



2FURY TIMES

2-508th PIRs Monthly Newsletter
March 2017



Greetings 2Fury family and friends! The 2Fury Paratroopers continued to excel and succeed throughout the month of March, and CSM Donaldson and I are excited to share with you all the great work they have done. We are continuously impressed with the quality of work from our 2Fury Paratroopers, despite their different locations around the world. Please continue to reach out to the Family Readiness Group leader, 1LT Matthew Green, with any questions or concerns.



TF 2Fury poses at their new Tactical Assembly Area

Throughout the month of March, Task Force 2Fury continued to provide essential support to the Iraqi Army who have made great strides in the West Mosul clearance operation. LTC Browning and the Battalion staff have been instrumental, working day in and day out alongside their partners in the Coalition's effort to defeat ISIS.



SGT Gordon launches the Puma to support Coalition Partners

At the end of February, the West Mosul clearance operation was in its initial stages and TF 2Fury was charged with advising and assisting a new unit – the 9th Iraqi Army Division. Throughout the month of March, TF 2Fury met with their Iraqi counterparts on a daily basis to build trust and become integrated into the Iraqi planning cycle for the operation.



Iraqi truck equipped with rocket system staged at firing point

Part of daily meetings with the Iraqis involved traveling throughout the area of operations to conduct battlefield circulation and visiting the different brigade headquarters elements in our partner's division. This allowed LTC Browning, several members of the staff, and security elements to understand the operational environment surrounding West Mosul. CPT Omar Cavalier and CPT Mark Zwirgzdas (White Falcons) each advised a different brigade within the Iraqi Division and, at various times, pushed forward to live and work alongside their counterparts at the forward Brigade headquarters' locations.



Iraqi BMP repositioning following operations

Due to the dynamic nature of our partnered forces mission, the entire team supporting the western Mosul advise and assist team established numerous temporary advisor locations until the Task Force ultimately established its final Tactical Assembly Area (TAA) location. The first several weeks of March were spent building up the TAA, expanding force protection requirements, and improving the Paratroopers' standard of living. This included everything from gravel emplacement, reducing some of the muddy conditions produced during the rainy season, to establishing shower trailers, a fully functional gym, and finally establishing a laundry and dining facility that supported the entire camp.

Every day we continue to improve the living conditions around the camp and recently installed WiFi access for all Soldiers to access during their downtime in between missions. The TAA has become the central hub to support all Soldiers day to day needs, while providing a secure location to focus on the advisor mission with our Iraqi counterparts. In addition to the Battalion TAA, we have established a forward patrol base co-located with one of the Iraqi Brigade Headquarters. Conditions for the Soldiers operating from this location are a bit more austere, however all troopers maintain a regular rotation back to the Battalion TAA to execute refit operations for mail, laundry, showers and general down time as the mission permits. .



Left: Paratroopers sing Happy Birthday to CSM Donaldson
Right: SPC Santello pets a local dog after his guard shift

This month the 2Fury team received multiple visits from various distinguished guests. This included the Combined Joint Task Force (CJTF) Commander, Lieutenant General Townsend, and his Command Sergeant Major (CSM), CSM Jones; the Combined Joint Forces Land Component Commander for Operation Inherent Resolve in Iraq (CJFLCC-OIR), Major General Martin; and the Deputy Commanding General-Erbil, Brigadier General Richardson. During these visits, the TF 2Fury staff provided leaders updates on operations and intelligence from the tactical level perspective, as well as an opportunity to recognize members of the TF 2Fury Task Force for their hard work.



LTC Browning and CSM Donaldson award Combat Infantryman Badges (CIBs) to 2Fury Paratroopers. The CIB recognizes valor and service to the nation in a combat environment.



Major General Martin (Left) promotes Staff Sergeant Jeremy Penderman while visiting TF 2Fury Paratroopers. SSG Penderman showed his leadership potential while managing the network capabilities for the entire Battalion during the deployment. LTC Townsend (Right) greets TF 2Fury Paratroopers.

TF 2Fury also hosted a National Geographic film crew compiling footage for a documentary showcasing how the U.S. is combating extremism around the world. National Geographic is traveling to several military theaters, meeting with commanders at all echelons to produce the multi-series documentary. The team spent several days at both the forward patrol base and the Battalion TAA. Be sure to look for your Paratrooper when the series airs in early 2018 – “Chain of Command”.



Members of C Co and D Co pose on the Mosul Dam

Outside of the new TAA, TF 2Fury continued to maintain a presence at TAA Filfayl, with CPT Jon Austin, Delta Company Commander, overseeing a critical base expansion plan. Paratroopers at Filfayl conduct regular patrols in the surrounding area to build partnership with the local military and pass along training techniques and advice. They continue to sharpen their war-fighting skills, regularly executing weapons training and ranges with partnered forces on several occasions. Of note, our very own 2Fury Paratrooper at Filfayl, SPC Devin West (Juliet Company), was named the Brigade’s Falcon of the Month for his selfless service to the Falcon Brigade in support of Operation Inherent Resolve.



SSG Balona Reenlists at the historic Mosul Dam

The 2Fury Paratroopers in Turkey are motivated and committed to their security mission with their Turkish partners. Over the last month they have focused on maintaining and improving relations with host nation forces. Those supporting the mission remain in high spirits and never fail to make the best of any situation. Despite the busy schedule supporting the operational mission, they are able fill their time with exercising, sporting competitions, building the relationships with their partners at every step along the way.



TF 2Fury Paratroopers practice security drills with counterparts

This month the Paratroopers at Fort Bragg participated in several training events to include; several airborne operations, Mine-Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) Drivers Training, team live fire exercise in Alpha Company, close quarters battle training in Bravo Company, a Mortar platoon live fire in HHC, and crew gunner qualification in Juliet Company. On the March 16th, we bid farewell to CPT Busick, the outgoing J. Co. Commander. CPT Busick was replaced by CPT Shea, who is eager to continue Juliet Companies tradition of setting the standard for Forward Support Companies within the Falcon Brigade. The Family Readiness Group Steering Committee held a meeting on March 14th and continued planning the Battalion Easter Party, as well as future fund raising events. Fort Bragg also held the annual All American Marathon on March 26th with several 2Fury Paratroopers participating.

All the Paratroopers have made great strides in supporting Operation Inherent Resolve, both forward and in the rear. All 2Fury Paratroopers continue to challenge myself and CSM Donaldson in every military aspect. We are proud to serve as their Battalion Command Team and are thankful to have all the TF 2Fury Paratroopers supporting the effort to defeat ISIS. FURY FROM THE SKY!



Members of the Brutal Nation family pose after running a 5k

Chaplain's Corner

"As a mad man who casteth firebrands, arrows, and death, So is the man that deceiveth his neighbour, and saith, Am not I in sport?" Proverbs 26:18-19

Laughter is one of the kindest gifts God has given to humans. It lightens the heart and, as researchers continue to find, has positive health benefits.

As helpful as laughter may be however, we need to be cautious about having fun at the expense of others. Some people delight in saying hurtful and critical things about their friends and then pass it off as "just teasing." Comments about physical attributes or intelligence can quickly become painful. The fact the person saying them may be laughing doesn't make them funny to the person about whom they are spoken. Such words can be discouraging and defeating to hear.

Many of us can still remember hurtful things that were said to us or about us on playgrounds and in classrooms decades ago. Those wounding words carry enormous power. Many are discouraged and defeated because they are subjected to a constant barrage of negativity and criticism.

When Job's friend came to comfort him after losing all of his children and his possessions, he said this about Job: "Behold, thou hast instructed many, and thou hast strengthened the weak hands. Thy words have upholden him that was falling, and thou hast strengthened the feeble knees" (Job 4:3-4). Part of what made Job such an upright man was the impact his words had on others. Rather than making jokes and having fun at the expense of others, we should ensure that our words are lifting them up and encouraging them to go forward and do right. Paul wrote, "Let your speech be always with grace, seasoned with salt, that ye may know how ye ought to answer every man" (Colossians 4:6).

-Chaplain Heneise

Falcon of the Month

TF 2FURY had Paratroopers win Falcon of the month for the months of February and March. Congrats to the hardworking Paratroopers of 2FURY!

February

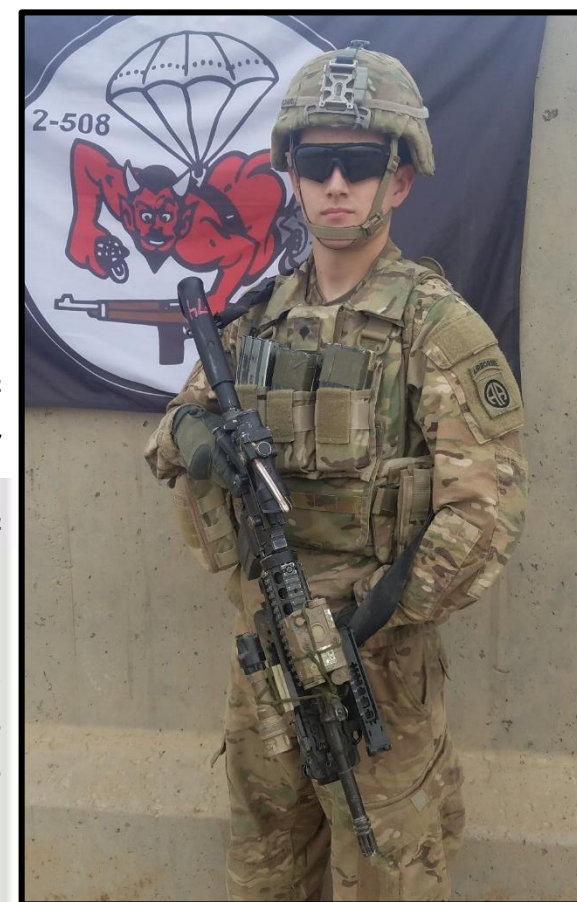
SPC West distinguished himself amongst the Paratroopers of TF 2Fury with his exemplary performance during the month of February. SPC West assumed duties as lead cook for TAA Filfayl. SPC West prepared and cooked two meals per day to feed all Troopers on the camp. In addition to cooking, SPC West also supported inventories, restocked, reorganized, and



cleaned the dining facility and supported base security operations for the team. He displayed his hard work ethic and reliability by escorting contractors daily around the camp and providing static security at force protection guard positions. His hard work in the kitchen greatly improved the morale of troops at TAA Filfayl and his selfless service to base defense allows flexibility and increases efficiency of the base defense plan. SPC West continues to set the standard for cooks within the Falcon Brigade. His performance reflects great credit upon himself, the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment and the United States Army. Fury From the Sky!

March

SPC Richard distinguished himself amongst the Paratroopers of TF 2Fury with his outstanding performance as Company Armorer and Supply Representative during the month of March. On top of maintaining accountability for a hand receipt worth over \$1 million, during the month of March SPC Richard inventoried and issued sub-hand receipts for numerous weapon systems and pieces of equipment. Additionally, as the supply representative, SPC Richard was an integral part of Sensitive Item



inventories for the month, which directly supported TF 2FURY's ability to maintain 100% accountability of all sensitive items. Along with his additional duties as company armorer and supply representative, SPC Richard performed numerous rotations in security positions and as contractor escort, directly contributing to the ability of numerous Coalition partners to conduct operations within and around the base. SPC Richard's performance reflects great credit upon him, the 2nd BN, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, 2BCT, and the United States Army. Fury From the Sky!

Farewell

This month the Battalion says goodbye to:

CPT Phil Busick (Juliet Company Commander)

CPT Meghan Fitzgerald (Battalion Signal Officer)

1LT Tim Pena (A Company Platoon Leader, Assistant Operations Officer)

Welcome

2Fury congratulates SPC Carson Bray and his wife Victoria on the birth of their son, Lawson Leon Bray

2Fury also congratulates SFC Jose Mondragon and his wife, Alyosha Portoghese, on welcoming a baby boy, Kalyan Eli Mondragon, on March 27th, at Womack Hospital, Fort Bragg, North Carolina



MAJ Works presents the Juliet Company Colors to CPT Shea at the Change of Command Ceremony

Family Readiness Group Events

FT Bragg Schools Spring Break – April 10th – April 14th

Battalion Holiday (No Scheduled Activity) – April 14th – April 17th

Cumberland County Spring Break – April 17th – April 21st

Next Steering Committee Meeting – April 11th at 5:00pm

Family Readiness Group Super Saturday – April 22nd from 9:00am-5:00pm

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



2FURY Eggstravaganza

On April 1st, the 2FURY Family Readiness Group hosted an Easter Party at Woodland Park, Pope Army Airfield. The party was a great opportunity for 2FURY families to come together for a day of socializing, eating, and finding Easter Eggs!



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



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DON'T FORGET TO CHEK IT OUT!

2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment
@2.508PIR

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Government Organization in Fort Bragg, North Carolina

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65% response rate, 2-days response time
Respond faster to turn on the badge

6,062 likes +9 this week
Vince Edwards and Jason W. Henzies

3,427 follows

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12 post reach this week

Welcome to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Page. This page keeps an