



V-DAY TAL AFAR 31 AUG 2017
V-DAY MOSUL 9 JUL 2017

2FURY TIMES

2-508th PIR Monthly Newsletter
AUGUST 2017



August has come and gone! The last full month of the deployment has passed as we continue to assist our Iraqi partners in making great strides as they move closer every day to eradicating ISIS from their country of Iraq. CSM Donaldson and I are extremely proud of every leader and Paratrooper in TF 2FURY! Every member has played a vital and pivotal role within the Battalion Task Force. This would not have been possible without every single Paratrooper contributing to the advise and assist mission. Soon all 2FURY Paratroopers will make the journey home to reunite with their loved ones, but until that moment comes we will continue to stay in the fight and help our Iraqi partners win until every last Paratrooper gets on a plane!

Once TF 2FURY made its transition west, our Paratroopers immediately went to work on the next fight. Whether conducting base defense, executing strikes on the enemy, or advising and assisting our Iraqi counterparts, every single Paratrooper played a vital role in our mission's success. In just over a week, the city of Tal Afar was liberated from ISIS forces. This was largely in part to the Falcon Brigade working around the clock to ensure that our Iraqi counterparts always had our support when they needed it. The TF 2FURY Tactical Assault Center all went forward to establish a joint Strike Cell in order to support the 9th IA's maneuver into Tal Afar. The Strike Cell forward communicated with the Tactical Operations Center, located back at Tactical Assembly Area Tal Majan, in order to coordinate and deliver close air support, close combat attack, and artillery strikes.



The 9th Iraqi Army postures its tanks and rotary wing assets for the attack into Tal Afar

The eighth month is now complete and across the Brigade, several Falcon Paratroopers have already made the journey home. It makes it all the more real how close we are to being mission complete. But until the day we leave country and depart Kuwait our job is not done. This month brought the transition of the 2FURY Team once again as our Iraqi counterparts initiated their attack to retake the city of Tal Afar. Located just over 35 miles west of Mosul, Tal Afar is a considerably smaller city with an estimated population of 200,000 versus Mosul's 1.8 million. In 2014, ISIS invaded Tal Afar and planted their black flag in the city center. After 3 years of ISIS oppression, our Iraqi army counterparts liberated the city in just eight days.



The Charlie Company Mortars prepare for operations in Avghani, just north of Tal Afar

Despite being much smaller than Mosul, the city of Tal Afar saw intense fighting between our 9th Iraqi Army partners and the Islamic State. The Iraqi Security Forces were composed of the 9th, 15th, and 16th Iraqi Army Divisions as well as the Counter Terrorism Service and the Federal Police. With the support of coalition partners, the ISF joint assault brought a quick defeat to ISIS fighters in the city.

Fury From The Sky!
Devils Never Die!

Task Force 2FURY Times
August Edition

Following the liberation of Tal Afar, members of the Task Force quickly transitioned the fight to Avghani, a smaller city to the north where ISIS fighters sought refuge after being driven from Tal Afar. Due largely in part to the hard work and dedication of our leaders and Paratroopers, ISIS once again saw defeat at the hands of the 9th IA. With the next fight already under way and the ISF beginning their transition to defeat ISIS south of Ninewa Province, many members of TF 2FURY begin their transition with the closing of TAA Tal Majan. With that closure comes the next phase of the campaign against ISIS. This time however, 2FURY will not be at the tip of the spear for this fight. Members of the battalion have already begun to hand over responsibility to the incoming unit who will be more prepared and better postured to take on the fight.



ISF rockets launch pre-assault fires on Tal Afar



9th IA tanks push out from their assembly areas

As we move closer to the end, several of our Paratroopers transitioned to execute outload operations throughout several bases in Iraq and Kuwait to move our equipment back to Ft. Bragg, NC. Their responsibilities included receiving and preparing equipment to get shipped overseas as well as receiving Paratroopers as they make their journey home.

The Paratroopers of TF 2FURY are looking forward to returning home to their families. We have some who only have days left while others just a few weeks. Once members get back they will go through the reintegration process. This includes everything from updating medical and financial readiness records to airborne jump progression. This will allow them to ease back into life with their families and the high pace of Fort Bragg. The resiliency that the Paratroopers have shown here will be the same they show once they return to the United States. Once reintegration is complete, our Paratroopers will take some well deserved leave.



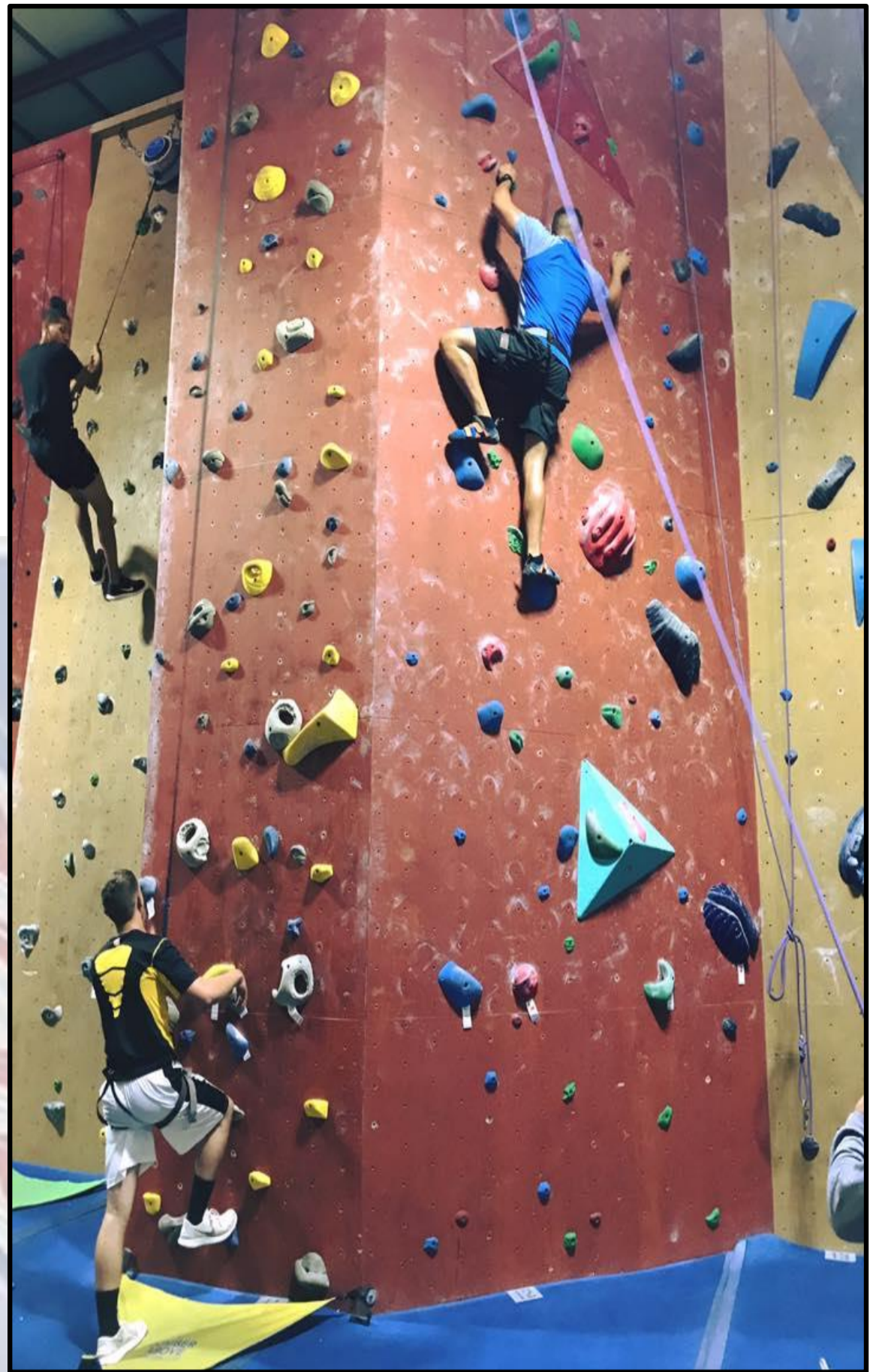
Members of TF 2FURY take one last Battalion photo before they begin their transition back to Fort Bragg

2FURY – Ft. Bragg, NC

In August the Rear Detachment got back to training after returning from block leave on August 6th. HHC went to the field with the Mortar Platoon conducting a Squad Situational Training Exercise. The S3 shop set up the Tactical Operations Center and practiced battle tracking while the S6 Team set up their communications systems and a retransmission station. The Medics set up their Aid Station and practiced treating casualties. Meanwhile Alpha Company is preparing for an Opposition Forces rotation at the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, Louisiana. Bravo Company conducted a Platoon Situational Training Exercise. Charlie Company conducted Combat Life Saver Training and Juliet Company conducted Warrior Skills and Battle Drill classes. The FRG has been eagerly preparing to welcome the forward element home with the first redeployers arriving at Fort Bragg in late August.



Brutal Paratroopers conducting PLT STX Training



J Co conducting a team building event on the rock climbing wall





MG White, CJFLCC CDR and COL Work, 2/82 CDR present awards to Paratroopers for their rapid build of TAA Tal Majan in support of Tal Afar operations



LTC Browning and CSM Donaldson present awards at TAA Bakhira prior to moving out west

Chaplain's Corner "Digging Deep"

"Counsel in the heart of man is like deep water; but a man of understanding will draw it out." Proverbs 20:5

If you travel to Greensburg, Kansas, you can pay a visit to what is billed as the "World's Largest Hand-Dug Well." Construction on the well began in the 1880s. As the railroads made their way across Kansas, a reliable source of water for the steam engines was essential. The work was done by teams of men using hand tools—shovels, picks, half barrels, pulleys, and rope. As they made their way downward, they lined the well shaft with limestone rock. The finished well is more than one hundred feet deep and more than thirty feet in diameter. It took enormous effort to reach the water, but it produced lasting results.

The Bible likens wise counsel to water in a deep well. Good advice is not just lying around on the surface—it takes work to find. There are plenty of people who have no idea what they are talking about but will be more than happy to give you a "piece of their mind." And sadly there will be plenty of people to give you advice that will move life in the wrong direction. Anyone who wishes to be truly wise and enjoy the benefits of successful living is going to have to reject the simple minded people of the world and put forth effort... but the effort is worth it.

As we conclude summer and enter into the fall, the Battalion will once again become a complete family on Ft. Bragg. There will no doubt be many great reunions; however, reintegration can require much more effort. Dig deep and surround yourself with people who have successful experience in leadership and relationships. The Bible says, *"Blessed is the man that walketh not in the counsel of the ungodly"* (Psalm 1:1). If we reject the simple minds of the world and seek the counsel of wise, it will bring God's blessing upon our lives and keep us on the right path. Treasure your relationships both at home as well as the workplace... and be cautious of the shallow advice. God bless you and have a great month.



CPT Heneise delivers a rooftop service as the sun sets over TAA Bakhira



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. At the top, there is a search bar with the text "2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment" and navigation links for Home, Find Friends, and Settings. Below the search bar are tabs for Page, Messages, Notifications, Insights, Publishing Tools, Settings, and Help. The main content area includes a cover photo of a formation of parachutists, a profile picture of the battalion's flag, and the name "2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment" with the handle "@2.508PIR". A left sidebar contains navigation options: Home, About, Photos, Videos, Likes, Events, Notes, Posts, Services, Shop, and Manage Tabs, along with a "Promote" button. The main content area features a "Write something..." text box, a "Send Message" button, and a "This Week" summary showing 12 Post Reach, 1 Send Message, and 36 Post Engagement. Below this is a section for "Number of people you can reach within 3 miles of your business: 63,000 people" with a "Promote Local Business" button. The right sidebar contains "Page Tips", "65% response rate, 2-days response time", "6,062 likes +9 this week" by Vince Edwards and Jason W. Henkel, "3,427 follows", "See Pages Feed", "Invite friends to like this Page", and "12 post reach this week". At the bottom, there is a "Photos" section with two images and a "Welcome to the 2nd Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment Page" message.