



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
A Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Aviation Regiment
3rd Infantry Division
APO AE 09378

AFZP-VX-D-ACO

24 February 2005

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Alpha Company Right Seat Rides and Relief in Place at Camp Taji

1. Alpha Company Spiders completed right seat rides with 2-227th Aviation Regiment on 19 February 2005. During the integration period at Taji, Spiders assumed nightly FOB runs in AOR Baghdad and the Division Reserve Duty Mission (QRF). Pilots were re-acquainted with the Baghdad AOR, finding minor changes in flight TTPs from OIF I. During the right seat rides, the Common Missile Warning System was ordered disabled due to inadvertent flare dispensing over the city. Other events included attempted small arms fire engagements against aircraft, and mortaring of LSA Taji by the counter-insurgency.

2. Alpha Company flew one Air Assault mission with Task Force 2-7 CAV of the 1st Cavalry Division on 16 February. The ground tactical plan included IED sweeps along MSR routes west of Taji. The Task Force discovered IEDs along MSR routes, validating the success of the Air Assault. Alpha Company also planned the Division Reserve Duty Concept, outlining the Aerial QRF procedures at LSA Taji. Alpha Company developed the TTPs for Aerial QRF within the division sector during Mission Readiness Exercise 04-10 at the Joint Readiness Training Center.

3. Alpha Company also planned and briefed a pending Air Assault into Zone 66 with Task Force 3-325 Airborne Infantry (82nd Airborne Division). The Air Assault was planned in order to destroy counter insurgents firing rockets and mortars into Zone One, targeting the newly formed Iraqi National Assembly. Highly detailed planning included the integration of the AH-64D Longbow into the Air Assault, providing aerial route security and NAI coverage in and around objectives in Zone 66. The Air Assault was planned for 23 February, but postponed one week due to the change in convening date of the Iraqi National Assembly.

4. On a personal note, CW3 Doug Dickens received orders of promotion to CW4 effective 1 March 2005, and 1LT Damion Clavert received orders for promotion to Captain effective 1 October 2005. CW2 Greg Thomsen's wife Clarissa gave birth to a baby girl on 15 February. SGT Aaron Downey and SPC Sheldon Hoesli conducted their first combat flights as crew chiefs. Alpha Company moved into trailers near the flight line in order to facilitate planning and maintenance. The sleep trailer plan was constrained by civilian contractors living in trailers designated for Alpha Company soldiers. Mission loads were high from the beginning and not having soldiers settled in made life fairly difficult for a while.

5. POC is the undersigned.

CARL A. PRECIADO
CPT, AV
Commanding