

Our Future in Iraq: As Clear as Mud

October 06, 2004

The most eventful news I write to inform you about today is that we are staying through the Iraqi elections. Thus the "one year" deployment will likely surpass the 365-day mark since we left the states.

WHAT went into this decision of probable extension of our tour? We are told this decision wasn't made lightly, and required a significant amount of decisions at the highest levels to keep our Brigade here in Iraq.

The next logical question is WHY? With increasing opposition in Iraq now, we will become part of the Multi-National Corps who will use us as a fire-fighting unit, with the ability to move to risky areas and support the headquarters responsible for that area.

The next big question that remains unanswered is WHERE? Instead of winding down and preparing to return to the States during this 10th month of deployment, we could end up staying in Baghdad, or moving to any of the cities you read about in the papers or see on the news. Uncertain.

Although publicly units are now deployed for "one year," a longer tour is more on the lines of what we anticipated. The big question is this: "one year from WHEN?" That question remains to be answered. No time soon...

The good news is that this allows for more soldiers, if not all of us, to return to the states for 2 weeks of leave. Wait a minute, "if not all of us?" "Then WHO?"

The other good news is that we can still receive packages and mail through November and maybe have it stop in early December.

With the upcoming U.S. presidential elections, politicians continue to debate the future of Iraq. Besides "WHO?, WHAT?, WHEN?, WHERE?, and WHY?," our future out here is pretty clear! As far as the question "WHAT NEXT?" - My answer is the same it has been all year - just grin and bear it! It could be worse!

You are in my thoughts,

Sudip

