



THE PHOENIX PRESS

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION - TROPIC LIGHTNING I

FROM THE DESK
OF
CSM GREENE



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Happy New Year to all! We are just four months into Fiscal Year 2011 and the Army is at approximately 66% of obtaining its retention goal for the year. I want to take time to talk to our young Soldiers about something that should be very important to them and their family. I want to talk about preparation for their future. As I go around talking with our Soldiers, I find that many Soldiers don't have a plan after this deployment. We have Soldiers who want to leave the Army, while some want to reenlist. Some Soldiers have decided to get out and to go to college, but have not decided which school to attend. One Soldier stated, he wants to get out, but he didn't have any idea what he wanted to do once he gets out. I had one Soldier tell me, that he is going reenlist, but he has no plans to get promoted. I want to take a moment to stress how important planning should be for Soldiers and their families. Many soldiers don't realize that they must take the ACT or SAT exams prior to enrolling into college. There is also an application process to be accepted into schools. If you don't plan for this you may delay your plan to start college right away.

Some Soldiers, who are planning on getting a job at the end of their enlistments, haven't started working on their Resume; they forget that they are competing against thousands of college graduates. If you are staying in the Army, you should have a plan for getting promoted. Many of your peers are attending college, enrolled in correspondence course, performing above their peers. You must be engaged in your career and have a plan for how you are going to progress in the army. I want everyone to consider what the Army has to offer, consider all options, Medical and Insurance Benefits, reenlistment bonuses, a regular paycheck on the 1st and 15th. Consider everything that the Army has to offer and if you are still ready to leave the Army do so, but just ensure you have a reliable plan. I want to thank everyone on the great job that you are doing and for the sacrifice that you and your family are making for the good of our nation.

Tropic Lightning!
Phoenix 7



Times of National Conflict are difficult for Army Recruiters finding new applicants to fill our ranks.

That is why encouraging our best and brightest Soldiers to stay in the Army is so vital to maintaining a strong fighting force.

RE-UP IN IRAQ



SSG Yoshio Padilla



SPC Kenneth Walley



SGT Jason Prehls,

*... to Support and
Defend the Constitution
of the United States...*

THE "PATCH"

Symbolism of a Combat Patch

The Shoulder Sleeve Insignia for Former Wartime Service (SSI-FWTS), more commonly known as the "combat patch", recognizes service in a combat environment. To be eligible for the "combat patch",

Soldiers must serve in a theater of area of operations declared as a hostile environment by the Secretary of Army or higher official. The Soldier's unit must actively participate in or support ground combat operations against hostile forces in which the unit is ex-

posed to the threat of enemy action or fire, either 30 days or longer, and the Army Chief of Staff must approve the authori-



"Since 1933, the 25th Inf. Div. has made significant contributions in every conflict and you are now a visible part of those accomplishments,"
~MG Champoux,



THUNDER

Another month has flown by for us here in Iraq. Our daily mission requirements here keep us busy. Morale is high as Soldiers love the opportunity to focus on a challenging and productive mission. The Battalion XO started a recognition campaign called the "Stick of Knowledge." The stick recognizes a section within the battalion that is setting the standard with their work performance and excellence. HSC has won the stick three times in a row!! Way to go Medics, Motor Pool, and DFAC!!

2LT Jason Gremillion was promoted to 1LT this month and we are proud of his accomplishments here. SGT Menendez received a certificate of achievement and coin from MG Champoux for his selection as the 25th Infantry Division "Lightning Hero of the Day." The security platoon plays as hard as they work and entered the MWR basketball tournament where they are currently 1-1.

Our DFAC staff continues to impress with a variety of specialty bars offering cuisine not often found on deployments. Favorites include: the seafood bar, rib bar, chicken wing bar, sandwich bar, potato bar, and our Indian cuisine bar. Most selections are delicious if you can take the heat!! The Super Bowl is coming and Soldiers were excited to learn that beer has been delivered for the big game. Each Soldier, 21 years old or over, will be allowed two beers for that special taste of home during the big game.

Over the next several months we will be condensing the Army's footprint here in theater and preparing for the eventual transfer of authority to the Iraqi government. There's a lot of work to do to get there, but HSC Soldiers are prepared to accomplish this historic mission. TROPIC THUNDER!!!!!!!!!!

-CPT Christopher Townsend



1LT Gremillion & CPT Townsend,

We have entered the new calendar year with much to do, but also with the pride of knowing we will be a part of the withdrawal out of Iraq. There is lots to do, but everyone is doing great! We enjoyed all of the care packages during the Holiday Season, and appreciate the great support of everyone back home.

Everyone is in high spirits as we move into the R&R leave window. We will start seeing Soldiers heading home for leave in February. I know you all are looking forward to seeing your loved ones very soon. Please keep safety in mind for all of the fun activities families will enjoy with their loved ones home. Thanks for all of the support again and we think about everyone at home every day!!

- CPT Steven Schnurr



MAJ Scott Allen



SFC Adam Thorstensen, working as the lane safety during range operations. Soldiers love to get outside and dirty when they are able

TEAM

GRIFFIN



SGM Calhoun

Over the last month, the Kuwait Liaison Soldiers have worked hard to adjust being away from home, learning their jobs and working diligently each day to accomplish the mission. I am really proud of their individual and collective efforts and their dedication to duty. In addition to the daily operation, all of the Soldiers are continuing to professionally grow and develop. Each of the NCOICs have developed and implemented a Training Program in order to ensure the Soldiers are well versed in their duties. Some of the mandatory courses that have been taken in the last 30 days are: Mail Handler's Course, Driver's License

Testing, Information Management Officers Course to name a few. They are responsible for the reception, staging, and onward movement (RSOI) of forces and equipment throughout seaports and aerial ports in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. They also track and assist Wounded Veterans to heal and return to their assigned units, while simultaneously supporting USF-I, USD-C and the Commands of deployed Soldiers in a gamut of personal issues to include Casualty Assistance and Notifications and they process between 500-2000 Service Members going on TDY CONUS and OCONUS, EMLV CONUS and OCONUS, deploying

and re-deploying and freedom flights.

Finally, in spite of the demanding challenges of being deployed, several Soldiers are striving for excellence through civilian education. Nothing makes me prouder than seeing them do what's right and strive for excellence through education. I am extremely proud of every Soldier and throughout this deployment, I will continue to coach, mentor and challenge them so they can continue to make you, the Army, the nation, the 25th Infantry Division and themselves proud.

-SGM Mathew Calhoun



SSG Lance



SSG Pratt



SFC Burgos

WARRIORS OF I&S COMPANY

DRAGON

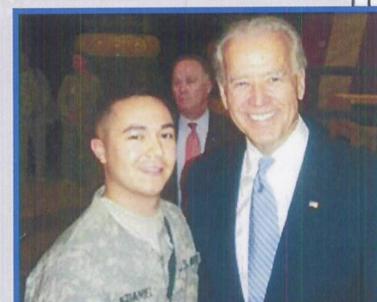


Aloha Dragon Families!

Things are going great here. We are hitting our stride right now—the days are flying by really fast. We continue to keep you on our minds as we make an honest push towards our goals in closing this place down. This month was a busy one. We were treated to a surprise visit by Vice President Joe Biden. A select few of our Soldiers had a once in a lifetime opportunity to meet the Vice President.

This month was especially important to two Dragon Soldiers. PFC Foster and PFC Schronce were both promoted to Specialist. The ceremony was conducted on Signal Hill with both Headquarters and Main Command Post JNN Platoons present to show their support. We also had three Dragons recognized as Lightning Heroes of the Day: SPC Hart, SGT Brookshire, and SGT Giovannetti were given a Certificate of Achievement and a Division Commander's Coin of excellence for their contributions to advancing the 25th Infantry Division's Mission and conducting themselves honorably to bring credit on Tropic Lightning Division. We continue to stay focused on our mission, because doing so is our way back to all of you. Mahalo for your support! Please keep sending your love (and care packages).

Sincerely, CPT Jerrold Dwayne Castro and ISG Catalina Lacuesta



SGT McDaniel poses with Vice President Joe Biden



Dragon Soldiers pose with MG Champoux and CSM Leota after receiving their first Combat Patches

ROCKSTAR!



facebook

Follow us on Facebook!

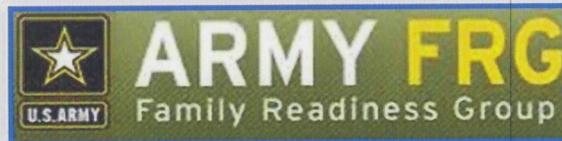


The Lightning Jazz Project - Where they're playing is the Only guaranteed "Full House" you'll find in Baghdad

Greetings to all our Families and Friends back home!

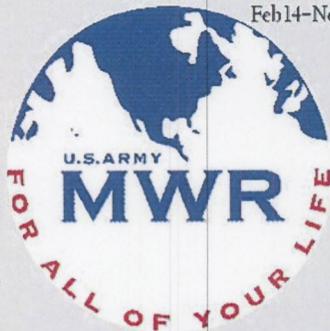
This month, we're featuring the "Lightning Jazz Project"; a dynamic fusion ensemble that is fast becoming one of the most popular bands in the sand.

We want everyone to know that Morale remains high, and we send all our best to those waiting on the home front. CW2 Parenteau



EVENTS CALENDAR

- Feb 1 - HSC FRG Storybook & Focus Group - 1800 - 2000 at ACS
- Feb 2 - Down Syndrome Support Group - 1800 - 1900 at SB Chapel
- Feb 2 - Managing your Checking Account - 1030 - 1200 at ACS
- Feb 2 - TSP and Retirement - 0900 - 1030 at ACS
- Feb 3 - Signal Co Book Club Mtg - 1900 - 2000 at Starbucks Schofield PX
- Feb 7 - BN Steering Meeting - 0900 - 1100 at ACS
- Feb 9 - Money Management - 0900 - 1030 at ACS
- Feb 12 - Daddy Boot Camp - 0900 - 1200 at Ft Shafter Aloha Center
- Feb 14 - New Parent Support Program (Newborn Care I) - 0900 - 1000 at AMR Community Center
- Feb 15 - CRT Training - 0900 - 1230 at HHBN Conference Room
- Feb 16 - Secrets of Car Buying - 0900 - 1100 at ACS
- Feb 16 - Simple Tips for Saving & Investing - 1030 - 1200 at ACS
- Feb 18 - 25th ID Band FRG Meeting - 1800 - 2000 at Porter Comm Ctr
- Feb 22 - FRG Boot Camp - 0900 - 1300 at Ft Shafter
- Feb 22 - Teambuilding - 1800 - 2000 at ACS
- Feb 23 - Money Harmony - 1030 - 1200 at ACS
- Feb 23 - EFMP Support Group - 1800 - 1900 at SB Chapel



[HTTP://WWW.ARMYMWR.COM/](http://www.armymwr.com/)

EVERY MONTH THE EDITORS WILL FEATURE DIFFERENT SHOPS THAT DO THEIR SPECIAL PART TO SUPPORT OUR MISSION

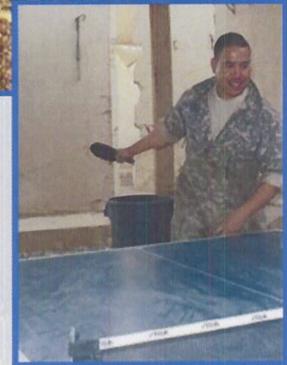
SHOP TALK

MAINTENANCE SECTION

Greetings and Aloha to all Tropic Lightning Warriors, Staff and Family members of the Maintenance Sections. The journey has just begun and many of the Soldiers are ready to complete the mission and go back home to their loved ones. I know we just got here... The Motorpool started organizing itself and setting up what is going to be their new home for the year of 2011. It has been a lot of work but at the same time they have found a way to have fun. Ping Pong has been a stress reliever and some are getting really good at it. The champion for the last Ping Pong Tournament was SPC Nimoto who could not be stopped. This and other things bring us together as family. The Holidays brought a much needed boost of joy and brought smiles to everyone despite the absence of our families. As the Soldiers of the Maintenance sections look ahead and continue to work hard towards a New Dawn, we would like to say thank you for all your support and for your prayers.

May God bless all of you! "STRIKE HARD"

-SSG RIOS,ARMANDO



S6



Aloha and greetings to all from the S6 shop! So far, this deployment has proved to be a time of development and transition for the S6 section. Officially moving from Signal Company to Headquarters Support Company, the S6 shop is now appropriately aligned with the rest of the Battalion staff—providing both tactical communications support and an automations helpdesk to the Battalion Headquarters and subordinate Companies. This month, we are very proud to report the promotion of SPC Alberto Rivera, and on

07 January, 1LT Leggett administered the oath of office to SGT Preihs on top of the balcony of beautiful Al FAW Palace at Victory Base Complex. We would like to thank the S1 and S2 sections for their support at that event. Three S6 Commo Shop personnel were regrettably unable to attend the reenlistment due to mission requirements. On the 19th of July, the S6 shop had the honor of promoting SPC Rivera in front of the Company Area. The S6 shop is extremely proud of these two outstanding Soldiers.

1LT Julie A. Leggett
&
SFC Sean Williams

Rank Last Name, First Name
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