



# The Desert Voice



21 – 27 June 2004

## Commander's Corner

TIKRIT, IRAQ & AO DANGER – The first week of summer here in central Iraq was busy and productive. Our focus this week was the Pre-Deployment Site Survey for the 42d Infantry Division. The party from the Rainbow division included their Commanding General, ADC(S), Chief of Staff and most of the division staff along with a few representatives from their Major Subordinate Commands.

For you trivia buffs, you might find it interesting to know that the 42d ID is the first National Guard division to be mobilized in its entirety since World War II, more than 60 years ago. Just as we were last September on our first visit here to see how the 4<sup>th</sup> ID was conducting operations, the 42d departed a bit overwhelmed, wondering how the heck are we going to do what the Bid Red One is doing. Also just like us, they will figure it out, and we will do everything in our power to set them up for success.

R&R allocations exceeded my most optimistic projections. The Signal Task Force was given 133 slots for the month of July. If our allocations continue at this rate, I'm confident that we will get everyone the opportunity for R&R at some point in the rotation. We also have a second point for departure. Many of our soldiers will depart from Kirkuk. They will still have to transit through Kuwait and the SATO office there, but

traveling north to Kirkuk is much safer than traveling south to Balad.

My "for what's it's worth" story this week deals with the subtle difference between the National Guard and the Active Component commanders and their understanding of "Commander's Intent". Over the last month or so, soldiers and NCOs from A/115<sup>th</sup> constructed a very nice MWR facility near the Signal Soldiers Palace where they live. This facility is complete with a fishing pier that extends off the spacious deck out into the lake on FOB Danger. In order to make this facility truly first class, CPT Tim Sweeny sought my approval to purchase luxuries such as a big screen TV to view SEC football on this fall. I gladly authorized the funding on a couple of seemingly reasonable conditions. One, that I have a reserved seat for viewing the Arkansas Razorbacks whip the Alabama Crimson Tide this season, and second that he get me a 'hog' hat.

Tim saluted smartly and moved out to complete his mission. He had no trouble with condition number one. Front and center was my designated seat. On the second condition Tim strode in one day with his chest out and proudly announced, "Sir, I have your 'hog' hat"! He presented me with an extremely nice baseball cap with the Arkansas logo and the word HOGS printed on it. He was so proud of himself, thoroughly convinced that he had met my intent.



*LTC Garrison proudly wearing his HOGS hat while chatting with MAJ Self.*

Well, I had obviously failed to articulate my intent clearly to him. I had made the mistake of assuming that "Commander's Intent" meant the same thing in the National Guard as it did in the active Army. I viewed this as yet another training challenge and as we all know there's way to lead but by example. I produced for CPT Sweeny's a genuine HOG hat that he will proudly wear throughout the SEC season. The picture should provide all the explanation necessary. Thank you for the thoughts and prayers, it does make a difference.



*CPT Sweeny in a HOG hat during the Quarterly Training Briefing Rehearsal*

## Alpha Company

Alpha company has enjoyed yet another week of fun in the sun in Iraq. We're almost through June and looking forward to the Transfer of Sovereignty that will be taking place on the 30<sup>th</sup> of June. While this is an important day for Iraqis, there are those in the world who don't want the transfer to go smoothly. Among that population we count not only human beings but smaller creatures as well. This week's newsletter will provide chilling accounts of insect attempts to sabotage the upcoming transfer.

Our first tale of insect attempts at intimidation takes place on FOB Remagen. PFC Ballard and SGT Ryder were in the platoon office one evening monitoring the network when SGT Ryder caught a glimpse of something out of the corner of his eye. As he looked over, to his horror, he saw an Anti Iraqi Forces Camel Spider (AIFCS) perched in the air conditioning vent ready to pounce on PFC Ballard. He cried "Ballard, look out" just as the AIFCS launched himself from the vent. As if in slow motion, Ballard pulled his left shoulder toward the front of his body, just as the AIFCS was about to land. Thinking quickly on his feet, SGT Ryder scooped up a plastic container. With a cat like litheness, while the AIFCS was still reeling from his longer than anticipated fall to the floor, SGT Ryder scooped him up into the container.

PFC Ballard immediately grabbed a rolled up magazine and was prepared to end the camel spider's life when SGT Ryder stopped him. "We have to ensure he gets due process under the law, just like any other Iraqi, Ballard" SGT Ryder explained. "Soon this will be their country, and they can try these cases in their own court

system. This will serve as an example of how democracy can succeed in the Middle East. Your eye for an eye brand of justice isn't going to help bring democracy to this country any faster. Plus, he has a lot of eyes, so I don't know exactly how that would work." PFC Ballard nodded and said thoughtfully "I know you're right. My rash actions don't reflect the example we are trying to show here. Let justice be done in the courts, where he is judged by his peers and prosecuted and defended by those erudite in juris prudence." To which SGT Ryder replied "Right, now let's go catch a lizard and throw him in the container and see what happens." Initial interrogation of the AIFCS was unsuccessful as 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon was unable to find anyone fluent in Camel Spiderese. The Anti Iraqi Forces Camel Spider is in temporary custody in the 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon office until construction of the FOB Remagen detention center, where he will be transferred until a court date is set, is complete.



*AIFCS mug shot*

Our next chilling tale takes us to FOB Dagger. One night while in the command bunker, SGT Gardner and PFC Lovitt were discussing the international implications of the Iraqi Transfer of Sovereignty when PFC Lovitt spotted a seemingly normal camel spider climbing down the wall. PFC Lovitt, who was fascinated

with fire as a young child, decided the best way to rid the bunker of the unwelcome guest was to apply the flame from a lighter to the stream from a Lysol can and burn the spider to a crisp. After receiving a thorough dousing of ignited Lysol, the camel spider fell to the floor in a ball.

Unfortunately PFC Lovitt used his makeshift flame thrower too close to a shrink wrapped 12 pack of bottled water, which promptly caught on fire.

Admittedly, a bottle of water catching on fire isn't too dangerous as it will extinguish itself at some point, but it did distract SGT Ryder and PFC Lovitt for a few moments while they put the flames out. To their shock and horror, when they looked back to where the camel spider had fallen, it was no longer there. They immediately began a search of the area but could not locate the singed eight legged foe. Then Lovitt spotted the camel spider making a run for the door. There is no actual proof of what was seen next, but PFC Lovitt related that as he chased the camel spider, he saw a metallic glint coming from one of its legs as it ran into the sun light accompanied by the smell of ozone. While it's the stuff of urban legend, we believe it was a cyborg Anti Iraqi Forces Camel Spider sent to FOB Dagger to disrupt the Transfer of Sovereignty. We may never know. The truth is out there.

As soon as I heard of the two events mentioned above, I contacted SEN Team F14 at FOB McKenzie. SGT Apodaca assured me that they had been preparing for any encounters they would have by practicing close quarters combat with 1-4 Cavalry. I knew the team had all been to the range recently and requalified on their weapons and finding out that they

had also been honing their close quarters combat skills put my mind at ease. I made further inquiry into exactly how this training was taking place. PFC Rayburn began explaining that the first step was running wire between the sleeping huts.

I immediately knew what this was for. I said to Rayburn “yes, that’s so you can get used to maneuvering between buildings with obstacles in the way.” “Yeah, I guess, if that’s what you want to call it. It does get to be a pain moving around in there” Rayburn replied. “What’s the next step?” I inquired. “Then everyone hooks up for HALO” Rayburn told me with growing excitement in his voice. I was familiar with military terminology and knew that this referred to an airborne operation. “Ah, High Altitude Low Opening” I replied.

Rayburn paused for a moment and replied “I guess that’s what it stands for.” My interest was piqued at this point. I didn’t know 1-4 Cavalry was an airborne unit, what type of planes do you guys jump out of?” I inquired. “Sir, I don’t really know what you’re talking about, HALO is just close quarters combat, there aren’t any planes.” Perplexed I inquired “what does HALO stand for then?” Rayburn replied “Sir, the video game is called HALO. I don’t know that it stands for anything. We run wire and connect everyone’s playstations together and have tournaments.” “Of course” I replied. “I knew exactly what you were talking about. That sounds like outstanding training.” I then pretended the phone line was going bad and hung up.



***PFC Shields and PFC Rayburn at FOB McKenzie honing their close combat skills***

My next step was to contact the World Famous Remote RAU 50 at FOB Brassfield-Mora to see how they were handling the current situation. Everyone assured me they could withstand a siege, no matter how long it may last. I became very interested and thought that perhaps they had some of the latest in survival techniques. I got pen and paper ready to record all of the wisdom they would impart to me so that I could pass it on to the rest of the company. I was then informed that SPC Cruz had sending an empty foot locker home to his wife, who would then return it full of food. “Good plan” I replied, putting my pen and paper back down. “You guys should be fine.” I then pretended the phone line was going bad and hung up.



***SPC Cruz with his survival stash***

Finally this week, we are happy to report that SGT Robles’ Army Commendation Medal from his last unit arrived in the mail here

at FOB Speicher. Reading the award certificate, it’s obvious that SGT Robles did the same outstanding job in his last unit that he does for us in Node Center 51 here in Alpha Company. It was a great honor for me to pin a medal on this outstanding Noncommissioned Officer. Everyone raise a can of your favorite nonalcoholic malt beverage in a toast to a job well done.



***The dashing and debonair SGT Robles receiving his award***

Alpha Company will make sure it takes all steps necessary to see a peaceful Iraqi transition, for both human and insect inhabitants. After the 30<sup>th</sup> of June this will be a sovereign nation, and a good source of income for any fledgling country is tourism. I can tell you, sitting outside in the afternoon watching the sun bake the HESCO barriers and wondering how hot it has to get before the air actually bursts into flames, there’s no doubt where I think you should be. I don’t know what you’re waiting for. Wish you were here, XOXOXO

## Bravo Company

Greetings from FOB Warhorse!! It has been a pretty good week for us here in paradise. As the temperatures continue to rise, everyone continues to soldier on, doing what is required of them everyday. Last Saturday morning we finally promoted PFC James to the rank of SPC. Newly promoted SPC James has been doing an outstanding job in making sure Node Center 52 is always performing at its best.



*Congratulating SPC James on his promotion*

We also had some time to continue working on the little things to make our area a little better. We have been conducting some police calls, and some general site maintenance. It has been going good, every little thing we do, turns out to be a great improvement.



*SGT Hauge checking some cables*



*SFC Teriipaia and SFC Caldwell cleaning up*



*Ssg Spradley does his part*

Not everyone is cleaning up and performing site maintenance, there is some work going, although you would not have guessed it by the one photo from the motorpool. But I did catch at least one person doing some work in there, or I caught him sleeping, I could not tell from my angle. Even LT Kato was spotted doing some work.



*They look pretty comfortable*



*SPC Kublis either hard at work or hardly working*



*LT Kato mesmerized by his computer*

Of course not everyone is doing work I just happened to catch LT Bagocsi, trying to catch Skittles in his mouth from LT Kato. Afterwards LT Kato was bold enough to sit around with his feet up on a desk. He just did not have his feet up on any desk either, he had his feet propped up on the 1SGs desk. I guess I need to find more work for these guys.



*LT Bagocsi catching skittles from LT Kato. "Open wide"*



*LT Kato chillin' out on the 1SG's desk.  
"Man I sure am comfortable"*

We also had a new addition to the Orderly room this week. SGT Hess is filling for SSG Schmidt, while he is recovering from his wounds. SGT Hess is working hard and is a fast learner, so far the Orderly room has not skipped a beat. SSG Schmidt is doing fine, after a brief stay at Landstuhl, they gave him 15 days of recovery leave, he has since went on leave to the states, to see his wife in Arizona.



*SGT Hess*

I am sure many of you have been watching the news and have seen what happened here on Thursday in Baqubah, and I know all of you are concerned on the well-being of you loved ones. Everyone here is fine and in good spirits. There was some pretty bad fighting, most of it took place

away from locations where Bravo Company soldiers are located.

Well that is about it for this week. Please continue all of the support you have shown, it really, really does help and everyone here appreciates everything you do. This week I will leave you with a photo of a thermometer of the current temperatures. Take care and have a great week!! WISH YOU WERE HERE!!!



### **Charlie Company**

Greetings family and friends of Charlie Rock. Another hot yet safe week here on FOB Danger for our soldiers has passed, and I would like to share some of the great things our soldiers did.

Guarding this Forward Operating Base (FOB) is a big job, and our Charlie Rock soldiers play a key part in it. There are numerous guard towers and entry points to the base. Below is SPC Stadtler guarding Tower 7 with the city of Tikrit right behind him.



*SPC James Stadtler pulling tower guard.*

The soldiers pull another guard duty at the "Horse Gate", named

after the famous statue of Sadaam Hussein on a horse that the soldiers of 3ID pulled down when they stormed the palace grounds. SPC Almirol is pulling overwatch guard as an Iraqi man is patted down before entry onto the base. SPC Almirol has her long hair down in braids so when Iraqi women come through, they are sure a female soldier is patting them down.



*SPC Nichelina Almirol pulling overwatch guard at the Horse Gate.*

SSG Dennis Markie made the switch from 2<sup>nd</sup> PLT to 1<sup>st</sup> PLT this week, and has taken control of the Technical Control Facility in the DMAIN. He has quickly learned much of the commercial equipment we are trying to install, and has proven to be a definite asset to his new platoon. Thanks for your hard work, SSG Markie! Our cable dawgs were also very busy this week running fiber and cables from rooftop to rooftop across this FOB to make our new commercial equipment work. Although their high-flying adventures climbing up and down ladders keeps them outside in the heat, their job satisfaction is high as they ensure phone services to our customers.



*SGT Elisa Dornquast prepares fiber cable to string across the gorge to the building behind her in the photo. The city of Tikrit is in the background behind the wall.*

Although we have a 24-hour communications mission here, we still make time to train on the skills we need to keep us sharp. This week, 1LT Chris Nagelvoort, Company XO, led a very intense Convoy Procedures and IED Reaction class, complete with classroom and hands on training. It is so important to train new members of our convoy team that volunteered for the duty to ensure everyone knows how to react and what to do in all kinds of situations on the road.



*SPC Deller, SSG Livingston, PFC Felder, PFC Bowser, SGT Webley, and SSG Morehouse are paying attention as CPT Longwill leads a block of instruction on convoy briefs and procedures.*

Another type of training we are conducting this weekend is SMART-T training. SMART-T stands for Secure, Mobile, Anti-jamming, Reliable Tactical Terminal, and is a satellite terminal we use extensively throughout the

Area of Operations when the shelters are further apart than the radio range. Charlie Rock soldiers are teaching the class both in a classroom and on a satellite terminal in order to share knowledge through practical application on the equipment.



*SPC James Stadler instructs soldiers of C/121 and A/115 on the SMART-T.*

We are still looking for a new Family Readiness Group leader to take the reigns in August. If you are interested, please feel free to e-mail me at [dawn.longwill@us.army.mil](mailto:dawn.longwill@us.army.mil) to let me know. We really appreciate all the love and support you show our Rock soldiers. Continue to keep us all in your thoughts and prayers. Until next week - ROCK STEADY!

## HHC

Hi everybody, hope you all are enjoying the summer high life. In Iraq this week again it is hot with no rain in sight anywhere. Temperatures are now averaging about 115 degrees a day and night, well, it is still warm. This week I have a special story for you from G6:

**Tales from the wild side:**  
So I (CPT Conner) am sitting in my room the other night, calmly reading my book, when this rodent pops his head out around my footlocker to look at me. Well, I don't waste any time and immediately do what any self-respecting strong Army female

would do: I went into the other room and asked the males to come get the rat/mouse/whatever. MAJ McCaffery told me to go watch it and make sure that it doesn't leave my room. Well, I go back into my room and watch from the top of my bed as this huge, prehistoric rat the size of a small dog comes tearing out of my room and into the hallway. "He escaped my room" I called out. Meanwhile, MAJ McCaffery has grabbed a wooden Kung Fu stick and is standing on one side of the cabinet in the hallway and hands me a light aluminum pole about the size of a ruler. "What do I do with this?" I ask. Bash the rat when he comes towards you, was the reply- yeah right. So I am standing there, hopping from foot to foot, making small movements back towards my room as MAJ McCaffery makes lunges towards the cabinet and bangs periodically with his stick. The rat manages to evade him and runs to the other side of the hallway. CPT Dooley has come by this point with the other Kung Fu stick and is at the other end of the cabinet banging his stick around. I meanwhile am hanging out in the back with my aluminum pole asking periodically if they got him. At one point I show off my 9.2 point vertical freestyle leap as I cleverly manage to escape the evil orange peel that has rolled toward me. By this point I have moved into the guy's room to supervise from afar and to make sure that the rat does not move further into the house. Meanwhile, LT Jones and CW2 offer stage advice from the top of their nice, safe, beds, which sounds a little like laughing taunts directed towards me. But two such fine, brave soles would never laugh at a female in distress. After much banging of sticks, and one mighty blow by MAJ McCaffery, who swears that he did major damage to the tail of the rat, the rat escaped into places that rats only

know about and we could find him no more. Final outcome- Rat-7 Tiki House Gang-0

### Day 2 (New Weapons)

Last night at approximately 0130 MAJ McCaffery returned to the Tiki house to hear scratching noises coming from the Dooley AO. Further investigation confirmed that a large predator rat had been trapped in a glue trap left by CPT Dooley earlier that evening. While all the Tiki house residents offered support from their bunks, MAJ McCaffery killed and disposed of the rodent with a standard M1A1 Army cot pole. Based on the autopsy it is believed that the rat had been subsisting on CW Rucker's supply of non-illegal steroid-like mega muscle mass formula. Services will be held later today at the Tiki Temple and the rat has been deposited in Tiki Memorial Gardens. THE END.

This week we are finally seeing the end to HHC's Office building. Even though we are short a few sheets of plywood for the inside we are going to move in and get out of this hot tent we are in now.



To give you an example of how hot it is down here, we have two air conditioners in our tent. The temperature is still around 90 degrees. G6 this week installed three radio re-transmitters giving the Divisions radios a much needed boost in range. Here are a few pictures from our trip on

installing the transmitters at various locations.



*(Brassfield - Mora)*



*Left to Right: SPC Grinage, SPC Shepard, SSG Barreto, SGT Monlina, SPC Leddick(C/711), SPC McNamee, ISG Cromartie, SPC Marquis, and SPC Bowen*

The HHC Convoy team seen here is taking a much needed break from the heat. This week we also received more R&R slots, looking more like most of us will get R&R. If your loved one will be going on R&R during July they already know and should have contacted you. The Division is doing everything it can to try and get us out on R&R. This week we also received a visit recon from our replacements. We were able to provide them with allot of useful information to prepare in their upcoming deployment to here Iraq. One last picture here of the wonderful S3 getting out one last change to the QTB (Quarterly Training Brief), which we have to the ADC-S this weekend. We all hope there are no more

changes!



*MAJ Withee, BN S3*

I hope you all have a great week, see you next week. Okay one more; the calm before the heat wave starts in the morning is a beautiful sunrise.



### A/115th SIG

This week at FOB Danger, another MWR (Morale Welfare Recreation) competition drew several soldiers from Alpha Company of the 115<sup>th</sup> Signal Battalion. The individuals participated in the 3 Point Shootout on Wednesday the 23<sup>rd</sup> of June. Sergeant Joel Elston of the 115<sup>th</sup> took first place, with a composite score of 31 in three rounds. When asked why he decided to enter the contest, he replied: "I felt like it was good to all get together and compete in a way to boost morale."

17 other soldiers from FOB Danger took their shot at this MWR sponsored event. Sergeant Elston made nine shots in the first round, 11 shots in the second round, and 11 more in the final round to sure up his victory. "The reason I went as far as I did was

consistency. I had pretty good numbers in each round,” said Sergeant Elston.

For his efforts, Sergeant Elston won an authentic vase that he is very sure his wife will love. This soldier has been a member of the Alabama Army National Guard for 18 years. At home in Alabama, he has a wife and two daughters waiting. Operation Iraqi Freedom II is his first deployment.

### C/711th SIG

Members of 2nd platoon have been busy tearing down and rebuilding Node Center 15.



Just to give you a little history, when we arrived at Camp McKenzie we had no tools to work with. All of our construction tools were on the connex, which arrived three months after we arrived on site. The first challenge was to get some type of shelter for the Node Center so that the equipment could stay cool. The second challenge was to find material to build with. After a week of recon activities, the first shelter was built complete with air conditioners installed. This building served the purpose for about two months then it began to deteriorate. LT Albritton along with SFC Jenkins decided that the building needed to be replaced. SSG John Odom was the designer of the new shelter. During this planning stage, somehow there was a second building thrown in and somebody said it was going to be an office for SFC Sam Jenkins & LT Randy Albritton. Anyway, 2nd Platoon has two new buildings that

are almost complete. The buildings will be completed by the end of this week. Node Center personnel will have more space along with a tighter seal on this structure, which will keep out that deadly enemy called dust.



Listed are the guys that pitched in during duty hours and their off hours. SPC Hussar, SPC Glass, SPC Floyd, SPC Dailey, SPC Hurd, SPC Taylor & SPC Miller, SGT Bryars, SGT Thomaston, SFC Stanberry, and SFC Moore.



LT Albritton showed off his skills by hammering with his left hand and hitting the nail every now and then. Even CPT Shirah showed off his skills, he can only nail stuff if it is on the floor. SFC Jenkins was only good for bringing wood from the pile to the building. LT Kizer is the guy that got the material to do all of this building, so with a team like this how could we go wrong. If all goes well we will have a nice place to celebrate the 4th of July.

### B/279th SIG

4 July 2004

#### “Independence Day”

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness.” Our forefathers wrote these words 228 years ago in our nation’s Declaration of Independence.

Many of the ideals--such as freedom, safety, and happiness--that we fought for so long ago are rights that the Iraqi people still did not have two years ago.

We have met Iraqi citizens whose family members were killed by Saddam or his Republican Guard. We complain about our court system, but it would not tolerate such disregard for life.

As we have traveled throughout Iraq, we have seen true poverty. The Iraqi people have suffered financial loss under the tyranny of the former regime. Even in recession, our lives are not affected the way these people’s lives have been. It will be years before many of them have a life that is more than surviving.

We so often fail to appreciate the intangibles of freedom that the fathers of our great nation fought and died for. But as we see the remnant of life without freedom, our freedoms become oh so dear to us. They become a part of us that we can never take for granted again.

Happy Independence Day from Company B, 279th Signal Battalion, in Iraq.

## B/125th SIG

This week I want to talk about a small extension node team (SEN) that has not gotten enough attention. The busiest team in the company has been G43, a SEN team from NC63. The team is made up of SGT Schrekengost (team chief, commonly referred to as Schrek since he looks like the ogre in the movie), SGT Buckingham, SPC Link, SPC Ross, SPC Richardson, PFC Wyman has traveled from Kuwait to Northern Iraq and back south again. The team has been so far removed from the company that they had to learn to support themselves and operate without company support or supervision.



*SPC Link and SPC Ross*

The teams ended their mission south of the company area of responsibility this past week and are moving back north to the company area. This is a quick review of their story.

SGT Shrekengost (Shrek) led his team of merry men north from



*SGT Shrekengost*

Kuwait. The first thing they did was increase the weight of their

vehicles by about 10,000 lbs to protect them against enemy attack. They were never attacked because the vehicles were so heavy they never made it out of Kuwait and had to be towed all the way to northern Iraq. We are only kidding, his team traveled safely on their own but did look funny with the bumpers dragging from the sandbags piled into the trucks. The team traveled to Kirkuk Iraq and established themselves in direct support of 2-11 Field Artillery. After only a few weeks, maybe only one week, the 2-11 Field Artillery decided they wanted the support from the SEN to move to a small town to the north of Kirkuk in a river valley. So, happy and eager, G43 moves north and re-establishes themselves in another location in another town. Because of the new location a satellite team had to be provided with the SEN to allow them to interface with the rest of the signal company. 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division was able to support this requirement, but 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division could not and when they arrived in March they decided that G43, our poor team of ragged travelers, would now move down south to support a 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division unit.



*CPT Campbell and SGT Scheckengost promoting PFC Ross to the rank of SPC.*

Not so eager or happy to be moving a third time, the team moved to a new location south of Tikrit named Forward Operating Base Brassfield-Mora. Remember,

every time this team moved the mail and some of their other gear had to catch up. SGT Buckingham had been lifting weights and drinking weight gainer shakes and had actually outgrown his uniforms. He got so large that he had to take four uniforms and re-sew them into two and put an order in for two more. This order for an extra two uniforms became a major problem that should have been easy to solve if the team had been still under the company footprint.

Prior to traveling south, G43 had to pick up a 30 meter antenna and get a crash course in its installation. This antenna would be required to establish a line of sight radio link from their new base.



*CPT Campbell and SGT Scheckengost*

SGT Scheckengost and his team arrived at Brassfield after a many day journey and began establishing themselves and providing support to the infantry battalion and the rest of the forward operating base. We visited the team after 90 days and were taken back by the austere conditions of the base. This did not stop Link, Ross, Richardson and Wyman from making it home. While at Brassfield the team built the best overhead protection and air conditioned work areas of any



*G43 shelter with overhead cover*  
site we have visited. The work was done completely by the team and was impressive to see. We also promoted PFC Ross to Specialist and distributed some of the Army's new gear to the team.



*PFC Duran in front of R50 and G43 sign. The sign says:*  
**WARNING!**  
R50 - G43  
Compound  
- Unauthorized personnel will be beaten severely I.A.W. AR 1-87 Pustasos  
- Clearance Required

This past week team has been replaced by a team from another company within the Signal Battalion. SGT Schrekengost is on leave and the relief in place was headed up by SGT Buckingham. G43 is not on their way back to the Division Headquarters to become a standby team for the signal battalion. We appreciate the work they did and the reputation they built while supporting 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division.



*CPT Campbell reenlisting SSG Bracewell*



*SGT Camacho and SGT Atkinson from B/125 posing for a quick pic*

## Chaplain

Do you remember the movie Chariots of Fire? It's the story of Eric Liddell and his competition in the 1924 Olympics held in Paris, France. A world-class runner in the 100 Meter Sprint, Liddell was Scottish and was Scotland's greatest hope for bringing home the Gold Medal. As the story unfolds, we find out that Liddell was also a Christian who firmly held to the values his faith possessed. He felt a calling to be a missionary to China and would, in fact, fulfill that calling after the Olympics. Eric Liddell is so committed to his faith that he even refuses to run in the trials for his event because they were scheduled on a Sunday. Instead, he runs in another event, the 400 Meter, and shocks the world by winning the Gold.

However, it was before his journey to Paris that he has a conversation with his sister, Jenny,

which really points out his commitment to and understanding of God. When Jenny discovers that Eric is putting off going to China so he can run in Paris, she pleads with him not to waste his time because God's calling is higher. It is here, that Eric Liddell turns to his sister and says, "Jenny, I don't know if you can understand this or not, but I love to run. You see, Jenny, God made me fast. And when I run...I feel His pleasure."

Do you feel God's pleasure in your life? What has God created you to do? I know there are many people who paint a picture of a God who is angry with us or one who is looking for a reason to punish us. However, the Bible tells us in Psalm 149:4, "For the LORD takes delight in his people; he crowns the humble with salvation." In other words, God enjoys fellowship with you. He has blessed you with, among other things, abilities that when you use them to His honor, brings Him pleasure. And if God is pleased with you, you feel it.

Do want to feel God's pleasure? If so, then discover what it is God has for you to do...and simply do it. Run, and run fast!



*MAJ Self reenlisting SPC Store*