

To all family and friends,

I had the pleasure of spending nearly a week at Bear North since our last Bear Note was sent. The soldiers of B Co. are doing well and serving our nation with pride and excellence. The close-knit group at Mosul Airfield has a lot of spirit and camaraderie. Recent events show that the soldiers of the 101st Air Assault division are still at risk up there, and they rely on the soldiers of the 21st Combat Support Hospital to sustain them in their times of trial. All the leadership of the division is grateful for their sacrifices.

The phone bank is now set up at Bear North, so soldiers there should have the opportunity to call. When everyone was told to call their loved ones within a week, they all nodded their heads and said yes.

The Prime Power generator arrived at Bear South, but without cabling or circuit breakers. We'll have a bit of a pause until these things arrive. Maybe it's just me, but it does seem slightly cooler this last week in July. The temperatures of 115 degrees have relented and the highs have been around 108 or so, which seems almost cool and pleasant. The local Iraqis say things are definitely better in the last half of August. The date palms are heavy with fruit and the tomatoes are nearly finished.

The mortar attacks which bothered the folks at Bear South have declined in the past week. We have not slacked off in our efforts at force protection at either site, and improvements continue. Everyone here is grateful for the care and support received from loved ones at home. There is no definite word on when we might be headed home, but it is not unreasonable to suppose that our fate will be tied to that of the 4th Infantry Division. The Division Commander told me yesterday that he believes they will be going home by 1 April. More to follow when things are decided.

The attached photos show some fresh faces from early in the deployment and a group of Iraqi doctors touring the 21st CSH.

Many thanks for all your love and support