manning towers and the Camp Cropper High Value Detainee Center. You did this in addition to providing outstanding maintenance support. This is just a small sample of what we did in our "Support to Victory!"

The sacrifices you have for the past 18 months made a significant impact, not

only on the success of the Louisiana Tiger Brigade in combat, but also on the historical challenge of building a free and democratic Iraqi nation. Your technical competence during this operation is highly commendable, and I truly appreciate all of your efforts and professionalism. I am proud of how far we came as a battalion

in accomplishing our mission and in the determination displayed by Soldiers in overcoming the numerous obstacles on a daily basis. Statistics bear that this is one of the best support battalion in the United States Army! Again, I appreciate your service to the Tiger Brigade and the Louisiana Army

National Guard during this deployment. I am proud to serve with you!

Support to Victory!

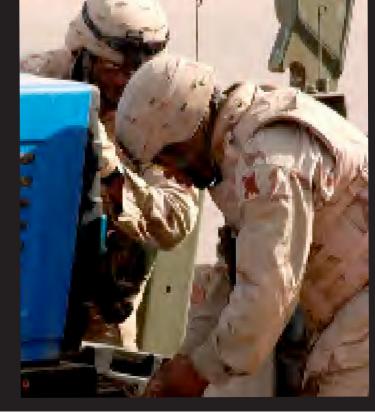
James B. Waskom LTC, IN



### BULLET







# 1/141 FIED ARTILLERY

Thank you, to the Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 141st Field Artillery, and all of the Soldiers in the units attached, OPCON, or TACON to Task Force Thunder in support of OIF III: B Company, 1st Battalion, 126th Field Artillery B Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Infantry B Company, 1st Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment 1st Platoon, A Company, 1088th Engineer Battalion, E Troop, 101st Cavalry, B Company, 134th Signal Battalion, Headquarters Company, 256th, D/152 MCT, and B/2&3/3-15IN.

You were simply outstanding in all aspects of this deployment and will forever be etched in the history of the famed 'Washington Artillery'.

You are the reason this unit overcame incredible adversity and tremendous challenges like the numerous changes in mission, organizational structure, resources shortages, etc. You have a great deal about which to be proud. In the eleven months we've been in Iraq, you ensured we safely fired 796 artillery rounds for the 256 Brigade Combat Team and Division,





### THUNDER



many in support of the 2-24 Marines in Al Mahmoudiyah, you safely defended about 70% of the Victory Base Complex to

include entry control points & towers, you safely and humanely processed over 1,000 detainees at the Brigade Interrogation Facility, you conducted a variety of combat missions outside the wire, you conducted escort missions and detainee

transfers, and you successfully established and managed the 'Kids for Kids' program. You safely issued over 138,000 temporary passes to local nationals, you safely inspected over 55,000 local national privately owned vehicles, and monitored the traffic of over 309,000 military and Department of Defense personnel. The list of missions and complex responsibilities in which you excelled goes on and on. You did it all! The impressive aspect of your long list of

accomplishments, is that you always found a way to accomplish the mission rather than look for reasons why tasks couldn't be

> executed to standard. You have unequivocally proven that you are disciplined, extremely capable Soldiers who just quietly and professionally got the job done. In the process you helped make me a better man and leader, and for that I forever grateful.

But, most of all you have served our great country with pride and dignity and have lived up to our infamous motto, "TRY US!" Let's finish strong and as safely as possible to honor the memory of our fallen brother SGT Lee Myles Godbolt, and the other Soldiers of the 256 BCT who paid the ultimate price so that the people of Iraqi could experience freedom and democracy.

-Thunder 6

C O M B A T O





#### PERATIONS







### TOSK FORCE 3/156Th

To the Soldiers of Task Force BANDIT:

I want to thank you for a job well done during our combat tour as part of OIF III. We operated in some of the toughest areas of Baghdad, with overwhelming success. You, the Soldiers that make up TASK FORCE BANDIT, are from many states to include Illinois, Louisiana, Michigan, Texas, and Wisconsin. However, you came together, from many backgrounds and of many different military occupations, to make this unit a cohesive and effective combat team. Although we numbered only 430 Soldiers strong, your accomplishments over the past 11 months are impressive:Conducted 2500 patrols, 25,000 patrol hours, and 450,000 man hours of in the TF BANDIT AOR, killed or captured over 138 suspected insurgents, maintained our vehicles at and average 96.8% Operational Readiness Rate, initiated 102 Civil Affairs Projects totaling \$8.38 million dollars, sustained 62 combat related injuries with 49 Purple Hearts awarded.

Awarded 249 Combat Infantry Badges, 21 Combat Field Medical Badges, and 127 Combat Action Badges.





#### Bahoits



No Soldiers lost their lives in 3/156th. A total of 914 individual awards submitted in a combat zone.

Less than 1% of our Soldiers charged with misconduct under UCMJ.

We were the main effort in the 256th BCT conducting polling site security in Saba al Boor during the first Iraqi elections on Jan. 30, 2005, which was a huge success.

To all the Soldiers of TF BANDIT, I want to thank you for your contributions and for making this deployment such a success.

BANDITS!

BANDIT 6



I am a guardian of freedom and the American way of life.

### TOSK FORCE 2/156Th

TF 2-156 Soldiers:

I couldn't be prouder of your performance and our accomplishments during our mobilization and deployment for OIF III. Our mobilization was straightforward due to your hard work and great attitudes. We had an effortless movement to Fort Hood and accomplished our training well above standard. We fired Bradley Table XII for the first time in 13 years and completed it with excellent scores. We trained on new equipment and tactics and came away with a great appreciation for how we would work together at the patrol up to the TF level. And this showed during a highly successful rotation at the NTC. When we hit the ground, we did it running and were immediately successful in combat ops. first major engagement was by Demon Company and we emerged unscathed and with two Bronze Stars with 'V' device. continued in that vein, clearing our rural AO and Saba al Boor of AIF by successful raids, sniper ops and tactics such as dismounted patrols, resulting in a dramatic

decrease in AIF activity. In our urban AO, we saw the activity of the KbW Army drop to almost nothing due to the relentless pressure we put on that AIF organization. SIGACTs were at historic lows toward the end of our tour. We proved our organization to be flexible and innovative by organizing new combat units for use during the Iraqi elections. As a result of our efforts in securing the AO, we improved the communities in which we worked in other ways. We could see a healthier economy in the few months we were in the urban AO, a direct reflection of the increased security that we and the ISF provided. We completed many, many projects which directly benefited the community, from water purification to school and clinic improvements. And among our proudest moments in this conflict should be the building and fielding of the 5-1/6 Iraqi Army Battalion. Each of you had a hand in training or working with our counterpart IA unit and we worked with them from Basic Training to the assumption of their own AO. This has been an historic achievement.



#### STEEL

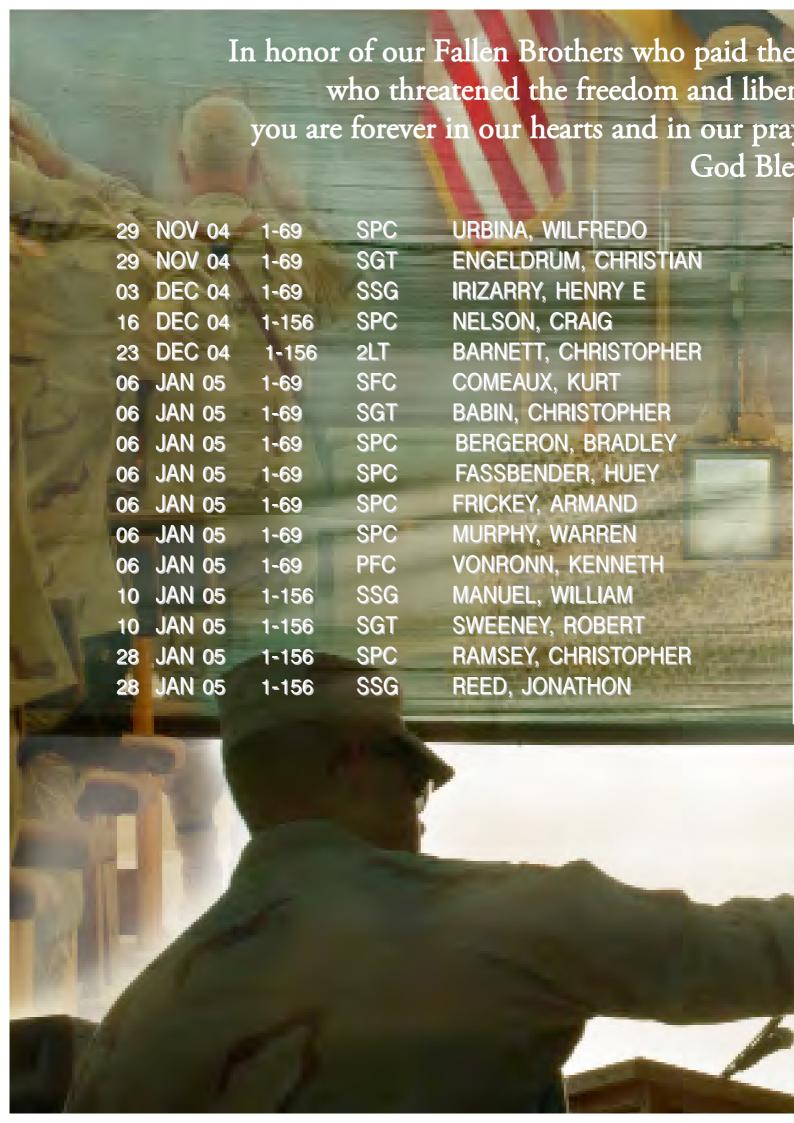


I am incredibly proud of having served with our brothers from 1/C/1-156 AR, B/1-156 AR, 2/B/1-69 IN and D/101Cav. You have been great additions to our team. Everyone in the TF has always been dependable and ready on short notice to support each other in contact or to strike, such as our reactions to the attack on AGIF or chasing our number one target in Hurriya. And we will always remember our fallen -Fisher, Fell, Sembly, Kalladeen and Rios. I can't thank my command sergeant major enough - I couldn't have accomplished this without his work and the work of our great staff, commanders, leaders and Soldiers. It has been a remarkable experience and an honor to have served with you all.

-Steel 6









# J. G. E. R. BRIGADE

Check out our WEB SITE at: www.256thtigers.com. The site is currently being updated. Thank you for your patience.

