



DESERT ROGUES

Although the Desert Rogues are about to say goodbye to the country of Iraq, we are not hanging up our hats just yet. The 2nd Battalion, 7th Cavalry regiment has begun their descent into Kuwait. As we patiently wait for their arrival, we continue to maintain our full attention on the mission at hand. We must remain vigilant and attentive across the checkpoints, while on patrol, and even on COS Marez. The Desert Rogues will leave this country with heads held high. The impact made on the people of Iraq is truly remarkable and a mark of pride to be worn by all. The partnership with the Iraqi Army, Regional Guard Brigade, Peshmerga, and Iraqi Police has developed Soldiers into strong leaders and teachers. The Soldiers have spent the last few months teaching, building, and partnering with Iraqi troops, overcoming language and cultural barriers all the while. Many of the Soldiers have taken skills used in their prior civilian jobs and put them to good use, building living spaces and recreation areas for both US and Iraqi Security Forces. In the midst of all this building and training, the Soldiers are beginning the long and arduous process of equipment reset and pack out.

As we look back on this deployment it is plain to see that the Desert Rogues have clearly made a difference in many Iraqi people's lives. Our patrols roll through towns and children smile and wave. The Desert Rogues have given the Iraqi people new opportunities and they are very thankful for our presence.

We cannot end this deployment without saying one more 'thank you' to the Families and friends who have given us the utmost support. You mean the world to us and we love you. Thank you!

Desert Rogues

Mission First, Men Always!

Rogue 6

Why We Serve!



We stand here today on the edge of freedom watching the Iraqi citizens move towards their future. Their path will be one that they choose and their efforts have been enabled by the actions of our servicemen and women. While no Soldier desires to be away from their Family, this deployment has been an incredible experience. CSM Thumhart and myself are honored to stand side by side with each member of the Marne, Spartan, and Rogue Team. Our Soldiers are the standard to which all other armies are measured against.

Our Soldiers have maintained the standard as the best in the world during this deployment. They have provided opportunity to the people of Iraq like never before. We have been successful in our mission and Iraq is better because of our Soldiers' efforts.

Freedom is wonderful, but it is not the greatest of things. Dedicating oneself to service in support of freedom is the greatest and most honorable action of any Soldier. Each of our patriots has chosen this life. They have dedicated themselves to the service of our nation. The freedom they have given the Iraqi people will inspire comparable service here for the next sixty years. Our Soldiers have made a difference, they have served honorably, and they have upheld the proud reputation of the Marne Division.

There is nothing more honorable than serving freedom. That is our Profession, and we should be proud of our service.

There is one ribbon that we all wear that should make each of us beam with pride. The Army Service ribbon is often overlooked because we all share that honor. That ribbon represents dedication, honor, and commitment to our nation. It represents that we serve the United States of America. We are patriots and veterans. When the call was made for service we answered that call with action. The Army Service Ribbon is symbolic of our commitment to our collective freedom and our constitution. Soldiers should be proud of themselves, and of their service.

The Iraqis have more opportunity now because of our actions. Our service has been incredible and our accomplishments in Iraq have provided hope and freedom to this nation. We have been successful, and each of us should be proud of our service and accomplishments.

To the Desert Rogues, CSM Thumhart and myself are elated to be in your ranks. We are humbled by your accomplishments, and would proudly stand next to you in combat anywhere and anytime. The Battalion is the best with which we have ever served, and the greatest emotion we share is pride from what you have done. You are the Desert Rogues, and clearly are professional standard bearers. Mission First, Men Always!

LTC Ross Coffman
CSM Frankie Thumhart



Rogue 7

Chaplain's Corner

Have you ever found yourself hitting your head against the wall because you just don't understand your Spouse? Or have you ever found your Spouse totally frustrated with you? Well, welcome to marriage! I've found that when couples come to me with marriage issues the main problems that tend to surface are: one, they don't understand their Spouse, and two, they don't understand how to communicate with their Spouse. Is there any hope? Can't love build a bridge? Yep.



Gary Chapman in his book [The Five Love Languages](#) discusses how all of us as human beings receive love differently. When applying this to marriage the key is for a husband to identify his wife's love language, and communicate to her in that way. Vice-versa: the wife needs to identify her husband's love language, and communicate to him that way. Frankly, this is common sense, but my wife and I apply this in our marriage, and it really works (and men we need all the help we can get!). Let's first examine the five different love languages, and then we'll focus on application.

Touch: the first love language is touch. Now, I'm not talking about sex here because every adult human likes sex. What I am talking about is that some people receive love by touch. They like to hold hands, they like to give and receive hugs, and they like to sit right next to you when watching T.V. These people can be categorized as touchy-feely!

Gifts: the second love language is gifts. These folks receive love by receiving gifts. The gifts don't have to be expensive. These gifts can be things like cards, letters, flowers, food, etc. These people aren't greedy, but they simply receive love by receiving things.

Spending time with one another: the third love language is spending quality time with the ones they love. These folks receive love by simply giving them your time, and it doesn't really matter what you do. It could be going to the beach, watching a movie, sitting on the back patio and talking, etc. For these folks to feel loved they want you to spend time with them.

Words of affirmation: the fourth love language is words of affirmation. These people receive love by hearing things like: "You've done such a great job handling all the bills while I was deployed. Thank you!" These folks feel love by hearing the things that are true and great about them.

Service: the last love language is service, meaning getting tasks done for them. These people feel loved when things are accomplished. Examples: the bills are paid on time, the lawn is mowed, the laundry is done, etc. Overall, these folks feel loved when things are accomplished for them.

OK, now let's talk about application. My wife's number one love language is spending time with one another. So while deployed what did I do? I called her every day, and I emailed her most days. Did I have to do this? No, but I understand how she receives love so I wanted to do it. Knowing my wife's love language, what do I need to make sure I do when I get back to the States? Well, obviously, I need to make sure that I spend time with her. Because I'm committed to doing this I have asked my Family and friends to hold off visiting me until my wife and I have had our time together. By doing this she will be happy, which makes me happy. Incidentally, Lisa knows my love language too, which is service, and she does a great job at communicating to me that way.

I found that identifying and communicating to your Spouse's love language helps marriages to thrive. Gary Chapman has also written a book so that you can identify your kids' love languages too. I highly recommend you take a look at his books, and see if these could possibly be good tools for your marriages and Families.

God bless!

W. Michael Oliver

Chaplain (CPT) USA

1-64 AR BN Chaplain

"Mission First, Men Always!"



Hellhounds

Wounded Leader Returns to Iraq and His Platoon Family

Sgt. Veronica J. Spates

Fortunately, during combat operations, many Soldiers are given the opportunity to leave the war zone for a few weeks of leave with Families and/or Friends. Other Soldiers leave when they have been wounded in action, and such was the case with Captain Matthew C. Boudro, the Platoon Leader for the Mortars Platoon. CPT Boudro was wounded on 13 May after sustaining burns to his face and hands.

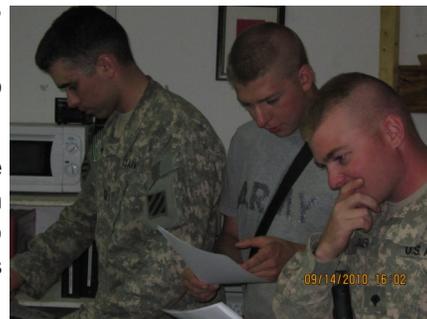


CPT Boudro spent time recovering from his wounds for nearly three weeks at Brooke Army Hospital Center in San Antonio, Tx. He spent an additional 3 months at home,

CPT Boudro received the Purple Heart on 5 August 2010.

Upon making a full recovery, CPT Boudro reported to Rear D to await his orders to return to Iraq.

“In Rear-D, I was waiting to come back over to Iraq. The thing is—it was nice having a break but there was too much free time. I mean, after being in Iraq and doing what we do every day to keep busy, I wanted to get back to work. I was just waiting for orders.”



On 12 August, CPT Boudro returned to Iraq. He stated that more than anything, he was anxious to get back into his routine and to see his platoon. Now that he has had several weeks to work among his platoon members, CPT Boudro stated there is an obvious difference when compared to the time before he left Iraq.

“The only difference now is that our mission has changed. Originally, we had our own battle space and we interacted with the Iraqi Army. Now, we are escorting EOD and STT (Explosive Ordnance Disposal and Security Transitions Team) to conduct their key leader engagements with Iraqi Army leaders.”



CPT Boudro explained that as he looked back in retrospect, he and the other casualties are very fortunate to have only suffered the wounds that they received. “I’m pleased with the way everyone reacted that day. They had self control, discipline and they knew what to do without anyone telling them. I’m proud of the platoon. I’m not a hero. The heroes are everyone in the platoon.”

Specialist Anzac Houchen, one of CPT. Boudro’s platoon members added, “CPT Boudro has returned to his Family, and we are happy to have him back.”

With less than 30 days left in this deployment, everyone, including CPT Boudro is working at warp speed to accomplish the many tasks needed in the days ahead and are required before we all too, can return home to the Families and/or Friends we left behind.



Rock

Green Platoon, Alpha Company, 1-64 Armor BN arrived in Iraq in November 2009, weary from a long flight from Savannah, Georgia. Many Soldiers were thinking about their Family and loved ones left behind, but there was no question that all were focused on the mission in Iraq. Many of the Soldiers were unsure of what to expect of our new role as an advisory and assistance brigade, but one thing was certain, the Soldiers of Green Platoon were trained and ready for the task at hand. The Soldiers were trained and proficient in their warrior tasks from pre-deployment training during Rouge focus, Spartan Focus and the National Training Center at Fort Irwin, California. The training was focused on worst case scenario situations in order to prepare them to overcome any difficult situation that they would find themselves in during the deployment.

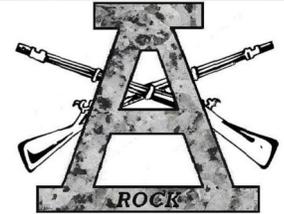
Green PLT hit the ground running. Soon after arriving at Forward Operation Base Q-West the Soldiers from Green PLT traveled to Joint Security Station (JSS) Ash Shura to conduct Relief In Place with the departing unit A CO, 1-12 CAV. As soon as Green Platoon started running patrols out of JSS Ash Shura in Ninewa Province, Iraq, they diligently



began to develop projects to improve the quality of life for the people in Area of Operation (AO) Rock. They compiled numerous micro-grant applications on joint patrols with their Iraqi security force counterparts to enable them to distribute thousands of dollars and to stimulate the growth of small businesses in the AO. The Platoon also aided the Iraqi security forces to provide security during the Iraqi elections. Green Platoon not only aided

in the development of the Iraqi economy but they also assisted in the security of local villages and roads used by local nationals and security forces. In the summer of 2010 Green PLT had a change of mission to conducted checkpoint operations at Combined Check Point (CCP) 9 on the outskirts of northern Mosul. On a daily basis the Soldiers lived and worked with the Iraqi Army and Regional Guard Brigade (RGB). This enabled them to establish a greater relationship with their ISF counterparts. While at Combined Check Point 9 the Soldiers conducted CSA and checkpoint security operation to advise the Iraqis on securing main supply routes and local villages from violent extremists trying to disrupt their way of life.

During their time in Iraq the Soldiers of Green PLT Alpha Company 1-64 CAB performed exceptionally in the numerous missions and tasking presented before them. Throughout the deployment the Soldiers of Green PLT established themselves as an integral part of the success of operations for Combined Checkpoints in AO Rouge. The Soldiers have diligently worked to develop the ISF forces working alongside them. The PLT and Company helped bridge the gap between the various Iraqi Security Forces by enabling them to work together more efficiently in order to complete basic missions and daily duties that will be essential to the success of the Iraqi government and military upon the withdraw of American forces from Iraq. Whether it is advising the ISF forces how to properly conduct traffic control point operations, or assisting in security operations to promote stability in the Iraqi government Green Platoon's drive and will to accomplish the mission never faltered.





Bayonet

As September comes and goes, the Bayonets can look back on the previous several months with satisfaction. Since we assumed responsibility of our Combined Checkpoint, we have seen its transformation from a desolate compound with only a sweltering tent without air conditioning to a wooden structure built with our own hands – no small thanks to SGT Scott Hahn, SGT Jason Johnson and SPC Jack Kinchen – and, the best part, with temperature control. Assisted by the engineers from 1-30 IN, we've improved every aspect of force protection and standards of living at the checkpoint, building a new Entry Control Point, spreading tons of gravel on the landing zone and the life support area, and building several wooden structures to include the gym, the sleep hut, and the MWR room.



With September also brings another highlight of the deployment (aside from finally having professional and college football again), one more month to go! While we're proud of what we've managed to accomplish throughout our two separate Areas of Responsibility, we're more than happy to know that we are just a month away from returning home to Fort Stewart, although there is still work to be done before we leave. The end of the deployment has also brought a plethora of tasks to be completed before being ready to come home. In addition to the predictable ones such as packing our bags, we've been busy ensuring that the equipment that will be staying in Iraq for the incoming unit is in top condition.

Several Bayonets were promoted at the beginning of the month to well. Colby Hollars was promoted to Specialist, then laterally promoted to Corporal and became Bravo Company's senior line medic. Roy Coffey, Bradley Duncan, James Gildersleeve, Seth Paradine, Omar Porras, Orlando Rosales, and Christopher Zalut were all promoted from Privates First Class to Specialists. Donald Heath was promoted from Specialist to Sergeant. Ryan Carlson was promoted from Sergeant to Staff Sergeant. Lastly, Christopher Boehm was promoted to First Lieutenant.

The Bayonets have also had another month full of personnel changes. CPT Cameron Rice has left the company, joining the Hellhounds to become a member of the S-3 shop. 1LT Jaylen Smith has left Scrapper Platoon to replace CPT Rice as the Bayonets' Executive Officer. 2LT John Green, freshly arrived from the States, has stepped into 1LT Smith's shoes as Scrapper's platoon leader.



As the end of the deployment draws nearer, the Bayonets eagerly await our flight date to arrive. Before too long, CPT Carroll will be watching the Georgia Bulldogs win without having to stay up until three o'clock in the morning while SSG Noto laughs at all of "yous Georgia fans." While we may disagree on what teams to cheer for, it is safe to say that all of our favorites are better than the University of Kentucky. What can I say, the Bayonets love football season, and we cannot wait until we get to watch the games from the comfort of our own homes with the ones that we love.

Wild Bunch

Wildbunch Soldiers: Training our Friends and Allies



The Soldiers of Scrapper Platoon at Combined Checkpoint 6 have put immeasurable effort into training the Iraqi and Kurdish forces on the very basic fundamentals of soldiering that Scrapper Platoon knows so well. 1LT



Green, the platoon leader for Scrapper Platoon, laid out a detailed training plan in order to ensure the maximum results with the time available to train the Iraqi and Kurdish troops.

While many of the advanced classes are taught by the Squad Leaders of Scrapper Platoon, some of the more basic classes are taught by the Team Leaders. The Soldiers and NCOs of Scrapper Platoon have trained their

counterparts by means of thorough and creative classes on first aid, battle drills, and tactical movement formations.

At Combined Checkpoint 8, the men of 1st and 3rd platoons are training their Iraqi and Kurdish counterparts on the basis of maneuver and soldiering as well. Combined Checkpoint 8 rests in a key location between North Mosul and Tal Keyf, the seat of the district and diverse town of 200,000 people. The training of tripartite forces in this diverse area is essential. The men of 1st platoon and 3rd platoon have been making that happen with the daily classes, training exercises, and rehearsals that they conduct with their Iraqi and Kurdish partners on the checkpoint.



In addition to training the security forces of Iraq, the men of Wildbunch have made leaps and bounds in the realm of joint operations between Iraqi, Kurdish, and US Forces. With the constant presence of the tripartite forces, few foes make the mistake of attacking such a dynamic and well-trained force. Those times that the enemy has decided to execute their hasty attacks, the tripartite forces in the Combined Security

Areas of 6 and 8 have led to the arrests of insurgents on three separate, tripartite cordon and search operations. These tripartite missions not only improve relationships between the leadership of the Iraqi Army and Kurdish forces, but also symbolize the unity of the people of the Ninewa province.

again soon.



Black Knights

Combined Check Point Spotlight: Green Platoon

The months of July and August were the busiest that the Black Knights have seen thus far, hands down. During In July the Black Knights were tasked to close down and turn over control of JSS Khazer, receive Combined Check Point 4 (CCP4), and to take over JSS Knight (also known as IMN). The Black Knights proved true to form in attacking each task with vigor, ensuring no detail was left unattended, accomplishing these responsibilities in a professional and timely manner.

Red platoon was charged with the arduous task of taking over Combined Checkpoint 4 and renovating it in order to bring it up to the Black Knight standards. First, the platoon had to go through a week of training on the warrior tasks that would be utilized on the CCP. After graduation, they jumped right into conducting battle handover with the outgoing unit, and then the hard work of renovation on the CCP. The Rough Rider Soldiers worked long hours to move t-walls, construct shading, move living containers, and train Iraqi Security Forces, all while simultaneously ensuring security never faltered. Their hard work resulted in the CCP being fully operational within days of taking charge of the site and recognition by the DCG-S, General Vandal.

White platoon was charged with taking ownership of our newly acquired JSS Knight and without so much as a single blink, began working their magic on improving their position. They sifted through piles of junk, re-secured wire, replaced sand bags, painted where needed, and also maintained security on the site. To add to the amount of work and organization required from the Wombats, equipment and supplies were constantly flowing in from JSS Khazer as we moved closer to closure. The Wombats took charge of the JSS, completing in a week, what the last unit failed to complete in the last six months. They did all of this with half the number of Soldiers that would normally occupy the new JSS.

Blue Platoon continued to improve CCP1 and conduct combat operations simultaneously. Their true colors showed when they had to operate with minimal support due to the Black Knights closing a JSS, opening another, and adding a CCP. SGTs Schoenwald and Steinbach completed the hand built DFAC for the Soldiers at CCP1, enabling them to have a place to take a load off and enjoy some tasty Army chow. Blue platoon also proved to still be lethal during offensive combat operations while engaging the enemy and preventing them from hindering US and Iraqi forces mission accomplishment.

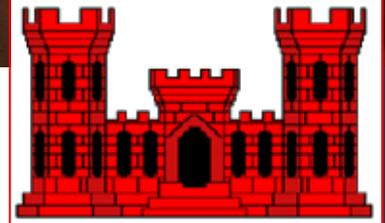
Green platoon had an added work load in preparing JSS Khazer for closure, which they tackled with the determination always associated with that of a Black Knight. SFC Brown led the way in ensuring we were always ahead of the game, while also maintaining his platoon's other assigned missions. Their efforts ensured the JSS was dismantled, shipped, and cleaned right on time for the turn over to Iraqi Security Forces. At the same time, Green platoon continued operations at CCP3 and improvement of that position. They were also recognized by the DCG-S, General Vandal, for their checkpoint.

The PSD and HQ elements have had only a few seconds of rest in the last two months. Continuing to provide support to, now, three CCPs and two JSSs proved to make time fly by. Countless combat patrols and coordinated logistical movements aided in the Black Knight's ability to complete hundreds of tasks above standard and always on time. The maintenance element's untiring efforts working hand in hand with the PSD delivered 15 loads of equipment and supplies to various locations and logged over 700 miles. Under SSG Samuel's leadership, the maintenance team provided an asset that guaranteed the smooth closure and handover of JSS Khazer, the opening of our other two locations, and a fleet of vehicles that are always combat ready.

The Black Knights have continued to lead the way as THE BEST company in the Battalion. All of this would not be possible, however, without the AWESOME support we receive from those spouses and family members back home. We are extremely grateful for everything all of you do and can't wait until the day all of the Black Knights return home to be reunited with you. Until then, we will continue to push forward with the tenacity and fortitude the Black Knights are known for. God Bless the Black Knights and God Bless the United States of America.

Dawgs

SAPPERS ROLL STRONG



September was another historical month for the Dawgs of War. Continuing to move forward, the Sappers of E Company worked diligently towards keeping the roads in Northern Iraq safe for Iraqi Civilians and Military Personnel to move freely. 01 September 2010 marked the end of Operation Iraqi Freedom and the beginning of Operation New Dawn. For the Dawgs, there was minimal change to our mission; as Engineers have traditionally served in a maneuver support role. Engineers provide maneuver units with mobility, survivability, and general engineering. The only major change is our Iraqi partners are in the lead, conducting missions that would normally be executed by US infantry and Armor units.

The sappers of Echo Company would like to thank the families of the Soldiers for the tremendous support during the past year. No email can match the impact that a box or card traveling in the mail can have on a deployed soldier. I work next to the mail room and I am confident in saying that the families of the Soldiers in this company have supported these guys in magnitudes greater than I have seen in other units. Thank you.

To recap, the past year was a challenge because of the versatility in missions that the company has ran. It was said to me the other day that this company has done everything possible for an engineer company to do during a deployment. We have cleared roads, built the largest checkpoint in northern Iraq, partnered with Iraqi soldiers during joint missions, handed out backpacks to children, cleared caves, found caches, switched mission sets three times, worked for a sister battalion, moved from one FOB to another FOB, and helped repair bridges. Be proud of your Soldier for serving with the Dawgs, knowing that he undoubtedly had an enormous impact on combating the enemy, and saving lives in the province.



Renegade - The Silent Warriors and Supporters!!!

It's the end of the fourth quarter for the Renegades, and we are working as hard as ever. Currently, we are simultaneously packing out, teaching the in-coming unit, and still providing the same impeccable level of support to the Rogues spread across the four corners of Northern Iraq. It has been an incredible and daunting tour. This little company has provided as much food, repairs and repair parts, driven as many miles, delivered as many goods, and received as many awards as many logistics battalions. In the first half of the deployment, we occupied and closed one Forward Operating Base, which is large enough for a brigade, and five Joint Security Stations that are sized for a company. That mission alone would make most units walk across the parade field at Fort Stewart with their collective chests out and heads held high. It isn't enough for the Renegades. We need twice as much to feel challenged. So, during the second half of the deployment, we occupied and supported an additional two Joint Security Stations, one of which is the largest in Northern Iraq, and eight Combined Check Points that are sized for a platoon. Every convoy that the Renegades drove required first driving through the most dangerous city in Iraq, Mosul, than an additional 30 minutes to an hour and a half just to arrive to the outpost. When the Rogues rolled, so did the Renegades. We have delivered 560,000 gallons of water and 750,000 gallons of fuel. The Renegades Food Service Technicians have produced quality meals daily in the roughest of conditions, and at the end of the deployment, have set records with hundreds of thousands of meals served by this small and mighty 15 Soldier element. Renegade mechanics have been responsible for maintaining a fleet numbering over 300 vehicles.



One mechanic has been responsible for an average seven vehicles. Renegade mechanics occupy or drive to every single site where Rogue vehicles and equipment are parked or placed. Renegade generator, recovery and welding teams stay on-call 24-hours a day, 7 days a week, and 52 weeks this deployment to provide their vital and special skills where needed. And needed they were. Renegade parts department has been critical to Rogue's mission success and Chief's team of clerks has slung over 25,000 lines of parts across this vast battlefield. Finally, Renegade Headquarters has coordinated, synchronized and commanded this massive undertaking ensuring completion of day-to-day operations and reacting to all sorts of contingencies. At the end of tour, we recognize that we could not have accomplished this epic mission without the support of the dedicated, Renegade Families, and want to extend a special thanks for your support.