

From: Ted Behncke  
Date: Mon, 20 Aug 2007 22:00:15 +0400  
Subject: Re: Hello and Hope you are well

Big Hello from FOB Iskan!

Great to hear you'll get a chance to wind down the summer with Carmen. We had a couple of brief 10 day block leave periods right before we left and it was a great opportunity to connect with family and friends before we headed over here, particularly since we had been gone for the better portion of half a year with training trips. Looking back on it though, as hectic as things were, by comparison to the schedule around here that was still a blessing and at least when the scenery changed, it was generally something interesting a much greener than most of the places over here.

Any how, mail has been coming a bit slower over the last couple of weeks. For what reason we're not sure, but it has been in fits and spurts. That being said, your package arrived all in one piece and the guys thoroughly enjoyed the jerky. They even managed to trade a couple of pieces for some Red Vines licorice with the Fire Support Cell so everybody left pretty happy. The NRA magazine on the Marine Sniper rifles was also a pretty interesting read for some of the gun nuts in the shop, so that also went over pretty well. Again, a big thanks from everyone here in the shop and I speak for everybody when they say the support is appreciated.

In other news from around the FOB, we're getting set here over the next few months to begin turning this place over to our relief. Some of us my still be here for bit, but with any luck, most of us should be getting home in time for Thanksgiving this year. Definitely a big plus and not to say we're not all still aware there is a ways to go yet, with the month of August almost over, things are looking up. That and it will be nice when the temperatures start to come back down again and the place gets some rain.

We'll got a long a couple of days coming up here for various reasons, but I thought I would return your e-mail and let you know things had gotten here alright. Hope the last couple of weeks of summer are enjoyable for you Mrs. Bucci and Carmen. One other thing, just wanted to let you know that Mike Kelvington, while busy cheering on Ohio State, wanted to let you know that he said hi. Thanks again for everything!

Very Respectfully,

Ted Behncke