



**TASK FORCE  
LIGHTNING CORNER—  
————— 1**

**BATTALION  
CORNER————— 2**

**COMMUNITY  
NEWS————— 3**

**FRG SPOTLIGHT——— 4**

# 121 Family Times

*121 Signal Battalion Task Force Lightning*

## **...Letter From the Editor....**

**"Challenges are what make life interesting; overcoming them is what makes life meaningful."- Joshua Marine**

**This deployment is a challenge to all of us, but it's also an opportunity to grow. How you choose to pass this time is a testament of your character. You can either let this deployment get the best of you, or you can seize the "bull by the horns" and make the most of the situation. At the end of the day, can you look at yourself in the mirror and be proud of who you are?**

**Michele Carter...Family Readiness Assistant**

## **"In the Arena" with Task Force Victory Commander: LTC Kolenda**

The most rewarding aspect of being the Rear Detachment Commander for the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division is witnessing first hand the power generated when great people come together for a common purpose, especially when that purpose is service to one another. The families of the 121<sup>st</sup> Signal Battalion are standard setters. Your spirit of volunteerism and your commitment to making a difference to one another are exceptional.

Your Family Readiness Group is effective because you have so many people who have volunteered to enter the arena. Anybody can sit on the sidelines and criticize or complain. The true champion does something about it. The Signal Battalion has a lot of them. Your spirit is expressed eloquently in the words of Teddy Roosevelt:

**"It is not the critic who counts, not the man who points out how the strong man stumbled or where the doer of deeds could have done better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again... who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions, and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the least knows the triumph of high achievement; and who, at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while doing greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat."**

Each time you enter the arena to assist one another or to make life here at home during these difficult times easier and more enjoyable, your efforts translate directly into combat power in Iraq. When our soldiers know their families are cared for at home, they can think a little clearer, work a little harder, breathe a little easier, and accomplish the mission a little faster. They stand taller and prouder each day because of your efforts here at home.

I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to express my admiration and gratitude to the families of the world's finest Signal Battalion. Thank you for being in the arena. Your love and commitment and dedication truly brings Victory for our Soldiers and Victory for our Families!

Duty First!

-----Chris Kolenda

## **FRL/FRG Contacts:**

### **FRAA-**

•Michele Carter  
michele.carter@1id.army.mil  
Work: 09321-702-2748  
Cell: 0160-599-4287

### **HHC-**

•SFC Jaggernauth  
James.Jaggernauth@hq.1id.army.mil  
Work: 09321-702-2855  
Cell: 01609-103-5117

•Edith Floro  
hhcrg@hotmail.com  
Home: 09321-923-823

### **A Co.-**

•SSG Degro  
Fernando.Degro@hq.1id.army.mil  
Work: 09321-702-2643  
Cell: 0174-832-5348

•Mindy Long  
aco121frg@yahoo.com  
Home: 0933-599-7691

### **B Co.-**

•SGT Versie  
Suzanne.Versie@hq.1id.army.mil  
Work: 09321-702-2616  
Cell: 0175-665-5568

•Daniella Hess & Monique Thompson  
weefeeness@yahoo.com  
Home: 09321-389-350

### **C Co.-**

•SGT Garcia  
Yomayra.Garcia@1id.army.mil  
Work: 09321-702-2602  
Cell: 0160-9390-9252

•Laura Poston  
Laura.Poston@us.army.mil  
Home: 0936-588-9206  
Cell: 01609-978-4740

# Battalion Corner

## Charlie Company Spotlight

(Continued on Page 4)



Above: Renee Attao, Stacey Parker, & Angela Wallace (USAREUR Maintenance Award Ceremony-27 May 2004)

Top Right: BN Deployment Update

Bottom Right: C Co. Fence



### Walk to Iraq (and Back) Standings

1. A Co.: 1268.2
2. C Co.: 1240.4
3. HHC: 384
4. B Co.: 163

Welcome the newest members of the 121 family....

SGT Patrick & Hannah Davis  
a baby boy, Patrick, Jr.  
on 25 May 2004



PFC Peter & Nina Ganesin  
a baby boy, Erik Bjorn  
On 28 May 2004



# June Events

# Community Corner

- 3: Volunteer Orientation (Leighton ACS)
- 3: Main River Boat Ride (Outdoor Recreation)
- 4: High School Graduation (at 7 p.m.)
- 5: CPR/First Aid Course (Leighton ACS)
- 5: 98<sup>th</sup> ASG Commander's Cup (Golf)
- 9: Trip to Pottenstein (Outdoor Rec.)
- 10: Last Day of School
- 11: Kitzingen & Wurzburg Town-hall Meetings
- 11: Walk to Iraq Story Deadline (Library)
- 14-18: NOW Brief (Leighton ACS)
- 14-18: Vacation Bible Study (Woodland Inn)
- 19: Parents Night Out (Kitzingen CDC)
- 19: Trip to Warner Bros. Park (Outdoor Rec.)
- 25: BN "Mini-boot Camp" (FRL)
- 25-27: Trip to Prague (Outdoor Rec.)



Thanks to SFC Bozkir for organizing the Easter event. A special thank-you goes to Mr. Dennis Sullivan of S&K Sales for his generous donations.



## Congratulations

...to **Debby Pedroza**  
 & **Donna Jones**  
 121's  
 Volunteer of the Year  
 Nominees



# Charlie Company

Just over a year ago, C Co FRG meetings were fun for the whole family. They were a welcome diversion to our soldiers' packed training schedule and easy to advertise. The 1SG would put the word out at formation that the meeting would be at the bowling alley during the duty day and families were welcome and highly encouraged to attend. Unfortunately, I was never able to attend the meetings.

A year ago, a deployment in support of OIF 2 seemed probable but no one knew exactly when it would take place. In August, there was no question that deployment was a reality and it was time to think about an FRG without soldiers.

Having met very few of the spouses, I was nervous about the first meeting in which I volunteered to lead. Knowing that I had an hour of driving time from work to home & back to Kitzingen, I spent the night before making lots of food to share that would also be my dinner.

As it turned out, the food was a hit and the meeting went well. Other than the icebreaker, it was the food that relaxed everyone. To my surprise, someone even asked me for one of the recipes. Delicious dishes became a regular part of the meetings because others started contributing. We have since had food themed meetings including a holiday cookie exchange, Mexican, Italian, appetizer, and dessert nights.

Everyone has enjoyed the food so much that we are putting together an OIF 2 company cookbook that will feature the foods we have shared as well as the favorite foods our soldiers miss. I am sure the committee in charge of this project will put together a first class product. (Thanks to everyone in advance).

However, I must note that this deployment has not had everyone thinking only about food. We have several family members & friends of C Co who have signed up for the Walk to Iraq challenge and taken advantage of the great programs the 417<sup>th</sup> BSB has had for its community including child care at the gyms and the monthly fun run-walks.

One of the projects the FRG and the Company initiated is a website that we share pictures on. To date, we have over 700 pictures posted on the website from downrange and home. Over 600 different people have enjoyed these pictures. I continue to ask our combat photographers for MORE pictures and always have my camera on hand to take photos here. It is really nice to see the smiling faces of our loved ones.

As the FRG leader, I have had a few goals. Some have already been achieved, some are a work in progress, and some will be shared at the next meeting. My initial goal last fall was to encourage everyone to be part of the FRG, prepare for the deployment, and get to know one another. Second, I wanted those who chose to participate to be glad that they did and feel that they have people within the FRG they can count on. Third, I wanted to develop goals as a group and enlist volunteers to help achieve these goals. Fourth, I wanted to do my job of keeping the family members informed in conjunction with the Company in Iraq, the Rear Detachment team, and the Community here. Fifth, I wanted to plan one great homecoming. Finally, I also wanted to do something to build cohesion among the members so that even if I depart, the group will carry on.

I think that the deployment is going well for us and some of the goals I set are being accomplished on a regular basis thanks to the great people associated with the company!

C Co is very small, nearly half the size of the other 3 companies in the Battalion. Less than half of the soldiers in the company are married. A quarter of the spouses live in the states while 12% of our spouses are also soldiers who are deployed to OIF2, leaving only 64% of the spouses here. The Division's Yellow Ribbon room is perfect for a group our size. The FRG extends beyond Germany and includes Grandparents, Aunts, and Nephews from 20 different states. I am thankful for the BN Newsletter, the Division Press releases and the other great media items I am able to share with the FRG. In March, Node Center 53 from B Co, otherwise known as 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon fell under the operational control of C Co. The family members affected are welcome to attend any and all functions with C Co just as their spouses do downrange. As I see it, they have the opportunity to be part of two groups.

We are fortunate to have the support of the civilian work places of many of the parents in the United States. C Co will leave behind some great artwork designed by SPC Alvarez thanks to Delta Technical Coating for donating over 70 lbs of paint. Here locally I send a big thanks goes to Donna Jones of HHC, 121, for designing our Charlie Rock t-shirt.

Finally, we would not have an FRG if we did not have professional, dedicated, Charlie "Rock Solid" soldiers to support. I think I speak for everyone when I say that we are so proud of each one. I am personally equally proud of all of the family members dedicated to making it through each day and displaying such strength. We are  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the way through the deployment and you have proven to be true heroes!

---Laura Poston