

GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE



30 DAYS

AND COUNTING!

30 June 2008

Volume 2, Issue 2

LAST ISSUE

FINAL EDITION



Above: "The NCO Stripe" formed by NCO inductees at the NCO Induction Ceremony. **Left:** ISG Flom calls Soldiers from the 401st to join him in "the Stripe."

The 716th Military Police Battalion hosted a Non-Commissioned Officer induction ceremony on 21 June 2008 for newly promoted Sergeants and Corporals within the Battalion. The 18th MP BDE CSM (CSM McPherson) was the Guest Speaker and charged the newly promoted NCO's to enforce the standards and to uphold the traditions of the Army. Also in attendance was the 18th MP BDE CDR COL Spindler, and the 716 MP BN CDR LTC Johnson.

THE 401ST PROUDLY ANNOUNCES ITS NEWEST NON-COMMISSIONED OFFICER INDUCTEES:

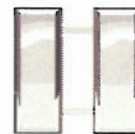
- SGT Paul Adams
- CPL Kristina Andersen
- CPL Nicholas Butler
- SGT Christopher Bell
- SGT Bobby Cruz
- SGT Sal Fontaney
- SGT Daniel Fennewald
- CPL Marin Hawk
- SGT Joel Hastings
- CPL Danielle Jennings
- SGT Rebecca Kluthe



- SGT Erika Lowe
- SGT Charles Lucania
- SGT Joshua Nichol
- CPL Eric Pagan
- SGT Antwan Parker
- SGT Ericka Schlueter
- SGT Jake Turner
- SGT John Wathen
- CPL Chayne Williams
- CPL David Womack
- SGT DeMario Woods
- SGT Sergio Winston

GUNFIGHTER 6 SENDS

CPT RUDY A. SANDOVAL



As I was observing a Transition of Authority ceremony with First Sergeant for the last surge battalion departing Iraq, it hit me; all the accomplishments of the Soldiers and the company during this deployment.

Every time I've deployed since 2003, I've asked myself the same question; have we made a positive impact and lasting affect on the people and the country? As I listened to the accolades and accomplishments of the departing battalion, I couldn't help chuckling to myself thinking that this great company has exceeded the accomplishments of an entire armor battalion in some aspects. But the number of patrols completed, the number of Iraqi Police we recruited, and the number of police stations we opened do not compare to the immediate, positive, and lasting affect we've had on the people in the Abu



CPT Sandoval and 1SG Flom take time out of their day to rein in Saddam's throne.

Ghraib, Mansour, and Rasheed districts.

Our focus has always been to improve the surrounding neighborhoods of the stations with an emphasis in community policing and all of our Soldiers have taken the mission to heart. From spending money out of their pocket to buy soccer balls for the kids to embracing families who have a son or daughter with a serious medical condition and ensuring they were seen by American doctors, our Soldiers can truly say they have had a positive impact and lasting affect on the people.

And of course, I'm getting to the part in my article each of you wants to hear... **REDEPLOYMENT!!** Our rear detachment and family readiness group has done an extraordinary job in preparing ... **SEE CDR PG 3**

GUNFIGHTER 7 SENDS

1SG BRIAN A. FLOM



Greetings to the Gunfighter Family,

It is hard to believe that we are so close to coming home and reuniting with our loved ones. It has been a long and tough deployment, but the Gunfighters still manage to keep their spirits up as we get closer to leaving. By the time you read this, we will be well under the 30 day mark.

I want to thank everyone who has supported us to make our mission a success. From the Families and Friends back home, to our Battalion Headquarters and Maneuver Units here on the battlefield, everyone has come through and deserves a job well done.

For this last newsletter, I want to take some time to address some of my concerns in regards to redeployment and reintegration. It is one thing to accomplish the combat mission here in Iraq, but it is another to successfully reintegrate into the life



we left back home. Make no mistake about it, this is no easy task. While it is impossible to cover every possible scenario that one may encounter, the two focal points I want you to keep in your mind are **PATIENCE** and **SAFETY**.

PATIENCE- It is imperative that you exercise patience with every part of this reintegration process. Patience in this instance is also interchangeable with **UNDERSTANDING**. From the slow moving traffic to

the new roles that our families have assumed while apart, you must exercise patience during the processing and reception of all these new roles and activities. There are certainly many favorite pastimes that we have missed over the past 15 months. Use patience in doing those activities. Don't try and do everything at once, which brings me to my next topic.....

SAFETY- With most everything we do, there is an inherent risk. The problem comes in when we add to that risk by taking unnecessary shortcuts. It is has been a long deployment and we all deserve to enjoy those things that we missed; it just needs to be done safely. It is always sad when a Soldier survives 15 months of combat, only to lose their life back home as a result of not being safe. Keep safety in your mind and if you witness someone being unsafe, continue to be their battle buddy and help them out by stopping them.

SEE 1SG PAGE 3

OPERATIONS

The 401st Operations cell continues to perform above and beyond what is expected from them during this deployment. The Operations cell, is currently preparing for the arrival of the 463rd MP Company. This month marks the Phase 5 renovation of TOC, it seems like it changes on a weekly basis but it keeps everyone on there toes. Next door to us is the 402nd (64th) MP Company and their Operations Sergeant seems to be in competition with us on trying to make theirs better than ours. As you all know we are Always First and 64th will never compare to our skills. MSG Keene has also been on the go this month seeing the Soldiers at the stations and seeing how all the training is going at the IP stations. We completed our 100% inventories and separated our equipment in preparation for the upcoming customs inspection. With this newsletter, we are making the line in the sand and can all but touch the light at the end of the tunnel and our long awaited return the Fort Hood and especially our family and friends. I would like to take this opportunity to say thanks for all the support during the last 14 months while the Gunfighters have truly made a difference in our Area of Operation. Keep us in your hearts and safe in your prayers.

To my wife and boys,

I would like to thank your for all your love and support during the last 15 months. I can not wait to return home to you all. You are the real Heroes in my mind and provide me with the desire and motivation to drive on and I thank you all for that. I will see you all soon.

Love
Jeremy

CDR...continued from 2

for our return and I have to thank you profusely for your efforts. Our replacement company, 463rd MP CO has arrived in country and we're starting the relief in place process to transition the PTT mission to them. We are all excited and can't count down the days fast enough to see all of you! As soon as we get specific information regarding our redeployment I promise you we will immediately pass it on to the rear detachment and family readiness group leadership. I can't wait to see all of you soon.

Counting down the days,

Gunfighter 6

The last thing I want to discuss is the availability of counseling services for both Soldiers and their family members. There is no shame when it comes to seeking help in dealing with the past 15 months experiences. We all have been through some trying times and some of us need more help then others. Whether dealing with the stresses from back home or the stresses from combat, please use the services that are available for you. This includes marriage counseling for those that are having trouble relating to their loved one. Both the Commander and I not only support everyone to get the help they need, but we encourage it.

Again, thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout this deployment. Sweet-heart, put the beer in the fridge, I'm coming home.....

See you on the other side!!!!

1SG Brian A. Flom

Gunfighter 7

Brian.flom@us.army.mil

A VERY BIG

CONGRATULATIONS TO:

CPL JENNINGS—HERO OF THE
DEPLOYMENT

SPC PRANKIENAS—SUSTAINER OF THE
DEPLOYMENT

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: CPL David S. Womack, 401st 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

ALWAYS FIRST!

1ST PLATOON

THE GHOST TIMES

PLATOON LEADER: 1LT LYNCH

PLATOON SERGEANT: SFC SMITH



It's a good feeling knowing that this will be the last time that I will submit an entry in the Gunfighter Gazette. Even with the temperatures rising into the 100's all the Ghosts are doing exceptionally well and are staying focused on the mission. Even though we don't have much time left, 3rd squad has taken over responsibility for another station from one of our sister companies (64th). They are working very hard and are completing what they can before the new unit arrives. We have also been working extra hard completing our 100% inventories, which were very long and exhausting, however, it is all bearable since it means we are going home soon. Along with inventories the Ghosts completed their last APFT while in Iraq. They did very well despite the long hours and hard work that they have poured into their missions, day in and day out. As platoon leader, I would just like to say that it has truly been an honor to serve with each and every one of your Soldiers that are assigned to 1st Platoon. We have had our ups and downs, but in the end they have all pulled through and I am fortunate to have been apart of team. I would also like thank you, the Family Members, who have stood by and supported us through out this deployment. The power and strength you give us all is invaluable and I thank you for it. See you all soon, Ghost 6 out!



SGT Hastings is seen discussing security with an IP—using a linguist to translate.



SPC Prankienas is seen helping an injured Iraqi man.



LEFT...SGT Adams of 2nd squad is seen assisting the Iraqi police. **FAR LEFT... Layouts!** - One of the final layouts for the Commander's inspection.



2ND PLATOON

THE PUNISHER CORNER

PLATOON LEADER: ILT MARTINEZ

Hello Punisher Family,

This is the LAST newsletter from Iraq!! The Soldiers are getting more excited by the day but have remained focused on the mission. This month has been another busy and hot month. We conducted an Iraqi Police recruiting drive processing over 2000 future Iraq Police. There were many 12 hours days but the platoon insured we had order and safety while dealing with the crowds. We took our PT test which everyone did well, the completion between Soldiers really pushed everyone. We have a new Punisher, SGT Thompson now in charge of the mighty 1st Squad (Punisher 1). Some other good news is the SGT Barnum (Punisher 2) received an achievement metal this month for his outstanding performance and development of his Iraqi Police station. Soldiers joyfully have started packing their stuff and mailing some personal items home, this should make everyone happy. Thank you again for all the support. We will see you soon.

Punisher 6 Out!



SSG Lucas seen pinning new rank on the newly promoted CPL Womack.



CPT Sandoval preparing to pin the Army Achievement Medal onto SGT Barnum for his outstanding work with the PTT team.



SPC Freeman and SPC Matthews are seen chowing down at the Punisher BBQ.



SGT Woods seen keeping the order at an IP recruit drive at Furat Iraqi Police Station.

A couple of Punisher guidons at a recent Punisher activity.



“If all men were just there would be no need for Punishers.”

3RD PLATOON

A HOOLIGAN REPORT

PLATOON LEADER: 1LT WALTER

Yet again, another month comes to an end here in Baghdad, and the "HOOLIGAN" Soldiers are getting that much closer to the end of a 15 month deployment. With the temperatures ever increasing, some days the temperature has topped 120 degrees in the sun, the Soldiers continue to accomplish their missions both inside and outside of the wire. The Police Transition Team missions that each squad is assigned at their Iraqi Police Station(s) are running as smooth as can be expected. The majority of the Soldiers work this month has been in support of our redeployment at the end of July. The main task for the month of June was the commander's inventory of all assigned platoon equipment. To ensure that all equipment was properly accounted for, Soldiers conducted a pre-inventory a week prior to the actual layout. The day before the actual layout, Soldiers started laying out the equipment at 1800 hours and finished up at approximately 0130 hours. This was done due to the start time of 0700 hours the following morning with CPT Sandoval beginning his inspection. Due to the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers, all of the platoon's equipment was properly accounted for and overall the inventory went extremely smoothly. All the Soldiers were extremely tired when the last of the equipment was returned to the connex and were released around 1030 hours that morning.

The up-coming month of July will show no relaxation in the mission tempo, nor the amount of redeployment activities that the Soldiers will be participating in. Each Soldier will have to attend a minimum of six briefings on a variety of subjects to help in assimilating them back into the normal garrison life. They will be transitioning from their current trailer accommodations to that of transient tents, the same ones that were stayed in when we first arrived in Iraq, and of course, we will have the customs inspections and final packing of the connex towards the middle of July. The unit will be having their End of Tour awards ceremony just prior to the Transition of Authority Ceremony with the 463rd Military Police Company out of Ft Leonard Wood Missouri at the end of the month. Then it is just climbing on a plane and heading back to the real world...



PFC Eaves, SGT Purser, and SPC Orsini seen taking a few minutes to just hang out at the end of a long day.



CPL Andersen seen inspecting weapons prior to a layout.



SGT Womack, SPC Polanco, and SPC Ruscio seen out on the vehicle line just before a mission.



SPC Williams seen inspecting his Rhino before mission.

HOOLIGANS



HQ PLATOON

A WORKHORSE REPORT

EXECUTIVE OFFICER: 1LT WILLIAM-SON

Greetings to all of our family members and friends! 40 days and counting as of the date of this article...As each day draws to a close, we are getting even closer to getting home to our families and loved ones. The Soldiers of the "Workhorse" continue to stay focused on the mission despite being so close to the end.

Your Soldiers have done an amazing job here and have truly made their mark on the Iraqi people. From assisting with IP transports, to fixing trucks, to ordering supplies, to processing admin actions, and ensuring communications equipment is fully operational, this group of Soldiers has done it all. We are currently in the process of prepping for our upcoming replacements arrival. Soldiers are involved in ensuring everything is in place for the new incoming unit to be successful upon their arrival. This is a testament to the "Workhorse" work ethic. Never quitting and always doing their best despite the obstacles placed in front of them. Despite being very short handed at times during this deployment, the Soldiers kept a positive attitude and did their best. I am extremely proud to serve alongside of them and you should be extremely proud of the great work that your Soldiers have done and continue to do everyday.

Thank you to the friends and family members for your continued support and allowing our Soldiers to be successful daily. Beside every great Soldier, is an even greater family member supporting us and allowing us to do what we do everyday. GUNFIGHTER 5, OUT!



Several Soldiers from HQ seen just before a platoon formation.



SGT Mogos seen showing some tough love to SPC Johnson and SGT Schultz avoiding the camera.



SSG Polette and SGT Schultz seen taking a minute out of their busy days.

"FROM THE HORSE"

— THE SOLDIERS CORNER —

On July 27th the 401st MP Co and the 463rd MP Co will have their Transfer Of Authority (TOA) ceremony. The 401st will transfer operations to the 463rd and begin their journey home, back to Fort Hood! From all the Gunfighters - to all the Solid Warriors of the 463rd... "Good luck, you will remain in our thoughts and prayers!" To our families and friends - "Thank you for your amazing support of the deployment, you were detrimental in helping us complete our mission. We will see you soon!!!"



TOP: CSM McPherson, 18th MP BDE CSM—seen addressing his newest NCOs. CSM McPherson charged his NCO's to up-hold the standards and be the leaders the Soldiers deserve. **ABOVE:** CSM Palmer and 1SG Flom seen during a rehearsal for the Induction ceremony, seen under the NCO Archway.

TOP: A cake for the reception of the NCO induction ceremony. The cake is decorated with all the NCO ranks from Corporal to Command Sergeant Major. **ABOVE:** CSM Palmer, 716th MP BN CSM—seen giving the Charge of the NCO to the newly inducted NCOs.

JUNE 2008

CONGRATULATIONS GUNFIGHTERS

PROMOTIONS:

TO STAFF SERGEANT:

SGT NEAL

TO SERGEANT:

CPL ANDERSEN

SPC BOIKE

SPC DOSTER

CPL HAWK

SPC OVERTON

SPC SOLANO

SPC ROLLINS

CPL C. WILLIAMS

TO CORPORAL:

SPC WOMACK

PROMOTIONS CONT:

TO SPECIALIST:

PFC EAVES

PFC LIDGETT

PFC MILNER

PFC MOORE

PFC SANDERS

PFC SIMMONS

PFC SUURMEIER

Good Conduct Medal:

SPC D'HULST

SPC FREEMAN

CPL JENNINGS

SPC KEMNITZ

SPC OSTERMAN

SGT SCHLUETER

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR:

This is it! NO MORE GAZETTES after this one. I just wanted to take an opportunity to thank all the 401st leadership for providing me such great material to work with. I hope that we have provided you with a quality publication. It truly has been an honor to produce our Gunfighter Gazette. I will maintain copies of all 13 issues of Volume 1, and both issues of Volume 2. Please contact me if you would like copies. See you all soon!

Very Respectfully,

CPL David Womack, Editor

HERO OF THE MONTH:

PFC Weger

SUSTAINER OF THE MONTH:

PFC Jelks

SOLDIER of THE MONTH:

PFC Suurmeier

NCO of THE MONTH:

CPL Pagan



ALL THE GUNFIGHTERS WANT TO THANK CPL WOMACK FOR HIS DILLIGENT EFFORTS THROUGHOUT THE DEPLOYMENT IN PROVING OUR FAMILY MEMBERS WITH THE GUNFIGHTER GAZETTE!!

Left: CPL Womack was awarded the Army Achievement Medal for taking time out of his busy schedule to edit and publish the Gunfighter Gazette.

Kid's Corral

Welcome home signs

What you need:

- Construction paper
- patriotic patterns, ribbons, ...
- permanent markers
- foam decorations
- paint, paint brushes



What you do:

For this, only use your imagination and write a message you know your mom or dad cant wait to see waving into the air when they finally walk in to the gym .

You can do just about anything you want for the welcome sign or banner . Just have fun with it and be sure to bring your sign with you the day your loved is finally going to be home!

JULY 2008

401st Military Police Company

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SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19 barrack cleaning
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30 The Day?	31 The Day?		

07-19: barrack preparations

30 July to August 2: estimated date range for our 401st soldiers to finally be back home!

FRG Fund

"Dollars and Cents"

- Beginning - \$1698.53
- Expenses - \$0
- Income—\$4690.71
- Current - \$6500
- Budget Items - None scheduled

Cathy Keene
Treasurer

We are almost done !

We are almost done with this deployment and I think its safe to say that we are all happy to be able to say this.

From the home front side we are all making sure we got everything covered to give all of our brave soldiers the Homecoming they deserve.

Cleaning, decorating, and preparing so much other things is what we have been keeping ourselves busy with lately. And of course counting down the days left to finally see the 401 st run into that gym! There are going to be a lot of tears of joy flowing that day!!!

We would like to thank all the people that helped us achieve all that we have been able to do so far. First United Methodist Church, Adopt-A-Platoon Organization, Knights of Columbus- Redmond WA, Clayton Homes -Nolanville TX, Freedom Jeep Chrysler- Killeen, Denim & Diamonds -Temple TX, Individuals and other organizations for their support and last but definitely not least all the Rear D soldiers, and so many others.

We would also like to say Thank You to MSG Arceneaux for making this all come true and to have put up with all the FRG women, just kidding on that part.

He is going to be leaving us here in less than a month to serve his Country from overseas. We are going to miss you and hope everything will go great for you and your family. Let us hear from you every now and then you hear!

A warm welcome to the new Rear D Commander MSG Fleser who will take over.

MSG Fleser can be contacted on 254-449-3734 .

For all the soldiers we want to say.....

welcome home