



TF 1-16 IN (IRON RANGERS) COMMANDER'S LETTER (AUGUST 2004)

Greetings from FOB Ramadi

To the families and friends of Attack, Bounty Hunter, Bushmaster, Coyote, Crossbow, and Rhino, I send my warmest regards and thanks for the sacrifices and prayers which you have provided from the homefront.

We have recently posted my Annual Training Guidance on the Battalion home page. If you have not yet had the opportunity, please see this document, as it will provide you with my vision of how the Iron Rangers will operate in the months to come.

Current Operations

The Iron Rangers continue to deny AIF (anti-Iraqi forces) from emplacing IEDs (improvised explosive devices) and attacking traffic on our section of HWY 1.

Since Brigade assigned us this mission nearly 3 months ago, not a single IED or attack has occurred in our 62 kilometer section of HWY 1. This successful denial of enemy activity is due to the vigilance and aggressive patrolling of Bounty Hunter, Bushmaster, Coyote, Crossbow, and Rhino. This highway continues to be a safe passageway not just for us, but also for the Iraqi citizens who can now move in peace and security.

The Iron Rangers continue to work with the ING (Iraqi National Guard) and the IP (Iraqi Police) to build their professionalism and confidence. Officers, NCOs, and Soldiers share tactics, techniques, and procedures with these Iraqi security forces in an effort to build these institutions into forces capable of supporting a democratically elected government and securing a free and peaceful Iraqi people.

Attack Company continues its superb support of Task Force Centurion, providing mounted and dismounted infantry for TF Centurion missions.

Redeployment

Redeployment is on the horizon. Though we can see “the light at the end of the tunnel,” we have not yet entered the “tunnel.” We are focusing more and more time and energy on this complex operation as the days go on. Please, continue to bear with us with your strength and patience to endure a little longer this time away from your loved ones. Our reunion grows closer each moment.

Future Iron Ranger Activities

When we return from block leave, the Distinguished Members of the Regiment (DMOR) weekend will be upon us.

The DMOR ball will take place 19NOV04 at 1830 hrs. It will be our time to honor our return from combat, as current Iron Rangers join with former members of the 16th Infantry Regiment to celebrate the Regiment. Currently, Rear-D continues to raise money so that we can keep the Ball ticket price as low as possible. By my next commander’s letter, we will have an exact price for you.

Around the time of this weekend, we will also hold the battalion awards ceremony. More information on this ceremony is forthcoming.

In addition, in November, we will have the opportunity to enjoy several holiday weekends.

Farewell For Now

We have endured much over this past year, but we have also built tremendous bonds that will never be broken. We are truly a blessed people and I am privileged to serve with so many heroic and selfless warriors.

On behalf of all the Soldiers of Task Force Iron Rangers, I look forward to seeing all of you when we get back. While focused on finishing up our mission here, we eagerly await our reunion with you, our family and friends all over the U.S.A.

Always Ready!

LTC Thomas S. Hollis
Iron Ranger 6