

As we approach the end of our yearlong deployment to Afghanistan, your Rear Detachment, your FRG and the Command Forward want to share some important redeployment and reintegration information with you.

Understanding that nothing is final until we show up at Ft. Carson, right now we have a tentative timeline that has the battalion returning home between **TIME WINDOW AND MONTH**. IF this timeline holds, we will send an advanced party back to Ft. Carson late in April to prepare for the arrival of the rest of the battalion. The remainder of the battalion will follow the **XX two weeks of MONTH**.

First, please take the time to make a call to your Point of Contact or your FRG Leader. Rather than waiting for this volunteer to make contact with you, we ask that you be proactive in ensuring this communication line is open and working. If you are unsure whom to call, please call 719-503-4009, the Brigade Emergency Operations Center; this phone is manned 24/7 and they will help direct you to someone who can connect you to your FRG. The Brigade Combat Team (BCT) has a website (www.armyfrg.org and we've included, with this letter, the directions to access our site) that will announce when unit flights are scheduled to return. We encourage you to check this site regularly to stay abreast of the latest return flight information and other important redeployment and reintegration facts. If you can't find the website or desire more information, you can call the **UNIT** Rear Detachment **at PHONE NUMBER** and they will help direct you to your FRG. Along with your Soldier, who is your BEST and MOST ACCURATE source of information about return itineraries, your FRG and Rear D will also have access to accurate information about the unit's return itinerary.

Second, return itineraries can change. Scheduling these return flights is not like booking a commercial airline flight. Combat operations are ongoing and the return flights must work their schedules around these combat operations. Our Rear Detachment and FRG will do their utmost to keep the website updated with these changes as they are announced. The bottom line is we'll know about 7 days out when the flights are manifested and the dates for return are set – only at this time can you be fairly certain of your Soldier's arrival date. The exact flight arrival times can also change depending upon whether the flight routes have to be changed, mechanical problems, etc. We understand many of you may travel in from out of town so you can greet your Soldier upon his/her return. If you are flying in from out of town, it is essential that you are flexible about when your Soldier will actually arrive. You should allow yourself a 3-day window in the Ft. Carson area in which to expect your Soldier to return. If you look at our website, we've listed some local hotels under the GREAT LINKS and also included a reintegration brochure with this letter. For those coming into the area to welcome their Soldier back, you are encouraged to take your FRG Leader's phone number and your Rear Detachment's office number with you so you can make contact with them once you are in the area.

After your Soldier arrives at Ft. Carson he/she will tentatively be given a 3 day pass followed by 9 ½ days of reintegration (no weekends). Without exception, EVERYONE

does this; it is an essential part of our return so please do not expect that your Soldier can get off the plane and depart the Ft. Carson area immediately. Due to our staggered arrival we are planning on going on leave as a Battalion around the **DAY of Month**. If our timeline holds, so will this date.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR!

4 March: Reconnecting with my Spouse: A Reintegration Workshop. We will offer more sessions upon request. Ask your FRG Leader for more information or to request a class..

10 March: Video Teleconference live with the Brigade and Battalion Command Teams in Afghanistan. Focus will be on Redeployment and Reintegration

Whatever other BN events the BN wants to advertise

Until then, we will continue to stay focused on our mission at hand. We hope to see you soon. God Bless you all.