



2FURY TIMES

2-508th PIR Monthly Newsletter

JUNE 2017



Happy June 2FURY Friends and Family! As Independence Day approaches, please take a minute to recognize the significance of freedom and the historical effort that the Iraqi Security Forces endure to liberate their country. Our Iraqi counterparts are nearing a momentous day where they will close out major military operations in Mosul -- liberating a city the size of Philadelphia from the clutch of ISIS. June definitely started to heat up, but the tough 2FURY Paratroopers continued to embrace the austere conditions, sweltering heat, and changing circumstances. The entire team is continually amazed by the tough 2FURY Paratroopers.



Brutal Company standing proud at the 82nd Airborne Division Museum for great photo after a grueling week of squad live fire exercise

Six months are now in the books and every Paratrooper in TF 2FURY can see the light at the end of the tunnel. While we are officially in the downward slope of the deployment, TF 2FURY has kept their heads in the game and provided the same level of support, if not more, to our Iraqi partners on a daily basis. With summer officially beginning, its presence can be felt as the temperature rises. TF 2FURY has acclimatized to the conditions, but it definitely brings a new found appreciation for this region of the world. The difference between the humid coastal summers of Fort Bragg versus the arid desert climate of the Fertile Crescent could not be more clear. It is hard to not think about the armies in previous centuries that moved across these lands and attempted to conquer vast swaths while experiencing the thick heat and damage of the sun and wind. Over two thousand years ago, Alexander the Great waged war in what is now East Mosul in the pivotal Battle of Gaugamela. TF 2FURY is making history by serving in such an ancient part of the world.



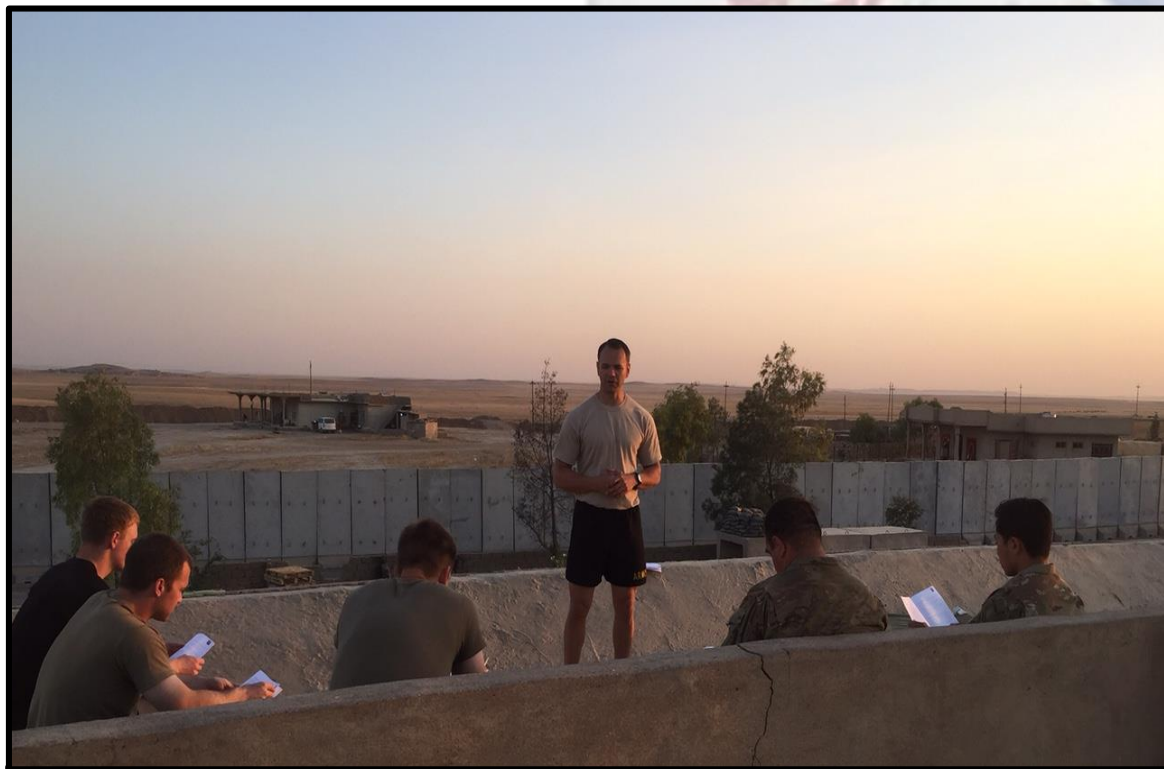
LTC Browning has a laugh with the battalion as they celebrate his birthday on 15 June

With the advent of summer, TF 2FURY did not slow down. While there were no further changes of command, a group of late deployers joined our ranks. All Paratroopers that came forward are crucial entities to the ongoing advise and assist operations, increasing our capability across the area of responsibility. We also had the privilege of incorporating the Paratroopers from Turkey back into our ranks. They successfully completed their mission and were able to fall back under the TF 2FURY umbrella. TEAM GATOR and TEAM CHARLIE, our two company level advise and assist teams, have once again moved locations but this time they combined their efforts and occupied patrol bases within the same vicinity. There was a moment in time at the beginning of June where the Company Teams were pushed to the limits, re-establishing themselves in various locations in the heat. Soldiers of the multiple teams and the battalion has embraced the frequent moves and thrived in the scramble to help the 9th Iraqi Armor Division accomplish their mission in Downtown Mosul.



TF 2FURY awaits MG Martin, COL Work and LTC Browning for combat badge and coin presentation

A testimony to commitment— CPT Jon Austin and CPT Omar Cavalier are the Iron Captains for TF 2FURY. CPT Austin is a Company Commander AND the acting Operations Officer, and CPT Cavalier is a Company Commander AND the acting Executive Officer of the battalion. One often gets pulled in one direction or the other, but they always come back together as a team to help TF 2FURY accomplish all its missions – supporting our Iraqi partners and ensuring our own Paratroopers have what they need. They couldn't do this without a good team of junior officers and senior non-commissioned officers who accomplish tasks while they're wielding dual phones that have the cords crossed between them. The teamwork and drive to accomplish the mission has given the command confidence and freedom to go wherever is needed to support the Iraqis, knowing the foundation of the staff is holding down the fort.



Chaplain Stavlund gives one of his many sermons to TF 2FURY paratroopers on the rooftop as the sun sets

In the military there are three types of “fit”, physically fit, mentally fit, and spiritually fit. Physically fit goes without saying. Paratroopers must be able to move under load to their objective, accomplish the mission, and then move off the objective. Paratroopers have worked diligently in their physical fitness and SGM Hunt has made sure of this with the camp physical assessment and other events like Memorial Day “Murph” last month. To keep Paratroopers mentally sharp, the NCO's within TF 2FURY have cross-trained paratroopers on a multitude of tasks and skills. The Paratroopers of yesterday and today are never satisfied with the status quo and push for self improvement. At the brigade level, COL Pat Work, the 2BCT Commander, conducted a macro to micro discussion at a TF 2FURY outpost explaining the rise of ISIS and Ideology from the 7th century up to the present day fight. Spiritual fitness is toughest of the three to maintain. Each individual Paratrooper is different in how they stay the course. Chaplain Stavlund has made repeated trips out to TF 2FURY to give sermons, encouragement, and counsel. During these fellowship moments, you will find Paratroopers of all faiths, denominations seeking to find peace and solace. It's a great way to recharge the system and clear the head of stressors be it from home or abroad.

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



SGT Hawker fills the LMTV tire while SPC Friez and SPC Ronquillo resupply the patrol base with fuel

Key calendar events celebrated and acknowledged this past month were the Army's birthday (14 JUNE), LTC Browning's birthday (15 JUNE), Father's Day (18 JUNE), and Ramadan (27MAY-25JUNE). Father's Day was an important day to highlight for TF 2FURY due to the overwhelming number of fathers within its ranks. Most have now spent multiple Father's Days abroad during the Global War on Terror with a select few having spent more time deployed than the newest Paratroopers have spent in the Army itself. This is a small realization to the service and dedication of those within TF 2FURY team and the Army as a whole. Ramadan is a significant calendar event that our partners observed. For Muslims worldwide, Ramadan is a month of fasting (Siam) to commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Muhammad according to Islamic belief. This annual observance is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam. While fasting from dawn until sunset, Muslims refrain from consuming food and drinking liquids. To show their respect, TF 2FURY members are asked not to overtly eat or drink in front of our counterparts.



CSM Donaldson and CSM Delapena congratulates SSG Kim on his Combat Infantry Badge

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LTC Curtis and LTC Browning advise 9th Iraqi Army Division soldiers on vehicle maintenance at a tactical assembly area near Bakhira, Iraq

As we near closer to the end, our logistics continue to reach new heights. Logistics is what keeps our out stations running on all cylinders, literally. Another significant focus is our daily communications maintained, trained, and executed by our S6 team. With our small team we are making the huge impacts. SSG Jeremy Penderman is the forward non-commissioned officer in charge and under him are SGT Jasmine Smith, SGT Duan Wade, SPC Jeremy Bulloch, and SPC Chandler Smith. Together they keep hundreds of communication systems operating over a dozen different locations. Systems that range from radios, computers, networks and satellite uplinks. To keep all of the systems fully operational in austere conditions can be a daunting task but the S6 team is relentless in their technical skills to troubleshoot, identify and solve any problem. Without them we would be reliant on carrier pigeons and soup cans with string.



A CO conducts Squad Situational Exercise at Holland Military Security Compound

TF 2FURY would like to highlight some milestones within the battalion and brigade. SGM Hunt went on a battlefield circulation to the respective 2FURY nodes checking on the morale and welfare of TF 2FURY who are not co-located with the battalion headquarters. CSM Mitchell Rucker conducted his change of responsibility this month in Baghdad handing responsibility of the brigade colors to CSM Randolph Delapena. TF 2FURY would also like to extend their congratulations to SGT Beyer, SGT Ewing, and SGT Hinkle for passing the board to Staff Sergeant along with all the Paratroopers who received their Combat Infantry and Combat Action Badges.



CSM Donaldson rides the lightning behind an Iraqi Paladin



SPC Frye completing her award winning cake



Juliet Company Paratroopers conduct sling load training

Farewell

This month the BN says good bye to 1SG Sean Webb (B Co 1SG) and 1SG Sean Clark (HHC Co 1SG).

Newborns

2FURY welcomes:

Jake Harless born to PFC Jess Harless and his wife Joy on May 26th.

Charlotte Day Hooper born to SGT Evan Hooper and his wife Tiffany on June 5th.

Newcomers

MAJ Jason (Jay) Wenger and his wife Erika. MAJ Wenger is the Battalion's new Operations Officer (S-3)

CPT Christopher Kust and his wife Loren. CPT Kust will be joining Task Force 2FURY in Iraq next month.

1SG Shawn Spears and his wife Katelin. 1SG Spears is the new Bravo Company 1SG.

2FURY – Ft. Bragg

In June the 2FURY home station continued to train and welcomed several new officers and NCOs to the BN leadership structure. Both Alpha and Bravo Company conducted a Squad Situational Training Exercises and a Squad Live Fire Training Exercise. Charlie Company and Delta Company conducted medical training at the Medical Simulation Training Center and individual marksmanship training. Juliet Company conducted a collaborated sling load training exercise for Paratroopers from seven different units across the U.S Army, and an exchange Officer from the British Army. The training included over 49 Paratroopers, certification of 15 hook-up teams, and certified over 30 A-22 Cargo loads, thus increasing the logistical flexibility within all units involved. Juliet Company also conducted a 12 mile ruck march while the Family Readiness Group held a potluck meal on the 29th.

Congratulations and outstanding work to SPC Zeporah Frye-Butler, one of our Paratroopers assigned to Juliet Company, whose cake took third place across Fort Bragg, N.C. during the 242nd U.S. Army Birthday Cake Competition!

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



Brutal Company Firing detail representing the 82nd ABN DIV at the NASCAR Coca Cola 600 in Charlotte, NC

Chaplain's Corner

Be of good courage, and let us behave ourselves valiantly for our people... and let the Lord do that which is good in his sight. 1 Chronicles 19:13

Three weeks after the "shot heard round the world" started the fighting of the Revolutionary War, American forces advanced on Fort Ticonderoga. The fort had proved vital during the French and Indian War, and the colonists knew that it contained many cannons which they desperately needed to face the much larger British forces. Despite the outbreak of war, when the Americans approached the fort early in the morning of May 9, 1775, there was only a single sentry on duty. He was so inattentive that the Americans took the fort without firing a single shot, winning a crucial victory early in the war.

Life is an ongoing conflict... spiritually, physically, and emotionally. The distractions and conflicts of life seem to never take a vacation. We must be constantly on guard and looking for ways of improve our position. If we lose focus and become inattentive to various aspects of life, defeat can easily sneak in and take hold. Complacency is as dangerous in life as it is on the battle field. Remain valiant and vigilant in all areas of life, even the routine and mundane, for this is most often where defeat can outflank us and gain a stronghold.

Remain valiant and blessed.

-Chaplain Heneise

Family Readiness Group Events

Next Steering Committee Meeting – June 13th at 5:00pm

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



2FURY Battalion Store

Open now through July 16th

Orders shipping by the end of July



4" DECAL



Also Available as a 3" Patch



- Also available; crew neck PT sweatshirt, personalized tumblers, 2FURY belt buckle (See FRL for buckle).
- APO shipping available.
- Options for direct shipping or local pickup.

Order today at: <https://stores.inksoft.com/2fury>

Fury From The Sky!
Devils Never Die!



Find us on
Facebook

1) Search for @2.508PIR or 2nd Battalion 508th 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 interaction buttons for "Liked", "Following", and "More", along with a "Send Message" button. The left sidebar contains navigation tabs for 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 card displays statistics: 12 Post Reach, 1 Send Message, and 36 Post Engagement. It also shows a local reach of 63,000 people within 3 miles. The right sidebar features "Page Tips" such as "How to Create Effective Posts" and "Send People to Your Website", a search bar for posts on the page, and a list of recent posts, including one by Vince Edwards and Jason W. Henales with 6,062 likes. A "Welcome to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Page" message is visible at the bottom right.