

Charlie Chronicle

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The Combat Guidon

(due to the non uniformity of the picture we can't publish the picture on the webpage but if you email the Rear Detachment desk we can email it to you upon request)

The Combat Guidon was first made by the wife of the previous Charlie Battery commander, Mrs. S, for the battery rotation at the National Training Center. The Combat Guidon was proudly displayed on one of the antennas of Charlie six, the battery commander's truck for the entire rotation. The Combat Guidon was passed along with the actual Guidon after change of command.

Recently, the soldiers on the Headquarters platoon have taken the Combat Guidon one step further. Specialist P., one of the battery TOC specialists made a staff out of a branch that he found in Camp Manhattan, Iraq. Later, SSG S. and the rest of the Headquarters soldiers made streamers out of engineer tape that signify some of the significant events that the battery has undergone since the deployment to Iraq.

The first streamer made is entitled the Ghetto. This was the place that the battery stayed during the Reception, Staging, and Onward Movement (RSOI) phase of the deployment. While the stay was short, it was highly active. The National Guard soldiers who we shared the camp with were extremely helpful with supplies, and with lots of good advice about the movement north and operations in Iraq. Most of the soldiers in the battery will remember this phase of the deployment as extremely busy and not having a lot of sleep.

The next streamer to make the Guidon is entitled Cannon Ball Run. This was where the battery made the move from Camp New York, Kuwait to Ar Ramadi, Iraq. The hours were long as were the miles. Most of the trip was a blur to the majority of the soldiers since they traveled it on very little sleep. Some would say that the battery left something somewhere on the roads in Iraq. This would be other than the water buffalo filled with ice that was part of a small accident on the highway in Iraq. What was also lost was the mysteries as to what combat and Iraq might be like. Along the way the battery saw a lot of rubble which were remnants of the war, and the conditions that the Iraqi people live under which made them understand the importance of why they were needed.

The streamer entitled Thar Thar Dam was made to signify the time that the first platoon Gladiators spent securing the Thar Thar Dam. The streamer is blue with green lettering to signify the blue water and green vegetation that was everywhere at the dam. The Gladiators handled the mission with extreme professionalism. Along with protecting the dam, they fought off numerous looters, and eventually trained a team of Iraqis to secure the dam, before leaving to move on to their next mission.

Along side the Thar Thar dam streamer is the Pump Station #4 streamer. The streamer is black with small white lettering to signify the oil that was everywhere at this site. Pumping station #4 was an oil pumping station secured by the third platoon Stingrays. It was once an important asset to the oil infrastructure of Iraq and the platoon secured it proudly during the long stay at the pumping station. The platoon eventually got the opportunity to train guards to secure the pumping station and then moved on to their next mission.

The next streamer on the Combat Guidon is the entitled the Trick or Treat Raid. This streamer is dubbed off of the name of a raid conducted by the Iron Ranger battalion, and the Special Forces in which second platoon, the Renegades, participated. The platoon was tasked to Bravo Company, 1-16 Infantry, and performed in an exemplary manner during the raid. During the battle, the platoon fired a total of eleven TOW missiles desecrating the enemy.

The ASP 309 streamer was dubbed off of another fixed site in which all three platoons of the Crossbows were involved. Initially, the Renegades were tasked to conduct presence patrols and reconnaissance of the site. This is where everyone learned the importance of not smoking at the ASPs. A small spark from one of the soldier's cigarettes ignited a bunker at the ASP. Later after returning from the Thar Thar Dam and Pump Station #4, both the Gladiators, and the Stingrays shared the responsibility for securing the ASP. The 21st Chemical Company, and EOD from the 82 Airborne Division, conducted reduction of the ASP until the entire stockpile had been destroyed.

The next streamer to make the Combat Guidon was Operation Santa Lauer. The Stingrays were tasked to support themselves moving back to Camp Junction City for Christmas dinner. Meanwhile the headquarters, and maintenance platoons delivered Christmas dinner to the Gladiators at the Thar Thar dam. CPT L., the battery commander, dressed in a Santa suit just before entering the site. The soldiers of 1st platoon enjoyed the meal and the entertainment of the commander dressed in a Santa suit.

The 1 Year DUI free signifies the tough challenge back at Fort Riley for the battery to keep soldiers from driving drunk, and the fact that the soldiers are not allowed to drink in Iraq.

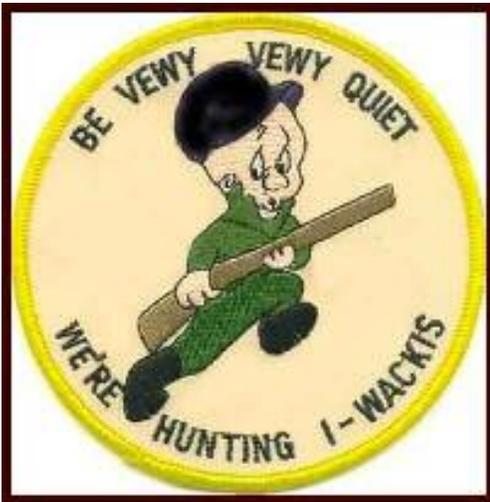
The Khalidiyah streamer was made for the battery's brief trip to Camp Manhattan, Iraq to assist TF1-34 in operations in Khalidiyah, Iraq. The battery got the word to move to Camp Manhattan, and in less than six hours, the entire battery had moved, and was prepared to conduct operations. During the stay the battery secured the Khalidiyah ASP,

the Khalidiyah bridge, and conducted patrols of the MSR that ran through the town. The Gladiators caught a black market fuel salesman and an IED maker during the patrols of Khalidiyah.

In summary, the Combat Guidon has become the real Guidon of the battery. The soldiers of the battery look forward to what ever other missions that come their way, and adding streamers to the Combat Guidon.

Cool Guy quote of the month

**"Be convinced that to be happy means to be free and that to be free means to be brave. Therefore do not take lightly the perils of war."
--Thucydides--**



FROM THE PLATOONS

HEADQUARTERS



Well, this is the beginning of a New Year. Hopefully this one will be better than the last one. I'd like to welcome another member to the Demon team-Sgt B. He will be taking over as the armorer, at least for now. It is a welcome change because of the lack of Ncos in HQ. Spc B has returned from the states and has taken Spc M's place as the armorer. Sgt B and Spc B will be working together in the arms room. Sgt W and Spc T have also joined us in Iraq and

are adjusting well with everything. Pfc L has had his chance to go on leave and has returned to the Battery after his much needed rest. Pfc T is next on the hit list for leave and is doing his paperwork as we speak. He is expected to leave in the next couple of days. Have fun and enjoy yourself. Spc S's new baby has made a trip to the hospital and we all hope that he is going to be all right. We wish the family all the best. Nothing new has happened in the platoon except for the new personnel and the fact that we have gotten our beds. They make sleeping a little better. Good luck to Spc M with rejoining the Gladiator platoon. They are getting a really good soldier and we know that he will be a valuable asset to them. Good luck and don't forget the Demons. We have been here for some time now and we all miss our families more and more. We are holding on to their love and support and hope to see them all very soon. Don't forget that Valentine's Day is coming up. Take of the home front and we will take of the front line. Keep in touch.

Ssg S

Bust Nuts



As you all know we are know approaching our fifth month of being here in Iraq. All of us here would like to thank our family members for carrying on there daily lives without us being there. We can only try to understand what it is like to take care of the pets, chores around the house, and especially taking care of the children without us there to help. We continually look forward to the reunion when we can all be together again.

We would like to welcome SPC C back to our platoon. He has already been here once, traveled back to the United States, and returned back to Iraq. This just goes to show you how loyal he is to the Army and our unit. There are still a few more from the platoon that are awaiting there departure to Iraq. We are anxiously waiting there arrival.

Happy Birthday wishes are sent to Michael B, Rose T, Aric B, Jennika W, and SPC H. We would also like to send our best wishes to the W family on their new arrival of Jennika W born on the 9th of this month.

Thanks to all of you for what you do and continue to do.

Gladiators



Hello from Iraq again. We are doing fine and have accomplished quite a bit so far. We have trained guards to defend a dam and turned authority over to the Iraqis. The guards have been successful in using their training and that is a direct reflection of the quality in 1st platoon's soldiers. SGT W and SGT M were especially adept at training the Iraqis and deserve recognition. PFC G went home on leave to see his baby boy, Richard T, born on 8 JAN 04. Congratulations to PFC G and his wife, J, on their first child.

Also, SPC S is now a Gladiator and we welcome him as our permanent medic. We are moving to Habbaniya temporarily in the near future, so mail may be a bit slow for a while. But everyone sends their love and we appreciate your thoughts and prayers.

Strength and Honor

JANUARY AND FEBRUARY BIRTHDAYS

Leland L	1-Jan
Rich H	2-Jan
Mark A	4-Jan
Aprille L	6-Jan
Daniel L	7-Jan
Joseph L	8-Jan
Jennika W	8-Jan
Michael B	8-Jan
Heather W	9-Jan
Aric W B	10-Jan
Emily J	2-Jan
Casey W	13-Jan
Charles T	15-Jan
Shawn H	16-Jan
Haley C	16-Jan
Alex L	18-Jan
Jawaun B	19-Jan
Todd W	21-Jan
Roswitha T	23-Jan
Joel S	25-Jan
Adam R	26-Jan

Brian M	27-Jan
James W	28-Jan
Cecilia P	29-Jan
James B	30-Jan
Justin L	2-Feb
Jameel M	2-Feb
Tristin F	7-Feb
Liam S	7-Feb
Alexis B	9-Feb
William D	9-Feb
Elizabeth G	9-Feb
Harry T	12-Feb
Katelyn H	14-Feb
Nickolas B	17-Feb
Austin R	17-Feb
Mellissa T	19-Feb
Derick W	21-Feb
Christopher D H	23-Feb
Ryan S	23-Feb
Donald W	25-Feb
Jesslyann R	28-Feb
Lashan M	28-Feb

Hello from Iraq. Another month has passed, and the soldiers are still doing their missions to the best of their abilities. I would like to welcome the new additions to the Battery, which is PFC N, Pvt A, SSG B and SPC B. Also, SFC W has joined us and is doing some good things as the new platoon sergeant of 1st platoon. We also would like to welcome everyone back who is being sent back to us after returning to the States – SPC C, SPC B, SPC T, SPC A and SGT H. Congratulations to SPC G and his wife for the birth of their new baby and to SGT W and his wife for their new addition to the family. Sgt W is also rejoining the Battery after his successful attendance at school. He has shown that it isn't as difficult as others make it seem to get ready to deploy. Let me say I appreciate all the effort it takes from the soldiers and their family members to get ready and actually deploy.

Since we have moved into the building we have seen more changes in our standard of living. The combination heater/air conditioners are now installed into the windows of the barracks. This is creating more comfort for all of the soldiers. They are now in the process of installing a larger generator unit for our building which will allow us to run our heaters and air conditioners on high. The temperatures have remained steady here with highs in the 70s and low around 50 degrees. To us the 50 degrees feels

really cold, as we all have become accustomed to the weather here. Tax season is upon us. Right now there is an option for soldiers who are deployed to wait up to 180 days upon return from deployment to file their taxes. This also includes their wives, if filing jointly. It has been suggested to fill out a tax return form heading with "COMBAT ZONE" on it and mail it into the IRS to avoid receiving late notices. You can still file the taxes though. Most of the married soldiers have already filled out a Form 2848 Power of Attorney and Declaration of Representative. These were done in the rear before deployment. If you need a new one filled out, your husband can get one from me and fill it out and mail it to you. The W-2 is available on line through the My Pay web site. You can then do your taxes by calling 239-1040 and going to Building 7034, which is behind the Brigade Headquarters. There is no cost of getting your taxes done there. I know there are still many rumors floating around back there, but we are trying our best to get all of the information out that we receive. There will be no leaves in February or March due to the deploying units coming in and the units leaving that they are replacing them. Leaves will start back up in April.

1SG

