

Greetings,

Another month gone and your Bobcats continue to set the security for the Iraqi people. They are making a difference daily in many towns and villages. The best part of my job is when I see the Bobcats bring a smile to the faces of children, who before all of this did not have a future. These children are the innocent victims and it is our hope that they now will have a more secured and peaceful life. The highlight of our day is when we see the children line up on the road waving and giving us the "thumbs up" signal. They are the most appreciative for us being here. They are the reasons why we get up every morning motivated and ready to attack any challenge that awaits us. Please continue to keep us and all of them in your daily prayers.

The weather has been very nice. We are in for a very hot summer. Since the last newsletter a lot has happened in Mosul, especially in our battle space. Many Iraqi leaders have come forward and are manning position in the new Iraqi government. The Iraqi police forces have reorganized their police headquarters and are manning it with new recruits daily. The Iraqi Army is now more confident and taking charge of their country. They are serving proudly and doing a great job. Our bobcats are very excited and proud about what is taking place because they know that the reason this is possible is because of their commitment to duty. Your Bobcats are the only reason these areas are taking a turn for the better. We continue to remind ourselves that this is a small step to the long road ahead and that this country is still not totally secured.

We continue to receive attacks against us. Almost daily we continue to apprehend insurgents and discover caches of weapons and ammunition. As long as we continue this pressure, the insurgents will eventually get the message and cross over the line to the good side. Many of the captured are helping in the location of other insurgents and caches of ammunition and weapons. Your Bobcats have become very good at identifying caches, IEDs and the "bad guys", especially during the TCPs (Traffic Control Points). They sense when something bad is about to happen or just does not look right. My boss and I are very proud of our soldiers. In my 34 months as the Command Sergeant Major of this outstanding battalion, I have seen us grow from a peace time unit to an outstanding combat unit. I am very proud to have had the opportunity to serve proudly with these fine Bobcats, and to be called Bobcat 7 during these hard times.

Our prayers continue to go out to all of our wounded Bobcats. We know for some that the road to recovery will be an uphill battle and a very long one. I know they are living up to our motto "I'll Try Sir", because they are recovering well. I cannot wait to be united back with all of them. THEY are my true heroes. They continue to make all of us very proud. Please continue to keep all of them and their families in your prayers.

Everyone in the battalion is doing great things. From the lowest private to my boss, each soldier is making a difference in and outside the wire. All of the companies are doing an excellent job in controlling and securing the area of operations. They face everyday with the challenges of earning the confidence and respect of the Iraqi people. We know for a fact that if we get them on our side, they will come forward with information about the insurgents and their operations.

Once again I want to take this time to send out my Kudos to our Family Readiness Groups, Bobcat families and all of the organizations that continue to show great support to our soldiers. You have all given us the motivation to continue with the fight of this evil enemy. We will not let you or our country down.

This is all for this months newsletter. Robin and I wish you all the best in the upcoming months. Our prayers are with all of you. Take care of yourself and one another. Stay safe.

*God bless you all,
Victor Mercado
Command Sergeant Major*

My Stryker Crew – HQ 67.



*On top of the Stryker SPC Halmagen (Driver)
L/R- Me (The Older looking), SPC Santos(Ground Security), SPC Rodriguez(Ground Security), SSG Mening (Vehicle Commander)*