

CENTURION
FAMILY READINESS GROUP UPDATE
10 OCT 2003

Family and Friends,

TF CENTURION continues its mission to bring stability to the people of Iraq. Your soldiers are working very hard, and they are being very successful. I hope that you are proud of them. I know that I am.

UNIT UPDATES

Apache continues with the heavy Quick Reaction Force and conducts patrols in nearby towns. They were successful last week in a search that netted weapons and ammunition.

Cobra travels the farthest each week in their mission. They have a sector of desert area that they patrol daily. Cobra discovered and disarmed several improvised explosive devices last week. They also routinely provide a Quick Reaction Force platoon. Ingenious soldiers in Cobra also successfully fixed the plumbing in their building. They now have inside showers.

Raiser runs the force protection mission and the detainee facility, aka RAMADA INN, on post. In addition to providing support to the rest of the TF, Raiser soldiers run gate guard, vehicle searches and detainee support. Archangel and Wolf teamed up a few nights ago to capture an enemy mortar. The enemy shot at our camp and within minutes Archangel returned accurate fire. Wolf moved out immediately. Wolf discovered the abandoned mortar equipment. The Fire Support Element assisted as well in targeting the area. A great team effort to remove that threat. Support, Medics, Mess, Staff, and the maintenance teams are all contributing to the effort.

Bulldawg continues its work at the old Iraqi ammunition supply point. Bulldawg also improved the force protection of CAMP MANHATTAN through berms and fencing. Bulldawg has one of our most important missions. They have met the challenge.

Blackhawk began dismounted patrols in a nearby small town. They received a warm welcome by the townspeople. I have utilized Blackhawk's expertise in many cordon and searches. Blackhawk uncovered several weapons with ammunition in recent searches.

Bounty has conducted numerous missions for the Iron Rangers, and they continue convoy security missions. They also recently recovered a mortar and a large weapons cache after conducting a search mission.

QUALITY OF LIFE

The mail system is finally working! We are receiving mail. For Camp Manhattan, we sort our own mail with the postal company. This cuts a couple of days out of the delivery time. Keep those letters coming.

We have opened up some military phones for morale calls. The system is very slow, and it is difficult to get a free line. Therefore, don't blame your soldier for not calling. He is trying. Division is working on a plan for a phone center using a commercial company. I do not know the timing on that yet, but I will keep you informed.

Building renovations have started on CAMP MANHATTAN, and we will receive containerized showers in early November. So improvements continue. We also purchased Satellite TV systems to provide some entertainment to soldiers when they are off duty.

As I said, we are very busy, but we are being successful. Improvements to quality of life continue each week. As always, we keep you in our thoughts and prayers each day.

Take care from CAMP MANHATTAN.

LTC Jeff Swisher
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