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1ST BATTALION—12TH INFANTRY REGIMENT (LIGHT)

The Red Warrior Path

Volume 1, Issue 3
July 2012



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LTC Scott Green—Leading The Way Battalion Commander

I wish you a hearty hello from Afghanistan. I write this letter to you with a sense of excitement. We have reached the half-way point in our time away from you and are very excited to be closer to returning home than before.

I hope you have had an enjoyable, albeit, a very hot summer from all accounts I read in the news. I know many of you back home with children are winding down your summer, finishing vacations, and beginning preparations for the coming school year.

While you have been dealing with all the challenges this summer's weather have wrought, we have been doing the same over here. This last month has been the hottest thus far for us. That has not stopped your Red Warriors from continuing their incredible work though.

We continue to make measurable strides in the capability of our Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) partners, district governments, and development projects across the entire battalion area. Our Delta Company Red Warriors who are right next door to us in a neighboring province also continue to do incredible things in support of the brigade.

Finally, our rear detachment is leading the way in supporting our efforts forward, training



Afghan National Army COL Goondiwaal, answers concerns of Afghan civilians living in the area during a radio address that includes local key leaders as well as the U.S. Army, at Forward Operating Base Bostick. A translator whispers the translation to LTC Scott Green, who attends the weekly radio show to give input from the U.S. Army unit operating along side the ANA in the area. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Jenny Lui)

Soldiers at home, and supporting families. CSM and I remain ecstatic at the performance of everyone involved in this undertaking.

Things have slowed down here a little bit due to the fact that for all of our Afghan friends and partners, July and August marks the time of year when they celebrate Ramadan. This is the biggest religious holiday of the entire year lasting almost a month.

During this time, our Afghan friends fast from sunup to sundown. It is an amazing demonstration of dedication. However, this leads to very little

movement during the daylight hours.

We are taking advantage of this time to focus our efforts on setting the stage for a big push of work over the remaining months before we depart. We are focusing on equipment inventories, turning in excess equipment, preparing facilities and infrastructure for the arrival of more ANSF in our area. There is lots of work to be done in these areas that, once complete, will set the stage for the final round of operations to transition our area to ANSF control.

As always, your Soldiers and Red Warriors continue to lead the way. Just a few facts as evidence of what I mean. The battalion has the highest reenlistment rate in the brigade. We also have the highest number of valor awards approved of any battalion. Finally, we have invested the highest amount of money in development of any battalion in the brigade. These

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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 Charlie Company return to Observation Post Mustang after a roving patrol. (U.S. Army photo by SPC Jenny Lui)

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Alpha Company—New Additions

by CPT Erik Norman

We had a great Independence Day barbeque that boosted morale and gave the guys a chance to relax and reflect.



SSG Thoa teaches ANA Soldiers about weapons maintenance.

July has been an exciting month for Alpha Company! The men have been hard at work and our efforts are really showing results.

The people of Ghaziabad are growing to like us more and more each day, and their faith in the local Afghan leaders is growing as well.

The Afghan Army and Police forces have taken the lead on offensive operations with great impact. Our work with them has significantly developed their abilities. They are more capable than ever and determined to secure the populace of the district.

We had a great Independence Day barbeque that boosted morale and gave the guys a chance to relax and reflect. As well, we have been placing increased focus on professional development and career planning for our Soldiers so that everyone is set up for success following the deployment.

We welcomed many new members to the team over the last couple months and the fresh talent has been a big benefit to all. 1SG Deron Timmerman, who came to A CO in June, continues to ensure that the

Soldiers of the Company are operating at peak levels, while also making sure that they are well taken care of. SFC Andrew Black and SSG(P) Michael Wilson also recently joined us as Platoon Sergeants and have been great for the Company.

This summer we have had quite a few exciting events for the Company back in Colorado as well. SGT Juan Salinas and his wife, Veronica, welcomed their son, Juan Salinas Jr., into the world on June 15th. SGT Dakota Webber and his wife, Jessica, welcomed their baby boy, Wyatt Emil Webber, on June 30th, and SSG Sean Meyer and Ashley Roberts welcomed Hayden Kauge Meyer on July 2nd. Congratulations to the happy parents from all of Alpha Company!



CPT Norman and 1SG Timmerman of Company A.

(Continued on page 4)

New Additions (continued)

If there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to contact us at alphacompany112@yahoo.com.

(Continued from page 3)

We are as dedicated as ever to the mission here and owe a large part of our success to the support of our families and friends back home.

Alpha Company leads the way with much appreciated care packages from home. Morale could not be any higher than when we receive mail deliveries to COP Pirtle King and OP Bari Alai. The letters, snacks, and treats that have been rolling in make everyone's day.

Thanks to all for keeping us in your thoughts, because you are definitely in ours. It won't be long, though, until we are home again, proud of the work we have completed here!

If there is anything you need, please don't hesitate to contact us at alphacompany112@yahoo.com.



Soldiers from Company A prepare sandbags at night to reinforce the defenses at Combat Outpost Pirtle-King. (Photo courtesy of Tim Wimborne - Reuters)

Ghaziabad District Alpha Company

Alpha Company is responsible for Ghaziabad District of Kunar Province. Ghaziabad is home to about forty thousand Afghan citizens.

The most prominent village in the Ghaziabad District is Nishagam. The Nishagam District Center (NDC) serves as the



SPC Page and SGT Barnett help the ANA develop fire support skills.



SPC Stringer and PFC Garcia help SSG Mueller fuel up vehicles.

“heart” of the district and as a vital meeting area to discuss local governance. The village of roughly one thousand residents primarily belongs to the Mushwani tribe.

Their economy is focused around agriculture, with wheat and corn as central crops. A

bazaar section close to the NDC has been growing in recent years and is providing a vital source of income for the people of Nishagam.

The shops provide a critical service to the community and

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Ghaziabad District (continued)

So far throughout the deployment, our interaction with the villagers of Nishagam has been extremely positive.

(Continued from page 4)

allow for several creature comforts to be had in Nishagam.

Among the shops found there are a small construction supply shop, a tailor, an electronics shop, and several shoe stores. Visitors can also find several food stands that serve all the local delicacies, such as sugar bread, which has become a favorite among our Soldiers.

Also in the village is an outdoor school known as the Bargam High School. Local leaders are currently working on a project to enhance the school system and provide more supplies for the students in the area.

Their medical care is provided by a small medical center that is staffed by both a male and female doctor at all times. Nishagam is primarily Sunni Muslim belonging to the Pashtu ethnic group.

So far throughout the deployment, our interaction with the villagers of Nishagam has been extremely positive. They are receptive to what we have to say and receptive to our presence in the area.



Local leaders meet in Ghaziabad to discuss issues.



A new meeting room at the District Center that A CO helped build.

Tantamount to our mission is that Afghans can and will be able to sustain development politically, economically, and socially once we no longer have a physical presence in the Ghaziabad District.

Establishing security is the essential piece needed for that development in the three above mentioned areas. Since our deployment to the area in early spring, the security around Ghaziabad has improved due to an increased Afghan National Security Force (ANSF) presence.

This ANSF presence has also been well received due to consistent collaboration between ANSF and the local villagers. Local ANSF forces (Afghan Police and Afghan Army) are working together to reduce Taliban presence in the area so they can work to mitigate the Taliban's impact in their community as well as the surrounding communities.

Halfway through the deployment, we, along with our Afghan counterparts, have been able to facilitate economic growth in the area through the use of micro grants and numerous construction projects. We

have used micro grants to aid one local female tailor to expand her shop in the bazaar and also provided micro grants to Afghans to facilitate the growth of other businesses, such as a general store and a cinder block supplier.

We are also in collaboration with government officials in Nishagam to contract out much necessary construction projects to local Afghan workers. These projects include road construction, establishment of wells, and the building of a Shura Room (the U.S. equivalent of a conference room) at the NDC.

Nishagam continues to make progress on a daily basis. Our hope for Nishagam, being that it is the district center for Ghaziabad, is that it continues to be the example for the surrounding villages in the district.

Local government officials and Afghan security forces are committed to that same goal, and are working diligently to achieve it. Due to our efforts here, and those of our Afghan counterparts, Nishagam will continue to grow and prosper in the years to come.

Bravo Company—Building Upon Success by CPT Patrick Yun

Thus far, Bravo Company remains a resilient and flexible unit that has set a standard for outstanding performance...



CPT Yun congratulates SPC Brown after presenting him with his 4th ID combat patch.

Dear Family and Friends of Bravo Company, Howdy! My name is CPT Patrick H. Yun and on the 17th of July, I took over command of Bravo Company from CPT Jeremy Flight at COP Monti, Afghanistan.

My wife Sarah and I would like to extend our sincere gratitude to Jeremy, Wibke, Leah Fuller, and Sasha Kugler for their support which made this

transition smooth and fast. We wish them all the best of luck in their new endeavors and thank them for their selfless contribution to the Bravo Company team.

Thus far, Bravo Company remains a resilient and flexible unit that has set a standard for outstanding performance in Northern Kunar, Afghanistan. We have built upon our suc-



B Company Soldiers take a break while on patrol.

cesses of the past months by continuing to develop our relationship with the local population, training the Afghan National Army, and empowering the local government.

We had multiple visits from various commanders at all levels and from different nations to COP Monti due to our overwhelming success and performance.

On July 4th, as our friends and families back home celebrated our nation's Independence Day, Soldiers from Bravo Company and our attachments were awarded their respective Combat Badges, Combat Patches, and achievement Awards by LTC Green, CSM Day, CPT Flight, and 1SG Ralston.

As leaders went around to award their respective Soldiers, I had the distinct honor and privilege of awarding SPC Brown his 4th ID Combat Patch. Following the ceremony, Bravo Company Soldiers let their hair down and participated in some good old fashion American "Near-Beer Games" hosted by CPL Gradeless, SPC Newcomb, and SPC Shurter.

The three events consisting of "Near Beer Pong", "Near Beer Flip Cup", and "Tough Chugger" was well received by our Soldiers and brought the feeling of Independence Day festivities to COP Monti.

I continue to be amazed by the professionalism and optimism shown by the Soldiers of Bravo Company and feel very fortunate to be part of this remarkable team.

Lastly, I want to communicate to all of our Families and friends back home that your support for your Soldier is vital. Support from home in whatever

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Building Upon Success (continued)



Soldiers of Company B fortify an outpost.

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form it takes, gives each of us a firm foundation from which we can go out every day with confidence that we will get the job done.

It is also an awesome feeling to know that you are someone's hero and that they are proud of you. Thank you for always supporting us while we are away. That is just half the story though; as I need to express my sincere gratitude for all you do back home.

Together we will stand firm and not only persevere, but we will thrive during this time apart. The only regret to having met the Soldiers of Bravo Company is having to wait to meet the Families and loved ones that support these Soldiers.

I only hope that my wife Sarah and daughter Sophia have the opportunity to meet you in my absence. Please continue to keep your Soldier in your thoughts and prayers. Red Warriors. Led by Love of Country.

Asmar District Bravo Company

The local Pashtun populace enjoys close family and tribal relationships and most have lived their lives in this area for generations.

Immediately surrounding COP Monti are the villages of Asmar, Zor (Old) Asmar and Jaji. These local villages are populated by ethnic Pashtuns; a proud, independent and passionately traditional people who have inhabited the lands today governed by Afghanistan and Pakistan for countless centuries.

The local Pashtun populace enjoys close family and tribal relationships and most have lived their lives in this area for generations. Every morning the notes of Afghanistan's national anthem echo through the valleys from speakers at Asmar Base as the men of the villages tend to their crops planted on ancient terraces carved into mountainsides and shepherds watch over grazing flocks.

The local market is crowded and animated with shoppers and traffic as merchants sell their wares while the local boys and girls schools make their way to school or help with chores. The streets are regularly crowded with children.



Well known and respected Afghan police keep the peace through frequent patrols in the Asmar bazaar and the quiet, dusty streets of Jaji and Zor Asmar. The local Afghan Army has worked hard to gain the respect and approval of the local villages through regular patrols.

Even inside the walls of COP Monti the wind carries the smell of freshly baked bread and the laughter of children as they

seek relief from the summer heat in the Kunar River.

The Kunar River, born from melting glaciers and snow from the nearby Hindu Kush Mountains, lazily winds through the local villages providing water and irrigation for the populace.

Asmar's District Center serves as a hub of activity that depicts the immense progress made by the Afghan people over

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Asmar District (continued)

In countless meetings, commanders and representatives from the [ANSF] plan, cooperate, and share information to secure a future free from oppression and terrorism.

(Continued from page 7)

the last decade. Clerks and officials tend to the concerns of the district in a dedicated effort to provide the people of Afghanistan with governance responsible to their needs.

In countless meetings, commanders and representatives from the National Army, Border Police and Uniformed Police plan, cooperate, and share information to secure a future free from oppression and terrorism.

Far from perfect and with many years of hard work remaining before the people can truly rest, these villages depict the struggle of the Afghan people to join the world in modernity and peace while preserving their traditions and culture.



A typical day at Asmar market.



1LT Antioho stands near Afghan construction workers hard at work.



Afghan National Police discuss an issue with a B Company Soldier.

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 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

THE KID ZONE



SUMMER TIME



Charlie Company—A Clear Focus by CPT Brian Sbertoli

As we near our half-way deployment mark, Charlie Company remains focused on the mission.

Greetings from Afghanistan! Charlie Company has had a busy and fulfilling month of July. We kicked off the month with a Fourth of July celebration complete with a Company barbecue, music, piñata breaking and capped the night off with an Afghanistan style fireworks show.

Having been away for over 4 months now, members of Charlie Company have been extremely grateful for the many care packages they have been receiving from home. We are all tremendously appreciative of the love and support from everybody back at home.

Several important career events also took place in July. Charlie Company would like to congratulate SPC Miller on his battlefield promotion. SPC Nixon, SGT Eymann, and SFC Frantz all demonstrated their unwavering loyalty to the Army by re-enlisting. We congratulate



1LT Chavez administers the oath of enlistment to SPC Nixon.

these devoted Coyotes and would like to thank their families for their steadfast support.

As we near our half-way deployment mark, Charlie Company remains focused on the mission. Partnership with Afghanistan Security Forces continues to grow stronger with each passing day.

I have no doubt that our partnership will yield positive and everlasting marks on Afghanistan. It is a testament to the hard work of all the members of Charlie Company.

We are staying safe, healthy and look forward to accomplishing the mission before heading back to our friends and families.



(above, left) SPC Miller's promotion ceremony



(above, right) Soldiers of C Company play a game of basketball on the 4th of July.



(left) Hamburgers and steaks sizzle on the grill prior during the 4th of July cookout.



(right) "Coyote" is Charlie Company's call sign.

Naray Village by SPC Daniel Pelzel

The village is welcoming to Task Force 1-12's presence in the area; Red Warriors have helped the local population...

The village of Naray houses the center of all activities for the district. The Naray District Center (NDC) is the main government building in the district and located within the village of Naray.

The District Sub-Governor Haji Gul Zaman and the Afghan Uniform Police Chief Haji Youseff have offices located within the building. The building is located within the heart of the village.

Just south of the NDC is the local bazaar which houses a wide variety of shops from clothing to vegetable shops.

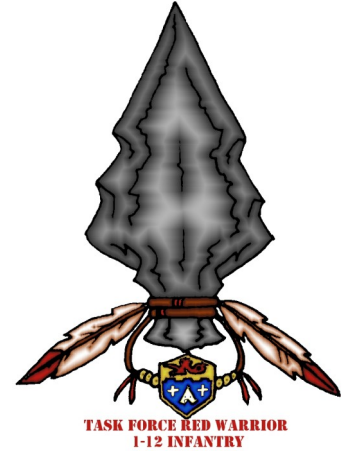
The village is split in half by the Kunar River. The west side

of the river is where the NDC and Bazaar are located.

The majority of the population resides on the Eastern side of the village. Along with multiple houses on the east side, there is also the main village Mosque, the village school, and also the micro hydro-electric power plant, which will supply electricity to majority of the village upon completion.

The village is welcoming to Task Force 1-12's presence in the area; Red Warriors have helped the local population in building their economy by offering micro-grant opportunities.

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(left) Shop owners at a stall in the Naray Bazaar are ready to help customers.



(right) The Naray bridge connects the east and west sides of the village.



(left) Children and some cattle make their way along the road in Naray.



(right) A view of the village from the bridge.

Naray Village (continued)

(Continued from page 11)

These opportunities give financial support to the local business to aide in their successful establishment.

The terrain of the village differs dependent on which side of the river you are on. The eastern side is greener with multiple terraces. This area allows for

crops to be grown and sold in the local bazaar. The western side of the village is mountainous and does not allow for vegetation to be grown as easily.

FOB Bostick's being located in the southern portion of the village helps to boost the local economy by allowing shop owners with important supplies

that the FOB needs to obtain contracts with the Red Warriors.

These contracts allow for our task force to purchase different items from the shop keepers and allow for needed supplies to be distributed from FOB Bostick to the rest of the areas where Red Warriors operate within Kunar Province.



Children from Naray like to join C Company Soldiers on patrols near the village.



The village has nearly completed a new school for girls.

Leading The Way (continued)



LTC Green discusses the concerns of Afghan civilians living in the area with radio station manager Gula Rahin, during a radio address that included local key leaders, at Forward Operating Base Bostick. (U.S. Army Photo by SPC Jenny Lui)

(Continued from page 2)

are just a few facts that stand as testament to the hard work over the first half of our deployment. I am confident your Soldiers will continue their exceptional work on the back end of this thing.

Finally, I must give thanks to all of you. We could not do this and hope to succeed without your support and love. It is much appreciated even if we don't always show it or tell you. So for all of those who have not told you, I am telling thanks from the bottom of my heart.

Your support has added much to the success of the ef-

fort here and will be critical as we get furthering along into this and closer to returning to you. Stay tuned for information forthcoming from our rear detachment as we will begin our battalion and brigade level redeployment training in September.

If that does not excite you, I do not know what does. With love and thanks from Kunar until next month.



Dog Company—Over The Hump by CPT Adam Marsh

Like being the last guys left at the party, it's up to us to clean up the mess, and there is a big mess here.



1st, 4th, and Headquarters Platoons at Kalagush

Dog Company Family and Friends, well we are now officially over the hump; there are more days behind us than before us on this deployment.

We have already begun packing bags and preparing for re-deployment. The men at Kalagush have retrograde on the brain since we are preparing to hand over Kalagush to the Afghan Army when we leave.

So, Dog Company will be the last U.S. unit stationed here. Like being the last guys left at the party, it's up to us to clean up the mess, and there is a big mess here. Units have been stationed here for years and a lot of garbage has piled up.

We have had a chance to have some fun though. We had a BBQ for Independence Day that included a pretty good water balloon fight. We spend the rest of the time when not working, either in the gym, on the basketball courts, or either watching movies or on the computer.

We had a bit of a problem getting our food re-supply so you may have heard the quality of the chow hall went down a few notches. But not to worry, we still get plenty to eat. Besides we are Infantry; we live off of

pain and misery...and cookies, so keep the care packages coming.

We are constantly battling the mail issues here but when letters and packages do arrive they are greatly appreciated.

The COP is small enough that there is not too much to do. The gym is probably the most happening spot on the COP. PFC O'Neil, SFC Dodd, SGT Lewis, and SPC Denney have all made the "300 club" by bench pressing 300lbs or more; I am sure there will be more names added to the list soon.

2nd and 3rd Platoons are having a good time down in FOB Methar Lam where they

are keeping busy with patrols. They are living in really nice barracks where SPC Bucur has once again demonstrated his amazing carpenter skills in building and upgrading the Day room. He has put in theater seating for the movies and built a nook for cards and board games.

They also have a new cross-fit gym down in Methar Lam and 3rd PLT is in there almost every morning. They set up a big white board to track their progress. 3rd Platoon occasionally makes a trip up to Kalagush to pick up excess equipment and

(Continued on page 14)



Soldiers of Company D show their true colors while having a hamburger or hotdog for the 4th of July.

Over The Hump (continued)

(Continued from page 13)

the 1SG and I visit Methar Lam pretty regularly. We also have the Chaplains taking turns to visit so we get religious services once a week.

Congratulations to SPC Lopez, SPC Williams and SSG Davis who re-enlisted this month. We are all ready to come home just as much as you are ready to have us. Thanks for all the prayers and support.



A cooler full of "Angry Birds" stands ready to help D Company Soldiers cool off during a water balloon war on the 4th of July.



2nd Platoon, Company D, at FOB Methar Lam

Easy Company—Our Soldiers' Contributions by CPT Alex Bonilla

Family and friends of Easy Company, greetings from Afghanistan. In the month of July, Easy Company continued providing top notch support to TF Red Warrior.

Our Soldiers' contributions include continued life support, such as resupplying the Battalion with food, water, ammunition, as well as improving the Battalion's quality of life.

Our Soldiers have been trained to perform many of these functions, but not all. Their ingenuity, prior life experience, and commitment to the unit contribute greatly to the overall success of the Battalion and to the morale of the all of the 1-12 Infantry Soldiers.

Our Soldiers have been very busy supporting Task Force Red Warrior. These tasks include installation, maintenance,

and repair of generators and air conditioners. Also, they help make improvements to the Soldiers' living areas (like gazebos, where the Soldiers can take a break from the daily duties).

Our Soldiers also provide quality of life support to the Afghan Army; installing and repairing equipment such as water pumps to extract water

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Our Soldiers have been very busy supporting Task Force Red Warrior.

Our Soldiers' Contributions (continued)

Training our Afghan partners will lead to an independent Afghan National Army, enabling the security of the Afghan people.

(Continued from page 14)

from wells for the Afghan Soldiers.

Easy Company is actively participating in training our partners in the Afghan National Army in sustainment functions. The maintenance Soldiers teach them tasks such as maintenance on vehicles, weapons, and other equipment.

Our Soldiers have also shared their expertise in fuel operations by assisting the Afghan National Army in setting up their own fuel point. This fuel point will enable the Afghan Army to refuel their vehicles and helicopters in preparation for conducting combat and out-reach operations. Training our Afghan partners will lead to an independent Afghan National Army, enabling the security of the Afghan people.

Our Soldiers also continue to lead the Battalion on the retrograde and clean sweep efforts. The Ammunition Holding Area team has done an outstanding job separating and transporting unserviceable ammunition out of our storage facility. Ammunition is the most critical supply in Army operations, but excess and damaged ammunition accumulates quickly and creates waste.

Promotions: Five Easy Company Soldiers were promoted this month; three joined the non-commissioned officer ranks, and two promoted from Private First Class (PFC) to Specialist (SPC). Congratulations SGT Cammarasana, SGT Daugherty, SGT Wood, SPC Milford and SPC Scott; your promotions are well deserved.

New Comers: 1LT Marissa Reader replaced 1LT Nate Wagnon as Easy Company Executive Officer (XO). Nate will re-deploy early to attend Ranger

school. Nate, thanks a million for your hard work and dedication to Easy Company. We wish you continued success in Ranger school and all your future endeavors.

To our families, please continue to enjoy a safe summer... until next time!



COL Mingus awards SGT Woods the Army Commendation Medal.



Easy Company Soldiers train Afghan Soldiers the basics of vehicle maintenance.



Row after row of supplies staged by Easy Company await delivery.

Headquarters and Headquarters Company—Hot, Dusty Nights by CPT Dennis Hall

Your loving... words from home have been a relief to our Soldiers, allowing them the peace of mind to focus on the task at hand.

Hammer Company Families, let me begin by extending my thanks to all of you back home for doing such a great job of showing your love for our Soldiers with care packages, letters, emails, Skype sessions, etc.

I know events in and around Colorado Springs, the wildfires and the tragedy in Aurora, have been trying for many of you and worrisome for us who were unable to assist from so far away. Your loving and reassuring words from home have been a relief to our Soldiers, allowing them the peace of mind to focus on the task at hand.

Hopefully you will forgive me for missing last month's newsletter. I have got a good excuse, which is where I will start my praise for our Soldiers.

During the last ten days of June I joined the Scout Platoon and our Mortarmen on an op-

eration to build an observation post overlooking FOB Bostick.

It was a proud couple of weeks for me as I watched these warriors labor through hot, dusty days and long, sleepless nights to accomplish this grueling mission. These men turned a rocky, shrubby piece of barren ridge top into a formidable defensive position that has turned the tide of the fight in our favor around FOB Bostick. Well done!

While the Scout and Mortar Platoons were improving our defenses high above the FOB, the staff, medical and HQ Platoons were going above and beyond to harden our defenses within the wire.

Night after night, dozens of these Soldiers gather to fill sandbags and emplace them around the FOB, often working two to three physically demanding hours beyond their normal shifts. I wish all of you could witness the enthusiasm with

which this task is tackled every night and the camaraderie that we have developed over hundreds of tons of sand!

It's hard to believe that we are now half way through the deployment. It seems like just yesterday that we were arriving to relieve 2-27 IN.

With just a few months between now and the reunion with our families, we have begun to discuss the challenges of reintegration back into our stateside routines. Redeployment is an incredibly exciting time but can also be a challenging transition for Soldiers.

I encourage all of you to begin discussing with your spouse now your plans for post deployment leave, housing arrangements, PCS or ETS considerations, etc. Having a plan in place early will ensure that redeployment is as joyous a time as we have all been dreaming about.



PFC Adam Baldinger, a Massapequa, N.Y., native, casts a local national child's arm at Forward Operating Base Bostick as Afghan National Army Soldier, Shakkullah, studies and learns. Baldinger who serves as a combat medic with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, was training Shakkullah for the eventual handover of the aid station from the U.S. Army to ANA forces. (U.S. Army Photo by SSG Alexis Ramos)



Redeployment / Reintegration Training Events

Strong Bonds Training

Who: Families of Deployed Soldiers

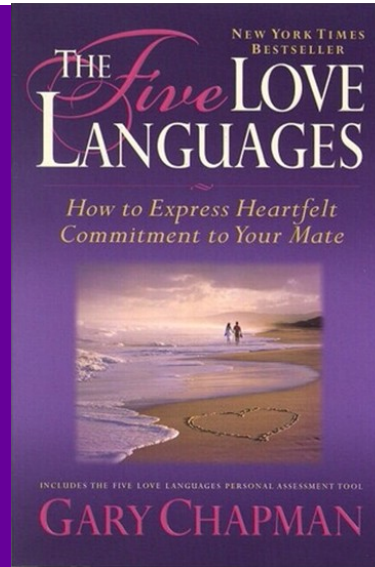
When: 24-26 August

Where: Estes Park

Curriculum: The Five Love Languages

Childcare and Food Provided

Contact: SPC Stanley,
4th Brigade Unit Ministry Team,
719-503-4090/4099



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

Purpose: Identify redeployment process, Explore issues related to reunion, and Discuss communication strategies.

Contact: Leah Fuller, 1-12 IN
Family Readiness Support Assistant
719-503-4108

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**



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(top) Red Warriors vigilantly stand guard at an outpost in Northern Kunar.
(bottom) PFC Reynolds and SSG Schneider of Charlie Company were clearly excited about 4th of July festivities at FOB Bostick.