



2FURY TIMES

2-508th PIRs Monthly Newsletter
February 2017



Greetings 2Fury family! CSM Donaldson and I are overjoyed to publish the second edition of the 2FURY Times! Our Paratroopers have been working tirelessly since the publication of the last edition and we are thrilled to be able to share with our friends and family all of their great accomplishments. We are constantly impressed with the tenacity of 2Fury Paratroopers and remain proud to serve as their Battalion Command Team. We encourage those with any questions to reach out to the Family Readiness Group leader, 1LT Matthew Green.

With less than a week's notice, the Paratroopers of 2Fury were informed they would be moving to TAA Q-West and every member of our team rallied to support the move. Sergeant Major Steve Hunt and Captain Omar Cavalier were instrumental through the entirety of the move, coordinating and executing multiple movements to consolidate our Battalion in its new location.



TF 2Fury poses before one of many relocations



CPT Cavalier gives a patrol brief known as a "Ramp Brief" before a movement



SPC Matt Schultz pulls security while TF 2Fury advises their counterparts

At the end of January/early February, Eastern Mosul was deemed liberated by the Iraqi Security Forces. All the units went on a leave period before planning for the Western Mosul clearance operation. For TF 2Fury, this meant a well-deserved rest and refit period at TAA Filfayl before beginning planning for West Mosul. During this rest and refit period, TF 2Fury was realigned with a new Iraqi Army Division. The team said goodbye to the unit they partnered with for East Mosul, and began to forge new relationships with their Western Mosul partners. All in all, the change in mission, locations, and partners for TF 2Fury has created a dynamic, exciting, and fast-paced environment for the unit.

After arriving to Q-West, the 2Fury team was augmented with a TF White Falcons company advisor team and two security elements. Once consolidated, the newly reformed TF 2Fury pushed further forward to start executing our critical advise and assist mission in support of our partners. Over this transition period all members of the team did an exceptional job remaining flexible. This is a true testament to the diligence and hard work to all Soldiers aligned under the 2Fury banner.

During the rest and refit period at TAA Filfayl, LTC Browning immediately embraced his new partnership as an advisor to an armored division and began to conduct regular trips to their headquarters, building rapport with the Division Commander, Deputy Commander, and their staff. As LTC Browning began to foster a relationship with his partner, the TF 2Fury staff conducted mission analysis on how to best provide support to the division for the western Mosul fight. A significant portion of the mission analysis involved logistical planning as TF 2Fury had to relocate almost all of their equipment and personnel to various locations aligned with our Iraqi counterparts.



CSM Donaldson and 2Fury Paratroopers receive CPT Cavalier's Ramp Brief



SGT Gordon, 2Fury's Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) operator, displays his capabilities for LTC Browning and his Iraqi counterparts during a meeting. This is one of the many vital capabilities 2Fury Paratroopers provide to the Iraqi Army.

Days after TF 2Fury moved from TAA Filfayl, they were fully operational and co-located with their Iraqi counterparts. In addition to a battalion headquarters to advise the division commander, TF 2Fury established two Company Advise and Assist teams. One team was headed by 2Fury's own, CPT Omar Cavalier, and the other headed by CPT Mark Zwirgzdas. These commanders were able to conduct full operations and advise four brigade commanders in the division. Their efforts are crucial to the mission at hand and remain the core of Coalition Force Advise and Assist efforts in expelling ISIS from Iraq.

As the bulk of the Battalion was transitioning and preparing for the new mission, Captain Jon Austin and elements of both C and D Company remained at Filfayl, charged with maintaining a critical security and sustainment hub for the task force. In addition C Co and D Co personnel regularly conduct patrols to TAA Shalalat, augmenting security to Coalition Forces located there. With security remaining a top priority for the task force, Jon and his team have done a phenomenal job in planning and executing base enhancements supporting both future missions and life support to those currently under his charge. Although the 2Fury team is temporarily split, this remains a critical mission in enabling the Battalions advise and assist efforts.



CPT Heether is assisted as she tries on an ISIS thermal suit after its capture by the Iraqi Army



LTG Townsend and LTC Browning talk to an SSgt Kim, an Air Force member of TF 2Fury

All 2Fury Paratroopers have had to adopt many new roles and learn new jobs to contribute to the team's overall success throughout the many transitions. For instance, the resident mechanics, SGTs Colon and Mulligan, have expanded their fields of expertise to include not only vehicle maintenance, but generator and HVAC repair and providing oversight and support to the many engineering efforts that have supported our move. Their hard work and dedication has ensured the seamless transition of operations centers from one location to the next while supporting the varying life support amenities to all Soldiers. Some Paratroopers have excelled at their jobs and adopted entirely new jobs. SGT Font, the 2Fury head culinary specialist, has ensured that all the Paratroopers of 2Fury are well fed, regardless of location. In addition to his normal duties, SGT Font has augmented our mechanic team and assisted in heavy equipment operations as well as quickly becoming familiar with power generation functions crucial to sustaining base life support systems. SGT Font continues to go above and beyond his duties on a regular basis, setting the example for younger 2Fury Paratroopers.



PFC Burfitt conducts a radio check with other trucks in his convoy.

The 2Fury Paratroopers located in Turkey have been focused on position improvement after assuming full responsibility for security in their sector. They have been establishing positive relationships with the Turkish military and have been providing security for all missions and resupply convoys. Despite their unique security mission, the 2Fury Paratroopers in Turkey remain diligent in their duties and are always ready for the next mission.



SPCs Koogler and Lozano work out between missions in Turkey



SPC Sarno completes a sector sketch at a guard position in Turkey

This month the 2Fury Paratroopers at Fort Bragg who participated in the Deployment Readiness Exercise as part of the Outload Support Battalion, took their winter block leave during the first half of February. Upon returning from their time off, the Paratroopers hit the ground running in preparation for the upcoming deployment. They have been busy attending pre-deployment briefings, inspecting equipment, zeroing and qualifying with their personal weapons, conducting vehicle training, and getting their medical readiness up to date with the battalion medics. The Family Readiness Group Steering Committee held a meeting on February 21st and began planning the upcoming battalion Easter party and future fund raising events.



The S-1 and S-3 Sections conducting a PT Competition

Juliet Company Change of Command

On March 16th the Paratroopers of Juliet Company and the rest of 2Fury will bid farewell to CPT Philip Busick, Juliet Company's Commander. 2Fury thanks CPT Busick for all his dedication and hard work while serving as the J Co Company Commander. The Battalion welcomes CPT Busick's replacement, CPT Shea and his wife Jessica. The ceremony will be held at 11:00am in the Battalion Headquarters area.



2Fury Paratrooper conducting and M4 Qualification Range



1SG Webb conducts his reenlistment in the back of C-17 aircraft prior to conducting an Airborne Operation

All the Paratroopers in 2Fury, both deployed and at home, have been tirelessly working to ensure the overall success of the team. This is why 2Fury has been able to effectively advise the 9th IAD through their successful operations and prepare the rear detachment for the impending deployment. In the next coming weeks, the Paratroopers of 2Fury will be tested and pushed to the limit, but they remain resilient and ready for whatever these next missions present.

**Fury From The Sky!
Devils Never Die!**

Chaplain's Corner Never Stand Alone

Now all these things happened unto them for examples: and they are written for our admonition, upon whom the ends of the world are come. Wherefore let him that thinketh he standeth take heed lest he fall... 1 Corinthians 10:11-12 Heavyweight boxer James "Quick" Tillis grew up in a poor family in Oklahoma. When he began his professional boxing career, he decided to move to Chicago where he would have better training and publicity opportunities. In the personal account of his life, Tillis wrote, "I got off the bus with two suitcases under my arms in downtown Chicago and stopped in front of the Sears Tower. I put my suitcases down, and I looked up at the Tower and I said to myself, 'I am going to conquer Chicago.' When I looked down, the suitcases were gone!"

All of us are tempted to rely on ourselves—to think that we have things together and can make it on our own. That is for the most part never true. In fact, it is when we are most self-confident and self-reliant that we are in the greatest danger of failure. The battles we face cannot be won in our own strength. Even the archangel Michael relied on God's strength rather than his own when confronting Satan. "Yet Michael the archangel, when contending with the devil he disputed about the body of Moses, durst not bring against him a railing accusation, but said, The Lord rebuke thee" (Jude 1:9).

God calls us to be victorious, but it is His power that wins the battles. Sometimes our focus becomes too centered on ourselves and what we can do, and that can put us in a dangerous place. We have many resources available in the Army Community (FRG, ACS, MWR, Chaplain and others) to help support us when in times of need. There is never a battle we need, or should face alone. With God's strength and help combined with the support of the families and Paratroopers of 2FURY, we can turn any circumstance into a victory!

-Chaplain Heneise

Farewell

This month the BN says goodbye to:

1LT Forrest LeBlanc (Assistant Operations Officer, Delta Company Platoon Leader, Battalion Logistics Officer)

1LT Carlos Class (Alpha Company Platoon Leader, Delta Company Platoon Leader, Assistant Operations Officer)

Thanks for all the Hard Work!

Welcome

2FURY congratulates CPT Mark Wanamaker (Alpha Company Commander) and his wife, Noelle, on the birth of their daughter, Hannah Elise Wanamaker

Welcome to the Family!

Mailing Address:
"Paratrooper Name"
"HHC/C Co/D Co", 2-508 PIR
TAA FILFAYL
APO AE 09316

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Find us on Facebook

1) Search for @2.508PIR or 2nd Battalion 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment

The Facebook page is updated frequently. Events and information specific to our Battalion are added to the page on a regular basis.

DON'T FORGET TO CHEK IT OUT!

The screenshot shows the Facebook page for the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment. The page header includes the search bar with the text "2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment" and navigation links for Home, Find Friends, and Settings. The main content area features a large cover photo of a formation of parachutists in flight. Below the cover photo are interaction buttons for "Liked", "Following", and "More", along with a "Send Message" button. The left sidebar contains a navigation menu with options like Home, About, Photos, Videos, Likes, Events, Notes, Posts, Services, Shop, and Manage Tabs, plus a "Promote" button. The central feed area includes a "Write something..." prompt and several action cards: "Share a photo or video", "Advertise your business", "Get messages", "Create an event", "Create an offer", and "Write a note". Below these is a "This Week" summary showing 12 Post Reach, 1 Send Message, and 36 Post Engagement. A "Local Business" section indicates that 63,000 people can be reached within 3 miles. The right sidebar features "Page Tips" such as "How to Create Effective Posts" and "Send People to Your Website", a search bar for posts on the page, and a "Page Info" section showing 5,082 likes (+9 this week) and 3,427 follows. At the bottom, there is a "Photos" section with two images of soldiers and a welcome message for the page.