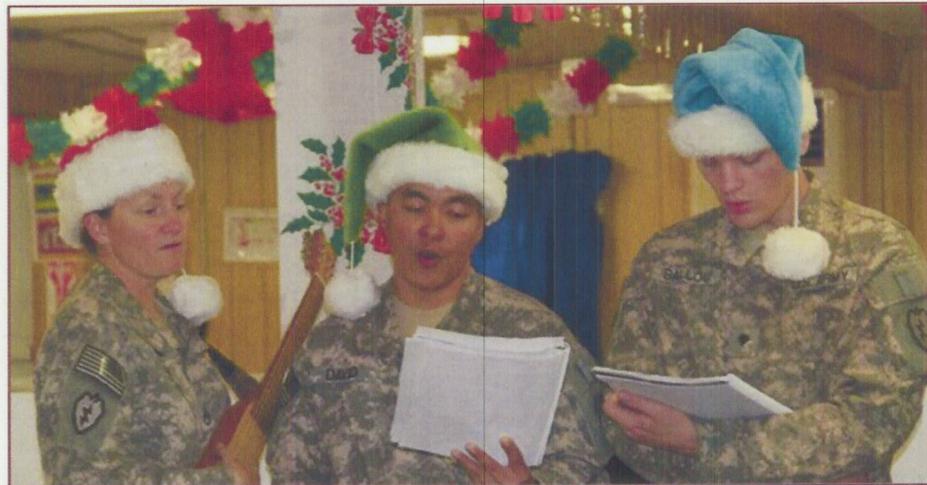




**Your Soldier,
Your Newsletter!**

- Please feel free to contact your Soldier if you have input for the Battalion Newsletter or if there is something you'd really like to see.
- R&R is coming soon! Do you have your plans finalized? Passports in hand if you plan a vacation abroad?
- Your company FRG is planning events to keep you connected to the military Community. Are you linked in?

The Phoenix Press



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Mele Kalikimaka and Happy New Year!

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I hope everyone is having a wonderful holiday season. The Battalion is busy doing great work settling into our mission and getting used to day to day operations. We officially took over on the 16th of December and have been very busy ever since with accounting for property, reorganizing offices, performing maintenance and preparing for missions. Everyone should be very proud of all of the hard work our Soldiers have accomplished in such a short period. Everything went so well and smooth, that units surrounding ours did not know we had changed until we put up the new signs.

Christmas was a great day. The dining facility prepared a fabulous meal to include tur-

key, ham, roast beef, all of the side dishes that could be imagined, and a great variety of deserts. I'm sure everyone got their fill and then some. The gym was a little busier the following day. We also had a visit from the Chief of Staff of the Army, GEN Casey. He met with Soldiers in a couple of different venues and discussed the future of the Army as well as express his appreciation for our service. Of course we all miss our families, but it was equally exciting to think that this could be our last Christmas for American forces in Iraq.

Our overall quality of life is very good. For my third back to back deployment, this is the best that I've experienced so far. The dining facility, gym,

post exchange, motor pool, laundry, barber, and work areas are all within easy walking distance. My last experience was at COB Speicher where we had to walk close to a mile just to get to the dining facility and a trip to the post exchange felt like an all day event. Our housing units are clean, safe, have comfortable beds and are equipped with a heating/air conditioning unit.

I just want to personally thank you for all of your support and for the sacrifices everyone has made. We have the greatest Army in the world because of our great Soldiers as well as our great Families supporting our Soldiers. It is an honor to serve with you all.

~ LTC Paul D. Romagnoli



PFC Fisher receiving her Christmas presents (L&S)

“We all look forward to the challenges that lie ahead, and also the eventual return to our families at the end of our tour.”

~CPT Schnurr



OPS Company, Standing Tall!

The Headquarters section for OPS Company has been hard at work with a multitude of missions and activities to enable the DIV HQ to accomplish their mission. SGT Giovanna Voorhees and SPC Tuia completed their Relief in Place with 1AD in the orderly room and have not slowed down since then. They are responsible for all administrative actions for the personnel in our Company. So far, they have ensured all Soldiers entitled to Family Separation Allowance

have submitted their paperwork for processing, along with being meticulous with personnel accountability during battle drills. By the way, they pick up the company's mail daily, so the moral of the unit remains high and families are brought together during this holiday season. SSG Esmeralda Hernandez and SPC Rosteeve Bellier have set up numerous accounts for funding the unit to attain a steady state of sustainability of this unit, for both personnel and

equipment. They are also heavily involved in the 100% accountability of the entire unit's equipment shipped from Schofield Barracks. SFC Olene Togiailua, SGT Jason Barton, and PFC Harris have worked numerous hours to ensure the arms room, containers in the motor pool, office area, and the company footprint are kept to standard. They have established a work environment that resembles back home in Hawaii, minus the beaches of course. They have also ensured the company completed all training requirements upon arrival into Iraq. CPT Steven Schnurr, 1SG Oscar Woodard, and the XO 1LT Anthony Francisco could not be more proud of the team we will work with for the next year. We all look forward to the challenges that lie ahead, and also the eventual return to our families at the end of our tour.

~Ops Company, 25th HHBN

Band Notes

Greetings and Happy Holidays from the 'Best Band in the Sand!'

On behalf of all the Soldiers of the Company, I would like to send a heartfelt thank you to all of our Family members, friends and supporters who put forth the time and effort making care packages, sending holiday decorations and writing the cards and letters that made this Christmas season away from our loved ones bearable. Special thanks goes out to Mrs. Karen Schevenin whose gifts of holiday goodies not only

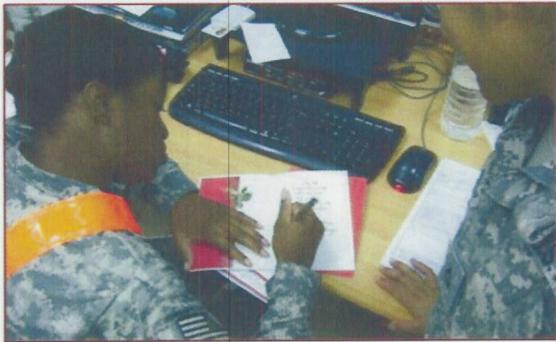
packed on a few extra pounds, but brought smiles to leaders and Soldiers alike. Our FRG friends back at Schofield also sent their famous Rumballs and baked goods; Thanks Patti, Renae, Carrie, Kat and each and every one of our amazing Family members!

We are doing the best we can to keep every Soldier safe, busy and focused on the mission at hand. Please never forget that we wouldn't be able to do what we do day in and out, without your love and Support. Thanks! ~Chief



Happy New Year from the Tropic Lightning Band!

Signal Company, Photos and Captions



Sergeant Victoria Alexander takes time from her busy schedule and takes a minute to write home to her loved ones. (Photo by Sergeant Norval Bell)



Sergeant Justin Wydick of the SIG Co. 25ID HHBN spreads Christmas cheer by hanging holiday stockings around the office (Photo by SGT Alexander)



"Most Platoons exchanged Christmas presents with their Secret Santa. SPC Giovannetti stole the show when he presented 1SG Lacuesta a glass engraving of our HQ and MCP Soldiers—a heartfelt gift that 1SG Lacuesta said she will proudly displayed on every desk she occupies for the rest of her military career.



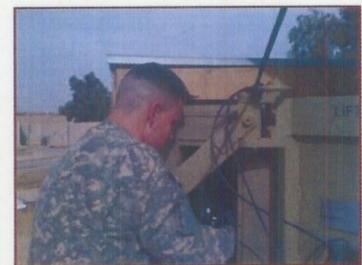
Happy Holidays from the Signal Company, 25th HHBN!

Aloha Dear Families!

As the Signal Company assumes its mission in Operation New Dawn, we reflect on the road that took us here. There is no doubt that our Soldiers and Families are demanded so much. Yet our Soldiers accomplish their mission and our Families flourish through the hardships of being without their loved ones. It is especially tough during the Holidays. Still, we cope, we stay focused on our mission, and we continually send our love back home.

We are moved by all the support and love that comes across the oceans that divide us. Although we are far apart, we definitely try to make the best of the Holiday season.

~CPT Castro



TACJNN technical STT expert Sergeant Kristopher Brookshire busy installing and troubleshooting our satellite system. (Photo By Sergeant Rudkosky)



The Phoenix Press



*"Equal Opportunity is a
Commander's Program
and a Priority for All
Leaders"*

EO Corner— Information for Soldiers and Families

Equal Opportunity is a Command Priority

According to the math, it is twenty-six (26) days ago that the EO Team departed Hawaii to start its mission in Iraq. So it is with great pleasure and joy that we pause for a moment to share with you and others of this awesome mission to educate and to further equality and fairness for all serving in the United States Division - Center (USD-C).

It is our hope that this EO Corner will help all of us capture "relevant issues" to share with others to ultimately become more aware of equal opportunity and diversity. The bottom-

line is to inculcate ourselves and others to further our mission of equality and fairness for all. So far, mediation is the forefront of the work since arriving in country. It is the mediation process that allows us to resolve issues at the lowest level or establish an alternative dispute resolution (ADR) for the problem. This note is meant to place your hearts and minds at peace during the Holidays. Just rest assured we are serving our country proudly with you in mind.

Feel free to contact your Company EOR, NCO Support Channel or Chain of Command if you have any question about Army Equal Opportunity

HSC Commander Sends Holiday Greetings!

Greetings from Camp Liberty!

Everyone has been hard at work. Most of this first month has seen the sections working with and eventually replacing their counterparts from the 1st Armored Division. The Headquarters Support Company (HSC) is responsible for the 25th Infantry Division Command Group, Equal Opportunity, Inspector General, Retention, Staff Judge Advocate, Public Affairs, Protocol, Battalion Staff, Chaplain Support, Aid Station, Dining Facility, Mainte-

nance, Security Platoon, and Gym here on Camp Liberty. Many of these sections cover operations 24 hours a day supporting the Army's mission throughout central Iraq.

Motor Pool threw a Christmas Eve Luau that rivals any feast I have seen. They even roasted an entire pig and served it up the hard working mechanics that enable our security mission on a daily basis. SFC Mejia had the honor of carving the pig and the smiles from his Soldiers as they sat

and ate together were a wonderful thing!

Internet capabilities here at Camp Liberty have been a blessing as many of our Soldiers were able to participate in Christmas Morning with their families via Skype and other messaging services.

Questions and concerns can be directed to CPT Townsend here at Camp Liberty or to our FRG Leader Beverly Townsend, Mahalo!

Mail to: chris.townsend@mnd.b.army.mil
Mail to: chrisbev@hawaii.rr.com



SFC Steve Adrian receives a Reindeer Christmas Card during the HHBN Transfer of Authority Ceremony 18 DEC 10



SSG Strayhorn and SSG Swanson are Very happy with the FRG Gift of Bailey's Fudge!



SGT Owen, SPC Crane and SSG Boltinghouse Rockin' in the New Year

25th ID Band Photos—Spreading Cheer!



The Chaplain's Corner

**CH (CPT) Joel Panzer,
HHBN Chaplain**

Christmas greetings from your Battalion Chaplain, and from my Chaplain Assistant, SPC Kenan Clement. My highest priority is serving as chaplain to all of the Soldiers of our Battalion, helping to meet their spiritual and personal needs. I provide counseling and encouragement to those going through emotional or marital difficulties, visit Soldiers at their place of work and in the dining facility, and provide prayers at formal Battalion events. We are blessed to have a beautiful chapel located within walking distance from the Battalion AO which provides a whole range of worship services: Traditional and Contemporary Protestant, Catholic and Gospel. Several mem-

bers of the 25th ID Band and other Soldiers volunteer their talents with the Praise and Worship Bands and the Catholic choir, which lends so much to the quality of these services.

Life is generally simpler on deployment, and many people tell me they have more time and a greater desire for reading the Bible, prayer and reflection. However, during deployment there are also "temptations" which we must ask God to help us endure. These include loneliness, self-pity, putting up with a lack of privacy and more difficult living conditions, the harsh weather extremes, inevitable personality conflicts and occasional tempers, and demanding work expectations. But our Battalion is also fortunate to have very good leadership and resilient Soldiers who I'm certain will

help to see each other through the tough times.

In spite of being apart from you during the holiday season, our spirits are indeed high. Many Soldiers have expressed to me their gratitude for the blessings we have experienced thus far. Thanks be to God we have enjoyed a relatively quiet and most importantly – safe – deployment. Your continued prayers and personal support are immensely important to our mission because it is your loved ones here who are key to our success and safe return. May the Newborn Christ Child continue to bless you and your family this Christmas and into the New Year!



Army Chaplains work to ensure the religious needs of all Soldiers are seen to. Spiritual Fitness is an integral part of keeping Soldiers ready to accomplish their mission

Chaplain, Father Joel Panzer conducts Christmas Mass at the Division Chapel

"...our Battalion is also fortunate to have very good leadership and resilient Soldiers who I'm certain will help to see each other through the tough times.

~CH (CPT) . Joel Panzer





HEADQUARTERS AND
HEADQUARTERS BATTALION,
25TH INFANTRY DIVISION

www.25idl.army.mil

Contact our publisher:
gina.palacios@mnd-b.army.mil



This Christmas local MWR centers hosted a Soldier's Gingerbread "CHU" Contest. The winner of the competition is shown above.



From the Desks of Griffin "6" and Griffin "7"

Intelligence and Sustainment Company
Ahead of the Rest!

Happy New Year!

We want to wish a very happy and prosperous New Year to all the Soldiers and Families of the I&S Company. The Company is settled in now and every Soldier in every section is doing great work. Christmas has come and gone now, but as the 1SG and I visit the Soldiers, we see that the Christmas Spirit still lingers here in their hearts. The long hours and cold days make thoughts of Hawaii even fonder but the Soldiers are accomplishing their mission with tremendous professionalism. We have a new addition to the Griffin Family! Parker Farthing, the proud son of PFC Joshua and his wife Alicia. Born: 14 DEC 2010, 7lbs, 6oz.

We Miss You All! And Thank You for your Never Ending Support !



CPT Tarica Gordon-Zachery



1SG Twonda Benjamin

*I&S Co, H&BN,
25th ID has been
hap-pily received
and now fully
engaged in our
mission at Camp
Victory, Iraq.*

-SSG Cardiel

*As soon as the unit landed in Iraq, we
hit the ground running, downloading
and inventorying of the unit's shipping
container.*

-SSG Piasecki

*Merry Christmas and our best
wishes for the holidays. We
have arrived safely, are set-
tled and hard at work, and
every member of the team is
doing well. I could not be
prouder of them. Know our
thoughts are home with you
this holiday season. Thank you
for your contin-ued support
and sacrifices; you are why we
do what we do. -SFC Elam*