



# THE PHOENIX PRESS



25TH INFANTRY DIVISION - TROPIC LIGHTNING!

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

MONTH of the MILITARY CHILD	2
HSC / OPS	3
I & S / SIG	4
BAND / FRG	5
SHOP TALK	6



### SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT



PFC Brandon Williams

### SOLDIER OF THE MONTH



FROM THE DESK  
OF THE  
BATTALION XO



Phoenix Family,

It is hard to believe that it is already May. It seems like yesterday that we were preparing to deploy and now we're almost at the half-way mark. Time does fly when you stay busy and with the turning-in of eight years worth of accumulated facilities and equipment here at Camp Victory, the on-going effort to turn-in our excess equipment back at Schofield Barracks, and the rigors of holding down the home front during another deployment, it is clear that EVERYONE has stayed busy.

Lieutenant Colonel Romagnoli was back on Oahu for mid-tour leave through most of last month, so I did my best at the helm while he was taking his well deserved rest and relaxation time. Things were fairly quiet while he was away. The Battalion is well settled into its routine events and is adapting to things less than routine as well. I marvel how much just happens each and every day. It is a true testament to the professionalism and skill of each and every member of the team. We really are a standards-based organization and everywhere you look you'll see people doing what is right.

The Division Task Force continues to partner with the Iraqis while simultaneously working toward drawing down. These are not small tasks and it is all something that has never been done before! We're making history here each and every day and you're all a major part of it.

The biggest event of the month had to be the talent show sponsored by the Division Equal Opportunity Office. The purpose of the event was to draw awareness to April being Sexual Assault Awareness Month and to highlight some of the great talent not only in the battalion, but across Camp Liberty. All I can say is Lightning has talent and you'll get a glimpse of just how much when you look through the pages that follow.

As always, we want to thank everyone for what you're all doing. This organization's success comes from the combined efforts of Soldiers, civilian employees, and loved ones. We really are one family and I know that you're all as proud as I am to be a part of it. Together, we're strong and together we'll stay strong.

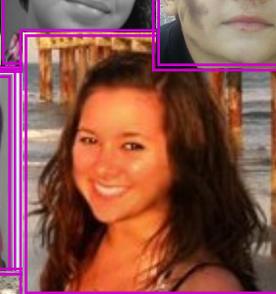
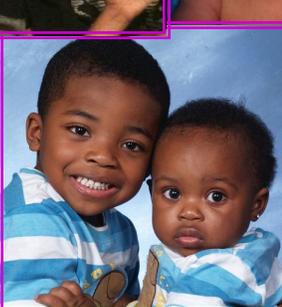
Strike Hard!

Major Francis Moss

# MILITARY CHILD MONTH



There are 1.9 million American children and youth under 18 with a parent serving in the military and about 900,000 with one or both parents deployed multiple times. April is designated as the Month of the Military Child, underscoring the important role military children play in the armed forces community. The month of the Military Child is an opportunity to recognize military children and youth for their heroism, character, courage, sacrifices and continued resilience.





# THUNDER



April was another busy month in Baghdad. In observance of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, a talent show was held where Soldiers from team "Thunder" took the honors of 2nd and 3rd place. It is also the month of the Military Child and we would like to thank all of our "Keiki" back at home. We, your parents love you and miss you dearly.

As we continue to move forward, the Staff is very busy preparing to execute base closures and send equipment back state-side. The morale is high and everyone is doing a great job. We really do appreciate the amount of support from our loved ones. We will continue to keep you all in our thoughts daily. On behalf of 1SG Woodard and myself, thank you!



Christopher P. Townsend  
Thunder 6



# STORM RIDERS



Operations Company Family,

April was Month of the Military Child. My command team and I appreciate the role kids play in today's Army family. They are the inspiration for many Soldiers during deployment, and at home station. Military lifestyle is hard for some kids, and moving a lot puts strains on their education and creates a separation of friends. There are over 1.9 million kids with a parent in the military, and of those, over two-thirds of them have experienced a deployment away from home. Thanks to those parents who have to play many roles while we are deployed. Please thank all of our children for their role in the lives of our Soldier's. They are the foundation and base that many of us rely on to make it through the hardships away from our loved ones at home.

April started the dust storm season, and so far we've been hit with a couple. Soldiers return back to their CHU after a long day at work, to come home to a nice inch-thick layer of dust and sand over all their belongings.

Also, the heat has started to pick up, and we expect to hit triple digits any day. We have plenty of water to stay hydrated, and all are encouraged to drink plenty even if they don't feel thirsty.

Thank you all for much support this month. We all look forward to receiving the BN T-shirts for wear with the PT uniform. Don't forget Mother's Day is just around the corner (May 8th).

-CPT Steven Schnurr



SPC Grella & SPC Bellier shaking hands with the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates



# GRIFFIN



## FROM THE DESK OF LIGHTNING 4

Another month and soon we will hit the half way mark of our deployment. We congratulate two of our own for making the promotion list, Hooah! We also enjoyed some quality time with a G4 barbecue. I am extremely proud of all the hard work that our G4 team has accomplished and thankful for all their support and dedication.

“Tropic Lightning!” L4



## G4 BARBECUE



# DRAGON



Wow! It seems that this month just flew right by. Where is the time going? As the days go by, it is starting to get hotter and hotter--Iraq seems to have a very short Spring season. No doubt, it feels like it Summer just jumped on us. We continue to push forward with our mission staying focused and moving forward.

We continue to be blessed to have people show their support to our mission and efforts. This month we welcomed many distinguished visitors. Our Soldiers were treated to a few important people who have a lot of influence on our impending days here in Iraq. It certainly helps to hear the perspective of our leaders at the highest levels of our Government. Their support is much appreciated.

Don't forget to support our company FRG. During the month of May we will hold our Halfway Party. I hope that you all attend, support, and celebrate six months down. We continue to send you much Aloha from this side of the pond. Mahalo for the support, and we can't wait to see you soon.

Sincerely,

CPT JERROLD DWAYNE CASTRO and ISG CATALINA LACUESTA



Ps. Please pass the word: Cookies!

# ROCKSTAR

The Tradewinds Trio



The Tradewinds Trio is a woodwind group comprised of SSG Matthew David, clarinet, SSG Andrew Smith, horn, and SPC Mark Ballou, bassoon. The trio is a part of the Music Performance Team (MPT) Bravo, which is also known as the Ceremonial Band. It's the easiest group to transport because they don't require any sound equipment. All they need are their instruments, stands and music. This has allowed the trio to ride on black hawks and convoys run by other companies.



The group has been following the Division Chaplain, CPT Joel Panzer and playing pre-music before the services and sometimes during the service when appropriate. Most of the audiences have been small, but Soldiers, civilians and other servicemen and women always appreciate the music.



The small ensemble plays classical music that is familiar to audiences. Most non-musicians don't know the title to Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik", but can't help but tap their toes to the familiar melody. The other familiar tune that the group plays are the first and third movements of Vivaldi's "Spring".

- SSG Matthew David



## EVENTS CALENDAR

May 2 - BN VTC Steering Meeting - 1800 - 2000 at ACS

May 4 - TSP & Retirement - 0900 - 1030 at ACS

May 4 - Managing your Checking Account - 1030 - 1200 at ACS

May 6 - Employment Orientation - 0900 - 1030 at ACS

May 10 - FRG Boot Camp - 0900 - 1400 at Ft Shafter ACS

May 11 - Money Management - 0900 - 1030 at ACS

May 11 - Money Harmony - 1030 - 1200 at ACS

May 12 - HHBN 25th ID Half Way Celebration - 1500 at Sills Field

May 17-18 - AFTB Level II - 1700 - 2100 at ACS

May 24 - Hurricane Awareness - 0900 - 1100 at ACS

May 25 - All About Credit - 0900 - 1030 at ACS

May 26 - Advance Investing - 1030 - 1200 at ACS

May 26 - Civilian Resume Writing - 0900 - 1030 at ACS





# COMBATIVES



Fighting is as old as mankind. There is evidence of organized fighting systems more than four thousand years ago and almost assuredly men began to organize fighting and training techniques even before then. Given that and the fact that human physiology has not changed appreciably over the last several thousand years.

The purpose of combatives is to educate Soldiers on how to protect themselves without fire-arms, provide non-lethal responses to battlefield situations and to instill the warrior instinct that is necessary to meet the enemy unflinchingly.

-Matt Larson



## S6

Hello again friends, family and fellow Soldiers. This month marks another eventful month for the S6 section. I'm proud to announce the promotion of 1LT Leggett to CPT Leggett. Yes two CPT Leggett's now! This promotion was long awaited and well deserved. She has proven herself as a dedicated member and hard worker of the Signal team and the Battalion Staff. SGT Rivera, D was nominated and received the 37<sup>th</sup> Chief of Staff of the Army Coin for Excellence, General Dempsey for all her hard work and dedication to the Section and Battalion. The section celebrated SGT Preihs' Birthday at the Gates of Babylon restaurant on Camp Slayer. SPC Johnson graduated the level I Combative course and SGT Rivera, D is currently enrolled. SGT Preihs and SGT Mailo will attend level I Combative in May as well. SPC Johnson and SFC Williams are currently enrolled in the level II Combative course. Members of the S6 team were honored to be apart the Secretary of Defense, Honorable Robert Gates visit. They all received coins, snapped a few photos and even were afforded the opportunity to meet news journalist Katie Couric. I would like to send a shout out SGT Fann, SGT Rivera and SPC Rivera (no relation) for all of their hard work. They are responsible for maintaining the Battalion's communications maintenance program. They also made great strides in cleaning up and the turning in of all excess equipment in their area. As we say in the communications field, "You can talk about us, but you can't talk without us!"

SFC Sean Williams



Comments or Feedback please contact:  
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