

To all Family and Friends,

Life continues for the Bears here in Iraq. We are on the verge of achieving “prime power” at Bear South, which will change life significantly for the better. Life also got brighter yesterday when the AC units for some of the sleep areas arrived. The contractors will be here in a few days to set those up. This will help your soldier sleep more comfortably and make the tents a more sociable place.

One of our soldiers, SPC Kelly Green, was wounded July 15 during a mortar attack on the compound where Bear South is located. SPC Green was not on the hospital site at the time. She is recovering well and will return to duty. We all wish her the best on her recovery and are grateful she received only minor injuries.

Force Protection continues to be our top priority. Everyone at both Bear North and Bear South is filling sandbags on a daily basis. This will permit much greater protection from the mortar rounds that have become part of the landscape at Bear South. Several other bunker systems are also in place or under construction. With a little bit of progress, every-day life becomes safer and more comfortable. These efforts will continue until a maximum practical level of safety is achieved.

A small telephone bank is now open at Bear South. There are 5 Iridium telephones available for use at the cost of about \$0.96/minute. This requires a significant wait at this time in order to make a call.

Attached is a photo of CW2 Michael Smith down in Camp Victory, Kuwait. He is our utilities warrant, in charge of ground maintenance and generator repair. His heroic efforts, along with those of our generator mechanic, SGT Julie Rhinehart, have kept the power on during a difficult summer heat season. Many thanks to both soldiers for their hard work.

Finally, thank you for your love and support, which mean the world to us. Your soldiers think of you daily. We are grateful for all the packages, e-mail, and letters you send.