

*Hello Bobcat family and friends,*

*Another month has gone by and your Bobcats are more pumped up than ever. The reason for them being pumped is because everyday they are making a difference. Our battalion is back together as one with the return of Apaches. We are very happy to be together as a battalion and I do know they are happy to be back with us. Having them back in Bobcat Country and knowing that they will be with us until the end is the best thing a unit in combat can wish for. The Apaches fit right in as if they had never been separated from us. They bring with them a lot of experience in our battle space. The unfortunate thing is that we had to leave two soldiers behind. The loss of 1LT Edens and SGT Morris was a big blow for all the Bobcats. We are still mourning the loss of SSG Tavae when 1LT Edens and SGT Morris were KIA. We have honored these two Bobcats Warriors in a big way and now we are continuing to take this fight to the enemy as a whole unit with Apaches on our side. Please keep your daily prayers going for the Bobcats. Your prayers help to keep us focused and ready at all time.*

*We hated to lose Archer troop but we understood fully that their parent unit feels the same about having them back like we feel about our Apaches. I would like to personally give my thanks to their outstanding leader and especially to CPT Shark and 1SG Watson for always trusting in us and supporting our decisions 100%. The Bobcats wish them the best of luck in their new combat mission. Archer troop does understand perfectly that phrase "Once a Bobcat, always a Bobcat". HOOAH!*

*I want to dedicate the rest of my article to our outstanding Family Readiness Group because without them my boss and I could have never focused on our war time mission. Every volunteer family member and leader has done and continues to do an excellent job taking care of our Bobcats families and each other. I know for a fact that our soldiers and leaders appreciate their hard work and honest selfless service to our battalion. I have asked my wife Robin to join me in recognizing the leaders and the group of volunteer that have brought this battalion together and much closer during this hard time of war. I'll now turn it over to Robin (BC 7W).*

*Any type of deployment is hard on families; however, when it is deployment during war, more stress, crisis and family emergency seem to arise. Our FRG leaders are the core to our battalion and the ones who provide the critical flow of information and support. These great leaders assist in reaching a solution or more importantly, preventing the problem in the first place.*

*Not only do they assist with family members here at Fort Lewis, but many times they have received a phone call from a worried parent out of state. They are there at Madigan to greet our wounded soldiers when they arrive for treatment and care. They help arrange meals and transportation for family members who arrive out of state to be with an injured soldier, they do so much more and I could go on and on, unfortunately the amount of space I was given to write about these "angels" is not enough! We have recognized our ladies for their works at our appreciation dinner. But one thing you must all remember is that these women are the wives of deployed soldiers working along side your own. They have busy lives like yours and mine. Some of these women work outside the home some have children and others are attending college courses. All this, but yet they find the time to "volunteer" to be these leaders. The soldiers and family members should all be very grateful to this great group of women who I am so very proud to be a part of their lives. I can not imagine what it would be like not to be working with such dedication and commitment. Thank you to our wonderful FRG leaders, Cathy Bachl, Holley Aaron, Julie Hall, Rae Siebold, Kim Roach, Anne Tucker, Linda Lusk, Sue Larsen and Davina McNulty, who have made Lisa and myself job a lot easier. Thank you also to Deborah Hayward for her past and continued support for the bobcats and their families. Thank you also to all of the point of contact ladies who continue to make the information flow down to our families.*

*As you can see this has been a team effort. The mission is not over yet. The hardest part of any deployment is the redeployment. We start smelling the barn and have a tenancy to lose focus. Please continue to tell your loved ones to stay alert and focused at all times. Remember, we are mission complete (MC) when the last Bobcat is back in the USA with their loved ones. Take care and stay safe.*

*God Bless you all,*

*Victor and Robin*



