



# THE PHOENIX PRESS

25TH INFANTRY DIVISION-TROPIC LIGHTNING!

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### SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT



PFC LETICIA YBARRA

### SOLDIER OF THE MONTH

We celebrated our Nation's birth with our Iraqi partners near Baghdad with Tropic Lightning style! All were invited to the USD-C Independence Day Celebration on Camp Liberty where our very own Lightning Warrior Dancers performed a cultural dance in honor of the Division's Pacific heritage! We hope you celebrated your 4th of July in your own way. Tropic Lightning!



# SECURITY PLATOON



In the month of July, between going out on mission, promotions, and reenlistments, the platoon has been working to turn in vehicles and still train, but took a break to have a platoon BBQ. We all miss our families and cannot wait to get home and spend time with them.



# S6

Change is always imminent and the S6 shop continues to persevere with style and grace. From SFC Williams taking a much needed respite while on Environmental Morale Leave (EML) to CPT Leggett's farewell to Lightning Visitor's Bureau (LVB) to seeing another irreplaceable soldier in SPC Rivera successfully transition to the Division Command Group to welcoming SPC (P) Taylor to our section, the S6 is always ready to adapt to any change and overcome any obstacle. Despite the ever changing operational environment, your S6 soldiers seize every opportunity to challenge themselves daily to ensure the accomplishment of their mission. We thank everyone for their unconditional love and support and anxiously await our reunion as the days dwindle down and bring us closer together until we are no longer apart.



-S6





# THUNDER

HSC

Aloha Thunder Family,



With the temperatures in the triple digits, the days seem to be flying by as we move closer to closing out our mission. Our Soldiers still seem to have a little bit of fun, where sources are limited. We had a fun filled day of splashing around in a icy dunk tank made from supplies laying around. We also had a little taste of home when our master Motorpool chefs cooked a whole pig, accompanied with all the trimmings.



We are already past the halfway mark and we look forward to completing this mission and returning safely to our loved ones. I would personally like to thank you for all the support you have given to your Soldiers throughout this deployment. We could not have done it with out you!



-1LT Rivera



HOT!  
HOT!  
HOT!



# STORM



OPS

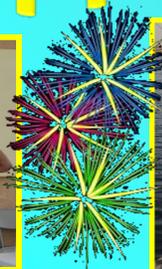


No rain and a plethora of heat continuously spread the desert in the month of July. The 4<sup>th</sup> of July marks a special day for all Americans, commemorating the birth of our nation. Though we may not have the fireworks, parades, carnivals, picnics, and other events associated in tradition with this holiday, OPS Company enjoyed a delightful, juicy, scrumptious, pig roast at Division Main and observed this special day by attending the fourth of July Celebration hosted by the Division Commanding General. The event included a show from the Tropic Lightning Warrior Dancers which made SFC Togiailua a superstar and ended with the Color Guard retiring of the colors in which SPC Tuia proudly participated in. The stellar performance by our Soldiers reminded us of being home on the great island of Hawaii! And there is never a day that goes by, that the folks back home are not in our thoughts. Everyone is remarkably missed and we look forward to the journey back home to all our families and friends upon our mission completion.

-CPT Schnurr and 1SG Morant



# GRIFFIN



**JULY WAS A FUN AND EXCITING MONTH FOR THE HQ SECTION! THANK YOU TO EVERYONE WHO JOINED US ON ORG DAY, IT WAS SOME REAL FUN IN THE SUN!**



# DRAGON



Aloha Ohana!

Our morale remains high, we continue on with our normal activities knowing that as each day passes, we are closer to coming home. This month, we've seen quite a few changes. Many of our comforts are going away--but we still retain a lot of our cheer. The PX is getting smaller and smaller so we are relying on your care packages more than ever (cookies please!). As First Sergeant says, "The 1st of December is still going to come." I guess that really puts it into perspective. The more we reduce our presence here, the closer we get to completing our mission.

Mahalo,  
CPT JERROLD DWAYNE CASTRO



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25



BAND

# ROCKSTAR



Aloha, Tropic Breeze, the 25th ID Band's Jazz Combo, went to Taji to perform for troops and civilians at Camp Taji. The group entertained the lunch-goers with SPC Tobias Jaeger's virtuosic Tenor Saxophone improvisations and cooled off the audience with mellow melodies sung by CW3 Lisa Guynn. Following the lunch performance the small ensemble took liberty and explored the immense tank junk yard. SSG RJ Strayhorn asked SFC Troy Swanson to take a picture next to a tank spray-painted with the phrase, "Hi Mom!"; so that he could post it on Facebook and tag his mom in it! The rest of the crew enjoyed taking pictures on these tanks which will be used for taking parts for repairs. Later on that evening, "Tropic Breeze" performed at the Camp Taji MWR playing some more jazz into the night for servicemen and civilians who missed the lunch performance or just wanted to relax and enjoy some more good music.

-25th ID Rockstars!



## EVENTS CALENDAR



- Aug 4 – Scream Free Parenting – 1800 - 1930 at ACS
- Aug 4-6 – 25<sup>th</sup> ID Strong Bonds Retreat – POC: SGT Ashley 655-0149
- Aug 10 – Money Harmony – 1030 - 1200 at ACS
- Aug 10 – EFMP Autism Support Group – 1800 - 1930 at Main Chapel
- Aug 10 – Money Management – 0900 - 1030 at ACS
- Aug 11 – Scream Free Parenting – 1800 - 1930 at ACS
- Aug 16-17 – AFTB Level II – 0900 - 1230 at ACS
- Aug 17 – Secrets of Car Buying – 1030 - 1200 at ACS
- Aug 17 – Advance Investing – 1030 - 1200 at ACS
- Aug 18 – Anger Awareness – 1500 - 1630 at ACS
- Aug 18 – Scream Free Parenting – 1800 - 1930 at ACS
- Aug 19 – 25<sup>th</sup> ID Training Holiday – BN Office Closed
- Aug 22 – 25<sup>th</sup> ID Safety Day – BN Office Closed
- Aug 23 – CDR/FRSA/FRG Leaders Forum – 1800 - 2000 at ACS
- Aug 23 – OPS FRG Meeting – 1830 – 2000 at Wheeler Community Center
- Aug 23-24 – AFTB Level II – 0900 - 1230 at ACS
- Aug 24 – All about Credit – 1030 - 1200 at ACS
- Aug 24 – Money Management – 0900 - 1030 at ACS
- Aug 24 – SHARE Support Group for EFMP families – 1800 - 1930 at Main Chapel
- Aug 25 – Scream Free Parenting – 1800 - 1930 at ACS