



## The Hard Chargers of Headquarters, and Headquarters Battery exemplify the flexibility of today's Army

In this month's edition of the TOP GUNS TIMES

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# TOP GUN TIMES



Date: MAY 06

Volume: 8

TOP GUN 6

As we begin the eighth month of this tour, I look back at all this battalion has accomplished and realized little, if anything, would have been possible without our magnificent staff's ability to plan and coordinate each operation. Their ability to adapt to any and all situations thrust upon them has made me realize what fine individuals and Soldiers they truly are. Whether the Top Guns are in a kinetic fight or non-kinetic humanitarian role, the staff maintains situational awareness so our Soldiers can take the fight to the enemy while remaining as safe as possible due to accurate field intelligence and attention to detail.

The Top Guns have seamlessly transitioned from one role to another. Though trained and conditioned as an artillery unit, we assumed the duties of infantrymen while in Taji. Our move to Victory Base Complex, and subsequent missions as a force protection unit where static defenses are a primary concern, has seen a continuation of the professionalism that has characterized us from the day we set foot in Iraq. We have done everything asked of us and performed with distinction, maintaining mission focus whether out west destroying the enemies' caches (hidden ammunition) or strengthening the defenses of Victory Base Complex.

**"[The staff's] ability to adapt to any and all situations thrust upon them has made me realize what fine individuals and Soldiers they truly are."**

I want to thank the staff for their hard work and sacrificial attitude. They are truly unsung heroes. Furthermore, I want to give special credit and acknowledgement to the communities of Villa Hills, Lakeside Park, and Taylor Mill, KY for their support of our battalion's efforts to reach the Iraqi people within our battle space. The Top Guns are proud to know that you stand united behind us.



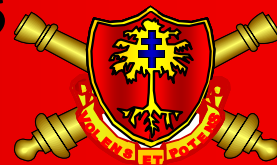
Last but not least, I would like to thank our loving families and our outstanding Family Readiness Group for taking on the hardest mission within the battalion; loving and supporting your Soldiers throughout this deployment. It's your support and love that keeps us focused on the mission at hand, knowing that soon you will all be in our arms again.

"Top Guns"





# TOP GUN TIMES



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HHB "Hard Chargers"

The month of April was a great month for the Hard Chargers. Soldiers stayed busy and participated in two battle drill exercises to test our readiness. The Soldiers performed magnificently and stand ready for any mission given. We took our record APFT this month and CSM Jacobs, SSG Jones, SPC Padilla, and 1LT Coppola made it into the Hard Charger Hall of Fame with the highest APFT scores in the battery. Congratulations to SPC Robinson for winning the Camp Victory bench press competition by lifting over 315 pounds. This month SPC Baier and SPC Wong were promoted. Congratulations to both of them.



I have thoroughly enjoyed my last year as the commander of this battery and I appreciate all the support you guys/wives have given me over the last year. I will be relinquishing command of Hard Chargers to CPT Kendrick Fanniel on May 19, 2006. Please show Kendrick the same support and devotion you have shown me throughout my command. I would like to personally thank my wife, Holly, and Devra Stadler for all the hard work, time, and effort you have put into the HHB FRG. Continue to have your functions and take care of the Hard Charger families in the rear. I would also like to personally thank the Hendrickson's for all of their support throughout the deployment. Debbie and Ken you are exactly what America needs.

I would also ask everyone to keep the memory of Matthew Holley alive in our heart and continue to pray for his family. SGT Redman is home now and all the guys here wish him a speedy recovery. Hard Chargers will continue to lead from the front and set the standard for the battalion.

## HARD CHARGERS LEAD THE WAY.



KEVIN L. JACKSON  
HARD CHARGER 6

## Service Battery "Sidewinders"

April was another great month for the "Sidewinders." Both platoons participated in a health and welfare inspection of some contractors on Camp Victory. The outstanding enthusiasm of the Soldiers and NCOs resulted in the discovery of drugs and weapons, which caused several contractor arrests. The actions of our Soldiers definitely made Camp Victory safer for all the units located here in sunny Baghdad. The temperature increased dramatically this month, but our Soldiers and NCOs are taking the heat in stride. Together with the other Batteries, we were able to shorten our duty shifts from twelve to eight hours. The Battery continues to exceed all expectations and provide the best support possible for the Battalion.

Maintenance has been busy keeping air conditioning units operational so that we can all stay a little cooler. S&T continues to protect Camp Victory, allowing us all to sleep better. I am proud to be associated with such an outstanding and dedicated "Sidewinder" team.





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Date: MAY 06  
Service Battery "Sidewinders"

Volume: 8

Alpha Battery "Rock Hard" cont.



Although Service Battery did not have any reenlistments this month, we continue to lead the Battalion in overall reenlistments for the year. We did, however, have five promotions this month. Congratulations to SGT Taylor, SPC Carter, SPC Petersen, SPC Schrader, and SPC Vasquez on their promotions.

Again, thanks for all the support from home. Phone calls and mail keep all of us going as we complete another month. We look forward to the long awaited return home to our family and friends.



EMILY SIEGERT  
1LT, OD  
Acting Commander

## Alpha Battery "Rock Hard"

Greetings from Camp Victory!! We hope this finds you all doing well as the summer months quickly come upon us. We still have a few months of hard work before we can finally enjoy being at home with everyone. The Soldiers continue to work hard and our tasks continue to change. The battery successfully closed down one of our busiest entry control points last month in record time and

continue to remain flexible for any future missions we may be assigned.



1LT  
Ciovacco  
and SGT  
Mount

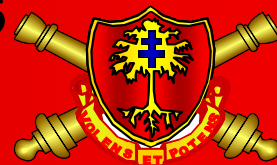
The temperature continues to rise, as I am sure you are all aware, but we are taking steps to keep everyone hydrated and rested to ensure we have no accidents or injuries heading into the dog days of summer.

This month we promoted several Rock Hard Soldiers. SSG Black was promoted and SGT's Strausbaugh and Malin were welcome additions to the NCO Corps. Their leadership will be much needed as we continue to work in the hot summer days and begin to redeploy home in the coming months. SPC Gray and PFC Peltier were promoted because of their outstanding performance and the potential they have displayed. Several Rock Hard Soldiers received Certificates of Achievement for their outstanding performance on the Army Physical Fitness Test conducted last month. 1LT Ciovacco, 1LT Roberts, 1LT Sipes, 1LT Wade, SSG Green, SSG Rivas, SSG Trusty, SGT McGowan, SPC Alvarado, SPC Wrigley, SPC Gray, and PFC Sisson displayed outstanding dedication to duty in maintaining their physical readiness. Finally, we would like to congratulate the Rivera family on the birth of their son Ricardo on 27 January 2006. I apologize for the late





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Alpha Battery "Rock Hard Cont.

Comments of a Soldier

announcement, but know that Ricardo has been on our minds since his arrival and we all look forward to meeting him when we get off the plane.

Thanks again for all your support. You can be sure we are counting the days much like all of you. Your support on the home front has helped us to do our jobs with the piece of mind that you are all well. We miss you all and can't wait to return home!!

Respectfully,

CPT Jeff Munn  
Rock Hard 6



## Bravo Battery "Bulls"

Hello again from Camp Victory,

Things continue to go well here and as I'm sure everyone back home will be pleased to know, it has also been very quiet. We are into our third week of 8 hour shifts in the security towers, and as the heat begins to rise, the shorter time in the towers is very welcome. I think that after having spent five months looking at the same terrain and buildings, the Soldiers serving in the towers could probably draw a perfect map of their area from memory.

On the 29th of this month PFC Thomas proved without a shadow of a doubt that he is indeed a BAD#@! In a three round fight PFC Thomas defeated an opponent who had a significant weight and reach advantage over him. After being named the victor, PFC Thomas held the Bulls helmet high and let the crowd know that if you try to mess with the Bulls you are going away bloody!

Big news from the firing platoon! Midway through the month the platoon fired its 101st fire mission. HOOAH!!! Our comrades in arms down south truly appreciate having the firing platoon ready to deal with anyone crazy enough to mess with the 101st ABN. The platoon has shown time and time again that it is ready and more than able to complete its mission, anytime and in any weather.

Congratulations are due to two fine Soldiers this month. PFC Whitaker was promoted to the rank of Specialist and SGT Peltier joined the ranks of the NCO Corps. Both men truly earned the ranks they are now wearing and are a real asset to the battery and battalion.

Sadly, we must also offer our condolences this month. PFC Thomas lost his uncle and SPC Gugliuzza's sister passed away. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families at this difficult time.

As we pass through the seventh month of our deployment, the battery is beginning to see the light at the end of the tunnel. We are all still very proud to serve our country and accomplish our mission over here.

Regrettably, this will be my last entry into the TOP GUN TIMES. I will be changing command of Bravo Battery on the 26th of May. It has been the honor of my life to serve with the outstanding men of Bravo Battery, both back at Ft. Campbell and while deployed here in Iraq. I have learned a great deal during my time as commander from the finest NCOs that the army has to offer. Their professionalism and expertise is unparalleled in any other unit I have ever served.

My greatest joy in serving with this Battery has been working with the Soldiers. To a man, they are the most hard working and courageous Soldiers I have ever seen. Much was asked of these men and they never failed to deliver in an outstanding manner, no matter what the task. What these men have accomplished over the past year will be read in history books for years to come.

I would be remiss if I did not acknowledge and thank the fine ladies of the Battery FRG. Their tireless efforts back home allowed the Battery to completely focus on its mission over here. Each and every lady who was involved in the FRG has my true gratitude and I would especially like to thank my two FRG Leaders, Jennifer Gugliuzza and Sheri Hines. The support that these two ladies show to the ladies back home and the Soldiers over here was unbelievable and I will never be able to fully express my gratitude.

Thank you again for honor of serving with these fine men.

Bulls Lead the Way!

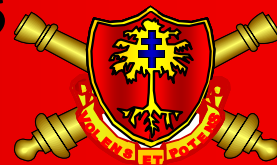
CPT Jim Sheridan  
Bulls 6







# TOP GUN TIMES



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## The Word on the Street

What you have like to say to mother for Mother's Day?



**HHB:**

**1LT Robert Sipes:**

**Franklin, TN**

Mom, Thanks for all you do. I love you, and I miss you a lot.



**Alpha Battery:**

**1LT Gary Wade:**

**District of Columbia, MD**

Happy Mother's Day Mom. Linda and I are doing fine and we hope to see you soon.

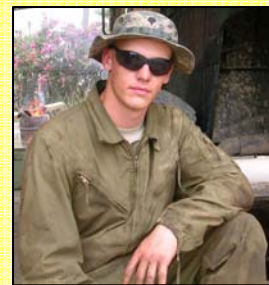


**Bravo Battery:**

**PFC Jacob Fairbanks:**

**St. Paul, MN**

I know that people don't say it enough. I could never say it enough, but thanks.



**Service Battery:**

**PFC Kevin Daniels:**

**Mount Sterling, OH**

Happy Mother's Day

## Comments from Soldier



**Comments from SSG Kyle Lyon:**

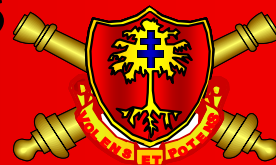
Talk to us about how flexible this battalion is.

This battalion has shown that today's Army is a multi-faceted force. We started as a Field Artillery battalion, transformed to an Infantry battalion, and are now completing an Military Police mission. All of these changes have been made while leadership has rotated throughout the unit. No matter what the mission the Soldiers of this battalion have shown that they can accomplish any mission at any time.





# TOP GUN TIMES



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Promotions and Reenlistment:

SPC Makin Reenlistment

SSG Porter Reenlistment



SGT Rainey Reenlistment



SSG Renfrow Reenlistment



SPC Burge Reenlistment



SPC Wong Promotion



## May Promotions:

Congratulations to the following for getting promoted this month:

### A BTRY:

- SSG Black
- SSG Kempisty
- SGT Malin
- SGT Strausbaugh
- SPC Landry
- PFC Peltier

### B BTRY:

- SGT Floyd
- SGT Ganoë
- SGT Melton

### HHB:

- SPC Baier
- SPC Wong

### SVC:

- SGT Taylor
- SPC Carter
- SPC Schrader

## April Reups:

Congratulations to the following Soldiers:

- HHB
- SGT Rainey

- Alpha
- SSG Porter
- SSG Renfrow
- SPC Burge
- SPC Makin

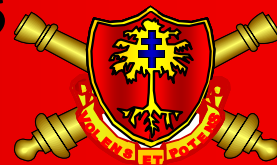
- Bravo
- PFC Noll

The Top Guns thank you for your service and for making this Army stronger.





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Promotions and Reenlistment:



On April 11, just 6 months after assuming their mission for reenlistment, 1-320<sup>th</sup> FAR has already accomplished that goal. They were the first battalion in the entire brigade and one of the first in the 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division to make mission. “The difference between the Top Guns and other Battalions was the chain of command,” says SSG Dean Scott – Top Guns’ Retention NCO. “We did not just focus on reenlisting Soldiers to stay in the unit at Ft. Campbell. We focused on keeping Soldiers in the Army. Forty percent of all our reenlistments were for relocation to new duty assignments, but the remainder chose to stay with the Top Guns.” In this time of war and long deployments, it is amazing that this organization was able to keep Soldiers in the Army.

SSG Dean Scott  
TOP GUNS’ Retention  
NCO



SFC Hurd

“The overall mentoring and professionalism that this battalion possesses set the example for our Soldiers. Those that were unsure before, got into a good rhythm that showed them how the Army really operates.”



SPC Mitchell

“The leadership gives us good information on our mission and what we are doing here. They put Soldiers in a good position to help us gain a better understanding of the Army.”



SPC Sanchez

“We get talked to a lot about our options. Most of the guys don’t know what they are going to do, but then they get further guidance on what the Army has to offer and lots of people to talk too about it.”





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## Fight Night at Camp Victory



Bravo: PFC Kyle Thomas

Bravo's PFC Kyle Thomas & HHB's SSG Juderson Nelson participated in fight night. Both competitors made a great representation for the Top Gun Battalion.



HHB- SSG Juderson Nelson

## Headquarters and Headquarters' Battery



Top Gun 6 - LTC Torres at the flag raising ceremony



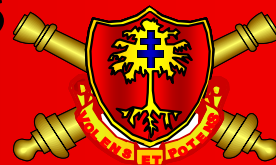
Top Gun 50N- SSG Best at working at his desk







# TOP GUN TIMES



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Our Life in Pictures Cont.: Staff



Top Gun 2 and Top Gun 3  
1LT Gocke and CPT Petersen



Top Gun 9 (SIGO): CPT Moeller



Top Gun MEDO/  
Day Battle CPT  
1LT Coppola



Top Gun Night  
Battle Captain  
CPT  
Stephenson



Palace Guard: PFC Frasier



Top Gun 1- CPT Fanniel



Holy Gun: CPT (CH) Roberson



Top Gun 4 - CPT Clark, WO1  
Robinson (Former Top Gun), and  
the Force Protection Officer- CPT  
Cummings



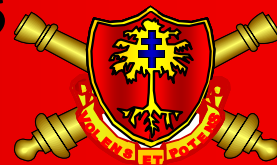
TOP GUN Legal-  
SPC McMurray







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Our Life in Pictures Cont.



Bravo- CPT Sheridan, and 1LT Tousley at the towers



HHB- 1SG McKinley and WO1 Woodson at Mahmudya, Iraq



Service Battery 1-320<sup>th</sup> FAR



Alpha: SPC Woody performing Gunner duties



Sidewinder 6  
CPT Tess

Alpha:  
SGT Mount



## Chaplain's Corner

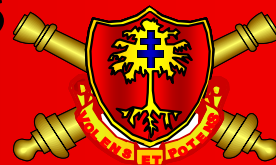
“Submit yourselves to every ordinance of man for the Lord’s sake: whether it be to the king as supreme; or unto governors, as unto them that are sent by him for the punishment of evildoers, and for the praise of them that do well. For so is the will of God, that with well doing ye may put to silence the ignorance of foolish men: as free, and not using your liberty for a cloak of maliciousness, but as the servants of God.” (1 Peter 2:13-16) To all who read these words, it is my prayer that God will bless each and every one of you. May He give us the grace to fulfill His divine standards and the wisdom to realize that all things happen for a reason (even if that reason is hidden from our current vantage point).

Holy Smoke Out





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HHB Palace Guard-Shift #2



1LT Ciovacco and 1LT Siegert before a patrol.

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RAFAEL TORRES JR.  
LTC, FA  
Commanding

