



2FURY TIMES

2-508th PIR Monthly Newsletter
APRIL 2017



Greetings 2FURY Friends and Family! April brought with it many exciting changes to 2FURY, both forward and rear. The 2FURY team worked diligently throughout the month to set the conditions for success in the upcoming months. CSM Donaldson and I are extremely proud with the 2FURY Team and April was no exception. We are excited to see what challenges May brings because we know our team will impress us with their ingenuity and drive.



CPT Cavalier and the members of Team Cold Steel at their new Patrol Base Location

As the fourth month of the deployment has come to a close, Task Force 2FURY is operating at an incredible capacity where once new and unfamiliar tasks are now commonplace and fluid. They have developed a strong and trusting relationship with their Iraqi Army counterparts, and are comfortable with the landscape where they live. Despite this normal life, the month of April brought many changes to TF 2FURY. The team executed multiple promotions, with Troopers assuming new jobs, and the establishment of two new Company outstations. Given all these changes, TF 2FURY never faltered giving support to their Iraqi partners, a testament of their dedication to the mission.



SSG Vaughn is recognized by LTC Browning for his actions in the defense of the 9th Iraqi Army Division



Iraqi Armor Asset staged before major operation

A continuation from February and March, TF 2FURY has two company level advise and assist teams. One team assigned to TF 2FURY from White Falcons, 1-325 Airborne Infantry Regiment, conducted a change of command mid-April with CPT Mike Beum replacing CPT Mark Zwirgzdas. CPT Zwirgzdas will be missed greatly by the Iraqi Brigade he helped advise, but the team is looking forward to new ideas and momentum. TF 2FURY is proud to have CPT Beum on board. The second company level advise and assist team also underwent a change of command, with CPT Devan Zimmerman, former Battalion Operations Officer, replacing CPT Omar Cavalier, Cold Steel Company Commander. CPT Cavalier will move on to become the commander of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, replacing CPT Peyton Holtz who was recently selected to become the Aide de Camp for the commanding general of the 82nd Airborne Division!



Cold Steel soldiers play catch to decompress

Jumping right into the hot seat, these changes of command happened to coincide with relocation of the company patrol bases. TF 2FURY is no stranger to moving their operational headquarters, and the two companies did just that at the end of April. The new patrol bases take a little bit more time to resupply, but they are located in an area with a breeze and even a flower garden! It took hard work of all the Soldiers in these companies to move the patrol bases in less than a day's time, but they did so flawlessly and with the help of their Iraqi counterparts who helped supply couches and carpet to make the patrol bases feel like home.

TF 2FURY also had many promotions between the month of April and May. SSG Jeremy Penderman, battalion communications specialist, received a rare but well-deserved battlefield promotion from two-star general, MG Martin, the commanding general of coalition forces fighting ISIS in Iraq. A battlefield promotion is reserved for soldiers who have demonstrated capability, potential, and responsibility deserving of the rank. SSG Penderman displayed all these qualities and more being the senior communications and information technology representative in the battalion, handling communications and personnel at four separate locations across Iraq. CPT Adam Ward was additionally promoted from first lieutenant to Captain by LTG Townsend, Commanding General of all forces in Iraq and Syria.



COL Work addresses TF 2FURY Paratroopers and provides an operational update during a battlefield circulation visit

Next to promotions, several people have taken on new roles in the battalion. CPT Jon Austin, Delta Company Commander, relocated his position to assume duties as the Battalion Operations Officer - forward. He has embraced his new responsibilities managing current operations and synchronizing logistics throughout the Battalion. We received 1LT Cody Brown from the rear to replace 1LT Mike Shannon as a platoon leader, and we also received 1LT Nick Kocher as a Battalion battle captain and 1LT Christian Bryan as a logistics advisor to the Iraqis.



SPC Poston prepares to drive a truck load of water and mail to TF 2FURY company patrol bases



2FURY paratroopers conduct a CBRN exercise with their French counterparts

Given all the movement of people and patrol bases, one of the keys to ensuring success is to have a good logistics plan. SSG Lai has been coordinating the logistics for TF 2FURY in six different locations. He coordinates the delivery of key supplies, large equipment, food, water, and mail. SSG Lai and his team make sure that the TF 2FURY Paratroopers are properly supplied with everything they need so that they can focus on their missions. Perhaps the biggest morale booster is mail. SSG Lai has coordinated the consistent delivery of hundreds of packages to TF 2FURY Paratroopers every four or five days. The mail and reminders of home do a great deal to increase the morale of our Paratroopers. Another motivator on the team is PFC Taylor Ramich. PFC Ramich is a soldier on loan to TF 2FURY from Red Falcons, and he's been showing how different battalions can work together to make a difference. Under the guidance of SGT Hugo Font, PFC Ramich has been consistently cooking quality meals for the members of TF 2FURY - even grilling burgers and hot dogs or serving fresh fruit and vegetables when they become available.



TF 2FURY Paratroopers distribute letters and packages when a mail convoy arrives at their location

When it comes to living conditions, TF 2FURY continued to make improvements to their foxhole. The unit received new cardio equipment and weights for the gym, a TV and couches, and various board games and books. Physical fitness is a priority for all the TF 2FURY leadership and new improvements to the camp have allowed Paratroopers to excel physically. A key proponent of this has been the operations sergeant major, SGM Stephen Hunt. He designed two fitness assessments in the last month as both a tool to give Paratroopers something to strive for and also to increase camaraderie through team events. The first assessment was a normal PT test that everyone on the camp participated in regardless of job, position, or responsibility. It was a challenging event but even those outside TF 2FURY who live on the camp participated. Second, SGM Hunt ran a "strong-man" competition where teams of four soldiers completed a variety of strength related exercises for points including tire flips, partner squats and deadlifts, and sand bag tosses. TF 2FURY will undoubtedly continue various fitness challenges and competitions over the next couple months.

In April the Paratroopers at Fort Bragg started the month off with the Easter Party at Woodland Park. Fort Bragg schools took spring break during the second week of April and Cumberland County Schools took their break during the third week of the month. Throughout April the Rear Detachment has participated in several training events. The Havoc Company conducted chemical training by putting Paratroopers through the infamous "gas chamber" and the Mortar Platoon conducted a "hip shoot" where they practiced hastily emplacing their indirect fire weapons systems into action. Alpha Company is preparing for their upcoming live fire exercise in squads of 8-10 soldiers and they continue to maintain readiness in case they are called to support the Global Response Force. Brutal Company conducted a live fire training event with teams of 4-5 soldiers and weapons training in a shoot house or urban environment. Cold Steel Company qualified with their light machine guns and trained the whole company on advanced medical care. Juliet Company conducted driver's training utilizing a virtual computer like training system. The Family Readiness Group Steering Committee held a meeting on April 11th and continued planning future fund raising events, specifically the All American Week Sunset 5k Run (22 May) and the Airborne Review (25 May).



2FURY Paratroopers after completing the TAA fitness test

Paratroopers with 1LT Evan Bertsch and SFC Matthew Beach have continued to build relationships and improve their location. Over the last month they have constructed multiple defensive positions and worked closely with NATO Allies and other branches of the US Military to ensure the safety of all personnel. They have conducted multiple vehicle convoys with Host Nation Forces and executed continuous security operations.



Brutal Company conducting Close Quarters Combat and Advanced Marksmanship Training (top)
Paratroopers from the Mortar Platoon drill with their 81mm mortars (bottom)



2FURY Paratroopers in Turkey conducting security and weapons maintenance after a critical mission



TF 2FURY has continued to have success and has been recognized for their exceptional advisory role which would not have been possible without the support from every Paratrooper in 2FURY. We are excited to continue to provide the best support possible to our Iraqi counterparts and are prepared for whatever challenges lie ahead. The Paratroopers of 2FURY are among the best in the world and they never fail in their missions, whatever those may be. **FURY FROM THE SKY!**



SGT Navarro, SGT Ewing, and SPC Anderson observe explosions in West Mosul

Farewell

2FURY says goodbye to:
 1LT Cody Ross (Dread Company Platoon Leader, Battalion Air).
 CPT James Salerno (Brutal Company Platoon Leader, Mortar Platoon Leader, Alpha Company Executive Officer).

Welcome

2FURY welcomes baby girl Charlotte, born to 1SG Sean Webb and his wife Meredith.
 2FURY also welcomes baby boy Rhys to 2LT Anthony Paulson and his wife Jordan.

Welcome to the Team!



Promotion ceremony for 1LT Horne, 1LT Paulson and CPT Salerno

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



SSG Jimenez and 1LT Hill eat food prepared by 9th Iraqi Armored Division cooks at a farewell dinner. LT Hill will move on to be the Military Intelligence Company Executive Officer

Chaplain's Corner

"As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?" Proverbs 26:18-19

Laughter is one of the kindest gifts God has given to humans. It lightens the heart and, as researchers continue to find, has positive health benefits.

As helpful as laughter may be, however, we need to be cautious about having fun at the expense of others. Some people delight in saying hurtful and critical things about their friends and then pass it off as "just teasing." Comments about physical attributes or intelligence can quickly become painful. The fact the person saying them may be laughing doesn't make them funny to the person about whom they are spoken. Such words can be discouraging to hear.

Many of us can still remember hurtful things that were said to us or about us on playgrounds and in classrooms decades ago. Those wounding words carry enormous power. Many are discouraged and defeated because they are subjected to a constant barrage of negativity and criticism.

When Job's friend came to comfort him after losing all of his children and his possessions, he said this about Job: "Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands. Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees" (Job 4:3-4). Part of what made Job such an upright man was the impact his words had on others. Rather than making jokes and having fun at the expense of others, we should ensure that our words are lifting them up and encouraging them to go forward and do right. Paul wrote, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4:6).

-Chaplain Heneise



2FURY Convoy observes an Iraqi Armor element through the haze outside West Mosul



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 buttons for "Liked", "Following", and "More", along with a "Send Message" button. The left sidebar contains navigation tabs: Home, About, Photos, Videos, Likes, Events, Notes, Posts, Services, Shop, and Manage Tabs, with a "Promote" button at the bottom. The central feed area includes a "Write something..." text box and four action buttons: "Share a photo or video", "Advertise your business", "Get messages", and "Create an event". Below these are "Create an offer" and "Write a note" buttons. A "This Week" summary card displays: 12 Post Reach, 1 Send Message, and 36 Post Engagement. It also shows a local reach of 63,000 people within 3 miles. The right sidebar contains "Page Tips", a search bar for posts on the page, and a list of page statistics: 6,082 likes (+9 this week), 3,427 follows, and 12 post reach this week. A welcome message at the bottom right reads: "Welcome to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Page. This page keeps an..."