



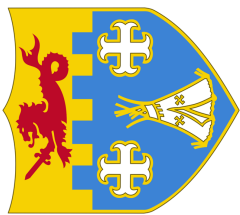
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1ST BATTALION — 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (LIGHT)

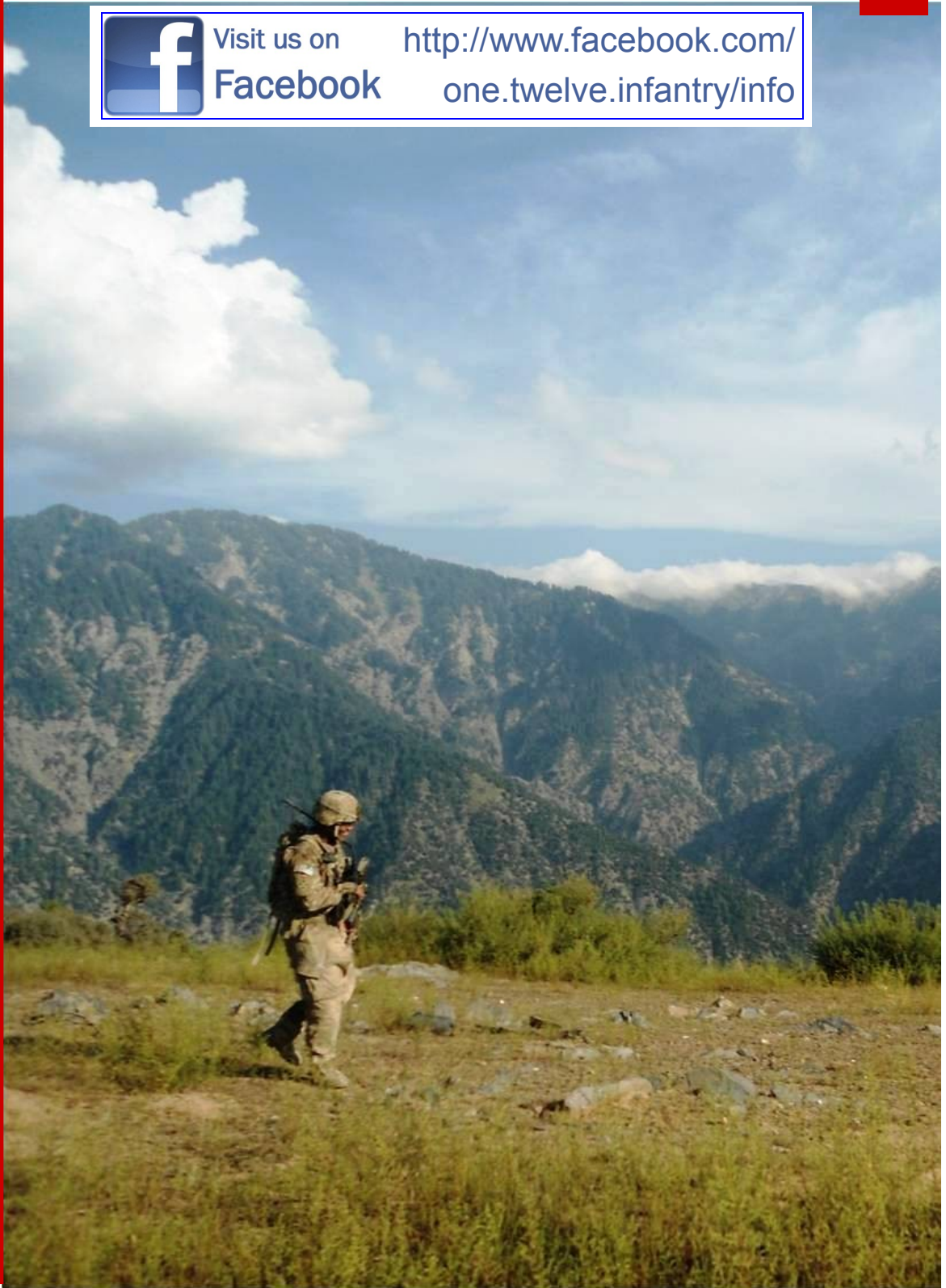
The Red Warrior Path

Volume 1, Issue 4
August 2012



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A Seasoned and Disciplined Team by LTC Scott Green

“Call Me, Maybe” cover videos... Lieutenants getting promoted to Captain.... Babies being born... 2012 Summer Olympics... School starting up again... I could go on and on but, suffice it to say, August has been a busy month for everyone in the Red Warrior family.

I hope everyone weathered the summer well, recovered from summer vacations, and prepared for arrival of the best time of the year, football season. I know we here in Afghanistan are truly excited for this coming football season. This football season will see us through the remainder of our time here and our return to our families. It also marks the beginning in a change in the weather to a cooler and more enjoyable temperature here.

As I said earlier, your Red Warriors have been extremely busy setting the stage for the big push we expect in the remaining months we have here in Afghanistan. They put in countless hours mentoring and working with our Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) partners, retrograding excess equipment from all of our locations, and disrupting the enemy plans.

Your Red Warriors continue to amaze and impress on a daily basis with their resolve, dedication, and patience. I have been in the Army more than a day and I have yet to see a more

I have been in the Army more than a day and I have yet to see a more seasoned and disciplined team.



Command Sergeant Major Danny Day bids farewell to the Red Warrior Family prior to leaving Forward Operating Base Bostick to assume responsibility as 4th Brigade CSM.

seasoned and disciplined team. I am extremely proud of them and proud to be their commander.

I would also like to thank our Rear Detachment team as they continue to support us from afar. CPT Steve Shiel and

his team back at Fort Carson are doing an exceptional job of taking care of families, training Soldiers to join us here, and preparing for inevitable return.

Finally, a big thanks to our families and friends back home.

(Continued on page 3)



(above) LTC Green presents certificates of promotion to CPT Glossup, CPT Hirtz, and CPT Overstake at FOB Bostick in August.
(below) LTC Green's Birthday Cake



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 COVER: 1LT Fuselier of Bravo Company, 1-12 IN patrols an Afghan ridgeline with a clear view of the distant mountains of Pakistan in the background.

A Seasoned and Disciplined Team (continued)

Knowing we have your love and admiration enables us to do our job here with a full heart and a smile on our face.



**CPT Bonilla (E CO), CPT Hall (HHC), CPT Norman (A CO), LTC Green (1-12 IN), CPT Marsh, CPT Sbertoli (C CO), CPT Yun (B CO)
THE RED WARRIOR COMMANDERS**

(Continued from page 2)

I have said this before and I will say it again. Your support is absolutely essential to our success here.

Knowing we have your love and admiration enables us to do



LTC Green gets ready to enjoy his birthday cake at FOB Bostick.

our job here with a full heart and a smile on our face. I know I speak for all of the Red Warriors when I say thank you for all you have done and continue to do for us. Thank You.

Finally, I am sure many of you have heard and know we lost four members of our Brigade this month. The Red Warriors send their heartfelt condolences to their families.

The Department of the Army selected our Battalion Command Sergeant Major, CSM Danny Day, to assume duties and serve as the 4th Brigade, 4th Infantry Division CSM. Even though it was extremely hard to

say goodbye to a man who had meant so much and done so much for this battalion, it is comforting to know he is just up the road at the brigade headquarters. CSM Day, thanks for everything. We will miss you. Good luck and God speed at Brigade!

Well, I will close this by saying once again how proud I am to be a part of this family. We miss all of you at home. Know we will be home before you know it but we still have a little bit more work to finish here. Until next month....



THE RED WARRIOR COMMAND TEAM AND STAFF

Rule of Law in Northern Kunar by CPT Benjamin Widlanski

Until the last few years...we have paid scant attention to another essential underpinning of a viable country: the rule of law.

Leo Tolstoy famously wrote: “All happy families are alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.” The same can be said, with minor modification, about governments. All strong and successful governments share certain fundamental similarities, while weak and self-immolating regimes are doomed to failure in myriad different manners.

In our quest to embolden and fortify the democratically-elected leaders of Afghanistan, the Coalition has focused on strengthening security, the economy, industrial and agricultural development, and the media. Such areas are instantly recognizable in Western nations and, if they take root in Afghanistan, augur well for the long-term prosperity of the land and its people. Until the last few years, though, we have paid scant attention to another essential underpinning of a viable country: the rule of law.

The judicial system in Afghanistan is a recent development. Due to the rural and tribal nature of vast swathes of the country, a centralized formal legal paradigm has never performed at the level expected by observers. This is due, at least in part, to a failure in appreciating the cultural distinctions between Afghan and western society.

In America, it is considered “vigilantism” to resolve disputes through avenues other than the recognized courts and law enforcement officials. In Afghanistan, though, such resolution is both necessary and legally acceptable. While the court systems are growing and gaining traction, the informal justice system remains an integral part of daily life for most Afghans.

Tribal elders and respected religious and educational leaders



Judges hear witnesses at a trial at the Naray District Center.

are frequently called upon to conduct “jirgas,” the equivalent of a town hall-style debate. They gather evidence (almost entirely through statements of witnesses and the parties to the disputes), discuss the histories of those involved, and render judgment. Oftentimes, it will be a monetary fine or property transfer; sometimes it will be an order to engage in a specified course of action.

Due to the seniority and respectability of the jirga members, these informal resolution methods are often quite successful – law enforcement officials will even refer disputes to tribal councils if the court systems are overburdened with other matters.

The formal justice system of Afghanistan is a work in progress. Trials in this country, especially in the rural areas, are the exception rather than the rule – and an Afghan trial looks little like the rigid and procedurally complex events we recognize as courtroom proceedings back in America.

However, despite the differences, the Afghan constitution recognizes a number of fundamental rights westerners also

idealize. The right to qualified defense counsel without regard to the financial status of the accused and the right against self-incrimination are both explicitly described in Afghan law. While there are no juries, panels of judges receive evidence from witnesses and listen to arguments made by defense and prosecution lawyers prior to determining guilt or innocence.

A strong appeals process, in order to protect against corrupt or incompetent rulings, is also in place. Ultimately, while the Afghan courts are not perfect, they are developing along a path that may eventually lead to self-sustainment and success.

In AO Red Warrior, we have been focusing on bringing the formal justice system to northern Kunar. Less than a month ago, we assisted GIROA officials in the prosecution of a group of men who broke into a neighbor’s house and assaulted the family. The trial took place at the Naray District Center and resulted in guilty verdicts for all accused.

While this may seem relatively trivial, it was the first public trial in the history of northern

(Continued on page 5)

Rule of Law in Northern Kunar (continued)

...we have developed a dramatic legal radio show broadcast on the radio stations... "KUNAR JUSTICE..."

(Continued from page 4)

Kunar. Over 100 local villagers attended, as well as the district governor and chief of police, high-level officials from the provincial capital, and Afghan television, radio, and print media. Most importantly, there was zero coalition presence at the trial itself – this allowed the government to take full credit for the trial and increased popular confidence and respect for the official organs of GIROA.

This trial was the most remote public trial, not just in Kunar or TF Mountain Warrior but in all of Afghanistan, since the fall of the Taliban, and the local people are incredibly proud. Due to the success of the trial, we are already coordinating with the local leadership to engage in a second public trial, this time a murder charge. Due to the efforts of members of Task Force 1-12 and our Afghan partners, we truly have brought jus-

tice and the law to northern Kunar.

In tandem with the developments of formal justice in northern Kunar, we have developed a dramatic legal radio show broadcast on the radio stations throughout the AO. "KUNAR JUSTICE," as it is known, is a fictional broadcast aimed at increasing the acceptance and understanding of the formal justice system. Each week, the story tells of a different crime committed within the area, the arrest of the suspect, and the prosecution of the criminal.

Some of the episodes, such as "A Theft of Wheat" and "A Killing of Goats" deal with crimes well-understood by the farmers of this area. Other episodes, like "A Bargain Unfulfilled" and "It's Not My Hashish" have broader appeal. The episodes have been enormously successful and have been appropriated by numerous other Task Forces for use in their areas. Once again, TF Red Warrior leads the way!

Throughout our time in northern Kunar, the members of 1-12 IN have been working towards increasing the ability of GIROA to stand on its own and function without the watching eyes and helping hands of the coalition. Our efforts to bolster the rule of law in an area previously devoid of formal justice are just one part of the broader goal and our successes will hopefully breed future achievements.

With a little luck, northern Kunar will have a strong and permanent judiciary that enforces the laws of the land – and we'll be able to say that Task Force Red Warrior was there when it all began.



A radio announcer introduces the weekly program "Kunar Justice."



When he's not lifting law books and fighting for justice, CPT Ben "Law Dog" Widlanski leads the way with CrossFit *goujir*.



High Standards for ANSF Medical Training by 1LT AI Tran

The Afghan medics at FOB Bostick...get a little closer every day to achieving independent medical operations.

When the battalion first arrived at Forward Operations Base Bostick, there were two medical facilities on the camp, one for U.S. Forces and one for the Afghan National Army (ANA) battalion. Under the guidance of the battalion commander, LTC Green, we worked to move both facilities into one location, where joint medical training could take place and where the Afghans could learn and train under U.S. medical professionals.

The process to make a “Combined Aid Station” at FOB Bostick took a few months, but in the end, it became a huge success. Today, the Bostick Aid Station has become the model in Regional Command East for what a combined medical facility should be.

Afghan medics work daily with Task Force Red Warrior medics and our Forward Surgical Team’s doctors and nurses to render care for ANA Soldiers and wounded civilians and receive training on important life saving skills.

The Afghan medics at FOB Bostick have come a long way since the arrival of Task Force Red Warrior. They get a little closer every day to achieving independent medical operations. Twice a day the Afghan medics conduct their own sick call hours, guided through the assessment and treatment procedures by U.S. Soldiers. They have become extremely involved with trauma assessment and management of their fellow Afghan Soldiers and civilians.

One success story in particular illustrates our partners’ developing capability. Back in June, the Afghan Army Battalion received reports that insurgents had targeted a remote village in Nuristan, wounding nearly a



An Afghan National Army Medic treats a wound during trauma lane training.

dozen innocent civilians, including women, children, and Afghan Security Force Soldiers. The Afghans quickly organized a response force to evacuate the casualties.

Included in the task organization for the mission was the most skilled Afghan medic, tasked to provide treatment to the urgently wounded during the flight back to FOB Bostick. Meanwhile, the remaining Afghan Medics assisted the Bostick Aid Station to assess and treat the casualties upon their arrival.

The Afghans’ execution of triaging, treatment, and evacuation of the casualties to a higher level of care was proof that the months of training with our partners, spearheaded by SSG Jason Mantz, was paying high dividends.

In addition to the advances made in the Aid Station, Red Warrior Medics have built incredible influence with the local population, as well. Red Warrior female medics, led by SSG Rachel Baranek, have provided care for women and children

(Continued on page 7)

High Standards (continued)

There is no doubt that the Bostick Aid Station and Task Force Red Warrior Medics have fully hit their stride here at the five month mark of the deployment.

(Continued from page 6)

enabling us to foster a new level of trust and respect among our Afghan neighbors. Much of this interaction involves teaching basic hygiene and tips for preventing injury when conducting manual labor. Although the majority of this training curriculum is simple, the benefits for both our Soldiers and the community have been huge.

There is no doubt that the Bostick Aid Station and Task Force Red Warrior Medics have fully hit their stride here at the five month mark of the deployment. Both the Regional Command-East Commander and the 4th Infantry Division Commander have lauded this organization for its commitment to partnership and casualty care in one of the most remote areas of operation in Afghanistan.

Our Red Warrior Medics are an important link in a chain of hardworking, dedicated professionals who daily make a difference in northern Kunar.



Doctor Chaney (right), U.S. Medics, and Afghan National Army Medics work together for a patient from Kamdesh.



An ANA Medic and SPC Rich treat a local national from Kamdesh.



SPC St. Louis evaluates and treats local national children.



SSG Mantz and a fellow medic instruct ANA Medics on how to suture wounds.

HHC—Halfway Home by CPT Dennis Hall

Hopefully you all have had a chance to discuss plans for post deployment leave, housing arrangements, PCS or ETS considerations, etc. with your Soldiers.

Once again, I'd like to begin by thanking you all for doing an amazing job showing your love and support for our Soldiers with care packages, phone calls, emails and Skype sessions. August has been an eventful month that seems to have passed by in a flash.

It's hard to believe, as the temperatures here still hover in the low 100s, that fall is right around the corner. We all know that the approach of cooler temperatures brings us that much closer to the day we are reunited with all of you.

I am sure that many of you heard your Soldiers mention the fact that for the majority of the month, our Afghan partners have been recognizing Ramadan, the Islamic holy month in which Muslims fast during the heat of the day in addition to refraining from many other comforts we normally take for granted. Understandably these conditions slowed our partners' operational tempo, and gave us a chance to regroup and begin planning operations for the fall.

All of this meant a busy month for the staff, which has been working overtime to ensure the battalion was prepared for an extremely hectic last 90 days of the deployment. Fortunately, newcomer MAJ Drew Conover was ready to take the

ball and run as the new Battalion S3. He has done an extraordinary job and hasn't missed a beat, even though he had huge shoes to fill left by MAJ Jared Bordwell who has moved on to Brigade.

Once again, the Scout and Mortar Platoons were called on to build yet another observation post high above FOB Bostick. Living in the most austere of conditions, literally sleeping in the dirt and trying to hide from the blazing sun, these men constructed a fortress on the top of a barren mountain with their bare hands, while also defending themselves against a determined enemy.

With the help of two outstanding squads from C Company, the structures were rapidly constructed, providing a blanket of security over the entire FOB. Of course, none of it would have been possible without the support of the Staff, members of E and C Companies and especially Hammer 5. Thanks to this group, thousands of pounds of sandbags, lumber, delicious snacks and even a homemade toilet were prepared on the FOB to be slung up to the OP.

We are now well over half way home, on the downhill stretch in the race to 270 days. There is still a lot to be accomplished here in Northern Kunar

and your Soldiers are still approaching these tasks with vigor and remarkable enthusiasm.

Morale is high as evidenced by the battalion's excellent retention numbers, and by the amount of good humor one hears all over the FOB. Our Soldiers are certainly mentally tough and possess the resilience to see this mission through to the end.

Hopefully you all have had a chance to discuss plans for post deployment leave, housing arrangements, PCS or ETS considerations, etc. with your Soldiers. We leaders have been encouraging all members of the Hammer Company Family to prepare themselves for the challenges and the excitement of redeployment by having a plan in place early to ensure that the homecoming is a memorable event for all the right reasons.

Thanks again to all of you for the thoughts of love from home. It is hard to express how much even a quickly written letter can lift the spirits of a Soldier who is feeling worn down from the grind of deployment. Please keep it up and get ready, cuz we're coming home soon!

Hammer 6



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 METHAR LAM
APO, AE 09310

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

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

Alpha Company—Committed to the Mission by CPT Erik Norman

Ramazan was particularly challenging this year due to the temperatures being routinely well over 100 degrees.

August has been an exciting month for Alpha Company. Mathew Hanson (HQ), James Coats (2ND PLT), and Jonathan Sargent (3RD PLT) were all promoted to Staff Sergeant this month. Congratulations to all! SPC Matthew Cowan volunteered to continue to serve in the Army, and we are glad to keep his Fires talent.

Third Platoon conducted their Combat Badge Ceremony, with a total of 13 Combat Infantryman's Badges and two Combat Action Badges awarded. This month we also said farewell to our long time Fire Support Officer, 1LT Aaron Dunn, and his wife Leanne, as they transferred over to 2-77 Field Artillery. We welcomed 2LT Charlie Rouse to fill the position as the new Company FSO.

We learned a great deal about our Afghan partners recently as they completed Ramazan, a Muslim event that involves not eating or drinking during daylight hours for a month. Ramazan was particularly challenging this year due to the temperatures being routinely well over 100 degrees. This was a trying time for them, but they persevered until Eid, the three day celebration that marks the end of Ramazan. Many of our Soldiers took part in the Eid festivities, which include having large meals together and drinking lots of Chai.

The heat has been challenging for our Soldiers as well, both on guard and on missions. However, our men are don't let it get them down or affect their performance. The hard training they endured in preparation for deployment and their commitment to the mission and each other keeps them focused.

It also helps to know that in few short months they will be

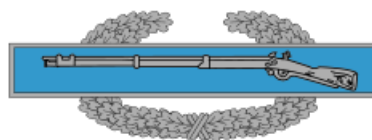


SSG Coats (2ND PLT), SSG Hanson (HQ), and SSG Sargent (3RD PLT) were all promoted this month.

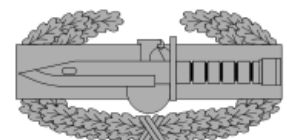
back home with you! Thank you on behalf of the Company for all your support. If you have any questions or need any help, please don't hesitate to contact us at alphacompany112@yahoo.com.



CPT Norman pins a Combat Action Badge on SPC Garrett Music.



Combat Infantryman's Badge



Combat Action Badge

Committed to the Mission (continued)



Alpha Company's 3RD Platoon on patrol in Nishigam Village of Ghaziabad District.



CPT Norman returns SPC Michael Jarvis' salute after awarding Jarvis his Combat Action Badge



1LT Tyler O'Connor and 2LT Tyler Cline take a break in the action at the USO room at Combat Outpost Pirtle-King.

Bravo Company—Building Our Alliance by CPT Patrick Yun

Many new and positive events continue to build up our alliance with the Afghan National Security Forces and the Afghan people...

Dear Family and Friends of Bravo Company, hello again from Combat Outpost Monti!

On behalf of the exceptional team of Soldiers and leaders here at COP Monti, 1SG Ralston and I extend our heartfelt greeting and a tremendous “thank you” to our supporters back home in the great United States of America. There is no doubt in our minds that your continued support of the Soldiers here is vital to our success as a company. Thank you for the multitude of letters, care packages, emails, and phone calls over the past six months!

Many new and positive events continue to build up our alliance with the Afghan National Security Forces and the Afghan people within our area

of operations. The Afghan Army and Police leaders frequently meet with their counterparts here on COP Monti in order to build on the strong working relationships that currently exist. In addition, Bravo Company has an excellent relationship with leaders of the surrounding villages and tribes of our area of operations.

Over the past month, the Islamic month of Ramazan (also known as Ramadan in other Arabic-speaking countries) has been central to our daily interactions with the Afghan Soldiers and people. During this time, Afghans refrain from eating or drinking during the daylight hours, which normally extend here from approximately 4am to 8pm! Combine that with record

high temperatures (consistently above 105 degrees) and you get a hardy group of Afghan farmers, merchants, and Soldiers.

This year, Ramazan began in late July and has continued through late August. Following Ramazan, all Afghans enjoyed a three-day celebration known as *Eid-al Fitr*. Known simply as Eid, the celebration resembles our Thanksgiving stretched over a three day period.

The best fruits, vegetables, meat, rice, and bread come out during this time and all Afghan families enjoy a large meal. Bravo Company had no shortage of visitors during this three-day feast; Afghan Army and Police leaders from the sur-

(Continued on page 13)



2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1-12 Infantry (Light)

Building Our Alliance (continued)

I speak for all leaders and Soldiers here when I say that we look forward to finishing the fight and can not wait to come back home.

(Continued from page 12)

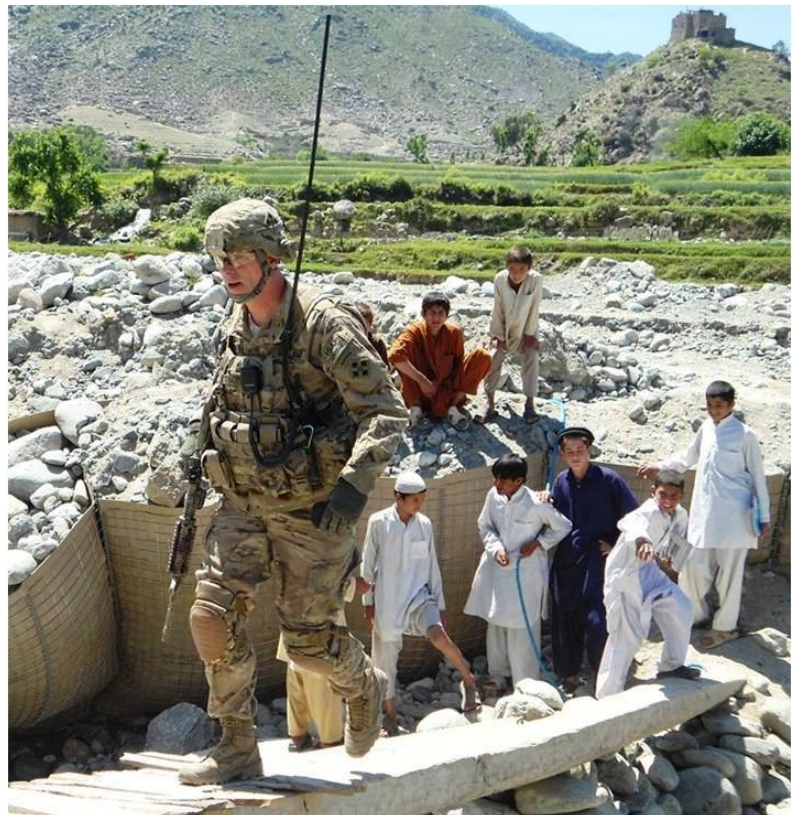
rounding area visited COP Monti and enjoyed food fit for a king.

As for the Soldiers of Bravo Company, they have been busy patrolling these Afghan mountains, improving the Afghan Army's Observation Positions (OPs), conducting rigorous physical training during their down time, and most importantly, strategizing how to put the perfect Fantasy Football Team together for the upcoming football season.

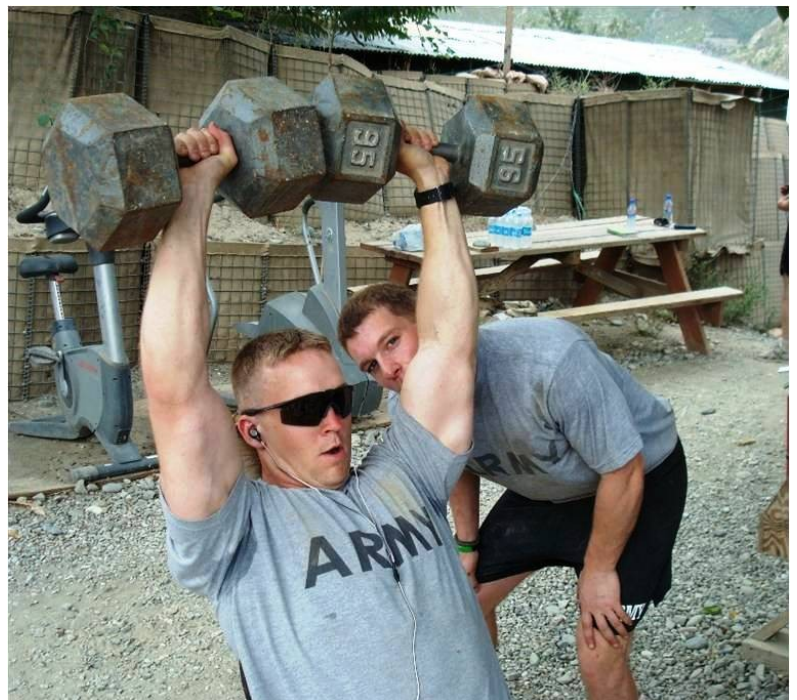
Whether it be SFC O'Donnell outperforming his Platoon Leader (LT Wallace) in their daily Cross Fit workout, SSG Denardi roasting the Company Commander, or SSG Masisak running for re-election as the COP Mayor, Bravo Company Soldiers have been keeping themselves busy.

The Soldiers and leaders of Bravo Company continue to amaze me with their hard work, dedication, and commitment to the mission and to each other. Our Soldiers continually work hard to ensure that their own living spaces and the overall quality of life on COP Monti is maintained at a high level. They have performed amazingly well in every mission that I've given to them, and I'm tremendously proud of their achievements over the past six months as individuals and as a company.

I speak for all leaders and Soldiers here when I say that we look forward to finishing the fight and can not wait to come back home. Thank you again for your amazing support.



1SG Ralston on patrol in Zor Asmar.



1LT Kapacinkas (1st PLT) strives to be the next Arnold.

Coyote Company—Prepping the Way Forward by 1LT Andy Cahoy

We meet often with the District Sub-Governor...and the local Afghan Uniformed Police Chief...to discuss the way forward...

Over the past month, Coyote Company's Muslim partners have been observing Ramadan. Ramadan is a time of religious reflection that includes fasting and prayer for our partners in the Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP), Afghan Border Police (ABP), and Afghan National Army (ANA).

Therefore, for the past month, Coyote Company limited its missions and focused on setting the conditions for rede-

ployment and transition. This meant a busy month of cleaning and inventorying property as well as meeting with key Afghan leaders.

Our leaders met with Kunar's deputy provincial chief of police to discuss the transition of a large local police force from the payrolls of the US Department of Defense to Afghanistan's Ministry of Interior. We meet often with the District Sub-Governor, Haji Gul Zaman,

and the local Afghan Uniformed Police Chief, Haji Yousef, to discuss the way forward in Naray District after we leave.

We are also preparing to receive additional Afghan Army troops here at FOB Bostick. We are making room for them here as we retrograde excess property to Jalalabad.

Meanwhile, we remain focused on building sustainability

(Continued on page 15)



1LT Schaus and SPC Kandler prepare for a 60mm mortar at a checkpoint near FOB Bostick.



SPC Winstead, SPC Kassim, PV2 Fields, and PFC Harrison conduct physical training at a checkpoint near FOB Bostick.

Prepping the Way Forward (continued)

Our company also closed out a \$360,000 contract for the construction of a new ABP outpost for the security of a small town...

(Continued from page 14)

for our Afghan partners. We have spent tens of thousands of dollars on projects such as a new drinking water well for the ANA on FOB Bostick and solar panels for sustainable power for ANA and ABP checkpoints.

We have helped them with force protection by purchasing concrete blocks, lumber, and sandbags to improve their positions. Our company also closed

out a \$360,000 contract for the construction of a new ABP outpost for the security of a small town nestled deep in the mountains east of FOB Bostick.

Coyote Company soldiers continue to enjoy visiting mountaintop locations in Kunar and Nuristan Provinces on occasion. Upon returning home in just a few short months, Soldiers are looking forward to sharing breathtaking pictures of snow-capped mountains and majestic

river valleys in some of the most remote areas of the world.

We also celebrate the promotions of SGT Timothy Berrena and SGT Keith Hill. Morale in Charlie Company here in Kunar Province remains high. See you all soon!

Call
Me
Maybe



Soldiers in the Coyote Company Band make their inaugural performance at FOB Bostick. Band members include, from left, 1LT Tallman (vocals), SGT Girtman (guitar), SGT King (turntable), PFC Aguigui (ukulele), SPC Jimenez (ukulele), and PV2 Erps (percussion).

Red Warrior Reconnection Workshops

Workshop 1: 18 & 25 SEP, 1830-2020
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—Be Patient by CPT Adam Marsh

I highly encourage spouses to attend [reintegration training] as this will make the homecoming process smother...

We are officially in the double digits! We are now less than 100 days until we will be home. I know we are all looking forward to the re-deployment and we have already begun to make preparations.

Just like back at home, there have already been rumors spreading about when we will get home, whether it will be later or earlier than expected. Please pay no mind to these as they always happen and are usually wrong. Unless it comes from the Family Readiness Group (FRG) it is probably not correct, even if your loved one here is telling you it.

I can say with authority that the timeline for re-deployment has not been posted and that this is the Army and everything is subject to change with little or no notice at all! We will also

probably not be coming home all on the same day, so even if you get word about someone else it may not include your Soldier. The best thing you can do is stay in contact with the FRG for further information about redeployment. Please continue to be patient and know that no one is withholding information; as soon as we find out officially when we will be coming home you will be told.

We do know that we will have leave from 22 December to 21 January so you can start making plans for a well deserved vacation. We are beginning to take our reintegration classes to better prepare ourselves. The Battalion is also conducting reintegration training for family members. I highly encourage spouses to attend as this will make the homecoming process

smother, particularly in communication with your loved ones. Please contact the FRG or Read Detachment for information.

The Dog Company Soldiers are continuing their daily routine of missions, guard duty, gym, movies, eat and, sleep. It gets boring and tedious at times, but the Soldiers are still in good spirits. Our Soldiers continue to impress me with their hard work and dedication even in this heat. We all look forward to finishing up our work here and getting on that flight.

Second Platoon had to say goodbye to SFC Carter who has moved to battalion, but we welcome SFC Cote. We would also like to congratulate our XO, newly promoted Captain Rubley and SGT Hernandez.



3rd Platoon at FOB Methar Lam



4th Platoon during TOW training



SGT Palafox looks on as Chaplain Risner baptizes SGT Herrera at COP Kalagush. The baptistery consisted of a shipping crate and a vehicle cover.



Movie night in the Dog Company MWR room, AKA "The Doghouse."

Easy Company—Sustaining the Force by CPT Alex Bonilla

Your Soldiers are staged at every location where the Red Warrior Battalion conducts operations...

Dear Family and Friends of Easy company, warm greetings from Afghanistan...August has been...well, hot!

Your Soldiers are doing an exceptional job every single day. The bread and butter of Easy Company continues to be support operations and sustainment. Your Soldiers' daily duties may seem mundane at times, but collectively their actions are force multipliers and make our entire Battalion better.

Your Soldiers are staged at every location where the Red Warrior Battalion conducts operations, and continue to have a hand in everything the Battalion does. Our Soldiers assist in protecting the base, keep the Battalion's vehicles rolling and weapons operational, ensuring fuel is available where needed, and feed the Battalion.

Our Soldiers are also actively engaged in training the Afghan Army in Support Operations and equipment maintenance. In the month of August, our Soldiers in the Aerial resupply section trained a group of soldiers from the Afghan National Army on packaging and rigging supplies for delivery via cargo helicopter to support Afghan Army operations.

Our Soldiers' efforts do not go unrecognized; in the month of August two of our Soldiers received the Army Commendation Medal for their exceptional performance and going above and beyond their scope of duties. Our three medics received the Combat Medical Badge, which is awarded only to medical personnel who perform their duties during combat operations. And 22 other Easy Company Soldiers received the coveted Combat Action Badge, which is awarded to Soldiers for



1LT Shontz (A CO) administers the oath of enlistment to SPC Milford (E CO).

active engagement in combat operations.

Eight of our Soldiers earned promotions this month as well. Congratulations SFC Ford and SSG Wilken for advancing to the next higher level of rank and responsibility as Non-Commissioned Officers. SGT Lavoie and SGT Anthony joined the NCO ranks, SPC Midyette, SPC Womedorf, PFC Driz and

PFC Flowers advanced to the next rank. Congratulations to all - well deserved promotions.

To our families, please stay safe as the summer break comes to an end and you return to school. Appreciate all the support, the kind letters and care packages. You are always on our thoughts and prayers...until next time.



A Soldier from the Distribution Platoon conducts training with Soldiers from the Afghan National Army.

Ramadan (Ramazan)

by SGT Lorenzo Palafox (Chaplain Assistant)

This is also a time in which Muslims ask for forgiveness for past sins and pray for strength...

Ramadan, or Ramazan as it's called in Afghanistan, is by far one of the most important annual religious traditions of the Muslim people. Falling on the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, it is one of the annual observances that is regarded as one of the Five Pillars of Islam.

The month of Ramadan, which lasts anywhere from 29-30 days, is based upon the many compiled accounts in the *hadiths* (Islamic religious teachings), and follows the visual sightings of the new moon. The word Ramadan is from the Arabic root of *ramida*, meaning scorching heat or dryness.

During the time of Ramadan, Muslims refrain (or fast) from consuming any sort of food, liquids, and sexual acts from the time of dawn and until after sunset. Instead, they focus on prayer and acts that demonstrate self-sacrifice.

Ramadan is a time in which Muslims focus all their direct attention on their relationship with *Allah* (God). This is a celebrated time of prayer and self-sacrifice in which special prayers are offered up. The sacrifice of fasting lasts from morning to sunset for all Muslims except the very young, the very old, and those individuals too weak or too sick to fast.

Faithful Muslims also try to abstain from any un-pure or unclean thoughts and acts during Ramadan, even going so far

as to avoid visiting places that are considered sinful. This time of fasting and abstinence is intended to direct and teach the Muslim faithful patience, self-discipline, and empathy for others.

Every day during the month of Ramadan Muslims rise before dawn and partake in eating a *Sabur* meal and then perform the *fajr* prayer. Their fast begins before the morning call to prayer and ends with the fourth prayer of the day, *Maghrib* (sunset). Muslims break their fast at *Maghrib* prayer time with a meal called *Iftar*. Muslims may continue to eat and drink after the sun has set until the next morning's *fajr* call to prayer.

This is also a time that Muslims ask for forgiveness for past sins and pray for strength to refrain from present temptations and future sins. The Muslim worshipper sets his/her heart to refrain from the everyday evils of the world by trying to purify themselves through prayers, good deeds, and self-restraint. Muslims also share food and gifts with their poor neighbors during this time.

The Islamic holiday that brings the month of Ramadan to a close is *Eid-al-Fitr*. It is a time during which Muslims celebrate the end of the fast and donate food and gifts to the poor. They also hold special morning communal prayers in the early morning hours and then follow-up

their times of prayer with visitations and feasting in the homes of family members and friends.

The United States Army trains Soldiers about cultural awareness and religious rituals and beliefs, including sensitivities concerning Ramadan. Before deployment and in-country Red Warriors were exposed to similar training. Along with our other NATO allies we do our best to support our Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) partners and the Afghan people as they celebrate their national identity and rich religious traditions during Ramadan.

From 20 July to 19 August of this year, Coalition Forces respected our Muslim partners' observance of Ramadan by remaining sensitive to their fasting, prayer time, and religious devotion. This meant taking special precautions not to make derogatory gestures around Afghans, avoiding disputes, eliminating loud music, profanity, and the eating of meals in the presence of Afghans during daylight hours.

Many U.S. Soldiers also had opportunities to share in the celebration feasts that marked the conclusion of Ramadan. Our ANSF partners seemed truly thankful for our consideration of their most holy of times according to their Islamic calendar and religious teachings.

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.



THE BACK PAGE

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



(top) Soldiers of Easy Company gather for a group picture after receiving awards and promotions at FOB Bostick.
(bottom) A Soldier from 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment (Light) surveys the terrain below his vantage point, seemingly atop the world.