

**CENTURION
FAMILY READINESS GROUP UPDATE
12 May 2004**

Family and Friends,

The Centurions have been extremely busy since my last update, and I apologize for the delay. Since the last update, the task force conducted multiple combat operations. The efforts of your soldiers are reflected in the current security environment. We have enjoyed a very quiet three weeks, because of the combat actions conducted the first weeks of April. The tempo of operations remains very high for your soldiers. However, there has been no faltering in their professionalism or focus.

Headquarters continues to provide quality support to the Centurions. The Scouts have been active in area denial missions and as our light quick reaction force. The Mortars have conducted numerous dismounted patrols in local communities. They recently handed out stuffed animals to some young Iraqi children in town. Our Medics continue to prove that they are the best in the theater of operations. Whether caring for our wounded in action or injured Iraqis their professionalism shines through. They have set a tough standard for any medical team to surpass. The Support Platoon provides the local force protection for the base. It is a tough job, but they are up to it. The Mechanics have surpassed our peacetime operational readiness rates! It is an amazing effort by that great team. The Mess team is providing three meals a day now. We look forward to the day that they can really reapply their skills. The Staff stayed busy planning a series of offensive actions to defeat the enemy.

Apache provides the heavy quick reaction force and area denial observation posts. The company participated in several recent raids and area reconnaissance missions. They maneuvered and attacked the enemy in order to support of nearby units as well. Team Apache's flexibility and tenacity served them well. They were very successful

Cobra conducted a series of raids, which led to the destruction of one enemy cell and the disruption of two others. Cobra with the help of Bulldog discovered a large cache during these raids. We denied the enemy mortar rounds, RPGs, and small arms due to Cobra's efforts.

Attack conducted an offensive operation in which they discovered five enemy caches. Like Cobra, they denied the enemy access to much needed weapons. Their actions defeated an enemy cell attacking Coalition Forces along a major supply route in a neighboring zone.

Bulldog provided assistance to Apache, Cobra and Attack on operations. The ability of men of Bulldog to read the terrain and enemy patterns led to the cache discoveries. Their competence is unparalleled. They continue to conduct area denial missions in addition to their area reconnaissance or "cache search" missions.

Blackhawk remained rock steady in our area denial missions. Their efforts have denied the enemy key terrain as well as allowing freedom of movement for Coalition Forces. Blackhawk recently defeated an enemy IED cell in our area. Thanks to their efforts, attacks along that stretch of roadway have decreased dramatically.

In Civil Military Operations, Task Force Centurion continues to provide much needed assistance to the local infrastructure.

- We have spent nearly \$1,000,000 to renovate every school in our area of operations. The renovations affect over 15,000 students, providing a healthy learning environment for them.
- We renovated two water treatment plants affecting 20,000 local residents. In May and June we will work on three more projects providing treated water for those local communities. Prior to our assistance, the local populace drank untreated water straight from the Euphrates River.
- We are also assisting in the training and equipping of the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps. This organization along with the Iraqi Police will assume responsibility for local security not later than 01 July 2004.

As I said we remain very busy, and we are making progress to our goal of the transfer of authority to Iraqi Security Forces on 01 July 2004. I will be sure to send information about redeployment to the Rear Detachment and Family Readiness Groups. Please do not get caught up in the rumors. The Rear Detachment Commander remains the source of all official information.

We thank you for your continued support and prayers!

Sincerely,

**LTC JEFF SWISHER
CENTURIONS!**