



4-3 ADA BN

“I Yield Not, I Strike”

Battalion Newsletter
April 2004

You can view the 4-3 ADA Battalion Newsletter as well as photographs from the deployment online at - <http://www.11D.Army.mil/4-3/FRG.html>



Greetings to Soldiers, Family Members and Friends of the I Strike Battalion,

We finally arrived in Tikrit, Iraq at the beginning of March and have now almost completed the process of settling in for the full length of the deployment. The trip here from Kuwait was very successful, with no serious incidences except for the vehicle accident right outside Camp Udairi. The three soldiers, SPC Patrick Kenney, SPC Kenneth Bell, and SGT Cecil Copeland have all recovered from the incident and will return to us shortly. God has truly blessed this unit and we are very fortunate that our men and women arrived safely to Tikrit. We are now currently beginning to develop a daily routine, what we call in the Army a Battle Rhythm.

In order to begin that process we first held a ceremony where we uncased the battalion colors and revealed them to our new location. At that ceremony a number of soldiers were recognized for their outstanding accomplishments in helping the I Strike Battalion arrive here. From SPC Robert Hicks, whose tireless dedication providing mechanical assistance to the vehicles in Kuwait was instrumental in their ability to make the long road march to Tikrit, to PVT Madison Robinson, whose courage and quick-thinking helped lead to the speedy evacuation of the soldiers injured in the vehicle accident outside Camp Udairi, a number of soldiers were decorated with Army Commendation Medals and Battalion Coins.

The next step in the process of developing our Battle Rhythm came in the form of the Transfer of Authority (TOA) Ceremony with the unit we replaced, 1-44 ADA. At this ceremony, 4-3 ADA received its mission and officially relieved 1-44. So now here we are today, providing force protection for the entire Forward Operating Base (FOB) DANGER. Our mission carries with it both weight and importance, as we control the gates of the FOB and provide a safe haven for all of the military units and civilians who live here.

Rest assured your soldiers are already conducting themselves with the highest regard and are setting the standard for conduct on the FOB, and as I always say, I could not be more proud than to lead a finer group of Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers through such a lengthy and difficult mission. To help them accomplish this, they all rely on you their family members. Please continue to send letters, emails, and care packages because when they receive them the soldiers are guaranteed to smile, and this helps the time when they can return home safely come more quickly.

On a final note, I want to address the issue of the rumor mill. The FRG and the Rear Detachment are two very valuable tools for support and for information on your family members who are currently deployed here in Iraq. The rumor mill is not a reliable source of information and should be avoided at all costs. If you hear anything that sounds suspect, simply contact the Rear Detachment for verification. Please continue to use the tools we have put in place for you to stay in contact with your deployed family members. Thank you.

Take care and God Bless,

LTC James E. Spurrier
I STRIKE!!!

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Command Sergeant Major's

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Hello " I STRIKE " family. We hope all of you back in Kitzingen are doing very well and your activities are enjoyable. The leaders here in the 4-3 ADA area of operations wish you all the very best in all that you do and remain safe always. This sounds like a recording, but the soldiers are doing great things for the Battalion, 1st Infantry Division, and the U.S. Army here. We definitely miss our loved ones and are remaining combat focused on our current mission. Our loves will always be on our minds and hopefully the rear detachment leaders are ensuring that all is well back in Kitzingen. Soldiers can perform their combat mission at maximum potential knowing that our family members and loved ones are being supported in every way possible. Rear detachment leaders are preparing our soldiers and their family members in the rear for the soldiers' transition to a combat environment.

The "I STRIKE" soldiers are performing their duties very well here. I ask the family members to support your loved ones with educational material such as books, magazines, hometown, city, or state newspapers, ASVAB books, and etc. The soldiers might not want to mention this, but the time is available to enhance their education. We do not have an education facility here for the soldiers to increase their General Technical (GT) score or maximize their time on the WEB sites to complete correspondence courses in a timely manner yet, so they appreciate any educational material in this theater of operation. Thanks.

The leadership welcomes all new unaccompanied and accompanied soldiers with their family members to the 4-3 ADA family. Hopefully, our sponsorship program made your transition to Germany a very successful one and will continue to make this move satisfactory. We also bid farewell to the soldiers and family members who contributed greatly to the success of the battalion; you definitely made a difference, thank you. We wish you all the very best in your future endeavors; our thoughts and wishes are with you always.

Congratulations to the parents of new babies, wedding anniversaries, and all other significant events such as promotions, birthdays, and etc. The same goes to single and unaccompanied married soldiers. Happy Easter to you all.

The norm " I STRIKE " family: be safety conscious 24/7. Take care of yourselves and your family members. I wish you all a healthy, happy, and blessed day everyday. "DO the DOs and DON'T DO the DON'Ts.

ROGER A. CHASE
CSM, USA
I STRIKE, DUTY FIRST

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Chaplain's Corner



Each day we are all aware of the many stressors that pervade our life. These stressors come in a variety of ways. Sometimes it is waking our kids up for the third time to ensure that they get to the bus on time, or it might be receiving an unexpected bill in the mail, and of course the daily stress of being away from our loved ones during this deployment. At times, these stressors can build up and cause us to be frustrated, angry, or worried.

The apostle Peter gives us a remedy to use when we find ourselves in these situations. He tells us that we can cast all of our cares, hurts, worries and concerns on God. We can come to God with anything and everything no matter the hour. He is on duty 24 hours a day and best of all, He hears our prayers immediately. You do not have to worry if there is a delay or if the connection is down, or be concerned that the call will not go through. He is always available.

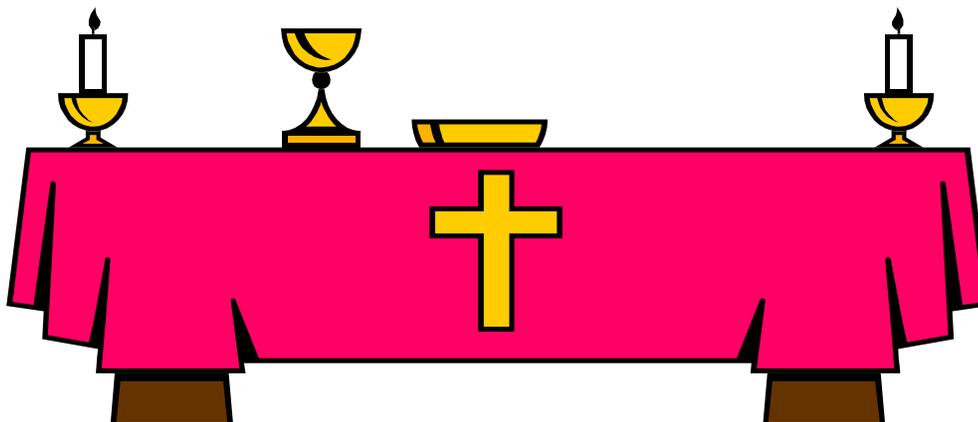
In addition, the second portion of the verse is the most important. We can cast all of our anxieties on Him, because He loves us. What an incredible feeling to know that He is not only always there for us, but that He loves us. The God of all creation loves *you* and is intimately concerned with whatever *you* are going through.

So, as we go through the ups and downs of this deployment, as we experience the times of frustration and stress, and when it appears that there is no one to talk to or turn to, just remember that God is right there waiting for you. Give Him a call. He is only a prayer away.

May God's richest blessings be upon you,

CH (CPT) Lane J. Creamer.

I Peter 4: 7 "... casting all your anxiety on Him, because He cares for you."



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THE SABER TEAM

Greetings from the Sabers in Tikrit, IRAQ,

Let me be the first to congratulate my Hoah's, for they were the first "I Strike" soldiers to enter Iraq. The approach march was a three-day marathon; but thanks to the hard work and dedication from every Saber, Dog and Black Lion soldier on our team, we accomplished the mission without any major incidents. I believe special recognition goes to my wrench turners in Motors. They worked a 24-hour shift for the two days prior to departing Kuwait to ensure that every vehicle was in the best possible shape to accomplish the journey. My "I can do any mission required" cook section proved to everyone that they can show their war face as good as any other soldier in the Battalion. The Early Warning platoon proved that they were TEAM focused by splitting up their sections to better support the Battery mission. Our special guests from Bravo and Delta provided some extra firepower and night vision capabilities during the night movements. A job well done by all!!!

Our major focus this month was to relieve the 4-ID and assume control of FOB Danger and OBJ Midland. We also dispersed the radar teams through out the Iraqi theatre in support of the Division HQ and its Brigades. We are poised and ready to do the mission we were sent here to accomplish! However, it would be criminal to say that we could have done this without the continued support of our families and also the rear detachment. Your continued support and reassurance was as much a part of our success as anything. Now, I would like to let my Hoah's express their personal feelings to everyone. Please enjoy these few messages from your soldiers:

MESSAGES FROM IRAQ

Greetings from FOB Danger, thanks for everything you have done. We all appreciate it and hope to see you soon.

SGT Peckham

To Jen and Andrew Pires, I miss you both very much and I think of you all the time,

CPT Pires

Sweetheart, I love you and be careful, Love always. Thanks for making things easy!

SSG Ellis

To my loving wife Anne, I am fine and I can not wait until we are united. Your loving husband,

SSG Sean Metzger

Just need some motorcross magazines down here, other then that it is Cancun,

SPC Gozzo

From the FOB Danger Family to the Rear-D Family, Thanks for all you do. We would not be successful without your undying support,

SSG Morrison

This is SPC Albano and I just want to say those things are going great, but I can't wait to come home!

SPC Albano

Love you Wabbi, It is like California with body armor. I miss your smile and I know you miss mine. Till we can hold each other again. Hugs,

SPC Keough

I DEMAND A RECOUNT!!!!!!!!!!!!
CPT Andrew Henning
FOB DANGER MAYOR

This is the easiest deployment I have ever been on!

SSG Leday

Rear-D, Thanks for the support and for taking care of our families.

CPT Mullen

Rebecca,
Only 14 months left!! I Love You,
SSG Miller

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Sherry and the Boy's,
I love and miss you. I hope
yall are doing O.K. Don't
worry about me I'm doing
O.K.
Love SFC Jon King

Scholz,
One more day gone and it is closer to
us buying our house in San Antonio.
Love G.C.
SFC Carreon

Hey, everything is good. We all
pulled together to form an awesome
team. I love you Felix, Shanae, and
Cameron,
SFC Johnson

Greetings, I would like to send my
best wishes and thanks to the people
of Germany for their support in
accomplishing our mission.
SPC Flores

I've never had so much rest, the
nights here are calm while on
shift. We can think all the
Soldiers and leaders on the
perimeter for their hard work and
keeping us safe,
CPT Davis
NIGHT BATTLE CPT

We all arrived in Iraq safely
traveling in a three day convoy. This
is directly attributed to each battery
maintenance sections. Outstanding
work!!
P.S. I love you Brenda and Kids,
CW1 McNeil

Val and Caity, I miss both of you a lot. We are
doing some great thing for the people of Iraq while
defending freedom. Don't believe in the rumors,
just know that we are safe and we are doing our
mission. We will be home sooner then you think.
Love you,
Leif / Daddy
SGT Ovaldson

We are Steadfast and it
is Hot!!!! I'm looking
forward to a cool night
with my family.
SPC Curtis

The sun is always shining, the
food is free and I am living in
a palace. Aside from my wife
here with me, what more
could I want. Don't worry
honey, everything here is
great. See you soon Ya
Hayatee,
1LT Diefenbach

I am getting a sun tan.
SGT Ramsay

Long days, short
nights and hard
work!!
SPC Baird

Bullets flying all around, Hold Your Head on to the Ground. To
the Love of My Life, My heart, My soul, My One True thing, I
LOVE YOU UNTIL THE END OF TIME! Keep holding it
together and tell my son and daughters I miss them also.
With Love from Iraq,
SSG Francis

To my lovin husband Victor, your
support has made each and every day
here that much easier to deal with
things. My day is complete each time I
have talked to you. Be sweet my OWL.
SSG Sunshine "Jackson" Canada

Iraq, I never want to
come "bacq".
SPC Bently

There is no insurmountable
barrier and there is no defeat
except from within.
"No es tan malo como pense"
WO1 Romero

The soldiers of HHB have stepped it up to make the mission here a success.
From every day maintenance and administrative work, to conducting routine
combat patrols to support our troops on OBJ Midland. HHB soldiers are
integrated, trained, and highly motivated in all aspects of the battalion
mission here in Iraq.
MAJ Brandt
BN S-3

So there I was rolling thru this
city of Bala Ruj when low and
behold we uncover a IED. You
should have seen these two
officers trying to blow this thing.
It was the funniest thing I have
ever seen. Don't get me wrong
this place is rough, but you gotta
have fun in all that you do. I
would not have done this with any
other platoon. I love you baby.
SSG Blair, EW 3rd Section

Driving in Iraq, only words
you need to remember, "Get
out the way punk!" I love
you guys.

SSG Smith, EW, 2nd
Section

I am proud to be serving with such a motivated and outstanding team. The young Sabers
motivate me every day to "Lead from the Front". Thanks to the Rear D team and families that
make this great mission such a success. To my lovely wife, I love you and miss you. To my
boys Anthony and Aaron keep doing the right thing and miss Sunday Football. To my lovely
daughter Angelica "I wuv you and daddy will be home soon, keep my side of the bed warm for
daddy.
"GO DALLAS COWBOYS"
1SG Dominguez
SABER 7

I hope everyone enjoyed this as much as I did. Believe me when I say that I have never served with such a motivated and exciting bunch of HOAH'S. It is a privilege for me to be associated with the Saber team. Together, we will continue to maintain the standards we have set, and build upon our experiences each and every day. Continue to stay in touch with your soldier, and if your soldier fails to call you regularly, please let me know and I will have the 1SG hunt them down and march them to the phone immediately. As for my message from Iraq, "Keep your spirits high and continue to build the Saber family team in the rear. We will make it home as soon as our mission is complete. And to my babies, Tyler and Brittney, be good and take care of your mom! To my best friend, Christa, I love you. Everyone stay strong together." Well, that's all for now. See you next month.

Sincerely,
CPT BIRD
SABER 6



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FRG LEADER'S DESK

Hello everyone,

I hope everyone is doing well. I would like again to extend an invitation out to everyone to come out and participate in the Alpha Archer FRG. It is a great way to meet other people and get information on what going on while your husband is in Iraq.

I would like also to encourage everyone to attend the monthly DFECA meeting this is the best way to obtain the latest updates on the happening in Iraq. Also at this meeting we will be able to view slides of our husbands and other soldiers in the Battery. A copy of the slides is available to anyone interested. Just notify SFC Zackery and he is more than happy to provide a copy.

Spring is here! What great time to get out and earn your miles? The Battery is participating in the Walk to Iraq program as a group. This means only 300 miles is required to get a T-shirt. To become involved with the Battery just start logging your miles. At our monthly FRG meetings we will post our miles logged. There are numerous ways to enjoy this program. Volksmarching, bike riding and shopping are some other ways to obtain miles. Sanctioned group events such as volksmarches will get you double miles. There is a volksmarch going on every weekend.

We are in the process of planning quarterly Battalion bingo events.

Don't forget about our FRG meetings every 1st Tuesday of the month at 1830 at the Alpha Battery Dayroom.

Start cleaning out your closets. The battery will be participating in the Flea Market hosted by the Jr. High Class at Wuerzburg High in May. Your donations will be much appreciated.

We will be gathering items to send to single soldiers care packages. These boxes will be sent around the 1st of May. Since the weather will be hot in Iraq please nothing that will melt.

Take Care and God Bless

Valerie Chisolm

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BLACK LIONS B/4-3 ADA



Commander's Notes

Since last month's newsletter, the battery has experienced more adventure and drama than most people see in their entire lives. As in last month's newsletter, I'd like to tell two stories that demonstrate just what kind of soldiers we have here in the Black Lion Battery. Each of these adventures proves that these men are top-notch professionals, well-trained, and ready for the missions handed to them.

Immediately after Convoy Live Fire in Kuwait we prepared to move north. After a few short days (too short), we started towards Iraq. As many of you know, we didn't get far from the front gate before one of our large trucks driven by SPC Bell and SGT Coplan was hit by a Kuwaiti dump truck. The driver and vehicle commander were flown out by MEDEVAC aircraft and SPC Kenney left in an ambulance. 1SG Stanley was unhurt (aside from some diesel stains on his uniform). The quick response of all the personnel involved was directly attributable to the outstanding training we received in Kuwait. In many ways, it was exactly how we rehearsed. SGT Coplan, SPC Bell, and SPC Kenney rejoined us a short time later in Iraq, recovering from their injuries and ready to contribute to the mission.

The second story also comes from the Approach March. While we were driving north of Baghdad on an autobahn-type highway, we came to a screeching halt in congested traffic. An IED had been found by the search teams a few miles ahead of us. All traffic was stopped while the experts destroyed the device. Not wasting any time, the battery immediately took over a section of the freeway, blocking all traffic. This "circling of the wagons" was also something we trained on at Convoy Live Fire. Our perimeter was well organized and the soldiers were magnificent. Despite being in the middle of unfriendly territory, we established our piece of terrain and prevented anybody from coming in. As 1SG said, "We own this road!"

Since our arrival in Tikrit we've had too many adventures to mention here. Despite the differing nature of these missions, one thing is consistent: training. The Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers are highly trained in a multitude of tasks that Air Defenders normally don't tackle. Even though we are now decisively engaged in providing force protection at FOB Danger, we'll continue to train to a high standard in order to accomplish our mission and keep every soldier safe. Thank you for your support!

1SG Stanley's Corner

Greetings to all from the Black Lion Estates in sunny Tikrit! The weather here is beautiful as I write this but the mid-afternoons have lately begun to speak to us of winds of change that will soon blow across the Forward Operating Base we call Danger. We are enjoying very comfortable cool mornings and warm afternoons but we know the future holds intense heat for us in a month or two.

Upon our arrival to our new AO we saw we would have a lot of work to do and everyone has been active in settling in and improving our living conditions. Consistent running water has been the biggest complaint thus far and a fix has been initiated in putting in new shower facilities just outside our compound. The support facilities are reasonable and the opening of the Internet Café after our first few days was a welcome addition. All the Black Lions are relishing the culinary expertise of Kellogg, Brown and Root three times a day (and some more than that, I think. We have a PT test scheduled for May!)

All told, our first couple of weeks have been very successful in assuming our mission and occupying our area of responsibility. Our soldiers are well trained and several incidents in the last few days have demonstrated the discipline and professionalism of the Black Lions to handle whatever comes our way. We have had some excitement at our gate but the calm response of our Officers, NCOs and soldiers in

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handling these situations is enough to make any one proud to be associated with the Black Lion Battery. The seriousness with which we have trained for and even now are executing this mission is our best ally. The danger is real but no one is better prepared to handle this mission than us. We ask for continued support from all our families in this deployment by a steady flow of communication and mail that is so important for our morale. Keep us in prayer as we stand vigilant through night and day on point for our nation.

Family Readiness Group Leader's Corner

Welcome to the Bravo FRG corner! First I would like to invite all of you to your monthly meetings they are held the First Tuesday of the month at 6:00 pm in the battery dayroom. Come out and meet some new people and see what is happening here and in Iraq. Our next meeting is on the 6th of April and Cpt. Henke will be sending photos so we can have a slide show. Also, Mr. Campos will be there to do a presentation on stress management. This should be a very informational meeting. I hope to see you all there.

Upcoming events:

- April 10th Easter party – egg hunt, face painting, games for the children and pictures with the Easter Bunny. (We do need volunteers – please contact me if you are interested)
- April 24th Yellow Ribbon tying – 11:00 am at the Motor Pool – Let's show our support and tie some yellow ribbons on post.
- May 15th We are looking at taking a trip to Geisselwind. (Confirmation and cost yet to be determined)

**Don't worry single soldiers we haven't forgotten about you.
If you would like to donate items to our single soldiers there is
a box at Staff Duty just for them. I will have a list of hard to
get items available at our next FRG meeting and have it
posted near the drop box.**

If you have any suggestions for trips or activities please contact me or stop by Staff Duty and drop off a note in the Bravo Idea Box.

Rose Scheffler
Bravo FRG Leader

Promotions
CPL J. Reed, 1 March

Re-enlistment
SSG Hicks, 6 Years
SSG Caudle, Indefinite

How to Simulate Living in Tikrit

1. Turn off the water at least twice a day; ensure one time is after PT when everybody needs a shower.
2. Disconnect your hot water heater so you can experience ice-showers instead of normal ones.
3. Take talcum powder and spread it over everything every day. Dust continuously with canned air.
4. Bend your bed in half and *then* sleep on it.
5. While you're sleeping have somebody stumble into your room every 3 hours, shine a light in your eyes and say "Sorry, wrong room!"
6. Walk around with two 15 pound weights on your chest and back. Wear a motorcycle helmet, even around your backyard.
7. Replace all your good coffee with instant coffee.
8. Place your new magazines in a closet for at least three weeks, and then read them.
9. Walk a half mile before and after every meal.
10. Randomly turn the power off in your building and listen to people stumble around in the dark.
11. Move your entire family into one small room after filling it with Army gear.
12. Shave your head and grow a mustache.

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Hello Dawg Friends and Families,

**DELTA
DAWGS**



The last month has been a busy one for Delta Battery. We just completed our first two-week rotation between our various missions. The soldiers have been extremely successful conducting their missions and improving common and personal spaces. The battery held its first monthly BBQ and everyone welcomed the small taste of home. The temperatures have started to increase and it won't be long before we are all begging for the cool German air that most of you are enjoying. The R and R policy will be published soon and around the beginning of June the first soldiers should be returning home for some well deserved leave.

I encourage you to continue to support the Battery and Battalion FRGs. The battery and battalion are sending pictures to be shown during the next monthly dinner and Isabelle Jennings sent a disc to us with pictures of the families that attended the last dinner. All the soldiers enjoyed viewing the disc with their families on it.

If you have any questions please feel free to contact anyone in the chain of command at any time.

"Seek and Destroy"
Eric Winterrowd, CPT

Congratulations to the newest Dawgs



Hugo Salguero Jr.	9lbs 11oz	Feb 24, 2004
Amanda Vaughan	7lbs 1oz	Mar 9, 2004

Congratulations to the following individuals on their April promotions:



SGT Clarke, Duane to SSG



PV2 Martinez, Gene to PFC
PV2 Brieno-Smithey, David to PFC
PV2 Johnson, Kenneth to PFC



Happy Birthday to the following soldiers:

SGT Casey
SPC Colbert
PFC Doughty
SSG Flint
PFC Morales
SGT Randolph
SPC Towns
SGT Wilson, K

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A note from our FRG Leader



Hello everyone,

I hope this newsletter finds everyone doing well. We've got a lot of activities coming up for the FRG. We'll be continuing our monthly activity this month with candle making.

We will also be planning an activity for May, as well as a bus trip to Europa Park on May 22nd. Be sure to look for flyers in your mail on these upcoming events.

As always, our FRG meetings are held the first Tuesday of each month at 6:30pm at the Delta Dayroom. Free childcare is available through the CDC on Marshall Heights for these meetings. Your child must be registered at CYS to be eligible. Please contact the CDC to make your reservation at least a week before the meeting.

I hope to see you all soon!

Thank you,
Susan Winterrowd
susanwint@hotmail.com
09321-923265

Our website address is: dawg_frg@yahoo.com (dawg underscore frg). Please feel free to contact us! There are a lot of updated information, pictures of the guys downrange and community events!

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