



# Guardian City News



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101<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Battalion

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## Guardian 6 Sends:

I want every spouse in the Battalion to know how proud I am of the selfless service and dedication to duty displayed by each and every member of this battalion as we roll into the our fifth month here in Iraq. Time continues to move quickly for us as we provide uninterrupted logistical support to the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team. I am continually amazed at the professionalism of our young soldiers as they conduct daily operations and improve the quality of life throughout our base camp. Although many threats have been removed, Iraq continues to be a dangerous place and the battalion is taking every precaution to ensure the safety of your loved ones each and every time we roll out of the camp gates. Conditions in Iraq continue to improve as Coalition and local Iraqi agencies rebuild infrastructure and start putting the Iraqis back to work. Our soldiers continue to win the understanding and support of the local population, one Iraqi at a time.

As we head into the New Year, we are continuing to take every effort to provide the comforts of home, as much as possible, in a combat zone. In the last ninety days the battalion has sponsored numerous events to uplift the soldiers spirits such as a Christian Unity



Concert, a karaoke contest, talent show, and flag football games. We are also planning a Super Bowl party for the soldiers on 2 February 04. In addition to providing home away from home comforts for the soldiers, we are doing everything possible to ensure the soldiers maintain connectivity with their love ones. The battalion established a dedicated morale phone line that the soldiers are allowed to use at any time. The battalion is also getting an Internet Café within the next 4 weeks which will allow soldiers to stay connected through e-mails. I highly encourage every member of the battalion to take advantage of these tools to maintain communications with their loved ones during our deployment.

We continue to maximize the number of soldiers on R&R leave. We currently have a sizeable number of soldiers on leave and anticipate maintaining that number

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through January. We are taking full advantage of this great program so as many soldiers as possible can take the opportunity to enjoy some well-deserved R&R.

The leaders in the Battalion are certainly doing their utmost to ensure the wellbeing of each individual soldier. Due to the added stress of being deployed in a combat zone, we have provided mandatory stress management classes as well as outstanding Chaplain services to those who request it.

On behalf of the entire Battalion, I would like to thank the FRG Leaders and families for their continued support during this deployment, especially during the Holidays. You can be immensely proud of the job your spouses are doing on a day-to-day basis. I am truly blessed to be the Commander of this great Battalion. God bless you and God bless the Guardians!

**HQ/Alpha Company**  
**"Avalanche"**  
*Sustaining Combat Power*



Since arriving in Iraq in

support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team of the 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry Division, a heavy mechanized brigade, has relied upon the Supply Support Activity (SSA) from the 101<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Battalion for the countless number of supplies needed to keep the brigade fully mission capable. The mission of the 101<sup>st</sup> SSA is to supply repair parts, general supplies, packaged petroleum products, building materials, and other military equipment. The SSA platoon soldiers of HQ/A Company provide this vitally important service, helping to ensure the overall success of the brigade.

Day-to-day operations in the warehouse keep the SSA soldiers very busy. SSA soldiers maintain a fast pace to ensure the supported units get their supplies and repair parts in a timely manner. Soldiers in the warehouse accomplish tasks ranging from the work of CW2 R. overseeing the SSA operations to PFC L. putting parts away, while SPC M. tracks supply flow and availability and SPC H. and her soldiers turning in unserviceable parts and obsolete supplies to be cycled out or repaired. The SSA soldiers also ensure that the supported units are loaded with their supplies and parts for delivery to various locations throughout the brigade. These are tremendous tasks for the soldiers of the SSA to perform, especially when

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the soldiers have other responsibilities outside of their everyday mission. Additional duties include guard duty, kitchen patrol, or filling critical positions on logistics convoy. However, the soldiers of the SSA are still able to perform their duties and accomplish every mission with exceptional results in a professional and timely manner. The 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team relies heavily on the soldiers of the SSA platoon and on their professionalism and dedication to ensure that the brigade is able to sustain combat power.

### **Bravo Company**

#### **"Bulldogs"**

#### ***Fabricating Steel Doors***



**PHOTO:** Above the S&R team works diligently to complete the difficult but feasible task by putting in the countless hours needed on the assembly line preparing the finished product for America's war fighters. Pictured from left to right are SSG M. (grinding), SGT F. (production supervisor), SPC M. (drilling) and SGT R. (using the template to trace and cut the raw metal). Not pictured above are CPL R. and PFC L.

With safety being the top priority in any combat operation, it did not take long for the 101st FSB Service and Recovery section to be put into action. A team of soldiers comprised of metallurgical experts, experience and just pure down home ingenuity were ready to meet the task at hand. SGT F. the creator and developer of the highly sought after SHARHD's (Supplemental HMMWV Armor, Removable for Hard Doors) quickly met the challenge to help protect our soldiers.

The team had to first find a suitable source of metal to use in making the quality product. With metal being a hard to acquire item out here, a temporary solution needed to be found until shipments of metal would arrive. That source became a couple of old abandoned Iraqi aircraft hangars. S&R would spend between eight and ten hours a day stripping the hangars of the 1000 lb plus sheets of steel used in constructing the additional protection doors. Over time, S&R made three or four more trips to the hangars acquiring the additional raw material desperately needed to meet the demand. "Even though our shop is short handed, we had to split up the team to get the steel from the hangars and continue making doors. With the Platoon's cohesion and soldiers from the other sections helping from time to time, is what made all of this possible," said SPC M., a S&R metal work specialist.

SGT F. had this to say about the entire process, "No one

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seemed to realize how important an operational S&R shop could be. With the right soldiers and equipment almost anything can be done. The soldiers of S&R were tasked with the arduous task of fabricating the SHARHD panels to help provide better protection for the soldiers of the 1BCT. I could not have better soldiers, who have been relentless in accomplishing the mission. DUTY FIRST!"

SSG M., the S&R NCOIC responded saying, "The soldiers of S&R amaze and inspire me everyday. When given the task to fabricate an enormous amount of supplemental armor doors, they attacked it with precision and vigor. I'm astounded on a daily basis of the sheer volume of physical work combined with precise work the guy's accomplished! The team's work ethics is unsurpassed and I am proud to be a part of it". Currently the TEAM has constructed over 300 doors in less than a month's time. This equates to 76 HMMWV's that are rolling in Iraq with the additional armor protection. It provides the occupants one more protective barrier between them and the unknown dangers that our soldiers face every day. Families back home can expect every effort from its leaders and soldiers alike to reduce the dangers that their family members may face to be reduced to a minimal risk. Thanks to the soldiers, America can know that their men and women are working relentlessly around the clock to bring us all home safely.

## Charlie Company "Courage"

*Providing Medical Care To  
Over 5,000 Soldiers*



As we enter into the New Year many of us take time to reflect about what we would like to change or improve in our lives and what goals and objectives we want to attain. For Charlie Company we wish to continue providing excellent medical care to the soldiers of the 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team. The company has seen several Iraqi national casualties as well as United States soldiers wounded in action over the last four months. The amount of trauma patients we treat has decreased since the capture of Saddam Hussein, but we still keep busy providing daily sick call for the soldiers of FOB Junction City and surrounding camps as well as to civilian

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contractors, dining facility workers, and detained personnel. In addition to our sick call and trauma care abilities, we can take x-rays and provide lab tests as required. We also have a Dental Clinic capable of routine and emergency dental care. We have an Optometrist that visits us on a monthly basis to perform eye examinations and provide glasses for the soldiers in our area.

Our ambulance platoon conducts the important mission of evacuating emergency and routine patients as necessary so they can be treated at a higher level of care. They coordinate for air assets (helicopters) and have also evacuated patients by ground ambulance to combat support hospitals. Our ambulance platoon also provides medical coverage for selected training of the new Iraqi National Guard.

Our maintenance section has been working hard, servicing all of our vehicles and ensuring that they are fully mission capable for daily duty and numerous convoys. The headquarters platoon constantly monitors and works extremely hard on keeping our lines of communication, such as our radios and phones open and operational. They also operate our command post (CP) 24-hours, seven days a week.

Our battalion sponsors a local school. Charlie Company provides donated medical supplies such as band-aids, bacitracin, tape, and

gauze. We recently visited the school and were able to render medical care to the children.

FOB Junction City has received an Internet Café' that holds about 20 laptop computers and five phones. There is also an AT&T phone center. The soldiers of Charlie Company are very creative and when we are not working we are entertaining ourselves with recreational activities such as a costume party on Halloween, a milk-drinking contest, a name your "hooch" contest, a volleyball tournament, and playing flag football.

We want to thank all of you for making this holiday season in Iraq a memorable one with all of the decorations, wonderful treats, and gifts. Although many of us here in Iraq have missed birthdays, anniversaries, births, and many other significant events please know that all of our sacrifices have allowed us to save lives and contribute to the fight for freedom. The experience we have had here has enlightened us and allowed us to see first hand the things we take for granted on a daily basis. We are proud to serve our nation. Thanks for your support.

## 331<sup>st</sup> Signal Company "Bigg Doggs"

### *Re-enlisting with the Bigg Doggs*



The 331<sup>st</sup> Signal Company, 101<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Brigade Combat Team had three reenlistments on Saturday, January 17, 2004, at Camp Junction City. SSG C. reenlisted for six years with a follow-on assignment in Alaska. SGT R. and SPC R. reenlisted for six years with follow-on assignments to Fort Hood, Texas. All three soldiers are in the unit's headquarters platoon. SSG C. is the company motor sergeant. SGT R. recently joined Systems Control (SYSCON), and is responsible for managing the Brigade's communications network. SPC R. is a vehicle mechanic.

SSG C. is very excited about his impending move to Alaska. He has not received his pinpoint assignment orders, but the opportunity to take his family to Alaska is a dream come true. His hobbies include hunting and

fishing and Alaska will undoubtedly provide him with the ideal environment to enjoy those activities. What's at the top of his shopping list when he redeploys from Iraq and moves to snowy Alaska, "a snowmobile" declares SSG C. After his reenlistment ceremony, SSG C. encouraged soldiers to give the Army a fair chance; he shared his personal experiences and the reasons why he will retire from the service.

The R. family welcomed an additional member a month prior to deploying. They had their first child, who is now staying with a family member until her parents redeploy from Iraq. The move to Fort Hood in January 2005 will bring them closer to their family in Texas. SPC R. has received her orders assigning her to the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. SGT R. is awaiting his pinpoint assignment orders; he is excited about the opportunity to work with the Army's newest communications equipment, which is often fielded at Fort Hood before other installations.