

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

GEN. CHARLES H. JACOBY JR

**REMARKS, PREPARED FOR
4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME CEREMONY**

GOOD MORNING

A WONDERFUL DAY WE HAVE ALL BEEN WAITING FOR
I WOULD LIKE TO EXTEND A WARM WELCOME TO
EVERYONE HERE TODAY, ESPECIALLY TO THE PROUD
WARRIORS AND FAMILIES THAT MAKE UP THE
“RAIDER” BRIGADE.

WELCOME HOME.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO MISSION
ACCOMPLISHMENT, TO OUR ARMY, OUR COUNTRY
AND TO EACH OTHER.

WE HAVE MANY DISTINGUISHED GUESTS HERE TO
JOIN OUR FAMILIES AND TEAM LEWIS IN THE OFFICIAL
WELCOME HOME OF THE RAIDER BRIGADE:

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

- MR. JACK CREIGHTON – CIVILIAN AIDE TO THE SECRETARY OF THE ARMY
- MAYOR DOUG RICHARDSON – LAKEWOOD MAYOR
- LTG(R) BILL HARRISON
- BG SHEILA BAXTER
- MRS SUE HERTLING – SPOUSE OF MG MARK HERTLING, CG 1ST AD
- MS CAROLYN BLASHEK OF OPERATION GRATITUDE
- MR. MARK FOUNTAIN OF THE CHRYSLER CORPORATION
- MR. JOHN SETTERSTROM – WHO HAS DONE SO MUCH TO SUPPORT THE 4-2 MEMORIAL FUND

AND SO MANY OTHER GENERAL OFFICER, CDRS AND CSMS

ALL OF OUR GUESTS HONOR THE SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES OF THIS BRIGADSE WITH THEIR PRESENCE.

NONE HOWEVER, ARE MORE WELCOME THAN OUR SPECIAL GUEST AND STEADFAST FRIEND OF TEAM LEWIS AND 4-2, CONGRESSMAN NORM DICKS. HE DID

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

NOT WANT AN ELABORATE INTRODUCTION OR TO TROOP THE LINE. HE JUST WANTED TO BE HERE WITH YOU AND SAY THANKS.

IN TURN, ON BEHALF OF ALL OF US ON TEAM LEWIS, I MUST SAY THANKS TO CONGRESSMAN DICKS, NOT JUST FOR HIS PRESENCE BUT FOR HIS SERVICE IN CONGRESS WHERE HE HAS RESOLUTELY FOUGHT FOR THE NEEDS OF SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES, TO PROVIDE FOR THEM THE THINGS THEY NEED TO GET THEIR MISSION DONE AND TO LIVE AND WORK IN A MANNER WORTHY OF THE GREAT SERVICE THEY HAVE PROVIDED THIS COUNTRY. CONGRESSMAN DICKS, AGAIN THANK YOU.

FINALLY I WANT TO AGAIN RECOGNIZE THOSE WHO RECEIVED VALOR AWARDS TODAY. SPC YEFEUNE AND COURTNEY RUNYAN ON BEHALF OF LUKE. YOUR STORIES ARE STORIES OF INDIVIDUAL COURAGE ON THE BATTLEFIELD STRENGTHEN AND INSPIRE US - I WAS HONORED TO PRESENT THOSE AWARDS.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

WORDS CANNOT DESCRIBE THE PRIDE I FEEL WHEN I LOOK OUT UPON THIS MAGNIFICENT AND POWERFUL FORMATION. A FORMATION BOLSTERED BY THE PRESENCE OF 45 RAIDER HEROES WHO THOUGH WOUNDED IN COMBAT - PROUDLY RETURNED TO YOUR RANKS.

THROUGH FOURTEEN MONTHS OF HARSH WEATHER, CHANGING MISSIONS, CONSTANT COMBAT, AND FAMILY SEPARATION YOU HAVE STAYED THE COURSE.

AND HERE YOU ARE.

YOU COME BACK TO US WITH YOUR CHINS UP AND BACKS STRAIGHT. YOU COME BACK TO US HARDER, TOUGHER, WISER ABOUT BATTLE AND THE HARSHNESS OF OUR WORLD,...AND YOU COME BACK WITH YOUR RANKS THINNER AND YOUR HEARTS

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

HEAVIER FROM THE SACRIFICE OF FRIENDS AND COMRADES.

THERE WERE A HUNDRED REASONS WHY THIS BRIGADE HAD A TOUGHER CHALLENGE THAN ANY THAT DEPLOYED BEFORE IT. BUT THIS EXTRAORDINARILLY WELL LED TEAM WOULD HAVE NONE OF IT. NO HANDWRINGING OR PAUSING FOR TAKING COUSEL OF FEARS THIS BRIGADE DEMANDED FROM THE START THE RESPECT OF FRIENDS AND FOES AND HAS COME BACK WITH HONOR, BETTER PEOPLE, BETTER SOLDIERS, AND A BETTER ORGANIZATION THAN WHEN IT LEFT SO LONG AGO - AN INCREDIBLE ACCOMPLISHMENT.

THROUGHOUT THE DEPLOYMENT, THE SOLDIERS AND FAMILIES OF THIS PROUD BRIGADE DEMONSTRATED THE COURAGE THAT KEEPS OUR ARMY MOVING FORWARD, A COURAGE THAT DEFINES THE STRENGTH OF OUR ARMY AND THE STRENGTH OF OUR NATION AS WELL.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

IN THE FACE OF GREAT CHALLENGES AND
HARDSHIPS, THE LOSS OF COMRADES, A CHAOTIC
ENVIRONMENT, AND A RUTHLESS ENEMY, YOUR
COURAGE NEVER WAVERED.

YOURS WAS A COMMITMENT NOT JUST TO GET ON
WITH THE JOB AT HAND BUT TO DOMINATE IT. TO DO
BETTER THAN JUST ENDURE.

TO WIN. TO WIN YOUR PIECE OF THE FIGHT EVERY
DAY, EVERY DAY FOR FOURTEEN MONTHS. NO
MATTER HOW SMALL, HOW SHORT LIVED, HOW
PERSONAL, HOW INVISIBLE TO THE REST OF THE
WORLD.

EACH OF YOU WON YOUR FIGHT IN YOUR OWN WAY
AS MEN, WOMEN AND WARRIORS AND YOU WON
YOUR FIGHT AS AN INDOMINATBLE TEAM OF STRYKER
SOLDIERS OF THE RAIDER BRIGADE AND IT
MATTERED.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

YOUR MISSION IN IRAQ WAS VITAL, IT WAS VITAL FOR AMERICA, THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ AND THE ARMY.

AND AS MOST IMPORTANT THINGS IN LIFE, IT WAS FAR FROM EASY. YOU ENTERED IRAQ AS PART OF THE SURGE. YOU WERE SENT TO IRAQ WITH THE EXPRESS PURPOSE OF CHANGING THE VERY COURSE OF THE WAR. A PAINFUL COMPLEX FIGHT THAT CANNOT BE LOST.

FROM BAGHDAD TO BAQUBAH, FOB FALCON TO FOB WARHORSE, THE RAIDERS IN THE FINEST TRADITION OF AMERICANS IN BATTLE, PROVED TO BE FEROCIOUS ENEMIES AND LOYAL FRIENDS. YOUR BLOOD, SWEAT, AND TEARS SHATTERED THE INSURGENTS GRIP ON THE PEOPLE OF IRAQ AND BROUGHT PEACE AND STABILITY TO CRITICAL WAR RAVAGED AREAS.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

YOUR MISSIONS LED YOU TO SOME OF THE MOST DANGEROUS AND VOLATILE AREAS OF IRAQ. WHETHER YOU WERE A MANCHU IN TARMIAH (**TAR-MEE- A**), A TOMAHAWK IN ARAB JABOUR (**JA BOOR**), A ROCK IN DOURA (**DUUR A**), OR A BLACKHAWK IN AL ASKIRI (**AZZ KEER EE**). WHETHER YOU SERVED WITH THE VIKINGS IN HUSSEINIYAH (**HOO SI NAY A**), OR THE OUTFITTERS AND RENEGADES IN BAQUBAH, YOU TOOK THE FIGHT INTO THE STRONGHOLDS OF OUR ENEMIES. YOU LOOKED THEM IN THE EYE...YOU TOOK THE WORST THEY COULD DO AND YOU BESTED THEM.

EVERY SINGLE DAY YOU DEMONSTRATED THE STEADFAST COURAGE OF A RAIDER. THE COURAGE TO FACE GREAT PERIL, THE COURAGE TO BE ABSENT FROM ONES FAMILY, THE COURAGE TO ALWAYS BE PREPARED TO USE YOUR WEAPON BUT TO UNDERSTAND YOU DON'T ALWAYS HAVE TO, THE COURAGE TO MAKE FRIENDS AND ATTACK ENEMIES.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

AS IS THE FATE OF STRYKER ORGANIZATION ACROSS THE BATTLEFIELD, EVERYBODY WANTED YOU AND THE BATTALIONS OF THE BRIGADE WERE SEPARATED MOST OF THE DEPLOYMENT, MAKING A DIFFERENCE EVERYWHERE THEY WENT.

ACROSS IRAQ...WITHOUT WARNING....WHISPERING UP IN THEIR STRYKERS...RAMPS DOWN, HARD, FIT TROOPERS SPILLING OUT WITH DEADLY PURPOSE...YOU ALWAYS REPRESENTED HOPE TO THOSE IN NEED AND DOOM TO THOSE WITH EVIL IN THEIR HEARTS. THE SOLDIERS OF THE RAIDER BRIGADE FINALLY CAME TOGETHER AGAIN IN NOVEMBER 2007, AND AL- QAEDA IN IRAQ SUFFERED GREATLY FROM THE REUNION.

OPERATION RAIDER REAPER DROVE AQI FROM THEIR STRONGHOLDS IN THE IRON TRIANGLE, OPERATION RAIDER HARVEST DROVE THE ENEMY FROM THEIR POSITIONS IN THE BREADBASKET REGION.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

AS A BRIGADE, THE RAIDERS ROUTED THE ENEMY AND DROVE THEM FROM THEIR PROCLAIMED CAPITAL, GIVING THOUSANDS OF IRAQIS THE CHANCE TO ENJOY THEIR FREEDOMS.

YOU MADE THE INSURGENCY A FRAUD, YOU REVEALED IT AS AN EXERCISE IN POINTLESS VIOLENCE, YOU PROTECTED THE PEOPLE IN YOUR CHARGE FROM IT, YOU GUTTED ITS LEADERSHIP, CHASED IT INTO ISOLATED INSIGNIFICANCE, AND DEFEATED IT.

RAIDERS, YOUR DEPLOYMENT WAS NOTHING SHORT OF HISTORIC. JUST LOOKING AT THE NUMBERS ALONE YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS WOULD BE ENOUGH TO IMMORTALIZE YOUR EFFORTS AND SKILL. BUT YOUR SUCCESS GOES BEYOND SHEER NUMBERS OF KILLED AND CAPTURED, FOR THOSE NUMBERS DO NOT ILLUSTRATE THE LIVES YOU HAVE CHANGED.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

THOSE NUMBERS DO NOT ILLUSTRATE THE PEACE YOU BROUGHT TO THOUSANDS OR THE FUTURES YOU EXPANDED FOR SO MANY. THE OPPORTUNITY TO WIN YOU GAVE OUR COUNTRY AND IRAQ.

RAIDERS, HOLD YOUR HEADS HIGH KNOWING YOU TRULY ACCOMPLISHED YOUR MISSION..

AS WE STAND HERE TODAY, WE ARE ALL AWARE OF THE ABSENCE OF MANY FRIENDS AND COMRADES. KEEP FAITH WITH YOUR FALLEN WARRIORS - REMEMBER THEM ALWAYS AND THEIR MEMORIES WILL LIVE ON FOREVER. HONOR THEM WITH HOW TO LEAD YOUR LIVES AND DO YOUR DUTIES NOW THAT YOU ARE HOME.

AS THE SOLDIER SUPPORTS THE NATION, THE FAMILY SUPPORTS THE SOLDIER. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK STACY LEHR, SANDRA TROXELL THE FAMILIES AND FAMILY READINESS GROUPS FOR THEIR UNTIRING LOVE AND SUPPORT OF THEIR RAIDERS AND THIS COMMUNITY. **(ASK FOR APPLAUSE)**

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

YOU WERE THE SOURCE OF STRENGTH OF THE PROUD SOLDIERS STANDING BEFORE YOU. NO GROUP IN ANY WAR AS ENDURED MORE AND NONE HAVE BEEN A MORE IMPORTANT PART OF THE ULTIMATE SUCCESS OF THE TEAM THAN THESE FAMILIES.

I KNOW THE SOLDIERS IN FORMATION REALIZE THE LONG HOT SUMMER IN IRAQ WAS EQUALLY LONG AND HARD FOR THEIR LOVED ONES AND THEIR ABLY LED REAR DETACHMENTS HERE. I WANT YOU TO KNOW HOW TOUGH, FAITHFUL AND BRAVE YOUR FAMILIES WERE. HOW DEDICATED AND COMPASSIONATE YOUR REAR D'S WERE. YOU SHOULD BE SO PROUD OF THEM...JUST AS WE ARE.

IN THIS GREAT VOLUNTEER ARMY OF OURS A BRIGADE IS SO MUCH MORE THAN THE TROOPS IN FORMATION AND THE LETHAL EQUIPMENT POISED IN OUR MOTOR POOLS AND ARMS ROOMS.

4-2 SBCT WELCOME HOME

IT IS ALSO THOUSANDS OF MOMS AND DADS, YOUNG WIFES AND HUSBANDS, BABIES, AND DEAR FRIENDS. THE RAIDER BRIGADE IS A GREAT BRIGADE THAT ACCOMPLISHED THE NATION'S VITAL BUSINESS BECAUSE OF ALL OF THEM.

COLONEL LEHR, YOU, STACY YOUR LEADERS BOTH IN THE FIELD AND HERE AT LEWIS AND YOUR FELLOW RAIDERS HAVE MUCH TO BE PROUD OF. WELCOME HOME AND JOB WELL DONE.

AMERICA'S CORPS!