

# First Lightning

VOL FY 04-05

July 2004

# LIGHTNING BOLT



## Never Broken



### Lightning 6 Comments...

Team Lightning Family,

Let FREEDOM ring!! On 28 June 2004, the transition occurred. Iraq is now free and you can all be proud that you had something to do with that historic event. You should be proud of your accomplishments and those of your Soldiers; WE are making a difference everyday. The task force continues to amaze me everyday -- focused, dedicated, confident, professional and a team of teams that I am proud to be associated with. Rest assured that we are also proud of your accomplishments and realize that this mission success includes your overwhelming successes. We thank you for what you do everyday!! I hope that you are all enjoying the summer!!

So, what does this thing called-- Iraqi Freedom -- mean to us here in Bayji and Sharqat? It has not really changed our day to day operations. We continue to provide security for our sector and will continue this important mission until we can faithfully discharge the task to the Iraqi Security Forces (ISF- local police, Iraqi National Guard and the new Iraqi Army). Will we accomplish that before we re-deploy? That is our goal and we focus on that goal everyday. Iraqi Freedom means that we now conduct daily joint patrols with the ISF. As we take to the streets in unison with the ISF, the initial feedback from the people is very positive. Smiles and waves can now be seen on a majority of the locals' faces --this was not always the norm in the recent past. The people of Bayji and Sharqat do not ask for much, they only wish for security, employment opportunities, reliable electricity and potable drinking water....anything else is a bonus! Some of our initial projects are nearing completion, showing forward progress to a people that have been forgotten for 35 years by the old regime. We are here to help the Iraqi people help themselves with this new thing called "democracy"....so far, it is being met with positive results...only time will tell.

Updates since last report -- the KBR dining facility will open this week!! Our Lucky 7 "team of teams" will lose E/4 CAV (BRT) back to the BCT shortly. They have accomplished every mission to the highest standards and truly are part of our family...I am sure that we will see them again. As we prepare to celebrate our 228<sup>th</sup> year of freedom as American's, we will share that joy with the Iraqi people, as they begin their first year!! R&R is in full swing and we are doing extremely well on allocations. We are projecting an 85% success rate with the goal remaining at 100%. The FMPP improves with every iteration and is a critical tool to assist us in fighting complacency.

I again, thank you for the sacrifices that you and your families make in support of our mission. I would ask you to focus on the "positive" of what we are accomplishing, we are making a difference and this can be seen on the faces of smiling Iraqi's everyday. Thank you for your unending display of support and caring -- we thank you for what you do!!! All gave some, but some gave all!!!

**LTC Kyle M. McClelland—Commander, Task Force 1-7**

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## Lightning 7 Comments...

Hello Family and Friends,

The soldiers of Task Force 1-7 (First Lightning) would like to say thanks for your support and thoughts. Many Americans back home will be gathering to celebrate this country's 228th year of freedom. Here on FOB Summerall, we will host a celebration not only for our independence, but for our fellow brother Iraqi National Guard soldiers. This will consist of several sporting activities such as horseshoes, volleyball, basketball, and a shooting competition. The sporting events will end with a friendly competition between Task Force 1-7 soldiers and an Iraqi National Guard Team. We will complete the event with an awards ceremony to recognize the winners of each event and to give out awards to soldiers for achievements during combat operations. Later that evening we will host a Karaoke Show, in which individual soldiers will be able to display their talents. We will show a video presentation, "Freedom isn't Free," and close with a fireworks demonstration.

On 7 July, Task Force 1-7 will sponsor its first MWR show, the country and western band "Star and Stripes." This will consist of a one time show at 1900hrs, free to all soldiers on FOB Summerall.

FOB Summerall has also just opened a new education center. The center will offer several college courses to include online correspondence and tuition assistance.

The new proposed opening of the KBR DFAC is 7 July.

As you are all aware, we have transferred government authority back to the Iraqi people. This has shifted more to the building of the infrastructure and good will to humanity. The people of Iraq, especial the children, have many basic needs, including school supplies and youth activities. If you want to contribute donations, you can send these items to the Task Force Commander. Again, I would like to personally thank you for your support during this deployment.

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## Command Sergeant Major Wayne L. Sanders —CSM Task Force 1-7

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**Three-Country Express**  
**Switzerland, Lichtenstein, and Austria**  
**August 6-8, 2004**

**US \$95**

**Florence & Venice**

**July 2-5, 2004**

**US\$ 319**



If you are interested in either of these trips, please see the Lightning Bolt online. The website address is [www.schweinfurt.army.mil/17](http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/17).



## Alpha Company Comments...



“A Time of Change”

As the approach for Iraqi Sovereignty grows near, the Steel Knights are meeting the challenge to maintain security in our region. We are staying focused on our tasks and continuing to complete our missions. Despite what seems to be an increase of activity on the news, our sector remains secure. This can all be directly attributed to the hard work of every Soldier, every day.

The entire Task Force has started to make some leadership changes and the Steel Knights were affected by these moves. We are losing some great leaders, but also gaining some great leaders as well. These leadership changes were part of a planned rotation within the Task Force. The company will lose 1LT Hansen, 1LT Lambert, 1LT Murphy and SFC Ogle. They are being replaced by 1LT Ebert, 1LT Fanto, 1LT Alvery, and SFC Monegro respectively. With these changes, I would like to personally and publicly thank each of these men for their hard work and dedication to the Steel Knight team as well as welcome the families of our newest Steel Knight members.

Some operational changes have also occurred. One platoon of our Steel Knights has finally assumed our traditional role as Field Artillerymen. After weeks of training and certification, our Red Platoon is back inside our Paladins providing lethal and non-lethal fires covering FOB Summerall and the Task Force's sector. The motorized platoons have also gained even more ground to secure and some additional security tasks as well. These changes are good for all because they are breaking up the “average days” into something with a little more variety.

The company is also beginning to push for some additional training time. We are trying to give each platoon 1 day a week where the platoon can train and sharpen their combat skills to keep them fresh and proficient on their wartime skills. This training time will also allow the motorized infantry platoons to cross train on artillery tasks ensuring they will be ready to jump

back on their Paladins and fight as artillerymen once we return to Germany.

All of our Steel Knights continue to do great work in our sector. I truly believe we are making a difference here in Iraq. One quick example of these differences I've personally seen are the Iraqi children. When we first arrived in country, the children would run back in their houses because they were afraid of our overpowering posture. Now however, with a few smiles and waves, the children actually run to us when we arrive in a residential area for a security patrol. They have started to see the transition from wartime occupier to caring, yet heavily armed, supporter. We shake hands, smile and take pictures with the kids and have actually started building good friendships with a few. These children's friendly actions in turn bring out some of their parents, now curious as to the new change occurring in the streets of their hometown. I know it is hard to do, however we must remember that we can not let one day's bad news about another car bomb or another kidnapping discourage the hundreds of smiles and ideas of hope that our Steel Knights are beginning to continuously give the Iraqi people.

I would like to close this update with another thank you for all your support. The amount of boxes and mail that we receive is truly impressive. It is always a pleasure to see our mail truck arrive in front of the command post with boxes stacked 5 high and 5 deep. Our command post NCOs and Soldiers help separate the boxes into platoon areas and the Soldiers know immediately of the trucks arrival. In one minute there are 50 boxes outside the command post, and the next minute they are gone and in the hands of Soldiers enjoying their newest surprise and letter. Mail day is always a great day and a true moral booster. Please keep them coming.

Please keep your heads high and your hearts strong. You are all in our prayers and thoughts. We will be together again soon.

STEEL KNIGHT SIX, OUT

Respectfully,  
CPT Deric Holbrook  
First Sergeant Roger Jacobs



**BRAVO BATTERY COMMENTS...**

***Bravo Bulls***



Before I begin, I would love to take this time to say thanks to all the fine soldiers, NCOs, Officers, family members and friends of the Mighty Bull Battery. It's truly a blessing and a humbling experience to be apart of an outstanding and superior performing battery such as this. Never have I've seen a better bunch of Redlegs in the Army.

As you all know, there has been some changes in the battery since the last newsletter. The Bulls conducted a Change of Command Ceremony on 3 June 04 in which the reins of the battery was entrusted to CPT Graham. He brings with him his wife Sandra and daughter Shoncire'. The former commander, CPT Hodo and his family will surely be missed as he has been assigned to the Division Artillery S-3 shop in his quest to continue to do great things. 1LT Osewalt was promoted to Captain on the same day and is now assigned to TF 9E as the Fire Support Officer. He was replaced by 1LT Purcell, whom was handed an excellence platoon and has not lost a step in maintaining what his predecessor started. In addition, we're gaining another fine Platoon leader whose no stranger to the battalion, 1LT Bradley, who will continue the excellence of 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon at FOB Paliwoda. Once again we're all thankful to be apart of this fantastic family.

As always, our workload has been heavy and shows no signs of letting up while we continue our mission of providing timely and accurate fires to the Dagger Brigade. In addition the battery is conducting force protection, convoys, supervising MWR and DFACs, patrolling with PYSOPS and still maintaining world-class artillery fires on a daily basis. We've got a world class maintenance team, signal team, and supply team that deliver like no other. Also we have a Radar section and a METRO section that brings even more combat readiness to the Bulls and have fallen right in and are performing superbly.

We have started to focus once again on individual skills and section skills to keep our warrior edge. But we're not all work and no play; the battery recently was a part of a basketball tournament on LSA ANACONDA and will also be competing against the entire 9E battalion in a Decathlon. Wish us God Speed and good luck as we represent the Mighty Bulls.

The R&R and FMPP program is back again and in full swing. For the month of June, the Bulls have 4 FMPP slots and 9 R&R slots. All soldiers in the battery have been given a timeframe for the month they could expect to go on R&R. The dates are not set in stone and are subject to change due to mission requirements and arising demands that must be met.

1SG Carter and I would like to congratulate a few soldiers and families. Overall, we would like to thank the entire Bull family for the support and packages that has been sent to Iraq. We're deeply indebted to you all for the support. SPC Haney and his wife Mrs. Tonja Haney are the proud parents of twins, Terrell and Anastasia born 20 April. The two are doing fine and we welcome our two newcomers to the Bull Pen. SSG Perez and SGT Gregory have each won the NCO of the Month for TF 9E and will be competing for the NCO of the Quarter soon. SPC Itliong reenlisted for 4 additional years to continue doing his part for his country. Last but certainly not least, the Bulls have some personnel that just recently been entrusted with increase responsibility with promotions. Promotions are a big event in a soldier's life and his family and our congratulations go to the following individuals:

SPC Holder    PFC Robinson    PV2 Whitmeyer  
PFC Obiaka    SPC Hill

In closing, I ask that the Bull Family continue to be safe and to be aware of your surroundings. Summer is here and along with it comes the fun but unfortunately the hazards. I beg that each of you to be careful and safe during the following months and to have as much fun as possibly. There are plenty of places to enjoy for families and I ask that you all take full advantage of them. It would make you feel much better and the soldiers serving here in Operation Iraqi Freedom II, would feel better knowing that their loved ones are still coping with the deployment by having fun and traveling. Remember, that you, the family members, are the most vital asset to the soldier.

ERIC GRAHAM  
CPT, FA  
Commanding



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## CHARLIE COMPANY COMMENTS...



Dear Cobra Family,

June has been a great month with many improvements on the way to our small post and improved relations with the city of Bayji. The company recently sat down with the Task Force Commander, LTC McClelland, and Command Sergeant Major Sanders to discuss issues for the FOB and improvements for quality of life. We've recently learned that our dining facility will close in the next two weeks to be replaced by a larger building with better food catered by Kellogg Brown and Root. The soldiers are eagerly awaiting the grand opening which will surely have a positive effect on morale. Our old dining facility will likely turn into an MWR room, replete with a small movie theater, pool table, games, popcorn machine, and AT&T phones.

Our main building is in the process of new paint job (trimmed in Artillery red). We are expecting new CHUs (small metal buildings to house 2-3 soldiers) to be added to the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon areas to alleviate some space problems. 4<sup>th</sup> Platoon recently added 8 new CHUs, one of which is a Day Room complete with a TV and DVD player.

We are in the process of changing our operations to coincide with the June 30<sup>th</sup> Iraqi Transfer of Sovereignty. While we will continue to have a marked impact on the city of Bayji and surrounding areas, it is our intent to introduce the Iraqi National Police and Iraqi National Guard (previously the Iraqi Civil Defense Corps) to play a more significant role in the security of the region. We are conducting more joint patrols with both groups and it seems that these Iraqi law enforcement officials are excited about their new responsibility. We finished a recent mission in which we went door to door throughout the city passing out information on the Transfer of Sovereignty. The citizens seem sincerely happy about their new freedom and our work on their behalf. We realize of course that there are still obstacles in the path of Iraqi freedom. Therefore, we are not backing down from our aggressive posture and will not hesitate to defend ourselves from those that may attempt to thwart our success.

Our soldiers have achieved individual success recently. SGT Jeff LaFrance was accepted into the Warrant Officer Flight School and will leave us soon for training in Ft. Rucker, Alabama. His wife, SPC Amy LaFrance remains in Iraq with 299<sup>th</sup> Support. PV2 Brandon Nance received a Battalion Certificate of Achievement for his recent efforts. PFC Brandon Sims and SPC Stephen Wagasky will soon receive the Army Commendation Medal with "V" device. This is an extraordinary award which is only given for heroism in combat and is well deserved. We are excited about our upcoming "hail and farewell" BBQ on June 30<sup>th</sup> to welcome several new soldiers and celebrate the hard work of those that are leaving. This includes our 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Leader, 1LT Dave Alvarey, who will become the A Company Executive Officer (XO), the 3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon Leader, 1LT Steve Johnson, who will become the Battalion Ammunition Officer, and our current XO, 1LT Brendan Dignan, who will move to 1-4 Cavalry as a Fire Supporter and Iraqi National Guard coordinator. The 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon Leader, 1LT Jim Starling, will become our new XO. I am thankful to all of our lieutenants for the hard work and leadership they have given to our soldiers.

Unfortunately, I am leaving as well and this will be my last newsletter to you as Company Commander. The last year and a half has been the most fulfilling of my military career and I am grateful to our soldiers and NCOs for their untiring work ethic. I am also grateful to the wives and children of Charlie Company who continue to support us despite the difficulty of distance. Jessica and I have loved our time in C Company, but are happy to leave it in the good hands of CPT Michael Byard who assumes command on July 5<sup>th</sup>. Lastly, I would like to thank 1SG Grinston and his wife, Alexandra, for their love and support for our soldiers and their immense help during my command. Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July to everyone and best of luck. Cobra Strike!

Sincerely,

WILLIAM L. KIRBY  
Captain, U.S. Army  
Commanding



**The city of Schweinfurt would like to sponsor children, between ages 6-9 years old, on a trip to the Playmobil land park. The Lord Mayor has offered this program as a show of support for our community, while our Soldiers are deployed. The trip will be 12 August and the first 45 children to sign up will get to go. The transportation and entrance fee to the park are free. The community point of contact is Ms. Silvia Joiner, at 09721-966270.**

## HHB COMMENTS...



Another hardworking, diverse, and increasingly WARM month for the Hurricanes. First, thank you to all the families, friends, and our dedicated FRG for giving each of our soldiers the support they need to continue this mission. The morale boost that we get from mail, packages, email, phone calls, and pictures cannot be measured by any means. The impacts of our support structure have an enormous affect on the daily lives of our soldiers, THANK YOU and please keep it up. The First Sergeant and I have visited with COLT, Brigade FSE, 1-18 FSE and 1-26 FSE this month, all the troops are all positive and doing great things in support of the mission.

The Iraqi National Guard (formerly ICDC) Liaison Team (Tsunami) has taken great strides this month. They have trained our Iraqi counterparts the basics of defending a compound, conducting Check Points, and providing Convoy Security. We have continued this success by incorporating trained Iraqi soldiers into our missions and patrols. By continuing this process, we are building a competent Army to take over for Coalition Forces when we leave. Special recognition goes to all of the Team Tsunami for their excellent work: 2LT Joseph, SFC Kalama, SSG Lucas, SGT Plautz, SGT Smith, SGT Viera, SGT Giesbrecht, SGT Hofmann, SGT Youngblood, SGT Fisher, and SPC Carter.

Congratulations to SSG Kirman, SGT Larson, SGT Kimber, SPC Jones, SPC McIntyre, SPC Ripsam, SPC Williams, Isom,

PFC Walter, and PFC Gillespie for their recent promotions. The following soldiers each received a Battery Command Team Coin in recognition of their exceptionally hard work and dedication during this operation: PFC Ogburn (Sappers), PFC Busha (PSD), PFC Williams, Isom (Commo), SPC Bennet (Maintenance), SPC Williams, Daniel (Mortars), and SPC Patel (S1). Finally recognition goes out to the Hurricane Maintenance Team; our mechanics have matched our OPTEMPO with know-how, hard work, and sweat to keep our vehicles at the highest readiness rate in the Task Force. We roll with confidence, knowing that our vehicles are maintained by the best.

Around the Hurricane Pad we continue to maintain and improve. Supply is nearly complete with the new supply room, we are beginning to replace the sandbag protection around our CHUs with more sturdy HESCO bastion protection, and the Sappers have built dip bars, pullup bars, and a horseshoe pit. Maintenance has added internet service, satellite TV, playstation, carpet, and couches to their dayroom. KBR is still building a high quality DFAC which will open early in July and significantly improve the quality and availability of our food. Please continue to stay in touch with your soldiers, us the first lighting website, the camp Summerall website, email, and write. HURRICANES!!

***Ride the Storm!!***

***HURRICANES!***

BRIAN D. VAUGHAN  
CPT, FA  
Commanding

HOWARD C. PATRICK  
1SG, USA  
First Sergeant

## Trip to Dresden



The 37<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, the German partnership unit of the 2<sup>nd</sup> "Dagger" Brigade invited the families of the Schweinfurt Community to a day trip to Dresden on **16 July**. The trip is free and includes a brunch at the Frankenberg "Wettiner" Kaserne hosted by the Commander of 37<sup>th</sup> Light Infantry Brigade, a guided sightseeing tour of Dresden (including the famous Frauenkirche, Zwinger, Semper Opera, and Blaues Wunder), a shopping tour in downtown Dresden, and a dinner reception with the Prime Minister of the Free State of Saxony. **There is no cost for this trip and it is limited to the first 150 people who sign up.**

For more information, contact your FRL.

**SVC BATTERY COMMENTS...**



To The Serpent Family,

First and foremost, I would like to thank you all for the support that has been given so far. Your mail, care packages and other methods of support continues to bring smile of the faces of your soldiers as they continue to support the task force as we move closer to the transitional government taking control of their country. Up to this point we have conducted over 165 combat logistical patrols that are becoming more diverse. All in all, the standard mission is still being performed and we continue to do both very well.

As I mentioned last month, there will be a soldier that will provide a view of what they think. I believe that if you want to know the truth, ask a soldier. Here is SSG(P) Garcia's thoughts on the living conditions on FOB Summerall versus what he dealt with when he participated in Desert Shield/Desert Storm.

***Life on FOB Summerall is not as bad as it seems for some. We have come a long way since yesteryear. How, you ask? Well let me take a minute or so to tell you. During Desert Shield and Desert Storm, I can remember arriving into tent city and having to sleep on top of our duffle bags lined up shoulder to shoulder. This was largely due to the lack of sleeping quarters. Many of us got dysentery, which added to the less than adequate conditions. We were there a little more than one week. Shortly there after we loaded our equipment on flatbeds and boarded some buses in the middle of the night. We traveled for a few hours. When the buses finally stopped we downloaded all of our equipment set up a perimeter and of course guard duty. In the morning when we awoke the sun was out and it must have been at least 110 degrees. I thought to myself it must be around 1000 hours as I looked at my watch it was only 0620. I looked around me as far as the eye could see.....nothing, nothing but sand and more sand. This was the beginning of life in the desert on our own. We didn't have air conditioners, microwaves, refrigerators, much less KBR. Our living quarters consisted of cots out in the open next to our guns. We built overhead cover from ponchos and poncho liners to block the suns rays. We would take our showers in front of the M548 Ammo Carrier where we had set up an Australian Shower. Until we received materials to build our outhouses we had to walk a good distance away from the perimeter where field sanitation reps had set up our***

***cat holes. After 2 months our conditions got a whole lot better. We received tents and wood to build floors for our tents. These tents would be our home for the next 6 months.***

***Our Dining Facility consisted of 2 MKT's where our cooks would prepare some rather delicious entrees. Truly I am not joking our cooks could really cook however the A's did not last that long. We ran out of food and at times all we had for dinner was one microwavable lunch bucket no bread, no salad, and definitely no ice cream.***

***Why am I sharing this with you? Not because I wish we could go back to those times but simply to help some of you understand how good you really have it here in Summerall in today's army. So we need to be a little more patient when the power goes down, or when the phones are not available. You don't have to look back so far either, just look at FOB Tinderbox today look at their living conditions and it would make you appreciate the things we have and sometimes have to do without.***

Today we are currently improving our living areas. We are in the process of building a battery MWR facility that will consist of TVs, phones, computer with internet and a foose ball table. Once the construction is complete we will continue to improve the facility with table tennis, X-Box and a video/audio library.

The Rest and Recuperation Program is now in full swing and we have successfully provided the opportunity for over 10 soldiers to participate so far. The Fighter Management Program is also in full swing; a total of 12 soldiers have already participated.

Before closing the soldiers of Service Battery would like to congratulate the Cintrons for their new addition to the family. It is always a blessing to bring new life into the world. On 1 July we are going to have some newly promoted soldiers in Service Battery. PFC Thomas, PFC Wisdom and PFC Hinajosa are being promoted to the rank of Specialist. PV2 Bland, PV2 Guzman and PV2 Ivanhof will be promoted to the rank of Private First Class. Congratulations are in order and I have faith that these soldiers will continue to step to the plate and do great things.

Again, I would like to again thank all families and friends for their never ending support and prayers as Service Battery continue to do great things. **SERPENTS!!**

CHRISTOPHER A. WASHINGTON CPT, FA Commanding	MARVIN C. CROMARTIE 1SG, USA First Sergeant
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## DELTA BATTERY COMMENTS...



Thank you to all of the great volunteers who put time and effort into the Battalion FRG fundraiser at the Independence Day Celebration. Each of you made a difference. The FRG made over \$445. That money will be split over each of the battery level FRGs. Special thanks to Amy Lennox, Ushci Ebbs, Helene Minzer, Teresa Bland, Alyce Pena, Jo Williams, and Hope Rodgers, who all donated at least six hours each this weekend.

Congratulations are in order for two newly promoted Dragons. SGT Apsher completed PLDC during the last week of June and returned to the unit in time to be promoted on 01 July. The Soldiers of the Dragon Battery believe SGT Apsher's rank is finally catching up to his performance and potential. Originally slated as the command driver, SGT Apsher quickly became a "go to" guy for any task we have had to accomplish.



SPC Smith was also promoted on 01 July. SPC Smith is in the MEB process and will be leaving us soon. His recent effort and performance left no doubt in any of our minds that he needed to be promoted, prior to his departure. SPC Smith is the battery armorer and our "DVD Creator." He is also a "go to" guy and frequently volunteers for taskings at the elementary school and to make the long drives to and from LRMC or Frankfurt.

Congratulations are also in order for SSG and Mrs. Brown on the birth of their new baby girl, Tatiana. Tatiana was born on 25 June, was 18.5 inches long, and 6 lbs 10 ounces. Mother and baby are doing well.



Delta Battery has been very busy the last two months, outside of our daily business. Among our greater accomplishments, we sent four NCOs and a M109A6 Paladin to Czech for their Armed Forces Weekend. SSG Brown, SSG Hernandez, SGT Crooks, and SGT Villarreal enjoyed their time in Czech, showing off their trade, despite almost starving on bread and water. SSG Hernandez and SGT Villarreal also led our section of the First Infantry Division Salute Battery. These two NCOs, as well as SGT Vanattia and SPC Wright, drove to and from Bamberg about seven times over two weeks to rehearse for the Division Independence Day Celebration. The celebration, on 01 July, included firing volleys for each State, as its name was called out, and firing during the 1812 Overture. None of our four Soldiers had heard or rehearsed their part in the overture, prior to the performance. Hands down, 1-7 FA had the top section in the battery. In another event, Delta Battery fielded over fifty percent of the community

softball team that played against the semi-professional team that visited Schweinfurt in early June. Further, the battery participated in the Schweinfurt Elementary School field day, by sending 12 Soldiers over to the school to support the different athletic events. All in all, it has been a great and very busy two months.

As always, we ask you to keep the battery in mind, when and if you ever need anything. We are here to support the unit forward and its most precious resource, the families. Our phone number is 09721-96-6484 (from the German economy), 011-49-9721-96-6484 (from the United States), or 354-6484 (DSN).

Victory for our Troops - Victory for our Families!

### Dragons!

MATTHEW LENNOX  
CPT, FA  
Commanding

W. LEE EBBS  
1SG, USA  
First Sergeant

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## Family Notes

1. U.S. POSTAL SERVICE OFFERS FREE BOXES - The U.S. Postal Service offers a program in which you can telephonically order free boxes, packing materials, tape and mailing labels plus all the forms to send items to your military spouse down range. The service can be initiated by telephone and takes about 3 minutes. Family and friends in the United States simply call 1-800-610-8734. A recorded voice will take the caller through a short menu, and then they will be transferred to a live operator who will take their address information. To use the service in Germany, dial Telekom prefix 01024 before the toll free number (from a regular German telephone at your economy or housing quarters, dial 01024-001-800-610-8734). The phone call will not be completely toll-free; however, the cost will be around 5 cents per minute, and will show up on your regular phone bill. Finally, you can use the website, [supplies.usps.com](http://supplies.usps.com). Do not put www in front of the address, use it as it appears.
2. PRAY FOR 1ID.COM - If you would like to submit a prayer for someone in 1st Infantry Division who is serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom, go to the Pray for 1ID.com Web site at <http://www.prayfor1id.com/> and see what they have to offer. Pray for IID.com is nondenominational prayer-concern Web site established to facilitate 24-hour prayer coverage for service members, their families, civilian employees and anyone else associated with Operation Iraqi Freedom who needs to be lifted up in prayer. The site offers a Suggested Prayer Schedule, Prayer Topics and a place to Sign Up to Pray (and they fully understand that everyone may pray in a different manner).
3. 1ID WEB SITE - Official 1ID PAO press releases and latest news are being distributed via the 1ID Web site: [http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/Media\\_Information/Press\\_Release/PR\\_21Jun04.htm](http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/Media_Information/Press_Release/PR_21Jun04.htm) and: [http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/News/June/News\\_Jun.htm](http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/News/June/News_Jun.htm)). The latest press release (June 21) continues the saga of the difference 1st Infantry Division is making in Iraq and begins with a story about Iraqi heroism.

1ID PAO has also posted the June issue of "Danger Forward" magazine (previously known as "Duty First" magazine) at this link [http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/Danger\\_Forward/Documents/Danger\\_Forward\\_JUN.pdf](http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/Danger_Forward/Documents/Danger_Forward_JUN.pdf) and the May issue is out in hardcopy.

If you prefer video news, go to this link: [http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/Video\\_Clips/Video\\_Clips.htm](http://www.1id.army.mil/1ID/Video_Clips/Video_Clips.htm).

Again, we ask that you forward links such as these-or the Victory Buzz newsletter in its entirety-to friends, family and hometown newspapers in the United States and around the world. The word needs to get out on the good things the 1st Infantry Division continues to do down range.

4. If you lost a camera, in the gym the night of the deployment, please see contact Staff Duty at 09721-96-6484.
5. You can find a complete list of July MWR events in this months issue of the Lightning Bolt, online. The website address is: [www.schweinfurt.army.mil/17](http://www.schweinfurt.army.mil/17)

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*If you have any suggestion, questions, or feedback to improve this newsletter, please feel free to contact CPT Lennox, DSN 354-6484 or email [matthew.lennox@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil](mailto:matthew.lennox@cmtymail.98asg.army.mil).*

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KYLE M. McClelland  
LTC, FA  
Commanding



# 3-Country Express

Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Austria

6 – 8 August 2004

## US\$ 95

### ITINERARY (subject to change)

1st Day: 9 p.m. departure from Schweinfurt, Ledward Barracks., USO Building. 9:45 p.m. from Wuerzburg, Leighton Barracks, Dental Clinic parking lot. Overnight travel to **Switzerland**.

2nd Day: Breakfast en route (not included) and a chance to freshen up, before we start our day in **Brienz**, a town of woodcarvers situated on a clear Swiss lake. We have time, of course, to shop for wood carvings. Then we drive to the heart of Switzerland, the area where the first Swiss Confederation was formed in 1291. We stop in **Lucerne**, one of the most beautiful cities, with its famous **Chapel Bridge** decorated with medieval paintings. We also see the **Lion Monument** and pass by the huge **Swiss Transport Museum**. You have time for a cruise on **Lake Lucerne**, a crystal lake surrounded by mountains. A short drive and we reach the tiny principality of **Lichtenstein**. You have time to stroll through its capital, **Vaduz**, for a look at the **Prince's Palace** and his famous **vineyards**, and you may join us for a trip to the holiday resort **Malbun** - where royalty and the international jet-set ski. For photo fans, the breathtaking panorama is superb. We continue on our way to the historic, fortified town **Feldkirch, Austria**. To crown the day, join us for dinner (optional) in the Knight's Passage of medieval **Schattenburg Castle**, including a guided tour of the famous castle before we depart for home.

3rd Day: Early morning arrival in Schweinfurt.

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION

**TOUR PRICE INCLUDES:** Transportation by deluxe motor coach with WC, air condition, reclining seats, refrigerator, sightseeing as described, tour guide.

**SUPPLEMENTARY COSTS:** Boat ride on Lake Lucerne, appr. Sfr 19,-p.p.; Schattenburg Castle and dinner, appr. € 20,-; personal expenses; tips.

**CHILDREN'S PRICE:** Children 3 through 12 pay US\$ 5 less than adult price. Children under 3 travel free but no seat guaranteed.

**DOCUMENTS:** Valid US passport.

**USO** is not responsible for lost and stolen articles.

**LIABILITY:** We are only acting as agents for various contractors (hotels, bus companies, airlines etc.) and are therefore in no way responsible for the fulfilment of their obligations, nor are we to be held liable for accidents, delays, losses etc. The liability of all these contractors remains unprejudiced. Right is also reserved to program changes and alterations as well as substitution of services listed above, when and where necessary, without prior notice. USO reserves the right to cancel the tour if minimum participation is not reached. Conditions accepted upon booking.

**USO SCHWEINFURT**

**Hours of Operation:**

**Mon-Wed, Fri: 10 a.m. – 4 p.m., Thu: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.**

**DSN 354-6711, CIV 09721-96-6711, FAX 09721-804600**

**E-mail: [uso\\_schweinfurt@yahoo.com](mailto:uso_schweinfurt@yahoo.com)**

**Website: [www.uso.org/schweinfurt](http://www.uso.org/schweinfurt)**

# USO SCHWEINFURT

## JULY 2004

### Rothenburg ob der Tauber, July 10

Departs: Ledward at 9 a.m.  
Returns: Approx.: 7 p.m.  
Cost: \$15 everyone  
Transportation: USO Vans **/limit 7 people**  
See the most visited city in Germany. Bring euros for lunch and any entrance fees.

### Buchenwald Concentration Camp, July 11

Departs: Ledward at 7 a.m.  
Returns: Approx.: 7 p.m.  
Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 children  
Transportation: USO Van/**limit 7 people**  
Buchenwald was Germany's largest Concentration Camp. Bring euros for lunch.

### Neustadt Crystal Shopping, July 17

Departs: Ledward at 7 a.m.  
Returns: Approx. 6 p.m.  
Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 children  
Transportation: USO Van/**limit 7 people**  
**BIG SALE!!** Join us for a day of crystal shopping. Bring your VAT form and shop til you drop.

### Legoland Germany, July 18

Departs: Ledward at 8 a.m.  
Returns: Approx.: 8 p.m.  
Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 children  
Transportation: USO Van/**limit 7 people**  
Join us for a day of fun. Admission not included, but discount tickets are available from the USO.

### Holiday Park, July 24

Departs: Ledward at 7 a.m.  
Returns: Approx.: 8 p.m.  
Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 children  
Transportation: USO Van/**limit 7 people**  
Come join us at a day of fun. Admission not included, but discount tickets are available from the USO.

### Nuernberg Zoo, July 25

Departs: Ledward at 9 a.m.  
Returns: Approx.: 5 p.m.  
Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 children  
Transportation: USO Van/**limit 7 people**  
Spend the day in one of Germany's largest zoos. Bring euros for entrance fees and lunch.

### Coburg Fortress, July 31

Departs: Ledward at 9 a.m.  
Returns: Approx.: 6 p.m.  
Cost: \$15 everyone  
Transportation: USO Van/**limit 7 people**  
The Veste is Germany's largest fortress. Bring euros for entrance fee and lunch.

### **NO RESERVATIONS ARE ACCEPTED WITHOUT FULL PAYMENT!!!!!!**

Schedules are subject to change without notice. **NO REFUNDS FOR NO SHOWS!**  
*Come by the USO for a detailed cancellation policy.*

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***Pick up on Conn available.***

# USO SCHWEINFURT

## AUGUST 2004

### Palm Beach WaterPark, Aug 1

Departs: Ledward at 9 a.m.

Returns: Approx: 4 p.m.

Cost: \$15 everyone

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

Bring euros for lunch and entrance fee

### 3-Country Express, Aug 6-8

Departs: Ledward at 9 p.m.

Returns: Early morning

Cost: \$95 adults, \$90 children

Transportation: German bus/ **limit 49 people**

Visit Switzerland, Lichtenstein and Austria all in one day! Come by the USO for a detailed itinerary.

### Tripsdrill, Aug 8

Departs: Ledward at 8 a.m.

Returns: Approx.: 8 p.m.

Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 children

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

Join us for a day of fun! Admission (not included) is €15 for everyone ages 4 and up and includes entrance to both the amusement park and wild animal park. Tickets are available at the USO.

### Neuschwanstein Castle, Aug 14

Departs: Ledward at 6 a.m.

Returns: Approx. 8 p.m.

Cost: \$25 adults, \$20 children

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

Come see two of King Ludwig's castles. Bring euros for entrance fees and lunch

### Wildpark Bad Mergentheim, Aug 15

Departs: Ledward at 9 a.m.

Returns: Approx.: 6 p.m.

Cost: \$15 everyone

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

Spend the day at the Wildtierpark and experience the animals close up. Bring euros for entrance fee and lunch. Admission: €7,50 for adults, €4,50 for children 3-14.

### Black Forest, Aug 21

Departs: Ledward 6:30 a.m.

Returns: Approx. 8 p.m.

Cost: \$25 adults, \$20 children

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

We will visit the world's biggest Cuckoo Clock, Germany's highest waterfall, and lots of clock shops. Bring euros for lunch and don't forget your VAT form.

### Legoland Germany, Aug 22

Departs: Ledward at 8 a.m.

Returns: Approx.: 8 p.m.

Cost: \$20 adults, \$15 children

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

Join us for a day of fun. Admission not included, but discount tickets are available from the USO. €19 for ages 3-11 and €22 for ages 12 and up.

### Rothenburg ob der Tauber, Aug 28

Departs: Ledward at 1 p.m.

Returns: Approx.: 11 p.m.

Cost: \$15 everyone

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

Come with us to see Germany's most visited city and experience a tour with the night watchman (4 euros). Tour departs the Marktplatz near the Rathaus at 8 p.m. Bring euros for dinner and entrance fees.

### Nuernberg Zoo, Aug 29

Departs: Ledward at 9 a.m.

Returns: Approx.: 5 p.m.

Cost: \$15 everyone

Transportation: USO Van/ **limit 7 people**

Spend the day in one of Germany's largest zoos. Bring euros for lunch and entrance.

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