

MAY 15, 2003

Dear Dick

Sorry I haven't written you before but as you know we've been busy. Just to let you know some of what we've done. Me and the rest of the command and control crew with a sister ship "512" were the first 2 aircraft to enter Iraq on the 20th of March. We supported Brigadier General Freakley (commander of Operations). Those 2 aircraft were the first ones on site of every battle and the most forward of all the 101st aircraft most of the time.

The rest of the company supported the 8th for about a month. The company is back together now and we are at an airfield near Mosul. That's up near Turkey. We are currently doing over watch missions of Mosul and preparing to change commanders CPT Blevins is taking over.

We continue to show that we are the best company in the division cause we lead from the front and not the rear. We have out flown every company in the 101st with over 2,000 HRS as a battalion and as a company we are ahead by over 300 HRS

moone can keep up with us.

we currently have around 45 people in the company and only 1 female pilot. I want ~~to~~ to thank you for all your support and packages.

Just for your knowledge we are using the ~~new~~ M-60 D's you used in Nam. Maybe even the same serial numbers.

The patches are a big hit, everyone wants one. There are guys including myself who will gladly send money for more.

We have 16 crewchiefs in 2nd flt. 14 in 1st flt. 24 warrant officers. 3 LTs, 4 test pilots, the 1st sargent, and right now 2 commanders. We also had 14 infantry doorgunners but the we sent back to their unit last week.

The certificates were also a big hit and everyone will hang them with pride. The

Patches are planned to go on the back of our helmets so everyone who flies with us will know that the blackwidows has a legacy. And we are proud of it.

If you could please tell Bob Moon and Ted Alley the news and ~~and~~ I will try to write them as soon as I get another

chance.

Thanks for all you have
done for us.

Your friend
SPC John H Barton IV

2ND FLT

crewchief of 4460
C&C Bird

MATE AND KILL