



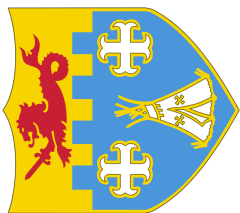
Inside this issue:	
Progress	2
Alpha, Bravo, and Charlie Companies	3-5
HHC and Dog Company	8-9
Adjutant's Call from S-1	10
Easy Company	11



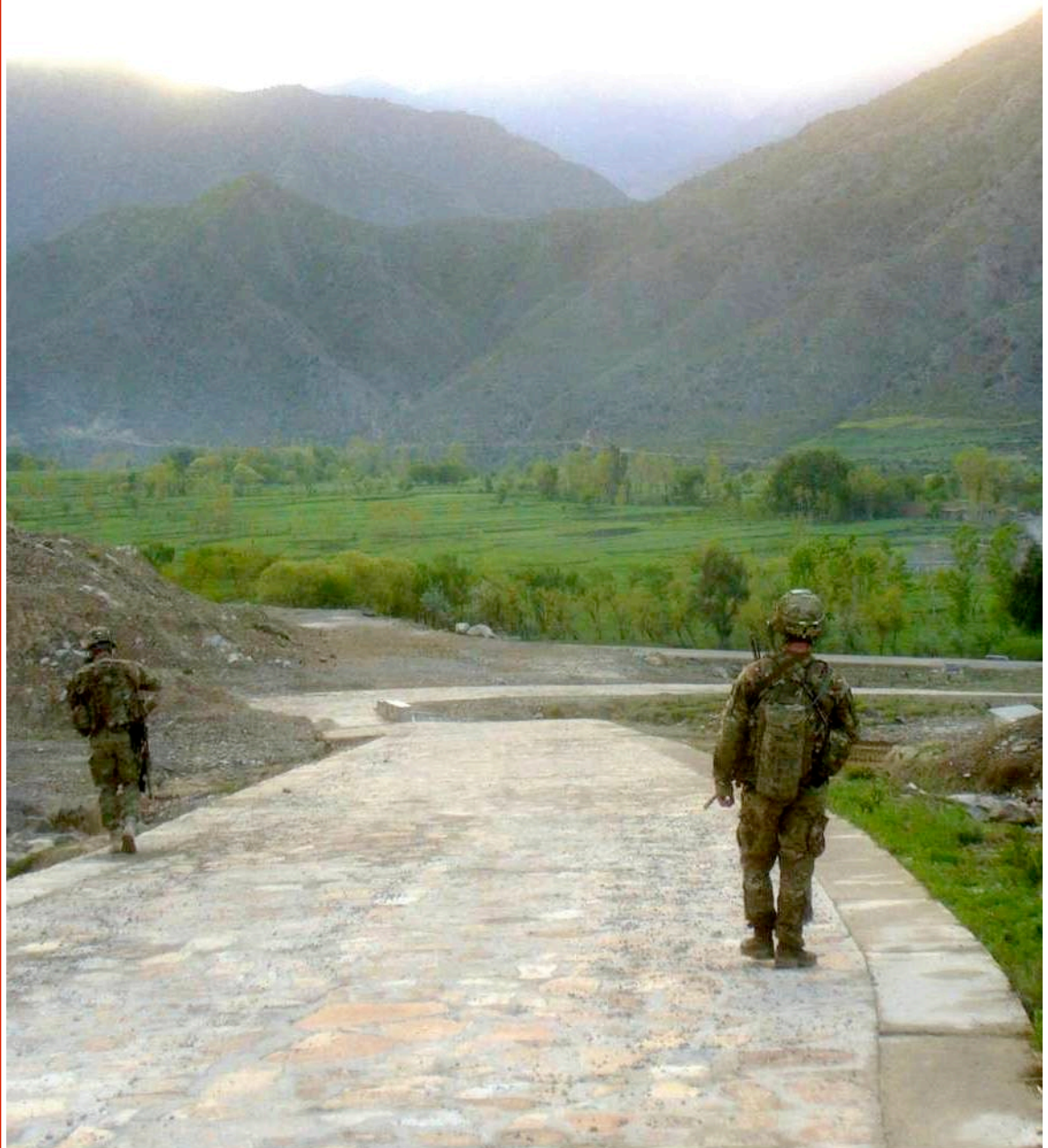
1ST BATTALION — 12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (LIGHT)

The Red Warrior Path

Volume 1, Issue 1
May 2012




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LTC Scott Green—“Progress” Battalion Commander

Greetings to all the families, friends, and staunch supporters of Task Force Red Warrior. It has been a little over a month since I last wrote to you.

Since we talked last, the Red Warriors have been busy.

We have worked to continually improve our position through work on our force protection. We have conducted numerous patrols to assess critical infrastructure, engage tribal leaders and government officials, and disrupt the enemy.

We continue to see success in incremental steps across all of our areas of focus.

Over the course of all our work this month, I was continually reminded of the dedication of our men and women here and at home.

We continue to see improvements in our partnership with our Afghan National Security Force partners. It is rewarding to see continued progress every day due to the dedicated

efforts of Red Warrior Soldiers. Our partners move closer to the lead in all operations each and every day.

Another exciting development is the recent visits from provincial government officials to our five districts. This increased connection between district level and provincial level government officials continues to build capacity to deliver needed services and governance to the people.

Most recently, we hosted the Provincial Governor and many of his key staff to two of our districts. This was the first visit of this type in almost a year.

Finally, we continue to see projects and development moving forward. Roads are being built, albeit slowly. Micro Hydro-electric plants are being installed and providing power to villages. Schools are being completed and opened to eager students. Again, this is all due to the hard work and sacrifice of our Soldiers.

All of this positive work and improvement has not come without great sacrifice. This month we lost three Soldiers in two separate incidents. We lost 1LT Alejo Thompson, Alpha Company, 1-12 IN (L), on 11 May. A week later on 18 May we lost SGTs Knapp and Knox, Bravo Battery, 1-377 FA. The impact of these losses to the entire Task Force cannot be described in words. Their absence in our ranks leaves us deeply saddened.

Brothers, you will be with us forever in our hearts. We vow to honor you by fighting on and completing the mission for you.

As before, to those of you reading this back at home, we greatly appreciate your continued support of our Soldiers, your Soldiers. Their devotion to duty, bravery, and support of one another is inspiring. I am truly humbled to serve as their commander.

To all of you, my personal thanks for what you do for us and for your Soldiers. Often, we do not know the difficulties and emotional turmoil you fight through in support of us. Your commitment to your Soldier and to the nation does not go unnoticed. Until next time, I simply say, “Thank You!”

“It is rewarding to see continued progress every day due to the dedicated efforts of Red Warrior Soldiers.”



A Red Warrior stands tall.

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: Soldiers from B Company, 1-12 Infantry conduct a foot patrol along a road in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

Alpha Company—“Shoulder to Shoulder” by CPT Erik Norman

“We are working shoulder to shoulder with our Afghan Army, Police, and Government Counterparts.”

Families and Friends of A CO,

First, we would like to thank everyone for your wonderful support as we have taken on this task. The men are extremely appreciative of the letters, care packages, and well wishes that we have received over the last two months. They are a huge morale boost and really help us feel connected with the home front.

The Company is doing exceptionally well in this challenging area of operations. We are working shoulder to shoulder with our Afghan Army, Police, and Government Counterparts. Together, we are already seeing noticeable improvements in security. There is still lots of work to be done, but we are optimistic about our time here.

A big congratulations to SGT Erik Parilla and his wife, who welcomed their



SPC Ivan and SPC Martinez of 3RD PLT receive a much deserved promotion.



PFC Temple working hard.

son Hyrum Glen Parilla into the world this March! Also, congratulations to SSG Armstrong, SSG Kuenz, SPC Ivan, and SPC Martinez on their recent, much deserved promotions.

If there are any problems or concerns that the company can help you with, please don't hesitate to contact us at alphacompany112@yahoo.com.

Thanks for your support!



SGT Golden on a rare occasion with messy hair.



2ND PLT working shoulder to shoulder with Afghan National Army Soldiers to increase force protection.



Men from 1ST PLT hanging out between missions.

Bravo Company—“On The Beat”

by CPT Jeremy Flight

“In two months I have asked a lot of each and every Soldier here at COP Monti and I have never been let down.”

Two months down and only seven more to go! I have to say the first two months have gone by exceptionally fast.

All of the Blackheart Soldiers are doing their best to partner with the Afghan Army, which I hope will be our ticket never to return here.

Every Soldier, regardless of rank, has been doing their best to add something to the overall mission, which is to create an environment in which the people of Afghanistan trust and support their



B Company Soldiers cross a foot bridge while partnered with Afghan National Security Forces.

Armed Forces, local, provincial, and national government.

I can't say enough how honored I am to be Blackheart 6 and serve the Soldiers and families of The Blackhearts Company. That is no trite comment just for friends and family.

In two months I have asked a lot of each and every Soldier here at COP Monti and I have never been let down. Unlike previous deployments, this company is expected to conduct many types of missions simultaneously.

One minute we could be coaching the Afghans on

how to conduct maintenance on vehicles and the next rolling out the gate with them.

Unlike any other company in the battalion the Blackhearts have to partner with, train, and conduct missions with two Afghan Battalions, three Afghan Police districts, and government leaders across three districts. That's more than the rest of the battalion combined!

So be proud of your Soldiers, they are working hard every day and I know they are thankful for all your support back home wherever that may be.



(above) A B Company Soldier looks on as a US Army Kiowa helicopter passes by.

(below) Soldiers from B Company pose for a photo at COP Monti.



Charlie Company—“Teach, Coach, Mentor”

By CPT Brian Sbertoli

“Conducting joint-effort patrols allows us to develop the Afghan forces capabilities.”

As we push into the beginning of May, it signifies the two month mark for Charlie Company 1-12IN at FOB Bostick in Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

After a great handover with Charlie 2-27, Charlie 1-12 began taking the initial steps to complete their goal in the Nari District.

The first few weeks were spent developing a deeper understanding for the Area of Operations (AO). This applied not only to the terrain and the enemy, but also our Afghan partnered forces.

The idea of “teach, coach and mentor” our Afghan partners – including the Afghan National



A C Company Soldier hears the concerns of an Afghan citizen in C CO area of operations.

Army (ANA), Afghan Uniformed Police (AUP) and Afghan Border Patrol (ABP) - is implemented every time Charlie Company leaves the wire.

“Conducting joint-effort patrols allows us to develop the Afghan forces capabilities,” Charlie Company Executive Officer Andy Cahoy said.

“Hopefully, this will allow the ANA, ABP and AUP to be better trained, better equipped, and more efficient than when we initially arrived here.”

Aside from working hand-in-hand with our partnered Afghan forces, Charlie Company has put forth much effort to improve local economies and infrastructure.

The town of Nari sits in close proximity to FOB Bostick, and Charlie Company has undertaken the

long-term goal of building a bridge in Nari, across the Kunar River that will greatly facilitate movement and trade between towns.

3rd Platoon, under 1LT Chris Pinkerton and SFC Buddy Tucker, recently completed a similar project in the village of Shamasere. Pinkerton has facilitated the planning and construction of a bridge across a washout that will allow motor vehicles to cross.

They have also visited and assessed the local children’s school to pinpoint areas to improve through local contractors. Projects such as these will make sure Charlie Company leaves a superior and long lasting footprint in the Kunar Province.



Local Nationals and Soldiers of C Company work to solve a technical issue.

PHOTO BREAK



B Company Soldiers enjoy some local Afghan cuisine.



DOC Early, SGT Barnett, and SPC Page contemplate their awesomeness.



SGT Aragon does not approve of SGT Wintzell's melody....



...and neither, it appears, does the Red Warrior Chief!



1LT Antioho flashes an ivory white smile for the camera.

UNIT ADDRESS LISTING

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

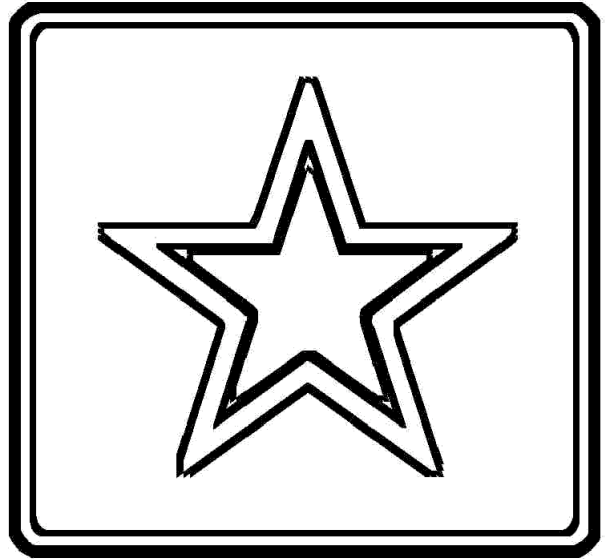
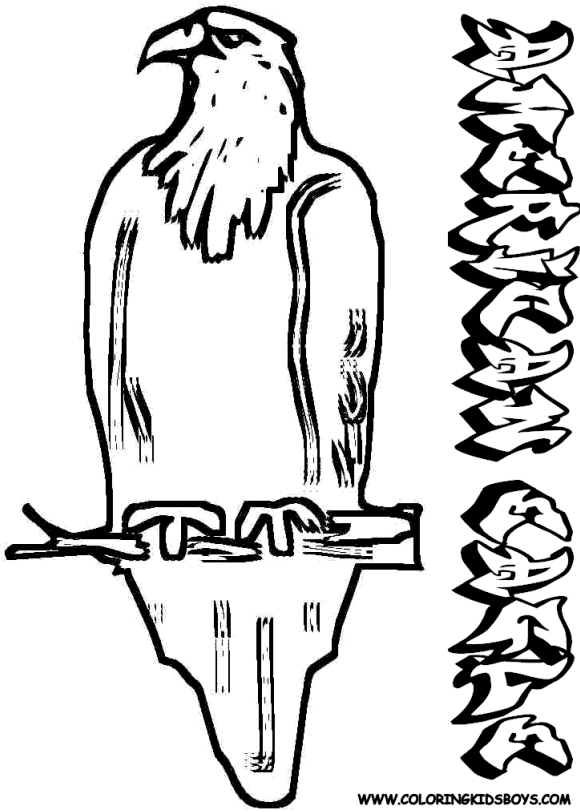
C CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
 FOB BOSTICK
 APO, AE 09310

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

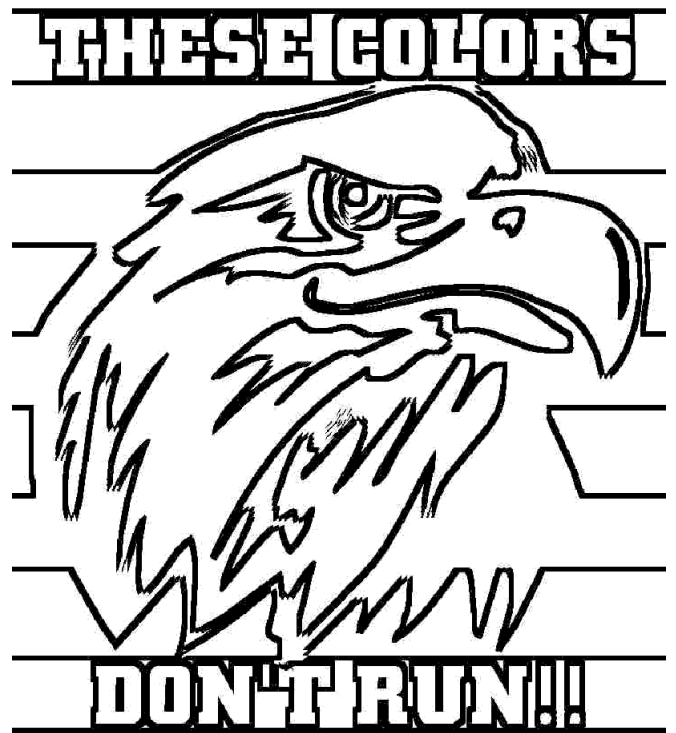
(2nd Platoon of D CO)
 D CO, 1-12 IN, 4 IBCT, 4 ID
 FOB GAMBERRI
 APO, AE 09310

(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



THE KID ZONE



HHC—“Hammer Time” by CPT Dennis Hall

“As for the Staff, well, they’re probably not enjoying themselves as much as the rest of us, but they have been doing fantastic work.”

Hello once again from Afghanistan! It seems like just yesterday I was reporting that we had finally arrived at our final destination, but here we are already two months in to our rotation.

Time really seems to be flying by since we have gotten knee deep in operations. I hope that, al-

though our days are full of tasks to be accomplished, your loved ones are still able to find the time to talk with you all back home.

There have been several great things accomplished recently, so I will try to hit all of the highlights.

I have been very happy with the performance of SFC Brown and 2LT Tran’s medical platoon. Every day local Afghans are brought to the Battalion Aid Station with an assortment of ailments that the community medical facilities are not capable of treating. Around the clock our medics are bandaging wounds, providing medication and teaching basic illness and injury prevention to civilians who may have never visited a medical professional in their lives. It is truly amazing to see the difference these Soldiers are making in our Afghan community.

The other two specialty platoons, Scouts and Mortars, have been making an impact in a very different, but equally important way. In a recent operation both platoons played a pivotal role in liberating a very important village from the grip of the insurgency. I could not have been more proud than I was watching these Soldiers put all of our train-

ing to use when it mattered most.

All of the Ghost (Scouts) and Thunder (Mortars) elements involved in the mission were highly commended not only by our Chain of Command, but also those of the other units who worked alongside.

Of course I would be remiss if I didn’t thank the XO and the HQ platoon for keeping us equipped and fed throughout the operation.

As for the Staff, well, they’re probably not enjoying themselves as much as the rest of us, but they have been doing fantastic work. Whether it’s dropping ordinance on the enemy, building roads for our Afghan neighbors, or making sure we are all getting paid, our Staff works tirelessly to get it done, without much recognition. It is truly amazing to see what this team has accomplished in such a short time on the job.

Well, that’s all for now. As always I encourage you to keep corresponding with your Soldier as much as possible, and keep the care packages coming!

Keep us in your thoughts and before you know it, we’ll be back in the Springs. Talk to you all next month.



PFC Estrada tends to the needs of a local national baby.



CPT Hall and SFC Brown promote PFC Mickles.



Scouts work to remain proficient with current equipment.

Dog Company—“It’s A Dog’s Life”

By CPT Adam Marsh

“Just as they were about to cancel Easter services, PFC Finney stood up and said, ‘I’ll do it!’”

Family and friends of DOG Company, we are one third the way through the deployment!

Since we first arrived in country DOG CO has been on the move. The Soldiers have become quite proficient at packing, unpacking, and living out of a backpack.

I apologize for the multiple changes in addresses and I know how frustrating it is waiting for a package from home to arrive, unfortunately I fear we may still have more moves before that big move back to FT Carson that we are all looking forward to.

The good news is that the Warriors of DOG CO have made a great name for themselves during our travels, we have been assigned or attached to multiple different units throughout the country.

I have received nothing but praise at the performance and professionalism of the DOG Soldiers.

We are now at a point that when we arrive at a new location or reputation precedes us. At last, now DOG Company is back to the 4th BDE, 4th ID. So we are back with our Mountain Warrior family.

Just to keep everyone updated, here are some of the happenings in DOG CO: ON Easter Sunday at FOB Shank, everyone was



CPT Marsh stuffs his face while having lunch with his new Afghan friends.

sitting in the chapel waiting for services to start, however the Chaplain was unable to make it in to the FOB due the war. Just as they were about to cancel Easter services, PFC Finney stood up and said, “I’ll do it!”

Just like that with no preparation or advance warning, he led Easter services.

SFC Dodd and 1LT Lively spend every free minute in the gym, and now they have the entire 4th Platoon joining them. SFC Dodd has stated “the war is interfering with my gym time.”

PFC Allen is quite the musician, he can often be heard outside his hooch playing his ukulele, and he

(Continued on page 10)



(left) PFC Allen and 1SG Davila conduct a “jam” session.



(right) SFC Dodd prepares for his next assignment.... with the Village People.

Dog Company (continued)

(Continued from page 9)

has even got the 1SG on board.

SGT Vawter, SPC Hooten, SPC Hollifield, SPC Villette, SSG Tulloch, and SGT Acree are the games masters; they usually spend their free time conquering the world of Risk, or the financial world of monopoly. Someone even brought a Dungeons and Dragons game which I have caught them playing.

You should be very proud of these Warriors; I know I am. Every day they

do more than is asked of them. They are in good spirits. It is my honor to command such an amazing group of Warriors, and I am doing everything in my

power to see that we accomplish our mission and come home safe.

We all love you and miss you and we can't wait to get back home.



SSG Davison patrols near a butcher shop full of fresh meat that costs much less than it would in an American supermarket.

S-1—“Adjutant’s Call”

by 1LT Jean Gwon

“Mail is our #1 priority out here and we appreciate your patience and continued support!”

Hello, from the Eastern Mountains of Afghanistan!

As we near the end of our 2nd month, the S-1 shop would like to take a moment to thank our family and friends in Colorado, and all over the US, for your overwhelming support while deployed with numerous packages, letters and prayers.

In the last 30 days we have been busy partnering with our Afghanistan National Army's S1 team, processing hundreds of Combat badges and most of all, sorting the mail for the battalion.

We apologize as the mail has been delayed due to weather and our location, but I encourage

you to keep sending packages and letters to your loved ones!

Mail is our #1 priority out here and we appreciate your patience and continued support!

With love, the Human Resources Team on FOB Bostick, Afghanistan.



A view of nearby mountains from FOB Bostick revealed that winter was giving way to spring while 2-27 IN was preparing to transfer mission authority to 1-12 IN.

Easy Company—“Sweeping Support”

By CPT Mike McGuire

“The company mission is very diverse and many of the Soldiers are doing things they have never done before.”

Easy Company is continuing to provide world-class support to the Red Warrior battalion here in Afghanistan. Soldiers are spread out over the entire battalion area of operation which includes the main Forward operating Base (FOB), two Combat Out-Posts (COP), and two Observation Points (OP).

There is “no mission too tough” for the men and women of Easy Company; they are proving that

daily.

The company mission is very diverse and many of the Soldiers are doing things they have never done before.

The maintenance platoon develops innovative solutions to challenging problem sets; the distribution platoon provides the life line to the battalion with re-supply operations by both ground and aerial delivery methods. And our dining facility platoon

keeps us going with subsistence.

Easy Company has led the Mountain Warrior Brigade during “Operation Clean Sweep,” an enduring mission to turn-in excess equipment and Army property.

To date, we have turned-in over 12 million dollars worth of equipment that has accumulated over the last 10 years of the Global War on Terrorism.

Additionally, 6 Soldiers have received the coveted Combat Action Badge (CAB), 8 Soldiers have received the Army Accommodation Medal (AAM), 3 Soldiers have received Coins from Division and Battalion level leadership, and 4 Soldiers have been promoted.



E Company Soldiers pose with a banner of support sent from Colorado.



Airfield operations on FOB Bostick.



Operation Clean Sweep in progress.



1SG Ralston, CSM Griffin, and CSM Day



LTC Green Promotes SFC Black at FOB Bostick.



Ducti Amore Patriae Led by Love of Country



Major General William C. Mayville (Commanding General: CJTF-1, Regional Command East, 1st Infantry Division) visits with Soldiers from B Company.