

GUNFIGHTER NEWSLETTER

GUNFIGHTER NEWSLETTER



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

4TH SQUAD, 1ST PLATOON

To the Families and Supporters of the Gunfighters: I would first like to start this months newsletter by recognizing all of the Mother's that are back home, waiting patiently for the return of the son's of this company, and supporting the extended family that we share as a Band of Brothers. We could not get through this deployment without the continued support from all of the mothers back home. This includes all of the wives who have had to toil through being a single parent home for the last 6 months that these soldiers have been gone. I have to say, that every soldier here appreciates every one of you. Mother's Day is but one more holiday that we have missed that we add to the many others that we will make up for upon our return home. So, Happy Mother's Day to you all who continue to do whatever it takes to support all of the men in this company.

May marks the six month mark for our deployment and it is going by so quickly, at least from where we are sitting. The details, the planning, the rehearsals, the dangerous and exhausting missions, the guard tower security, days in OP Hotel, and the little down time we get to relax have all contributed to watching the time pass away. No matter how you look at it, we are all half way through this deployment and half way to coming home. We can only hope that the time continues to fly by bringing us one step closer to getting off that plane and stepping foot on American soil again.



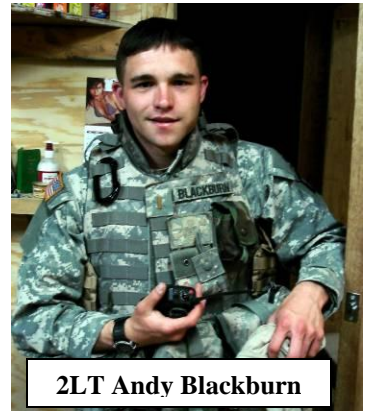
DOC Brenav

The month of May has been really good to the Company and I'm extremely happy to share all of this news with you all. In May, the Gunfighters welcomed a brand new officer to the ranks of 2nd Platoon. 2LT Andrew Blackburn and his wife



SSG Rogers

Jennifer come to us as their first military assignment and officially become a part of the Gunfighter Family. 2LT Blackburn showed up on the ground here at Camp Corregidor in the middle of the night and before his bags were unpacked and before he knew where he was going to sleep that night, he was out on a dismounted patrol in the city of Ramadi. I am confident that this new officer will accomplish great things, especially with the NCO's and soldiers of the "Raider" Platoon. In addition to a new platoon leader, we also welcomed Staff Sergeant Rogers who becomes the new squad leader for 1st Squad, 1st Platoon. Despite many thinking that SSG Rogers and CPT Claburn look alike, we are in fact not related, but brothers in every sense of the word. Welcome to the company for both of these additions to our team.



2LT Andy Blackburn

I would also like to congratulate 6 soldiers who have decided to stay in the

I would also like to extend a much deserved congratulations to the following soldiers for their promotion. Each of these soldiers have been promoted for their demonstrated potential for increased responsibility and for some of them, it has been a long time in the making.

1st Platoon:

SGT Gardner to the rank of Staff Sergeant

2nd Platoon:

PVT Crump to the rank of Private First Class

PFC Warren to the rank of Specialist

SSG Lewis to the rank of Sergeant First Class

3rd Platoon:

PFC Garcia to the rank of Specialist

PFC Pushkin to the rank of Specialist

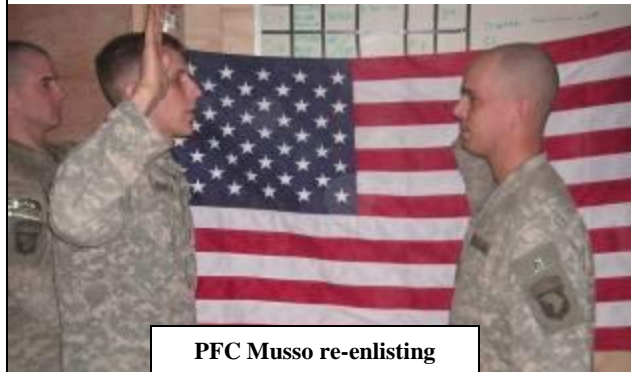
PFC Sanchez to the rank of Specialist

PVT Swanson to the rank of Private First Class

Headquarters Platoon:

SPC Riggs to the rank of Sergeant

Army a few more years by reenlisting. Between the 6 of these soldiers, they qualified for over \$100,000 worth of reenlistment bonuses. Despite the



PFC Musso re-enlisting

money that they receive for their hard work, multiple deployments, time away from family, missed anniversaries, holidays, birthdays, and personal sacrifice, they

understand that a reenlistment is a continued promise by them to all of us that no matter what, they will always be there to fight next to us. From all of the men of this Company, we would like to thank PFC Musso of 1st PLT, SSG Boreman, SPC Garcia, SPC Nelson and SPC Stone of 3rd PLT, , and SGT Harvel of HQ PLT.



Promoting PFC Crump, SPC Warren, SGT Riggs, SSG Gardner, and SFC Lewis

An infantrymen's life is quite unique to say the least. The constant strain of operations and the dangers we face can take a heavy toll on this company and we have not forgotten the soldiers who are back home recovering from injuries received while fighting the insurgency here in Ramadi. These men continue to be on our thoughts and in our prayers and we miss them being around. But, I am also pleased to inform you all that they are recovering well and their spirits are high. Despite the dangers that we face on a daily basis, these men continue to give 100% everyday. They battle through the heat of the Iraqi desert and stand unwavering in the sand storms that leave all of us covered like a sugar cookie. The fact that they don't complain and they live for the next mission speaks volumes about their character and their resolve to see this mission through. I can't express my appreciation for all of their hard work.



In April, the Gunfighters welcomed the arrival of 1st Division, 1st Brigade Iraqi Army to AO Red Currahee. More specifically, the Gunfighters welcomed 1st Battalion, 1-1 IA to assist in operations within our sector of Ramadi, known as the Mala'ab. They have been a great addition to the Gunfighter Team and we have created a wonderful working relationship with these soldiers. We now share responsibilities of guarding one of the most critical routes in all of Ramadi as well as conducting over 15 joint

patrols, raids, and clearances at platoon, company, and battalion level operations. Every soldier here understands the importance of the Iraqi Army taking

responsibility for this area as it remains to be our exit strategy for this war. Their arrival is not without a cost and unfortunately, there have been many wounded Iraqi soldiers, or "jundi" in Arabic. No matter what, we stand by our fellow soldiers in a joint effort to end the insurgency here in this part of Iraq and officially hand the country over to Iraqi control so that every American Soldier can return home safely.



I guess the biggest news of the month was the arrival of a permanent PX here on Camp Corregidor. Though it is no bigger than your living room back home, it does give soldiers the opportunity to buy some Cokes, Doritos, snacks, personal



hygiene items, and if you get there early enough, maybe even some tobacco. During the last few months we had only been able to resupply ourselves from the traveling PX that came at the middle of the month, but now, we open the doors to our very own little store. It isn't much, but we have to start somewhere.

SSG Salinar, SGT Reaser, and a left out Gunfighter (Who is this?)



I would like to congratulate all of the new fathers in the Gunfighter family. We have made every effort to get the soldiers home for the birth of their children and in some cases we have been successful. However, there have been a few babies that decided to come a few days too early. In addition to those that have already been born, there are many more that will be due in the coming weeks so congratulations

to all of those new family members.

Mid-tour leave continues to make progress through the ranks. By the end of August, every Gunfighter will have been home on mid-tour leave. Currently, 1SG Klutts is back in the states spending time with his family so I apologize for there not being a “Klutts’ Corner” this month. But, in keeping with tradition, I would be



SGT Harvel installing a radio in a humvee

completely honored to recognize one NCO and one enlisted soldier for their great achievements. This months NCO of the month is SGT Harvel from Headquarters platoon. SGT Harvel has tirelessly supported every platoon in this company by being gunner for our M113 Casevac vehicle as well as him being the “Go-to” man for communications equipment ensuring that this company can communicate on the battlefield. My pick for the soldier of the month would have to be PFC Gilstrap who despite being wounded in the foot and leg from pieces of shrapnel from enemy bullets,

returned from the U.S. to his platoon to again fight beside his brothers. PFC Gilstrap has demonstrated his calmness and bravery in combat on several occasions and it is great to have him back. I am extremely proud of these men and the work they have done for this company. They have lived the Warrior Ethos and continue to set the example for others to follow.



PFC Gilstrap

Thanks again to all of the family, friends, and loyal supporters of the Gunfighters. Your kindness, generosity, and words of encouragement mean so much to us. On behalf of all the men in this Company, we can’t wait to see you all again very soon.



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



HEADQUARTERS PLATOON



1ST PLATOON



2ND PLATOON



3RD PLATOON

