



CENTURION  
FAMILY READINESS GROUP UPDATE  
15 March 2004

Family and Friends,

The task force continues to be very busy. We conduct offensive operations on a daily basis to help bring peace and security to this region. Overall enemy activity is much lower than six months ago, and we recently defeated a bomb-making cell in our area of operation. We continue to find enemy caches, and disrupt his the ability to attack innocent Iraqis and our forces.

We not only conduct combat operations in AO Centurion, but we have also been busy on the civil affairs front. We are busy helping to train and equip local police. They join us on patrols and assist us with traffic control points. We have renovated five health clinics in the region, providing sanitary facilities for much needed medical care. We also have renovated over 48 school buildings affecting 80 schools, and we spent over \$600,000 to help the children here have a decent learning environment. Unfortunately, these good news stories rarely make the newspapers.

Basecamp Manhattan continues to grow. We receive three hot meals a day, although the quality has yet to match that of our cooks'. All soldiers live in renovated buildings, and all have access to hot showers. The soldiers have an MWR center which now includes an AT&T phone center. Soldiers can use the prepaid AT&T phone cards to make calls. We opened a new Chapel on 14 March for several worship opportunities occurring each week. Soldiers also have a gym with basketball and nautilus weight sets to use during their brief periods of down time. We expect the pace of operations will slow by the end of March to allow the soldiers to have a more predictable schedule.

I realize that there are many rumors about redeployment. We are scheduled to redeploy in September or October 2004. That is when our year in Iraq will end. I will promptly notify the Read Detachment if that information changes. TF 1-34 AR will also remain in Camp Manhattan; we will not move. Although the 82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Division is redeploying, we will receive some additional assistance as USMC units move into the area.

**There has been an APO change for Camp Manhattan. The new APO is 09381.** The APO address for Camp Junction City remains 09394.

Your soldiers have earned a reputation of being disciplined professionals. They are working very hard to accomplish their mission, and they are doing so with a professional attitude. I am sure you are proud of their hard work. Please continue to keep us in your prayers.

LTC Jeff Swisher  
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