



Monthly Updates:

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121 Family Times

121 Signal Battalion Task Force Lightning

...Letter From the Editor....

Our goal is to continue to provide you with as much information as we possibly can about the events within the community as well as in the battalion. If you have any suggestions for future newsletters or things you would like to see added, please feel free to contact me at michele.carter@1id.army.mil. We are here to better help you help yourself.

Michele Carter...Family Readiness Liaison

From the "bunker" of 'Task Force Lightning 7' ...

For what it's worth I will say up front that I am not an English major or an editor of a newspaper, at best, Clark Kent without the super powers, so if I make a mistake here or there, I'm sure someone will point it out. I just hope the meat of this column won't get lost in the place setting. When Mrs. Carter approached me and asked if I would like to write a column for the Task Force Lightning newsletter, I thought to myself she must almost be at the bottom of the barrel if she's asking me to write something where someone will actually take time and read it. I pondered about what to write that would be both beneficial to the Soldier and Family members; what would motivate, inspire, and provide hope. I thought about this for several days on my own without making any headway. So, as I was driving home last night I talked to the man upstairs, as I often do, and asked Him for a little push in the right direction. When I finally made it home, I sat down and flipped on the T.V. to hear the latest news CNN was announcing. It was about another soldier being wounded in Baghdad. I had just spent the past three hours helping a soldier who had a close relative pass away and a spouse who had received some bad news about a health condition that re-occurred. I thought to myself that this day just wasn't going to end on a good note.

After picking through the paperwork I brought home, I noticed that I had accidentally picked up a binder from CSM Butler's office which was a compilation of letters from soldiers that served in the 1st Signal Company in World Wars I and II. The 1st Signal Company was later re-designated 121st Signal Battalion in 1957. Bravery and camaraderie are told in as much detail as was the fear and horror that each of these young men faced in the liberations of Aisne-Marne and Meuse-Argonne, Sicily, the invasions of Normandy, Tunisia, and now Iraq.

In each of the letters I read, they tell of how they joined or were drafted into the military and how they depended on each other to get through what seemed to be an insurmountable day. One story told of how two close friends, who were wire-installers during WWII, were taking a break trying to make each other laugh when they came under fire from enemy artillery. When the firing had stopped, only one of them was quick enough to dive for cover.

The one thing that is common of all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines is that they have faith in GOD, their country, and each other. In that faith, there is strength. Where there is faith, there will be hope. "People sleep peaceably in their beds at night because there are great men and women who stand ready to do violence on their behalf," *George Orwell*. The soldiers of the 121st Signal Battalion "Danger's Voice " are doing just that today as Soldiers before them have done. They are ensuring that the "Emily's", "Nyah's", and "Marcus's" of the world have a safe place to grow up and enjoy the freedoms that are sometimes taken for granted.

My heart and prayers go out to the Soldier, who is always there, day or night, rain or shine, defending freedom and democracy. To the family members who have a loved one deployed away from home, I ask that you bond together and keep the faith until your soldier returns. "Do well the duty that lies before you."

---SFC Young



SPEAK OUT

BATTALION CORNER

Here's what's happening in your local FRG.

HHC: Come join us for Brunch at the DFAC every Saturday at 1030. Amanda Bard is organizing a "Mommy & Me" group, contact her for more information (09321-924-389). Ann Saunders has arranged for our first "Adult Dinner Out." Contact her for the details at 09321-926-231.

A Co.: 6 Apr 04, Pot-luck FRG Meeting at 1830, the Yellow Ribbon Room on Leighton Barracks. A special thanks to all of you who donated to the care packages for the deployed single soldiers.

B Co.: Welcome aboard to Mrs. Daniella Hess and Mrs. Monique Thompson. They have graciously accepted the rewarding challenge of leading our FRG.

C Co.: No plans on Friday night? The C Co FRG collectively decided after the deployment that Friday nights were a good time to get together. We have now had 2 great meetings at the Division's Yellow Ribbon Room in which we shared Mexican and Italian potluck style dinners. I know one thing our spouses are missing at home here and that is good food. We have a lot of talented chefs who donate their time to share with others.

We nearly ran out of both time and energy to get out all of the important information at our last meeting. As a result, we are going easy on the food in April and having an appetizers evening. We will conduct a mini fundraiser (more details to follow) and look at some pictures from downrange. The meeting is at the C Co Classroom on Larson at 6:30 pm on 16 April 04.

Our FRG continues to grow with new spouses participating each month. In April we will focus on getting Bravo Company's 2nd platoon fully welcomed into the Company just as the platoon is downrange at FOB Danger. We are also glad that each week more stateside family members join in via the internet to encompass all of our families.

I want to take a minute to thank Nancee McAteer for the yellow ribbons and pins she donated and Bianka Nethery for her hard work in making the ribbons and donating items for our Homecoming project. Richard Cushing gets a special thanks for cleaning up the kitchen at the last meeting. Another thank you goes to our teenagers who help take care of the little ones at the meetings.

Again, hope to see everyone in April.



Internet Café
24/7
Located by Staff
Duty Desk
E-mail spouse in Iraq
for free!



**Walk to Iraq
(and Back)**

Be sure to **turn** your miles into your company representative at the end of **every** month.

Hello & Goodbye

**New to the Family...
Go out of your way and
say hello!!!**

It was the best of times.

- | | |
|------------------------|---------------------------|
| ● PV2 Jessica Barnett | ● SSG Christopher Bozeman |
| ● PV2 Brian Frank | ● SPC Brenda Cady |
| ● SGT David Marbut | ● SPC Kevin Caldwell |
| ● PFC Jeffery Porter | ● SFC Matthew Hayes |
| ● 2LT Kattiya Urbanski | ● SGT Alain Labbe |
| ● SSG Marlin White | ● SPC Tarsha Moore |

Community Events

April Events

- 3:** Battalion Easter Egg Hunt at 1000
- 5-9:** DODDS Spring Break
- 7:** Klaushof Animal Park Visit (Contact Leisure Travel at 09321-305-8629 for more information)
- 8:** Rothenberg City Tour (Contact Leisure Travel)
- 10:** Easter 5k Fun Run at Larson Barracks
- 11:** Easter Egg Hunt at 1300 (behind Wurzburg PX)
- 16:** Battalion Aerobics at Larson Fitness Center at 1030 (with Mrs. Prudhomme)
- 17:** Czech Tour (Contact Leisure Travel)
- 19-23:** Earth Week Events (Contact Angelika at 351-4732 for more information)
- 19-21:** Spring Clean-up
- 21:** Kitzingen Town Hall Meeting
- 23:** Battalion Trip to Amsterdam (Contact your FRG Leader for more information)
- 24:** Lego Land Trip (Contact Leisure Travel)

HHC



Alpha Company



Bravo Company



Charlie Company



Parenting Events

- **April 3 & 17:** All Leighton CDC and CYS Centers open from 1200-1600
- **April 5, 12, 19 & 26:** "Lunch & Learns" from 1130-1300 at the Leighton Chapel (Contact 0931-889-7103 for more information)
- **April 20:** "The Parenting Journey" for first time mothers (Contact Anne Cohn at 0931-804-3713 for more information)
- "I'm Temporarily a Single Parent" Support Group meet on Tuesdays from 1000-1100 at Bldg 94 on Larson (Contact Juanita Evans at 09321-702-3208 for more information)
- **New Parent Education & Support Program** offers a variety of programs (Contact Juanita Evans for more information)
- "Healthy Pregnancy, Healthy Baby" seminars (Contact the Red Cross for more information)

Free Childcare, if registered with CYS!! Contact 0931-889-7103

Parents Night Out Projected Dates:

May 15	Jun 19
Aug 21	Sep 18
Nov 20	

Opportunities to Serve

- Interested in volunteering? Contact **Elizabeth White** at 0931-889-7103 to register.
- For **volunteer opportunities**, contact your local Red Cross Office.
- **Coaches** needed (no experience necessary), Contact **Vince Sciuto** at 09321-702-3217/0170-316-3767
- **FFC providers** needed. Contact the FCC Office at 09321-702-2817 for more information.

CYS Leap Program
(for ages 3-5)
April 5-May 17
(For more information, contact 09321-305-7407)

Fitness Co-op
Mon, Tues & Thurs, from 0900-1100 at Larson Fitness Center (Point of contact is Rachel Gallagher at 09321-927543)

Did you know...

- ...that E-4 and below can receive **10 free** hours of childcare a month? All you need to do is register your child(ren) at Central Registration. Contact them at 09321-702-2876/2812 for further details.
- ...that SAS (School Age Services) provides **5 free** hours of care a month, regardless of rank? Contact Central Registration to register your child(ren) and take advantage of this opportunity.
- ...that ACS (Army Community Services) offers a wide variety of classes from German and English classes to computer applications such as Microsoft, Excel, and Power point? These classes are offered at **no charge** to you. Contact ACS at 09321-702-2848 for a list of classes offered along with the dates and times.
- ...that you may be able to use Space A travel when planning a trip to the States? Before you buy a ticket, contact your FRL for details pertaining to Space A travel.
- ...that the IACS (Installation Access Control System) has begun? If you have not registered, you need to contact 09321-702-2384 (Larson), 09321-305-7372 (Harvey), or 0931-889-6384 (Leighton) for an appointment.

Check It Out:

•Check out the **Summer Hire Program** for family members between the ages of 14-23 at: www.chrma.hqusa.army.mil

•Want to **post messages** to loved ones **downrange**? Check out: www.vcorps.army.mil or www.1id.army.mil

•Have a **question** and would like assistance 24-hours a day? Check out Army One Source at: www.armyonesource.com (user id: army & password: onesource)

•Check out **Army Families Online** at: www.wbto.org

•Check out **Blue Star Mothers** at: www.bluestarmothers.org

•...that you can get your visiting family members an installation pass for up to 60 days? You can call 09321-305-7372 (Harvey) for an appointment. Be sure to inquire as to the necessary documentation you may need to provide.

•...that if you have a death in the family or an emergency, you can contact the Red Cross to get the message downrange? Contact the Red Cross at 09321-702-2478/2696, or the 24-hour emergency number is 07031-15-334. Please inform your FRL as well.

...that you can pick up your spouse's LES at the battalion? Contact your FRL to make arrangements.

•...that the battalion provides "hard copies" of the *Desert Voice*? If you cannot open the attachments on your email, contact Michele Carter at 09321-702-2748 to get a copy.

• ...that the **extended vehicle registrations** are at the battalion? If you have not picked yours up, contact your FRL.