



June heralds a change of command for the 21st Combat Support Hospital. COL James Bruckart has commanded since June 2001. Historic events happened during these 2 years, which affected all of our lives. Tragedy struck on Sept 11, 2001, which shocked and galvanized the USA. United States Military Might struck Afghanistan and the 21st CSH provided hospital support in Kuwait. A second deployment happened in March 2003 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Once again the 21st met the challenge and deployed to set up hospital support for United States Forces in Iraq. Our 21st Combat Support Hospital is the premier example of the Army Medical Department's tactical hospital. It has capabilities no past CSH could accomplish, and now it proves this in Iraq. I am proud that my husband could command the 21st during such significant days.

On 27 June 2003 a routine, yet dramatic, military evolution takes place: Change of Command. COL Douglas Liening assumes command of this terrific hospital and will lead it to great things. Sadly, the families will miss the patriotic and stirring sights: flags flying, military band playing, formations assembling, and the pass in review. All this will occur far away, but our sacrifices pave the way for freedom.

This month I also say goodbye to you as the 21st CSH FRG Leader. It has been my pleasure to serve this fantastic unit. The soldier's and families have pulled together during these historic and difficult days to make our hospital outstanding. It is noteworthy that the 21st is caring for both our soldiers and citizens of Iraq in two distinct locations. On the home front the companies have pulled together with potlucks to share strength and stories. Communication is the key.

I must thank the following people: Roy Williams, Michelle Marsh, Jill Neves, Tammy Thomas, Debbie Kirk, Pat Kirk, Ann Vaseliades, April Wright, Lisa Mason, SGT Daniel, SSG Vinson, MSG Beaver, MAJ Jeffrey Peters, Cristi Cardenas, Tina Mason and Angela Mitchell. All are special people who have provided strength, motivation, organization and enthusiasm. This team has pulled together fundraisers, holiday parties, food baskets, and craft parties that were full of fun and laughter. Thanks go to this team.

I know Jim and I have been Bear Nuts. It has been a recurring theme the past 2 years. In heraldry a Bear stands for ferocity in the protection of kindred. For the past 3 months I have enjoyed Bear Notes and hearing about Bear North and Bear South. I know the soldiers have

ferociously safeguarded the patients entrusted to them. Fear Not is such a great motto! I am proud of this unit and those who have made it so successful. I will miss all of the Bears.

Now it is time to welcome the new Command Team: COL Doug and Debra Liening. They have come from Fort Bragg, quickly established a home here at Fort Hood, and within a month, COL Liening has deployed to Iraq to assume command of the 21st Combat Support Hospital. Welcome, COL and Mrs.Liening.

Fear Not and God Speed!