



4-3 ADA BN

“I Yield Not, I Strike”

Battalion Newsletter
July 2004

You can view the 4-3 ADA Battalion Newsletter as well as photographs from the deployment online at - <http://www.4-3adairaq.com>



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

This past month began tragically with the loss of one of our soldiers. PFC Markus Johnson, of 1st platoon, Delta Battery, gave his life during a combat patrol near Tikrit. We held a memorial ceremony here in his honor and the turnout left standing room only in the theater. As a spontaneous display of solidarity, support, and memory, as the soldiers exited, they formed a column as a demonstration of the profound loss we all feel at PFC Johnson's passing. With the determination and ardor I have come to expect from I Strike Soldiers, they have courageously moved past this difficult time firm in their resolve to continue the mission and return home safely.

With the coming of this next month, the summer is definitively upon us, and we continue striving to alleviate the effects of the intense Iraqi sun. Your soldiers are continually provided with the water, air conditioning, and shade they need to accomplish their mission, and if you have not already purchased stock in Gatorade, now might be a good time, as the price is sure to rise.

In addition to water and cool air, care packages, emails, and letters contribute to making the summer heat more bearable. When our soldiers find out they are receiving a package or letter, it gives them something to look forward to after a long shift on a guard tower or standing in the heat at one of the gates we control. So I encourage you to continue sending correspondence and communicating with them on a regular basis.

R&R and FMPP have also entered full swing and we are striving to send more and more of your soldiers home for a two-week break, or on a four-day pass to the mountains of Northern Iraq or the island of Qatar. If you have any questions about how these programs are working, please do not hesitate to contact my Rear Detachment Commander, 1LT Travis Schega, back in Kitzingen.

Many changes have been made in the batteries' leadership recently with new first sergeants in all the batteries, and CPT Hellerstedt taking command of Alpha Battery from CPT Lofton, and this helps change the pace and routine of the soldiers' mission here. With new leadership comes new ways of doing things and brings a fresh face to day-to-events and routine missions. This helps keep soldiers poised and prepared to meet any and all challenges, and discourages complacency and failures in discipline. In this way, we are constantly working to ensure that your soldiers have what they need to accomplish the mission, and continually have the motivation and drive to get the job done.

This month of June began sadly with the death of PFC Johnson, but the rest of the month propelled us towards the future, as we prepare for the handover of Iraq to a new government on June 30th. This will be an exciting time in the history of this country and you and your soldiers are playing a vital role in the history of this country. Remember when you see or hear discouraging news stories, that we are actually here for a very important reason, and you and your soldiers should be very proud of all that they are accomplishing and everything they are able to take part in. Hopefully, we will be able to celebrate this successful transition of power with a small 4th of July celebration in honor of our country's independence.

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. I thank all the soldiers for their well-deserved accomplishments during this deployment. I also thank the family members and loved ones for their continuous support and caring attitude. Some of our great soldiers have been back to spend quality time with their loved ones during the much-needed R & R. Hopefully the R & R program will continue to be a morale booster for the soldiers of the "I STRIKE" Battalion. Family members and loved ones, keep hope alive. The IID Chain of Command is doing their very best regarding R & R allocations.

Family members, continue to view the 4-3 ADA website for the latest information and photos. Share the website with family, relatives, and friends. I also ask that you all be safe this summer and everyday. The 4th of July is a holiday to celebrate and enjoy the fireworks. Safety is a must! Majority of the soldiers here will be afforded the opportunity to celebrate the 4th of July here in our Theater of Operations. If there is anything that the Chain of Command can do to assist you all, don't hesitate to contact us.

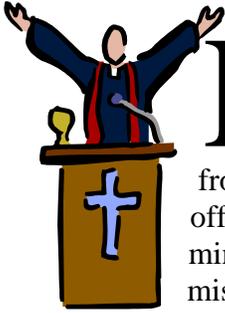
We welcome the new members to the "I STRIKE" Battalion and wish the departing soldiers and their family members the very best in their future endeavors. Thank you all for being a valuable member of 4-3 ADA Battalion and part of history. Your achievements made this battalion one of the best Air Defense Artillery units in the United States Army.

Congratulations to all the parents of newborns, anniversaries, birthdays, and other special occasions. Hopefully you all are taking photos and videos of the special occasions. Also, congratulations to all soldiers and family members who were promoted and will be promoted in the very near future.

Take care of yourselves and your family members 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. I wish you all a happy, healthy, safe, and bless day everyday. Take that precious day one day at a time. Have a safe and happy summer season. "DO the DOs and DON'T DO the DON'Ts.

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

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Recently, the Unit Ministry Team had a new addition to its team, CPL Travis Runnels from Bravo Battery. CPL Runnels has offered to serve his fellow soldiers in ministry and help me fulfill this mission. He is a welcomed addition to the team and I thank the leadership of Bravo battery for giving me such an outstanding soldier.

I could tell you the many good things that CPL Runnels has done already, but I would rather share with you a letter he wrote. You see, CPL Runnels first day on the job was one of the worst days a soldier could face, the loss of a fellow brother and friend, PFC Markus Johnson. During this difficult time, CPL Runnels performed exceptionally well in helping me minister to the soldiers. The next day he asked me if I would read a letter he wrote. He said, I have been thinking about this tragic loss and I wrote down my feelings. I hope that it may help others as well. So, I would like to take this opportunity to share his letter with all of you.

We Will Never Forget...

By
Runnels, Travis CPL
Battalion Chaplain's Assistant

Well as we finish the final stage of the Memorial, we begin to move on and accept what has happened. For most of the Soldiers in 4/3 A.D.A this is one of our first experiences with the ultimate price of war, and all too often we forget that things like this can happen. It serves as a reminder of how fragile life is and how we must live everyday to the fullest. Now that we have lost one of our brothers, the war turns more personal for us as unfortunately we are now forced to reflect on our losses and not just our accomplishments.

Personally, this was my first time dealing with the loss of a Soldier and hopefully the last. The tremendous outcome and the overwhelming love that was expressed at the memorial showed the type of people soldiers and Americans are. The Theater was packed, soldiers came

from everywhere imaginable. Whether they knew PFC Marcus Johnson or not Americans and Soldiers came to pay their respects. It was a simple ceremony designed to help the Soldiers in the unit prepare to move on with the mission and respectfully say good-bye to a dear friend and a fellow Soldier.

It is sad that it often takes an event like this to help us to remember how great being a Soldier really is. The sacrifices we have made as Soldiers bring us together, and it shows the immense Love and Compassion we share for each other in a time like this. There was not a dry eye in the Ceremony whether you knew him or not. We all came here together, served here together and are supposed to leave here together. There is a never-ending bond that only Soldiers will know, the loss of a brother is never accepted, and will always be honored.

There is something special that happens as you progress through the ranks and "make it," something special that allows you to consider yourself a Soldier. Many Americans don't know the joys that come with the sacrifice we make. The pride we all feel is expressed in our own ways; it can never be compared or questioned. The soldier that we lost died with honor and dignity and most of all the Pride of knowing that he died making the ultimate sacrifice for his family, friends, fellow Soldiers and his country. He has moved on to be with God now; he is in a better place. We will always remember those who went all the way and helped to make this country what it is today. Today we now must remember Private First Class Marcus James Johnson and his contributions to his unit, the First Infantry division, the United States Army, and to his fellow Soldiers. He will never be forgotten.

Rest in Peace Marcus James Johnson, our thoughts and prayers are with you and your family. From one Soldier to another, "Thank You, I will never forget you."

**May God's richest blessings be upon you,
CH (CPT) Lane J. Creamer**

I Corinthians 10:31, "Whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."



THE SABER TEAM

Greetings from the Sabers in Tikrit, IRAQ,

Things are really going good for the Sabers and every soldier in the "I strike" Battalion. The heat just keeps on rising each week. The temperature at OBJ Midland was recorded at 140 degrees by the wet bulb index. No matter how you look at it, that is hot. Operations here at FOB Danger continue to move at a very fast pace. The Early Warning teams through out Iraq are continuing to provide the air picture for the Division. SGT Watts and his team are happy to report that they are finally getting to move off of OBJ Midland and deploy and operate their radar system. 1LT Bonner and the rest of the support platoon continue to provide logistical support to the soldiers at OBJ Midland. They delivered ten housing containers this month that has greatly increased the standard of living for the soldiers who are currently living there. Each soldier will have a full sized bed and an air conditioner in every room. Each container is equipped with a shower and latrines. Just like home. Well, maybe not quite. The Staff is preparing for another quarter of great training support for the batteries and the battalion as a whole. Each section is continuing to work together as a team to get the job done and return home safely.

Good news for everyone back home. The battalion was allotted the largest number of R&R slots to date. HHB received 26 slots for the month of July. The first trip will begin on 30 June and will continue on 08 July, 16 July and 24 July. We are sending home six Sabers per trip. The names are listed on the following page so that you can plan for your loved ones return. I hope every one has a great time!!!!

I would like to take this opportunity to personally thank everyone for their outstanding support for their loved ones through out this deployment. I truly believe that the high moral of the soldiers is a direct reflection of that great support. The care packages that you send are treated like Christmas presents and are open with great anticipation, then shared with everyone in the room. Mail call is definitely a high point of the day for the soldiers, so keep those packages coming.

We had two soldiers represent the battery last month in the Soldier and NCO of the quarter board. SPC Decosta made another strong showing for the battery and took second pace by only a few points. We are very proud of his efforts and his dedication at striving to be the best. I know he is planning to try again in the future, so the rest of the batteries had better watch out. SGT Singleton represented the battery in the NCO competition. He also did a great job in representing the battery. His hard work and dedication was an inspiration to his soldiers and his leaders. I am proud of both of these great Sabers and would like to extend our congratulations to them both.

Well that is all for now, remember to check out the updates to the battalion web sights, www.4-3adairaq.com and www.operationican.com. Pictures of your soldiers are updated each week. Please continue the outstanding support you have been providing your loved ones. See you next month.

1SG Dominguez
SABER 7



CPT Bird
SABER 6

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THE SABER TEAM

R&R FOR THE MONTH OF JULY

30 June 04

PFC Jones
SPC Morrell
SSG Morrison
MSG Bullock
CW2 Hicks
1LT Long

08 July 04

SPC Write
SPC Boone
SPC Whitley
SSG Pthal
CW1 Romero
1LT Diefenbach

16 July 04

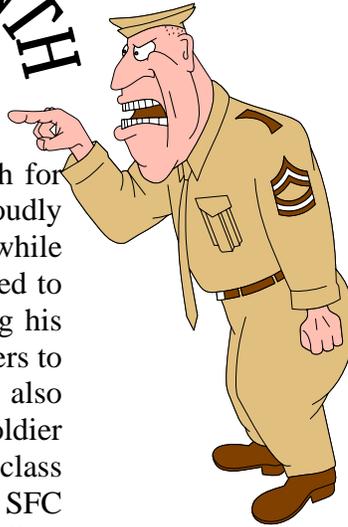
PFC Bentely
SPC Biard
SPC Figaro
SPC Hemmelgarn
SPC Espinoza
CPL Coloma

24 July 04

SPC Flores
SPC Davis
SGT Ovaldson
SGT Robinson
1LT Sherman
CPT Pires

SABER OF THE MONTH *SFC King*

SFC has done an outstanding job this month for the battery and the battalion. He has proudly served as the 1SG for the Saber battery while 1SG Dominguez was on leave. He was asked to handle a lot of issues while also maintaining his full time job of successfully reenlisting soldiers to meet his mission for the quarter. He has also provided guidance and direction to every soldier in the battalion that will be required to re-class due to the battalion closing down next year. SFC King consistently strives to take care of soldiers first and he proves his dedication each and every day. Congratulations and keep up the excellent work!!



HHB FRG

Hello Ladies,

First, for those who do not know me my name is Maggie Schega, the FRG Leader Assistant and I will be taking over the FRG for the summer.

Second, I would like to thank all those who attended the last DFAC Dinner/FRG meeting. It was a good turnout, great menu, and our soldiers are enjoying the videos you all made.

Also, I need two volunteers for POCs for ADADO Platoon and EARLY Warning Platoon.

Quick Notes:

For all those who have children CY5 is offering a summer camp as well as Operation Enduring Summer Camp.

Feel free to send your husband or wife civilian clothes if they ask you for it. R & R has almost 70 people coming this month.

Finally, a calendar of events:

23 July- DFAC Dinner Update/FRG Meeting

25 July- German Partnership Event to Wildpark in Bad Mergentheim

20 August- DFAC Deployment Update/ FRG Meeting and Crystal Bingo

If you have any Questions Please call me.

Maggie Schega

HHB FRG Leader Assistant

09321-925-030 or

Magalita_2000@yahoo.com

HAPPY 4TH OF JULY!!!

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ARCHER BATTERY NEWSLETTER

Hello to the Archer Families,

It has been a very eventful month for the soldiers and leadership. Thanks to Ron Lofton for his encouragement and leadership over the last 19 months. I would really like to thank the soldiers for working hard during the change of command inventories. I have never seen a smoother transition of battery leadership, and it is all a credit to the dedication to duty and professionalism of each soldier. They also did a superb job at the change of command. SGT and Mrs. Miracle were kind enough to video tape the ceremony for us and make a few copies.

July will also be a month of changes. We are making a zone change with Bravo battery, and taking over a different portion of the base's Force Protection. It will be a welcome change from the daily duties. Some other changes are taking place within the battery's structure. As we transition into the new force protection roles, platoon integrity will once again be emphasized. Soldiers will be working a little harder, and a little longer than before, since we have to train for the new duties while conducting our current mission. In addition, we have sent eleven soldiers on R+R. In July, we will send 13 more home. This trend should continue until we reach the end of our R+R window. The goal is to get everyone on R+R, except those who want to stay or utilize the FMPP slots. We all must remain flexible, as the mission can always change the R+R slots. It also means that because of the reduction in manpower, all of us will be working a little longer to cover other shifts. Thank you all for being so supportive.

Once again, I would like to thank all the soldiers for the great work they have done here. We will continue to meet and exceed the standards. Thanks to all the wives who help and support the FRG and other voluntary organizations. Whether it's motor pool decorations, t-shirts, school projects, or hosting web addresses, it all goes towards the morale and effectiveness of our families and soldiers. I look forward to the rest of our deployment and more importantly, our re-deployment and re-union!

CPT Ryan Hellerstedt

ARCHER FRG NEWS LETTER

Hello everyone, Now that the summer months are here and school is out many of us will be going home for summer vacation. If this is in your plan please let me or someone in rear detachment know so that we can reach you in case of an emergency.

We now have a web site where we are able to post announcements, information, pictures etc. If you have not been invited to join it is probably due to the fact that I do not have your e-mail address. Please call me or e-mail me your address and I will be glad to send you an invitation. I would like to thank Mrs. Evelyn Kelly for her work in starting this group web site.

Many changes have occurred in the Battery as well as the Battalion. Some of you may have heard that my husband is now the BMO in HHB's battery. Even though this is true, I will be staying on as the Alpha Battery's FRG leader.

Valerie Chisolm

Echisolm@juno.com

Phone:09331-981062/01793036961

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BLACK LIONS

B/4-3 ADA



Commander's Notes

On June 6, 1944, the soldiers of the 1st Infantry Division stormed Omaha Beach at Normandy as part of the largest forcible entry operation in history. The 1st Infantry Division was already a combat-hardened unit, having proven themselves in the deserts of Africa and the mountains of Sicily. By the time of D-Day, they had eleven months of hard fighting ahead of them before their mission was accomplished.

This year on June 6, we'll commemorate the history of the Big Red One by writing another chapter. At 0900 each soldier in Bravo Battery and the I Strike Battalion will be awarded the Combat Patch, officially known as the Distinctive Unit Symbol for Wartime Service. For most soldiers, this is their first time serving in a combat zone. Although our mission ends after twelve months, this is not the last time 1st Infantry Division Soldiers will march in the sands and marshes of a hostile land.

If you have the opportunity, visit the 1st Infantry Division Museum in Würzburg on June 6th. Remember the service of those who have gone before us, as well as the service of the current incarnation of the Big Red One. Your support and love means the world to the men of the Black Lion Battery.

Duty First!

Captain Glenn Henke

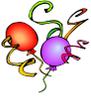
1SG Stanley's Corner

Slowly the thermometer has been climbing and the truth of what we have been told concerning the coming summer is becoming more evident by the day. In the last few days we have been hovering in and around the 100-degree mark and there is beginning to be less and less voluntary outdoor activity. We have been scrambling to get as much work done before the brutality of the full measure of summer is upon us. The Black Lions have been working non-stop to put up overhead shades at our guard positions, get electricity to run air conditioners in our guard towers and set up our work priorities with the heat in mind. Reverse cycle operations may be the way to go in the near future.

In the last month we have had a successful first organization day that saw a volleyball competition, Archery, Frisbee, dunk tank and a blow out barbeque. We decided it would be a monthly event and are busy planning the next iteration that is to include a boxing smoker and mud wrestling! Photos to follow. Thanks to all who have continuously supported us with care packages and a consistent mail flow. It means a lot to get things from home so keep it coming.

1SG Stanley

FRG Corner

Birthdays 

New additions to the Bravo Family 



ANNIVERSARIES

DON'T FORGET ABOUT THE SINGLE SOLDIER DONATION BOX!

Promotions

Re-enlistment

Battalion FRG Dinner/Update

23 July 2004

5:30 p.m.

Larson DFAC – Asian Menu



Hugs from Home

**Our project is to make a 'flag' for each deployed soldier!
Each spouse/family members can make and personalize one 'flag' for their soldier. After all flags are completed, they will be attached to create ONE BIG flag per battery that will be sent to FOB Danger. Stay for a little while after the Battalion Dinner and start on your flag!
Everything you need will be there!**

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Hello Dawg Friends and Families,

Delta Battery suffered a tremendous loss on 1 June 2004 with the passing of PFC Markus Johnson. He will be sorely missed by 1st platoon and the rest of Delta Battery. The memorial service was conducted on 4 June and was both professional and well attended by members of the Battalion and the Division.

The new soldiers who arrived last month are now fully integrated and performing their duties well and the remaining soldiers from rear detachment will arrive in late June to join the rest of us and our many missions.

R & R is now working at full capacity. Delta Battery has 12 soldiers on R & R for the month of June and we are expecting even more slots for July and the following months. The priority for R & R continues to be the soldiers who were deployed to Kosovo for KFOR 4B. We are also sending 8 soldiers to utilize the FMPP program to one of two resort areas in the Middle East. By the end of July, Delta Battery will have sent about 50 soldiers to either FMPP or R & R. The remaining soldiers will receive their slots as they become available through November.

The Rear Detachment and FRG continue to work hard. I encourage you to continue to support the FRG and attend the monthly meetings to stay abreast of the latest information on the deployment. Do not listen to rumors. Instead rely on accurate information from the Rear Detachment and the FRG. Also, if you are returning to the states this summer, leave an address with the FRG and Rear Detachment so they will be able to contact you in case of an emergency. Delta is continuing to update the website with new pictures so view them regularly to check for updates.

Congratulations to the following soldiers on their promotions:

2LT Berisford to 1LT
PV2 Loucks to PFC
PFC Holden to SPC

CPL Hamby to SGT
SPC Glover to SGT
PVT Chavira to PV2

Special congratulations go out to SPC Lillard who competed for and won the Battalion Soldier of the Quarter Board. He will now compete for the Battalion Soldier of the Year in the fall.

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

“Seek and Destroy”

CPT Eric Winterrowd

Happy July Birthday to the following soldiers:

SPC Goodyear	1 July	PFC Horrace	1 July
SPC Humphrey	2 July	SPC Cordray	4 July
1LT Berisford	9 July	1LT Tucker	11 July
SGT Stephens	11 July	SGT McCaden	11 July
PFC Zopff	14 July	SPC Holden	19 July
SPC Baines	20 July	SPC Pearson	20 July
SPC Lamar	30 July	SGT Randolph	31 July

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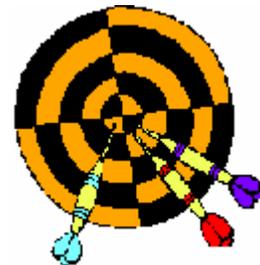
Book and Game Drive for 4-3 ADA Soldiers

Thank you for your continued support for the soldiers of the 4-3 ADA currently deployed to Iraq.

The Family Readiness Group would like to send our soldiers some entertainment items for their use while they are serving our country during this difficult time. Below is a list of suggested items that we would like to send them. But these are only suggestions and if you would like to send them something not mentioned please feel free.



- Books: new or used, paperback or hardcover
- Magazines
- Board Games
- DVD Movies
- Playing Cards
- PlayStation 2 games
- Newspapers



Please feel free to write your name and a greeting on the items you choose to donate. The items will be collected at the July 23rd Deployment Brief/FRG Dinner or they can be dropped off at your battery or the Command Group.

If you have any questions you can call the Suzanne Dugan, Family Readiness Support Assistant at the Command Group at 09321-702-2701, or by e-mail suzanne.dugan@1id.army.mil

We encourage you to send this information to friends and family in the states or otherwise. Any support we can give to our soldiers is greatly appreciated.

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