



C COMPANY, 1ST BATTALION, 506TH INFANTRY REGIMENT APRIL NEWSLETTER FROM CAMP CORREGIDOR, AR RAMADI, IRAQ



2nd Platoon on patrol in
AO Gunfighter, Eastern
Ramadi, Iraq

To the Families and Supporters of the Gunfighters: I would first like to extend a very Happy Easter to everyone back home. Easter is certainly a family holiday and though it is just another day on guard for us, another day to conduct a patrol, and another day in Iraq far away from our loved ones, we are sharing it with the family we know the best. As the time passes for all of us here, we will recall the holidays, birthdays, anniversaries and celebrations that we have missed. Our stories in the future will be told in the context of the Easter that we watched the sun come up over the eastern Iraqi desert. The “Happy Easter” banner hanging in 1st Platoon’s area is the only hint that the holiday is among us at all. We only ask that in your own moments that you take the time to remember us and look forward to our return when we can make up for all of those occasions. I would also like to



SGT Gardner walks back from putting
PV2 Gilstrap on the Medevac bird

thank the FRG once again for the hard work and effort by all the wives to put together little Easter goodies for every soldier in the company. A great job once again by the Lady Gunfighters, I’m proud of you all. Keep up the great work.

It seems like a trend that we are slowly having some of our great leaders move onto jobs with greater responsibility and this month the Gunfighters say goodbye to 1LT Keith Helms and his wife AJ from 2nd Platoon. 1LT Helms will be moving to A Company to be their new Executive Officer and we are sad to see him go but very proud of how he has moved up. His quirky metaphors and descriptive stories brought smiles and laughs from everyone and his wife AJ has sacrificed so much of her own time and money to support the FRG. They will both be missed in the Company, but it is reassuring to know that they are just moving to our family in A Company.



1LT Keith "Chomp" Helms

We would also like to recognize three soldiers who reenlisted to stay in the Army. Thanks to SSG Bradford and PFC Stott of HHC and SPC Rice of 3rd Platoon for choosing to stay Currahees.

C Company would also like to recognize the following soldiers for being promoted this past month. The following soldiers were promoted to the rank of Specialist: Fryman (1st PLT), Spears and Hancox (2nd PLT), Nelson and Quickery (3rd PLT). Congratulations also to newly promoted PFC Maldonado (2nd PLT).

I would also like to recognize once again the support that we have received from the warriors of past from the 506th Association (specifically, the past C Company members) as they rallied their funds and sent every soldier in C Company a Combat Infantryman's Badge to wear for the rest of our lives. It was an absolutely awesome privilege to share with the men the history and tradition in knowing that their work here has certainly earned them the right to proudly wear the coveted badge which separates soldiers apart from combat infantrymen. On a hot and dusty Iraqi morning the men assembled and the Gunfighters who had already received their CIB's carried on a tradition of passing on the award to the new recipients. In fact, SSG Salinar of 2nd Platoon later commented out loud that he could see some of the men puffing out their chests a little bit prouder after having the Combat Infantrymen's Badge in hand.



PFC Maldonado, SPC's Nelson, Quickery, Spears, Hancox, CPT Claburn, and SPC Fryman

NEW CIB RECIPIENTS AWAIT



NEW CIB RECIPIENTS AWAIT

As the temperature begins to crawl past the 90's, none of us are looking forward to the inevitable summer heat of the Iraqi desert where temperatures here will swell past 120 degrees. The air conditioning in our humvees will be working overtime to keep the operations we do tolerable. All of our rooms and bays now have air conditioning and the chow hall is even serving ice cream at lunch and dinner. Cold Gatorade and often time's canned beverages are also made available.

We have come a long way since we first got to this Camp back in December. Living conditions have improved considerably and they continue to improve. This is even despite us hooking up our shower trailer just to have it hit by an incoming mortar round... right through the middle of it. Luckily, no one was inside of it but the shrapnel shattered and broke a few of the mirrors on the inside of it. When we arrived here, we were begging for hot water but now that the heat is setting in, we don't mind a semi-cool shower now and then.

Since my last letter, the Gunfighters have conducted 19 more platoon, company and battalion level operations in AO Red Currahee in support of other company's or acting as the main effort for the battalion. On several occasions the platoons of C Company were

asked to go back out to support other units that were in need of assistance. With little to no sleep, the Gunfighters moved back out into sector until the mission was accomplished or a proper relief in place was conducted. I can't even begin to tell you all how proud you should all be by the self-sacrificing spirit of these men. I am absolutely amazed by their professionalism and understanding despite the dangers and toils that they must endure everyday. As always it is my distinct pleasure to lead them all as their commander.



PV2 Duncan (3RD PLT)
Next to the Euphrates River



PFC Gilstrap



SSG Bastean

1SG KLUTTS' CORNER: This month I would like to Honor our Gunfighter brothers who have been wounded in battle and have returned home to recover. The following young men have put themselves in harms way for our Country and have paid a price that most of our Countrymen will never understand. The Purple Heart was established by General George Washington at Newburgh, New York, on 7 August 1782, during the Revolutionary War.

The Purple Heart is awarded in the name of the President of the United States to any member of an Armed Force or any civilian national of the United States who, while serving under competent authority in any capacity with one of the U.S. Armed Services after 5 April 1917, has been wounded or killed, or who has died or may hereafter die after being wounded— (1) In any action against an enemy of the United States.

Soldiers of the Month:

- SPC BLACK- 24 FEB 06/ 23 MAR 06
- PFC PELKEY- 24 FEB 06
- SPC RAMSEY- 1 MAR 06
- PFC DUCKETT- 1 MAR 06
- SPC CHILDRESS- 23 MAR 06
- PFC ALVEREZ- 13 MAR 06
- SPC VOELKEL- 13 MAR 06
- SPC REED- 13 MAR 06
- PFC GILSTRAP- 09 APR 06

NCOs' of the Month:

- 1SG EDWARDS - 9 JAN 06
- SGT ROW- 13 MAR 06
- SGT ARZOLA- 13 MAR 06
- SGT HUNT- 13 MAR 06
- SGT WILCZEK- 19 MAR 06
- SSG IRBY- 13 MAR 06
- SSG SHAW- 13 MAR 06
- SSG BASTEAN- 12 APR 06

God bless all the Soldiers and families of Charlie Company.
1SG Charles Klutts
Gunfighter 7



1SG THUMB WRESTLING



Sniper SPC Sheppard (HQ)

To the parents, wives and families, whatever you are sending in your care packages, keep it up. For the first time since we arrived here, I had very little requests from the soldiers on items that they wanted. I guess my newsletter has been a way for them to offer the subtle hint to send more tobacco or Red Bull. Of course, now that most of the men share a refrigerator and every platoon has a microwave, it is getting easier for requests to expand beyond the candy and cakes. I have also heard from so many people back home that want to send anonymous packages to soldiers that may not be getting mail and we can certainly find someone that will enjoy receiving a care package. In this event, just address the care packages to:



SPC Lewis (1st PLT) with the 1-1 Iraqi Army

Any Soldier
C/O Commander
C Company, 1st Battalion
506th Infantry Regiment
Unit #73700
APO AE 09381-3700



The Gunfighters are also very pleased to start working with our Iraqi Army counterparts as the 1-1 Iraqi Infantry

arrives in Ramadi to assist in the stabilization of daily life and the neutralization of insurgent forces in this area. The Brigade sized unit comes to use with a tremendous amount of experience and has been tested in combat operations many times. We have been very impressed with their soldiering skills and we are sure that we will create a bond within soldiers that will last the entire time that we are here as we have already shed blood next to each other. We are all very excited about working with them as we are all very aware that our inevitable return home will be dependent upon their success on the battlefield. I am certain that they will do great.

This month we also pay tribute to three more of our brother Currahee's who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in combat serving next to Gunfighters on the streets of Ramadi. We will never forget the spirit, leadership, and presence of Sergeant First Class Rogers (D Co) and Lamberson (HHC) who always lived the warrior ethos. We also pay tribute to SGT Collins (HHC) who also died while moving to the 1st Platoon's position to conduct a relief in place. These men will always be remembered by those that served next to them and may they finally rest in peace.

Let me say thank you again for your unwavering support to the men in this company and to the soldiers in the Red Currahee Battalion. It has not been taken for granted and we hope that the months here continue to fly by so that we all can return home safely. Proudly,



Joseph R. Claburn
"Gunfighter 6"
Captain, U.S. Army
Commanding



CPT CLABURN AND HIS INTERPRETER, SAM, TALKING WITH THE LOCALS

HEADQUARTERS PLATOON



1ST PLATOON



2ND PLATOON



3RD PLATOON

