

Gunfighter Gazette



31 JANUARY 2008

Volume 1, Issue 9

A Muddy Month to **WELCOME 716th!** & 92d heads home

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The 401st would like to recognize the Transfer of Authority between the 92nd Military Police Battalion and the 716th Military Police Battalion. The 92nd "Phoenix" completed their 15 month deployment and has returned to their home station of Fort Benning, Georgia. The 716th "Peace Keepers" have arrived and assumed the MND-B West Area of Operation. The Gunfighters are proud to continue their service to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09 and work with the "Peace Keeper" Battalion!



WEATHER REPORT

DAILY HI TEMP:

53.2 (average)

DAILY LOW TEMP:

33.4 (average)

RAINFALL AMT:

3.82 inches



GUNFIGHTER 6 SENDS

CPT RUDY A. SANDOVAL



With each New Year celebrated each of us usually sits down and thinks about New Year's resolutions and goals we should set to achieve within that year. As I sat and pondered the question of what to write down, my thoughts were immediately focused on what ISG Flom and I should focus our efforts on to raise the bar for the company while deployed.

Our first resolution was focused on mission enhancement. With the improving security within Baghdad we have shifted our efforts to tell the Iraqi Police story not only to the American people but to the Iraqi population as well.



Gunfighter 6 poses with his Iraqi Security Forces counterparts, COL Ali and BG Raheem.

And with this public affairs theme we will continue to utilize coalition, American, and local media to tell the story of the Gunfighter inter-workings with the Iraqi Police, local populace, and other Iraqi Security Forces.

We have certainly started the year off with a bang; making the front page of Stars and Stripes in addition to previous articles published by Corps thru the AP media. The stories that were published are a direct reflection of the impetus each Soldier in the company strives for in their daily interactions with the Iraqi Police.

See CDR...page 9

GUNFIGHTER 7 SENDS

ISG BRIAN A. FLOM



2008 is off and running and the Gunfighter's of the 401st Military Police Company have certainly started off the New Year right. Although not always expressed by the media, the Soldiers are making great progress with the Iraqi Police. I have the ability to reflect back to 2003/2004 and really be able to appreciate the progress that we see on the ground. It is nice to see the Iraqi people converging on the markets and to see children playing on the streets. This is a result of the Iraqi Police becoming a more professional and organized institution, capable of providing the necessary security of their people, thus allowing them such freedoms. Now true enough, this is the IPs stepping up to the plate, but NONE of

this would possible without our Police Transition Teams getting out there everyday and provide the purpose, direction and motivation to accomplish the mission. In other words, we are providing the Iraqi Police that leadership. Every Soldier in this unit has a responsibility that supports this mission, whether directly on indirectly. While all of the Gunfighters perform their duties professionally, there are many that go above their IP counterparts, and realize that although we grew up thousands of miles apart in completely different cultures, we are all united by one love. The love of our families who support us and help make the stressors of deployment bearable throughout good times and gloomy days. To all of the families back home, I give a big thank you for your tireless efforts and ask

that you keep up the support as we look forward to coming home in less than six months.

Life at Camp Liberty continues to see Soldiers taking advantage of all the opportunities available to make things that much more comfortable. Mentally, there are countless Soldiers who are taking advantage of the college opportunities and are actively pursuing higher education by successfully completing those classes. Physically, in addition to the normal gym facilities available, January saw the first month of the Gunfighter Sports Program. This month is flag football, and we all anxiously await to see which platoon will be awarded the Commanders Cup this month. With all the rains that we have seen over

See ISG...page 9

MSG JEREMY KEENE

OPERATIONS

Well, we have made it. We are on the downward slide of the deployment and the personnel working in Operations continue to impress. The Police Transition Team mission continues and the latest efforts have focused on recruiting new Iraqi Police in an effort to increase shortages and provide police to areas that currently don't receive police coverage. The Abu Ghraib are working vigorously to get the new stations up and running. The construction on the new stations is coming along nicely. 2nd Platoon Punishers, in particular, are the Soldiers putting forth this effort by providing the teaching, coaching and mentoring of these new Iraqi Police. The Mansour District has finished up a very busy recruiting process. Now that the recruiting is complete in the area, now 1st and 3rd Platoons will prepare for the newly hired Iraq Police to start working through the district. The squads continue to conduct daily missions to train and mentor the police into an effective police force for the Iraqi people.



401st welcomes 1LT Williamson

The 401st welcomes it's new Executive Officer, 1LT Williamson from Korea. 1LT Williamson replaces CPT Musgrave who re-deployed with the 92nd MP BN.



1LT Williamson (L) and SPC Martin at DFW enroute to Iraq.

GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE

401st Military Police Company, Fort Hood, Texas
76544

The Gunfighter Gazette is a Soldier produced newsletter designed for and distributed to the families, friends and Soldiers associated with the 401st Military Police Company while deployed to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. The opinions in this newsletter are not those of the United States Army, the United States Department of Defense or the United States of America. The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those solely of the Soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company. If you have questions or comments about this newsletter you may contact: SPC David S. Womack, 401s MP CO. david.s.womack@us.army.mil

This is a monthly publication distributed to the families care of the Family Readiness Group. You may contact the Family Readiness Group: (254) 287 - 2431 Bldg 16003, Fort Hood, Texas 76544

The Soldiers of the 401st Military Police Company sincerely thank you for your support! To mail a letter or package to your deployed Soldier please use the provided address:

PVT Lastname, Firstname MI
716th MP BN
401 MP CO
APO AE 09342

401st Military Police Company
716th Military Police Battalion
18th Military Police Brigade

1st PLATOON

The **WARFIGHTER** times

PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC SMITH

PLATOON LEADER: ILT LYNCH



Always First, Warfighters and families! Another month has passed, and many more great achievements have been made. One of the Iraqi Police Stations that soldiers of First Platoon are responsible for is soon to be a self-sufficient station, capable of assisting in Iraq's stability without American assistance. First Platoon has also been competing intensely in the Company football competitions, as well as in Company-level Boards. Specialist Tony Boike and PFC Bryan Scott-Lee both attended a Soldier Of The Quarter Board in early January, competing against other soldiers in other platoons. The results of who won are not yet in, but the Warfighters are confident their two soldiers performed very well. In other good news, Corporal Butler, PFC Simmons, and PFC Steffey are the three newest proud Warfighter dads. We all congratulate them and wish them and their new families the best. Soldiers also have been having a great deal of fun. Many soldiers in First Platoon's Third Squad spent Christmas opening gifts in Specialist Nielson's room. Many soldiers gave each other gifts and they all had a great time. Specialist Nielson summed up the sense of giving and good spirits best when he said, "To quote Sergeant Paul Adams, 'Mission, Soldier, Self.'"

PFC Tiffany Suurmeier: "I just want to say hi to my friends and family back home. And take good care of my dog, Sable!"



PFC Stephen Armstrong: "I consider it an honor to be here serving my country, so I'm dedicating this deployment to my son, Luke."



LEFT: CPL Butler and SGT Wathen enjoy a bbq on a cold afternoon. **RIGHT:** SSG Teklinski rocking the advanced combat uniform.



LEFT: Sergeant Nichol pimpin' his ride in the 401st MP Company motorpool. **RIGHT:** PFC Rivers showing off her fly ride.





2nd PLATOON

The PUNISHER corner

PLATOON LEADER: ILT MARTINEZ

PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC SENIOR

Greetings Punisher Family,

Well it has been a cold and muddy month. It surly doesn't seem like the Iraq people think of. This month finds all our Soldiers doing well and in high spirits. We are now over the hump and the Soldiers are continuing to do a great job. We want to thank all the families, friends and organizations that sent holiday packages; it was a truly welcomed sight. On 8 Jan 08, the Punishers had their official ring induction ceremony. Each Soldier received their Punisher rings direct from the "Original Punisher" Major Krantz. Some other good news is SPC Cantwell was promoted to Corporal. Now that we have come to the end of another month, I would like to thank ya'll again for you support and sacrifice. A lot of love from Baghdad.

Punisher 6 OUT!!

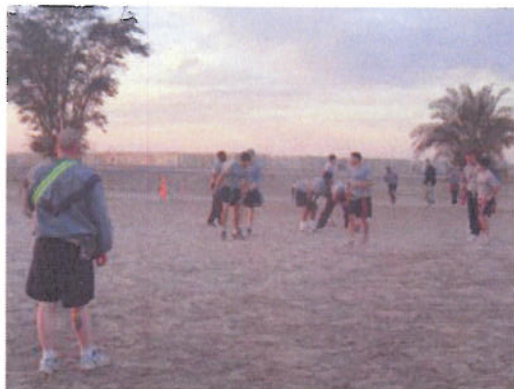
SGT Antoine Parker, 2nd squad... "Happy Anniversary to my loving wife Denea Parker. All is well from Iraq!"



PFC David Bass, 1st squad... "Hi Ia and Isaiah Bass, I love and miss you. Be safe."



LEFT: SPC Mitchell, PFC Nutter, and PFC Lidgett watching their Punishers WIN at flag football. **RIGHT:** PFC Jauhal with an IP at a check-point on patrol.



LEFT: SPC Womack seen as line judge for a flag football game. **RIGHT:** SGT Parker from 2nd squad is seen with Iraqi Police.



3rd PLATOON

PLATOON LEADER: 2LT WALTER

PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC DECKER

A HOOLIGAN REPORT

Happy New Years from the members of 3rd Platoon "HOOLIGANS". During the month of January the platoon has been continuing with its mission of supporting the Iraqi Police within our area. There have been no let down of maintenance or missions. The company has started an intramural flag football league with each platoon playing the other three platoons in two games. 3rd Platoon is currently 4-1 with one game remaining before we go into the playoffs. The "Super Bowl" will be held around the end of the month, with any luck the "HOOLIGANS" will come out on top and be crowned the champions.

The really big news for the Soldiers of 2nd Squad/3rd Platoon was the toy drop that they conducted at the Al Khadra Kindergarten with their Iraqi Police counterparts. The Soldiers escorted a reporter from the Stars and Stripes with them and handed out wooden toys and stuffed animals to the children in the school. The story was scene on the front page of the Stars and Stripes newspaper and can be viewed on www.stripes.com, by accessing the 17 January 2008 electric newspaper

"It's a little like raising a kid. The country is starting off brand new. You've got to start from scratch and build it as you go along." SGT Joshuan Holland

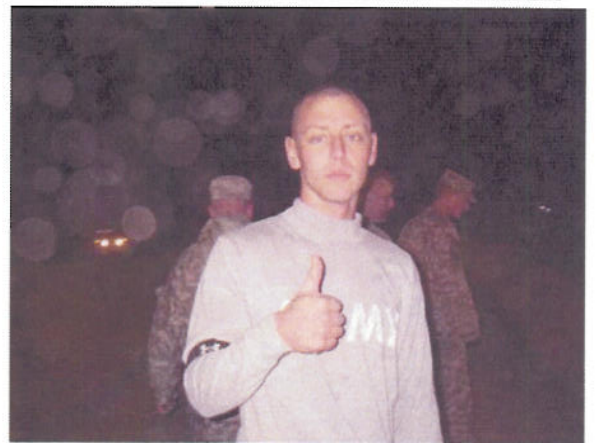


NOTE: Both quotes from Stars and Stripes

"This is why I came to Iraq," said **Sgt. Erik Neal**, a squad leader for 3rd Platoon, 401st Military Police Company.



LEFT: CPL Chayne Williams is seen playing for his team during the flag football tournament. **RIGHT:** SPC Williams is seen giving his support to the Hooligans



LEFT: SPC Osterman plays with the children. **RIGHT:** PFC Moore stands security with the National Police.





FROM THE HORSE: A WORKHORSE report

PLATOON SERGEANT:
SSG GARTH JOHNSON

Well a new year begins for the 401st Military Police Company Headquarters Platoon "WORKHORSE". These outstanding group of Soldiers that I'm proud to serve with give the company the support it needs twenty-four hours a day seven days a week. From keeping the company's vehicles up and running to fixing paper work to help you the Gunfighters get admin issues fixed. From OPS, DFAC, PAC, Medic, Communications, Arms room, Supply, and the Motor pool. These unsung heroes usually get no credit for what they do, but are always willing to lend a hand to the MP's. We are on the downhill slide now and we are as busy as ever to keep the gunfighter going. SGT Moreland and SGT Tompkins are keeping the motor pool going very short handed with SPC Anderson, SPC Allen and SPC Overton and the help from fellow workhorses. SGT Breese, SGT Cruz and SPC Doster keeping communications up and running for the MPs. SGT Ament and PFC Anton are dealing with all the company's admin issues. SGT Grounds and SPC Martin still take the 1SG out of the wire as the driver and the gunner, with the rest of the DFAC section SGT Mogos, SGT Fontaney and SGT Winston doing various details to support the company. The team of SSG Polette and PFC Johnson still running supply ordering up a storm for the company. MSG Keene, MSG Fleser, SFC Williams running the OPS Cell with the help from SSG Hughes, SSG Kriska, SGT Thompson, SPC Phangsang, SPC True, SPC Perez and Gunfighter Michele SPC Andersen. Last but not lease the WORKHORSE Medic CPL Schultz who takes care of the companys medical needs. Thank you for all you do.



PFC Anton trying to look like he is working.



PFC Johnson excited about New Years!



SGT Breese giving that look...



SGT Moreland giving the thumbs up approval



SPC Doster taking a break from work.

the SOLDIERS corner



LEFT: SPC Freeman and 3 IPs are seen training. **RIGHT:** The Punisher fans...watching their team play flag football.



LEFT: SPC Ruscio hands a child a toy at the toy drive. **RIGHT:** PFC Weger observes 3 IPs during their Guard shift.



LEFT: PFC Scott-Lee conducts arms room inventory at Ghaz police station. **RIGHT:** SSG Teklinski and the Ghaz police station plan check-points.



LEFT: PFC Owens is seen cleaning his weapons after mission. **RIGHT:** SGT Bell checks for weapon cleanliness after Soldiers from 2nd platoon have finished cleaning them.



JANUARY 2008

CONGRATULATIONS GUNFIGHTERS

JANUARY PROMOTIONS:

To Corporal:

SPC Andersen

SPC Cantwell

SPC Williams

To Specialist:

PFC Taranti

PFC Turner

BIRTHDAYS

PFC Anton SPC Hamelin

SPC Holt CPL Jennings

MSG Keene SGT Lowe

CPL Schultz SSG Stanifer



*"Demonstrate Lawfulness
Throughout the World"*

CDR...cont. from PAGE 2

Their dedication to the mission and guidance and counseling they give to the Iraqi Police are invaluable and evident by the progress made in the past months.

Our second resolution was focused on building morale even higher in the company. As a result, we have started the Gunfighter Games and with each month comes a new sport for each of the platoon's to compete in. This month kicked off the Gunfighter Games with football games between all the platoons sparking a fun but serious rivalry between the platoons as to who will be the football champion. We'll announce the champion in next month's issue...good luck to the Workhorse, Warfighter, Punisher, and Hooligan platoons...may the best platoon win!! And to our families and friends back home, we're doing great! Thanks for the continued support.

-CPT Rudy Sandoval

ISG cont. from PAGE 2

the past month, the mud is proving to be a nuisance that we deal with both on and off the field.

All in all, the Gunfighters are continuing to perform above and beyond. This was evident as we welcomed the incoming 716th Military Police Battalion, from Fort Campbell, KY. During my battlefield circulation with CSM Palmer, he had nothing but high remarks to say about all of our Soldiers and the performance of their duties in making Iraq a better place for all.

As always, the commander and I both encourage and welcome communication from friends and family back home. Please don't hesitate to contact me at:

brian.flom@us.army.mil

Until next month....

Respectfully Yours,

1SG Brian A. Flom

Gunfighter 7

HERO OF THE MONTH:

SPC Belieu

SUSTAINER OF THE MONTH:

CPL Schultz

SOLDIER of THE MONTH:

SPC Shawn W. Turner

NCO of THE MONTH:

CPL Mary Schultz



Note: the mud on the 401st vehicle line at Camp Liberty!

Kid's Corral

Valentine's Day Notebook

Valentine's Day Notebook:

Use this notebook as a diary, doodle book or just about anything.

What you'll need:

- Pink foam journal
- Heart shaped foam stamps
- Acrylic paint
- Paint brush



How to make it:

Paint foam side of stamps with desired colors and then press it down gently but firmly onto the notebook cover. Decorate with different stamps and colors. You can use the paint brush to touch up any empty spots. All that's left to do is let it dry . Happy Valentine's Day!!!

FEBRUARY 2008

401st Military Police Company

BLDG 16003
Battalion Ave and Hood Rd.
Fort Hood, TX 76544

Editor:
Silvia DeTinne
Phone: 254-371-0680
E-mail: silviake79@yahoo.com

MSG John M. Arceneaux
Rear Detachment Commander
Office Phone: 254-287-0255
Cell Phone: 254-449-3732
E-mail:
john.arceneaux@us.army.mil



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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7 PRCA Rodeo	8	9
10	11	12 Lincoln's B-Day	13	14 Valentine's Day	15	16 Gospel concert
17	18 President's Day	19	20	21	22 Washington's B-Day	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	

7-9 FEB- PRCA Rodeo Bell County Expo Center, Main Arena from 7.30-10pm

14 FEB- Valentine's Day

14 FEB- Shirley Caesar CD Signing: Clear Creek PX at 12.00

16 FEB- Tamela Man Gospel Concert: Bell County Expo Center, Assembly Hall 7-10pm

18 FEB: President's Day

Daily: On Saturday, Sunday & Holidays 10am-6pm Paintball at BLORA's Paintball Course, located on Liberty Hill Road. For more info call 254-287-2523/8303

Rear Detachment Commander—Round Up

MSG Arceneaux

We have crossed the great divide and now Families and loved ones can start the countdown for a return of their Soldier. Things will be picking up here in the land of the Rear Detachment as the remaining Soldiers and I prepare to receive the unit and as the FRG makes plans to celebrate the return. Lots of moving pieces are involved and that means the margin for error is great; but with the committed effort of all involved I am sure we can guarantee a successful “Welcome Home” for the Gunfighters and a smooth transition back into the daily routine of Family and Fort Hood.

Looking back to last month I have been told that the Deployed Spouse Retreat at Tyson’s Corner in Lampassas was on overwhelming success. Many Gunfighter Spouses attended and had the chance to sit down and discuss their role and frustrations through this deployment. They also had the chance to meet Olivia Sandoval, proud mother of Gunfighter 6, CPT

Sandoval. She was impressed and amazed at the role of a Military Spouse and thanks the Gunfighters for inviting her to attend the event and is looking forward to supporting the Gunfighters on their journey.

So, where does that put us now?? First off **WE NEED YOU**, just like the Uncle Sam posters of WWII called out to support the cause. The FRG is initiating a scrapbook project to showcase the Home Front and the life and times of the Soldiers deployed. This book will remain in the Unit as a legacy project that can be carried on from one generation of Gunfighters to the next.

We also need your ideas, thoughts, input and manpower to get ready for a grand Homecoming; hopefully one that will be remembered by all and be the standard for the next generation to maintain or surpass. This means fundraisers and legwork to pull in support both locally and for those outside the Greater Fort Hood Area.

There is a part to be played by all. The FRG will formulate the plan and begin pushing out the information of who, what, when, and where..... but not the why because we all know it is to welcome home the Gunfighters from a job well done.

FRG Fund

“Dollars and Cents”

- Beginning - \$1698.53
- Expenses - \$0
- Income—\$110.76
- Current - \$1809.29
- Budget Items - None scheduled

Cathy Keene

Treasurer

Tyson’s Hill Country Spouse Retreat

Olivia Sandoval, M.S.N., M. Ed., R.N., Mother of CPT Sandoval

I want to take this opportunity to thank the 401 Military Police Company Family Readiness Group Leader, Amanda Arceneaux, for inviting me to the spouse retreat that was held on January 26-27 at Tyson’s Hill Country Retreat and Conference Center in Lampases, Texas. It was a wonderful and novel experience for me to participate in a military spouse retreat. My perspective is somewhat different from a military spouse supporting our men and women in Baghdad since I am a mom of an unmarried officer, Captain Rudy Sandoval. However, spouses and parents share the same love and admiration for our soldiers and are equally concerned about their safety.

Tyson’s Retreat and Conference Center was a great setting providing a pleasant and relaxing environment. The retreat was well organized and full of activities for the spouses and the children. Observing the children’s faces petting the horses and enjoying themselves was especially rewarding for me. Although the evening hayride seemed to be the favorite activity for some children, others favored the horseback riding.

The retreat was an opportunity to bring the spouses together to share their experiences about their personal lives. It was also an opportunity to discuss the good times as well as the difficult heavy burden that spouses are sharing while their soldier is away from home in a theater of war. I learned that the uncertainty, the loneliness and the personal responsibility undertaken by the spouse was very real. However, the retreat provided us with a caring chaplain who encouraged us to connect and find strength with one another.

As a mother of a son who is proudly serving his country, I also have deep fears and apprehensions. Participating in the retreat enabled me to appreciate various perspectives articulated by the family members waiting for their loved ones to return home.

Attending the retreat was an enlightening experience increasing my knowledge of married military life. I am very grateful the military provides retreats for spouses and children. Memories from the retreat continue to surface in my mind throughout the day and I consider everyone I met at the retreat a blessing. I especially thank Amanda Arceneaux and Monika Flom for their gracious hospitality.



The Gunfighter Posse; Deployed Spouses Retreat: Gina Stanifer, Olivia Sandoval, Monika Flom, Silvia Detinee, Adrienne Hughes, Amanda Arceneaux and children.

February FRG Meeting:

Silvia Detinne; Gunfighter Gazette Editor

This month's FRG Meeting we will put a committee together for our Soldiers' Welcome Home Celebration and for the scrapbook we would like to put together for the Company.

I know we are all looking forward to our men and women coming home, so help us by giving them the Welcome Home they deserve. We will be talking about making banners and getting ideas for the any other decorations, snacks, or whatever else we can come up with. Also for the single Soldiers, we would like to have their rooms clean and have some food ready for the first couple of days of them being back.

As for the scrapbook we could really use some people with some talent in this and/or those who can help us along. The scrapbook would be a nice memory of this deployment from the Home Front and our Soldiers in Iraq, for all of us to go through.

It is already February and in a little less than 6 months this deployment will be finally over, so we really have to start prepping things. The more people we have the better it can only get as we would be able to achieve more and gather more and/or better ideas from all. And as they say "The more, the merrier".

From my point of view it's only a small sacrifice we can all give to Welcome Home our husbands, wives, fathers, mothers, sons and daughters .

As they have sacrificed a lot more for our Country and Freedom!

So please come join us at the next FRG Meeting on February 23 from 11am-1pm at the Olveta Culp building.

Hope to see you all there!

