

# C COMPANY, 1<sup>ST</sup> BATTALION, 506<sup>TH</sup> INFANTRY

## JANUARY NEWSLETTER FROM

### RAMADI, IRAQ



**GUNFIGHTER FAMILIES AND SUPPORTERS:** Back by popular demand, the FRG Newsletter. It seems as if it has only been a few days since my last news letter to you all. But, since that time, you have all enjoyed the season of Christmas and celebrated the New Year and Charlie Company soldiers were on the move from Camp Virginia, Kuwait to Forward Operating Base Corregidor in Ramadi, Iraq. We enjoyed the best Christmas that we could with half the company at a Marine Base west of Baghdad and the other half at Ramadi. The Gunfighters would all be together again days after Christmas and we went right into guarding towers that protect the base. 1SG Edwards and I did our best to spread the New Year cheer by visiting some soldiers on guard shift in those cold towers at midnight on January the 1<sup>st</sup> to hand out cookies and wish the men a Happy New Year. We were all positive that this would be a New Year's that every soldier would remember for a long time.



Gunfighter blessing of the weapons conducted by Chaplain (Captain) Paul Halladay (Camp Virginia)

Congratulations to the following soldiers who were promoted in January for their demonstrated potential for increased responsibility: SGT Hiltibidal (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) to the rank of Staff Sergeant, SPC Row (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) to the rank of Sergeant, PFC Stone (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT), PFC Gfroerer (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) and PFC Shepherd (HQ) to the rank of Specialist. We would also like to congratulate SSG and Mrs. Irby (3<sup>rd</sup> PLT) on the newest addition to their family this January. It has come to my knowledge that there are a few expected babies due in less than 8 months from now. Congratulations to all of the recent parents to be.



SSG Hilitibidal, SGT Row, SPC Gfreorer, SPC Stone



SPC Shepherd

While patrolling in sector on the 6<sup>th</sup> of January, 1SG Edwards was wounded in the right shoulder by a sniper. The men of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon did an outstanding job of securing him and providing first aid. Within 20 minutes from the time of his injury, 1SG Edwards was back in the hands of the doctors and flown to a higher medical facility. It was a reassurance to everyone in the company of deliberate and timely medical care in the moment of need. For us, it was combat tested and very unfortunate to happen to one of our key leaders.

As the men heard about the loss of the 1SG, a picture of him was immediately put up in the barracks with the words “Because of you, we got this far and with all your lessons we will prevail; we will make you proud. Forever Gunfighter 7.” Our prayers go out to the Edwards family as he has many months of rehabilitation on his shoulder to be his ol’ self again. I would also like to thank all of the members of the Family Readiness Group for their support during this call up for support.

With the departure of 1SG Edwards back to the states to recover, we welcomed a new Gunfighter and his family to ours. I would like to welcome 1SG Charles Klutts and his wife Steph and their two sons. 1SG Klutts comes to us from the HHC Scouts as a platoon sergeant where his reputation for being a hard, tough infantryman has preceded him. SFC Klutts was immediately promoted to the rank of 1SG and I handed the Charlie Company colors to him. The responsibility that he assumes as the company First Sergeant is huge, but I am confident that he will serve us proudly as the new Gunfighter 7.



1SG KLUTTS

The living conditions here at the FOB are very austere indeed. We have a military unit that does our laundry for us, we have put together a make-shift weight room, and the chow isn't all that bad. The company lives in two separate buildings which have now been referred to as "the shoot house" because it is constructed of complete wood and looks like one of the shoot houses that we used to train on at Fort Campbell, and the "chicken coup" because of the gated cages out the backside of it. At first, living conditions were tight, 4 inches separated each bunk but now we are making improvements and being able to spread out a bit because of bunk beds and storage boxes. The weather turned to rain for a few days turning the dust and sand into a mud pit that made walking anywhere outside a test in balance and coordination.



The mail has now started to come in by the truck load. It is taking about 10 days for the mail to go from stateside to get to us.



Soldier's love mail and we want to thank all of you that have sent care packages to help boost the morale and give us all the little things that we miss about being home. For this month, the wish list for care packages consists of: Easy Cheese, chips and salsa, chips in the small bags, Febreze, disinfectant spray, fly catchers (the sticky kind), air fresheners, breakfast bars, individually wrapped snacks (to put in our pocket while on tower guard), and of course, stomach medicine such as Pepto-Bismol, Immodium AD.

The Gunfighters have conducted over 20 mounted and dismounted operations within the city of Ramadi. We are responsible for running 24 hour a day, 7 day a week security operation for the protection of the FOB, on stand by for the Battalion Quick Reaction Force, as well as defending a small combat patrol base that is called the "Hotel". The insurgents in the area that have shown themselves have had to face the direct fire of Gunfighter firepower and it is painfully obvious to them that they will not keep Ramadi as a stronghold for their operations. It has been a real privilege to see these men conduct their operations with such professionalism and dedication to



mission accomplishment. The Iraqi people of Ramadi have now had the opportunity to



see a professional army at work. The Gunfighters have been on patrols to talk with the people who live in the area in search of insurgents. From platoon raids to a company attack utilizing tanks, helicopter gun ships and fighter jets, and conducting operations with Delta Company, the Gunfighters have developed a reputation for being hard and deliberate in their actions.



We still have more work ahead of us and every day that we go out the gate of the coalition base, we are reminded of the dangers that are among the city. Ramadi remains to be a place where insurgent activity spreads randomly through the streets. Even within the compound, we are

subject to incoming mortar rounds and it is a requirement for us to wear our heavy and bulky combat vests for protection. We continue to pray for the safety of all of our soldiers in this battalion and the other soldiers and marines that serve next to us here. Thank you all for doing the same back home.

So in between a very busy schedule for our soldiers conducting tower guard, planning for future missions, rehearsals, eating, sleeping, and conducting more operations, we try to give them a little down time as well. The MWR televisions have arrived and so have two satellite dishes for us to get the Armed Forces Network, which has helped to plug us in on the recent NFL playoffs and slim pickings of American TV shows. We still don't have a PX so most of our support items (tooth brushes, tooth paste, shower soap, mouthwash) come from you back home. But a small Iraqi store is here that sells Iraqi style cokes, cigarettes, DVD movies, and some other odd items.



I would just like to take the time to recognize all of the Gunfighter Wives back home that have done a great job supporting all of the soldiers in Charlie Company. Your efforts are not taken for granted and we thank you for all of the hard work you are doing for us back home. The company has completed its initial work on a Gunfighter webpage which is for the family and friends of Gunfighter soldiers: <http://groups.msn.com/1506CCoFRG> If any of you are interested in how you can contribute more to the “fight on the home front,” please contact the Charlie Company FRG Leader, Lori Johnson at 931-553-8809 and I’m sure she can find a way to put you to work.

Additionally, we have received random care packages made out to the soldiers of Charlie Company and to all of the anonymous donators of care packages, thank you all. We are all very appreciative for your efforts and hope that you all take pride in really “Supporting the Troops.”



On behalf of ISG Klutts and I, thank you again for your continued support this month and into the long months ahead of us. Every little bit of support we get from you back there at home goes a long way here. We will continue to remain vigilant and every operation we conduct will bring us one step closer to coming home.

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

