

## 58TH COMBAT ENGINEER CO. FAMILY READINESS GROUP NEWSLETTER

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### Weekly Heroes featured in this issue...

- Week 5: SGT Vuocolo
- Week 6: PVT Green
- Week 7: SGT (P) Davis



## WEEK 7 27 JUL-2 AUG 2004

To All,

Leadership in action. This week we have finally started our introduction to this environment. We are in the Commando brigade, which works for the 1<sup>ST</sup> Cavalry Division out of Fort Hood, Texas. (We all know we are the real cavalry, but we can share the light). This week the company leadership started our right seat rides with units all over the Baghdad area. This way we get to learn about the different areas and see how they conduct business with their piece of the pie.

The first ones out of the gate were CPT Emond and the 1SG with their gun team. Over the course of the week, platoon leaders, platoon sergeants, squad leaders and many soldiers have gone out and rode with units seeing how they did things on the ground here. We have learned a lot. We have learned that you need to wear your entire IBA and accessories, and that combat earplugs are a must. Also, Venture 2 glasses are just as protective, if not more, and cost much less than the X's. Knowing red, amber and green status of your weapon is a must. Clearing your weapon cannot be trained enough and armor vehicles are the bare minimum. The excitement in you as you move through the city streets and then get out on foot in the rural areas is great. Many soldiers like SFC Stach and SFC Grant have been through it before and just want to get things done; however, some soldiers like SGT Mokay and SGT Peyton are ready for action. Families and friends back home would be proud to see your Red Devils taking on the issues with great motivation.

A moment to touch on the reality of being here. Yes, there are mortars fired, small arms fire, explosive devices blown up and rockets shot at the U.S. Army. It should not be hidden that this is a very dangerous place and people can get hurt. The command team wants everyone back at home to know that they understand and they are doing everything to ensure the best care of your soldiers. 1SG and the Platoon Sergeants are mapping out routes to the medical facilities and getting every soldier trained and retrained on basic skills. The Commander and the Platoon Leaders are leaving no stone unturned. They are asking every question about their missions and checking every detail of each mission. If any family member has a concern or questions, do not hesitate to ask. You can write the Commander or 1SG and they will answer your questions. This is one company and we are the Red Devils.

Quality of Life. The deFleury Dining Facility. Named after General deFleury, an engineer. This place is out of control. Many soldiers may be disappointed to live here. I guess we begin at the basics. They have about four main lines and four short order lines. They have two salad bars and juice areas. It is a large facility and needs to accommodate many people. Some of the other nice things are; two ice cream areas, where a soldier can order ice cream just like at that 31 flavors place; two deli sandwich bars where you can get service just like the Subway, chips and all. They have coolers here full of sodas, Gatorade and waters. There is a table with a cake on it every night and a young man will cut and serve you any size slice you want. You can get Philadelphia cheese steak sandwiches at the short order line. It is very clean and decent and the atmosphere is warm and open. It is a place that takes your mind off your troubles for a while.

Finally, this week's hero. SGT(P) Davis can you hear me now, good. SGT(P) Davis has done some masterful work as the communication sergeant for the unit. Not only has he dealt with our immature knowledge of comms systems but also, he has the entire company talking and working automation. This sergeant has done a damn fine job and is truly a hero. The Red Devils want to thank his family for letting him soldier with us.

*1SG Elmo L. Leichenauer*

*CPT Christopher J. Emond*

**WEEK 5**

13 Jul - 19 Jul 2004

To All,

We are moving north into Iraq and are we ever ready. By now most of the unit has started moving north into the country of Iraq. The soldiers are definitely ready for this and have prepared well. Excitement is in the air and things are busy. Not everyone moves out at the same time. The company goes in small groups with other small groups from the other units. This gets the entire Commando Brigade up north.

About every two days, starting last week and finishing sometime this week, a platoon will link up with the unit they are assigned to for the movement. They will check everything out and once they are ready will leave camp for our new home up in Iraq. The soldiers are doing a great job with checking their vehicles, loading all the equipment they need in them and preparing for convoy operations, just like they learned. Family members back home should be proud of how much work this takes. Not only do they work long hours but the temperature here ranges as high as 140 degrees. They drink plenty of water and keep on preparing. These OPFOR soldiers now that the job has to get done so the mission is accomplished.

The trip takes about four days and there are stops along the way. The stops are planned areas already controlled by us, so they are very safe places. The soldiers, like SGT Vuocolo, perform maintenance, get more ice and water, eat a meal and sleep a little before they are on their way the next day. Some of the road is just like back on Fort Irwin and some are dirt trails. The weather doesn't change and when the wind starts blow-



SPC DeQuattro on patrol.

ing it can get to be a tough job just driving, ask PFC Donnellan. Add the hours in your vehicle with all your gear on and then be prepared for any sudden situation that may arise. This type of event can be trained for but until you spend the hours riding it won't be the same.

During the trip many soldiers saw many people along the road, begging and asking for food or anything that we would give them. We are told not to give anything because it creates other problems like more people and them running into the road. Talking to some soldiers, they are very appreciative about the way they live versus how some of these people live. It is easy to turn the channel on the television but in real life it is hard.

Everyone should be up in our new camp by the end of next week. There has not been many injuries or soldiers with major problems. Currently, we only have PVT Green up in Landstuhl, Germany and he is doing fine. He should be back to us in about two weeks.

Quality of life for the soldiers. The stops. Every stop along the route is a camp for one reason or another. In regards to our soldiers they are just stops

until we get to our destination. These stops actually have personnel living and working there to make life much better for all the soldiers who stop at them. One stop even provided all units passing through with air conditioned tents for the evening. Each one has a dining facility, small PX and clean latrines. Some have a Burger King, Pizza place or Subway shop. We get plenty of support and anything we need assistance with can be taken care of there at the stop. This is support to the soldier, from the soldier and by the soldier at its best.

Finally, this week's hero. SGT Vuocolo stepped up to the plate. His immediate assistance on any maintenance problem and concern to get it repaired was great. He placed the needs of other soldier's equipment and care above his own and this is fitting of this sergeant. SGT Vuocolo has done a great job. We want to thank his wife and family for letting him soldier with us Red Devils.

*1SG Elmo L. Leichenauer  
CPT Christopher J. Emond*

**DO YOU USE EMAIL?**

**If so, consider adding yourself to the Red Devil Email List! Members of the list get the most updated information as soon as it comes in to the Rear Detachment.**

**Send your name, the name of your soldier, and your email address to: [alec.barker@irwin.army.mil](mailto:alec.barker@irwin.army.mil) or call 760-380-3710 or 3556 to sign up today.**

**AUGUST BIRTHDAYS**

1st- Sean Donellan	28th- SGT Vuocolo
15th- SPC Enjambre	Breanna Vuocolo
SPC Brian D. Pattee	29th- Douglas Hoover
20th- Jason A. Enerson, Jr.	SPC Tony D. Zeighler
Gloria Vuocolo	30th- SGT Daniel L. Davis
Benjamin Hoffman	M.J. DeQuattro

**WEEK 6**

20 Jul - 26 Jul 2004

To All,

We made it. We are all here in Camp Victory and things are getting off to a great start. The trip was long and uneventful, which is a good thing. Every soldier is in good health and ready to get busy.

Well, things are moving just about as fast as it possibly could for us. We have arrived in our new camp and things are happening. The motor pool is being constructed and 1SG and CPT Allen have some wild visions. Hopefully they will work through all their dreams and get a product that is workable. It is a dirt floor and is squared off by concertina wire. It seems a bit small compared to what we are use to but we will definitely make it manageable. We are going to build bays and some offices for SSG Garibaybartolo and all the maintenance personnel. The TOC, kind of like the orderly room but in the field, is being setup. We will be starting out of a track vehicle to begin with and will improve over time. The rest of the camp is just amazing.

We have about 7 to 10 days to settle in and get things configured. We need it. We have all the conexas that need opened and emptied out and so much

more. When you know you are moving in less than 30 days you tend to just use the bare minimum. Well, now the gloves are off and time to make a temporary home. Temporary because we all would much rather be home with our families and friends.

The sleeping areas here are great and there is so much to elaborate on. This week, we will let you in on our new homes. We call it the trailer court. We live in trailers out here. There are different configurations for the trailers some are two rooms and some three rooms. All rooms have two Red Devils living in them. Almost all, minus a few exceptions, have a bed, wall locker and nightstand in them for each soldier, and if we have to hear how bad 1SG lived when he was here the last time, we are not going to make it. Every room has air conditioning in them and that makes all the difference in the world. Each soldier signed for their room key and has settled in quite nicely. Televisions and stereos are being bought from the big PX and life is getting a little better. In all, we have some nice places to stay for our short time here, think positive.

Good news this week. PVT Green made it back and so did PFC Mobley. We heard he had a Red Devil baby boy. Congratulations to the Mobley's.

Also, glad to have PVT Green back from Germany. He seems to be in good shape and good spirits.

Just a quick note to all the families out there. There are some facilities here that have access to phones and to the internet. They are small and you have to walk a little to get to them. Some of the facilities are controlled by other units. So, if your soldier doesn't call or email you daily or only a few times a week have a little patience. Tell 1SG's wife or the Commander's wife and they will get that soldier to someplace to contact you. The camp is adding more facilities, but there are a large number of people here. Thanks to all.

Finally, this week's hero. PVT Green stepped up to the plate this week. Not only did he get himself on a plane and get back into country and then into the military controlled part of Baghdad airport, then he found his way up on to our camp and then found the unit. He did this with very little assistance. He did a great job. We want to thank Charlie Troop 1/11 and his family for letting him soldier with us Red Devils.

*1SG Elmo L. Leichenauer  
CPT Christopher J. Emond*

*Happy Anniversary!*

5th- SPC Ralph & Sabrina Montes  
8th- PFC Hartman & Stephanie Hartman  
10th- PFC Joshua & Rachel Foster  
15th- SPC Enjambre & Ruby Enjambre  
19th- SSG Kevin & Hilda Allen  
21st- Sgt Steven & Cheryl Alexander  
25th- SSG Kevin & Lynette Gallagher  
26th- CPT Chris & Christine Emond  
30th- Sgt Vuocolo & Gloria Vuocolo

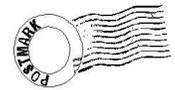
*We wish you many more years of love and happiness!*

**HEY YOU!****CHECK OUT THE  
RED DEVIL WEB SITE:****LOG ON AT:**

[http://www.irwin.army.mil/11acr/RSS/58th/58th\\_FRG\\_Homepage.htm](http://www.irwin.army.mil/11acr/RSS/58th/58th_FRG_Homepage.htm)



## MAIL CALL!



Many family members have asked us what types of things they may send in care packages to their soldiers. Our unit places no restrictions on the contents of care packages, however the U.S. Postal Service does. All of the restrictions for our ZIP code, APO AE 09303, are listed below.

If you have further questions, visit this website: <http://www.usps.com/cpim/ftp/bulletin/2003/html/pb22098/apofpo.html>

**A.** Securities, currency, or precious metals in their raw, unmanufactured state are prohibited. Official shipments are exempt from this restriction.

**A1.** Mail addressed to "Any Servicemember," or similar wording such as "Any Soldier," "Sailor," "Airman," or "Marine"; "Military Mail"; etc., is prohibited. Mail must be addressed to an individual or job title such as "Commander," "Commanding Officer," etc.

**B.** PS Form 2976-A is required for all mail weighing 16 ounces or more, with exceptions noted below. In addition, mailers must properly complete required customs documentation when mailing any potentially dutiable mail addressed to an APO or FPO regardless of weight. The following are exceptions to the requirement for customs documentation on nondutiable mail that weighs 16 ounces or more:

Known mailers are exempt from providing customs documentation on non-dutiable letters, and printed matter weighing 16 ounces or more. (A known mailer is anyone who legally applies a permit imprint to a mailpiece. Mail with meter postage is not considered to be from a known mailer.)

All federal, state, and local government agencies are exempt from providing customs documentation on mail addressed to an APO or FPO, except for those APOs/FPOs to which restriction B2 applies.

Prepaid mail from military contractors is exempt, providing the mailpiece is endorsed "Contents for Official Use - Exempt from Customs Requirements."

**B1.** PS Form 2976 or 2976-A is required. Articles are liable for customs duty and/or purchase tax unless they are bona fide gifts intended for use by military personnel or their dependents. When the contents of a parcel meet these requirements, the mailer must endorse the customs form, "Certified to be a bona fide gift, personal effects, or items for personal use of military personnel and dependents," under the heading, Description of Contents. **Exceptions:** All other exceptions listed in restriction B above are applicable to this restriction.

**C1.** Obscene articles, prints, paintings, cards, films, videotapes, etc., and horror comics and matrices are prohibited.

**E2.** Any matter containing religious materials contrary to Islamic faith or depicting nude or seminude persons, pornographic or sexual items, or nonauthorized political materials is prohibited.

**F.** Firearms of any type are prohibited in all classes of mail. See definitions of firearms in DMM C024.1.1C. This restriction does not apply to firearms mailed to or by official U.S. government agencies. The restriction for mail to this APO/FPO ZIP Code does not apply to firearms mailed from this APO/FPO ZIP Code, provided ATF and USPS regulations are met. Antique firearms are a separate category defined in DMM C024.2.0 and ATF regulations; they do not require an ATF form.

**H1.** Pork or pork by-products are prohibited.

**I.** Mail of all classes must fit in a mail sack. Mail may not exceed the following dimensions:

Length

42" 72" length and girth combined

over 42" to 44" 24" girth

over 44" to 46" 20" girth

over 46" to 48" 16" girth

Maximum length 48"

This restriction does not apply to registered mail and official government mail marked MOM. (Military Ordinary Mail)

**R.** All alcoholic beverages, including those mailable under DMM C021, are prohibited.

**R1.** Materials used in the production of alcoholic beverages (i.e., distilling material, hops, malts, yeast, etc.) are prohibited.

**U2.** Mail is limited to First-Class Mail letters only when addressed to Box R.

**Z.** No outside pieces (OSPs).

**Z1.** The Anti-Pilferage Seal (Item No O818-A) is required on all pouches and sacks.

### *Peace in the Storm*

*You can find peace in the storm  
faith and hope when you can't go on  
even when your world is torn into pieces  
the Lord will guide your steps  
in peace through the middle of the storm*

### *Paz En La Tormenta*

*Puedes tener paz en la tormenta,  
fe y esperanza cuando no puedas seguir  
aun con tu mundo hecho pedazos  
el Señor guiará tus pasos,  
en paz en medio de la tormenta.*



## Army Wife's 14 Secrets to Sound Family Finances

Written by Karen Jowers



Listen up. Amy wife Elda Castillo asked me for information for the spouses of deployed soldiers in her husband's company. She's concerned about their taking the right steps in handling their finances. "I've seen a lot of couples with marriage problems because of finances," she said. "Especially now that they're deployed to Iraq, we don't want them to come home to find their spouses have spent all the money, not paid the bills, and gotten in to trouble."

Elda, married to Spc. Jesus Castillo, 58<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Company, stationed at Fort Irwin, Calif., is 21 and the mother of two young children – and a great example when it comes to keeping the family finances in good shape. She indulges in a shopping spree every now and then, and she and the kids go out to eat once in a while. But she and her husband live within their means, and even with an E-4's paycheck, they've managed to put aside almost five months' worth of his paychecks for a cushion. Their smart money habits enable Elda to be at home with their children and be a full-time, online student.

We can all learn from her. Here are some of the Castillo family's financial practices and habits:

1. Elda has managed the family finances since the day the Castillos were married, which provides consistency, although they discuss their financial situations and decisions. When her husband deploys, she just continues her day-to-day managing of the finances, without missing a step.
2. Elda keeps a log of all incoming and outgoing money – ever penny. Her binder is divided into three sections: household bills, automotive and credit cards. Elda finds this lets her stay on top of what she spends and keeps things under control.
3. Her binder also includes contact information such as the names and phone number of credit card companies. Elda knows exactly when the bills must be paid. "When bills don't come in, I don't just ignore it. I go back to my records and make sure I paid it before, and call the company to find out the amount of the bill," Elda said. Then she pays it.
4. Elda pays bills once a month, saving a lot of time. When money was tighter, she and her husband divided the bills up between the first and the 15<sup>th</sup> of the month, depending on due dates.
5. She pays bills first, then buys essentials like groceries, before she allows money for shopping and eating out.
6. Elda pays bills online whenever she can. It saves the price of a stamp and a trip to the post office. It also provides instant confirmation the bill has been paid. But as she notes, make sure it's a secure website.
7. The Castillos use credit cards for things they know they can pay off at the end of the month. If there's an expense of \$1,000 or more, they use a credit card with low interest charges and figure out how to pay it off over six months. And they stick to it.
8. If the Castillos must buy something on credit, like a car, they pay it off early. "We were able to pay a five-year car loan in four years," Elda said. "A little extra money, \$25 or \$50 a month, goes a long way. That's a year when we don't have to worry about a car payment."
9. "Need" is an important consideration, as opposed to "want." You may want something, but can you afford it?
10. The Castillos buy used cars. "We have a 1997 Jeep and a 200 pickup," Elda said. "We bought them used because they're cheaper, and they were in good shape." And they make sure regular maintenance is done on the vehicles which also saves money in the long run.
11. Elda cooks most of the family's meals from scratch. It's far less costly than buying ready-made entrees or eating out.
12. Elda does her usual shopping at the commissary and exchange. She buys some items in bulk – such as diapers, baby wipes, and cleaning supplies – from discount store off post, but the closest ones are at least 30 miles away from Fort Irwin. She limits those trips to about once every two months.
13. Elda shops around for education grants and fee waivers, too. She is a full-time online student at a local community college. "Most spouses qualify for a fee waiver here, and there is other money, like grants for child care," she said, adding that filling out the paperwork for financial aid definitely pays off.
14. The Castillos try to save what they can each month. It might be \$200 a paycheck, or more, or less. They keep their savings in a separate bank account that's not as easy to get to. "It's good for your emotional well-being to have a cushion," she said.

That's what it's all about.

\*Karen Jowers is a columnist for the Army Times. This article will be featured in the Army Times.

**CARE PACKAGE FRIENDLY RECIPES:**

Frosted Cut-Out Sugar Cookies

- |                                  |                                 |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| ¾ cup butter flavored shortening | 1 teaspoon salt                 |
| 1 cup white sugar                | 1 tablespoon butter             |
| 2 eggs                           | 1 teaspoon vanilla extract      |
| 1 tablespoon milk                | 2 ½ cups confectioners' sugar   |
| 1 teaspoon vanilla extract       | 3 tablespoons milk              |
| 2 ½ cups all-purpose flour       | 2 drops any color food coloring |
| 1 teaspoon baking powder         |                                 |



1. In a large bowl, cream together the shortening and white sugar until smooth. Beat in the eggs one at a time, then stir in the milk and 1 teaspoon vanilla. Combine the flour, baking powder, and salt; stir into the creamed mixture. Cover dough, and chill for at least one hour.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C). Lightly grease cookie sheets, or line with parchment paper. On a lightly floured surface, roll out the dough to ¼ inch in thickness. Cut into desired shapes with cookie cutters. Place cookies 1 ½ inches apart onto cookie sheets.
3. Bake for 6 to 8 minutes in the preheated oven. Remove cookies from baking sheets to cool on wire racks. Cool completely before frosting.
4. In a small bowl, beat the butter, 1-teaspoon vanilla and confectioners' sugar until smooth. Mix in the milk one table- spoon at a time until a good spreading consistency is reached. Stir in food coloring to desired shade. Decorate cooled cook- ies, and set on waxed paper to harden.

Makes 36 servings



<p><b>WHEN TO CALL THE REAR DETACHMENT</b></p> <p>Please call the Rear Detachment anytime you need help with a problem, but especially if you:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Need help with Finance.</li> <li>• Are having trouble contacting your soldier.</li> <li>• Have issues with post housing.</li> <li>• Need to enroll in DEERS or get an ID card.</li> <li>• Don't have a Power of Attorney.</li> <li>• Intend to move the family.</li> <li>• Take a vacation.</li> <li>• Want to donate to soldier care packages.</li> <li>• Need a memo verifying your soldier's deployed status.</li> <li>• Need to know your soldier's platoon for his mailing address.</li> </ul>	<p><b>RED DEVILS CONTACT INFORMATION</b></p> <p><b>Rank, Name</b>  <b>(Platoon)*, 58th EN, 2 BDE, 10th MTN DIV</b>  <b>APO, AE 09303</b></p> <p><b>*If you do not know your soldiers platoon, contact the Rear Detachment.</b></p> <hr/> <p><b>REAR DETACHMENT CONTACT INFORMATION</b></p> <p>RSS HHT BLDG 294                  Rooms 114 &amp; 116                  Phone numbers: (760) 380-3710 / 4172 / 5509 / 3556</p>
<p><b>Es usted una familia que habla Espanol?</b>  <i>Porfavor, comuniquese con el Sargento Orozco.</i>  <i>Si necesita alguna ayuda o informacion comuniquese al:</i>  <i>Tel: 760-380-3710, o 760-380-2696</i></p>	