

## **Real Food Bears**

It has been another busy week at our hospitals. If you follow the news, you probably noticed that some of the recent operations have been in the area around our Bear South location. However, I want to reassure you that all of our soldiers are safe. We hope these operations to round-up criminals will reduce the attacks against guards and patrols and will make our area safer for our soldiers and the local residents.

Yesterday we promoted two of our Majors – Congratulations Lieutenant Colonels Hays and Endrizzi – to you and your families. The new Lieutenant Colonels were gracious in sponsoring a Bar-B-Q for all of our soldiers. Thank you for this morale boost. Speaking of morale boost, we received our first two meals with “real food” this past week. Breakfast this morning included real eggs and sausage. This is our first “real food” since we departed Kuwait over 2 months ago. Up until now it has been MREs and Group Rations.

We also added two large “fest tents” at our Bear South location. The additional sleeping area allows us to redistribute tent space and permit more living space for all of our soldiers. Most soldiers are permitted 5 feet from one bunk to the next. We hope to add some air conditioning – at least at night – if sufficient generators are available.

Last week I mentioned that several soldiers received packages within 2 weeks. Yesterday I received an Easter Card from my father. It wasn't his fault since it spent two months in the mail. We think the mail handlers are finally getting toward the bottom of the large stack of mail that accumulated at the beginning of combat operations. I hope your package or letter got through quickly.

I'll give warning that next week will be my last Bear Note. Every 2 years the Army changes command in their major units and my 2 years will expire next week. Don't worry, Col Doug Liening arrived yesterday and he is already digging into the daily decisions that are required to run this hospital.

Let me close by thanking LTC Sorenson and the COSCOM folks that have managed our rear detachment and prepared our soldiers for deployment. We can not perform our missions without your support for our families and deploying soldiers.