

# 2FURY TIMES

2-508<sup>th</sup> PIRs Monthly Newsletter  
December/January 2017



To the Paratroopers, Friends, and Family of the 2Fury team – Happy New Year! CSM Donaldson and I are excited to unveil the first edition of the Battalion Newsletter highlighting various achievements, activities and events across our organization, both deployed and at home station. The entire team has been moving at an arduous pace over the last few months supporting deployment operations forward and out-load support for the Division's Global Response Force at Ft. Bragg, NC. We are extremely proud of the entire team and thank all the families and friends for the continued support they provide to the 2Fury Team.



The Mortar Platoon at MORTEP

While the Battalion has continued to support the 2Fury team forward, operations for the team at FBNC have not missed a beat. The Battalion has participated in several training events to include the Division's Deployment Readiness Exercise, numerous Airborne Operations, and various weapons ranges with the Mortar Platoon participating in a Mortar Training and Evaluation Program (MORTEP).

Supporting the Division's Global Response Force, the Battalion was the main effort supporting out-load operations for the Global Response Brigade – 3<sup>rd</sup> Brigade Combat Team. Over a 96 hour period 2Fury successfully outfitted and loaded all of 3BCT's vehicles and Paratroopers onto aircraft. The Battalion's efforts were praised at all levels which is indicative of the tremendous work the entire team put forth.

Several of 2Fury's companies conducted machinegun ranges throughout the month. These ranges allowed Paratroopers to hone their weapons skills and provide expertise to our profession of arms. The MORTEP was a spectacular training event that gave our Mortarmen and Mortar Platoon a chance to showcase their ability to quickly and accurately employ indirect fire with their mortar systems.

This event allowed leaders to assess the readiness of the Platoon and qualified them to participate in live fire maneuver exercises.

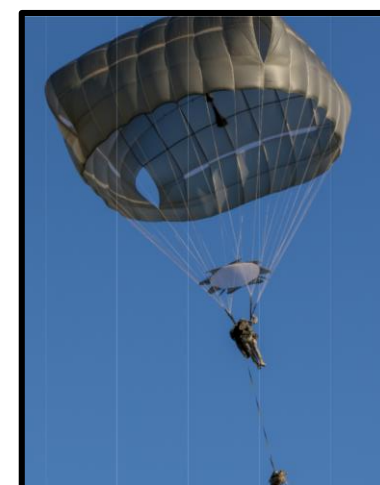


SSG Knicely training his Paratroopers

The Battalion continues to sustain Airborne readiness as these operations are a critical part of keeping our Paratroopers current and qualified to answer the Nation's call on a moment's notice.



Paratroopers exit a C-130



A Paratrooper lowers his Combat Equipment

Operations for the 2Fury Team forward are well underway since beginning the deployment process last month. The Transfer of Authority from 1-502 Infantry to 2-508 Parachute Infantry took place at TAA Filfayl on January 15<sup>th</sup>. On this day, the Paratroopers of 2Fury joined with other Paratroopers and U.S. Soldiers to officially become Task Force 2Fury. This includes engineers, artillerymen, a dog-handler, and an ordnance team; all of whom have joined together under the TF 2Fury banner with the mission to advise and assist the Iraqi Army in defeating ISIS and bringing stability to the region.

**Fury From The Sky!  
Devils Never Die!**

Mailing Address:  
"Paratrooper Name"  
"HHC/C Co/D Co", 2-508 PIR  
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**Task Force 2FURY Times  
Edition 1, Volume 1**



Members of the 2Fury Team pose in front of a recently liberated amusement park near Mosul City.

TF 2Fury Paratroopers eagerly began learning their roles from their 1-502 counterparts. The Paratroopers immediately understood the importance of owning the responsibilities at TAA Filfayl and were motivated to learn from the outgoing Soldiers. These responsibilities included everything from security of the camp to planning patrols. SSG Shanahan (D Co) and SSG Balona (C Co) have done a spectacular job in ensuring security of our base camp, while 1LT Shannon (D Co) and 1LT Rabbitt (C Co) took the lead on familiarizing our troopers on our new environment to include initial introductions with the Iraqi Army at their planning Headquarters. While members of C Co and D Co were interfacing with their 101<sup>st</sup> counterparts, LTC Browning and his staff were doing the same with the 1-502 Battalion



Members of TF 2FURY overlooking the city of Mosul.

Commander, LTC Umbrell, and his staff. All of these efforts set conditions for a successful Transfer of Authority with the Battalion postured and ready for our mission at hand.

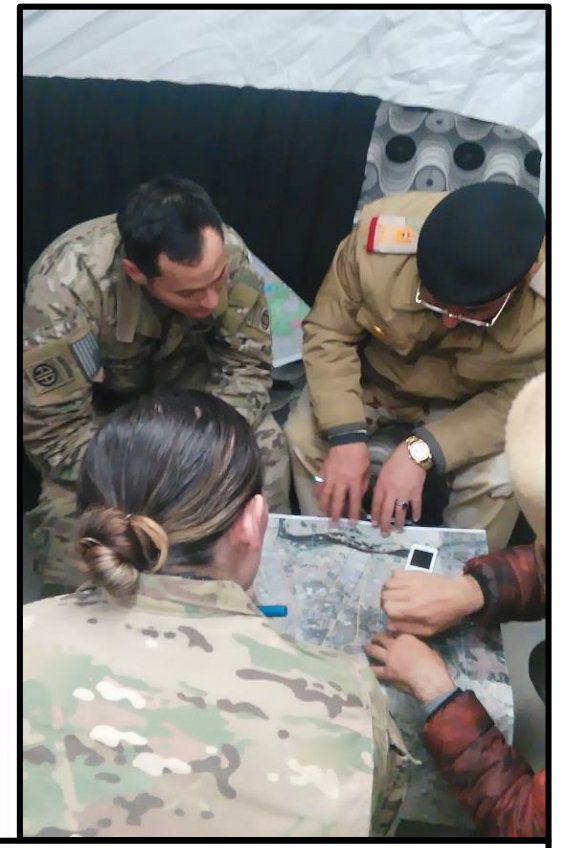
Once officially in the driver's seat, TF 2Fury embraced the Advise

and Assist mission with our Iraqi counterparts. Several members of the staff and security element moved forward to co-locate themselves with the Iraqi Headquarters and provide guidance for clearing the East side of Mosul, Iraq of ISIS fighters.

Over the last month our Paratroopers never hesitated to provide assistance to their Iraqi counterparts. Several TF 2Fury team members assisted in triaging and treating many of the Iraqi Soldiers wounded while fighting ISIS. Notably, SPC Bo Butler was recognized by General Votel, the CENTCOM Commander, for his heroic and decisive actions that helped save numerous Iraqi lives. In these instances, the Paratroopers of TF 2Fury never faltered in their resolve to fully support their Iraqi brothers-in-arms.



**LEFT** - General Votel recognizing troopers of the 2Fury Team for their admirable support to the Iraqi Army during the Mosul Operations. Depicted here is General Votel (Left) talking to TF 2Fury Paratrooper, PFC Santello (Right).



**RIGHT** - LTC Browning and CPT Heether Advising an Iraqi counterpart on upcoming operations.

Similarly, our 2Fury Paratroopers in Turkey have assumed full responsibility of security operations for a HIMARS Platoon. Our Paratroopers have been steadfast in their positions despite potential threats from enemy sympathizers in the region and harsh conditions during the Turkish winter. Morale remains high and our Paratroopers continue to improve their positions as time goes on in the deployment.



**TOP** – SPC Murphy providing security in a guard tower at the HIMARS Firing Point.

**Bottom** – Paratroopers conducting Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services on vehicles to use while executing security operations in Turkey.



All the Paratroopers of TF 2Fury remain vigilant and prepared for their next mission. Now that the clearance of Eastern Mosul is complete, TF 2Fury is working alongside our counterparts to set conditions for the next fight. Our presence and support to the Iraqis will be vital to their clearance of the rest of Mosul. TF 2Fury remains committed to its tradition of leaving an enduring legacy – CSM Donaldson and I are proud of all accomplishments the Battalion has achieved thus far and appreciate the collective support from the entire 2Fury family!



Members of TF 2Fury pose after conducting the tradition of a Patching Ceremony. This moment is historic for all members of the team, especially those on their first deployment. The Patching Ceremony is a way for the Battalion Commander to recognize his Paratroopers for their hard work and service to the unit and Country.

## HHC Change of Command

This month HHC said goodbye to CPT Gustafson, who has commanded the Company for the last 18 months. The Company welcomes the new commander, CPT Holtz and his wife Kayla. CPT Holtz is no stranger to the Battalion as he has served as an Assistant Operations Officer and the Alpha Company Commander.



MAJ Works presents the HHC Colors to CPT Holtz

## FRL Notes

As we said goodbye to our deploying Paratroopers during the first few days of the month I would like to encourage any of the affected family members to contact myself if you have any questions or concerns regarding the FRG. Also, I have several FRG deployment books left. These books are a great resource for any spouse of a deployed Paratrooper, if you would like one stop by my office or give me a call.

-1LT Matt Green (802) 379-4174.

## Chaplain's Corner

*"Then said I unto them, Ye see the distress that we are in, how Jerusalem lieth waste, and the gates thereof are burned with fire: come, and let us build up the wall of Jerusalem, that we be no more a reproach. Then I told them of the hand of my God which was good upon me; as also the king's words that he had spoken unto me. And they said, Let us rise up and build. So they strengthened their hands for this good work."* Nehemiah 2:17-18

In 1519 Spanish explorer Hernando Cortes set out to establish a foothold for Spain in the New World in the country of Mexico. With less than six hundred soldiers Cortes was facing the vast Aztec Empire, with an estimated population of over five million. To ensure that his men were focused and dedicated to the task at hand, Cortes ordered the ships that had brought them from Spain to be destroyed. Knowing that they had no way out except forward motivated the soldiers to fight valiantly, and they won a great victory for their cause.

When Nehemiah made the trip to Jerusalem to rebuild the walls of the city, he knew that he needed people to share his vision. But he needed something else—he needed the people to be willing to do what was required to accomplish the mission, no matter what it took. One of the meanings of the Hebrew word translated *strengthened* is "to make sore." Just as our physical muscles ache after a workout as part of the process of gaining strength, our spiritual muscles and our faith must be stretched and developed as well. If we are not willing to endure that process, we will not be victorious. The famous football coach Bear Bryant said, "The difference between success and failure is not the will to win. Everybody has that. The difference is whether you have the will to prepare to win."

With 2016 behind us and now in the new year of 2017, we must forget those things behind us and prepare for the great things that are ahead. The successes or failures of our past can sometimes limit our motivation for the future. Plan, prepare and work to accomplish a successful and meaningful 2017, and may God richly bless you as you prepare to win!

**-Chaplain Heneise**

### Farewell

This month the BN says good by to:  
 CPT Gustafson (AS3, HHC CDR)  
 1LT Matthew Thwaites (BN S4, B CO PL, Scout PL)  
 1LT Perry (BN CHEMAO)  
 Thanks for all the Hard Work!

### Welcome

2FURY congratulates the following families on newborns:  
 SPC Scott Diehl and wife, Saylor Diehl  
 SPC Jonathan Martin and wife, Sarah Martin  
 SGT Matthew White and wife, Elizabeth

Welcome to the Family!

### **FRG Events**

Next Steering Committee Meeting – 21FEB  
 Care Team Training at BN HQ – 27FEB  
 Care Team Training at BN HQ – 27MAR  
 Easter Party – 1APR  
 Battalion Organization Day – To Be Determined

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



# Find us on Facebook

## 1) Search for @2.508PIR or 2<sup>nd</sup> Battalion 508<sup>th</sup> 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 options: 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 shows 12 Post Reach, 1 Send Message, and 36 Post Engagement. A local reach section indicates 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 page statistics: 6,082 likes (+9 this week), 3,427 follows, and 12 post reach this week. A welcome message is visible at the bottom right.