

Hello again from Demon Land! This letter serves as a landmark in the history of D/2-8 CAV with respect to being the second to last installment of updates from Operation Tropical Vacation 06-08. Don't worry, the author will be back in the states next month to sign autographed copies and pose for pictures. Other than egotism manifesting itself in 3rd person prose, Demon Company has continued to defend the frontiers of Iraqi Democracy in AO West along scenic Route Raiders. Thanks to our superhuman ability to stare at a thermal site for eight hours at a time, our sister company (Cobra) has pushed further into enemy territory and severed the AQI "Northern Belt".

2LT Fletcher and SFC Hankal still remain responsible for the health, morale and welfare of 15 Soldiers and NCOs. They still continue to own the night along the route in addition to define the principles of operator-level maintenance (thus making the XO a very happy man). SSG Ratcliff has become slightly more irritating than the late stages of leprosy since the Seahawks clinched their division. We can't figure out why he's so happy at being the best mediocre team in the NFL. Oh well, I guess you need something to cling to at 15 months- no matter how trivial in nature. In other news, the battalion kicked out the XO from his room and told him to move into SFC Hankal's room. Evidently, he did something really bad in his past life.

1LT Shawn "Crackers" Jokinen and SFC "K-Bizzle" Battle strive to lead White PLT across the finish line. A special congratulation goes out to SPC Backus for both getting promoted and winning Soldier of the Month on the same day. He will compete for Battalion Soldier of the Year for 2007 around 21 DEC. His Soldier of the Month win already assures CPT Doyle will make good on a long standing promise in Demon Co, "it pays to be a winner." CPT Doyle will buy SPC Backus a stetson (black cavalry cowboy hat) when we return to Fort Hood. This makes the third title belt brought home by the Kendrick Battle School for Misguided Children. 1LT Jokinen and SSG "Still mad about something from last month" Copeland recently learned that a cellphone serves as a nice alternate comms plan when your radios die in sector. CPT Doyle was a little dismayed to hear SSG Stallings call up his platoon's front line trace from his room on Taji. However, everything worked out fine as 1LT Jokinen dug deep into his "Mountain Phase" skills and managed to get his platoon home in time for midnight chow.

Senior Platoon Leader (in Demon Pure) Jung and SSG Ayala continue to excel in maneuver excellence. We've noticed that not as much stuff disappears now that SFC Housey has returned to the States to tend to some family business. However, Blue Platoon continues to tear through the boxes of honey buns like an out of control snowplow through a large snowbank. Since AQI's defeat in our sector, Blue Platoon has declared war on the Army's Height and Weight standards. Special congratulations goes to SPC(P) Smith who just made his career reenlistment. Meanwhile, PFC Laub continues to impress his Platoon Leader with his ability to become filthy a mere fifteen minutes after putting on a clean uniform. Senior Platoon Leader in Demon Pure Jung just shakes his head as Laub just smiles and stares off into space. This month served as a landmark in SGT Alcaraz's army career. He has been accident free for over a year now. For a man who almost had his arm ripped off by tank, rolled a M1114 while going 70mph, hit a HESCO barrier and got ran over by a HMMWV, this serves as major accomplishment. He's considering branch transferring to infantry by stating, "Nobody ever had a rollover with a M4." Let's just pray he doesn't go to the 82nd.

HQ Platoon continues to serve out the final portion of their tenure in exile. SGT Prewitt continues to make the XO's day seem extra long while SGT Harmon stares at our blank SIGACT (Significant Action-i.e. enemy contact) board. SGT Lester and CPT Cory "What the f%k do you mean this truck is still on the property book?!" Wallace recently received the Parker Brother's hit game of "Go Find the Missing Property" for Christmas. Both of them continue to show up to work with a sand panda face each day. It's a good thing that General Order #1 prohibits the consumption of alcohol or the XO's liver would have carved itself out of his abdomen and taken its chances on the ground a good five weeks ago. SPC Russell should also be playing this game, however Georgia called and needed another banjo player for the filming of "Deliverance 2". SGT Nickerson continues to tell Operation Tropical Vacation 03-04 stories while managing the Company's redeployment plan. He still continues to ask about the night elves of Tarmiyah and how his castle's holding up each day. He simply pat him on the head and tell him he's doing a good job. CPT Doyle and 1SG "XO, as your 1SG I recommend you don't do that" Linton continue to manage the company. They don't appreciate the XO's HMS Bounty references. 1SG continues to plan the Company's mass exodus to surge housing following our inevitable eviction from their Pods. Mostly, this plan pertains to how 1SG plans on prying 88 grown men from their rooms while they kick and scream. Lord help us.

Well that about wraps it up for the second to last installment of the Demon times. The author would like to thank you all for your support (special support goes to Mr. Woo (and all the Angry Skippers) for his generous donation to our FRG fund- we greatly appreciate it. We would also like to thank Demon Company's FRG for their Christmas package. Although candy and cookies are some of the last things we need (Blue PLT, I'm looking in your direction), we greatly appreciate you thoughts to make this holiday season a little more un-Iraq like. So from the bottom of our hearts, we here in Demon Company wish you all a Merry Christmas/Happy Chanukah/Crazy Kwanza and look forward to seeing you all next month!

PS- Please keep our fallen brothers and their families in your prayers this Holiday Season.

PSS-I love you Nikki and look forward to seeing you next month.

CPT Cory Wallace
DEMON 5
