

December 30, 2007

To whom it may concern,

Thank you all (Sleepy Hollow Middle School) for showing your support for the troops during the holiday season; especially my Soldiers of 2ⁿ Platoon, B Co, 1-64AR BN. I also want to thank you for supporting PFC Bentz's mother throughout the past months. Her son, like every member of the Platoon is an important part of my life.

We deployed as a 40 man Infantry Platoon back in May of 2007. After spending two weeks in Kuwait preparing equipment we moved to Baghdad to help secure the neighborhood of Al Jamiya. Al Jamiya is about two square miles in size, two to three miles Northeast of BIAP (Baghdad International Airport). When we took over the neighborhood its population was sparse. After seven hard months of work Al Jamiya is once again becoming a thriving community.

The Platoon had a tough first 10 days in Al Jamiya with three Soldiers wounded by SAF (small arms fire) and one Soldier wounded and two killed in an IED (Improvised Explosive Device) attack. Two of the wounded Soldiers from the SAF attack are recovering at Ft. Stewart, GA and are recovering fine. The other Soldier returned to duty two weeks later. The wounded Soldier from the IED attack is undergoing rehab at the bum unit at Ft. Sam Houston. You all know of PFC Bentz (Mr. Atkinson's nephew); the other Soldier that was killed was SPC Charfarous who was from Guam. Since then we have been lucky, encountering only one more IED attack which exploded on my vehicle injuring my driver and our interpreter (Happy). PFC Hahn sustained a ruptured ear drum but has since return to duty and Happy just had minor bruising. ..

People are returning and shops are reopening daily. We have handed out thousands and thousands of dollars in grants to help revitalize the economy in the hopes of bring the people back. My Soldiers have worked hard each and every day to help stop the violence here. They alone have captured one Division level target, and several Brigade level targets in the hopes of disrupting the violence. We have incorporated the Iraqi Army (IA) into everything we do and continue to train them. We have recently taken volunteers or CLC's (Concerned Local Citizens) from the neighborhood that we hope will become Iraqi Police (IP). These CLC's will become our focus for the remaining time here in Al Jamiya.

We have been living out of JSS (Joint Security Site) Bonzai since arriving in Baghdad. It's definitely not the greatest accommodations (out door -5gal water can-showers, Port-O-Potties, and generator power) but we have made the best of it. We do have five computers with internet connections; three phones that are 3 cents a minute to the US and a satellite TV. We get one hot meal a day (dinner that consists of at least chicken every night) and we make do for the rest. Most everyone has a laptop computer or small DVD player to watch movies on. Within the Platoon we have one Xbox, one PS2 and one PS3 that takes up any other spare time.

Daily life around the JSS consists of JSS guard, TCP (traffic control point) checks, CIED (counter IED) patrols, Joint Dismounted Patrols with the IA and CLC, Census Operations, Atmospheric Assessments, Clearance of abandoned homes, Screening Operations, Mosque Monitoring, Sniper OPs (Observation Points) and QRF (Quick Reaction Force). Add that along with the maintenance of the Platoons vehicles (4-

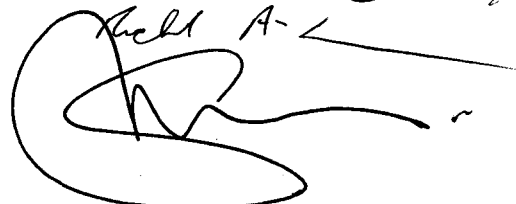
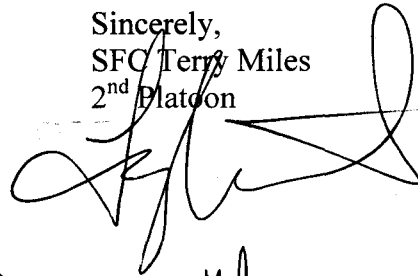
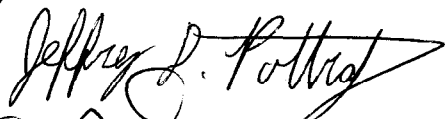
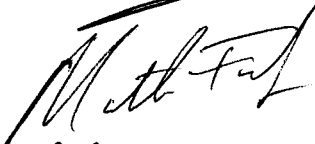
M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles, 6-M1151 HMMWVs, and 6-MRAPs (Mire Resistant Ambush Protective) keeps the Soldiers busy.

Family seems to be a big thing amongst the Platoon having six new members within the past year. Four individuals and a pair of twins, whom by the time we redeploy in July/August 08', will all be walking. That's one reason why the 18 days ofleave are so important to a lot of us. Most left their children when they were just a few months old, and one just saw their child a few days ago for the first time. We for the most part are a tight bunch of guys even though most won't admit it. So thank you again for taking the time to support a bunch of Soldiers you don't even know and will probably never even meet. It means the world to all of us to see the support. Thank You!

Sincerely,
SFC Terry Miles
2nd Platoon



Messiah



Hahn

Joan Boudin

