



PATRIOT CALL



PROUD AMERICANS!

FROM PATRIOT 6

For the month of November and December, operations were in full swing. The Battalion conducted well over 600 patrols and 350 key leader engagements. Several projects were stopped, started, paid for, and completed. As a result, significant activities in the Proud Americans area of operation were greatly reduced from October to November and November to December. This amazing accomplishment could have never been conceived without the hard work of every Soldier in the Battalion. I am sure the families of these fine Soldiers are just as proud as I am.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the Carrasco family. Tony's loss was tragic and is mourned daily. He was a wonderful Soldier, father, husband, son, brother and man. His dreams stretched for miles and he will be deeply missed.

It is natural for all of us to grieve this loss. CPL Carrasco is an exceptional man and Soldier and his life left a mark on all of us. Now, there is no better way to honor his life and his contributions to the United States of America and the people of Iraq, than to finish the mission he set out to accomplish.

The last two months we have celebrated several holidays and Soldiers received much needed rest and solidarity. On Thanksgiving day, the officers and NCOs slugged it out on the football field for bragging rights. The Soldiers enjoyed watching the officers and NCOs play a game of football and we had a great time playing. The Soldiers had a hearty dinner in the dining facility with their Platoon, Battery, Company, and Battalion leadership, and together we gave thanks for all the wonderful opportunities and gifts given us in this lifetime.

I want to thank the families back home for your prayers, thoughtful gifts and generosity. There are no words to express my gratitude. Thank you and God bless. - Patriot 6



PATRIOT 6	1
PATRIOT 7	2
HELLRAISER 6	3
ACE 6	4
BULLDOG 6	5
REMEMBERING CORPORAL CARRASCO	6
GLADIATOR 6	7



**PATRIOT CALL**

Hello, once again, to the “Proud Americans” families from Iraq. I hope you and your families had a very Merry Christmas and a great New Year!!! We missed being with you for the holidays, but all the Batteries did a great job of providing a holiday of fun for your Soldiers through Christmas morning gift openings, sports, video game competitions, a wonderful Christmas Dinner and time together. Even though we weren’t with our immediate family, we did get to spend our time with our big Army family of brothers and sisters.

Wow, 2010, time is flying and so is this deployment. We have now been deployed by Army calculations for five months, and that is great. I know that there have been some emails released from Fort Riley that say that we will be home in May, but I just want you to understand that will happen only under the perfect of circumstances. We are slated to be here through August and that is the guidance the Commander has put out. I know everyone is getting excited about your Soldier’s arrival, but we still have a mission to get accomplished here before that can come to fruition.



On the 17th of December, Bravo Battery relocated from Patrol Base Woodcock to our ranks here at COB Speicher. It is good to have the majority of our Soldiers back together in this location. The hot water definitely doesn’t last as long, but if that is the most we have to worry about, life is good. The Command Team has done a great job of getting their Soldiers settled, refocused, and back to normal operations. Their ability to adjust to a new environment and their flexibility have allowed for this smooth transition.



2009 was known in the Army as “The Year of the Noncommissioned Officer”. It has been a great year for the NCO Corps in our battalion and we finalized this event with an induction ceremony of ten newly promoted NCO’s and promotions of three Sergeants to Staff Sergeant. The NCO induction ceremony is used to celebrate the newly promoted noncommissioned officers joining the ranks of a professional corps and it emphasizes and builds on the pride we all share as members of such an elite corps. The Army definitely had it right, in 2009, by recognizing the contributions that the NCO Corps brought to the professional ranks of forces.

In closing, I would like to wish farewell to 1SG Ruiz, who after three years of service in Golf Company, is leaving the “Proud Americans” Battalion and joining the Dragon Brigade as the NCOIC of the PJCC. His performance as a First Sergeant has been superb and has served as a perfect example for other Senior NCO’s to follow. He and his wife, Gina, have been a great asset to our Battalion and will be deeply missed. Also, I would like to congratulate 1SG Long on his appointment and welcome him, and his wife Melissa, to Golf Company where he now serves as the First Sergeant.

I wish all of you a happy and prosperous 2010. We miss you all and will keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

CSM Poindexter
“Patriot 7”





HELLRAISER 6

PATRIOT CALL



Autumn is a beautiful season in Tikrit. The fields grow golden as the grain ripens. The scent of hot apple cider fills the air. The days grow shorter, and the leaves are blowing past our CHU windows. Well, maybe not the blowing leaves.

As November segues into December, and the air grows cooler, we face again the prospect of a holiday season apart from our loved ones. Regardless of what holiday(s) you and your family

celebrate, this is typically a time of year for reflection, and often, being thankful for what we have.

So what do we have? Home? Family? Loved ones? Children? Faith? Love? How have you been blessed? What are you thankful for? Certainly we are in Iraq, and our families and loved ones are back home. As you navigate this holiday season, remember the things in your life that are special, and be thankful for them.

The Legends, Gravediggers, Demon1, Demon2 and Assassin platoon have kept up a furious pace of patrols, with missions from surveying potential election polling sites, to assessing the status of school reconstruction projects, to securing meeting sites, to escorting Provincial Reconstruction Teams. Their efforts have been amazing.

Equally busy are the planning, support, and administration elements of HHB, including operations, intelligence, communications, medical, personnel, and supply sections. Without their hard work, the Battalion would soon falter.

If you are deployed, your family is making sacrifices simply because they love you, and are proud of you. Why do you wear this uniform? Is it love of country? Is it to make a better life for you and your family? Job skills? No matter your experience here, you will always have this time in Tikrit, Iraq to point to as something you did for America, and possibly, for yourself. While it is never easy to be apart from home or loved ones at this time, you should be proud of who you are, and what you do, regardless of the reason or reasons you do it. Hold your head high. You are a Soldier. You are a Hellraiser.

If you are a wife, fiancé, girlfriend, son, daughter, or mother at home, awaiting your Soldier's return, you know the anguish and stress of waiting. You also know the pride you have in your Soldier. We know that this deployment is like no other for you. You have my gratitude for continuing to support them. I am proud of all of you Soldiers and Families! This life we lead is not an easy life, and the sacrifices we make, Soldiers and families alike, are real. Happy Holidays! Hellraiser 6 and Hellraiser 7

HELLRAISER – What Other Units Only Wish They Were.

Promotions

2LT HUNARA TO 1LT

2LT RIGGS TO 1LT

2LT VARNER TO 1LT

2LT MILLS TO 1LT

2LT BROOME TO 1LT

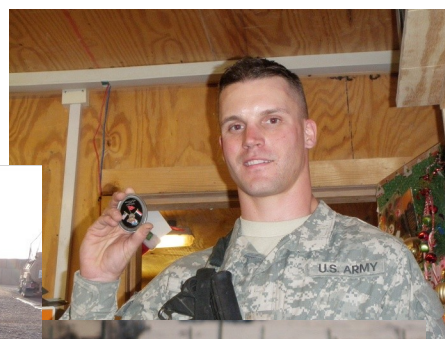
PFC GERTZEL TO SPC

PFC PRENDES TO SPC





PATRIOT CALL

**Promotions:**

- *2LT Broome to 1LT*
- *SPC Matthews to CPL*
- *SPC Guerrero to CPL*
- *PFC Madison to SPC*
- *PV2 Diaz to PFC*
- *PVT Lee to PV2*

Happy Thanksgiving and Season's Greetings to all our "ACE" family and friends back home. While holidays are difficult times for deployed Soldiers the ACE's are generally in good spirits. We all had a great holiday season out here thanks to all the support from the FRG, local radio stations, thoughtful spouses, family and friends back home. We enjoyed a festive Thanksgiving together - despite the long line for turkey, and a great Christmas.

We continue to patrol Tikrit and the surrounding areas of Salah Ad Din province securing future election sites and maintaining enduring civil service projects. Our prayers go out to the Carrasco family. The unfortunate loss of CPL Carrasco from

Bravo Battery will not be forgotten by the ACE's as we continue the mission.

We look forward to the new year and are excited about the many plans and operations with local farmers and the upcoming elections. We are partnered with some outstanding local security forces and through our combined training and preparation I am confident that the elections will be a success.

Ace Birthdays:

- *SPC Wicks (13NOV)*
- *PFC Du (8DEC)*
- *SGT Sibert (16DEC)*
- *PFC Terral (20DEC)*
- *1LT Sanjuan (20DEC)*
- *SPC Madison (21DEC)*
- *SGT Smith (23DEC)*
- *SGT Walker (31DEC)*

We remain steadfast and committed to our mission and are prepared to continue developing the local economy and security forces for the duration of the tour. I thank you all back home for your support and encourage your enduring efforts and admiration for your "ACE". You are our strength, motivation, and drive every day. -ACE 6



**PATRIOT CALL**

The Bulldogs have reunited with the Battalion up at COB Speicher and closed down Patrol Base Woodcock. After a month full of inventories and moving equipment, the Battery returned PB Woodcock back to the rightful Iraqi owners. Showcasing the hard work and dedication of the Battery, we continued missions working on projects and engaging Sheiks all while ensuring a seamless transition to Iraqi ownership. The closure was the Brigade's first closure of a sizeable patrol base, and the Bulldogs led the way as an example for future closures. Even with the hard work of closing down a base and moving the Battery to COB Speicher, we still had



time to get together and enjoy the holidays. The Battery hosted a movie night watching the classic "National Lampoon's Christmas Vacation" and each soldier received his stocking packed with care by the Proud American families. This month Sergeants Whiting and Shibley were reenlisted by General Jacoby, the Multi National Corps Iraq Commanding General during a Battalion Reenlistment Ceremony. The Battery continues to do great things and always makes me proud. The Bulldogs are now working on inventories in preparation for the Change of Command on the 22nd of January. Every Soldier misses their families, but remains thankful for all the support they have received, making the Battery able to do the work needed to accomplish the mission.

- Bulldog 6

November Birthdays

PFC Charles Christel
PFC Kyle Rhodes
SPC Caleb Sprayberry
1LT Jeremy Urban
PFC Atalau Wiley

**November Reenlistments**

SSG Robert Christian
CPL Tony Carrasco
PFC Bryan Cain
SPC Joel Lopez

December Reenlistments

SGT Mason Aarons
SGT Matthew Whiting
SGT Michael Shibley

December Birthdays

PFC Nicholas Davidson
SSG David Hart
SPC Joel Lopez
PFC Talon Reed
SPC Keith Whitson

November Promotions

PFC Tyler Tuerffs

December Promotions

SSG David Hart
SPC Caleb Sprayberry





REMEMBERING TONY CARRASCO JR.

By 1LT Javier A. Sanjuan



PATRIOT CALL



On that grim 4th of November day, Soldiers from Bravo Battery, 2nd Battalion, 32nd Field Artillery sat around together at Patrol Base Woodcock and began to recall many of the fond memories that we have of CPL Tony Carrasco Jr.

Born on 11 February 1984 in Dona Ana, New Mexico to hardworking immigrant parents, many knew that Tony had a family back home – a wife and children that he loved dearly and would let anyone know about. Hearing him speak of his loved ones for hours and hours made you want to strive to love yours in the same manner – all one could do is stay mesmerized at how a man with such a short stature could possess such a giant heart. SSG John Steele, his section chief, eloquently put it in the shortest amounts of words when he said, “Tony was the man we all wished we could be. If any of us become half the man he was, we will have led a great life.”

The man possessed an internal work ethic that is far too uncommon these days, always putting his left foot forward and accomplishing any task put before him. He motivated his entire section to work as diligently as he did, and if they did not, he was sure to let them know in a way that drove the point home, but also possessed that unique Tony Carrasco humor. One such occasion, as it was told by PFC Patrick Darnell, another cannon crewmember in the same section, came on a live-fire exercise at Fort Riley, Kansas. The Battery was preparing for another day of fire missions and his section was moving a little sluggish with the normal gripes and complaints that came with the cold weather, early wake-up and lack of sleep. Tony was there to accomplish his tasks and then help others do theirs without a word being said. As the section continued to express their discontent, Tony said, with his unique humor, “Man, all of you would starve in Mexico.” The way it was said, says PFC Darnell, made everyone laugh, but also inspired them work without complaints and their fullest capacity. This work ethic was highlighted by what SGT David Hart had to say about Tony: “CPL Carrasco lived by a creed that many of us live by today: no one is more professional than I. He was more than just a Soldier to me; he was my friend, my brother.”



I was his platoon leader from the moment Tony came to us from Advanced Individual Training at Fort Sill, Oklahoma in June 2008. There are many stories I could recall that we shared, stories of hardworking immigrant parents, family values, the love for family, and dedication to those around us. Yet, I would never place myself on an equal level with Tony. Even though we shared these same traits, I would, as SSG Steele said, consider myself to be a great man if I led half the life he did. He left me with a great sense of accomplishment days before the tragedy happened when he said to me, “You’re doing a great job.” All I could do was walk up to him, rub on that infamously shaved head, and tell him how thankful I was for that comment, and how honored I was that it came from someone I admire and respect tremendously. He continued on to say, with his trademark smile, “Don’t worry, we all love you.” Those two simple phrases have inspired me and lifted me to places I never thought existed, and for that I am truly thankful.



It seems as though he led a life reserved for an elder with many, many years behind him; he possessed a wisdom that you could only hope to catch a glimpse of; most of all, he held a love that was larger than life itself. Whether it was in the boxing ring, working out, eating, or especially talking about his loved ones, Tony had the largest smile one could ever see, a smile that went from ear-to-ear. All of us in 1st Platoon and in the Battery will miss him dearly – a huge piece of our heart was taken away unjustly. I will miss him poking fun at me, or me telling him he was getting fat by eating all those Otis Spunkmeyer treats. We will miss his smile and amicable personality. Most of all, we Bulldogs will never forget just how truly great Tony Carrasco Jr was. We will continue to honor his name and legacy.

Until we meet again brother, thank you for giving us all the privilege of having known you. We love you always, and make sure you save us some food!





GLADIATOR 6

PATRIOT CALL



The months of November and December has remained steady with operations. First, we hope that everyone had wonderful holidays and we wish that we could've been there. Both months we spent conducting inventories on our Organizational and Theater Provided Equipment. Headquarters squared away all the paperwork that we needed to have a successful Change of Command. HQ refined their skills with the Company Intel Support Team (COIST) PFC Brooks and PFC Diaz work hard to keep the Soldiers of G Company up to date on the latest enemy activity and local national trends that we need to be aware of to stay safe. . On December 16th we said goodbye to a member of our family, 1SG John Ruiz. He has spent three years in the 1SG position at G Company and has had a tremendous impact on everyone that has passed through his ranks. In his place, we gain a new member of the Gladiator family, 1SG Christopher Long, his wife Melissa, and daughter Samantha. 1SG Long was serving as the Battalion Operations Sergeant for 2-32 FA.



Over the last month we have contributed to a historical time period in Operation Iraqi Freedom by closing down Patrol Base Woodcock. We have retrograded over \$42 million of equipment, which has taken long hours for Distribution Platoon. We were able to bring back all equipment without loss or damage. Unfortunately this month we had our first encounter with an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The IED was very small, no one was hurt, and there was minimal damage done to the vehicles. Distro also picked up a new mission, to support the Provincial Joint Coordination Center (PJCC). We will not be Sending Soldiers to live at the PJCC, just delivering supplies and personnel to and from the forward location. We want to spotlight on a unique aspect of the missions that Distro conducts. The Renegade Scouts Weapons Team (SWT) has partnered with Distro Platoon during numerous missions conducted this month. The SWT typically consists of at least 2 Kiowa attack helicopters equipped with weapons systems including hellfire missiles. Having these "Renegades" watching out for us helps Distro feel a little more at ease on the roads.

Birthdays:

- SPC Cody Miller 4 NOV
- SPC Natosha Leas 30 NOV
- SPC Eric Windley 2 DEC
- SFC Sean O'Brien 6 DEC
- PFC Brandy Darnell 10 DEC
- CW2 Jake Stacey 10 DEC
- PFC Mary Diaz 22 DEC
- SPC David Zimmerman 28 DEC

Maintenance has continued to service the batteries' equipment superbly. Once Woodcock closed that added Bravo battery to their weekly regeneration schedule. The PLL clerks have turned \$2.5 million worth of excess equipment back into the Army supply system. This is higher than any other unit in the Brigade. Although Woodcock has closed, we are maintenance is still supporting the JCC, and CPL Thomas and SGT Annis has taken over operations out there. They provide recovery assets in Tikrit in case vehicles break down on mission. The welding section (SPC Bateast, and PFC Zellaha) has taken on the task of creating a memorial project for CPL Carrasco.

CPL Thomas, SPC Preston and SPC Strnad attended the NCO/Soldier of the Month Board in which SPC Frank Strnad was selected as Soldier of the Month for November. Maintenance also got a very unique type of training this month, tazer training. Over the last few weeks, Detainee mission has been tasked to Maintenance, headed up by 2LT Garvin. They have been permitted to carry tazers, but in order to carry one, they must first be tazed by one. That is enough pain to make grown men cry!

We are a couple months closer to being back to the States and with our families. Everyone has stayed safe and working hard towards our unit's mission. Golf Company will be getting a new Commander on 15 JAN 10, so the next article will be from CPT William S. Walker. Sustain the Fight!

PROMOTIONS

PFC Higgins to SPC

PFC Lantz to SPC

PV2 Iyechad to PFC

PV2 Vanzandt to PFC

PV2 Thomas to PFC

PV2 Hazley to PFC

CPL Weskamp to SGT

CPL Pudowski to SGT

- GLADIATOR 6

