

RAIDER REPORT



1st Recon returns from their last battalion-sized deployment to Iraq.



1ST RECON RETURNS

The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it.

Thucydides



country, mostly in the north, but thanks to the efforts of men like your Marines and Sailors, the rampant violence of years past is no more.

The major focus for the battalion since my last update has been preparing “close the door” on the reconnaissance battalion presence in Operation Iraqi Freedom. Since the initial invasion of Iraq in 2003 to today, the three active duty reconnaissance battalions have been rotating in and out of Iraq on seven month tours. Due to the drop in violence, and a general downsizing of Marine forces in Iraq, we will be the last full reconnaissance battalion to deploy to Iraq. Future rotations will consist of much smaller recon elements in support of the Marine forces still in country. To that end, the men of the battalion have

CO's Message:

Family and Friends –

Hello again from Al Asad, Iraq. By the time this edition of the Raider Report reaches you, the battalion will be in the process of retrograding the battalion back to Camp Pendleton. It is our hope to soon have the entire battalion back very soon. The security situation here in Iraq has continued to improve each month we have been in country. Of course, there are still a few hot spots around the

been working extremely hard to turn in the massive amounts of equipment, MRAPs, HMMWVs, weapons, radios, and other supply items that accumulated over six years of reconnaissance battalion deployments. It is no small task, and they are doing it with great care and attention to detail.

Concurrently, the battalion has continued to train aboard Al Asad, conducting daily martial arts classes, and other reconnaissance skill sets such as communications, supporting arms, and physical training.

Back in Camp Pendleton, the men of Alpha Company and the Force Reconnaissance Company have been heavily engaged with training in support of I MEF and Marine Expeditionary Units. Operating autonomously away from the battalion, these platoons continue to do great things in support of I MEF and 1st Marine Division, and advance the reputation of the battalion as men who “stand tall above the competition” as it says in the Reconnaissance Creed.

As always, you can be extremely proud of your Marines and Sailors. Since 2003, this battalion has served a total of 36 months in Iraq. Although this will be the final of five combat deployments to Iraq for the battalion since 2003, the battalion will soon begin to train again for any future fight to which we may be committed. Rest assured, they will always be ready to answer the call. They are quiet

professionals in every sense of the word, and it is our privilege to serve you and our great nation.

As always your continued support is a source of unending strength, for which all of us are eternally grateful.

Non Sibi, Sed Patriae
“Not for self, but country”

Semper Fidelis,
M.J. Mooney
LtCol USMC
Commanding Officer



SGTMAJ's Message:

Greetings to the family and friends of the Marines and Sailors of 1st Recon battalion. This will be the final forward deployed Raider Report as we are in the process of an early retrograde from the theater of operations.

Much has happened since the last report before the holidays. Our Marines and Sailors have been on the forefront of continuing operations in the Ninewa province of Iraq, have laid witness to a transition of power to a post SOFA (Status of Forces Agreement) environment, oversaw the voting in the provincial elections and completed a transfer of authority between I MEF and II MEF.

We also welcomed into the country our battalion Executive

Officer; Major Wardinski, and his Port of Entry Training Team - consisting of Marines in the battalion who are assisting in the training and transition of the teams of Iraqi's guarding their own borders.

During the month of January the battalion held another Raider Day athletic competition at the soccer stadium in Al Asad. It was a great break from the normal routine and the lads performed very well with Company C taking the top honors of the day. Each of the company ironman winners were later recognized by Major General Mills for their motivation and outstanding leadership as identified by their respective companies.

This month also found us detaching two platoons in the Battalion from Company B and delivering them to the two Regimental Combat Teams operating in theater. They continue to represent the battalion well and are operating today in many facets with their respective RCT's.

In February, the battalion completed an early retrograde of Company B with some Marines from H&S company as well, and my thanks graciously goes out to the battalion RBE and our Family Readiness Officer Mrs. Reyna for the work they did to receive the Marines and Sailors back at the 33 area. Due to their efforts, it was a seamless transition. Also, in February, the battalion welcomed home the fighting Marines and Sailors of our Force Reconnaissance Platoon from their most eventful deployment in the

RAIDER DAY II



H&S Company rigs to tow an MRAP vehicle.



Bravo Co gets ready for the Zodiac-carry race.



HM1 Urick low crawls through obstacles with a water jug.

mountains and villages of Afghanistan. These men did the battalion and the community proud and you will be hearing more about their exploits and accomplishments in upcoming issues of the Raider Report and in numerous news and other media venues - as they really went above and beyond.

The battalion as a whole has maintained a high level of morale and continues to achieve results much greater than expectations. We have taken the opportunity throughout this deployment to hone our skills in the areas of annual training events as well and have upgraded an incredible amount of men to the next belt level in MCMAP (Marine Corps Martial Arts Program).

PME has been another area the battalion has driven ahead full force on. Most Marines and Sailors in this battalion have taken advantage of the slower operational tempo this deployment to become non-resident PME complete and yet others have

become resident PME complete as well.

Our Corporals in the battalion have performed magnificently at the Corporals course here aboard Al Asad Airbase and have taken top honors in every class. The young leaders in 1st Recon continue to set the standard in everything that they do and I am very proud of the performance level of these men.

Thanks again for the gracious support provided to our forward deployed Marines and Sailors from the numerous individuals, groups and organizations throughout our deployment.

We were never at a need for anything that was not supplied through your generosity. Best wishes and we will see you soon!

Semper Fidelis,
SgtMaj J. D. LeHew



Bravo and Charlie Co race for the finish line in a tire-flip race

H&S COMPANY

To the families of Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Sergeant Berry and I would like to thank you. Once again, the support you provided from the home front allowed for a smooth and successful quarter for the Marines and Sailors. Much has happened over the past few months.

During this quarter, H&S Company participated in several educational evolutions. Marine and Navy Non-Commissioned Officers were able to attend Corporal's Course, sharpening their knowledge and leadership skills. We also had several sailors earn their Fleet Marine Force (FMF) pins. The Company continued its Marine Corps Martial Arts Program (MCMAP), advancing many in their hand-to-hand combat skills. Col Bristol, founder of MCMAP, also came out and gave the Company some advanced instruction in Knife fighting. Congratulations to all, these are huge accomplishments and will serve each individual in their future endeavors.

Your Marines and Sailors have been actively engaged in ensuring the battalion is prepared for redeployment back home. Many of them have put in hard work and long hours, not only during this period but throughout the deployment. These Marines and Sailors have been recognized with various awards.

On a final note, 1st Sergeant



H&S Marines pull ahead in the "litter carry" race.

Berry and I will be departing the unit and turning over the Company. I would like to personally thank you for allowing us to serve over these fine individuals. It has been an honor and a pleasure.

H&S Company 1st Sgt:

Awards:

Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medals:

Cpl Catalano
LCpl Contrares
Sgt Springer
Sgt Mouton
SSgt Wilson

Certificate of Commendations:

Sgt Godbee
LCpl RamosMiranda
LCpl Dankosky

Promotions:

Private First Class Jimenez
LCpl Flanagan
LCpl Fountain

LCpl Simmons
Cpl Beniar
Cpl Crawford
Cpl Dankosky
Cpl Edge
Sgt Mouton
Sgt Sapp

Corporal's Course:

HM3 Love
Cpl Wheeler
Cpl Ovando
Cpl Stiller
Cpl PabloMorales
Cpl Edge
Cpl Beinar
Cpl Philip
Cpl Forrest
Cpl Santivanez
Cpl Carrasco
Cpl Crawford
Cpl Rivera
Cpl Smith
FMF Pin:
HM2 Barton
HM3 Gheysarieh
HN Jenkins

-Capt R.W. Savatt
-1st Sgt Berry

ALPHA COMPANY

SUPPORTING THE MEUs

Alpha Company Commander:

Greetings to all A Company friends and family. Since the last new letter there have been many events with-in the battalion. We were very happy to welcome back the Marines' of the Force Company from their deployment in support of Task Force 2/7 and Operation Enduring Freedom. We were also very happy to see many of the battalions Marines' return early from Iraq.

Capt VanDam and SSgt Young with A Company, Third Platoon currently deployed in support of Battalion Landing Team 1st Battalion, 1st Marines. Currently at sea taking advantage of some great training opportunities visiting the Kingdom of Thailand where they participated in Cobra Gold 2009. The entire platoon has also upgraded to Green Belts in the Marine Corps Martial Arts Program and is now working on becoming Brown Belts. We look forward to hearing more of there adventures in the future.

First Platoon hit the ground running in preparation to support Battalion Landing Team, 2nd Battalion, 4th Marines. Having completed the Urban Reconnaissance and Surveillance Course, Amphibious Operations Training as well as



Recon Marines prepare for more jump operations.

many other unit level training events. These Marines continue to raise the bar in regards to performance and I look forward to seeing them enjoy continued success.

Second Platoon has just formed and consists of those Marines who just returned from Iraq; mostly former B Company Marines with a sprinkling of C Company Marines and lead by SSgt Stevens. These Marine are currently involved in individual training and schools phase.

Thank you for your continued support of the company and the battalion in general. In closing I wish to extend my best wishes to you and your family and look forward to seeing at one of the many battalion sponsored events.

Awards:

- GySgt Williams – Meritorious Service Medal
- Sgt Olivia – Certificate of Commendation

Promotions:

- Cpl Booker
- Cpl Carney
- Cpl Missildine
- Cpl West
- Cpl Zimmerman
- Cpl Swope
- Sgt Battles
- Sgt Iglesias
- Sgt Rodeffer
- Sgt Hoff
- Sgt Terpstra
- SSgt Sanchez

-Capt P. S. Henry
1st Sgt Schaffer



BRAVO COMPANY

Bravo Company Commander:

Co B received a mixed blessing during this past quarter. 2nd and 3rd Platoon were afforded the opportunity to work directly for the Regimental Combat Teams (RCTs) in Iraq. I can give you the highest certainty that 2nd and 3rd Platoon are in great hands and leadership with the RCTs and that their spirits and moral is high.

Although this has been a great opportunity for them, it has forced the company into different directions. 1st Platoon and the Headquarters have returned home to Camp Pendleton, but without our fellow brothers who are now with the RCTs. We will continue to monitor and support them and their families for the remainder of the deployment, and of course our thoughts will always be with them. In the coming months, the entire



Bravo Co Marines load up on to the MV-22 Osprey.

company will be re-united back aboard Camp Pendleton. Once that happens, we will begin a transitional phase as individually Marines and Sailors make the preparations for schools, leave and future assignments. Prior to this happening, I just want to thank each and every friend and family member of our Company B Marines and Sailors', for their unwavering support of our mission.

It has been my most humbling experience to be at the helm of this company, and one which I will never forget. Thank you.

Semper Fi, Capt Chris Kalafatis

Bravo Company 1st Sgt:

Welcome to the Company:

We were lucky enough to have three Marines report to the company during the deployment. Sgt Schuster, Zobrist and Cpl Montemeyer. They have truly

added to the overall strength and effectiveness of the company.

Promotions (Marines):

Congratulations to Capt Schneider and MSgt Pa'u on their recent promotion to their current rank.

Promotions (Navy):

Congratulations to Luke Keene, who was promoted (advanced meritoriously) by the Navy to the rank of HM2 on Jan 1, 2009

Company Re-enlistment:

Congratulations to the following Marines for their dedication and devotion to the Marine Corps.

Sgt Chad Beckerleg

Cpl Michael Naylor

Sgt Jason Anderson



On Training:

In the tradition of the Marine's Hymn, "in the air, on land, and sea", the company has conducted and completed training on with the SF10A parachute and would like to recognized those who are now proficient with the related parachute.

- Capt Armstrong
- Capt Schneider
- Sgt Flower
- Cpl Kauffman
- SSgt Pena
- Cpl Thompson
- Sgt Zummallen
- Cpl Belcher
- Cpl Beseke

Gold Wings:

The company has been conducting airborne operations and who like to welcome the newest members to the "GOLD WING" Family. The Marines and sailors are now authorized to wear the Navy and Marine Parachute Wings.

Sgt Anderson, J.

Schools (Corporals' Course)

Congratulations to Cpls Burke, Erman and Haney who graduated from the Camp Al Asad Cpls Crs. All three were recognized by the leadership of the course for their performance and achievements; both physically and academically.



Bravo Co Marines pose with a sign made by their loved ones.

Awards:

The following Marine were recognized by the Battalion Commander and received awards for their outstanding achievement in the performance of their duties:

Cpl Kauffman: Certificate of Commendation

Cpl Booker: Certificate of Commendation

A Special Note to our Loved Ones:

The above photo was taken in front of our Bn Headquarters building at Camp Al Asad, Iraq. The long sheet of paper is a post card addressed to the company from the wives, girlfriends and love ones (signed during the Bn's Christmas party). Thank you for your support and sending the post cards. Your words lifted the spirits of the Marines.

-1st Sgt Andre Askew



Bravo Co Marines wait to jump from the MV-22 Osprey.

CHARLIE COMPANY

Charlie Company Commander:

The men of Company C have continued to do great things throughout this deployment. After completing reconnaissance operations in northern Iraq the company returned to Al Asad to some much needed rest and refit. With no rest for the weary the company turned too on an aggressive training schedule while continuing to support combat operations throughout both northern and western Iraq.

Between combat operations the Marines continued to sharpen their reconnaissance and Marine Corps skills. Both 1st and 3rd platoons completed their combat parachute operations training packages earning 28 Marines in the company their Navel Parachutist Insignia, "Gold Wings". We are also very proud of our young Corporals in the company that not only attended but excelled at the Corporals Course that is held here on the base. The Corporals Course is a demanding 14 day training package that challenges and develops the leadership skills of our Non-Commissioned Officers. Out of the 20 Corporals that attended the course 19 of them were distinguished graduates. The Company had 3 honor gradates (highest combined GPA and PFT scores in the class), 1 Iron Man (highest PFT score) and 2 Motivation awards, which is awarded to the Marine that is



Charlie Co Marines practice Marine Corps Martial Arts.

elected by the members of his class as the student that day in and day out displays the most motivation, character and leadership throughout the course.

The Marines in the company did not stop there, utilizing every opportunity to continue in their growth as Marines, the NCO's of the company developed and lead a grueling Marine Corps Martial Arts (MCMAP) curriculum, with the ultimate goal of raising every Marine in the company to a MCMAP belt level of Green Belt or higher. To this date there have been over 19 Marines that have upgraded to Green Belt.

As the deployment draws to a close the Marines are anxiously awaiting their flight back home, but at the same time maintaining their focus and keeping their sights set on the mission in front of them. With every passing day it is imperative that we continue to recognize all of our family and friends back home, and without

sharp clear mind, the families of our Marines are our foundation and as you here in sports without the 12 man this team / unit would not be successful. Thank you for all you do and your continued and unprecedented support throughout this deployment, we all look forward to being home soon.

Semper Fi,
- Capt Armas

Charlie Company 1st Sgt:

As the Company First Sergeant for Charlie Company, I am excited to report that the Marines continue to set the example for the Battalion through mission accomplishment.

Corporals' Course

Out of the 20 Charlie Co Marines who graduated from Corporals' Course, 19 were recognized as distinguished grads.

Cpl Heine - Honor Grad

Cpl Buckingham - Iron Man
Cpl Martenson - Moto Award
Cpl Bunnell - Honor Grad
Cpl Pins - Moto Award
Cpl Murdy - Honor Grad

Promotions

Sgt Murdy
Sgt Lezzeni
Sgt Stroope
Sgt Parnell
Sgt Ewers
Sgt Parks
Cpl Jerome
Cpl Nelson
Cpl Martenson

MCMAP Green Belts

thatHM3 Hancock
Cpl Palcisko
Pfc Cliften
LCpl Watson
Cpl Jerome
Sgt Parks
Sgt Fedelchak
Cpl Briones
Cpl Albrecht
LCpl Vargas
LCpl Sherman
LCpl Simpson
Cpl Pins
Sgt Hawkins
Sgt Hill
Cpl ODonnell
Sgt Murdy
Sgt Lezzeni
LCpl Leeman

-1st Sgt David Dube



Charlie Co works on amphibious skills during a 10-hour PT event.



Sgt Parnell executes a rear naked choke to finish it.

FORCE RECON COMPANY

Hello to all from the Force Company. This has been an exciting time for the Force Company as we continue to expand and grow into a fully operational Company. Over the past few weeks we have seen our 2nd Platoon return from Afghanistan and begin some much needed rest and relaxation as they decompress and get reacquainted with their families. They did an outstanding job supporting the mission over in Afghanistan and we are all very proud of them. Our 3rd Platoon continues to train and prepare for the upcoming deployments in support of the MEF. Recently they have been in direct support of the 13th MEU during the MEU's Certification Exercise. The Platoon was able to prove the concept that they could very easily integrate into the MEU and accomplish the mission they are tasked with. They did an unbelievable job with many VIPs closely watching their performance. They set the standard for Reconnaissance operations and truly showed all the doubters that Force Recon is back. Great job 3rd Platoon. As we continue to expand and prepare for future operations, the Company will see a portion of



The Force Recon platoon during a shooting package.

3rd Platoon deploy to the Arabian Gulf to support the 13th MEU as they continue to patrol the area and train with partnered Nations. 2nd Platoon will reconstitute and begin a training plan in preparation for their next deployment, next year. These are exciting times for the Company and the men are doing a fantastic job.

Everyone who has contact with them can only praise their professionalism and tactical prowess. I am very proud of all of them and I know you are as well.

Semper Fi!
-Maj Schramm

