

58TH COMBAT ENGINEER CO.
FAMILY READINESS GROUP NEWSLETTER

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SPC Yates (center) says a prayer before departure.

Weekly Hero's featured in this issue...

- Week 1: WO1 Cody
- Week 2: SSG King
- Week 3: PFC Foster



WEEK 3

29 JUN – 5 JUL 2004

Happy Fourth of July to all and enjoy your Freedom, courtesy of a military person near you. Well, another week has wrapped up and things are rolling along. Last week was some great training. No training like it back in the good ole' USA. We also rolled into the next month. That was nice to see.

Red Devils did some outstanding training in the last week and currently still going through some great stuff. We went to a weapons range/course. The machine gunners were allowed to fire from many different positions, using several new techniques. SPC Veit was having a great time and enjoyed the training. The next day the line platoons went to the city and did some urban operations there. Each platoon went through and was able to take the town. Great training. Every platoon did well but hats off to A&O and HQ platoons for raising the bar. Sgt Rodriguez-Lopez led his soldiers through the town well with emphasis on basic skills. The Red Devils are definitely OPEN for business.

Quality of life for the soldiers. The Post Office. Yes, there is such a place and it does deliver mail. I understand many families are concerned about mail. Please understand we are very far away and it will take some time. We recommend that on about the 10th of July you should start using the new APO. Everything will remain the same except the APO number which will be 09303. The soldiers want, need, and are thankful for your mail. The average time for a letter right now is about a week and for a package is about 9 to 14 days. Please keep this in mind when mailing.

Finally, this week's hero. PFC Foster from the mighty 1st Platoon. Recently the PAO from out there at Fort Irwin showed up and did an article. When the article was taken there was a photo of young PFC Foster cleaning his weapon. The article mistakenly used the wrong name. We would like to give credit to PFC Foster for doing the right thing at the right time. A big Red Devil thanks to PFC Foster's family for letting him serve out here with us, and thank you for your sacrifice.

1SG Elmo L. Leichenauer

CPT Christopher J. Emond

UPCOMING FRG EVENTS:

JULY 31: FUN DAY at the Fitness Center at 10:00 am.

AUG 09: FRG Meeting at Ingalls Rec Center at 6 pm.

AUG 19: Ladies Night Out at Fitness Center.



**WO1 Cody,
Week 1's Hero**

Hello Everyone,

A month has passed since our loved ones left for the Middle East. It has been a difficult month of adjustment and emotional fatigue. I hope that everyone has looked for support from whoever has been offering it and that you have established a form of routine to help get you through the months ahead.

Soon after the soldiers departed, Fort Irwin went into their biannual leave period. Many family members left the area temporarily or permanently. Now that the majority of family members living at FI are back the FRG is starting to get back into action. The first FRG meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, July 27th. The First Sergeant's wife, Rebecca Leichenauer, has started up an informal spouses get-together/play group. The first of these was held at the Fitness Connection and was well attended. It allowed spouses to relax and the children to burn off energy. I am still planning on having a monthly wife's night out. The first one is scheduled for August 19th at the Fitness Connection.

We currently have two committees up and running. The first is our Package/Donation Committee. The goal is to provide goods on a monthly basis to the soldiers, especially those who are not receiving packages. This month we are putting together small games and batteries. Spearheading this committee are Rebecca Leichenauer and Samantha Holmes. If you are interested in learning more please contact either of these individuals. The second committee is the Newsletter headed up by Elda Castillo and Vanessa Surprise. Thank you so much to everyone who has volunteered to be a part of these!

As I mentioned previously, I hope everyone is all doing well. You are all in my thoughts.

Respectfully,

Christine Sotir-Emond
FRG

WEEK 1: 15 Jun—22 Jun 2004

To All,

The Red Devils of the 58th Combat Engineer Company have arrived in country and are very motivated. The plane trip was about 24 hours with a couple of layovers. We have been in country for about a week and already started training on necessary tasks. The soldiers have moved into their temporary housing, tents, and begun adjusting to the weather here.

Training has begun and many things have brought to us challenges. The soldiers of the 58th are already showing their capabilities. During our first training event some units had a few heat casualties and required immediate attention. The medics of the 58th stepped up to the task and provided on the spot aid. SSG Bailey and SPC Arellano did an outstanding job of providing medical support. Soldiers are motivated and going at the training events with full heart.

Wolfpack soldiers are already in the dining facility and assisting in meal preparation operations. Stallions have got their drivers up into the HEMTTs and started hauling material for the Red Devils and the soldiers of the Commando brigade.

Quality of life for the soldiers is not bad. They have a Burger King and a Subway on our camp. Some of the other facilities are small PX, MWR tent for movies and games, MWR gym for working out and military post office. There is an internet café that cost a little to use the high speed dial up and an AT&T building. There are also some facilities that provide computers and phones at no cost. The lines are long but we are willing to stand so we can talk to you back home.

The weather here is a little different than back home at Fort Irwin. The most noticeable difference is that this desert is flat and has no Tiefert mountain area around our current camp.

SFC Wilkinson of A&O had a chance to reunite with his father who was in Kuwait. It was a nice moment and we are glad that he got to spend a few hours with him.

Lastly, our weekly hero for the first week is WO1 Cody. Not only did he move out on advance party and start the wheels in motion for the arrival of the unit. He is right out there training with the soldiers. The whole unit wants to wish his family a big hello and tell them thanks for letting him be a part of our team because he has done an outstanding job. WO1 Cody HERO for week 1.

ISG Elmo Leichenauer

CPT Christopher Emond

WEEK 2

22 Jun – 28 Jun 2004

To All,

Two weeks in the sand and time is steadily rolling by. With preparation going as it should, the Red Devils are making the most of their time. In the past week, the Red Devils went to another zero range to ensure we were right on accurate with our individual weapons. We sent a support team down to the port and they downloaded our equipment off the ship.

Red Devils went back to another zero range to reconfirm some zeros and confirm other soldiers that had not yet zeroed their weapons. Some of the spouses may wonder what zeroing of the weapons means, it means that when a soldier aims and lines up his weapon he can hit his target. The soldiers all did great and we have some great shooters in this unit.

The ship has docked and soldiers of the 58th were down there to off-load their equipment. The team, led by WO1 Cody and SFC Wilkinson, downloaded all of our equipment and prepared it for movement to the camp. After the vehicles arrived at the camp, the motorpool came to life. Just a concertina fenced in area

but it is ours and it looks good. Soldiers have already started to maintain, prepare and inspect their equipment.

PVT Gil had to be admitted to the local area hospital, he is out and doing great now. He was down there for about four days. He was visited every day by someone in the unit, Team Leader, Platoon Sergeant, First Sergeant, Commander, and a few others. It is important for family members to know that the unit Command Team is dedicated to take care of every soldier and leave no one. Every soldier has someone back home that cares about them and we plan to care twice as much here. Again, PVT Gil is doing fine and is soldiering on.

Quality of life for the soldiers. Over time, we will try to let you in on how we are doing and living out here. This week the dining facility comes to mind. Chow is no problem here. There are four times a day

to get chow, breakfast, lunch, dinner, and midnight chow. Portion sizes are not an issue either. Soldiers get plenty to eat and the selection is wide and various. The building is air conditioned and seats about 1500 at a time in three different rooms. As long as you wash your hands prior to entry and do not place your headgear on the table, it is not too bad.

Finally, this week's hero. SSG King from A&O Platoon has risen to the challenge and stepped up. In the absence of his platoon sergeant at the port, he has performed all duties without hesitation. He also has picked up chow and loaded ammunition from the ASP. SSG King has done a great job and we want to thank his family for letting him soldier with us Red Devils.

*ISG Elmo L. Leichenauer
CPT Christopher J. Emond*

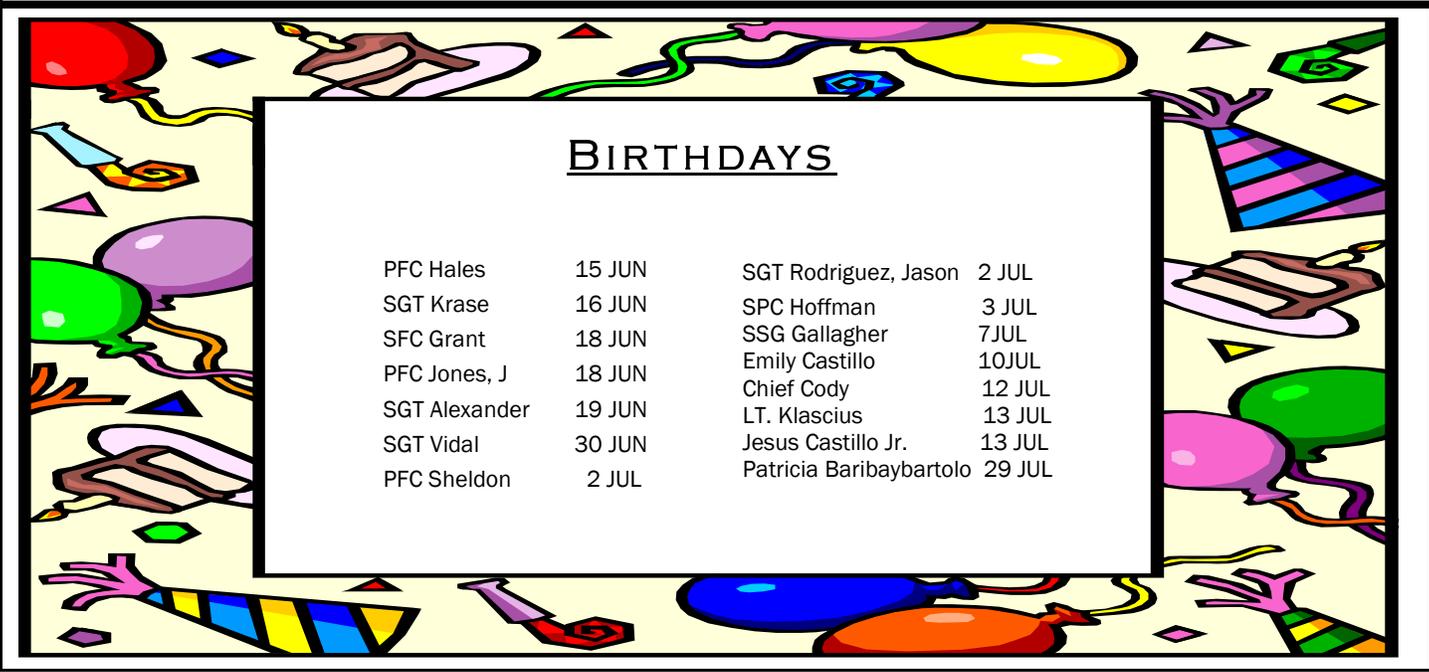
DO YOU USE EMAIL?

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 or call 760-380-3710 or 3556 to sign up today.

BIRTHDAYS

PFC Hales	15 JUN	SGT Rodriguez, Jason	2 JUL
SGT Krase	16 JUN	SPC Hoffman	3 JUL
SFC Grant	18 JUN	SSG Gallagher	7JUL
PFC Jones, J	18 JUN	Emily Castillo	10JUL
SGT Alexander	19 JUN	Chief Cody	12 JUL
SGT Vidal	30 JUN	LT. Klascius	13 JUL
PFC Sheldon	2 JUL	Jesus Castillo Jr.	13 JUL
		Patricia Baribaybartolo	29 JUL



DRINK WATER!

CH (CPT) David J. Snyder, RSS, 11th ACR Chaplain

“Drink Water!” is a cry we all heard throughout our initial training and subsequent schools. Why? Well, the cadre of all military schools are trying to instill in us the need for hydration. Dehydration can lead to many serious complications and then ultimately to death. So often our children and those not trained put themselves at risk because they do not drink enough water.

Interestingly enough we see “Camel Backs” everywhere. Soldiers as well as civilians alike have learned to rely on this simple, yet effective solution for personal hydration. If we find ourselves outside during the hottest part of the day we will need to drink a lot of water. Here on Fort Irwin, in the afternoon, the only place you see people are walking from their car to air-conditioned buildings, at the pool, or anywhere where else they are out of direct sunlight and into a cool spot. Rarely do you see folks playing outside in the afternoon. It is just too hot!

Not by coincidence the Bible also talks about water. In John 4 we read the story of the woman at the well. In the hottest part of the day this woman was at the well filling her jars with water when Jesus comes by. Jesus asks this woman for a drink and she is blown away that Jesus, a Jew would even talk to her. This woman was a Samaritan. A Samaritan is someone who is ½ Jew and ½ non-Jew. And because they were not pure, the Jewish people looked down at them. This woman was even worse off than that; her own people ostracized her for being married and divorced multiple times. As an outcast, she was at the well drawing water during the hottest part of the day instead of with the other women in the cool of the morning. Jesus noticed that this woman was dehydrated spiritually even though she was drawing water to meet her physical needs.

In their conversation Jesus mentions that physical water will not permanently satisfy a need because we will thirst again. However, there is spiritual water that quenches a different thirst, a thirst that is often overlooked and can cause one to be dehydrated without even knowing it.

I want to encourage you to drink water, not just H₂O but also water that will refresh your soul. There are many people who have loved ones who are deployed and thirst to see them again. As I talk to family members of the deployed and soon to be deployed, I often hear them wondering how they will make it without their loved one over the months to come. Some are so upset that you can see spiritual dehydration setting in. Their reservoir is drying and they beg for the hydrating of their spirits. They need spiritual water and need the rest of us to point them to it.

Here on Fort Irwin there are watering holes that all of us can take refuge in. These oases of sorts need to be explored and refreshment may be found. These oases provide refreshment in hydrating your spiritual, personal and overall well-being.

If you are a person of faith, you can find hydration in one of a variety of chapel services on post or church of your preference in Barstow. Here on Fort Irwin, we also have Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) and The Military Council of Catholic Women (MCCW) which meet on Tuesdays and Thursdays respectfully. Both have watch-care so your children will be taken care of while you satisfy your thirst. For more information contact the Center Chapel at 380-3562.

Outside of the chapel community, your unit has a Family Readiness Group (FRG), which is designed to build camaraderie and facilitate a place when you can get to know others who are also thirsty. The 58th CEC FRG is the best in the business and is committed to help you get you hydrated. Other thirst quenchers are not limited to volunteering at the schools or coaching, new hobbies, exercise, and participating in other clubs. Seek out groups or other folks, hydration is out there and all you have to do is get your divining rod and go to them.

All and all, hydration is life essential both physically and spiritually. You need to have your thirst quenched to remain healthy over the months to come. It doesn't matter if you are a soldier or a family member you need to drink water. It will not take long to dehydrate physically from the Ft Irwin heat or dehydrate from the heat of the situation you are facing. So as we all have heard many times... DRINK WATER!

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENTS

Hanah Maria Pou born at 11:47 on 29 June 2004 to SPC and Mrs. Pou

Lailianna Elizabeth Stewart born at 12:44 on 20 May 2004 to PFC and Mr. Stewart.

Christian Edwards born at 10:00 on 3 July 2004 to SGT and Mrs. Edwards.

Theodore Joseph Mobley born at 06:14 on 12 July 2004 to PFC and Mrs. Mobley.



PFC Mobley and his family.

ANNIVERSARIES

5th July- SPC Allen & SPC Lisa Free
 8th July- WO1 Richard & Colleen Cody
 15th July- SSG Cesar & Patricia Garibaybartolo
 19 June- Mr. & Mrs. SGT Lopez
 30 June- Mr. & Mrs. SGT Dahilig

Happy Anniversary!
 We Wish you many more years of
 love and happiness.



PFC Folmer waits for his flight.

A Poem By A Red Devil Spouse

American Heroes

America has so many heroes.
 Many, we know not their names,
 They are policemen and firemen,
 Soldiers and boxers.
 Most, with no Hollywood fame.
 Heroes come from all walks of life,
 From every race, religion, and
 creed.
 Helping citizens in trouble,
 Assisting those in desperate
 need.
 I have had many heroes
 Throughout my entire life,
 My parents, my siblings, my kids,
 even strangers
 And a hero who's made me his
 wife.
 How fortunate we are who love
 our country,
 Giving unconditionally,
 How fortunate I am to be an
 American
 Whom someone's hero is me.

Cheryl Alexander

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 (wife of Sgt. Steven Alexander)



RED DEVILS !!!

58TH AWAITING DEPARTURE IN BANGOR, MAINE



SSG Burt & SSG Gallagher.



SPC Roseboro, SPC Traylor, & PFC Campbell.



1SG Leichenauer talks with a volunteer.



PFC Mielitz & PFC Swanson.



PFC Gaytan & PFC Abreu,
 with CPT Walker in the background.



SFC Stach, 1SG Leichenauer,
 & SFC Grant.

Dear Red Devils,

It has been a month now since our husbands, fathers, brothers, sons, grandsons, or friends all left the sandy Mojave Desert for another, altogether different desert. It wasn't easy saying goodbye, but the heartfelt farewells expressed on the 15th of June will surely keep our soldiers inspired while far from home. I am extremely proud of my comrades, and honored to serve your Rear Detachment.

Your love and support will keep the men fighting if they're tired or hungry. Family is a soldier's most precious gift, and we will do anything we can to take care of that gift. If you need anything, anytime, you may call on the Rear Detachment. We are always busy, but *never* too busy for a family member.

I, with SSG Orozco and SPC Farris, had the honor of representing the Company at the 11th ACR Change of Command Ceremony on July 23, where the Red Devils were awarded the General Donn Starry Award for 2003. The Starry is awarded to the Company or Troop that was the most accomplished during the previous year. It is given by General Starry, who is the Honorary Colonel of the Regiment and was the 11th ACR Commander in Vietnam. Himself a legendary Tanker, General Starry congratulated our Combat Engineers on an outstanding year, saying, "The Red Devils are the very best of the very best!"

The Rear Detachment was very busy during Max Leave, doing a lot of cleaning, reorganizing, and moving. We are now located at the RSS HHT Building, Number 294, Rooms 114 and 116. Our phone numbers ending in 3710, 4172, 5509, and 3556 are active in the new offices. Stop by and say hi!

I encourage those families that will be in the Fort Irwin area to attend our FRG meeting on 09 August at 6 pm. If you have an item for the agenda, please email me at alec.barker@irwin.army.mil, or call me at 380-3556. And please remember to notify us of any change in contact information or addresses so that we may keep you updated.

RED DEVILS!

Sincerely,

1LT Alec Barker
58th CEC Rear Detachment Commander



CPT Emond at the Deployment Ceremony on 14 June 2004.



Lt. Barker receives the Starry Award at the 11 ACR Change of Command.

WHEN TO CALL THE REAR DETACHMENT

Please call the Rear Detachment anytime you need help with a problem, but especially if you:

- Need help with Finance.
- Are having trouble contacting your soldier.
- Have issues with post housing.
- Need to enroll in DEERS or get an ID card.
- Don't have a Power of Attorney.
- Intend to move the family.
- Take a vacation.
- Want to donate to soldier care packages.
- Need a memo verifying your soldier's deployed status.
- Need to know your soldier's platoon for his mailing address.

RED DEVILS CONTACT INFORMATION

Rank, Name
(Platoon)*, 58th EN, 2 BDE, 10th MTN DIV
APO, AE 09303

***If you do not know your soldier's platoon, contact the Rear Detachment.**

REAR DETACHMENT CONTACT INFORMATION

RSS HHT BLDG 294
Rooms 114 & 116
Phone numbers: (760) 380-3710 / 4172 / 5509 / 3556

Es usted una familia que habla Espanol?

Porfavor, comuniquese con el Sargento Orozco.

Si necesita alguna ayuda o informacion comuniquese al:

Tel: 760-380-3710, o 760-380-2696