



**THE ROCK'S  
SUPPORT**

# The 10<sup>th</sup> FA

## Regimental Rock

A Publication of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment  
Association



Spring - Summer 2010

Website: <http://www.warfoto.com/10FA>

Editor: Dennis  
Noes

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### FROM THE EDITOR:

As the Editor of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regimental Association newsletter..."The 10<sup>th</sup> Regimental Rock", a lot of time is spent researching for articles of interest, history, and other FA related material for not just the newsletter, but also for the heritage of our 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery. With many of our members being WWII, Korea, Cold War and growing with Desert Storm and OIF members, I would like to ask for your help with contributions of articles or stories to include pictures of your experience within the all the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery units (1-10, 2-10, and 6-10 FA). It is important that we collect and preserve the heritage of our 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment. So, if you would like to contribute, please send your articles, stories, old 10<sup>th</sup> FA newsletters, and other 10<sup>th</sup> FA paraphernalia to me for inclusion in future articles.

With the assistance of the 1-10<sup>th</sup> BN Commander, LTC Tooke, and the BN appointed BN Historian, 2LT Joseph Bush of B Battery, I was able to include many articles on the activities of our fellow Rock Support

Soldiers the 1-10<sup>th</sup> FA, currently supporting Operation Iraq Freedom (OIF) with an anticipated mission completion sometime this fall.

I hope you enjoy their contributions and we look forward to your contributions in the next Fall-Winter Issue to be published this November.

In closing, with the fast approaching August 31<sup>st</sup> deadline for the reduction of US Defenses Forces and the turnover of operations to IRAQI Defenses, let's hope and pray that our 10<sup>th</sup> FA Redlegs return home sooner than expected to their families.

Rocks' Support and Rock of the Marne!  
Dennis Noes

**CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR 10<sup>th</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT PRESIDENT, COL MARK SULLIVAN!**

We would like to congratulate our 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Association President, Mark Sullivan on his recent promotion to COLONEL. Colonel Sullivan is currently busy attending the War College. So, if you are planning on attending the 10<sup>th</sup> FA Regimental Dinner at the September Society of the Third Infantry Division Annual Reunion in Washington D.C. 15-19 September, please be sure to congratulate him.

**MEMBERSHIP AND REPORT:**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Association was established under the provisions of Army Regulation 210-1 is to promote morale and high spirit de corps among members of the regiment, provide opportunities, and facilities uniting past and present members of the regiment in a program dedicated to the preservation of traditions and history of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment.

**2010 – 2011 Membership Renewals are currently in progress.** Chris has mailed renewal cards to current members. If you are not a current member, please join us.

**Click on 10th Membership** link below to access and print copy of the 10thFA Reg. Assn Application Form

<http://www.warfoto.com/10FARA.htm>

**TREASURERS REPORT:**

This report is as of 4/08/2010.

Previous Balance: \$3459.33

**Income:**

Dues Income: \$765.00  
**Sub-Total:** \$4244.33

**Expenses:**

Supplies & Postage \$283.66  
Dues paid to 3ID \$ 30.00  
**Sub Total:** \$313.66

**Ending Balance:** \$3910.67

I hope this note finds you all well and looking forward to the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID Reunion this September. Enclosed with this newsletter you will find dues notices for '10-'11 memberships as well as data for the Society of

the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID Reunion to be held in Washington D.C. 15-19 September. There is a block of rooms reserved for the event at the Hyatt Regency Crystal City at Reagan National Airport. Room rates are \$119 a night plus tax. If there is enough interest and participation we could plan a regimental function for Thursday evening which has been left open for individual choice tours or activities or possibly Friday evening as well. Please send me an email if you are interested in this.

I look forward to seeing you all there.

Chris Vegas  
Treasurer, 10<sup>th</sup> FARA  
[christopher.vegas@yahoo.com](mailto:christopher.vegas@yahoo.com)

### **10<sup>th</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY COMMEMORATIVE PISTOL FROM SIG SAUER**

Rock 6, 10<sup>th</sup> FA BN Commander sent the following information on an initiative they are pursuing through SigArms on 10<sup>th</sup> FA unit commemorative handgun.

The unit will get a reduced price on a nice Sig Sauer classic model (220, 226 or 229 or 1911 model handgun) with night sights, tactical rail, and 2 or 3 magazines depending on model and carry box, trigger lock etc....

Prices vary but are as low as \$695 and as high as \$855 (M1911).

Delivery will be to Shooters in Columbus, GA but can arrange for follow on shipment to another location at further expense. There is a \$25 fee to Shooters.

Once we have it established, there will be a portal online for payment...

The artwork for engraving, which is included in the price, will be our unit crest on the 3rd ID patch on the top of the slide behind the ejection port. Along the right hand side of the slide towards the barrel will be either "Operation Iraqi Freedom" or "Unleash Hell".

Estimated timeline is to have a decision made by end of June, portal opened through July, closed first part of August and delivery o/a first week in November.

SH!/RS!  
R6

To see a sample of some commemorative handguns, visit Sigsauers's commemorative website at <http://www.sigsauer.com/upFiles/CmsContent/documents/LE-MIL%20Comm-Sampleslr.pdf>

If you are interested in purchasing a commemorative 10<sup>th</sup> FA unit handgun, please send me your contact information and I will forward it onto the unit.

Regards,  
Dennis Noes

## **WANTED! YOUR 10<sup>th</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT HISTORY**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Regimental Association is building a Historical Archive on the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment and its battalions: 1-10<sup>th</sup> FA, 2-10<sup>th</sup> FA, 6-10<sup>th</sup> and any other 10<sup>th</sup> FA Battalions(?).

If you, as a veteran 10<sup>th</sup> FA Redleg, kept a journal of your tour with the 10<sup>th</sup>, have pictures, copies of unit newsletters, etc or just want to share a story on some 10<sup>th</sup> FA history; then we would like for you to share them with us.

If you would like to contribute to the 10<sup>th</sup> FA Archives, please send them to

10<sup>th</sup> FA Regiment Historian  
c/o Dennis Noes  
11649 Buckhead trail  
Bryceville, FL, 32009

Or e-mail to [drnoes3id@comcast.net](mailto:drnoes3id@comcast.net)

**In addition, we have two individuals, who are doing some 10<sup>th</sup> FA WWII and Korean battle research and if you can help them with any information, please reply to them with a CC to me with your responses.**

**#1 Request, 10<sup>th</sup> FA Role in WWII battle.** Lionel Paret of Vagney France is documenting the liberation of his village Vagney has done some painstaking research into the combat around Vagney that led to its liberation. He particularly is looking for information on the role of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery battalion in the liberation of his town. He is interested in a shelling that took place on September 22, 1944. According to the records, he has been able to piece together, it appears the shelling of Vagney took place just as the infantry forces from the 3<sup>rd</sup> ID began their crossing of the Moselle River (243-244 of Taggart's book". Lionel, would like to find this information, so he can present his findings to the mayor for an anniversary celebration later this year.

If you know or have any information on the 10<sup>th</sup>'s role with the liberation of Vagney France, please send to Lionel Paret, [paret.lionel@wanadoo.fr](mailto:paret.lionel@wanadoo.fr) with a CC to me,

**#2 Request: 10<sup>th</sup> FA in Korea.** John Taylor is trying to get a battle History for the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battery A during the Korean War years 1952 to 1953 When my Dad was there. I know that he was around the Battles and areas for Old Baldy 26 June to Aug.4, 1952, Battle of Hill Eerie 21 Mar. to June 1952, Battle of White Horse 6 to 15 Oct. 1952, Battle of Iron Triangle Hill Mar. to Nov. 1952. I want to know more about the unit and what they were doing and where they were for sure during this time. Any help you can give us would be great as we have looked for two years now without much luck and we are running out of places to look. Thanks John. You can e-mail John at [John.Taylor@jocogov.org](mailto:John.Taylor@jocogov.org) or call him at 913-961-8334. Please include a cc copy of your response to me

Thank you and "Rock's Support!"

Dennis Noes

10<sup>th</sup> FA Secretary, Historian, and Editor of the Regimental Rock

## **10<sup>th</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT SHORT ROUNDS OF HISTORY**

In this issue of the 10<sup>th</sup> FA Regimental Rock, we retell the story of the unit's deployment to Korea and complete the story of the BN's role in the largest evacuation of civilians in the modern history of the world... The Evacuation of Hŭngnam. Here is that story of the Rock's Support at that historical event.

## Brief Summary of the Hŭngnam Evacuation

"The port at Hŭngnam was the site of a major evacuation of both U.N. military and North Korean civilians during the Korean War in late December 1950. Approximately 100,000 troops and material and 100,000 civilians were loaded onto a variety of merchant ships and military transports over the weeks leading up to Christmas 1950, and were transported to safety in Pusan and other destinations in South Korea. This operation was the culmination of the Battle of Chosin Reservoir, in which the embattled UN troops fought their way out of a Chinese trap."

### 1950 – The 10th FA and the Hŭngnam Evacuation

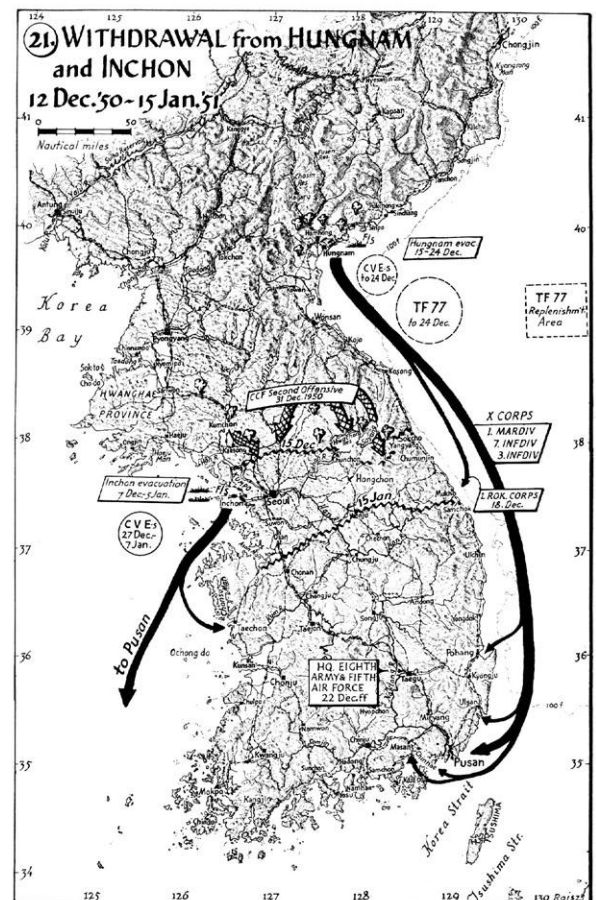
The Battalion was operating under what was called a "Reduction Table" which meant we had only four 105mm Howitzer sections and no FO parties per battery, along with proportional cuts in people and equipment such as cooks and mechanics. By mid-June, we were well into summer training commitments with one battery at West Point and another at (then) Pine Camp.

Immediately after the war started, we were hit with MOS levies. I don't remember the numbers, but they were significant. Then we were required to deploy a full-strength battery directly to Korea, along with an associated Infantry battalion. These units were used to fill out the 1ST Cavalry Division. Sadly, there were numerous casualties among our people. All of this left us with 25 men per battery and six howitzers in the battalion. It seemed impossible that we could deploy without substantial reinforcement and re-equipment, but on the second week of August, the unit, such as it was, was ordered to Japan, and we left Fort Devens on August 25th.

In Japan, the battalion moved to the Mori Training Area on the island of Kyushu (not the end of the world, although it was clearly visible from there) for training and refill of personnel and equipment. The first replacements were individual reservists and we got a lot of good, experienced people from that, since WWII was only five years in the past. We also got some barley trained basic trainees and several hundred Koreans who were literally kidnapped from the streets of Pusan; half of them arrived deathly ill from eating the water purification tablets in the old "C" rations they were given. Since we had few interpreters, and many Koreans last names are the same or similar, the ROK's were given numbers. Many of them stayed with the battalion for a long time and became valued members.

While at Mori, we encountered a new enemy in many ways more dangerous and more dangerous and unpredictable than the North Koreans – General Shugg, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Divarty Commander. His training ideas were different, to say the least. If a radio failed, he tried to punish the battalion communications officer under AW104. Of course the "culprits" refused, and of course the Division JAG threw out the ensuing charges. This festered with the General until he found some excuses, often months later, to exact his revenge.

Meanwhile, the rest of the Division was also filling up – with a non-divisional 155 battalion, a 105sp battalion, a non-divisional tank battalion, the 65<sup>th</sup> Infantry from Puerto Rico National Guard, and literally thousands of Republican of Korea (ROK) Soldiers. The story went around the division that when our CG, General Soule went up to report to General McArthur, he was asked "Who sent you, the communists?"



All this time, planning was underway for an amphibious assault at Wonson on the east coast of Korea. Wonson harbor turned out to be full of mines, and we had to wait so long, we were greeted on the beach by Bob Hope in mid-November.

Things weren't all that rosy away from the beach, however, and in particular the 15<sup>th</sup> Infantry got into some nasty fights, and it wasn't long before the 10<sup>th</sup> FA was also in the middle of it. In fact, we suffered our first casualty when we were still in the WONSON area – SGT Misekow, A HHB FDC specialist was killed by a mortar fragment. In late November, the 7<sup>th</sup> RCT was ordered to attack north on their left flank of the marines around the Chosin Reservoir. By 29 Nov, the 1<sup>st</sup> BN and A Battery were surrounded by a large Chinese force at Sachangri and it appeared they would be annihilated. After destroying what they couldn't carry the units moved out on December 1<sup>st</sup>. Reportedly, the last vehicle out was an M16 Quad-50 manned by SGT Payne, the Recon SGT from A battery (with a beer in his hand). They made it to the 2<sup>nd</sup> BN and "B" Battery and the B battery positions at Huksuri and another desperate fight. All were successfully extricated. At the same time, "C" Battery was part of the TASK Force Dog, which moved toward the marines to support their "forward retreat" from the Chosin area.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division was the last major unit in the Hungnam perimeter, and the last of us left the LST on Christmas Eve, 1950. After refitting in the Pusan area, we became part of I Corp on the western flank of the 8<sup>th</sup> Army.

In his book, "the Forgotten War", Cisy Blair says of the 7<sup>th</sup> RCT in Feb 1951: "The 7<sup>th</sup> Infantry, supported by the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Battalion, now commanded by Lewis B. O'Hare became the workhorse regiment of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Division, standing above the others in aggressiveness and dependability."

## **10<sup>th</sup> FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP**

### **✂ The objectives of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Association**

The 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment Association was established under the provisions of Army Regulation 210-1 is to promote morale and high spirit de corps among members of the regiment, provide opportunities, and facilities uniting past and present members of the regiment in a program dedicated to the preservation of traditions and history of the 10<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery Regiment.

- Regular**  **Associate Membership: \$12.00** payable on or before 1 July of each year.
- Fire for Effect (FFE) Membership: \$24.00** for those applicants who are NOT 3ID Society members, but who wish to join both organizations. **\$12.00 of the FFE membership will include your membership to the Society of the Third Infantry Division. [www.3rdiv.org](http://www.3rdiv.org)**

Click on 10<sup>th</sup> FA Association URL to download and print a copy of the 10<sup>th</sup>FA Reg. Assn Application Form.

[www.warfoto.com/10fara.htm](http://www.warfoto.com/10fara.htm)



## **10TH FIELD ARTILLERY REGIMENT TAPS AND REMEBERANCE**

*“War drew us from our Homeland  
In the sunlit springtime of our youth  
Those who did not come back alive remain  
in perpetual springtime – forever young –  
And a part of them is with us always.”*

*- Author Unknown -*

**The following veteran “Rock Soldiers” have moved onto Flanders’s Field since our last newsletter,**

Korea - Joseph Strelecki COL (R), B Btry, Lawton , OK, 2009  
Korea - Robert L. Rhodus, CPL, A Btry, Rotonda West, FL, 2009  
OIF - \* Jonathan Sylvestre, SPC, B Btry, Colorado Springs, Co, 2 Nov 2009  
OIF - \* Briand, Williams T. SSG, B Btry, Sparks, Ga, 22 Nov 2009  
OIF - \* Aaron Arthur, SGT, 203<sup>rd</sup> BSB, Lake City, SC, 8 Mar 2010  
OIF - \* Lakeshia Bailey, SGT, 203<sup>rd</sup> BSB, Columbus , GA, 08 Mar2010

### **\* AT WARRIORS WALK**

This walkway is dedicated to the Soldiers and attached units of 3rd Infantry Division, Fort Stewart/ Hunter Army Airfield, Georgia who served in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Over the years on this field, Fort Stewart has honored dignitaries and held special events. For decades, many brave Soldiers have marched here prior to going to battle and this is where they are welcomed when they return home from battle. It is this field where warriors walk. And it is here on this walkway that we remember our courageous Soldiers who demonstrated exceptional valor, honor and respect for their Army, their country and their belief in their cause during Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

The Eastern Redbud trees along the walkway are a symbol of life and will be a living tribute to the brave Soldiers who paid the ultimate price for our freedom.

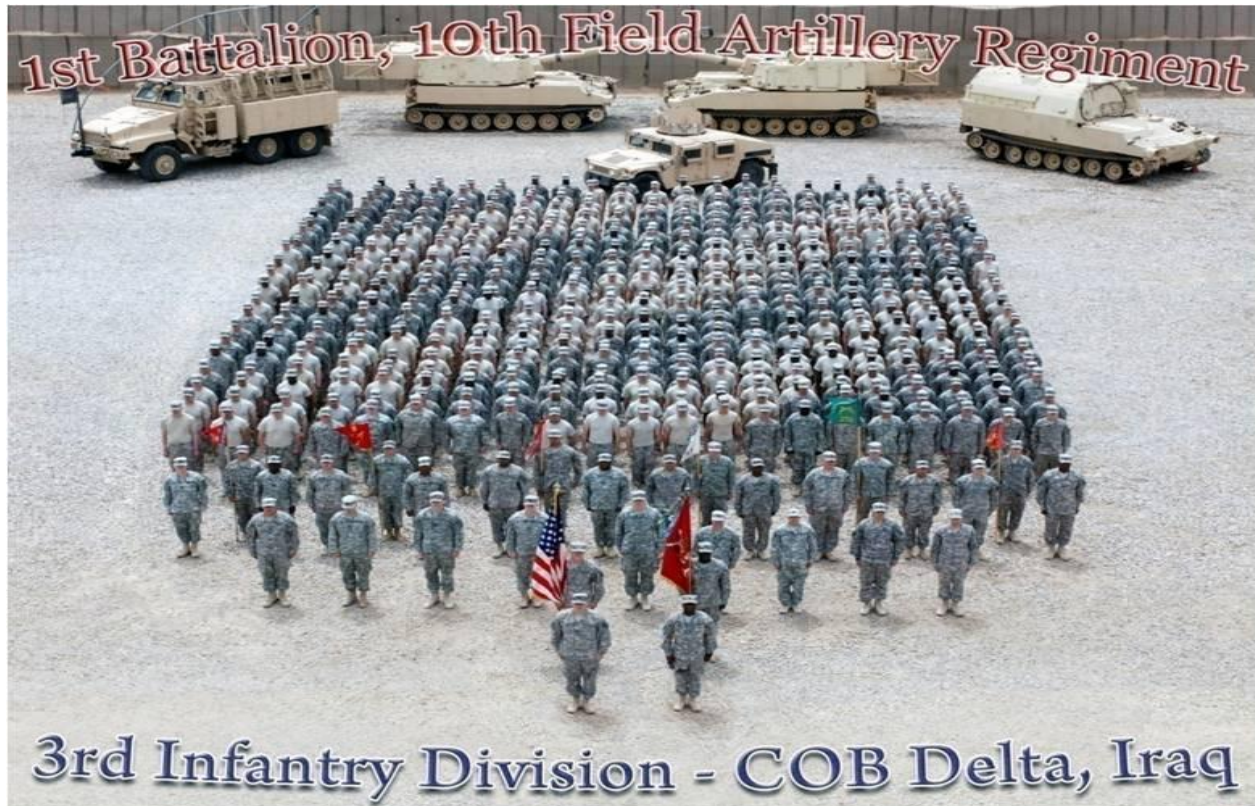
### **UPCOMING DEDICATION CEREMONIES**

*AUGUST 19, 2010 - 9:30 A.M.*



**AT WARRIORS WALK, FT. STEWART**

**OUR 10<sup>TH</sup> FA REDLEGS AND THEIR MISSION IN OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (OIF)  
2009 - 2010.**



*Since October of 2009, the Redlegs of the 10<sup>th</sup> FA have been deployed to the Iraqi Theater to support Operation Iraqi Freedom.*

**COMMANDER'S CORNER: ROCK 6 - LTC SHUAN TOOKE**



Greetings from COB Delta, Iraq! We've put two more months in the books and are beyond the half-way point of our tour. We've successfully supported more than half of the battalion taking their EML/R&R leave and have already begun identifying personnel to conduct redeployment training and preparations for our journey home later this year. The major event during this time period was the Iraq National Parliamentary Election in March.

On 7 March, Iraq held its second free democratic national election. There were approximately 19M votes cast across the country with nearly one million in Wasit. It was a tremendously successful event across the entire country. The Rock's Support Soldiers and Leaders, with assistance from 252 MPs and 3-1 Cavalry, provided a variety of support to our Iraqi Security Force (ISF) and Provincial Government partners which included: combined vulnerability assessments of approximately 300 polling sites; a combined headquarters with our ISF partners; intelligence, surveillance, and recon-naissance (ISR) support using un-manned aerial vehicles (UAVs); pro-viding quick reaction force (QRF) units



with the ISF; and escorting the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) and election observers to visit various polling sites.

Thanks to the hard work of our Soldiers, Leaders, and Stability Transition Teams (STTs), the unit continues to nurture, maintain, and support excellent partnerships across a variety of ISF and Provincial Government officials. We continue to support combined training opportunities, key leader engagements to advise and assist our partners, drink

chi (warm sweetened tea which doesn't remotely come close to the good old southern ice tea back home), and of course, occasionally test our stomach with Iraqi cuisine which is actually pretty good.

In March, we conducted our annual St Barbara dinner welcoming several key leaders to a special dinner in honor of the eleven neophyte gunners we inducted into the Honorable Order of St Barbara. Our own 3rd ID Deputy Commanding General for Support, BG Vandal, was our guest speaker. The 1st ID Deputy Commanding General for Operations, BG Gibbs, was also in attendance as well as several key leaders amongst our ISF partners. It was a great opportunity to maintain our heritage as artillerymen. The only thing that could have made it better would have been to have our lovely ladies with us. We're already working a plan to conduct our next big St Barbara Ball in November where we'll be able to recognize several of the wonderful ladies in our formation with the Molly Pitcher award.

In early April, we conducted our first battery change of command where CPT Kurt Cheeseman took command of A/1-10. After a successful year in command, CPT Luke Slinker will take command of HHB/1-10 in mid May. Also in April, both 1-10 and 3-1 Cavalry leadership had the opportunity to brief the United States Forces-Iraq (USF-I) commander, General Odierno on our operations and allow him the opportunity to visit and award coins to Soldiers. It's not every day that Soldiers have a chance to meet a four-star general and it was a very successful and rewarding visit.

We ended the period with a well deserved day of decompression as the battalion conducted its Commander's Cup sports day on 30 April. Formation began at 0630, and the day included events across all the major sports such as softball, football, basketball, soccer, volleyball, and several other smaller events. Eleven hours later, and many red faces, necks, and heads to care for by the medics, we crowned Automatic Steel as the re-repeat defending champions of the Rock's Support Commander's Cup. It's quite fitting that they brought the trophy out to Iraq and have the opportunity to bring it home. All the Soldiers and Leaders had a great time. Congratulations Automatic Steel!

Although the national election was a very successful milestone which validated the ISF's/leadership's ability to plan, rehearse, and execute large scale security operations, our victory was short lived. The next morning, while returning to COB Delta, the distribution platoon of Golf Forward Support Company had a vehicle accident resulting in the loss of two of our comrades, SGT Lakeshia Bailey and SGT Aaron Arthur. We'll continue to keep them in our memories, and our thoughts and prayers are with the Bailey and Arthur families. I thank all of our wonderful families, volunteers, and care teams who provided remarkable support to the families during their time of

bereavement. This was no easy or small task. Words cannot fully de-cribe the impact, and your contributions mean more than you'll ever know.

It's a tremendous privilege for CSM Aaron and I to serve as the command team for such a great organization. The Soldiers and Leaders continue to make a lasting impact with our Iraqi partners and it's extremely rewarding to know how highly our partners praise our Soldiers for all they do to improve their capability and capacity.

Take care, and thank you for all your support.

***Rock Support; Rock Solid!***  
***Rock 6***

**COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S CORNER: ROCK 7 – CSM MARK AARON**



Greetings from COB Delta, Iraq. The last two months have been very busy. The commander and I conducted radio interviews with our local radio station, FM 99.3. It was a great event for the battalion, Fort Benning, and the Columbus area. During the inter-view the commander spoke on the events that have taken place in the Wasit Province.

I am extremely proud of all our Soldiers but one that stands out is Private First Class Young of Alpha Battery. This warrior won our Battalion Soldier of the Quarter and went on to compete for the Brigade Soldier of the Quarter. He did an excel-lent job. Private First Class Young took first place in the brigade. He will now compete for the Division Soldier of Quarter. Good luck to him, and to the Automatic team, on a job well done.

Last month the brigade put on a squad competition at Kalsu. We put together a squad to represent us in the competition and they competed against other squads from throughout the brigade. Our team did really well. They received coins of excellence and certificates of achievement. Great job by our warriors.

Morale is always at our forefront. Last month Rap artist Twista entertained our Soldiers. The Soldiers came out and supported the event which was a great morale booster.

This past week we held the Battalion Organization Day/Commander's Cup. It was a great turn out. Alpha Battery repeated as champs. Once again, great job by all. It's been a busy two months and the next two are full of events. We have the best warriors in the Army. I'm looking forward to writing you and telling you the story. Again thank you for all your love and support as we continue to fight and win this war on terror.

***ROTM,SH,RS,***  
***Rock Seven out.***

## **BN CHAPLAIN'S CORNER: CPT TIMOTHY GRIFFIS - ROCK SHEPHERD ON THE HOMEFRONT**

We are more than halfway through! So much has happened so far and I am looking forward to many great things still to come.

In seven months the Rock's Support family has seen ups and downs. Another one of those downs came on 08 March 2010. I was on my way to PT when I was snatched up and taken to the TMC. What was supposed to be a good day of hanging out and providing ministry quickly turned into a day full of a very different kind of ministry. The day turned into a week of listening to and crying with my brothers and sisters. We memorialized SGT Arthur and SGT Bailey on 12 March 2010. The building was packed out. There was not even any standing room left.

My apologies to the spouses who attended the Mid-Tour Spouses Retreat at Calloway Gardens. I intended, and planned for months, to be with you for that retreat. However, after weighing the goods, I felt that staying at COB Delta to be with the Soldiers who were close to SGT Arthur and SGT Bailey was the greater good.

On a happier note, we have started a Read-A-Book-To-You-Kids program here at the COB Delta Chapel. Your Soldiers can come in and read a book to the video camera. We'll make it into a DVD to be sent back home. It's quick, easy and all the supplies, books, etc. were donated to us from First Baptist Church of Columbus and Sayers Library on Fort Benning. Please encourage your Soldiers to come in and read. It has been an honor and a privilege to me and PFC LaBarge to minister to your Soldiers.

There are few things in this world that bring us as much satisfaction as sharing these experiences with your Soldiers.



Thank you again for letting us borrow them. Happy Mother's Day to all our Rock's Support Mothers. (CPT) Tim Griffis  
Chaplains' Asst: PFC Aaron LaBarge

Two chaplains in an Apache. This can't be good!



## **HHB BATTERY - HEADHUNTERS REPORT: CPT LUKE SLINKER , 1SG GERRY GERMAN**

As everyone is undoubtedly well aware, we recently passed the halfway point of the deployment. That means a lot of good news-type events for the unit, but also a note of caution. The good news is that we are already planning redeployment and already have a date when the leadership of our replacement unit will show up to conduct a site survey of the area. The note of caution is the reminder that we still have a ways to go and have to stay focused on the job and avoid complacency. This is to make sure that the mission we hand over to our

replacements is on track and going well, but most importantly to make sure everyone gets home safe.

We want to send out a few notes of congratulations first. A few promotions came our way this month. 1LT King is now CPT King. SSG Marr is now SFC Marr. SSG Johnson and SSG De'Reese both made the Sergeant First Class list.

That was not the only major good news story for SSG Johnson this month, either. He was awarded the St. Barbara's medal at our St. Barbara's Day Celebration back in March. I had never seen a St. Barbara's Day attempted while in a deployed environment, but it went extremely well. It was a great time and even the Iraqi Security Forces personnel and KBR civilians who attended enjoyed it.

The battery is currently going through change of command preparations. CPT Luke Slinker, who commanded Automatic Steel when we deployed from Benning, will be taking command of HHB on May 14.

The Mayor's Cell has moved since the last newsletter. We are now in a recently renovated building while the old one undergoes renovations. Certain members (myself included) would not mind staying here for the remainder of our time. However, a new unit may be coming to COB Delta this summer, and they will likely be taking our current building if they do.

The medics have had an exceptionally busy month, managing their usual task of going out with every single patrol while also working with G/203 and STT 13 to train the Iraqi Army on Combat Lifesaver Skills and train our entire battalion on some critical casualty evacuation tasks. They've been managing all of this while short of personnel. SGT Atkins in particular has been singled out by the STTs for his great work teaching CLS, and SPC Davis taught casualty evacuation to a couple hundred Soldiers from our battalion. We are also very glad to have PFC Bryant back with us and in good condition. She recovered quickly and was asking to go back out as soon as she returned...though CPT Holt made her stay working shifts in the hospital a few days to make sure she fully re-covered.

CSD has kept up their usual patrol schedule and taken on the task of running the M4 qualification ranges for the battery. Everyone across the battery needed to brush up on our basic marksmanship skills because it has been so long since we fired the weapons. In their role as the Joint Visitors Bureau, they also escorted the most senior military official to visit Delta since we arrived. In late April General Odierno, Commander of U.S. Forces-Iraq, visited Delta. SPC Hamiel and SPC McNeill received coins from GEN Odierno during his visit, as did the members of CSD who were responsible for escorting him around Delta.

The weather for sports has been improving the past month. After HHB took the championship in the last softball league, a new one is underway now. Late afternoons now are almost perfect baseball...or softball...weather. The battalion has a Commander's Cup competition coming up later in the month, and around that same time-frame HHB will have a Leaders Vs. Soldiers sports day. Thanks to SPC Schmidt and SGT Cushenberry for working to get that together.

The radar crews have, fortunately, had no major event as exciting as what the Q-37 saw in February. Their job remains extremely important, though, and the speed with which they receive support when they have a problem only under-scores that. And the TOC has had some changes to the normal pace this month. The S-1 shop was swamped preparing all the awards for the battalion for the deployment. The coordination for ISF escorts for our patrols continued, and due to their work the 3rd BDE leadership was able to brag to General Odierno about the extremely large percentage of patrols coming out of Delta that are partnered with Iraqi Security Forces.

We also want to take an opportunity to wish our best to our Soldiers who were sent to the rear for medical reasons. For SPC Schaffner, PVT Zeringue, and PV2 Woods, we just want to remind you that every-one out here is still thinking about you and hoping that your recovery goes well.



HHB BTRY at 4 July Down Day Picnic



**A BATTERY - AUTOMATIC STEEL REPORT:  
CPT KURT, 1SG HOWELL**

Dear Automatic Steel Family,

I hope that this letter finds you in good health and good spirits. As we have now crossed the 6-month mark on the calendar, our battery remains dedicated to performing our respective function in the mission to advise and assist our Iraqi counterparts. While our Soldiers continue to excel on duty, many also take the opportunity to enjoy some of the many activities available on the COB Delta.

Of special note for this newsletter is the Automatic Steel participation in the Brigade Best Squad Competition held at COS Kalsu. This competition consisted of several events designed to test the participants' will and proficiency over the course of two grueling days. SSG Fiegel, SSG Walton (G/203rd), SGT Springer, SPC Jenkins, SPC Sandoval, SPC Schmolt, SPC Vilavicencio, SPC Young, and PFC Ziegman competed against eight other squads across the brigade in events including:

**Day 1:** Road March Stage I, Dead Lift, Tire Flip, Grenade Toss, Weapons Assembly, Enduro Run, Pistol Marksmanship, Road March Stage II.

**Day 2:** Horseshoe Toss, Basket-ball Throw, 1-mile Run, Football Throw, Dizzy Softball Throw.

The Automatic Steel squad displayed professionalism and skill during the competition and were com-mended by several senior-ranking spectators. We are all extremely proud of their accomplishments, especially on such short notice.

In March, our softball team won the one-pitch softball tournament and The Automatic Steel Foot-ball team remains undefeated while preparing for the semi-finals of the COB Delta tournament.

Our Force Protection platoon continues to assess and improve security measures for all COB Delta residents. In addition, our Force Protection Platoon serves as the most readily available quick reaction force, prepared to support the installation and forces operating in the surrounding cities.

Our badging office continues to monitor the daily access of all individuals entering/exiting the installation. Working closely with our contracted security partners, the badging office facilitates the entrance of all essential services and projects on COB Delta. Without the streamlined and organized efforts of the badging office, life at COB Delta would be much different.

Third platoon, affectionately known as the "Hellraisers", continues to partner with the 1st Battalion of the Wasit Federal Police Brigade. Recently, the Hellraisers prepared and executed a series of deliveries to develop the security schematics at the battalion headquarters. Previously unprotected and exposed to outside threats, the Federal Police are now making great strides toward becoming an independent force. In addition, the Hell-raisers partner with the Federal Police soldiers to teach and demonstrate critical skills such as patrolling, searches, and operations.

There have been two promotions since the last newsletter. PFC John Young and PFC Cody Wilson were promoted to Specialist. It is an honor to promote such deserving Soldiers and we are excited to see them excel in the future.

On April 3rd, we welcomed two new Soldiers into our ranks and welcome back one Automatic Steel NCO.

PVT Speers-Hellraisers

PFC Servatius-Hellraisers

SGT Rivera-Badging

On behalf of the entire Automatic Steel Family, 1SG Howell and I would like to congratulate PV2 and Mrs. Crishonda Grady on the birth of their son, Demetrius Sylon Grady Jr., in April.

I am honored to join such a first-rate organization and on behalf of the Battery, 1SG Howell and I would like to thank you for all of your continued support. We could not do it without you!

CPT Kurt



**B BATTERY – RAGING BULLS REPORT:  
1SG JOSEPH KNIGHTS**

**CPT MICHAEL SMITH,**

CPT Smith was unable to write this month's newsletter because he was called home on leave for the birth of his first child, Isabel Marie Smith born on April 22 at 6 lbs 6 oz's. Let us wish him and his wife congratulations on the newest member of their family and ours.

Another two months have passed, and as we enter the halfway mark of the deployment for 3rd Heavy Brigade Com-bat Team many of you back home and us here are starting to see the light at the end of the tunnel that will reunite us with our loved ones back home.



Bravo Battery has been keeping busy in the last several months as we have seen some landmark developments in Wasit Province and Iraq. March kicked off hard with the second Iraqi National Elections on March 7. The Raging Bulls took the lead as they were tasked with escorting an international polling observation team through the city of Al Kut on Election Day, and guarding multiple sites in the province to include the warehouse in which the ballots were stored. Overall the men did an out-standing job as the elections went well as far as our mission was

concerned. A couple of weeks later, on the March 20, we got to show our stuff to Division as the men provided security for the grand opening of a 6 million dollar Fish and Meat Market project, culminating a two year project.

The month of April saw a new task for Bravo as the civil affairs team for Wasit. SSG Bramble, SSG Gavin, 1LT Sanders, myself (2LT Bush) and 3rd Platoon are leading in taking over the new mission as the current team returns home and is not replaced due to the drawdown. Another special thanks goes to SSG Musgrove who has led the way in driver's training for the battery ensuring all our Soldiers are properly trained and qualified to drive the MRAP's, in the wake of an unfortunate accident on March 8 that took the lives of two Soldiers from 1-10 FA.

On the lighter side, even though the professional football season has come to an end, the Raging Bulls are keeping the pigskin spirit alive, bringing home the COB Championship for the second time on May 1. Speaking of winners, another special mention goes to SGT Sheriff, with Battery headquarters, for winning NCO of the Month for Battalion.

Last but not least, I want to recognize our brave Soldiers who have been promoted or have reenlisted in the past two months.

Promotions: PFC Drew Han-shaw, SPC Brian Gay, SPC Ruben Chavez-Vega, SPC Aaron Wallace, SPC Christo-pher Fabre.

Reenlistments: PFC Steven Auton, PFC Daniel Desimone

The Soldiers of Bravo Battery have done an out-standing job over the last several months and should be commended for a job well done. Now as we enter the summer months and the heat begins to turn up we will be keeping up our spirits with the knowledge that those of you back home are supporting us and eagerly awaiting our return.

BY: 2LT Joe Bush



**G CO , 203<sup>RD</sup> MAINTENANCE- SPARTAN'S REPORT: CPT JERRY WILLIS, 1SG ALBERT PARNELL**

Hello to all in the Spartan nation! March and April have been highlighted by tremendous successes and painful tragedy. We lost two bright and brilliant Soldiers, SGT Aaron Arthur and SGT Lakeshia Bailey on 8 March 2010 due to a vehicle rollover accident while on mission supporting the Iraqi national elections. SGT Arthur and SGT Bailey are remembered as great friends, special Soldiers, gifted leaders, and tireless workers. Although their memory will never escape us, we have made it a point to carry on with our mission in order to honor their sacrifice. Thank you to all of the Spartan family for your continuous prayer, support, and encouragement throughout our time of need and especially as we continue forward.

Distribution platoon and elements from maintenance platoon played a role in the success of the Iraqi parliamentary elections on 7 March 2010 as a quick reaction force in the vicinity of An Numaniyah, Wasit province, Iraq. It is truly an honor to be present during such a vital time in the young democracy of this country. The Spartans will remember this crucial turning point in Iraqi history for the rest of their lives, confident that their presence helped bring stability, independence, and democracy to a country once plagued by violence, oppression, and corruption.

The Spartans have also partnered extensively with our Iraqi counterparts from 8th Motorized Transport Regiment, 8th Iraqi Army. SSG Pratt, SSG Desouza, SGT Wilganoski, SPC Burgess, SPC Suarez, SGT Dash, and SSG Carmichael, as well as many others, have conducted maintenance courses and performed joint vehicle repair of Iraqi equipment over the last few months.

Our lovely Spartan women (SGT Weaver, SPC Jones, SGT Bland, and SSG Hardy) participated in the COB Delta Women's Day ceremony to honor the women, past and present, that have inspired, led, and changed the world that we live in.

Many Spartans also attended the St. Barbara's dinner, a time-honored tradition among Field Artillerymen across the Army. The dinner was an opportunity to celebrate those individuals presented with the Honorable Order of St Barbara's award (including



the Spartan's own, CPT Austin) as well as join in fun, food, and fellowship SSG Walton participated in the Hammer Brigade Best Squad competition as a member of the 1-10 FA team. She was the lone female on the battalion team and played a vital role in the success of the competition, held at COS Kalsu. The Spartans also participated in the 1-10 FA Commander's Cup, held on 30 April 2010 on COB Delta. Many representatives from the company took part in the 12-hour marathon of events that included basketball,

softball, soccer, football, volleyball, ping-pong, horseshoes, darts, and a modified "All-Star" PT test. Though we didn't bring home the commander's cup, the Spartans took away the bumps and bruises, aches and pains (especially the sunburn) of an enjoyable day of competition and camaraderie.

Welcome new Soldiers, PFC Courtney Gates, 2LT Jacquelyn Erks, 1SG Albert Parnell, and CW2 Garry Church. Goodbye to 1LT Renolds Dorcelus, 1SG Elbert Clark, and CW2 Gerald Pennino.

## **THE 10<sup>TH</sup> FA BN CELEBRATES ST. BARBARA... OIF STYLE**

### **The Order of Saint Barbara**

The Order of Saint Barbara is an honorary military society of the United States Field Artillery. Both U.S. Marine and Army field artillery along with their military and civilian supporters are eligible for membership. The order is managed by the U.S. Field Artillery Association and two levels of recognition exist. The most distinguished level is the Ancient Order of Saint Barbara and those who are selected for this honor have achieved long-term, exceptional service to the field artillery surpassing even their brethren in the Honorable Order of Saint Barbara. The order links field artillerymen of the past and present in a brotherhood of professionalism, selfless service, and sacrifice symbolized by Saint Barbara.

***The following article was contributed by the Spring issue of the BN's "Rock Support" OIF edition.***

Soldiers of the 1st Battalion, 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Heavy Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division celebrated the Saint Barbara's Ball at COB Delta, March 19. The ball, held in honor of the field artillery's patron saint, was an opportunity for the 1-10 FA to relax, recognize some of their out-standing artillerymen, and highlight the battalion's recent achievements. "Red legs are successfully completing every mission thrown at them," said guest speaker, Brig. Gen. Thomas Vandal, deputy commanding general of support for the 3rd Infantry Division. "There is no standard mission for field artillery Soldiers anymore. The diversity of our FA units is amazing." Vandal, a field artillery Soldier himself, pointed out field artillerymen are doing everything from

performing infantrymen duties to guarding enemy detainees across two theaters of combat.



The Soldiers of 1-10 FA entertained one another with skits and videos from each of the battalion's four batteries/company, made an impromptu version of "Artilleryman's Punch," and inducted 11 Soldiers into the Order of Saint Barbara.

"I've attended ten or eleven of these balls, but this is the first one I've ever attended overseas," said 1st Sgt. Joseph Knight, Battery B, 1-10 FA Regt. "It is kind of special. Of course, it isn't the same without our wives and alcohol, but this will be many of our Soldiers first ball. It's another opportunity to share our traditions with them." Knight, a native of Fort

Lauderdale, Fla., also recognized how important the night was for the inductees. "It is a good feeling to get recognized," he said. "Not everyone gets to wear the Order of Saint Barbara medal. It is a big night for them and, hopefully, it will motivate our younger Soldiers."

SPC Jacob Forte, an artillery-man in Battery A, 1-10 FA Regt., said he was looking forward to the event for variety of reasons. "Enjoying ourselves out here is important," he said. "Tonight is about honoring our past and looking forward to our future. Being an artilleryman is unique; it's good to recognize that." Forte, native of San Jose, Calif., has yet to earn entrance into the Order of Saint Barbara, but sees it as a future goal. "I hope I earn that," he said. "I think everyone aspires to be recognized. You see people you respect earn something like that and it motivates you."

As Soldiers assigned to Golf Company poked fun at various members of the battalion during their skit, Knight laughed just as hard as the Soldiers around him. "Nights like this allow us to let our hair down a little bit," he said. "It's all about having fun and not



worrying about the job for a few hours."

Story and photos by SGT Ben Hutto, 3rd HBCT Public Affairs Office



The new inductees to the Order of St. Barbara posing with LTC Tooke and CSM Aaron.

### **SOLDIERS OF 1-10 FA IMPROVE ESPRIT DE CORPS**

The Soldiers from the 1st Battalion 10th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd I.D held their annual Commander's Cup 31 April 2010. This time, however, the event was held at COB Delta, Iraq. Soldiers met for a battalion formation at 0630 to start the day off bright and early. The events for the com-petition included basketball, volleyball, soccer, football, soft-ball, darts, horseshoes, ping-pong, and a three-point contest.

The Commander's events entailed tug of war and a true fitness test. Each of the participating units was to give up 4 personnel for the final 3 events, pushups, sit-ups and a run. Although the structure was set like a normal Army Physical Fitness Test (APFT), this was no ordinary PT test. Each unit was given 3 minutes for push-ups and sit-ups, where they had to do as many as possible as a tag-team. This was a true test of their unit's readiness after eleven hours since the beginning of the Commander's Cup competition. The cup's last and final event was a 4 man relay race with approximately half of a mile each way carrying the units' respective guidons.



2010 1-10 FA Commander's Cup Champions.

At the conclusion of the race, a day filled with thou-sands of bottles of water con-sumed, many bottles of SPF 30 sun screen, a few hundred snow cones, and everyone's favorite eye protection tan line, the day came to an end. The Rock Support Battalion is just over half way done with their current tour in Iraq, and a day such as this was in order. Es-prit de corps had no choice but be lifted in the midst of friendly competition and struggle for the right to be called the

Alpha Battery, also known as Automatic Steel, ended their day just as it began, the champions once again. This is their second vic-tory in two years. In the past this has been a major event to bring the families together in a day of sports and camaraderie. Due to the deployment 1-10 FA has once again made the best of the situation and man-aged to come together at the end of the day.



The Soldiers of 1-10 were blessed to be joined by 252 Military Police of Cleveland TN, a unit that has been OPCONed to 1-10 FA since their arrival at COB Delta. The Soldiers left with a sense of unity and pride. LTC Shaun Tooke, Commander of TF 1-10 stated "Our Battalion, to include our OPCON (252 Military Police from Cleveland Tennessee), came together to participate in friendly competition and regardless of who came away with the cup, it's the fun and friendships on the field of play that matters

In the field of play that matters more than the trophy. At the end of the day, we're still one team willing to do anything we can for one another to be successful as an organization."

PFC LaBarge the Battalion Chaplain's Assistant stated "One team one fight." This embodies what the Army teaches us to be. We are sup-posed to fight as one team, and it helps to also play as one team."

## **End of Mission for this Issue of the 10<sup>th</sup> FA Regimental Rock!**

The Fall-Winter issue will be published in November. All contributions should be sent to [drnoes3id@comcast.net](mailto:drnoes3id@comcast.net) no later than 15 November, 2010.

### ***Rock's Support!***

#### **MARNE RIDERS MOTORCYCLE CLUB**

#### **Society of the 3rd Infantry Division, U.S. Army**



The Marne Riders Motorcycle Club was formed to **bring** past and present veterans of the 3ID and attached units that are motorcycle enthusiasts together **for** meetings, rides, and to support the Society of the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division, the 3<sup>rd</sup> Infantry Division Soldiers and families, and other events that foster the purpose of being an Honorable Discharged Veteran of the US Armed Forces.

#### **Eligibility**

- Regular Membership:** membership in the Marne Riders Motorcycle Club is open to Veterans with honorable service in the Third Infantry Division and those who were members of supporting or attached units of the Third Infantry Division.
- Associate Member:** other Armed Force Veterans, spouses, parents, children, siblings, of any persons eligible for regular membership, and other person with a special interest in, or an affinity for the Society of the Third Infantry.

<http://www.marneriders.com/start.html>