



2FURY TIMES

2-508th PIR Monthly Newsletter

MAY 2017



Happy Memorial Day 2FURY Friends and Family! Over this past month we highlight the achievements of TF 2FURY both past and present. In 1944, the 508th PIR embarked upon one of the greatest military offensives in United States history – D-Day during World War II. Transition to 73 years later and 2FURY is writing a new chapter in history with our Iraqi partners, advising and assisting them on a major military offensive to maintain their sovereignty as a nation against the Islamic State. The 2FURY team has been very successful this month thanks to the maximum effort of our Paratroopers. The command team is continually amazed with what 2FURY Paratroopers can accomplish given the conditions and circumstances, and May was no different. 2FURY Paratroopers continued to be resilient and set the standard across the brigade!



TF 2FURY moves mounted through Western Mosul

We are now past the halfway point of the deployment and the 2FURY machine is running on all cylinders. TF 2FURY was steadfast in all of their tasks during May, continuing to advise and support the Iraqi Army and continuing to logistically sustain themselves across many locations. TF 2FURY was the main effort for a significant portion of the fight during the month of May as the Iraqi Army began a new offensive into West Mosul. There were many long days and nights for the staff and advise and assist teams, but it was all for a good cause as the Iraqi Army has been successful and are almost finished with liberating the rest of Mosul from ISIS control.



CSM Donaldson and CPT Austin share a laugh with 1LT Shannon during his award presentation before he left country



LTC Batig is sworn in by MG Martin as COL Work and LTC Browning hold the colors on a bridge connecting East and West Mosul

TEAM GATOR and TEAM COLDSTEEL have been operating in their new patrol bases for the past month and have maximized their collocation with their Iraqi partners. Both of the advise and assist commanders were overly successful in supporting their Iraqi counterparts with the usage of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) and through operational advice. This was directly displayed in the overwhelming success of the 9th Iraqi Armored Division in moving through Western Mosul – they cleared a challenging part of the city in less than two weeks' time. This feat was a huge morale boost to the Iraqi Army as they've been fighting in Mosul since October 2016. ISIS in Mosul is the last significant stronghold, and the IA has been instrumental in removing their presence and control.



2FURY Paratroopers move dismounted through a neighborhood in Western Mosul

The battalion continues to lead with distinction with several new members. TF 2FURY swelled its ranks over the last month, bringing a few Paratroopers of every company in the battalion forward, as well as now incorporating Soldiers from every single battalion in 2BCT into TF 2FURY at the TAA. TF 2FURY has become a large task force and its capability is a testament to the vigilance of the organization. In addition to this, MAJ Kerksick departed from TF 2FURY, with his role being filled by CPT Jon Austin as the forward Battalion Operations Officer, and CPT Omar Cavalier as the forward Battalion Executive Officer. The change in leadership has given many junior non-commissioned officers and junior officers the opportunity to step up and continue the mission with vigor.



SPC Butler and SGT Ewing hold the stars and stripes over West Mosul for 1LT Kocher to swear in SPC Ahchan-Bowlin

A common phrase of this battalion is "once 2FURY; always 2FURY". A Soldier who is a member of TF 2FURY for any period of time at any time will always be considered a part of the battalion and taken care of by the rest. This past month, two Soldiers who were formerly Brutal Nation but then transferred to Charlie Troop, 1-73rd Cavalry Squadron, chose to have their former platoon leader from their time in 2FURY swear them in during their re-enlistment. It speaks volumes of the unit that 2FURY has created when Soldiers make a choice to come back for such a momentous occasion in their career. While these Soldiers are no longer physically assigned to 2FURY, the Army has retained two outstanding Soldiers and they will always be a part of the 2FURY family..



CPT Cavalier enjoys the festivities for the farewell of MAJ Kerksick and the promotion to LTC Batig



SPC White receives his 82nd ABN DIV "Combat Patch" from his Squad Leader SGT Healy.

An important piece to being on a deployment is to stay connected to calendar events. It helps to pass the time looking milestone to milestone. May is an important month where we were able to celebrate three occasions: Cinco de Mayo, Mother's Day, and Memorial Day. TF 2FURY celebrated Cinco de Mayo with decorations and guacamole courtesy of SSG James Stineman. SSG Stineman kept both as a surprise until the day and the Paratroopers were overjoyed to see the dining facility decorated and with authentic cuisine to boot. Several members of the leadership put out regular reminders of the approaching Mother's Day, giving sons and daughters time to write a note or make a phone call to their mothers for all they have done. On Mother's Day, the dining facility prepared a special Mother's Day meal of chicken cordon bleu! For Memorial Day, Sergeant Major Hunt ran another PT event for the whole TAA. The workout was "Murph" to honor those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. This workout consists of 1-mile run, 100 pull-ups, 200 push-ups, 300 air squats, and 1-mile run to end it off, all wearing body armor at 15-20 pounds extra!



PFC Ramich prepares the Mothers Day meal amid the decorations by SSG Stineman

We continue to highlight the importance of logistics as TF 2FURY owns several locations across the country. Last month, we focused on supplies and the dining facility. This month, we are going to highlight some of the outstanding mechanics we have behind the scenes. SGT Jose Colon, SGT Jared Mulligan, PFC Steven Olivencia, and SPC Shane Poston keep the vehicles, generators, weapons, and more running on a daily basis. It is not uncommon for them to have to work through the night to fix a generator, or be prepared at a moment's notice to conduct a patrol to recover a broken down vehicle. TF 2FURY has put its equipment to the test while in this austere environment, and the maintenance Soldiers have the important job of keeping the equipment running 24 hours of the day, 7 days a week. Given the increasing temperatures reaching 90s on a daily basis, the capability of having functioning air conditioning in the tents and in the vehicles does not go unnoticed! Thank you to these Paratroopers for keeping the TF FURY fleet up and running on a regular basis.



CPL Gonzales and PFC Pierre-Louis pack supplies in Kuwait for onward movement

Over the past month our Paratroopers in Turkey have been focused on training with our Host Nation Counterparts to improve security operations and survivability. They conducted numerous drills and training events with our Turkish allies to ensure the safety of all personnel at their location. The training culminated in a small arms range where Paratroopers and Turkish Soldiers trained together on weapons from both nations arsenals to familiarize each other with the capabilities of the different weapons.



SSG Carter waits to deliver destruction on the pitch at the All American Softball Tournament



LTC Browning swears in a battlefield airman overlooking Western Mosul while SSG Wooten and SSG Buchanan hold the colors

The temperatures are rising, the Shamal seasonal winds are blowing, and the Paratroopers of TF 2FURY remain resolute. TF 2FURY is eager to see what the next month will bring. Whatever changes present themselves TF 2FURY will meet them with unrelenting enthusiasm. The 2FURY banner is proudly being carried both symbolically and physically wherever a Paratrooper is present. TF 2FURY Paratroopers will continue to dare mighty things through the month of June as 2FURY Paratroopers did 73 years ago.



SPC Johnny Hayes prepares to receive his coin from GEN Martin as SFC Jauert looks on in the background



SGT Eric Stroud of Bravo Company wins the Heavy Weight Division of the All American Combatives Tournament

Farewell

This month the BN says farewell to MAJ Kristopher Kerksick and his wife Melinda along with CPT Peyton Holtz and his wife, Kayla. Thank you for your service to the Paratroopers and Families of 2Fury. You will be missed.

Welcome

2FURY welcomes our newest lil' Paratrooper, Woodrow Killingsworth, IV, assigned to SGT Killingsworth and his wife Kaylyn of Alpha Company on May 14th.

Welcome to the team!

2FURY – Ft. Bragg

Throughout May, the Rear Detachment participated in several training and garrison events. The Havoc Company guidon changed hands once again from CPT Holtz to CPT Cavalier, as CPT Holtz assumed the position of the 82nd Airborne Commanding General's Aide-de-Camp. Havoc Company executed Change of Command Inventories throughout the month with 1LT Pierson assuming the position of the Havoc Rear Detachment Commander until CPT Cavalier returns from deployment. Alpha Company conducted a Squad Live Fire Exercise and Shoot House Training, while the company remains ready to support the Global Response Force as part of the Outload Support Battalion Task Force. Juliet Company Conducted a Section Live Fire Exercise. Teams consisting of 2FURY Paratroopers from across the battalion participated in several sporting events during All American Week to include; Flag Football, Softball, Soccer, Combatives, Color Guard Competition, Best Squad Competition, and the Best Little Group of Paratroopers (LGOP) Competition. SGT Eric Stroud of the Brutal Company distinguished himself by winning the Heavy Weight Division of the All American Combatives Tournament. The Rear Detachment also participated in the All American Run and the Airborne Review, along with the rest of the Division. The Family Readiness Group Steering Committee held its monthly meeting on May 9th and conducted fundraising events at Sicily Drop Zone during Clean Sweep (15 May) and during the Airborne Review (25 May). 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.



From left to right: Mrs. Browning, CSM (Ret) Rock Merritt, and Mrs. Donaldson at the Airborne Review

Chaplain's Corner

"And his disciples asked him, saying, What might this parable be? And he said, Unto you it is given to know the mysteries of the kingdom of God: but to others in parables; that seeing they might not see, and hearing they might not understand." Luke 8:9-10

One of the most important archaeological discoveries in history was made in 1799 by a soldier in Napoleon's army fighting in Egypt. The French troops were tasked with building a fort when the man found a stone with written inscriptions in three different languages. Dating to some two hundred years before the birth of Christ, the Rosetta Stone unlocked secrets of the past. The discovery proved crucial to understanding ancient Egyptian hieroglyphics because it contained the same decree written in Greek. By first translating the known language, historians were able to then develop an understanding of the Egyptian language that had not been possible before.

Not everything in life is easy to understand. Sometimes education, training or good old life experience will provide us keys to unlocking certain mysteries. Some will however, remain locked for a lifetime. Unanswered questions and unseen answers should not cause us discouragement. It should drive us to be more diligent students of life, constantly growing mentally, spiritually and emotionally. Many answers will be found as we run the race of life, giving us the opportunity to help and improve ourselves and those around us.

Remain focused and always live life to the fullest... Your Rosetta Stone may be right around the next corner!

-Chaplain Heneise

Family Readiness Group Events

Next Steering Committee Meeting – June 13th at 5:00pm

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



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 navigation tabs for 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 promotional cards: "Share a photo or video", "Advertise your business", "Get messages", and "Create an event". 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 contains "Page Tips", a search bar for posts on the page, and a list of recent activity including a 65% response rate, 6,062 likes, and 3,427 follows. A welcome message is visible at the bottom right.