

Hospital Bears

The past few days have been very busy for your “bears.” B Company drove through Baghdad and established their hospital company. A Company followed and will “complex” their hospital in the next few days. All of this has not been without challenges. On the way to our hospital locations, we drove through desert sand, along rough roads, and in several areas there were burned-out tanks and bomb crater damage. Despite flat tires and broken wheels, all of the bears arrived safely.

Once we arrived at the hospital site, the hard work began. First, the waist-tall grass had to be cleared by a combination of Engineer unit support and the innovation of our maintenance team. Our MTV wrecker found a heavy metal sign and dragged it through the grassy site. At one point, the wrecker became stuck and asked an M1 tank to pull it out of the hole. Everyone helped erect our temper tents, run the power lines, and open the ISO containers. All day we had guards around our site and helicopters flying overhead. The minute we opened the hospital, there were patients waiting at the door.

I hope you are receiving cards and letters from your loved one. So far our mail has been sporadic, but we hope it will improve in the next couple weeks. The soldiers congregate at the Company Headquarters whenever the yellow mailbags arrive. Each soldier cheers when their name is called and jeers when someone else gets a second or third letter. Please continue to write. Every letter provides a needed lift after a long day of hard work. In case you have not gotten the word, continue to mail us at: rank and name, V Corps, 21st Combat Support Hospital, APO, AE 09302-1275.

Our soldiers are setting the standard. We’re the only hospital engaged in split operations, using our own equipment sets, and we’ve traveled the farthest to our hospital locations. Excellent training and equipment helped us perform above all expectations, but the secret ingredient is the quality people of the 21st!