

To all Family and Friends,

Greetings once again from the very warm Tigris River valley. The Iraqis have a saying: The first ten days of August will melt door knobs, the second ten days of August turn the dates brown, and the third ten days in August are the beginning of fall. I can testify to the "melting doorknobs" part. It has been hot here in ways I never imagined. I have also noticed that the dates are turning very brown now for the first time. So we will keep our fingers crossed and hope for a break in the temperatures in another week.

Prime power continues to dominate hospital operations at both Bear North and Bear South. In Mosul, the hospital is close to hooking into city power for much of their needs. At Bear South we are waiting for the Caterpillar factory rep to come take a look at the generator which has been on the ground since 23 July and has not yet functioned. We work every day to ensure that life gets better for patient and soldier alike, and occasionally we do have successes. Your Medics, Nurses and Docs are providing exemplary service. Yesterday I attended a conference in Baghdad and heard from a number of sources how grateful the units are for the care we give their soldiers. Unfortunately our services are still needed, and we will be here for the soldiers in Iraq as long as needed.

There is no definite rotation plan for the 21st CSH in place yet, but we have been told to be ready for a year. That would put us home in March if true. I will keep you posted on developments as soon as they occur.

The 21st CSH is transitioning into a medical task force that will cover most of northern Iraq. As such we are gaining associated units and will expand our mailing lists to accommodate these new soldier-medics. This Task Force will stand up tomorrow, 15 August.

Thanks very much for all your love and support. We are working to make life better and more efficient for everyone here, and constantly think of you at home. We will be home as soon as we can be.