

CPT FRED DFAULT

[REDACTED]

91142

[REDACTED]

BLACKWIDOWS

2

DICK DETRA

[REDACTED]

BRISBANE CA 94005-1576

VIETNAM 67-68 188TH AHC

BLACKWIDOWS



00185/7000



29 MAY 03

1/5

Dick,

HELLO ? HOW ARE YOU ? WANTED TO
DROP YOU A FEW LINES TO SAY THANK
YOU FOR THE SUPPORT OF THE COMPANY.
I RECEIVED YOUR LETTER WITH THE
BUSINESS CARDS & SIGNS. THEY WERE
AWESOME. JOHN BARTON HAS PASSED ON
THE PATCHES THAT WERE SENT VIA
CANDI. THE CREW CHIEF REALLY ENJOY
GETTING STUFF LIKE THAT. IT MAKES
THEM FEEL PROUD OF THEIR HISTORY.

WE HAVE A GREAT GROUP OF HARD-
WORKING AND MATURE GUYS THAT
HAVE KICKED ASS OVER HERE. WE
HAVE FLOWN 2,000 (+) FLIGHT HOURS
ON SOME OF THE MOST DEMANDING
OF COMBAT MISSIONS. THE BLACKWIDOWS
WERE ATTACHED TO TF 1-82 ATK
BN FOR ALMOST 3 WEEKS OF THE
WAR AND FLEW 700 HOURS, AIR

23 MAY

2/5

ASSAULTING THE B2D BOYS INTO HOT LZs AND PROVIDED SUPPORT OF ALL CLASSES OF SUPPLY. WE FLEW CIVIL AFFAIRS AND PSYOPS LEAFLET DROPS ENCOURAGING THE IRAQI FORCES TO LAY DOWN THEIR ARMS RATHER THAN BE DESTROYED BY OUR SUPERIOR WEAPON SYSTEMS AND FIRE POWER. I WANT TO THINK THAT IT PAID DIVIDENDS EARLY ON. THE POLITICIANS HAVE ANNOUNCED THAT THE WAR IS OVER. BUT I BELIEVE THE HARDEST WORK IS STILL BEFORE US.

WINNING THE HEARTS AND MINDS OF THESE PEOPLE WILL BE DIFFICULT. WE ARE NOW CAMPED OUT IN AL MAWSIL (MOSUL) IN NORTHERN IRAQ BEGINNING THE EARLY STAGES OF STABILITY

23 MAY

3/5

AND SUPPORT (SASO) OPERATIONS.

WE ARE READY FOR RELIEF IN PLACE (RIP) AND WAITING FOR

4 ID & 2D ARMOR DIVISION TO GET ON THE GROUND SO WE CAN

COME HOME. I AM PROUD TO

SAY WE DIDN'T LOSE ANY SOLDIERS OR AIRCRAFT IN THE BLACKWIDOWS

-S AND CONSIDER THIS A VERY SUCCESSFUL OPERATION.

I AM SORRY THAT WE WERE NEVER ABLE TO GET THE POW FLAG PRIOR TO DEPLOYING. IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE TO CARRY THAT WITH US TO REMIND US OF THOSE BOYS LESS FORTUNATE.

I AM SAD TO SAY THAT I HAVE GIVEN UP COMMAND OF THE BLACKWIDOWS. THE BATTALION COMMANDER WANTED TO ALLOW

23 MAY

4/5

CPT JASON B. BLEVINS THE OPPORTUNITY TO GET SOME EXPERIENCE OVER HERE WITH THE BOYS AND ALLOW HIM TO BUILD THE BOND THAT I AM SO PROUD TO HAVE BEEN ABLE TO DO. HE IS A GOOD FRIEND AND A COMPETENT INDIVIDUAL. HE WILL BE IN CONTACT SOON.

THANK YOU AND THANKS TO ALL THE BOYS WHO'VE SUPPORTED THE BLACKWIDOWS THUS FAR. I AM PROUD TO HAVE BEEN IN YOUR RANKS AND WILL STAY IN TOUCH.

UPON RETURNING TO THE STATES, I WILL BEGIN TEACHING MILITARY SCIENCE AT WEST POINT. IT IS AN OPPORTUNITY THAT FEW GET AND IT ALLOWS

23 MAY 03

5/5

ME TO BE CLOSE TO MY WIFE
WHO COMPLETES HER MASTERS
DEGREE IN BUSINESS AT HARVARD
UNIVERSITY NEXT YEAR.

GOD BLESS YOU AND GOD
BLESS THE BLACK WIDOWS!

MATE AND KILL
BWOG
OUT!

PS. MY EMAIL ADDRESS IS:

[REDACTED]

PLEASE STAY IN TOUCH!