

Ted's message from Iraq

Hey Everyone,

I thought I would drop you all an email to let you know how things are going. Our trip here was long and uneventful. We finally arrived in Camp Ramadi and we have been steadily flowing into the city. Marines are scattered across the city in small units and partnering with the Iraqi Police (IP) so that we can get as much coverage of the city as possible, and luckily it is working! I am located at a place called South Ramadi IP Station with 20 of my Marines. Unfortunately the rest of my platoon was broken up and sent to different parts of the battalion to help us complete our mission. There are several hundred IPs that work out of this station so I certainly have my hands full, but it is going well so far.

I have been out on two patrols into the city so far, the rest of my time is spent trying to help the police develop their leadership and their discipline. Needless to say both of them are lacking. The city is quiet in terms of insurgent activity but it is extremely busy with the normal hustle and bustle of a major city. It is amazing to see the amount of traffic that flows through the streets despite the heavy combat that this city saw from 2003-2006. Most of the people are friendly and willing to talk or help us when we need it. The children are especially friendly but that's because they know they can milk us for all the candy in the world. There are some people that give us the cold shoulder, but I don't always blame them. I would probably do the same thing, but I guess that's because I'm a stubborn jackass. It is just great to see the city of Ramadi get back on its feet after being so devastated.

Some of you have asked about the weather and I have to say that it is surprisingly nice...and I mean really nice. Right now it only gets to about 85 degrees and it is sunny all day every day. The nights are cool but not cold yet. I am told that in a few weeks the cold and rainy season begins, and our lives will get a little more difficult. But for the time being the weather is beautiful. In fact i've been suntanning on the roof of the building every day from 3PM until 4:15. Just kidding Mom.

I want you all to know that I consider the 2007 Baseball season incomplete. I was in the air over international waters, therefore, the last few games of the World Series were not really ever played. Okay I have to go tell an Iraqi Colonel, named Muhammad Ali by the way, why it is a terrible idea to shoot machine guns into the air over a densely packed city because he was happy his friend was getting

married. Joy! I miss you all and I miss the United States. I'm already looking forward to that cheeseburger and beer when I get back. Know that we are safe and well taken care of. Be proud of your Marines and Sailors, they are doing a great job.

Love,
Ted

P.S. Send DVDs