

Polar Bear Tracks



NEWS ON THE FRONT, OF THE FRONT, FOR THE FRONT

PATROL BASE YUSUFİYAH, IRAQ

EDITION 6

LATE JANUARY 2007

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Dilbert and Classic Calvin and Hobbs
- Editor's Parting Shot
- AFC & NFC Championship Games
- Top TV Show and Top Song
- TF 4-31 Soldiers Receives Combat Patches, CIB, CAB

DILBERT INSIDE



INSIDE

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C/4-31 Moving Forward in Mullah Fayad and Ahmed Suhel

By: 4-31 PAO Staff

C/4-31 INF has been in Strong Point Mullah Fayad for a couple of months and they have vastly improved the relations with the local leadership in the area. On 15 January 2007, C/4-



(Above) CPT Finn with the local leaders of Ahmed Suhel and Rushā Mulla

Photo by C/4-31 INF

31 held a meeting with the local sheiks in the area. The meeting was very prosperous and many issues were discussed very thoroughly and both sides had their share to talk about. Overall, the meeting went well and both participants concluded that they wished to do more of these meetings in the future. Along with the numerous patrols that were accomplished in the company sector,

Engineers and CA Team 3 Help Yusufiyah

By: 4-31 PAO Staff

On 23 January, 2007, elements of TF 4-31 INF along with the engineers of 2 BSTB worked on helping the people of Yusufiyah by fixing the water pipes beneath the city. The Yusufiyah Minister of Water was on hand to ensure that everything was going as planned. While the engineers opened the ground up to get to the pipes, 413 CA Team 3 conducted atmospheric in

they distributed blankets and schools supplies to the people in the area, building a good relationship and making many friends in their portion of the Polar Bear AO. The company has also detained numerous individuals in



(Above) Members of C/4-31 patrol their sector

Photo by C/4-31 INF

connection with laying IEDs, small arms fire attacks or weapons violations as well. Even though there have been many people detained over the last 60 days, the soldiers have been professional to the detainees and treat them well. During Operation Polar Courage, C/4-31 was able to capture several 4-31 and 2/10 BCT Targets. The high tempo has caused the enemy to

make mistakes which C/4-31 has been able to take advantage of. People in Ahmed Suhel do not live in fear of terrorists anymore. The local leaders have begun to openly meet with C/4-31.



(Above) From L to R SSG Merling, SSG Wycoff, SPC Torres, SGT Crafton and SSG McCoy strike an ACTION SHOT

Photo by C/4-31 INF

Overall, C/4-31 has kept the pace of operations up at a high rate since they entered the towns of Mulla Fayad and Ahmed Suhel, but have also done a fine job of creating a good working relationship with the people in the area.



(Above) The Yusufiyah Water minister supervises the 2 BSTB ENG

Photo by SGT Mark Wheeler 413 CA Team



(continued page 2)



(Above) "Snake", an interpreter with CA Team 3 Speaks to a little girl in Yusufiyah



(Above) 2 BSTB Engineers break through the concrete



(Above) 413 CA Team 3 gather the mood of the people while in Yusufiyah

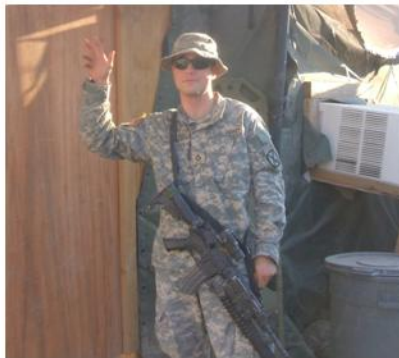


(Above) The Minister of Water gives a hand to the 2 BSTB engineers

Photos by SGT Mark Wheeler 413 CA Team 3



Soldier Spotlight: PFC Featheringill



(Above) PFC Featheringill gives a wave to his fans

Photo by PAO Staff

Story by PAO Staff

Name: PFC Dean Featheringill (D/4-31 INF)

Job Title: (11B) Infantryman/M1114 Driver

Hometown: Blandesville, Illinois

Hobbies: Bowling, playing basketball, reading, hanging out with my friends

Reason I joined the Army: I wanted to try something new. It just kind of happened.

Thoughts on deployment: People are responding better to us now. They are more friendly around us. I would like to think that we are helping people here. I really like being on QRF because we do something different everyday.

Future Plans: I am leaning towards going back to school for sociology. I might reenlist if I can get a cool job and a nice location.



(Above) PFC Featheringill relaxing at his bunk

Photo by PAO Staff



A/2-5 CAV and 4/4/6 IA Deliver Blankets to Locals

Photos by A/2-5 CAV

On the afternoon of 18 January 2007, 4/4/6 IA and A/2-5 CAV conducted a mission to the communities of Mulla Fayad, Arab Jasim and Al Taqa. The mission was to distribute blankets and Tippline flyers to the local population. The Tippline connects the public to the IA and CF to allow them to report any terrorist acts without repercussion. The residents in each area were pleased to receive the gifts from the



(Above) A happy father and son with their blankets

Photo by A/2-5 CAV

Warriors and Baghdad Eagles. Numerous children got in line to get a blanket as adults watched alongside the soldiers. Over 200 blankets were distributed. Overall the mission was a rousing success and the soldiers were happy to distribute the well received blankets and get information out to the public as well.



(Above) An Iraqi Army soldier gives a blanket to a little boy

Photo by A/2-5 CAV

B/4-31 Helps a Sick Child in Rushdi Mulla

Story by PAO Staff

On 15 Jan 2007, a family living in Rushdi Mullah rushed to Strong Point Hargawi because their infant son was having respiratory problems. Senior medic SGT Felkner checked the infant for any major problems with the child's breathing. SGT Felkner assessed that the child had a minor cold. The soldiers of B/4-31 gave the family some baby products and some cream for a diaper rash as well. The family was relieved and very happy for the products that were given to them. The Soldiers of B/4-31 are always good neighbors to the people of Rushdi Mullah and do all they can to help them alongside their Iraqi brothers.



(Above) SGT Felkner and the baby's cousin

Photo by 1LT Graham Morris



(Above) Checking the child's vital signs

Photo by 1LT Graham Morris



(Above) The little boy getting checked by Doc Felkner

Photo by 1LT Graham Morris



AFC & NFC Championships 2007



(Above) Soldiers watch the Bears beat the Saints in the NFC Championship game

Photo by PAO Staff



(Above) Some soldiers stayed up all night to watch both games

Photo by PAO Staff



(Above) Getting into the games

Photo by PAO Staff



(Below) Soldiers watch the Colts win the AFC Game

Photo by PAO Staff



A/4-31 and 4/4/6 IA Build Check Point 155



(Above) A/4-31 and 4/4/6 IA soldiers burn reeds around CP 155
Photo by SPC Fletcher A/4-31

Story by PAO Staff

Over the last couple of weeks, A/4-31 and their counterparts, have been building up Check Point 155 near Janabi Village. It has been a hard operation so far, but the area is taking shape. SPC Jacob Bauer, originally from Manchester MI, had this to say, "It was an abandoned

house and we have got some Hesco baskets filled, the IA is filling sandbags to fortify the roof and we put up camouflage nets for cover." SPC Nathan Fletcher, originally from Canandaigua, New York added, "It's not bad living out there. After a couple of days, it got better. It will be a good staging area if we have

Into Janabi Village. I think that it will a good check point for the IA once it gets established and they are able to pull security on it." There is still work to be done there but A/4-31 and 4/4/6 IA are on the job.



TF 4-31 INF Soldiers Receive Combat Patches, CIB and CAB

Story by PAO Staff

Since deploying to Iraq in September of 2006, TF 4-31 INF has been in numerous engagements and missions. For all of their hard work, the soldiers are getting their rewards as the TF 4-31 Commander, LTC Infanti and the 2nd BCT Commander, COL Kershaw were on hand to award soldiers with the 10th Mountain Division Combat Patch, the Combat Infantryman's Badge and the Combat Action Badge. Soldiers all over AO Bear received these awards over the past week, including A/2-5 CAV, 442nd Quartermaster and elements of TF 4-31 on Patrol Base Yusufiyah. The soldiers continue to improve the conditions in AO Bear by finding IEDs, detaining individuals involved in emplacing IEDs, conducting raids all across AO Bear and engaging insurgents with small arms fire and indirect fire mission. The soldiers of TF 4-31 INF have proven that they earned their awards and that they will continue to push forward and



(Above) Soldiers of TF 4-31 receive awards from COL Kershaw

Photo by PAO Staff



(Above) An A/2-5 CAV soldier receives his combat patch

Photo by A/2-5 CAV



(Above) LTC Infanti addresses the group before the award ceremony

Photo by PAO Staff



(Above) The 442nd Quartermaster soldiers with their combat patches

Photo by PAO Staff

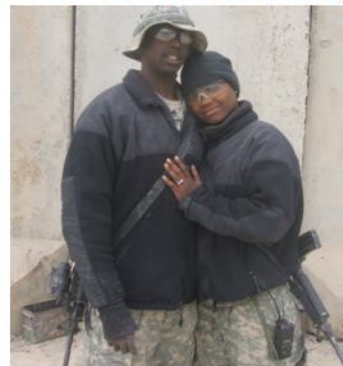
keep the enemy on their heels. Both the TF Commander and the Brigade Commander were honored to present the awards to the soldiers and to have had the opportunity to lead these soldiers in combat here in Iraq. There will be more missions to come over the next few months but the soldiers of TF 4-31 INF will be ready to do whatever it takes to get the job done.



F/4-31 Soldiers Announce Engagement

Story by PAO Staff

For SGT Cheremein Layne, F/4-31 Supply Sergeant, it seemed to be another normal work day at Patrol Base Yusufiyah. Then it changed quite a bit when her boyfriend of 13 months SPC Adrian Dillard came up to her inside the mess hall with a funny look on his face. He proceeded to ask for her hand in marriage. SGT Layne, originally from Brooklyn, New York replied, "I was shocked! The way he came up to me, it looked like he was upset about something, then he surprised me by asking me to marry him." SPC Dillard, originally from Texarkana, Arkansas, had this to say about the surprise. "I had been planning this since we were in Kuwait, around August. I really thought she was going to go into cardiac arrest when I showed her the ring." The wedding is set for sometime in the near future when the unit redeploys. Congratulations to both soldiers on their announcement!



(Above) SPC Dillard and SGT Layne

Photo by PAO Staff



D/4-31 Conducts Change of Command

By: 4-31 PAO Staff

15 January was a banner day for D/4-31 INF as they conducted the change of command from CPT Don Jamoles to CPT John Gilbreth. CPT Jamoles, originally from Salinas, California, was the first company commander for the company when it initially began. He will be taking over as the company commander of HHC/4-31 in late January. He had this to say about his the ceremony. "It's a bitter sweet feeling! I'm going to miss working with the NCOs and soldiers of

Delta 4-31. I have a sense of accomplishment, starting this company up. I wish that I could take the soldiers with me, but I look forward to taking this new job and working with the officers and NCOs of HHC." CPT Gilbreth, assumed command and immediately took charge by leading the members of his company in some push ups. The future for D/4-31 looks bright as one officer bids farewell, while another officer assumes command. Congratulations to both officers!



(Above) ISG Galeana takes charge of the company guide on during the Change of Command

Photo by PAO Staff



(Above) PFC Gallegos and SFC Rodriguez with their Iraqi Army Brothers
Photo by PAO Staff

Sudoku



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31st INF Regiment Chatroom

<http://www.vietnam6bn31inf.com/chat.htm>



AD085-CHOW LINE-IMDANGNI-NOV.1951



AD072-HILL 605-STICK-7TH ROK INFANTRY-NOV.1951



Top TV Show for Jan 07
American Idol- FOX
According to Nielsen Ratings for the week of 21 Jan-28 Jan 07



Top Song for the Week of 21 Jan-28 Jan 07
Irreplaceable
By Beyonce
#1 for 6 straight weeks



Then and Now
Gasoline Price (per gal regular)
14 Aug 06 26 Jan 07
\$3.09 \$2.35

Editor's Parting Shot

"The wise man will love; all others will desire" *-Africanus*

"To fear love is to fear life, and those who fear life are already three parts dead" *-Bertrand Russell*

"Death is more universal than life; everyone dies but not everyone lives" *-A. Sachs*

