

THE BUSH: NEWS FROM IRAQ

BRAVO
COMPANY, 1ST
BATTALION,
327TH INFANTRY
REGIMENT

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General Petraeus' Visits FOB Summerall

General Petraeus came to visit the Soldiers of I-327 IN on March 8th. He honored two Bravo Company Soldiers with a Coin for their outstanding and selfless service. These two Soldiers, PFC Miller and PV2 Clausing, were selected by their Platoon and Company leadership to receive this great distinction.

General Petraeus then ate lunch with the Company Commanders. On his trip, he brought along the top Iraqi Generals so that they could talk to the Iraqi Army leadership in our Area of Operations.

After lunch, he went on a patrol down

the Market Street of Bayji. He visited several of the shops and even bought some trinkets. 3rd Platoon escorted General Petraeus on this patrol. Once he had safely returned to the Bayji Police Station, General Petraeus was met by the Bayji Mayor before he was flown out by Blackhawks.



Special points of interest:

- Platoon Highlights
- The "Newest" Bushmasters
- Who's Who in Bravo Company
- Birthdays and Anniversaries
- Commander's Notes

1st Platoon News



On March 20th, 1st Platoon officially moved to the Bayji Oil Refinery, which is more commonly referred to as the BOR. They are replaced by a Delta Platoon that spent the first six months of their deployment at the BOR. When LT Hensley returns from leave, he will remain with Bravo Company and be the Platoon Leader for the new

Platoon. The Delta Platoon Sergeant is SFC Blair. Both are excited to be working together.

Congratulations to SGT Hayes and SSG(P) Betancourt. SGT Hayes was promoted and SSG Betancourt was picked up on the E-7 list.

SSG Dees out in the desert.

2nd Platoon News



SSG Loheide and SGT King get a closer look at a giant crater.

During the last month, 2nd platoon has continued to perform its mission as part of Bravo Company's effort to secure and stabilize our AO. Our focus has been on the desert because it is the staging point for many attacks and 2nd has patrolled it aggressively. The enemy we face is intelligent and as a result 2nd has lost a MRAP and a HMMWV to enemy

land mines in the desert. Fortunately neither attack resulted in casualties. These attacks do not deter us and we will continue to go into the desert and find more caches, individuals associated with the insurgency, and bring hope to the people out there who want to be free of the Al-Qaeda influence. In our main town of Siniyah, 2nd continues to

patrol with the Iraqi police and looks forward to them taking on even greater responsibilities as we transition control of Iraq back to the Iraqis. Whether working in Siniyah or the surrounding AO, 2nd performs its duty with distinction. Congratulations to SPC Meixsell and SPC Meyers for being selected for promotion to SGT.

3rd Platoon News



SGT Couch and SSG Hall take a break with some Iraqi children.

3rd Platoon has been extremely busy lately. There were five promotions on 1 March. Colvin, McReynolds, Ochoa, and Levine were promoted from Private First Class to Specialist. Also SGT

Smith and our new FO, SGT Muller, was promoted from Specialist to Sergeant. SGT

Boronow is recovering with the Platoon and doing well. He should be back to 100% very soon. SGT Smith is back at Fort Campbell and is expecting a full recovery. In addition to his promotion, he and his girlfriend are expecting their first child in April.

The Soldiers of 3rd Platoon are doing a tremendous job. 3rd Platoon and

Bravo Company as a whole are making a huge difference in the Area of Operation with the numerous caches found, enemy detained, and the positive attitude when dealing with the local Iraqis. The Platoon needs to continue with the positive attitude and initiative for the next nine months.

The “Newest” Bushmasters: Baby Births and New Soldiers

There are a lot of new faces in the Bushmaster family over the past month. PV2 Ellerbe and PVT McMurtrey met us in country straight out of Basic and AIT. PV2 Ellerbe is a 13F though most of the time he is the Commander’s driver. He drives CPT Billingsley to his numerous visits with Sheiks and local leaders or on regular patrols in Siniyah or the desert. PV2 McMurtrey has joined the “Outlaw” 3rd Platoon as a rifleman in SSG Hall’s Squad. He has already participated in several missions including a two-day mission in the desert.

In addition to these new Soldiers, there are four new NCOs. Due to promotions, there have been personnel changes in the Battalion. SSG(P) Rhoads is the new 2-7 (2nd Platoon Platoon Sergeant). He has spent the first six months of the deployment as the Battalion Commander’s Personal Security Detachment leader. In addition SSG Swisher, SSG Adame, and SSG Thomas will be joining the Bushmasters within the next week.

Sadly with these new additions, the Bushmasters will lose a few outstanding NCOs. SSG Wisniewski, who has served a year as the 2nd Platoon Sergeant will be moving to the Brigade LNO. SSG Loheide will be moving to Patrol Base Woodcock joining Charlie Company. Congratulations to SSG(P) Betancourt for his selection for the E-7 list. SSG(P) Betancourt will take over a Platoon in Alpha Company and will be joined by SSG Aguilar. We thank these four Non-Commissioned Officers for their dedication to Bravo Company and wish them the best in their new assignment.

Who’s Who in Bravo Company



Private First Class Mills

Private First Class Mills is the Supply clerk. With SPC Ames on leave, PFC Mills has done an excellent job stepping up as the Company Armorer for the past month.

- He enjoys fixing computers, playing video games, and reading fantasy. Though right now he is reading the Bourne Identity series.
- What he misses the most is his family.

Specialist Wilson

Specialist Wilson is a Team Leader in 2nd Squad, 2nd Platoon. He is from Circleville, Ohio. He has one child already. His wife is expecting their second.

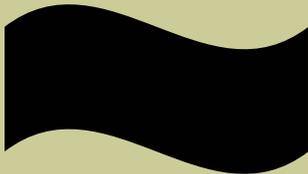
- His favorite style of food is Mexican.
- The thing he likes the most about his deployment to Iraq is capturing insurgents.
- During his R&R leave, he will spend time with his family and be with his wife as she gives birth to his second child.

Specialist Ochoa

Specialist Ochoa is the Alpha Team rifleman for 3rd Squad. He hails from New Rochelle, New York (about 50 miles from New York City).

- His favorite food over here is the Salisbury Steak..
- The things he misses the most from back home are his friends and family.
- His favorite pastime is collecting movies.

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Cover (counterclockwise from top right): General Petraeus presents PFC Miller with a Coin; The Company Commanders eat lunch with P4; Silhouette of Second Platoon in the sand dunes; 3rd Platoon trains the Iraqi Army on how to use the mine detectors while searching for caches;



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to the following individuals who celebrate their birthdays in April:

SPC Chris Taylor	April 3rd	1st Platoon
SPC Justin Meyers	April 3rd	2nd Platoon
SPC Matthew Brugeman	April 5th	3rd Platoon
PV2 Joshua Cressey	April 5th	1st Platoon
SSG Michael Hall	April 7th	3rd Platoon
PV2 Mathis Ellenrbe	April 16th	Headquarters
PVT Dane Myers	April 18th	1st Platoon
SGT Glenn Boronow	April 20th	3rd Platoon
PFC Paul Reid	April 20th	1st Platoon

Happy Anniversary to the following couples who celebrate their anniversary in April:

PV2 John Pardon	April 5th	1st Platoon
PFC John Clum	April 7th	2nd Platoon
SPC Nicholas Cabanatan	April 30th	1st Platoon



Commander's Note

Hello Bushmaster Family. This is a new and improved version of the newsletter. We made the change so that we could keep the families informed better and provide more photos to you.

First I wanted to say how proud I am of the Company and all the families. With your support as a team we are able to capture/kill insurgent and their weapon caches. The Company has found thousands of pounds of explosives and countless weapons; therefore, denying the enemy his ability to conduct attacks. As a result attacks in our AO attacks are down 70%.

I wanted to take the time to thank all the NCO's that served in the company and the families for their dedication and support to the Bushmasters. Your husbands have contributed to the success of the company and molded young Soldiers. Families don't underestimate your roles, your sup-



SSG Hollingsworth, SGT Hayes, and SGT Muller (l to r) get promoted on the first of March.

port has enabled them to do this. Thanks for all your sacrifices and support. I wish all of you luck wherever your new assignment rest.

Lastly, I wanted to extend thanks again to Don Dornell and ASA. ASA and other groups have provided us with never-ending support and praise. Outstanding Americans like these go out of their way to send us everything from care packages to needed equipment and more. For those of you that have not

heard, Don Dornell is trying to come see the Soldiers of Bravo Company here at FOB Summerall. Don is working many angles on how to make this happen. He has found someone that will sponsor his flight to Kuwait but was having difficulty getting approval to come to FOB Summerall. If the Redskin's Cheerleaders were able to do it then this great patriot should be able to. Thanks again!

Bushmaster 6
CPT Aaron L. Billingsley