



SPECIAL TROOPS SQUADRON "READY SQUADRON" IN THE NEWS



Camp Liberty, Baghdad Iraq

30 April 2008

From the Commander

WOW back already. Time seemed to just fly by on leave. It was really great being back in Vilseck and seeing my family and familiar faces from the community once again. On my first day back I had the honor of attending the memorial service for three fallen Troopers from the War Eagles. While I have attended many, far too many,

of these services over here I had no real appreciation of just how hard these services hit our families, fellow soldiers and our friends in the community.

As soldiers in combat we recognize the loss, we mourn and we get back to winning the war. Our friends and family walk away from these services back in Vilseck and have the unenviable task of trying to carry on with their lives, pick the kids up from school, attend all kinds of meetings, get to soccer practice and make sure the scouts are ready for their trip to Normandy. They do this all without us and in most cases without reward or recognition. It is tough and many days thankless but tremendously important.

Fortunately this Regiment is resplendent with leaders and not all of them are deployed to Iraq. Many of them are back in Vilseck taking care of business, taking care of each other and taking an active part in the community to maintain and preserve what we hope to come home to. Again, I cannot praise enough those wives in our Regiment that have stepped forward, taken

on responsibility, and are driving on. The same can be said for our Rear Detachment and the leadership in the community. Thank you for making things work.

As for me it was no easier saying goodbye the second time around. Considerably harder in some ways but as many of you will understand it is hard to be completely at ease back at home when the rest of your family, your Army family, is still in harm's way. It is good to get back with renewed energy and zeal to chart out the remaining months when we can all return home to Vilseck once again. I look forward to that day and take solace in the fact that every day fighting here takes us closer to winning this war and redeploying home.

As I mentioned earlier our scouts from Vilseck joined hundreds of other scouts this past weekend in



helping clean up the invasion beaches along the Normandy coastline. Great job to the scouts and the family members back home that made this happen. I am sure it was a memorable and worthwhile experience for all.

Our soldiers were not idle over the past month. Soldiers from Maverick Troop and the 84th Engineer Company as well as several members of the Regimental Staff were essential in uncovering information and helping recover the remains of Staff Sergeant Keith M. Maupin, missing since April 16, 2004.

Lastly, Toby Keith performed here on Camp Liberty and several of our soldiers had an opportunity to meet him. SSG Andy Esqueda was

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STS

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**SSG Esqueda Jokes With
Toby Keith Prior To His Reenlistment**

able to reenlist with Toby holding the flag in the background. All around a great time and just what we needed to finish our April.

Thanks again for all the support back home and keep your chin up, we won't be separated

forever, we will all have stories to tell about the war in Iraq and the war on the homefront.

**Yours in Service
LTC Bryan E. Denny
READY 6
"GRAB THE REINS"**

**GREETINGS FROM MY
FOXHOLE**

My Salute to the Spouse

"There are things that others take for granted, but I don't. I know of the many sacrifices our spouses and families have made over the years to enable us to do our jobs. I am filled with pride for what our spouses and families do on a daily basis."

MSG(p) Brian A. Hamm

*Soldiers, Families and Friends of
Special Troops Squadron...*

Separations from our loved ones are separations period. It doesn't matter if it's for two weeks, two years, for a

deployment, or an overseas duty assignment - it is still a separation. Regardless of the situation, we all know what it is like to have to sleep in an empty bed, waking up in the middle of the night and hoping it was all a bad dream, but reality strikes yet again and you roll over and he/she is not there. Jumping every time the phone rings (hoping it's your soldier), panicking every time the doorbell rings hoping you won't find someone in a dress uniform on the other side of the door; these are realities of a military spouse. We all share common ground and we can make our military communities stronger by being supportive of one another. Reach out to the spouse who's having a hard time dealing with their loved one being deployed. Take the time to offer some tips to the wife or husband who is enduring their first deployment. Just imagine the impact you may have on someone to know that a complete stranger





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cares about their well being and wants to be sure they are okay. I know being a military spouse means that you stand tall and proud with tears rolling down your face as the Star Spangled Banner or any other patriotic song plays. I know your heart breaks every time you hear of a soldier somewhere getting hurt or being treated poorly, regardless if you know them or not. Being a military spouse means you will spend countless hours washing uniforms, cleaning scuffs out of the floor from boots, baking things for FRGs, and attending meetings to support your soldier. It means you will spend numerous days and nights alone raising our children, yet never complaining. I can speak for all of us when I say we love our spouses and we salute you!

God Bless the Military Spouse!

CSM Brian A. Hamm
READY 7
"GRAB THE REINS"

RHHT - "VIPERS"

Hello to all our Viper family and friends! Here I sit writing another FRG newsletter just thinking of how fast this past 30 days have gone by. Last month, while 1LT Scott served as the Troop Commander I was afforded the opportunity to spend 18 glorious days with my family. We had a wonderful time at Edelweiss Lodge in Garmish, Germany! While we were there we got 15 inches of snow and **attempted** to ski...



While I was home I was able to attend an FRG meeting. It was nice to see all of the spouses. I brought pictures with me, which I am sure the spouses enjoyed watching more than listening to me talk. The FRG is busy making preparations for our return in November, lots of activities planned by the FRG and the local community.

The summer is already upon us. We broke 100 degrees on 15 April. We are looking at the heat in a positive way; the heat is a sign of progression. It has to get hot before it cools off, then we will be on our way home. The unfortunate part of the summer is not only the heat but also the blowing dust. Several times this month we have had almost "orange out" conditions. It was so bad at times that you couldn't even see a 100 feet in front of your face which made the 1 kilometer walk to chow a little interesting.

As a monthly battle rhythm, we started off the month with



SGT Pedro With A New Fan



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an awards/promotion ceremony. Promotions this month include: Specialist Grey (RS3) to Corporal; SPC Hesse (FSC) to SGT; SGT Bella (Squadron REUP) and SGT Esqueda (STS TAC) to SSG; SFC Pickerin (JAG) and SFC Mariaca (EO) to Master Sergeant; CPT Kemkes (JAG) to Major. Lastly, SSG Morgan from the ADAM cell reenlisted which brings the grand total to 19 reenlistments so far this deployment.

intent behind this type of training is to demonstrate how much you have to concentrate on your sight picture and body position while your heart is racing and sweat is dripping down your face. Keep in mind that the Soldiers are wearing their full protective gear (about 25-30 pounds) while doing these exercises. All of the soldiers I talked to had a great time and enjoyed the break in the normal range procedures.



**SSG Carroll
SMC Inductee**



**Newly Promoted, MSG Mariaca,
MAJ Kemkes And MSG Pickerin**

We welcomed a couple new faces this month along with saying goodbye to some familiar faces. CPT Polasek, CPT Cannon, and CPT Webb have moved to a squadron to take command and CPT Parker moved to Fires Squadron to further his career as a Platoon Leader. We welcomed PVT Long (RS1), SSG Spruell (REUP), LT Horton (RS9), LT Johnston (RS9), CPT Hardy (RS3), CPT Lopez (RS3), CW2 Kornegay (Fusion Cell) and CPT Sylvester (Safety) to the Troop this month. We also said farewell to Lt Col Marsh's Air Force TACP team and hailed Lt Col Neuser and his new TACP team.

SSG Carroll, RTAC, was selected and inducted into the Sergeant Morales Club; he was one of 6 selected from the entire Regiment. The Sergeant Morales Club was established in 1973 by Lt. Gen. George S. Blanchard to promote the highest ideals of integrity, professionalism and leadership for the enlisted force serving in Europe.

This month we decided to throw a little "wrench" into the normal zero and qualification range by incorporating a "stress shoot" into the range. SFC Alombro and SSG Smith were the range NCOICs and developed a plan that tested the Soldiers' ability to shoot after conducting a series of physical fitness exercises (push-ups, sprints, side straddle hop (jumping jacks) etc). The

The organization embraces the same attributes as the U.S. Army's 'Sergeant Audie Murphy Club.' Membership is exclusive and gained through a rigorous, competitive process. SMC members exemplify a special kind of leadership characterized by a personal concern for the needs, training, development and welfare of Soldiers. SMC membership recognizes and rewards distinguished NCOs whose leadership achievements merit special recognition and who have contributed significantly to developing a professional NCO Corps and a combat-effective Army. SSG Carroll was awarded the Army



RHHT On The Range

Accommodation Medal (ARCOM) for his professionalism, technical expertise and above all,





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representing the best the NCOs in this Regiment have to offer.

A lot of our focus this month was purging through all of the equipment that we have accumulated in the past 8 months. All of the sections worked hard at going through their offices and containers getting rid of and organizing their equipment and supplies. We wanted to do this before it got too hot. The Troop and Regiment take great pride in the cleanliness and the professional appearance of our area of operations. I am very proud of the hard work of all of the soldiers and NCOs have done so far by taking that extra minute to do it right.

We are over the halfway mark of the



deployment. We just have to get through the summer heat and we will be on our way home. Once again, I would like to say thanks for all of the support from the FRG and the friends and family of RHHT. In closing I would like to send a special thanks to all of those who are serving on the Rear-Detachment. SFC Farley, SGT Wilton, CPT Jefferson, 1SG Joyner, MSG Melendez, my hat's off to you! I appreciate all of the hard work that you are doing especially taking care of the memorial ceremonies, which are of the highest caliber, and the preparation for our homecoming! Your hard work is not going unnoticed.

Sincerely,
CPT Michael Wigton
VIPER 6

84th Engineer Troop "SAPPERS"

Friends and Families of the STS,

The 84th Engineer Company has been a very busy company during the past month. The headquarters platoon has been overwhelmingly working hard

to support all platoons within 84th Engineer Company. The hard work and dedication from the Commo, Supply,



Medical, CBRN and the Company TOC personnel has been greatly appreciated by all. 1st platoon has completed supporting operations with 1st squadron, 2SCR, Sadr City, Baghdad and is now back under the control of Special Troops Squadron, 2 SCR. We are very, very excited to have our family of Sappers back as one to fight as a solid unit. The platoon will reestablish themselves back as a combat engineer platoon to conduct missions just the same as 2nd and 3rd platoons are performing. The 1st platoon will be integrated slowly and the company leadership will ensure that they receive all the time to refit back to the 84th Engineer Company standards.

The hot weather has hit us, and as always the Soldiers continue to work hard. The platoon has spent the last month continuing missions in support of the Regiment here in Abu Ghraib. Although we have mostly been conducting route clearance, we've also had the



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opportunity to do more work with the Infantry and the Iraqi Army. During this past month, we also escorted the Civil Affairs Officers from the Regiment to a couple locations, including the Abu Ghraib courthouse and the local agricultural university.

As we move into the month of May, 3rd Platoon has been running full speed ahead as we are over the half way point of the deployment. We have conducted numerous Route Clearance and Route Sanitation missions and the platoon received a well deserved day off to go to the pool and relax.

As there has been no recent re-enlistment within the platoon yet, there have been promotions. SGT Philips was promoted to SGT last month, and SPC Rife has been to the board and is now promotable.

SPC Rife was also interviewed by AFN on his success as Husky operator and his credit in finding nine IEDs throughout the deployment. CSM Hamm commended SPC Sheldon on his performance and ability to keep his vehicle mission ready throughout the deployment and has given him a Squadron coin.

SSG Morales prepared to dismount during mission!

All is well here with 4th Platoon, we have been putting most of our focus this month into getting our equipment fixed from the hard use in the past few months. It has consisted of spending long hours turning wrenches, and

picking up heavy items. All of the soldiers can now completely take apart almost every piece of equipment in our inventory, and put it back together.



4th Platoon has also done a lot for bettering the lives and training of the soldiers on and around FOB Liberty. We have improved a .50 cal range here on VBC,

allowing soldiers to be better prepared to roll outside the wire. It also allowed the convoys to see the sides of the roads better. We are trying out a new found talent, which is filling in the potholes and blast holes.

Everyone here has been able to relax and enjoy their time off from missions

and mission preparations. The soldiers have been either doing college/correspondence courses, shopping at vendors, working out at the gym and even platoon swimming in the pool on Camp Liberty. The company has sent numerous Sappers on pass either to Qatar (an R&R Island off the Saudi Arabia coast), and Freedom Rest in the Green Zone. We have been very excited to promote one lieutenant to Captain and other soldiers from Private Second Class. They all deserved it and we were proud to share that moment with them. The Company has reenlisted three soldiers in the Army. We are again very excited to have these soldiers





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extend their military careers in the US Army. The Engineer Corps is very small and that means we very well could serve again together later in the future. We wish we all could be back home, but know that you are with us at all times as we conduct our important mission here in Iraq.

April gave us the opportunity and the honor to promote quite a few Maverick Soldiers. The promotions were well deserved and many joined the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps ranks. Additionally, many Soldiers were awarded coins this month for unprecedented works. You may have heard recent news reporting about the

Sincerely
CPT Don Gourley
SAPPER 6

M Troop - "Maverick"

Commander's Corner

As April comes to a close, Maverick Troop finds itself busier than ever with continuous intelligence support to current and future operations. While the constant rotation of Soldiers to R&R leave and to four-day passes to Qatar have been necessary and certainly well deserved, it's been difficult on day to day continuity, but the Troop has found a way to keep the mission going. Additionally, we've swapped a few positions for professional development and to break any monotony that may be building. The weather has been a mixed blessing for us here as the temperatures have not reached their high seasonal norms yet, but instead have brought dust storms that often times blot out the sun and turn the sky a pinkish brown. That combined with the winds and the barren landscape makes it seem that we've deployed to another planet instead of some Middle-Eastern country. On a more positive note,



1st Platoon

recovery of the remains of SSG Maupin who went MIA in April '04. This find was

largely due to the intelligence contributions of some of our Maverick Soldiers. This incredible accomplishment will help both the family of SSG Maupin and the Army to find well needed closure. Other coin recipients were recognized for their outstanding work with National level assets.

Please note that our unit address will change shortly so please wait on shipping any pending packages to our Soldiers until we publish the new address, otherwise there may be a significant delay in arrival. While it's difficult being deployed for such a long time away from loved ones, we



2d Platoon



CPT Skills Introduces The New Troop XO, 1LT Lemuel



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realize that the true sacrifices are being made by the spouses who are left behind.



3rd Platoon

Your strength, support, and love keep us going and allow us to focus on our mission here. On behalf of the Mavericks, I thank you.

Sincerely,
CPT Stephen Skells
MAVERICK 6

Lightning Troop **"PIRATES"**

Shout out to the Soldiers of the Regimental Help Desk

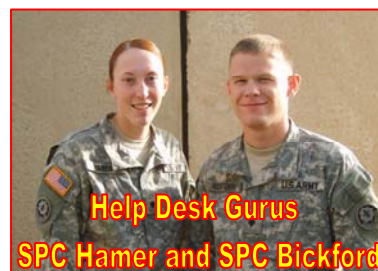
Hello to all from the Lightning Troop.

Finally the mud has dried from our boots, the chill has receded and the sandstorms of the past few days have dispersed. Now the sun shines brightly and the heat introduces itself. Most of the Pirates have been on leave at this point and the few Soldiers that have not been are scheduled in the real near future. The Pirate life has become a bit busier than it has been in the past few months. It is expected for the OPTEMPO to rise and fall.

Anyone who has managed a network can tell you that once that network becomes stable the

job can become boring. There is one section that is never bored and always on the move; the help desk. It seems that everyone needs help with their computers, (even if it can be easily fixed by a simple reboot).

There is a special relationship that exists between Lightning Troop and RHHT, in the way we combine our Signal Soldiers to create the perfect Signal package. The Regimental help desk is run and supervised by Warrant Officers and NCOs from both Troops. However the Soldiers that bear a large brunt of the user trouble tickets are three Pirates from Lightning Troop. SPC Hamer, SPC Bickford, and PFC Avila comprise a team of technical experts that go above and beyond to ensure the systems for the Regimental Tactical Operation Center are fully functional. Without the functionality of the multiple operation systems, printers, servers, desk top, and laptop computers, the quality of today's operational planning would revert back to the days of paper maps and protractors. There are virtually so many different applications that it is amazing that I know how to pronounce the different names. Yet, these three super Soldiers, not only know the names and functionality of the applications, they know how to troubleshoot, load, maintain, and train other Soldiers on their use. Gurus



Help Desk Gurus
SPC Hamer and SPC Bickford

The high level of professionalism in the Soldiers of the Help Desk is apparent in the fact that these three very junior Soldiers work under the stress of the watchful eye of a user, who could be as high ranking as Colonel or Command Sergeant Major. Yet even through the stress of knowing the impact



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on the operational mission, SPC Bickford, SPC Hamer, and PFC Avila, remain courteous, calm and execute tasks that many people in today's world of technology just have no clue how to do.

These Soldiers are a credit to the Regiment, STS Squadron and Lightning Troop, and I want to applaud their hard work and let the families and friends of the Ready Squadron see the true power behind the action.

Sincerely,
1SG Brad Girard
LIGHTNING 7

Dragoon Military Transition Team (MiTT) "Desperados"

Etwanaas Abu al Jihali! (Have fun!) Greetings once again from the Soldiers of Team Desperado, 2/44/11 MiTT. This is CPT Jared Nystrom, AKA "Batman," the team intelligence advisor. The team experienced yet another busy month in April as we've followed our Iraqi

of Iraq. Our Iraqi counterparts continually amaze us with their ability to shoulder the burdens inherent to these multiple moves and continue to excel in combat operations. We're proud to continue working by their side, assisting them in establishing peace and security in the neighborhoods under their protection.

Team Desperado continues to operate out of FOB Liberty, part of the Victory Base Complex (VBC) just outside Baghdad. The team is enjoying the facilities of a well-established MiTT office, although our counterparts now reside nearly 45 minutes away. Nevertheless, we're able to interact with our Iraqi counterparts on an almost daily basis, taking time off only for maintenance and refit. The team said goodbye to 4-10 Cavalry, but were warmly welcomed back into the Regiment by the Stryker Soldiers of 1-21 Infantry. The Battalion currently operates in the countryside just West of Baghdad, extending out nearly to Fallujah. This rural area is relatively quiet and predominantly comprised of agricultural-based communities.



SFC Howell Providing Maintenance Instruction To Iraqi Soldiers

Our Iraqi brothers are enjoying the relative peace of the countryside compared to their period of service within Baghdad. 2/44/11 is stationed out of Camp India, a small outpost near a town called Nassar Wa Salaam. The Battalion has already made a huge impact on the local area by enforcing Iraqi laws without corruption or prejudice. The Battalion successfully opened gasoline and propane stations to the public for the first time in three years. These establishments have been



**CPT Miranda On Patrol With
2-44-11 TAC In Abu Ghraib**



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under the control of insurgents and criminals who force the locals to buy black market fuels at nearly double the fair government price. LTC Fahmi, the 2/44/11 commander, reported that locals were dancing in the streets to praise the accomplishments of his Battalion in bringing peace and normalcy back to their community.

Team

Desperado conducted a series of training events to fully qualify the Iraqi Battalion in some advanced military skills to include Master Drivers Course, Close Quarters Marksmanship, advanced medical training, and close quarter battle drills. SSG White conducted a series of tactical training events to qualify select Iraqi NCOs on advanced marksmanship and movement techniques. CPT Schreckengost and SFC Howell taught a two-day Master Drivers course that stressed user-level maintenance procedures, as well as safety protocols to be used while operating military vehicles. SSG(P) Scott instructed his Iraqi medic counterparts in a series of training that included classroom instruction, as well as hands-on projects allowing them to practice their medical skills. MAJ Harrelson received multiple needle sticks as the medics practiced administering an IV drip, and SFC Howell received multiple nasal pharyngeal tube procedures (plastic tube up his nose) which simulated opening an airway on a casualty.

As always, I'd like to close with my sincere gratitude to the Desperado ladies. Their invaluable support has been a critical part of this team's success, and we simply cannot show enough appreciation for their efforts. Thank you

for your love and support as we conduct the most critical mission in Iraq. Desperados! Dragoons!!



Regards,
CPT Jared Nystrom
DESPERADO 2

Q Troop "QuickStrike"

Commander's Corner, "Quick 6"

Greetings and salutations to all the Quickstrike families in Germany and around the world. Thank you for all you do on the home front that enables your spouse to accomplish their mission here in Iraq. Every letter and every package is greatly appreciated by the soldiers of Q Troop. As you can tell from the Platoons' paragraphs the Troop has been doing some amazing things over the past month, everyone should be proud of what the outstanding soldiers here are making happen day to day. Alas, I will now hand the speaking over to my right hand man, 1SG Ray Ramsey as he comes to you from his comfy chair, pictures coming soon!

Very Respectfully
CPT Carl Karoleski
QUICK 6

From the 1SG's Chair

We are seeing the weather warm up here. I don't expect sympathy- bearing in mind that you all have been dealing with snow and the kind of



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unpleasant weather that Germany is known for. But the change in weather marks a milestone, and we know that when it finally begins to cool down again here, we will have our sights set on home.

I've neglected to tell you all this before now, but you have every reason to be proud of your spouses and the work they are doing here. I know you don't get many specifics- much of the work our Troop does is sensitive in nature. But be assured your loved ones have had an impact here that is far greater than the size of our small Troop would suggest; we are "punching well above our weight class," so to speak. Every one of our Platoons is going above and beyond in their own unique ways, and I hope that you are as proud of them as I am.

We can expect things to be in a constant state of motion until we come home, so please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you may have (raymond.ramsey@us.army.mil); nothing is trivial, and I will do everything I can to help. In the meantime, know that you have my gratitude and admiration for all that you do to support our soldiers here. Thank you for all that you do.

Recognition/Congratulations:

SPC now(P) Fairall was recommended for promotion!

Reenlistments:

PFC Dolberry
SSG Slate

Promotions

PFC to SPC: PFC Campbell; PFC York

Respectfully
1SG Raymond Ramsey
QUICK 7

Quickstrike Troop March 2008 FRG Newsletter

1st Platoon has been very busy this past month.

Missions, promotions and leaves have kept us on our toes. Mission is running on all cylinders. Our analysts, reporters, linguists and operators are all



Doing A Bit Of Spring Cleaning To Lightening Our Load

recognized as first class throughout MND-B and throughout the whole Iraqi Theater. This mission is what we came here to do, we catch bad guys and we do it well. The SIGINT Platoon leadership, 1LT Lonergan, SSG Yunghans and SSG Carnes, are very proud of the obvious professionalism and technical expertise that has grown in the Soldiers of this Platoon. We rely on each and every one of them and their specific talents that they've applied to the capture of 8 High Value Individuals "The Bad Guys" this past month.



Our Soldiers are truly first class Troopers. I'm sure everyone has read about the 2SCR success in finding the remains of SSG Maupin. Our Platoon was the main driving force in applying pressure and gathering information from key personnel about the location of SSG Maupin's remains. SSG Carnes, SGT Wittenhagen and SGT Debarber all received STS coins for their contributions in this supreme effort. Everyone has their part, everyone puts forth 100% effort, everyone is picking it up and putting it down. **1st Platoon – SIGINT Platoon – ROCKS!** That's what we do, we Take Care of Business.



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SSG Yunghans
1st Platoon, SIGINT, PSG
TCB!

2ND PLT "Missfits"

Lt Greenberg, SSG Slate, and SGT Duke all took R&R this last month. It was well deserved and overdue for all three of these hard charging Troopers. CW2 Miller was honored to have been chosen to reenlist SSG Slate and PFC Dolberry. It is always an honor to see good soldiers extend their service to their country and unit. The platoon awaits the arrival of its newest member from the Slate family. PFC York was promoted to SPC due to his hard work and dedication to and for the Platoon. SPC Bredeweg was able to enjoy the benefits of a visit to Qatar and upon his return had nothing but good things to say about his trip.

We had the privilege of awarding some of our soldiers this past month as well. They are as follows: SGT Rattray- ARCOM; SPCs Popescu & Clubb- AAM; CW2 Miller, PFCs Dolberry & Grussi- 4/2



Squadron coin from CSM Morris; and SPCs Clubb, Benedik, Bredeweg, & Popescu received an STS Squadron coin from CSM Hamm. All our soldiers say hello and they love you

all. SFC Bustamante will be going on leave soon and he is looking forward to his upcoming vacation.

3rd PLT "BloodHound"

During the past month the NBC Recon PLT has been very busy. We bid farewell to Lt. Leonel Acoba who will become the Squadron Chemical Officer at 2nd Squadron, 2SCR this month. The reins have been handed over to Lt. Stephen Hummel. In the past month the platoon has conducted over 20 patrols in the Karkh district of Baghdad in support of the Haifa Street security plan. The platoon is responsible for ensuring that over 200 contracted security guards are following the guidelines and regulations set forth in their contract.

NEW MAILING ADDRESS FOR STS

Starting in mid May sending packages to your deployed Trooper will be much simpler. Our new mailing address will be;

Rank and Name
Your Troop, 2SCR
APO AE 09336

You just fill in the rank, name and your Troop and you are good to go and he or she will be munching on homemade goodies in no time.

Thanks
READY 6

