

RED CURRAHEE COURIER



20 JANUARY 2006

Volume 1



RED CURRAHEES LAUNCH NEW BATTALION NEWSLETTER!

DEDICATION:

This inaugural issue of the RED CURRAHEE COURIER is dedicated to the brave men and women of the United States Armed Forces who are deployed in harms way to protect our country and our way of life. This issue is also dedicated to the families and loved ones of those same service members who worry and wait in constant hope for their safe return home.

We Stand Alone...

Together!

Ramadi, IRAQ—

Come and get your newsletter!

The 1-506th Infantry Regiment newsletter is finally here! "This is a historic document and a milestone for the Soldiers and families of the Red Currahee Battalion," said CPT Justin T. Michel, Battalion Adjutant of one of his most important projects, the RED CURRAHEE COURIER.

The RED CURRAHEE COURIER is the official command information publication for the battalion and will be an excellent source of information for our Soldiers and their families during our deployment to

Iraq. This edition RED CURRAHEE COURIER is packed with information on the battalion and its first two months overseas in Operation Iraqi Freedom. The RCC will be available through our battalion rear detachment and online on our website:

<http://www.campbell.army.mil/newintemet/unitpages/DesertGunner/Default.asp?uid=130>

Please enjoy our first edition and look for more from the RED CURRAHEE COURIER in the coming months.

- RCC Staff

RED CURRAHEES SERVE PROUDLY IN IRAQ VOW TO MAKE RAMADI A SAFER PLACE

Ramadi, IRAQ—

1-506th Infantry is on duty in the western Iraqi city of Ramadi. The city is considered one of the most challenging locations where coalition forces are employed in Iraq. Bringing peace and security the city of Ramadi is a tough task, but the Red Currahees are up to the challenge.

We patrol this city day and night, to provide security for the people of Ramadi. The province of Al Anbar and city of Ramadi are in the process of recruiting and training hundreds of "the sons of Al Anbar" as Iraqi police officers, who have volunteered for the mission of providing

security in the community and enforcing the laws of the nation.

The Red Currahee battalion working shoulder to shoulder with Iraqi Security Forces secure the city and surrounding areas in eastern Ramadi. We are taking the fight to the insurgents here, because the enemy stands in the way of peace for the Iraqi people.



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RED CURRAHEE 6 :

LTC RON CLARK, COMMANDER 1-506TH INFANTRY REGIMENT



Welcome to our first issue of the RED CURRAHEE COURIER! The purpose of this newsletter is to provide timely command information, and insight to our families and friends about the accomplishments of our Soldiers as we proudly serve our nation in Iraq.

My intent is to provide the RED CURRAHEE COURIER to our Soldiers and their families on a monthly basis. The RED CURRAHEE COURIER will be a dynamic and informative document that will be updated and available monthly on our battalion website and in print both here and Iraq and back home at Fort Campbell through the 1-506th Infantry Rear Detachment.



Task Force Red Currahee deployed to Iraq by US Air Force C-130 aircraft under the cover of darkness.

The Red Currahee Battalion has performed extremely well during our mission thus far. Our outstanding pre-deployment training and preparation are paying huge dividends in terms of mission accomplishment and helps us save both American and Iraqi lives daily. Our Soldiers have shown the enemy that we are determined to win the peace here in Ramadi.

We have focused our operations in Ramadi on providing a safe and secure environment to facilitate the success of democracy for the Iraqi people. 1-506th Infantry has made every effort to integrate Iraqi Security Forces (ISF) into all of our operations. Our partnership with the ISF is one of mutual support and respect, as we serve shoulder to shoulder to rid Ramadi of insurgents and secure freedom for the people of Iraq.

We proudly welcome two superb units from the Pennsylvania National Guard, A/3-103rd Armor "Animal Company" and 2/C/876 Engineers "Sappers" to Task Force Red Currahee. These brave men are citizen Soldiers who have answered the nation's call to service and performed superbly. These two great units along with "enablers" from the US Marine Corps, US Navy and US Air Force, combined with our Able, Outlaw, Gunfighter, Death Dealer, and Easy companies, partnered with Iraqi Security Forces are a formidable team that can accomplish any mission and defeat any foe.

I am extremely proud of our Soldiers and their accomplishments in the first two months of our deployment. We have undertaken every task and mission with great determination and achieved amazing results.



LTC Clark and CSM Catterton uncase the 1-506th Infantry colors in Ramadi on 4 January 2006. SPC John C. Miller, of HHC served as the color bearer for the ceremony

I also take great pride in our Battalion Rear Detachment, who has performed magnificently by handling every issue they have faced during the deployment with confidence and compassion.

I am also very proud of the sacrifice of the military families at Fort Campbell and across our great nation who know all too well the extremely high price of freedom. Your participation in our Family Readiness Groups forge a solid network for information and mutual support for our loved ones while we are away.

We Stand Alone...Together! — RC6



The Currahee flag flies proudly over a combat outpost in Ramadi.

CSM MIKE CATTERTON, CSM 1-506TH INFANTRY REGIMENT

**Ramadi, IRAQ—**

SOLDIER OF THE MONTH: SPC PRINCE K. TEEWIA; For making the ultimate sacrifice in giving his life for the defense of our great Nation. He was an outstanding Soldier and gave each and everyone of us a moment of happiness every day. He will be greatly missed but never forgotten, and will always be a member of the CURRAHEE'S!

NCO OF THE MONTH: 1SG MATTHEW EDWARDS; The fighting 1SG of Gunfighters, who exemplified the true spirit of the NCO Corp by being with his Soldiers on a Combat Patrol and was wounded with a gunshot to the shoulder. His personal commitment to his men will not be forgotten!

FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR; Dear Family Members, Loved ones, and Friends,

We cannot begin to tell you how proud we are of the Soldiers and Officers of the Red Currahees. In the past 2 months they have performed superbly. We left Camp Virginia in December and have not stopped moving since! We all stayed busy during Christmas because of the move and I think that helped ease the pain of being away from our loved ones. Every Company has contributed to the fight from direct fire engagements and finding enemy caches to running the roads at all hours of darkness to ensure the Battalion has what it needs to sustain the Force, and we could do none of that without the security of our towers and the support soldiers to run the daily operations in the Forward Operation Base.

You all have as big a role in this Battalions success as any Soldier here and we thank you for making our job easier. The mail and boxes started to arrive here at Corregidor before we did and there were hundreds of them! Every Company has a hardship here and they are all different in there own way. One thing that is the same is the amount of mail they get, which means a whole lot of people love them! Please be safe were ever you are and know that you are in our hearts and thoughts everyday, and God Bless you for the sacrifice and hardship you endure while your loved one defends our Nations frontier.

Stands Alone!

Michael P Catterton
CSM, USA
Battalion Command Sergeant Major

UNDERSTANDING AN IRAQI HOLIDAY – HAJJ

hajj [häj]

hajj, the pilgrimage to Mecca, Saudi Arabia, one of the five basic requirements (*arkan* or “pillars”) of Islam. Its annual observance corresponds to the major holy day *id al-adha*, itself a commemoration of Abraham's readiness to sacrifice his son on Divine orders. While the *hajj* is a religious obligation to be fulfilled at least once in the course of the life of each Muslim, religious law grants many exclusions on grounds of hardship. The *hajj* is a series of extensively detailed rituals. These include wearing a special garment that symbolizes unity and modesty, collective circumambulations of the [Kaaba](#), and the symbolic stoning of evil. A central event of the pilgrimage is at the station on the plain of Arafat, some ten miles from Mecca, where, the massive crowds notwithstanding, the pilgrim is required to be completely alone with God performing the rite of *wuquf* or “standing.” It is here that the Prophet Muhammad addressed his followers during his last pilgrimage. The Mecca rituals are customarily followed by a visit to the Prophet's Mosque in Medina. The *hajj*, gathering today millions of Muslims annually, was perhaps the greatest impetus to voluntary mobility before modern times. The economic, cultural, and political importance of this major annual gathering of Muslims from around the world has further increased with the advent of telecommunications and transport technologies, though the increased numbers have taxed the available facilities. Those who have completed the pilgrimage are entitled to add the phrase *al-Hajj* or *hajji* (pilgrim) to their name.

During the next week, Muslims from all over the world will converge on Mecca, Saudi Arabia, for the Hajj or Islamic pilgrimage. Each year, roughly two million followers of the Islamic faith participate in the pilgrimage, which constitutes the world's largest international gathering.

One of the five "pillars" or essential acts of worship in Islam, the Hajj is obligatory at least once in a Muslim's lifetime, if conditions permit. The purpose of the pilgrimage is the same for every pilgrim who makes the journey: the worship of God at the Sacred House in Mecca, the Kabah. According to the Qur'an, the sacred scripture of Islam, believed to have been revealed by God to Prophet Muhammad in the sixth century of the Christian era, the Kabah was built by the Prophet Abraham and his son, Ishmael, also a prophet, in ancient times. Abraham instituted the pilgrimage and established its rites around the Sacred House. Many centuries later, these rites were re-established by Muhammad.

The most important day of the pilgrimage is the ninth day of the Islamic month of Dhul-Hijjah. On this **Day of Arafat**, the huge throng of pilgrims spends the afternoon at the vast Plain of Arafat, believed to be a prototype of the gathering place of the Last Judgment, praying for God's forgiveness and mercy. They then move on to the next station of the pilgrimage.

The Hajj is a profound spiritual experience for Muslims, taking them back to the origin of their God- centered faith in the prophet Abraham. It is also a time of experiencing the brotherhood and equality of humanity. It was this experience that led Malcolm X to cast aside his racist views and embrace what he called the "oneness of Man. . . under one God."

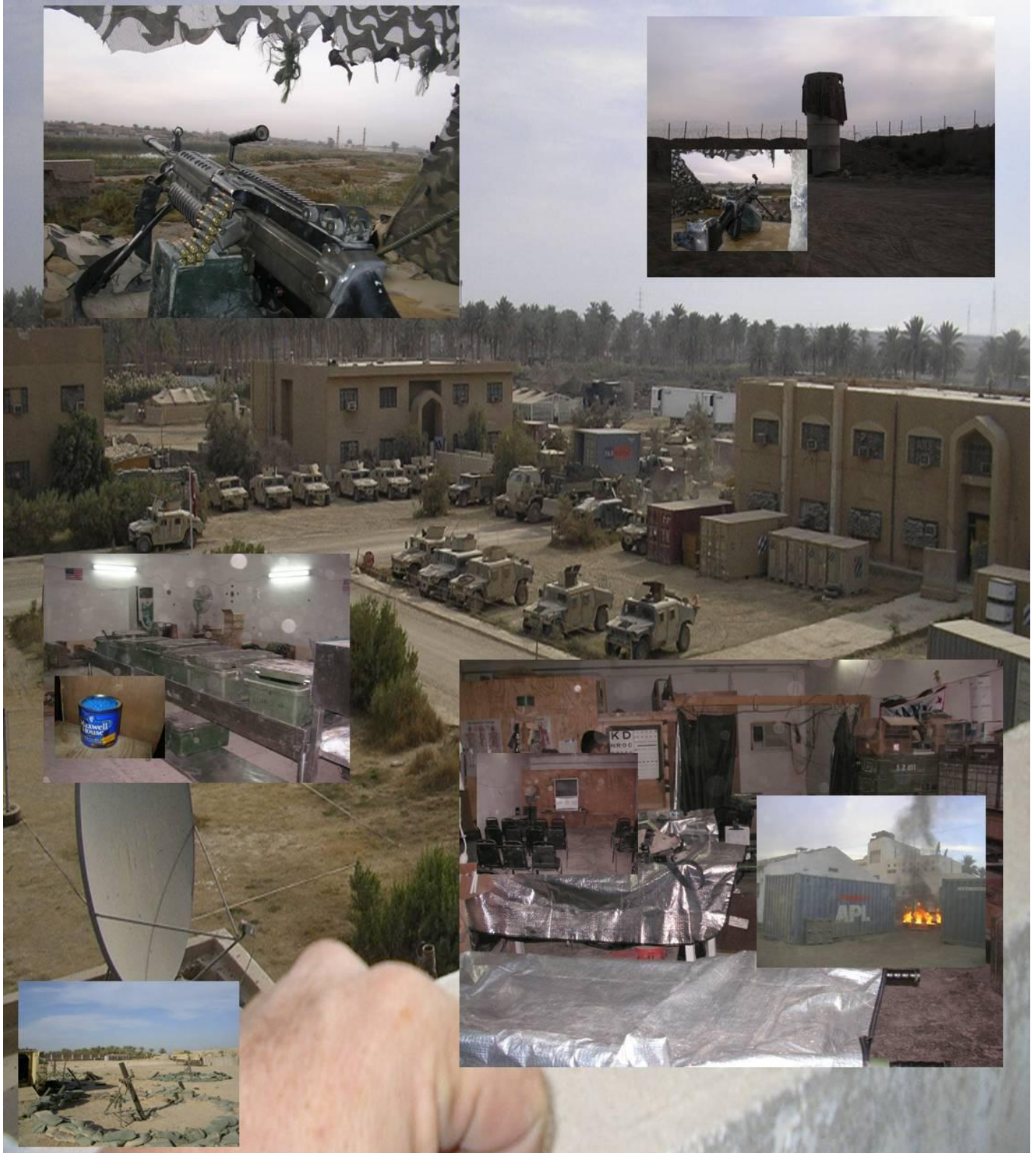


04 December 04: The Al Haq Mosque stands firm and tall in the town of Ar Ramadi, Iraq across a canal from the Agriculture College that Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (1-503rd) are renovating into a new combat outpost across the street from the current one. 1st Marine Division, during Operations Al Fajr, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom II, is engaged in Security And Stabilization Operations in the Al Anbar Province in Iraq.
(Official USMC Photo by LCpl Andrew D. Young)

Al Haq Mosque, near Camp Corregidor

CAMP LIFE FOR 1-506TH INFANTRY...

Camp Corregidor, IRAQ—



ANIMAL COMPANY, 3RD/103RD

The men of the Alpha Company, 3/103 Armor are headquartered out of Lewisburg, Pennsylvania. They are a combination of soldiers from the 3/103 Battalion as well as volunteers from Massachusetts and the New Jersey Army National Guard. For the deployment this armor unit was converted to infantry and attached to the 1/109 IN This collection of tankers, infantrymen and scouts have showed what a dedicated group of guardsmen can accomplish. Used as infantrymen in the first half of their tour and earning a combat reputation while conducting numerous missions in the AOR's of the Sophia and the Malaab districts of ar-Ramadi, Iraq. These men used their army skills and civilian professional experience to act as a combat multiplier for the 3rd ID at Camp Corregidor.

Citizen soldiers putting their lives on the side to establish freedom for the citizens of Ramadi.

Now the 3/103 Armor is teaming up with the soldiers of the 506th Airborne to write another page in the proud history of Camp Corregidor, this time as tankers.

The men of the 3/103 AR relish a challenge and know the importance of tanks in this area. The men are excited to work with an elite unit like the 506th. They have been working nonstop to get these tanks battle ready and their armor skills honed. Don't say "can't be done" to these guys because it just encourages them to do more. On second thought, maybe you should. These are the good guys and they have your back



HEADQUARTERS AND HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

Happy New Year everybody from Ramadi, Iraq!!! If you don't already know it, The Hellcats along with the rest of the Battalion are currently stationed on the East side of Ramadi on what is called Fort Corregidor.

It has been a long and grueling journey for the men since most of us got on an airplane right after Thanksgiving. After a long flight across the Atlantic Ocean and Europe, we finally arrived in Kuwait only to get on a bus for another long ride to the middle of the desert and Camp Virginia. The living was pretty cramped with almost 80 men per tent, but the food was good and the showers had warm water.

The next leg of our voyage was the movement north. We boarded planes and landed at TQ, a Marine Airbase approximately 40km east of Ramadi. Then over the course of the next week the company and the battalion boarded trucks and helicopters for the short trip to Ramadi.

Once on the ground in Ramadi we conducted a Relief in Place/ Transfer of Authority (RIP/TOA) with the unit we were replacing, 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division from Fort Benning, Georgia. A RIP/ TOA allows the unit that is on the ground share their local knowledge with the unit that is replacing it. The RIP/TOA was complete on 4 Jan 2006 and 1-506th Infantry assumed control of Fort Corregidor.

Ramadi is still a very dangerous place. The insurgency is very active in this area. US Army and Marines in Ramadi have had to shoulder the load of providing security in the city. Our soldiers have had to deal with mortar attacks, RPG and small arms attacks and the enemy's weapon of choice the IED.

Here is what I know; the Scouts and Snipers are in sector finding the enemy. The Mortars are firing mortars and providing security. And the Medics have been training and handing out a lot of cold medicine.

Here is what I don't know, How long are we going to be in Ramadi? Where are we going if we leave Ramadi? When are we coming home?

First Sergeant Bodecker and I just want to once again wish you a Happy New Year!

-CPT ROBERT MILAN



ALPHA COMPANY

Dear Friends and Family,

Hello from Iraq. I am happy to report that the Men of Able Company are doing fantastic work here in Ar-Ramadi. After arriving in early December, the Soldiers immediately started working in our sector. In under a month, they have detained several insurgents and discovered two weapons caches. The training and long nights spent at Fort Campbell have already paid off. Your men are safe, motivated, and making real progress in a not-so-friendly town.

Morale is higher than I believe I have ever seen it. The men are genuinely proud to be a part of Able Company and that pride and camaraderie are evident on missions. Our quality of life is lower than we would like, but we are actively working to improve it. For example, we have already improved the speed of the internet and, more importantly, have made the electricity a little more reliable. Almost everyone has a small bed, and the living arrangements are more than adequate. There is even a couple big screen TVs for the men to watch football on the Armed Forces Network (AFN).

I want you all to know how proud I am of your sons, husbands, and friends. Few people in this world are as selfless and courageous. As I close please know that I will do everything in my power to help these men accomplish their difficult mission and bring everyone home safe.

Respectfully,
CPT Chris Roberts,
Able 6

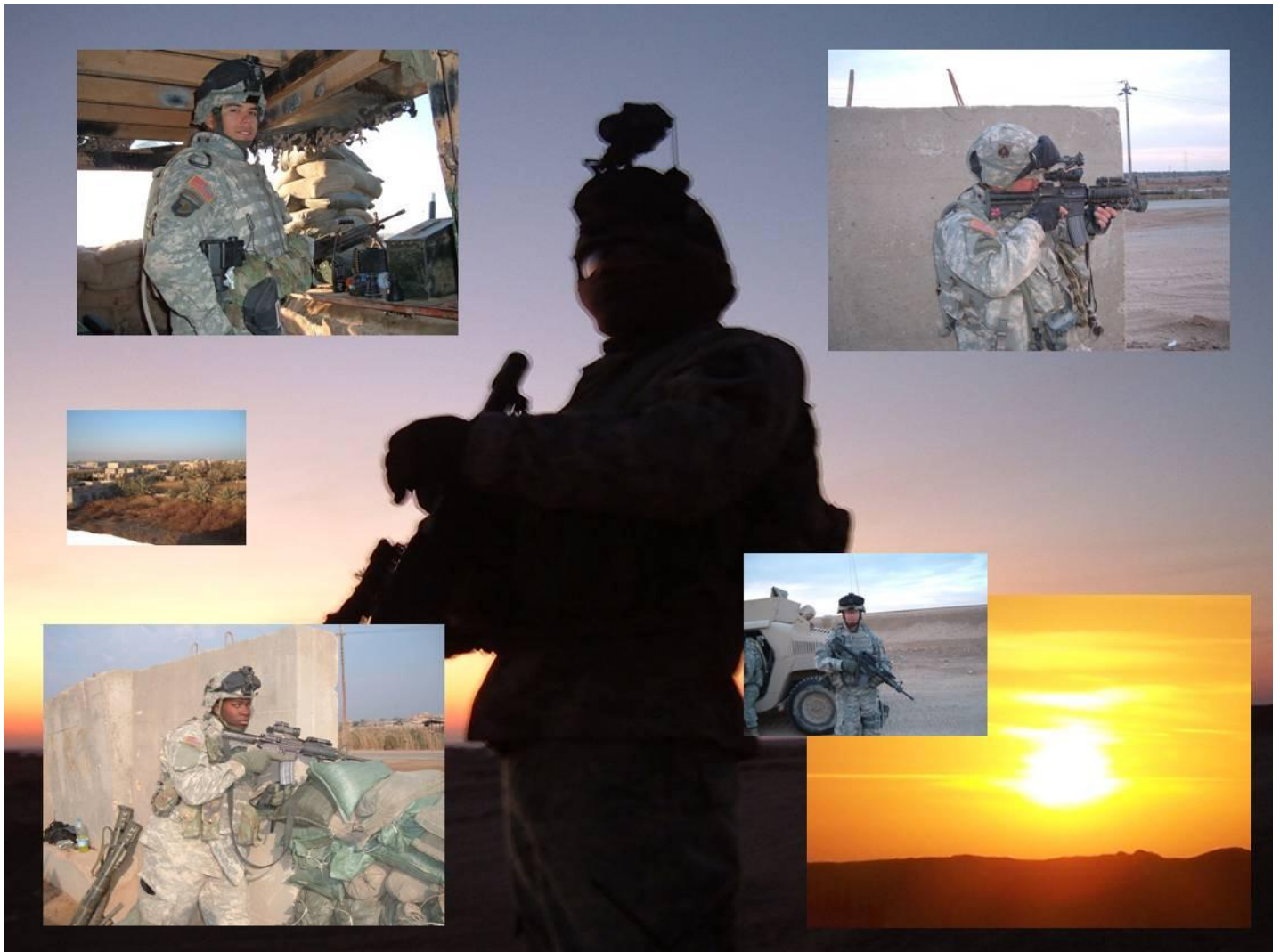


BRAVO COMPANY

Bravo Company arrived in Ramadi Iraq on Christmas Day. We are currently staying in a large, abandoned house located about 1 mile east of Camp Corregidor. Observation Post (OP) Trotter, as it is known, contains most of the modern necessities that were hoped for by the Company. There is a new generator that supplies the entire house with electricity. We have accessories that include TV's, DVD players, video game systems, microwaves, computers, printers, and refrigerators. We receive two hot meals a day, which are picked up from Camp Corregidor. Laundry is dropped off once a week to Camp Corregidor, and is done for us in one day. Mail is dropped off once every three days to Camp Corregidor. We have a weight room. We have showers located outside, which are refilled twice daily. There are beds with mattresses in every room. Every room has heat and A/C. We do not, however, have internet or phones at OP Trotter. We are currently cycling soldiers to Camp Corregidor to utilize these necessities. Church services are offered once a week.

OP Trotter over looks our primary supply route, which runs east/west into Ramadi, and also runs east into Baghdad, which is 45 miles away. Our primary focus as a company is to ensure that the route stays open, and to deter insurgents from coming anywhere close to the route. The unit we replaced did a wonderful job of securing the route, and now our company has taken the reins and we are now in a rhythm, which continues to be very effective.

We hope you all enjoyed your holiday seasons and appreciate all of your constant support and prayers. We are all doing our very best to accomplish our mission and ensure that your soldiers are being taken care of. Thanks you and Currahee!!



CHARLIE COMPANY

Dust and Mud

by: PFC Maxwell Ramsey, C Company

Our initial reward for arriving in Iraq is easy to hear – one cough, followed by many more, from seemingly everyone. The dust quickly finds its home on everything we have. Some of our gear changes color with the help of this sand that is not really sand at all, it is a dust that lingers in the air and is an obvious culprit for everyone getting sick. A regular regimen of washing hands before eating (the food in our small dining facility is good, given the environment) helps keep everyone from getting really ill, and constantly keeping our weapons clean keeps time occupied while assuring that our most important equipment is operational.

As the bulk of Charlie Company arrives to join their brothers who were part of the “advance party” a week prior, activity begins to pick up at Camp Corregidor, a rotation consisting of guard duties, patrols, missions and other tasks. In the midst of these duties one thing is apparent, everyone is eager to get involved and be a part of a comprehensive strategy to drive anti-coalition forces out of Ramadi. Most of the general population seems to be genuinely happy to see us in their neighborhoods, but it is clear there is a lot of work ahead for all of us.

The dry and dusty conditions are quickly exchanged for a few days of rain, turning the dust into mud. Not mud, but a sticky, slippery, goopy substance which attaches itself to everything and takes forever to dry. Our “Humvees” and light trucks spend most of their time sliding sideways through the muck as we depart and return from patrols. All of us perform amazing balancing acts to keep ourselves from slipping and falling in this stuff, *most* of us do this with success. Through all of it, the occasional mail delivery, phone call or email keeps spirits up. Care packages are eagerly shared and letters are carefully read, with good stories shared for a good laugh. All of us think of home, but there is also the sense of what we must accomplish here before we can make the return trip. The anticipation into the next mission, sandwiched between guard duty in the towers, eating and sleeping, and of course, who can forget the nights on the ‘latrine burning detail.’ Iraq has welcomed us, to say the least, and we have done our best to feel welcomed.



DELTA COMPANY

Greetings from Delta Company

While many of the platoons' are out running missions, our primary focus is to stay put and handle the daily rigors (so to speak) of the Operations. We manage to get shuffled into a mission from time to time to kill the monotony so to speak.

We've been lucky to have SPC Bisner on our side, who has been nicknamed "Bis The Builder) He can do just about anything, to include electricity. We managed to take our big open room and turn it into a little Motel 6 (and yes we do leave the light on for you). We are quite happy to be here, due to the fact that we have the simple comforts, most of all a roof over our heads. Of course nothing beats the comforts we all miss at home. First Sergeant Barahona is the equivalent to Mister Furley. He is the landlord so to speak. Not to worry he wont evict you for being late.

Seems like our biggest obstacle has been keeping the water flowing and keeping it hot. We look forward to the days when we can take showers and not have to worry about our time limits!!

As always we miss our families and our extended families as well. This is what our home looks like. Not too shabby for being out in the middle of nowhere. There a few pictures we thought you would like too see. Now you know why we miss the simple pleasures in life. Christmas dinner was not what we are used to, but the cooks did what they could to make it like home. Of course the wait in line was a little longer than what we are used to, and so was the menu. We had all the fixings complete with egg nog (skip the rum).

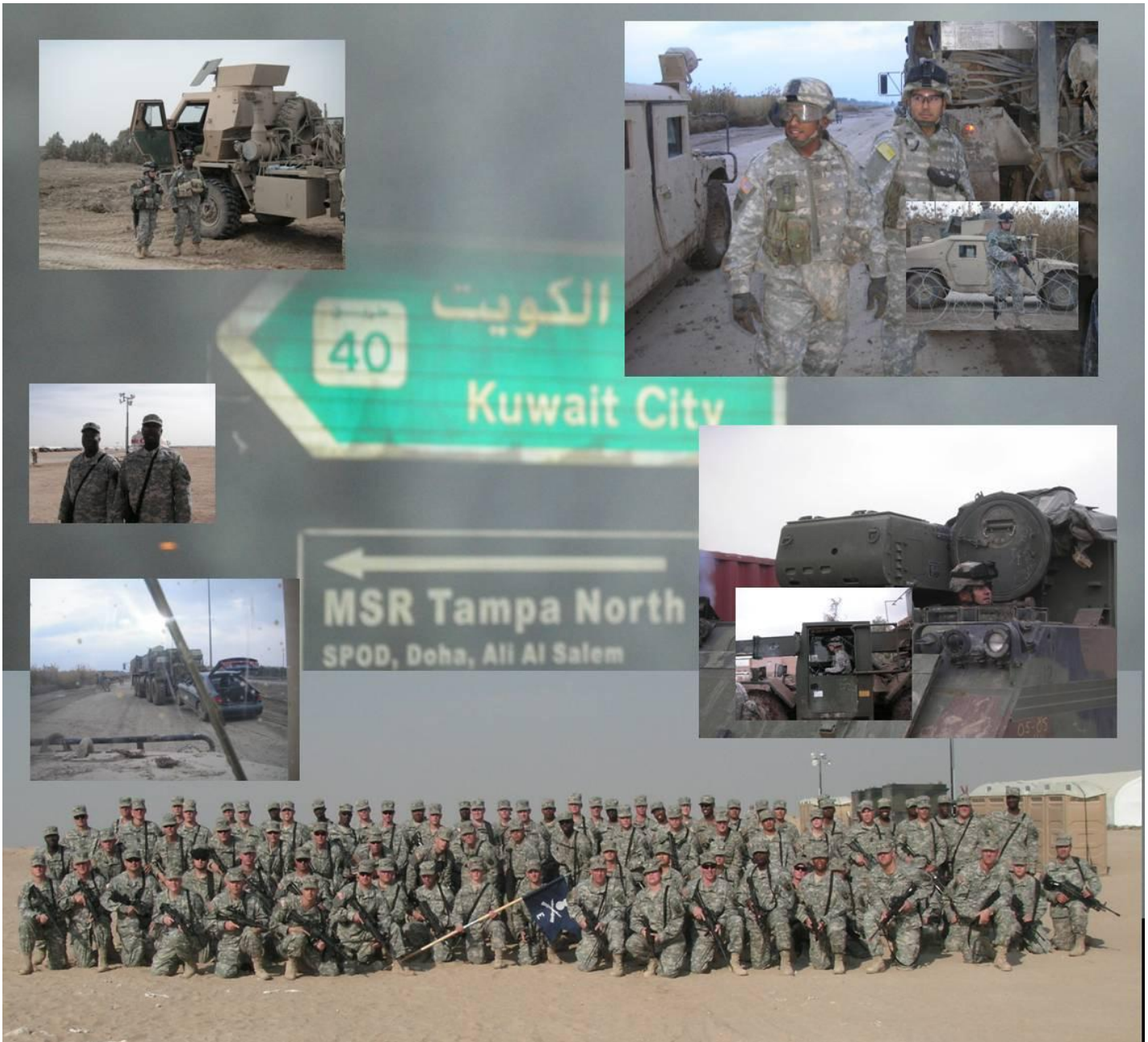
Last, but not least, we can't forget the market place? That only consists of a little make shift shop that has only DVDs to offer. We hope you have enjoyed this small tour or our camp. It is a small one. The platoons' have a rigorous schedule in which they do missions for a few days, handle the duties of daily duties (sweeping, etc), and a day where they are on stand-by. Time seems to pass by and we are not sure where it goes, but it seems to be going by fast!! **GOD BLESS AND MORE TO FOLLOW DEATHDEALERS!!**



ECHO COMPANY

Echo Company was founded almost 15 months ago back at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. Captain Liles is the company commander and First Sergeant Shields is the First Sergeant, and they are extremely happy about the progress of the company within the last several months. The company has been tested in many ways during this deployment, but has always come out on top and safe.

The Distribution Platoon ran by 1LT Brown and SFC Clipp, conducts convoys all the time for re-supply along one of the most dangerous roads in Iraq, and is always on stand by for an emergency mission or recovery operation. Headquarters Platoon led by 1LT Eden and SSG Hendricks battle track all convoys and operations. The Maintenance Platoon ran by 1LT Wynn and SSG Schneideger is always on call to fix any broke piece of equipment. Their maintenance bays are always full, and continue to keep the Battalion's trucks working, and on the road. The DFAC platoon always supports the Battalion making sure everyone has enough food. All the platoons work together and support the Battalion to ensure the Battalion's mission is successful.



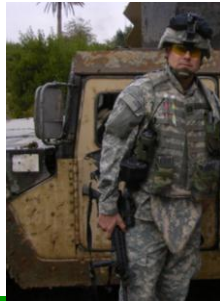
Quote of the month:**“That’s a bunch of crap! Our commander loves ice cream and sodas!”**

From SFC Brian Valley, 1-506th IN Dining Facility NCOIC in response to the rumor (by individuals not in 1-506th IN) that LTC Clark banned sodas and ice cream at FOB Corregidor. The truth is the DFAC just plain ran out because the supplies of soda and ice cream were not available ...and Red Currahee 6 loves ice cream and sodas!
Right: BN S3 Dave Womack enjoys a cold soda “after the ban was lifted.”



The Red Currahee Courier Newsletter is an official publication of 1-506th Infantry Regiment. The RCC is published monthly to provide timely command information to the Soldiers and families of the battalion.

Published by
CPT Justin T. Michel
1-506th Infantry Regiment
Fighting S1

**RE-ENLISTMENT:**

Re-enlistment numbers for the month of December 05 and January 06 include 7 initial term, 7 mid-career, and 6 career re-enlistments. Overall bonuses for re-enlistments total \$140,448.34
STANDS ALONE!



RETENTION NCO — SSG COOPER



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER:
CPT PAUL "DON ANTONIO" HALLADAY

WHAT RELIGION DOES FOR US

Religion gives meaning and purpose in life, something far deeper than the superficialities of a life lived in the pursuit of pleasure alone. While religion is never an escape from the hardships of life it can soften the blow of life's difficulties by forming us into the type of men and women who can turn difficulties into opportunities.

Though the storms of a world turned upside down by war, separation and natural disaster may rage around us and our lives seem as if they are plagued with troubles of every sort, let us remember the words of a well known hymn and live by them with blessed assurance: What though the tempest 'round me roar, I hear the Truth, It liveth. What though the darkness 'round me close, Songs in the night It giveth. No storm can shake my in most calm, while to that rock I'm clinging. Since Love is Lord of heaven and earth, how can I keep from singing?

May all in the Family Currahee, know the Peace of God that comes through a life of faith nourished and kept alive through an active religious life. May that Peace, all pervasive as it is, be a source of comfort and strength in days of difficulty and may it magnify your joy in the days of happiness.