



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
2D BATTALION (AIRBORNE) 503D INFANTRY
UNIT 31401 BOX 104
APO AE 09630

AESE-BK

24 February 2009

MEMORANDUM FOR Incoming Soldiers, 2D BN (ABN) 503D IN "The ROCK"

SUBJECT: Commander's Welcome

1. Welcome to 2d BN (ABN) 503d IN, The Rock and congratulations on your assignment to the 173d Airborne Brigade Combat Team. This Battalion has a magnificent history of professional service, starting in WW II, Vietnam, and continuing through its airborne assault and deployment to northern Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and most recently, deployment to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom VIII.

2. Throughout the process of moving to Italy and joining our team you can receive assistance from a wide variety of sources. The first and foremost is your sponsor. Your sponsor was selected and trained to answer your questions and give you the insight you need to quickly and successfully integrate into your new home. Secondly, your chain of command and every support agency on Caserma Ederle is aware of the difficulties of moving to Europe and is ready to assist you.

3. While assigned to The ROCK you will conduct extensive training at various locations, including training deployments to Germany and other locations in Italy. Your time in Italy will also afford you numerous opportunities to experience and enjoy all that Europe has to offer. Your experience, training and other talents will make you an integral member of the combat capability of your section, platoon, and company. Your contribution to this proud team will enable the continued success of this unit and the U.S. Army.

3. If you have not been contacted by a sponsor please visit the Sponsorship Gateway to Europe website http://www.imcom-europe.army.mil/sites/divisions/hr_milper_sgate.asp You can also contact the Battalion S1 to get more assignment information at 0039 0444 71 8827 or DSN 634-8827.

Sky Soldiers! The ROCK!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "William J. Butler", is positioned above the typed name.

WILLIAM J. BUTLER
LTC, IN
Commanding