



Inside this issue:

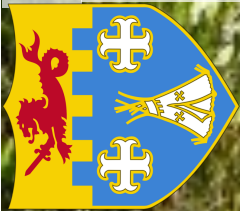
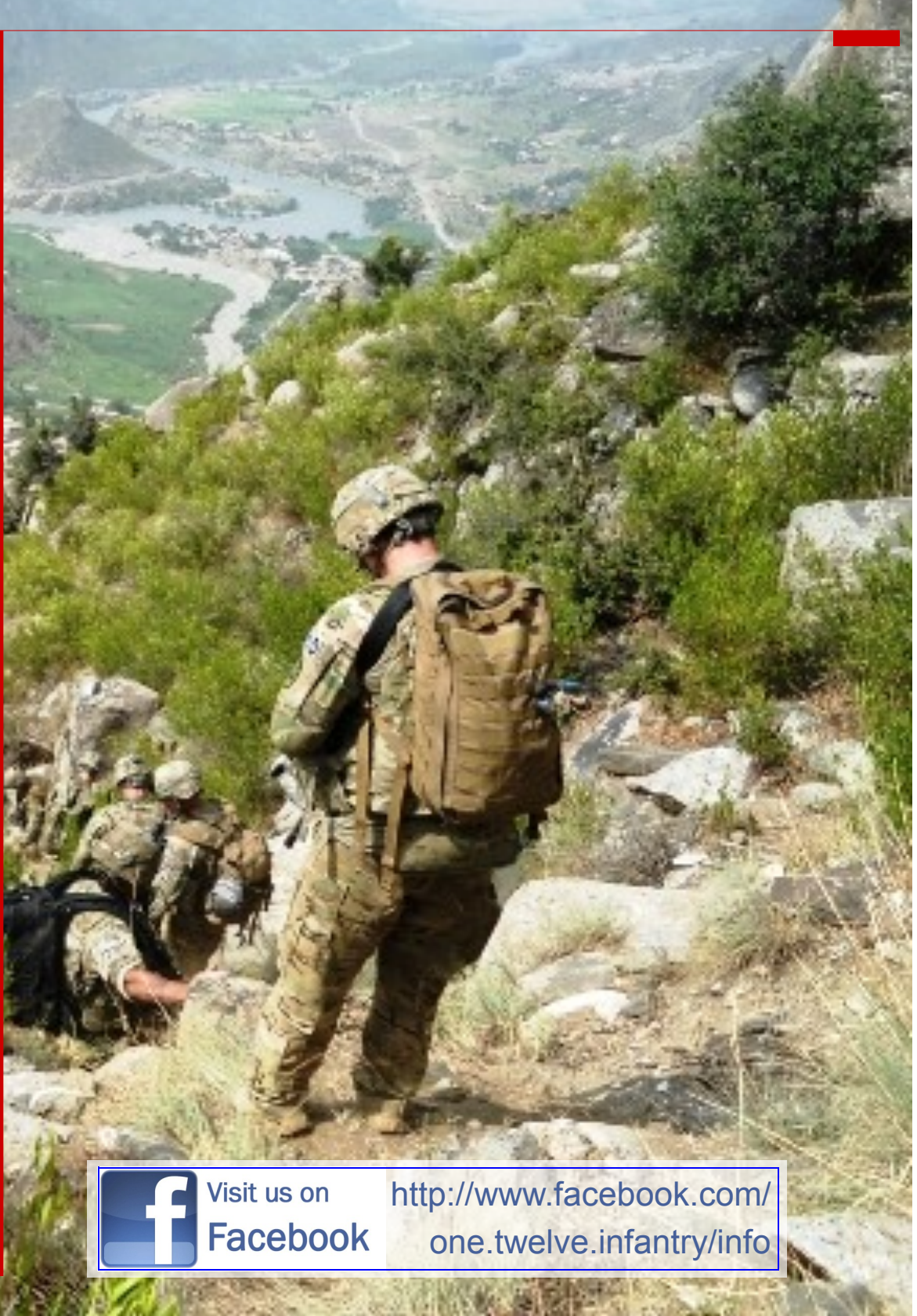
Setting The Stage For Transition	2
Governance And Development In Northern Kunar	4
Security Force Assistance Operations	6
The Places We've Been: The Travels of D/1-12 in Afghanistan	10
Unit News	12-22



1ST BATTALION — 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (LIGHT)

The Red Warrior Path

Volume 1, Issue 5
September 2012



Visit us on
Facebook

[http://www.facebook.com/
one.twelve.infantry/info](http://www.facebook.com/one.twelve.infantry/info)



Setting The Stage For Transition by LTC Scott Green

Hooray, another month behind us and another month closer to returning home to all of you. As the weather here turns to much more enjoyable fall temperatures and football occupies almost everyone's attention, we continue our work of transitioning our responsibilities to our Afghan partners.

Additionally, we continue the task of retrograding numerous locations' worth of equipment. Let me tell you, your Red Warriors are doing an incredible job and I could not be prouder of them.

I think I speak for everyone when I say we are excited to get back home. Recently we began reintegration training for our Soldiers. We also conducted our first session of reintegration training for spouses and family members back at home. More and more, our attention is focused on setting the stage for the transition from our lives here back to our families and lives at home.

As hard as it was to leave, it will be equally as hard to integrate back into life at home. The purpose behind starting reintegration training when we did was to give our Soldiers and families adequate time to think through some of the challenges that coming home brings and to begin dialoguing about ways to work through those challenges together.

There will be continued opportunities to attend reintegration training both here in Afghanistan and back at home. I urge everyone to take advantage of these opportunities and other resources out there to begin preparing for the excitement and challenges of our return.

Tied to our reintegration training, the battalion will be holding a Redeployment brief in October at McMahan Theater. This brief is designed to provide information to spouses about

the return flights, notification process to let you know when your Soldier is coming home, the post deployment mandatory re-integration training Soldiers will be required to attend, the training calendar through Block Leave, and other things.

I think this meeting will be informative and I hope all of you can find the time to attend. If you have any questions, please contact the Battalion Rear Detachment Commander, CPT

(Continued on page 3)

Tied to our reintegration training, the battalion will be holding a Redeployment brief in October at McMahan Theater.



SSG Jonathan Sargent of Alpha Company scans the ridgelines while on a mission outside off Nishigam Village

THE RED WARRIOR PATH is published by 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment (Light) for the families and friends of Red Warrior Soldiers. 1-12 Infantry (L) is part of Task Force Mountain Warrior (4 IBCT, 4 ID). The task force is currently deployed to Afghanistan, Regional Command East, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Contents of *THE RED WARRIOR PATH* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense. Please send all questions or comments about *THE RED WARRIOR PATH* to CH (CPT) A. Lamont Risner at lamont.risner@afghan.swa.army.mil.

ON THE FRONT AND BACK COVERS: Bravo Company Soldiers conduct a counter-indirect fire (IDF) patrol in Asmar.

Setting The Stage For Transistion (continued)

I am excited to welcome our new Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Tim Marble, and his family to the Red Warrior family.



Alpha Company's SSG Scott Kuenz promotes Jonathan Jennings to Sergeant.

(Continued from page 2)

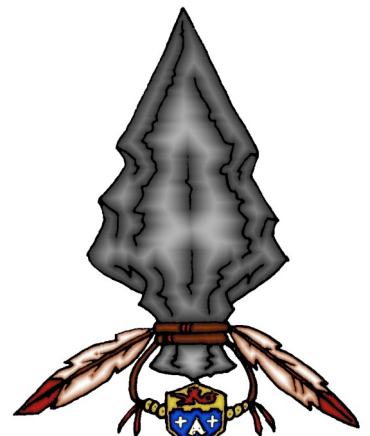
Steve Shiel, or the Battalion Family Readiness Support Assistant, Mrs. Leah Fuller.

On another note, I am excited to welcome our new Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Tim Marble, and his family to the Red Warrior family. CSM Marble comes to us from the United States Army Sergeant Major's Academy. He is a proven Warrior and Leader who arrived with a reputation of excellence. In his time with us, he proved himself invaluable to our mission here and very capable of taking the Battalion to new levels of professionalism in the future.

I will close this letter with a note of continued appreciation and thanks to our spouses, families, and friends who continue to be key partners in the success of our mission here. As I have said in previous letters, your support of your Soldiers and our Battalion means more than you will ever know. We are excited to see you and anxiously await they day when we are home with you.



1LT Jordan Shontz has the honor of reenlisting PFC Jonathan Milford atop OP Bari Alai.



**TASK FORCE RED WARRIOR
1-12 INFANTRY**

Governance And Development In Northern Kunar

by CPT Benjamin Hooker

The mantra of “bring GIRoA to the people” was always on the forefront of our discussions with provincial level leadership.

In March of 2012, Task Force 1-12 IN assumed more than the responsibility for security within our battlespace; we were required to understand and improve both governance and development of the five districts within Northern Kunar. Each of the five districts, Asmar, Dangan, Ghaziabad, Naray, and Shigal presents unique challenges and each district is filled with its own cast of players with which we must work to achieve our goal of a more stable Afghanistan.

Each week companies within 1-12IN conduct weekly *Shuras*, or meetings, with representatives of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIRoA) at the district level. For the most part, these meetings are with District Governors and district Line Directors. It is through this forum that district officials are able to voice their concerns to Coalition Forces, but more so for the members of that shura to arrive at solutions to these concerns.

The first shuras were introductory; this was where our TF leadership, both Company Commanders and the Battalion Commander, were able to make their first impression on the shura members of the districts. Once the shura members knew the leaders in 1-12 IN, the next meetings were often filled with requests for help and projects from the coalition.

It was through extensive mentorship that the Battalion Commander and the Company Commanders were able to wean the local Afghans from US means and begin to request, and expect, GIRoA to start meeting the needs of its citizens.

Our company commanders are focused on the district level, which allows LTC Green to

focus on the bigger picture, not just the five districts. He is able to work with province and higher to help the local GIRoA officials.

The mantra of “bring GIRoA to the people” was always on the forefront of our discussions with provincial level leadership. Where the TF S7 and S9 focused on working with Provincial Line Directors, LTC Green met with Provincial Governor Wahidi and made sure the districts of Northern Kunar were not forgotten.

Through LTC Green’s efforts, and with the help from the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), Governor Wahidi visited Naray district, the northern most district in Kunar, something he had not done in over a year, and the people of Naray loved it.

In an attempt to ensure that district level requests are in line with provincial endeavors, the TF conducts meetings with other TF commanders as well as Department of State, USAID, USDA and other government agencies to develop a comprehensive plan for ‘the way ahead’

in Kunar. These US agencies provide another avenue and unique sets of skills to bolster the TF’s efforts in improving the lives of the Afghans within our five districts.

The PRT, for example, played a pivotal role in executing Afghanistan budget training for GIRoA officials. This training included traveling to several outposts, two within our battlespace, to personally instruct district level leaders in the manner in which to request funds from Kabul, from where that money actually comes, ways to execute funding, and the procedure to forecast GIRoA expenditures for the following year.

While shuras are a great way to reach out to the Afghans within our five districts, one of the best venues to inform the people is through the FOB Bosstick Radio Show. This show allows LTC Green, the Afghan Army and Police leaders, and the district governors the ability to inform the populace of what GIRoA is planning and executing as well as give people a

(Continued on page 5)



Leaders meet at a provincial security meeting held in Asadabad, the Kunar provincial capital.

Governance And Development In Northern Kunar (continued)

Of all the projects within our Area of Operations, none is as important as our work to improve the main road that runs along the Kunar River.



FOB Bostick workers meet with a variety of prospective employers at a job fair hosted by Task Force 1-12.

(Continued from page 4)

means to voice their concerns with a degree of anonymity. To increase the outreach of the GIROA messages, the weekly program is rebroadcast to insure it has the widest audience possible.

As mentioned earlier, much of what the local Afghans request are projects to improve their lives. Of all the projects in our Area of Operations, none is as important as our work to improve the main road that runs along the Kunar River. The route allows access to goods and services for the people in Northern Kunar as well as gives the populace the opportunity to visit other villages and even go on vacation to Asadabad, Jalalabad, or Kabul. The Task Force works closely with GIROA and the PRT to pave the road, and thus far, through our combined efforts, eight kilometers is in the process of being paved.

Other, smaller, projects include building wells, pipe schemes (which are a series of canals to distribute water to and throughout a village), MicroHydro Power Plants that use water

to generate electricity for a village, retaining walls, and foot bridges. These small improvements for the local communities go a long way to bring about positive change in these areas.

Recently the TF held a job fair for local Afghans to help find potential employment opportunities within local businesses, provincial level work, and even national service. The jobs were offered from the Kunar Investment Financial Cooperative (which is a provincial level bank), local contractors with which the TF has good relations, Afghan National Army, and the Afghan Border Police. Both prospective employees and employers were excited and grateful to be included in this job fair. The event was so successful the TF will hold another job fair in October, hoping to draw even more employers and potential employees.

To further help the local Afghans, the TF worked with community entrepreneurs to develop business plans and then offer them a small business grant, called a Microgrant, to see that business startup. Some of

these businesses include poultry farms, tailor shops, and even small engine repair. Companies would conduct assessments after the new business was running to see how the Microgrant recipient was operating his new venture. In many ways the Microgrants encourage employment, ingenuity, and afford individuals the opportunity to move out of the farming business and into other lines of work.

As the TF prepares to depart the battlespace, we have made it a priority to include and consult provincial level leaders concerning upcoming projects. One of the TF's great successes with the GIROA involvement was bringing the provincial engineer, Engineer Rahim, up to the districts to survey potential projects and review blueprints for prospective builds. Engineer Rahim's visit to Northern Kunar spurred other officials to come and be a part of the developments taking place within their province.

Through all of our governance and development efforts we will continue to bring GIROA to the people of Afghanistan.

Security Force Assistance Operations by 2LT Elijah Murrell and SPC Daniel Brigance

The use of advisors is an expedient, relatively low cost means of assisting a country's government...

Throughout its history the United States military has used combat advisors to bolster indigenous forces' ability to defend their countries. The use of advisors is an expedient, relatively low cost means of assisting a country's government while furthering the foreign policy objectives of the United States.

The use of advisors in lieu of or in addition to traditional combat forces has taken place in nearly every armed conflict that the US has been involved. Since the beginning of the war in Afghanistan advisors have played a pivotal role assisting the growing Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF).

The role of the combat advisor in Afghanistan began shortly after 11 September 2001, during the opening stages of Operation Enduring Freedom. The US government sent advisors to aid the Northern Alliance, the country's anti-Taliban resistance.

In late September and early October, CIA operatives and United States Special Forces arrived in Afghanistan to advise the Northern Alliance. They organized the ousting of the Taliban using air power as a means to bolster the anti-Taliban forces they advised.

Within three months, the United Nations transferred control of Afghanistan to an interim Afghan authority. Even as conventional combat troops entered Afghanistan the advisor mission continued, carried out mainly by the United States Army Special Forces.

When John F. Kennedy created the United States Army Special Forces (SF) during the 1960s, their primary mission was to counter insurgencies worldwide through advising and train-



1LT Phillip Clark III talks with a Border Police Logistics Officer for the first time. These initial meetings set the conditions for a successful and efficient advisor role.

ing foreign military and indigenous forces.[1][2] In the ten years of conflict that followed the initial success in Afghanistan both the insurgency and the government forces have grown. The Special Forces have grown as well, but with other operational requirements and with over 300,000 Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) the advisor mission cannot be accomplished with SF alone. Therefore, conventional forces are now conducting the same

type of mission that SF was created to conduct.

In April 2012, 2nd Brigade Combat Team (BCT), 101st ABN DIV (ASLT) deployed as one of the first conventional forces task organized to conduct the combat advisor mission. There are multiple acronyms used to describe advisor teams, so 2nd BCT refers to their teams as Combat Advisor Teams (CAT) to alleviate any confusion. The different teams advise

(Continued on page 7)



The Afghan National Army Operations Officer briefs Commanders from the Nari District Police and 1st Kandak of the Afghan Border Police in preparation for a joint operation.

Security Force Assistance Operations (continued)

CATs are put through language training, convoy operations, combat shooting, indigenous culture...



1LT Nathan Bennett meets with the Personnel Officers from two Afghan Border Police units. The primary mission was to gain a greater understanding of their manning levels and help fill shortages.

(Continued from page 6)

the ANSF at the battalion level and above. The majority of the 2nd BCT teams advise the ANSF leadership and staff at the battalion level and higher, and they provide critical enablers in combat. Rob Thornton, an Army strategist working at the Joint Center for International Security Force Assistance, provides this definition for Security Force Assistance (SFA).

“Unified action by the joint, interagency, intergovernmental and multinational community to generate, employ, sustain and assist host nation or regional security forces in support of a legitimate authority. SFA is a broad framework that spans the spectrum of conflict focused on assisting foreign security forces in support of US and Coalition interests regardless of operating environment.”

There are numerous combat advisor teams in Kunar province. C Co, 1-502IN ad-

vises the 1st and 7th Afghan Border Police (ABP) Battalions, Zone 1 of the Afghan Border Command (ABC). HHC, 1-502 IN, advises 3rd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army (ANA). D Co, 1-502 IN advises 2nd ABP Battalion, Zone 1 of the ABC. C Co, 2-502 IN advises the Bar Kunar area Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP).

The CATs in North Kunar are composed of 12-14 man teams which include a team

leader, NCOIC, executive officer, intelligence officer, operations officer, personnel officer, medical sergeant, logistics officer, fire support officer, fire support sergeant, communications sergeant and 2-4 infantrymen for security operations.

Additionally, the TF Mountain Warrior also created and deployed SFA teams to work with battlespace-owning units and their 2/101 SFA counterparts. These teams can have an officer and/or NCO for each staff position and are drawn from within parent units and Military Occupation Specialties (MOS) for the specific purpose of training and advising indigenous security forces in a combat environment.

CATs are put through language training, convoy operations, combat shooting, indigenous culture, combat vehicle familiarization, communications equipment familiarization, Army staff training, and other combat skills required for force protection and basic operations.[5]

The advisors in Kunar embed themselves with their counterparts as much as possible. This ranges from an overnight

(Continued on page 8)



Relationship building comes in many forms. Here Soldiers from C Co, 1-12 IN and Team Cobra advisors play volleyball with the Afghan Border Police.

Security Force Assistance Operations (continued)

The advisors' efforts focus on developing the command staff; they also conduct individual and collective training.

(Continued from page 7)

stay in their compound to daily interactions sharing food, common grounds, and office space. Constant interaction allows teams to build rapport by sharing common interests, hardships, and dangers. This close interaction builds mutual trust, respect and understanding.

The advisors' efforts focus on developing the command staff; they also conduct individual and collective training. Each advisor mentors their indigenous counterparts in sustainable techniques and procedures that build legitimacy within their cultural confines. The advisors are active coaching, teaching, and mentoring the host nation security forces, training them before operations and accompanying them into combat.

The advisors bring important combat multipliers to the fight: close air and artillery support, intelligence and MEDEVAC. The advisors help the ANSF conduct independent decision making, joint operations with other ANSF, infra-



(Left to Right) LTC Hayatullah, CPT Marvin C. Morgan III, Qaseem and CPT Stuart Durner sit at the head of the table during one of many meals Team Cobra advisors shared with their Afghan counterparts.

structure support and operations. For their part, the host nation forces offer significant cultural awareness and linguistic advantages over U.S. forces, and are far more acceptable to the local populous whose support is essential to victory in any counterinsurgency campaign.[1]

Combat advising has not only been a mission essential element of all COIN efforts but has typically preceded, and at times lasted beyond, full US military participation.[1] Combat advisory teams will be the way forward for the Army for the next several years.

(Continued on page 9)



CPT Morgan listens as the Afghan Uniformed Police Commander explains the current disposition of his forces. Morgan helped ensure proper coordination was executed between the Commanders of three Police units on this mission.



Not all issues can be solved just by talking. Here 1LT Christopher Rogan and 1LT Phillip Clark work to understand what maintenance issues plague the ABP in an attempt to promote the importance of driver's training and properly requesting supplies from higher.

Security Force Assistance Operations (continued)

The standing up and mentoring of indigenous army and police...is now a key mission for the military as a whole.

(Continued from page 8)

“...the most important military component in the war on terror is not the fighting we do ourselves, but how well we enable and empower our partners to defend and govern themselves. The standing up and mentoring of indigenous army and police - once the province of Special Forces - is now a key mission for the military as a whole.” [3]

REFERENCES:

[1] S.K.M Lucking, *The Enduring Mission of the Marine Corps Military Transition Team and Combat Advisor*. 16 Feb 2008

[2] Department of Defense. *FM 3-05.20. Special Forces Operations*. 26 Jun 2001.

[3] Michael Goodwin, “Gates Offers A Better Idea,” *New York Daily News*, November 28, 2007, p. 33.

[4] Department of Defense. *FM 3-07.1. Security Force Assistance*. May 2009.

[5] John A. Nagl. *Institutionalizing Adaptation: It's time for a permanent Army Advisor Corps*. Jun 2007



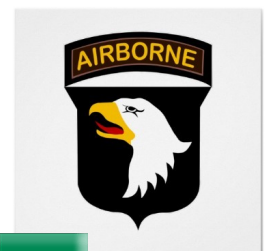
Here CPT Morgan listens as Border Police leaders along with a local construction contractor solve issues that came up during the construction of an ABP outpost.



CPT Morgan along with the Afghan Army Commanders from two units sit outside the headquarters of 1/1 ABP. During day visits and overnight trips to their counterparts, Team Cobra advisors were able to better observe their counterparts and inquire into any issues they were having.



Inside the Dining Facility of 1/1 ABP KDK, the Sergeant Major advisor, SFC Schweers along with Zone 1 Advisor, MSG Shotton, hold a NCO conference to discuss many of the traits that help build a competent and reliable NCO corps.



The Places We've Been: The Travels of D/1-12 in Afghanistan

by CPT Adam Marsh

All the training in the rear and the individual discipline of the Soldiers paid off in spades as we took the fight to the enemy.

As the first wave of Dog Company prepared to deploy in late February, some level of confusion was pretty universal. At that late point, we knew we were the division reserve for Task Force Maverick, and we knew we would be stationed at Red Hill, a small Combat Outpost (COP) just North of Bagram Air Field (BAF). What exactly this mission meant for our day to day life remained a mystery.

So knowing little but prepared to accomplish whatever missions we were asked to do, the first wave of Dog Company took off from Fort Carson on February 28 followed by the remainder three days later. With a brief stop in Manas, Kyrgyzstan filled with safety briefings and a few short classes, it was back onto a plane and into Afghanistan.

The two halves of the company were reunited on BAF where we began the process of receiving the equipment that we would rely on for the next nine months. The company we were replacing had already left, so we made due without a traditional Relief in Place (RIP). Captain Marsh, Captain Rubley and SGT Herrera had their hands full going through the 19 MRAPs that were now Dog Company property. In various states of disarray and disrepair, the next week was spent getting them fully mission capable.

After barely a week, we pushed out from BAF for our first foray into our new Area of Operations (AO), the BAF Security Zone. With only a couple wrong turns, the company safely arrived at our new home, COP Red Hill. There, we linked up with the Soldiers of 1st Cavalry Division occupying the COP and they showed us around. For the rest of March we patrolled the BAF Security Zone, deter-



Dog Company Soldiers, SGM Annan, and CSM Marble fortify a facility during a "sandbag bonanza" at COP Kalagush.

ring the enemy from attacking this vital logistical hub.

Ever since we had first stepped off the plane in BAF, it seemed we had been hearing rumors that Dog Company would not be sitting idle at Red Hill for too long. The Division Reserve was needed, that much was certain, but it was still unclear exactly where. The first taste of things to come arrived towards the end of March. DOG Company was tapped to escort a convoy south from BAF down to FOB Airborne, in the turbulent Wardak province.

2nd and 3rd Platoons prepared their trucks, and led by CPT Marsh, successfully escorted the convoy over 100 KM without incident. Greeted at FOB Airborne with a three page list of uniform regulations and cramped quarters, they made the decision to stay in Wardack as short a time as possible. After a quick night of sleep, all DOG elements mounted back up and drove safely back to Red Hill.

Shortly after this cannonball run, word came that we had a longer term mission. The company had to go south again, this

time to FOB Shank in Logar Province. We were to stay there nearly a month, providing TF Bulldog with the maneuver capability of an Infantry company.

As March ended, Dog Company moved out of COP Red Hill, leaving a bare few from Headquarters platoon behind. The company moved by platoon down through the capital city of Kabul into Logar province and finally arrived at FOB Shank, our home for April. We settled into our transient housing and over the course of a few days were briefed on the situation in our new AO. In no time at all, we were conducting missions.

Tasked to "kick the hornets' nest," we patrolled through known hotspots, collected biometric data for the intelligence network in the area, and met with local leaders in order to deter enemy actions and attempt to break up known insurgent networks. It wasn't long at all before we learned why they needed additional combat power around FOB Shank.

(Continued on page 11)

The Places We've Been (continued)

We finally learned... that we had been pulling security for... President Barack Obama, during his surprise visit to BAF.

(Continued from page 10)

2nd and 3rd platoon were the first to see enemy contact, but within a week the entire company had fought it out with local insurgents. All the training at Fort Carson and the individual discipline of the Soldiers paid off in spades as we took the fight to the enemy. Dog Company quickly established itself as an aggressive force in the AO and the insurgents took notice.

The leadership at FOB Shank took notice as well and we became the *de facto* quick reaction force for any and all missions. Other units at Shank were eager to make use of our capabilities. We were so popular in fact, we stayed on an extra week, TF Bulldog doing everything they could to keep us as long as possible.

The mission was changing though and the rumor mill was beginning to spin once again. TF Maverick had turned over RC East to TF Defender, and the new leadership did not see as much of a need for a dedicated Division Reserve. When coupled with 4th Brigade and 1-12 both fighting to bring us back under the TF Mountain Warrior mantle, it seemed like another move was rapidly approaching. As April came to a close, we moved back to COP Red Hill, expecting to have at least a few weeks of refit time. After a month of living out of assault packs in crowded tents and plywood huts, it would be good to be back in relative comfort.

However, upon arrival we were greeted with two key pieces of news. The first was that we had an immediate mission. An urgent patrol presence was needed around BAF for two days. No explanation given, but Dog Company was assigned a sector and we maintained a con-

stant presence. We finally learned from newspapers and the internet that we had been pulling security for the Commander in Chief, President Barack Obama, during his surprise visit to BAF.

The second piece of news was confirmation of another move, this time back under the banner of 4th Brigade. The timeline though was the big surprise: we had to be on our way only 6 days after returning to Red Hill. Our new destination, COP Kalagush, needed us quickly and Dog Company didn't hesitate. In a tremendous push, Dog Company packed itself up and shipped out to Laghman and Nuristan provinces.

We had a variety of jobs to do and unfortunately it became clear that the company would have to split up. Everyone arrived at FOB Mehtar Lam and for two days we learned about our new AO. From there, the platoons went their separate ways.

2nd Platoon moved down to FOB Gamberi for a month, where "FOB Commander" 1LT Adams exercised his authority providing force protection for the brass-laden base. 3rd Platoon stayed at Mehtar Lam, also acting as force protection for the base, but patrolling the local villages in order to maintain relations with the villagers and deter any insurgent activity. 1st and 4th Platoons moved with headquarters up to COP Kalagush. In Kalagush, the mission was to secure the COP, assist the ANA in their patrols using our manpower and assets, and secure the advisor teams that were there preparing the Afghans to take over.

After the first month of settling in, 2nd Platoon moved

back to FOB Mehtar Lam in order to split duties with 3rd Platoon, and the two halves of Dog Company each found their battle rhythm. The two platoons at Mehtar Lam continued to build on the kinetic reputation they started in Logar Province by bringing the fight to the enemy in villages surrounding the FOB.

Additionally, they've air assaulted into areas that Coalition Forces have turned over, securing advisor teams as they continue to train the ANA. At Kalagush, the company was joined by advisor teams from the 101st Airborne Division. Together, we've worked to train the ANA to fight on their own, but also tried to support their mission by going on numerous joint patrols.

As the deployment winds down, the focus has shifted to closing down Kalagush. Turning over the COP to the Afghan Army and government is a vital part of the overall strategy for the war and has its own set of challenges distinctly different from any other faced over the course of the deployment.

But as with all of our past tasks, every Dog Company Soldier continues to demonstrate the tenacity and motivation that has made every mission a success, no matter what the obstacles. While at COP Red Hill in Parwan province, FOB Shank in Logar Province, FOB Mehtar Lam and FOB Gamberi in Laghman Province and COP Kalagush in Nuristan Province, Dog Company continually demonstrated that no matter what the external circumstances or geographical location, it is the internal preparedness and training of a unit that determine whether or not it will succeed. And in every instance, we have.

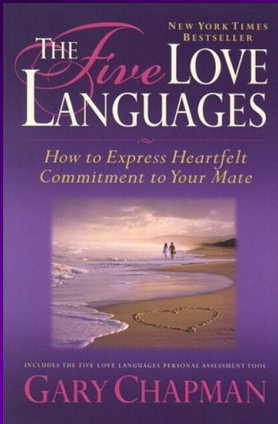
HHC—Home Stretch by CPT Dennis Hall

**They are our
vigilant sentries
who endure the
rugged extremes of
heat, cold, dust and
unsavory wildlife...**

Hammer Company is charging hard into the final turn before the homestretch of this deployment and time is in short supply as we prepare to transition the area of operations to our Afghan partners. The entire company, from the Staff to the Mortarmen and Scouts, everyone is pushing hard to make sure our last couple of months here at FOB Bostick are as safe and productive as possible.

Once again the Staff sections have proven themselves to be the workhorse of the company grinding out dozens of planning products that will guide us through the many complex operations required to complete the mission and return home in an organized fashion. They are doing a remarkable job painting the picture for our Commander and higher headquarters, ensuring we avoid pitfalls long before they arise.

The HHC Mortars have had their hands full conducting a three week long training course for Afghan Soldiers that will enable them to better support their own independent operations. Despite the grueling schedule kept by our mortarmen, which includes 100% readiness beginning before sunrise, these warriors still find time to commit themselves to the thorough training of Afghan



**Strong Bonds Training
for Families of
Deployed Soldiers**

12-14 October 2012

POC: SPC Stanley
4/4 Unit Ministry Team
Phone: 719 503-4090 / 4099

troops. SFC Necochea's Mortar Platoon has demonstrated a remarkable commitment to both their craft and host nation partnership.

Then there is the Scout platoon. You may remember that at last report the men of Ghost Platoon had built and occupied an Observation Post high above the FOB in order to prevent insurgents from interfering with the daily business of running the Battalion.

Well, here we are a month later and they are continuing to occupy that lonely hilltop. They are our vigilant sentries who endure the rugged extremes of heat, cold, dust and unsavory wildlife, in order to allow the rest of us the peace of mind to

perform our duties without disruption. Rest assured, we are ensuring they get at least a few opportunities to come down, clean up, receive mail and call home, but they have been tested and are passing with flying colors.

There is every reason to take pride in the accomplishments of the men and women of Hammer Company who put it on the line every day to accomplish the mission and take care of their buddy to the left and right of them. Every single Soldier continues to conduct themselves with the utmost professionalism, confidence and competence. I couldn't be more proud of every one of them. Until next time, Hammer 6 out!

UNIT ADDRESS LISTING

MAIL SERVICE ENDS ON 1 OCTOBER

HHC, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
FOB BOSTICK
APO, AE 09310

A CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
COP PIRTLE-KING
APO, AE 09310

B CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
COP MONTI
APO, AE 09310

C CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
FOB BOSTICK
APO, AE 09310

(1st, 4th, and HQ Plt of D CO)
D CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
COP KALAGUSH
APO, AE 09310

(2nd Platoon of D CO)
D CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
FOB MEHTAR LAM
APO, AE 09310

(3rd Platoon of D CO)
D CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
FOB MEHTAR LAM
APO, AE 09310

E CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
FOB BOSTICK
APO, AE 09310

THE KID ZONE



Free-Coloring-Pages.com

Funny Scarecrow



Free-Coloring-Pages.com



Free-Coloring-Pages.com



Free-Coloring-Pages.com

Alpha Company—The End Of A Challenging Summer by CPT Erik Norman

The intense heat and a determined enemy led to a very challenging summer, but the men have accomplished every assigned task...

Families and Friends of Alpha Company, it has been a busy month for Alpha Company. We have been working hard preparing our Afghan Security partners for increased responsibility and it is apparent that our efforts are paying off.

The Afghan National Army forces in Ghaziabad have been conducting effective patrols and are interfacing with the populace more than ever.

In addition to working with our Afghan National Security Force partners, this month we finished the construction of a new well in Nishigam Village. It provides clean water for over 250 students who attend the local high school. As well, we helped construct a new fence at the District Center, which was very well received by the community.

The intense heat and a determined enemy led to a very

challenging summer, but the men have accomplished every assigned task with professionalism and conviction. It is truly amazing that they have accomplished. Though we are not quite home yet, the weather is finally cooling and we are seeing the light at the end of the tunnel.

It will not be long until we are back with family and friends in Colorado. Thank you all very much for your continued support and for remaining so strong on the home front.



SFC Andrew Black admires a local man's weapon while on patrol.



SGT Max Sykes put well deserved Specialist rank on Angel Beltran.



The men of 2ND Platoon and members of Headquarters Section gather for an awards ceremony.



(above) CPT Norman awards a Combat Infantryman's Badge to newly promoted SPC Joshua Atrip while SPC Ryan Glover looks on.

(below, left) SGT Aaron Montney, 2LT Travis Scott, SGT Jeremy Barnett, and 1LT(P) Andrew Heath receive their Combat Infantryman's Badge at COP Pirtle King.

(below, right) PFC Jonathan Burke and PFC Jonathan Surgenor joined Alpha Company recently and have been great additions.



Bravo Company—A New Season by CPT Patrick Yun

The winter in Afghanistan is almost upon us... the days are still warm, the nights and mornings are... quite cool in Asmar.

Dear Family and Friends, Howdy! Hope this finds all of you doing well back home. Another month has flown by as we have been very busy continuing to develop our battle space, providing support for our Afghan National Security Force partners, and chasing insurgents from our Tri-District Area.

The winter in Afghanistan is almost upon us. While the days are still warm, the nights and mornings are becoming quite cool in Asmar. Hitting the month of September means that we are one month closer to seeing our loved ones but also marks the beginning of football season which has all of Bravo Company Soldiers fired up.

Game day football matches fill up our Chow Hall late at

night with our Soldiers rooting for their favorite team and checking their status on Fantasy Football. 1SG and I are always amused and in awe of how many die-hard professional and college football fans we have amongst our ranks.

When our Soldiers are not screaming at the TV over a bad referee call, they have been busy building Observation Posts in the mountains of Kunar and providing security for the Security Forces Assistance Teams (SFATs).

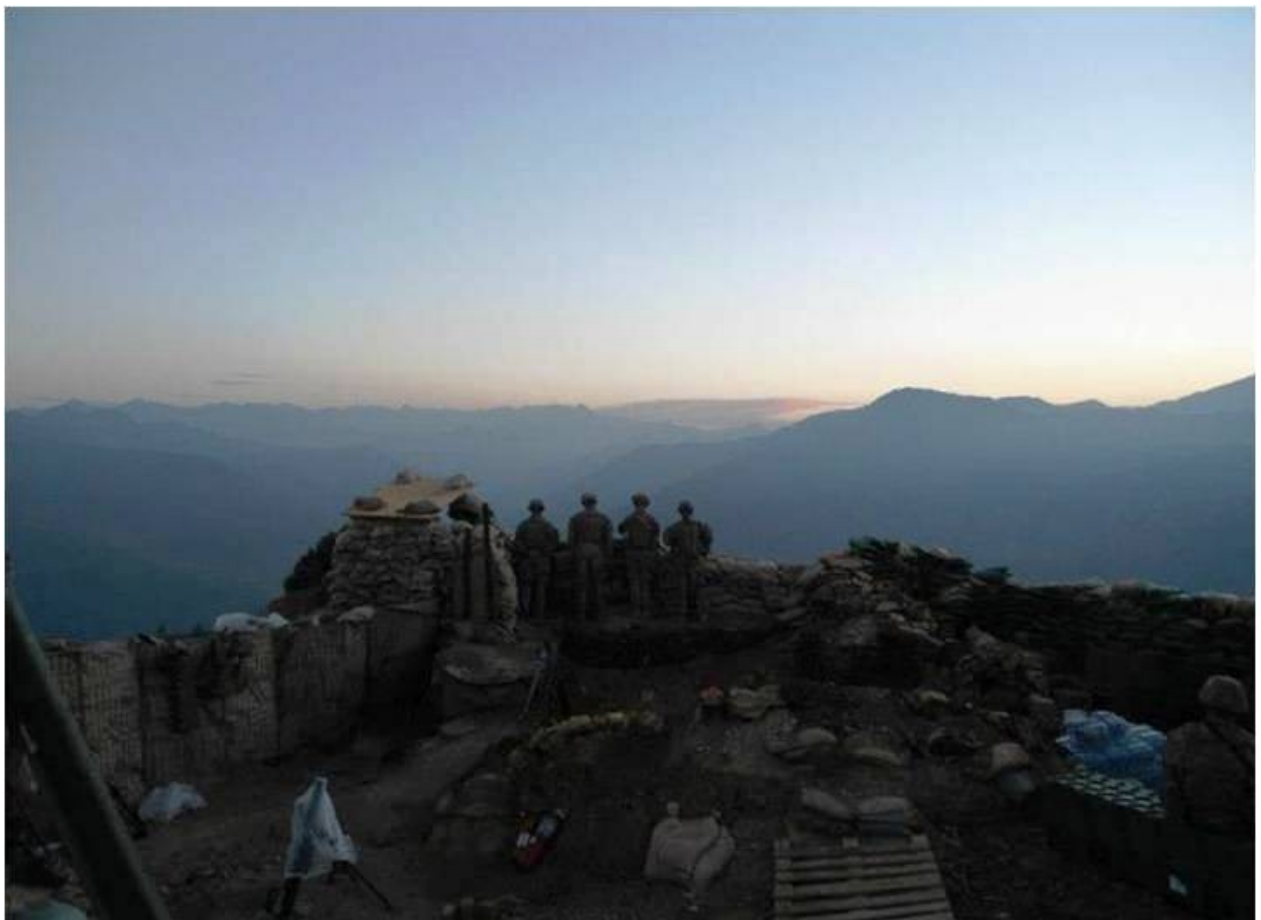
2nd Platoon recently came back from a 7-day patrol out at OP Stallion in order to give our Battalion Scouts a chance to get some R&R back at FOB Bostick. While up there, they helped rebuild the OP's perimeter and

reinforced existing battle positions that the scouts built up.

When they air assaulted back to COP Monti, one would think there would have been some happier faces but it seemed like they were all disappointed they could not stay longer. Their determination and motivation to complete the mission and then wanting more could not have made 1SG and I feel prouder.

Finally, as we move forward in our mission, know that our cause is a just one and you should be very proud of your Soldier. Everyday our Soldiers look into the eyes of men, women, and children that have only known fear and hopeless-

(Continued on page 17)



"Men over the mountains" of 3rd Platoon conduct a morning stand-to

A New Season (continued)

[Afghans] have only known fear and hopelessness. We are changing that.

(Continued from page 16)

ness. We are changing that. Our mission is hard but incredibly important to the future of this country and our own security.

Ensuring that our Afghan Security partners are able to stand on their own feet and have the ability to provide security for their countrymen will make certain our sacrifices were not in vain.

Please stay safe back home and take care of each other just as we will over here. A personal shout out to my wife Sarah for brining in our newest family member, Chloe Yun, to the world on 30 August 2012. We miss you all and can't wait to see you back home.



LT Fuselier and CPT Yun at OP Stallion



A Soldier of 1st Platoon, B Company, observes artillery fires on an Enemy Sniper Position from OP Shal.

Charlie Company—Pivotal Progress by CPT Brian Sbertoli

The children were all extremely grateful and excited to get the school supplies and all lined up to receive them.

Dear Family and Friends, greetings from FOB Bostick, Afghanistan! I hope this newsletter finds all of you in high spirits and great health.

Things in Afghanistan are busy as ever, with partnership operations, missions, and retrograde operations. With the month of September coming to a close, it means one month closer to reuniting with all our family and friends back home. We are very much looking forward to that reunion. A lot has been happening here in Afghanistan as we make headway with our partners and prepare to return home.

Throughout the month of September, Charlie Company has continually conducted partnered missions with the local police throughout our area. These missions have been primarily to the villages of Naray and Jابه. The local police have been great partners and are even

taking the lead on several of these missions.

Thanks to the support of those back home, we were able to supply boxes and boxes of school supplies to the local schools. The children were all extremely grateful and excited to get the school supplies and all lined up to receive them. All of those supplies will be put to great use and were greatly appreciated. The Female Engagement Team, 1LT Chavez, SPC Nixon and SPC Leak, handed out the school supplies to the girls school in Jابه. Several hundred kids will benefit from the amount of school supplies we received.

Additional patrols were completed to Naray to conduct assessments on a micro hydro power plant that will provide electricity to over 60 homes and to evaluate a Pipe Scheme, which provides water to most of the village throughout Naray.

In addition to our partnered operations with the local police, we also partner with the Afghan National Army (ANA), conducting several operations with them throughout the area. 1st PLT conducted a relief in place with the ANA, replacing one company with another in the Kamdesh.

They were able to successfully train up and insert those ANA members to set them up for success in the Kamdesh area. Charlie Company was responsible for training the ANA in medical/first aide, resupply operations, mortar operations and how to call for fire.

As October approaches, Charlie Company will continue its operations, partnering with our ANSF partners, training them as much as possible to ensure their success in Kunar Province. Every single Soldier here plays a pivotal role in this training. They are the reason our ANSF partners will be able to succeed when we leave.

There have been a number of promotions this month and I would like to recognize all of those members: 1LT Risenmay, SSG Marroquin, SSG Eymann, SPC Martin, SPC Harrison, SPC Johnson, SPC Owen, SPC Seymour, and PFC Fields.

SSG Logan was inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, one of the most distinguished organizations in the Army. SGT Berenna was also named the NCO of the month, and recommended for NCO of the quarter. Congratulations to you all.

Additionally, Charlie Company would like to congratulate SGT Kruessel and SGT Girtman and their families on having their babies and wish SSG Logan and his wife, the best of

(Continued on page 19)



Just a few of the children who were thankful for the school supplies from the contributions of friends and family back home.

Pivotal Progress (continued)

We think of you daily and would like to say thank you for the constant support and devotion you have shown...

(Continued from page 18)

luck with their upcoming child birth. We would also like to welcome 2LT Flynn to Charlie Company, taking over as Platoon Leader for 1st Platoon, as 1LT Tallman got promoted to the Executive Officer.

All of us here in Afghanistan look forward to returning home and being with all of you once again. We think of you daily and would like to say thank you for the constant support and devotion you have shown to each and everyone one of us throughout the months.

Without your support and devotion, our deployment would be much less enjoyable. The thoughts of our families and our friends motivate us to do our best and get us through each and every day. Thank you all.



SSG Speier promotes SPC Martin.



SGT Rose on patrol in Naray.

Red Warrior Reconnection Workshops

Workshop 2: 13 & 20 OCT, 1000-1200

Workshop 3: 06 & 13 NOV, 1830-2030

Where: HHC Conference Room

Contact: Leah Fuller, 1-12 IN

Family Readiness Support Assistant

719-503-4108



Dog Company—Packing Up by CPT Adam Marsh

We are even in the beginning phases of getting flight dates, though all the dates are subject to change.

There is a slight chill in the air, football season has officially started, and the kids are going back to school. These are all good signs; they mean it's almost time for us to come home.

The Warriors of Dog Co are continuing our redeployment training, we are beginning to pack our bags and clear out our rooms in preparation of the big move back to Fort Carson. We are even in the beginning phases of getting flight dates, though all the dates are subject to change. But after all this time it's nice to just hear talk about getting on a plane and going home.

The Family Readiness Group (FRG) will do its best to keep everyone informed on flight times and arrival dates. You should ensure they have good contact information for

you and you can reach your point of contact. Your Soldier will have several stopping points along the way home, all with phone and internet connection so that should be your best way to get information.

The company will be flying home in mid November to early December. Unfortunately, we will not be able to all fly together, but will be spread out over a few weeks. Most Soldiers will be home before Thanksgiving, but not everyone.

We have heard great reviews from the spouses who attended the Family reintegration classes back home; there are still classes available if you are interested please contact the FRG. We are also starting to see some of our Soldiers come down on orders for their next assignment; this is exciting as we

will see many of our Soldiers moving on next year to continue their military career or transition to civilian life.

For the troops up at COP Kalagush retrograde is the word of the day. By the end of October all Coalition troops will leave COP Kalagush to the Afghan National Army. So we are taking everything that may be needed elsewhere, but also trying to leave the Afghan Army with a suitable base.

The Soldiers at FOB Methar Lam rotate from FOB security (a.k.a. Guard duty) to conducting missions in and around the area, particularly escorting the convoys that come up to Kalagush to drop off food and fuel and to pick up equipment to be retrograded.

(Continued on page 21)



1st Platoon of Dog Company packs their bags for home.

Packing Up (continued)

One of the hardest things here at Kalagush is just finding ways to pass the time.

(Continued from page 20)

One of the hardest things here at Kalagush is just finding ways to pass the time. The base isn't all that big and besides the Gym and the Mess hall there isn't much in the way of entertainment. There are movies, phones, and internet, but not much else. I try to let the Soldiers know that previous deployments were much more austere and they should be happy with what they have, but it does get boring at times. We usually reserve Friday as fun day since Friday is "Juma," the weekly holy day in Islam, so usually the Afghans don't like to work much on this day.

We had to say goodbye to 1LT Lively as he was moved to headquarters company at FOB Bostick, but we welcome 2LT Basara fresh in from the States.

We are all ready to come home and are working diligently to ensure everyone comes home safe and with all our equipment accounted for.



SSG Tulloch and 1SG Davila play some baseball.



Dog Company Soldiers face off during a dodge ball tournament.

Easy Company—Lifting Faces by CPT Alex Bonilla

Distro Platoon continues to be the Battalion's Main Effort for executing resupply and retrograde.

A hearty salutation from FOB Bostick! September has proved to be an extremely busy month – a good thing!

The weather is beginning to turn, and with the changing of the seasons comes the light at the end of the tunnel – almost 7 months down! The days are cooling down and the nights are now quite pleasant. We have been seeing more frequent afternoon rain/hail storms, almost always ending with a beautiful rainbow.

Distro Platoon continues to be the Battalion's Main Effort for executing resupply and retrograde. For example, today alone the crew worked a complicated air schedule and pushed out 6

containers of equipment. The large yard where Maintenance stored all of their repair parts and pieces (things like engines, windows, wheels, and more!) has recently received a huge facelift and is now bare - the Soldiers worked their tails off for 2 days straight and the effects are very tangible.

The DFAC platoon has been equally as busy lately – they continue to keep the outstations fed and the Bostick food and water stock well managed. Spirits stay high thanks to the delicious snacks and drinks the DFAC Soldiers provide.

Our Soldiers at the outstations are doing very well and have endeared themselves to the

Infantry Soldiers who they work with. SSG Wilcken and his team at Monti enjoy the secluded nature of that COP. The Alpha Company team, headed by SGT Gaines, lives the 'vampire life' of the A CO Soldiers at Pirtle King, only working at night. SPC Emsley and his team assist the remaining portion of Alpha Company up on the mountain top OP Bari Alai. SGT Acree and 3 other Soldiers work hard at COP Kalagush with Delta Company, another secluded location with fantastic scenery.

We miss you all very much. Your thoughts and prayers (and care packages) keep us quite motivated and happy! Enjoy the last few weeks of the Colorado summer.



SSG Wilcken and SGT O'Steen grill up a mean steak dinner on their homemade "oil drum" grill.

Reunion by Chaplain Lamont Risner

Expect that there will be a “honeymoon” period with family and friends.

I remember travelling with my grandparents to family reunions several times as a kid. Those reunions were always occasions to see cousins I hadn't seen for a year or two, or maybe didn't even know at all. At the beginning of the reunion there was always a bit of awkwardness, it seemed, as we all tried to figure each other out. The reason: my cousins and I had changed since the last time we'd met.

The same is true for Red Warriors redeploying from Afghanistan as they renew their lives with their families and friends at Fort Carson and wherever they call home. To help smooth that transition there are some actions we can take now.

First, understand we've all changed during the past seven to eight months. Soldiers have changed by living through new experiences here in Kunar and Nuristan. Spouses have changed after having to assume more responsibilities back home. Children have changed just by the mere fact that they're constantly growing. They can walk better, talk better, read better, write better, and even throw a ball around better. Even our friends back home have changed.

It's important we begin communicating our thoughts and feelings about those changes now, rather than waiting until we're reunited with our loved ones.

Second, we should also begin communicating now about our expectations for redeployment and reunion. Those discussions must involve more than plans for the redeployment ceremony and our first day home. We need to discuss how we plan to resume roles and responsibilities with our families and in our homes. For example, will your spouse expect you to immediately resume paying the bills and handling the finances day one, or is that something he/she wants to continue doing.

Expect that there will be a “honeymoon” period with family and friends. But, don't expect that period to last more than a couple weeks or a month. As Soldiers returning home from war we have to give ourselves time to adjust to living back in the land of the free and the brave and we should also give our loved ones time to adjust to our being home again, too.

That means don't expect everyone back home to interrupt their schedules and routines just because we're home. Instead, try to adapt to their schedules and fit in to their routines of daily living. Then, after a couple weeks have passed, begin to renegotiate those changes you'd like to see happen in your home and life.

Those kind of changes take time. If you're uncomfortable or frustrated with some aspect of reunion, then tell the people

who are closest to you. Use “I think...” and “I feel...” statements to explain what you mean rather than expecting everyone else to read your mind and rather than making accusations against others when circumstances are not to your liking.

Finally, getting back on the same team and the same page with family and friends is really what our ultimate goal is during reunion. One of the best ways to do this is to listen before you speak. Especially during the first two weeks or first couple months after redeployment, when someone close to you makes an “I think” or an “I feel” statement, tune in and listen to what they're telling you. Then provide feedback by paraphrasing back to them what they just told you.

For example, if you're irritated that your spouse is leaving his/her dirty socks on the floor, then simply say, “I'm irritated that you've been leaving your dirty socks on the floor,” rather than an accusatory statement like, “You always leave your socks on the floor to piss me off!”

If you're on the receiving end of that statement, don't respond defensively, but simply provide feedback to the message your spouse just gave you: “So what you're telling me is that my leaving my socks on the floor is frustrating you.” Message sent—Message received!

Mountain Warrior Pre-Reintegration Family Training

9 OCT – 1 NOV

Classes covering redeployment issues, communication in marriage, reintegration and children, domestic violence, legal issues, medical concerns, substance abuse, finances, and resiliency.

Contact your Family Readiness Group or Family Readiness Support Assistant for exact dates, times, locations, and more information.

**Ducti Amore Patriae
Led by Love of Country**



THE BACK PAGE