



Family Readiness Group Newsletter – July 2004
Bravo Company “Bushmasters”

A Message from Bushmaster 7

Friends and family members, our time here is short and soon we will all be back to enjoy the comforts of Fort Riley. Not many of us thought we would speak with fondness of Fort Riley, but things have changed.

The redeployment phase is often a time of added stress that, if not planned for, can cause undue hardship and emotional anxiety. We will all undergo reintegration classes and medical evaluations before and shortly after our return to ensure that any soldier who is having a difficult time dealing with issues gets the help they need. Family members are not immune and will also undergo a few classes on what to expect from your returning soldier. These classes are not required of family members but are highly encouraged to ease a difficult process.

Having done this many times I have some experience that could benefit others.

- Don't allow your husbands to drive for the first eight hours he is back. Although many of us have been driving here in Iraq, we are out of practice when it comes to being courteous on the road.
- I know that many of you will be so happy to have your loved ones back that others will be forgotten if we don't make an effort to prevent it from occurring. Many of the soldiers in the company are single and will not have anyone at the airfield to greet them. Visit the hanger, even if your husband is not scheduled to return and say thank you to as many soldiers you can.
- Put off any travel plans until your loved one returns. It is much better to visit with family and friends after a few days of decompressing from a long deployment and plane flight.
- Be patient, the S-1 will get all the flight information out to you as soon as they receive the manifest from Iraq. All but a few soldiers will return within a week or two from each other. Any soldier scheduled to stay for the port detail has already been notified and I am not inclined to change it unless an emergency arises.

Finally, I have had a wonderful experience serving with your loved ones. They have accomplished so much toward the betterment of the people of Iraq and you can all be proud of their service. We look forward to seeing the entire Bushmaster family at the Battalion formal in November where we can personally thank you for this memorable experience. It will be a night to remember for those that have never attended a military formal. I have never heard of someone having a bad time at one of these events and couples often speak fondly of the times they attended a formal military ball. So plan and prepare for a great evening of fine food, fine wine and dancing (fine or not).

1SG
Bushmaster 7

