

RED WARRIORS

1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment



Memorial stands for our recently fallen heroes

The Light at the End of the Tunnel

By Captain David Peterson and Major Korey Brown
1-12 IN S1 and XO

This month we memorialized two of our warrior-brothers who lost their lives while conducting combat operations. SGT Sean Durkin and SGT Michael Ingram Jr. will both be sorely missed; and their absence will leave a tremendous void in our lives.

SGT Sean Michael Durkin was born in New Jersey on January 18th, 1986. In 2006, he enlisted in United States Army on his 20th birthday, and started basic training just one month later. Sean served in one previous deployment to Iraq with the 82nd Airborne Division, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

SGT Durkin arrived to Ft. Carson, CO and was initially assigned to 1st Battalion, 22nd Infantry of the 1st Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division. Sean volunteered for immediate deployment, and was reassigned to the 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment. On August 17th, 2009 he deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom X and was assigned to Alpha Company. He served with distinction as a rifle team leader in 1st Squad, 3rd Platoon, as well as 1st Squad, 1st Platoon. SGT Durkin was the type of NCO to bear the



hardships of his Soldiers, right alongside them, whatever the task. The motivation he instilled in the platoon and the laughs he brought to everyone made even the most demanding missions enjoyable. Sean was injured on 27 March 2010 while securing the site of a vehicle that had been struck by an IED. He succumbed to his injuries at Walter Reed Medical Center on April 9th, 2010; he was 24 years old.

SGT Sean Durkin was awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Iraq Campaign Medal w/Campaign

Star, Army Service Ribbon, two Overseas Service Ribbons, NATO Medal, the Combat Infantryman's Badge, the Expert Infantryman's badge, and the Parachutist Badge.

He is survived by his mother Mary, and his sister Megan.

Rest easy SGT Durkin, your duty is done; your presence will forever be in the hearts and minds of all those who were privileged to know you. Your sacrifices and the sacrifices of your family and friends will always be respected and appreciated by a grateful and humble Nation.

SGT Michael Keith Ingram Jr. was born in Detroit, Michigan on March 6th, 1987. After graduating from Shorter High School, Michael enlisted in the United States Army on November 2nd, 2005.

Michael arrived to Ft. Carson, CO on March 6th, 2006 and was assigned to 1st Battalion, 9th Infantry (MAN-CHU). In late May of 2009, he deployed with 1st Platoon, Charlie Company, TF 1-12 to Kandahar Province, Afghanistan where he served with distinction as a Rifle Team. Michael loved and cherished his family. As all of his closest friends would attest Elvis Presley was very one of his favorites - he listened to Elvis constantly and often spoke of his visits to Graceland. SGT Ingram was killed in action on 17 April 2010 while patrolling to help secure and bring aid to the local Afghan population. He was 23 years old.

He has been awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal w/Campaign Star, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

He is survived by his father Michael Sr., mother Patricia, brother Jay, and sister Chelsea.

Rest easy SGT Ingram, your duty is done. You will live forever in the hearts and minds of your fellow warriors and those whom with you served. The sacrifices you and your family have made will never be forgotten and will always be treasured by our Nation.





On April 22nd, 2010 HHC and the TF RED WARRIOR Medics dedicated the FOB Wilson aid station in memory of Specialist Brian R. Bowman. CPT Shepherd, the HHC Commander, and CPT Attilio, the Battalion Surgeon, both spoke of the appropriateness of the Battalion Aid Station being named in honor of him; his dedication to the medical profession and to all his fellow Soldiers welfare was unmatched. Over 150 Soldiers from the Task Force were in attendance.



End of Tour Awards Ceremonies



ADVON Award Ceremony
at FOB Wilson



A Co Award Ceremony
at COP Prowess



A Co Award Ceremony
at SP Durkin



B Co Award Ceremony
at COP Senjary



B Co sporting some new hats at the award ceremony
at COP Senjary



C Co Award Ceremony
at COP JFM



C Co Award Ceremony
at SP Fitzpatrick



C Co Award Ceremony at FOB Wilson



E Co Award Ceremony
at FOB Wilson



E Co Award Ceremony
at FOB Wilson



D Co Award Ceremony at FOB Wilson



HHC Award Ceremony at COP Ashoque



HHC Award Ceremony at FOB Wilson



HHC Award Ceremony at FOB Wilson

Dear Red Warrior Families and Friends,

Our redeployment operations are now in full swing. With our “Advanced Echelon” – or ADVON as we normally say it, already arriving at Fort Carson. Our “Main Body” flights are close behind and scheduled over the next month and our reintegration plans are locked in to ensure a smooth transition for your Soldier back into a normal routine with friends and family back home.

Although the battalion is working hard on getting our equipment and personnel ready for the redeployment, we continue to press the enemy and make positive gains in and amongst the Afghan population centers. This month the RED WARRIORS were able to establish two combat out-posts (COP) in the heart of Taliban country. Both Alpha and Delta Companies were successful in establishing these areas for the units coming in after us – they are critical for the continued success in this area of Afghanistan.

Alpha Company’s COP, COP Durkin, resides in the most eastern side of our area of operations. Its location has significantly decreased the freedom of movement for the enemy from western Zhari into Kandahar City and has significantly reduced Taliban intimidation in the area.

Delta Company’s COP, PMS (Pir Mohammed School), is currently being established in eastern Sanjary. The significance of this area is two-fold. First, the school itself was once a thriving high school with attendance in the hundreds. The Taliban closed this school shortly after 2006 and used the closing of this school to symbolize their domination of Sanjary. Second, the Taliban had convinced the local populace that this school could not be re-opened by coalition forces and they would prevent any attempts but they have not been able to deter our efforts. Delta Company with the assistance of the Afghan National Security Forces, have controlled the school and are now refurbishing it for a grand opening in about 60 days – it is the talk of the town.

As I sat down to write this newsletter, I began reflecting over the last 11 (+) months and immediately became very humbled at the vast amount of successes that this battalion has achieved as well as all the sacrifices that it has had to endure. Selfless, courageous, and resilient are words to describe the Soldiers of this battalion and all those who help us accomplish our mission daily.

As the time approaches for our return please remember those families who have made the ultimate sacrifice; keep them in your thoughts and prayers as they negotiate this very difficult time. Provide comfort and friendship to them as they will always be part of our Red Warrior Family.



With this, I close from Afghanistan. I want to personally thank each and every one of you for all you did on the home front in support of our mission, the Soldiers, and Families of this great and dedicated battalion – I will be forever grateful.

Respectfully,

Reik C. Andersen
Lieutenant Colonel, US Army
1-12th Task Force Commander