

902d Military Intelligence Group

Family Readiness Group Newsletter

This Newsletter contains official and unofficial information



Personal message from COL Gregg C. Potter, Commander of 902d Military Intelligence Group:

First of all, I would like to personally thank all of the family members and friends who have supported, and continue to support, the Soldiers and civilians, deployed as part of our task Force with OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM. Your support is invaluable and plays a crucial role in the overall morale and combat readiness of our organization.

Secondly, I would like to thank all of the Family Readiness Group members who have contributed so much time and effort to ensure that information is passed along, care packages are assembled, and assistance is given when needed. Please continue to express any concerns you have to your family readiness representatives. This program belongs to all of you and will only be as beneficial as you make it.

My wife, Veronica, and our son, Sebastian, are very happy to be part of the 902d family and look forward to meeting all of you.

"Strength Through Vigilance"

"News From The Front"

From the desk of the Commander, D Company,
310th MI BN (Fwd)

D Company Soldiers and civilians attained three milestones in the June and July timeframe with the successful redeployment of our civilians and several of our 704th Soldiers, the arrival and integration of new team members, and what appears to be the halfway mark in the deployment timeline. In a relatively short period of time, your sons, daughters, wives, husbands, mothers, fathers, brothers, sisters, and significant others have built a robust and effective combat support unit that contributes daily to protecting our forces and combating terrorism. The news media is filled with negative aspects of this war, but I am here to tell you based on ground truth and first hand knowledge, the efforts of D Company Soldiers and civilians have resulted in countless successful missions carried out by our combat units and elements - this will continue to be the case for the months to come.

We are very thankful for all of the support from home that finds its way here in the form of packages, letters, and emails; what may seem like simple gestures are actually indispensable facets of our morale and welfare.

Until next month - GO DUKES!



Picture taken at Mosul Airfield.

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The Following letter was written by First Lieutenant Julia Bryan, Charlie Company, 310th MI BN (Fwd)

A Whole New World of Experience

- by 1LT Julia M. Bryan

We came together in the fall of 2003; a motley crew of Soldiers and civilians pulled from all parts of the country to embark upon a desert adventure. With a wide variety of backgrounds, specialties, and miscellaneous skills, and some having more years in their fields than others have had years on this earth, we seemed a microcosm of all microcosms. We were both apprehensive and excited, living bundles of nerves and energy, and we were ready to go forth and make a difference.

Fast forward some number of months, and we are halfway to being home. Since hitting the ground in January we have experienced a culture new to most of us, harrowing road trips, new favorite foods for some and intestinal distress for others, family crises, letters of love and support from family and strangers alike, and a newfound appreciation for the comforts and freedoms we too often take for granted. We have realized our hidden talents, from carpentry to humility, and we are proud of our handiwork. We have learned that most Iraqis are not that different from most Americans; they love their country and their families, they want the best for their children, a safe place to live, and they want us to go home. We have rediscovered one of the simplest joys of childhood: making our own fun. From endless card games to inventing new games, and book after book after book, most of us have realized there is entertainment to be found far from the banal blue glow of the television. The prevalence of technology keeps us connected to our friends and families in ways no other war veteran has ever known, yet a greeting card or care package speaks volumes to our hearts that Instant Messaging will never match. We've made friends and created bonds with people we may never see again, or that we'll be sure to catch up with over a couple of beers some day. A few lines on this paper can barely scratch the surface of the stories we'll have amassed by the end of our tour, and will tell for years to come.

So here we are, launching our return trip to normalcy. All that's left is to tough out a few more months, train our replacements, and prepare for the culture shock we're sure to experience upon our return. Tired, hot, often dirty, and already years wiser, we look forward to resuming the lives we put on hold, but, deep down, we know that everything we have accomplished is only the beginning.

WELCOME BACK!!!

On 26 June, 28 Soldiers and civilians returned from Iraq after 6 months of deployment.



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Kids learn about fire awareness, through magic, from local firefighters and have fun with Teddy, the Fire Bear, at the 310th MI BN FRG meeting, 24 June. 310th holds their FRG meetings on the last Thursday of each month.



In addition to the food items sent, letters from local schools were added as part of the FRG's monthly care packages. The Group FRG puts together packages every 2nd Friday of each month. Please continue to send any ideas for items needed or wanted by our deployed loved ones.



Please note the upcoming events and contact one of the reps if you have any questions or input, especially if you are located in a remote site.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Ribbon Sale: PX/Commissary (13-14 August)

9-11 Observance and 902d Organization Day: Group HQ (10 September) (Inclement weather location is the Museum)

FRG Car Wash Fundraiser: (TBD September)

Statement of Publication

The secretary of the Army has determined that the publication of this periodical is necessary in the transaction of the public business as required by law of the Department. Use of funds for printing this publication has been approved by CINCUASEUR 3 July 1995 in accordance with AR 25-30.

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