

**The 18th  
Combat  
Sustainment  
Support  
Battalion**

# The Warhammer Times

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 18TH CSSB

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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**Spc. Nicholas O'Conner, from Albany, Ga., as part of the customs section in the retrograde yard, explains to the deputy commanding general of the 1st theater sustainment command, Brig. Gen. David Clarkson, the operation of the customs section of the Kandahar retrograde yard.**

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# 18th CSSB Command Team

## Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher



Greetings to all members of the Warhammer Battalion and their Families!

We are really gaining momentum as we near the end of our second month in Afghanistan. It has been an exciting beginning to our assumption of this mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. There is one thing that has remained a constant since our arrival-we are Army Strong. This theme presents itself daily as I see different components (active, guard, reserve, and civilians) come together, as I observe our multinational partners honor our fallen, and as I see Families welcome babies, say good-bye to love ones and dedicate themselves to keeping our families Army Strong.

I think one of the most exciting and encouraging tasks to date has been building a team of Soldiers and Civilians from Germany, New York, Michigan, and North Carolina to name a few. I have watched Soldiers and civilians

that have never met come together to help redistribute equipment across an entire nation. Our team, as you will read in this newsletter is diverse and talented. We have signal Soldiers conducting logistics missions and logisticians assisting with engineer efforts. The talent and motivation inspires me as a leader.

There have been a number of Fallen Heroes that we have had the honor of being in their presence during their dignified transfer on their final trip home. The attendance numbers remain overwhelming but even more impressive are the sister services, civilians, and our multinational partners arriving with large formations to remind us that this is our fight, our team, and our loss. Standing side by side and remaining Army Strong for all armies remains an inspirational theme in Afghanistan.

Finally, the loss of a service member is a stark reminder

of how dangerous this business remains but one of the biggest challenges that face deployed Soldiers is the life that continues back home while we are away. We have witnessed loss of loved ones, birth of new ones, children starting school and personal challenges dues to separation. It takes a village to keep our communities going while we are away and I would like to thank the spouses, parents, children, and friends-all the people who keep us and our families Army Strong. In the end, we all serve and that culture of selfless service is what makes our Army truly Army Strong. Thank you. It's Hammertime!

We Forge Ahead!

WARHAMMER 6

Please join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/18thCSSB>

## Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

Hey WARHAMMERS!

This team that has come from all over the world has been doing remarkable in Afghanistan. We have Soldiers that were stationed from Germany, North Carolina, New York and Michigan that make up this great team. As well as having civilians from all over the world. This all compiled together to form the WARHAMMERS in Afghanistan. To the families you will be happy to know that the WARHAMMERS have embraced their mission with enthusiasm and dedication. They are a testament of the worlds finest that is for sure.

I have had the opportunity to move around the battlefield and personally witness the great job everyone is doing. A few things I want to remind everyone of. Use the battle buddy at all times. Don't get complacent. Keep situational awareness at all times. On some further notes, take the opportunity to squeeze some college in and improve your PT score as well. Also get to know your teammates personally, some lifelong friendships start right here.

I will see you on the battlefield, be safe.

WARHAMMER 7





## Brig. Gen. David Clarkson visits the 18th CSSB retrograde yard in Kandahar Airfield

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan (July 10, 2012) -- Brig. Gen. David Clarkson, the Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command walked through the Kandahar Retrograde Yard with Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher, the commander of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, July 10.

The retrograde yard is staffed primarily by the units and Soldiers of the 18th CSSB; the Special Troops Battalion, 45th Sustainment Brigade; Bravo Company, 113 Special Troops Battalion; and Bravo Company, 427 Brigade Support Battalion. Clarkson and Letcher walked through the yard, speaking with the Soldiers, civilians, noncommissioned officers and officers working in the yard.

Spc. Tommy Wilson, an information systems technician, from Stokesdale, N.C., with Bravo Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion, works in the sorting tent in the Kandahar Retrograde Yard.

"It's that first step that we've been waiting on for awhile, so I'm glad it's here," Wilson said. "Yeah, the actual job is

**"Yeah, the actual job is not easy, but being the first step of getting out of [Afghanistan], really, that's a good thing."**



(Above) Spc. Corey Sutton, from Woodbridge, Va. and Sgt. Davin Pelton of Troy, Il., both automated logistic specialists with the 40th QMC of the 45th special troops battalion. speak with the deputy commanding general of the 1st theater sustainment command, Brig. Gen. David Clarkson, about the operation of the processing portion of the retrograde yard.

not easy, but being the first step of getting out of [Afghanistan], really, that's a good thing."

During the walkthrough, Clarkson said the retrograde support of Operation Enduring Freedom, here in Afghanistan, will most likely be attracting a lot of attention from multiple higher headquarters. With that, Clarkson urged the Soldiers in the yard to be prepared for multiple visits from leaders on multiple different levels.

"My primary mission is to find and sort the items that we receive," stated Spc Jade Bumbry, a unit supply clerk from Roanoke, Va., who is here with Bravo Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion.

"We are the second step in the whole retrograde process here on Kandahar Airfield. So we sort through every little thing into like items, then they go into processing," Bumbry said.

Here in Kandahar, the 18th CSSB works hard to support the resorting and retrograde of the materials and supplies out of, and around, Afghanistan, in order to minimize loss of materials and to lower the expenses. The Soldiers in the yard have been working long and hard hours to keep the mission going.

"We push through just as much as we physically can," Wilson said.

## 18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Co.

### 18th CSSB Soldiers awarded Combat Patches

By Spc. Isaac Adams,  
HHC 18th CSSB Public Affairs Representative  
Reviewed by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (August 3, 2012) – Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), were awarded the 16th Sustainment Brigade's shoulder sleeve insignia for wartime service, commonly called the "Combat Patch".

The history of the combat patch dates back to the end of World War II, when the wear of the unit patch on the right shoulder was approved to denote service in combat with that unit. To many Soldiers, the "Combat Patch" is a badge of honor.

During the ceremony, the Battalion senior leadership "patched" subordinates from each level of leadership. The



Cpt. Christian Nomba

tactical landscapes of retrograde operations in Afghanistan for years to come.

HHC 18th CSSB Soldiers currently work from three main locations with missions that sometimes maneuver Soldiers between 24 different forward operating bases (FOB) and combat outposts (COP) on the OEF battlefield. Thus far Soldiers have successfully managed to deal with the heat, the dust and the smell that makes up the landscape here in

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*"from what we have been  
given to witness, the  
American Soldier is a  
beautiful, and worthy,  
heir to those who  
liberated France and  
Europe."*



ceremony started with the Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher patching the Headquarters Company Commander, Capt. Christian Nomba all the way to the squad leaders applying the patch to the right shoulder of his or her squad members.

The 18th CSSB, "Warhammer Battalion", has a proud history starting with its activation as the 3rd Ordnance Battalion in 1941, later re-designated as the 8th Ordnance Battalion.

The "Warhammers" arrived in Europe in the spring of 1944, in support of the 1st Army Division, as part of the 51st Ordnance Group. Later, the Warhammers stayed in Europe in support of the 9th and 7th Army Division during the initial occupation of Europe.

(Right) Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie K. Washington secures the 16th Sustainment Brigade's unit patch on Staff Sgt. Benjamin L. Adams' right shoulder, representing his combat deployment with the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th CSSB Public Affairs)



After its demobilization in 1946, the 8th Ordnance Battalion was reactivated in 1951 in Feudenhaven, Germany, and later moved to Hanau in 1955 and designated as the 18th Corps Support Battalion. In 2002 the Warhammers moved to its cur-

rent base of operations in Grafenwoehr, Germany and shifted its focus from maintenance to transportation and ammunition management, as part of

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## The First Sergeant's Blurp

I would like to thank the HHC (Headquarters and Headquarters Company), 18th CSSB Soldiers for their unwavering commitment to excellence in the hard work that they have done since our arrival to Afghanistan in support of OEF 12-13. Most if not all the Soldiers are working outside their MOS (Military Occupational Specialty) and are achieving spectacular results and setting new and higher standards for others to emulate. Though we still have a long time to go, you couldn't tell by looking at the way HHC Soldiers are sprinting without hesitation for their next mission.

Regardless of the fact that our Soldiers are located in separate areas throughout Afghanistan away from the main body, they always seem to find a way to push through the obstacles that stand in their way whether it be the unforgiving heat in the RSY (retrograde sort yards) or the dust that is everywhere. A true Head Hunters will always prevail and do it in style.

Lastly but the most importantly I would like to thanks the families, friend and love ones back home for your strength to carry the heavy load left to you while your Soldier fights a war far from the home and being there every minute to show your support. Every Soldier can tell you the support from home is what keeps them going.



1st Sgt. Charles Odom



## 113th STB, Bravo Company

## The Captain's Corner!

Great things-- No matter the opposition and opportunities to lose all hope or motivation, we find a way to smile, laugh, and conjure motivation from the deepest reserves of our spirit in order to push through and accomplish: Great things. Think back to the cold, ice and rain of Fort Hood, TX. Think back to the naked sun and sands of McGregor. Think back to the dissolving of our unit in order to support every section of our higher echelons. Think back—and what you will find are products of efficiency, effectiveness and extraordinary effort, brought about by you, 113<sup>th</sup>. Still, we have been called to yet another mission outside of our projected sectors of fire. Echoes of praise begin to reverberate through the halls of the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB. As, yet again, we find the resolve to press forward to accomplish the CMRE mission. Remain in the fight. Remain focused. Remain flexible. Until all that remains are GREAT THINGS!



1st Lt. David Pumphrey

*"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."*



(Above) Sgt. Michael Stalvey and Sgt. Richard Emmerth, soldiers of Bravo Company 113th Special Troops Battalion work hard to move "customs-cleared" boxes onto Air Force 436L pallets in the Customs Tent staging area. (US Army Photo from 113th Special Troops Battalion archives)



1st Sgt. Ronald Grosvenor

## The First Sergeant's Blurp

Congratulations 113th Sustainment Brigade Soldiers. You are 2/3 of the way through this mission. Despite the harsh daily elements, you have kept plugging along with our mission of moving the mountains of parts and inventory to be redistributed back into our Army warehouses. Working in the heat and dust day after day makes you that much more special. Keep your chin up and remember nothing is harder than a Steele Soldier!

## 427th BSB, Headquarters Company

### Logisticians to tackle obstacles at Four Corners

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Thai-Bao Ngo

Headquarters and Headquarters Company 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion

Reviewed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan

18<sup>th</sup> CSSB Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (August 4, 2012) - Logistics played a critical role with the overturn of equipment and manpower in Afghanistan for the US Army. In the recent years of constant deployment and returns of units, the US Army has re-focused its efforts towards "reconfiguration", the method of sorting and dealing with accumulated items from units leaving the Afghan Theater. The "Four-Corners" operation is a "surge" solution to



Cpt. Gregory Pforter

briefings and training such as Anti-Terrorism, Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention and Ramadan familiarization and awareness.

Temperatures are becoming more tolerable and have been steadily decreasing as we approach the end of the summer months. Most Soldiers continue to find time for and take advantage of educational opportunities offered during this deployment. Many Soldiers have been improving their level of physical fitness by making time to

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## The Captain's Corner!

Dear Soldiers, Families and Friends,

HHC has seen the month of July come and go and welcome the month of August, as we are all another month closer to going home. We are clearly past the half-point of the deployment and a renewed emphasis is placed on safety and fighting complacency. Historically, as units near their redeployment date, this is a critical time when there is usually an increase or spike in accidents and incidents that can be avoided or mitigated. Thus far, HHC Soldiers have been performing at a high level and have been conducting themselves in a professional manner. In addition to mission requirements, Soldiers continue to complete mandatory

*This operation is designed to provide returning units with a "one-stop-shop" to turn-in of all types of supply prior as well as all motorized vehicles and equipment.*



expedite the processing of large amounts of military equipment from redeploying Soldiers.

The 401<sup>st</sup> Army Field Support Brigade is leading the Four-Corners operation with a select amount of Soldiers under the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. This operation is designed for units to turn in of all types of supplies prior to returning all motorized vehicles and equipment for redistribution.

There is a large focus placed towards "Theater Provided Equip-

ment" (TPE): specialized equipment lent to the units to conduct missions in their assigned areas of operations.

Units are required to initiate the turn-in process occurs 90 days before the turn-in process. The returning unit submits a spreadsheet identifying all excess equipment by type and condition. The headquarters determines whether the equipment is needed.

Upon arrival to Bagram Airfield,

the first teams of the unit consist of supply personnel. Supply Soldiers are crucial to the direct the equipment turn in. Agencies also embedded with supply personnel to ensure full accountability of all equipment. Although the Four Corners operations have just started, there has been great success in items received.



(Above) Mine Resistant Ambush Protected (MRAP) vehicles are lined up for rehearsal at the Four Corners area during a rehearsal on 25 Jul 12. Four Corners personnel rehearsed diligently in preparation for the influx of equipment projected to come through the region this Fall. (U.S. Army photo from 401<sup>st</sup> Army Field Support Brigade archives)

## The First Sergeant's Blurb

Hello from Afghanistan.

We have completed over 4 months of our deployment and I would like to commend all of you on doing a great job. To date, we've had no major accidents or injuries and we've also had no negative or adverse actions. Missions are being successfully completed as a result of great teamwork from within the Company.

Think back to Camp Shelby and trying to figure out what BCAT, DROPS, MCAT, RPAT, MRPAT, MRT, and several other acronyms meant. Did you ever imagine this? Millions of dollars worth of vehicles and materials are being processed for redistribution into the supply system or prepared for shipment back to the United States. The Base Closure Assistance Teams (BCAT) has visited approximately 30 Combat



1st Sgt. Robert Vergith

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## 427th BSB, Bravo Company

### Army Customs Agents protecting the US against deadly invaders.

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Speeckaert

Executive Officer, B Company 427th BSB

Reviewed by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan

18th CSSB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan (August 5, 2012) - Spearheaded by the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion ("Warhammer Battalion"), operations throughout the Afghan theater focus on the re-distributing of excess materiel received from the reconfiguration of Afghanistan. As the "Warhammer" Soldiers toil daily over sorting and shipping, the Customs and Agricultural Clearance Team prevents the US from being invaded by thousands.



Cpt. Maurice Amaya

Accountability Teams have to go through reorganization as their mission evolves. The company's staff works hard as they keep the Soldiers in B427 informed, geared up, and paid both by tracking promotions and pay issues. Thank you to all the Soldiers for being flexible, and in the words of LTC Bousquet, "Keep the Faith!"



"If I failed to do my job as a Custom Agent, equipment and materials that should reenter the United States will end up being quarantined and costing the military more money and possibly effect our environment."

That is, thousands of invasive species of plants or insects.

Customs Soldiers place a heavy focus on invasive biological entities. Through the inspection, Custom soldiers inspect all out-bound shipments for contraband.

According to a study from the U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection (CBP), "invasive species cause an estimated \$136 billion in lost agriculture revenue annually".

The voracious Khapra is a clear example. An article from the CBP states that, "If [the Kharpra Beetle is] allowed to become established in the U.S... [it] would cause wide-reaching economic impact, negative environmental impact due to increased use of fumigants and increased health risks to consumers.

For shipments coming from outlying military posts, seeds can be hidden in any dirt that is considered "more than a pinch".

Soldiers from the 427th Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard serve as the main contributors to the Customs inspection efforts. The CPB certifies Soldiers to serve as Customs and Border Clearance Agents. The 18th CSSB tasks the small teams over Afghanistan to conduct inspections to ensure the preservation of the fragile North American ecology.

Soldiers understand the critical nature of their mission. Customs Inspection Soldier, Spec. Cory Gizzi from Mumford NY said that, "If I failed to do my job as a Custom Agent, equipment and materials that

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## The Captain's Corner!

I want thank the B Co Soldiers by remembering that no matter how hot, dusty, smelly Afghanistan is, our Soldiers are executing a tough mission well. Our Soldiers are sweating at the Retro Sort Yard in 100+ degrees F, packing equipment. Some of our officers may sit behind a desk, but they sit behind a desk 15+ hours a day planning our missions in order for our Joes and Janes to accomplish missions. Our Base Closure Teams and Material Recovery Teams constantly have to change locations. Our Mobile Container



(Above) Spc Jenifer Schuss, a Customs and Agriculture Agent with Bravo Company, 427th BSB works on filing and organizing the paperwork that is involved in the customs inspection and shipping process of the Kandahar Retrograde Yard.



1st Sgt. David Evans

## The First Sergeant's Blurp

As the Soldiers of B 427 BSB can attest it has been a busy month. The unit has reconfigured itself to meet the dynamic mission requirements of CMRE, a testament to its adaptability. All of the Soldiers and leaders should congratulate themselves for no other reason than that.

The company commander and I have finally been able to visit the Soldiers and teams forward from KAF as they accomplish the mission. It will take a while to visit everyone as we span the entire country with Soldiers in every region.

While to the Soldier on the ground in a yard or checking CONEXs it may not seem that much is happening, collectively the company is accomplishing a great many things for many supported units. Truly synergy is in play, the whole is greater than the sum of its parts.

Continue to perform you missions to the best of your ability, duty and service take many forms, 27th IBCT Blood and Iron.

## The Captain's Corner!

### 1462nd Transportation Company

What it takes:

Excerpts from a young company commander.

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony Malenfant

1462<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, Company Commander

Reviewed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan

1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony Malenfant and the Soldiers of the 1462<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company (TC) deployed to Kuwait in December 2011. While half of the company remained in Kuwait, the other half had received orders to reinforce the reconfiguration operations in Afghanistan in June 2012. 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Malenfant now leads his 77 Soldiers as company commander in conducting daily operations throughout Afghanistan under the command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion.

BAGRAM, Afghanistan (August 8, 2012) - As a leader in a war environment, life is not easy. Soldiers push you, Soldiers follow you, and Soldiers challenge you. So what does it take to be a young Lieutenant in this environment?

Morale is one of the most important things for a unit. It is a life-

Dear Soldiers, Families and Friends,

1462<sup>nd</sup> TC has been very busy during the month of August. They have actively been sending Soldiers to Warrior Leadership Course, and sending them home for R&R to get a break and enjoy some time with family and friends at home. Spirits and morale have been great. The team not only works together but they have been forming up at night to quiz each other to prepare for military boards. Soldiers continue to complete mandatory briefings and training such as Anti-Terrorism, Sexual Harassment/Assault Prevention and Ramadan familiarization and awareness.

Many Soldiers in their off time can be found running and going to the gym. They are taking advantage of this time to increase their well-being and APFT score. Many Soldiers are conducting diagnostic APFT's just to see where they are at. Adjusting to the elevation here in Bagram is not an easy task, and the Soldiers in the 1462<sup>nd</sup> are taking it as a

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1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony Malenfant



(Above) 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Anthony Malenfant preparing to re-enlist one of his soldiers on a CH-47 Chinook Helicopter. Malenfant is currently deployed to Afghanistan as a company commander with 77 Soldiers under his command (U.S. Army photo by Spec. Michael Brunger, 1462<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company)

"To catch the reader's attention, place an interesting sentence or quote from the story here."



long struggle for leadership to maintain a high morale in an austere environment. For that, I am proud of our Soldier. Those of the 1462<sup>nd</sup>, understand that war is an environment in constant flux. It is the leadership's constant job to keep the morale high and stable. We keep calm and Soldier on! We push forward to accomplish our mission and look forward to returning home with our heads held high.

Guts. Guts are not only needed for charging the pillbox, but also to give unpopular orders to benefit the greater good. I am constantly challenged with tough decisions: losing more down time now; or working

harder to finish the job sooner? When it comes to bad news, a Soldier can tell you everything you are about to say, but will wait for you to say it because they do not want to believe it. As a junior officer, denying emergency leave and holding Soldiers accountable is perhaps some of the hardest decisions to make... but the Soldiers and the unit deserve the best from me.

Finally, it takes a strong will and a caring heart. Our personal strength is constantly

challenged out here. For us in the 1462<sup>nd</sup>, there has been no better place and no better time to build a strong relationship

(Continued on page 16)

## The First Sergeant's Blurp

Hello from Afghanistan.

We have been representing our Griffin since we stepped foot on active duty in December. I cannot tell you how proud I am of all the Soldiers of the 1462<sup>nd</sup>. I am looking forward to when we can close our book and talk about how many hundreds of thousands of miles we have drove, and how many millions of dollars we have saved the Army. We have made a stand here in Bagram and are working well with the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB. I have every intention to go north to visit our Soldiers there. Expect to see me soon. I am looking forward for October to come so we can prove ourselves and do well on the APFT, and then I will be honored to promote those who deserve it and represent the Michigan National Guard and the Army proudly.



Sgt. 1st Class Ray Ruzzin





U.S. AIR FORCE

# Registration Form Deployed Locations

## AIR FORCE MARATHON

### 1a CHECK THE BASE WHERE YOU ARE ENTERING

☐ KDAB

### 1b CHECK THE EVENT YOU ARE ENTERING

☐ 10K

LAST NAME

2

SUFFIX

FIRST NAME

3

M.I.

DEPLOYED LOCATION

4

DEPLOYED UNIT

5

WORK NUMBER

6

DEPLOYED ZIPCODE

7

SEX M/F

8

DATE OF BIRTH (MM/DD/YEAR)

9

AGE (ON RACE DAY)

10

WEIGHT

11

E-MAIL ADDRESS (PLEASE PRINT)

12

### 13 WAIVER - REQUIRED

In consideration for your accepting my entry in the Air Force Marathon and associated races (including but not limited to the full marathon, the half-marathon, the 10K, the 5K, and the wheelchair races), I, the undersigned, intending to be legally bound, waive and release for myself, my heirs, executor and administrators, any and all rights and claims for damages, demands, and any other actions that have resulted from my participation in the event, which I may have against the United States Air Force, the US Government, volunteer medical support, all participating supports and those entities representatives, successors and assignees I agree to hold these entities, and their agents, representatives, successors, and assignees harmless from any liability including any and all injuries, to include death, that are suffered by me as a result of my participation in this event.

I verify I have full knowledge of the rigors of this race and the risk involved in participation, and I am physically fit and have sufficiently trained to complete this event. I realize medical support for this event will consist primarily of volunteer medical personnel prepared to administer first-aid type assistance along the race course and finish line.

I acknowledge that MarathonGuide.com/Web Marketing Associates has no responsibility for the operation of the Air Force Marathon and associated races and is only acting as an agent to register applicants who wish to participate in the Air Force Marathon and associated races and as such does not verify the accuracy and completeness of the information that is provided by the event operators or sponsors.

I hereby grant permission to the Air Force Marathon and its sponsors to use all information submitted in my application, and any photograph, videotape, motion pictures, recordings and any other record of this event including pre-race and post-race publicity.

X

SIGNATURE OF PARTICIPANT

DATE

**WAIVER MUST BE SIGNED TO BE PROCESSED**

### 14 STATUS

☐ **ACTIVE DUTY MILITARY** (Check branch of service)

☐ USAF

☐ USMC

☐ USA

☐ USCG

☐ USN

☐ RESERVE

☐ CIVILIAN (Non-military)

☐ NATIONAL GUARD

☐ FOREIGN MILITARY

☐ DOD CIVILIAN

MIL RANK/GRADE \_\_\_\_\_ ORIGINATING MAJOR CMD \_\_\_\_\_

ORIGINATING  
BASE/POST \_\_\_\_\_

**Submit this registration to your deployed location race POC.**

## 18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Company; CPT's Corner (Continued)

*(Continued from page 4)*

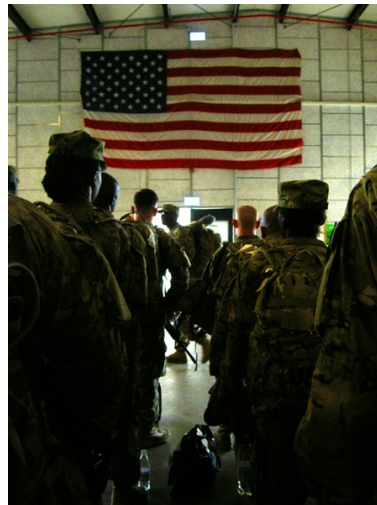
Afghanistan. Motivation has not dropped a notch and sixty days later, 18th CSSB Soldiers are now considered subject-matter experts in retrograde operations for Afghanistan, a mission that leaders at all levels recognize as considerably different and presenting more complexity than any other campaign the United States Army has ever undertaken. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company has also undertaken additional responsibilities as part of the unit mission. HHC 18th CSSB is in charge of three strategic retrograde sort yards located in Kandahar Airfield, Bagram Airfield, and Camp Pratt (in the vicinity of Mazar-e-sharif, in the North of Afghanistan), in addition to its traditional mission to oversee all operations and provide mission command to the four-company battalion mission.

With the month of August winding to its end, temperatures are still very high, the heavy dust sneaks everywhere, and the

smell in some locations remains unbearable and only the winter season will probably relieve some of these hardships. Soldiers remain motivated and actively involved in many activities to stay busy on and off-duty. Everybody goes to the Gymnasium at least five times a week to stay physically fit. Many Soldiers have enrolled in college courses in order to further their civilian education. Kandahar airfield, Bagram airfield and many other FOBs offer Bazaars and shopping places where soldiers can purchase snacks, food and miscellaneous items that the Exchange does not carry.

I want to thank the family members and especially the spouses and love ones for the unconditional support and love that they show to our Soldiers. The FRG has been particularly amazing in their efforts to keep family members involved in the community and to help them keep in touch with their love ones down range. We have already conducted many VTCs that gave opportunity to family to communicate and leave

some of the important event live such as promotions and decoration.



**(Above)** Capt. Christian S. Nomba addresses Soldiers from his company before leaving Ramstein Air Force Base, Germany. (US Army Photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Relations)

## 18th CSSB Soldiers awarded Combat Patches

*(Continued from page 4)*

an "Army realignment".

The 18th CSSB has deployed to: Iraq, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom; Hungary, in support of Operation Joint Endeavor/Guard; Tirana, Albania and Kosovo, in support of NATO operations, as well as Afghanistan, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

In conclusion of the ceremony, 18th CSSB commander, Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher quoted A French Infantryman's View of American Soldiers, "from what we have been given to witness, the American Soldier is a beautiful, and worthy, heir to those who liberated France and Europe."

The Soldiers of the 18th CSSB now join the ranks of their fellow veteran Warhammers, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, here in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



**(Above)** The Soldiers and Leaders of the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Headquarters and Headquarters Company show off their newly received "Combat Patch". (U.S. Army photo by Spec. Isaac Adams, 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



## 427th BSB, Bravo Company; CPT's Corner (Continued)

*(Continued from page 6)*

exercise on their own or commit to group exercises such as "Insanity" classes offered at many gyms or workout sites.

In the upcoming month, many sections and Soldiers will have moved their operations cell, based on current mission analysis from higher headquarters, in order to better support the overall mission. These moves primarily affect the Base Closure Assessment Teams (BCAT) and Mobile Container Assessment Teams (MCAT). Establishment of operations cells and synchronizing and scheduling of organized movements of personnel and equipment, come with challenges while still maintaining capabilities to conduct assigned missions. It is important for Soldiers to contact their families and keep them informed as to their safety and well-being and provide them an accurate mailing address. I have attached an article that was prepared for publication that describes the overall concept of the mission.

August has seen three more Soldiers promoted: SGT Marquell Dorsey, SSG

Leonard Clay and SSG Joseph Robillard. Each promotion is well deserved and earned and can be attributed to their relentless hard work and dedication to duty. Congratulations. SGT Collin Rickson, was the only Soldier in August to re-enlist and commit another 6-years of service to the NYARNG. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to duty.

On another note, our redeployment date is still scheduled for early 2013. That has not changed. The command team continues to press for the most recent, accurate information available to convey to the families in a timely manner in order to allow families to prepare and plan for the arrival of their loved ones.

I would like to once again thank all the families and Soldiers for their patience and support. Remember, if you have any questions please feel free to contact

myself or the FRG team.

"Hammer Down" HHC. Stay safety oriented so we can ALL redeploy home, together, to our family and friends that are eagerly awaiting our return.



Capt. Maurice Amaya promotes Pfc. Matthew Malican and Pfc. Nixon Castro to the rank of Specialist at FOB Sharana during a battlefield circulation.

### Bravo 427th 1st Sgt.'s Blurb (Cont.)

*(Continued from page 6)*

Outposts and Forward Operating Bases assisting with closures or transfers. Just over the halfway point of the deployment and we are finally starting to get settled into our roles and work routine. We have completed a lot of construction projects to get our living spaces and offices into shape. Our Company's ingenuity, craftsmanship, and skills really stand out! I am conducting some battlefield circulation and trying to visit my Soldiers in as many places as possible. So far I've been to FOBs Shank, Sharana, Salerno, Kandahar, and Jalalabad. If I haven't been to your location yet, expect to see me as I want to see the great work I know you are doing. Keep up the great work!

### 1462nd Transportation Company CPT's Corner (Continued)

*(Continued from page 8)*

challenge and overcoming it.

In the following month, the 1462nd will be starting to wind down and get ready to relocate. They are expecting a new obstacle and challenge by working with contractors and telling them about retrograde operations. This will be a larger scale version of what a Material Retrograde Team, or also known as MRT mission. The MRT groups that were out in other bases located through Afghanistan were pulled back to reset and prepare to go teach again in other locations.

The command team continues to press for the most recent, accurate information available about when the contractors will come in. The families and friends of Soldiers are definitely getting anxious to see their hero's again. As we push to find out more information of when we leave, no definite date has been released for our exit from theater.

I would like to once again thank all the families and Soldiers for their patience and support. Remember, if you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or the FRG team.



**We have been representing our Griffin since we stepped foot on active duty in December. I cannot tell you how proud I am of all the Soldiers of the 1462nd.**

**- Sgt. 1st Class Ray Ruzzin**





# The Warhammer Times





**(Photo Illustration)** Soldiers from the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion the 16th Sustainment Brigade's shoulder sleeve insignia for wartime service, commonly called the "Combat Patch".

The Soldiers of the 18th CSSB now join the ranks of their fellow veteran "Warhammers", in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, here in Kandahar Airfield, Bagram Airfield and Camp Pratt, Afghanistan. (US Army Photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Public Affairs)



# Army Customs Agents protecting the US against deadly invaders. (Continued)

(Continued from page 7)

should reenter the United States will end up being quarantined and costing the military more money and possibly effect our environment.”

Customs teams pre-clear items by inspecting thoroughly, to include every nook and cranny. Once cleared, the shipment passes through accumulation of surplus military items, Customs Soldiers display steadfast integrity and concentration with the efforts to ensure that regulations are being met.customs with no problems and arrives stateside. Soiled items are quarantined, cleaned and disposed of all dirt or returned to Afghanistan.

Despite the pressure to process the massive accumulation of surplus military items, Customs Soldiers display steadfast integrity and concentration with the efforts to ensure that regulations are being met.

## Happppppy Birthday!

Sgt. Jason Weeks	Aug 1st	Staff Sgt. Alan Smith	Aug 13th
Capt. Nicholas Tommaso	Aug 2nd	Maj. Rosendo Pagan	Aug 14th
Sgt. Timothy Vandermead	Aug 2nd	Capt. Stweart McGurk	Aug 14th
Sgt. Phillip Saccento	Aug 3rd	1st Lt. William Fitzsimons	Aug 19th
Sgt. Justin Button	Aug 4th	Sgt. 1st Class Jovanna Cervantes	Aug 24th
Pfc. Shawntanyce Harmon	Aug 4th	Pfc. Malcolm Madison	Aug 25th
Sgt. Edward Chantra	Aug 4th	Sgt. Wayne Hughes	Aug 25th
Sgt. William Rollins	Aug 5th	1st Lt. Justine Nixon	Aug 28th
Sgt. Jeremy Gunderson	Aug 8th	Spc. Anthony Augustine	Aug 28th
Pvt. Rahyner Penaranda	Aug 5th		
Spc. Christopher DeBolt	Aug 6th		
Pfc. Emery Schwarts	Aug 8th		
Spc. Rosquita Bennett	Aug 9th		
Pfc. Christopher Benitez	Aug 10th		
Capt. Gregory Pforter	Aug 11th		



Sgt. Timothy Vandermed from the 427th Brigade Support Battalion and Spec. Michael Brunger from the 1462nd Transportation Company work on packaging oxygen cylinders that have accumulated in the Bagram Retrosort Yard into bundles for transportation. With each cylinder weighing 145lbs and upwards of 500 cylinders to clear in the yard, the Hazardous Material section of the yard take on the daunting mission with great tenacity. (U.S. Army Photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)





# Upcoming Events

## DEPLOYED LOCATION RACE KANDAHAR, AFGHANISTAN



## AIR FORCE MARATHON



★ 10K ★



PHOTOS FROM 2009 DEPLOYED RACE LOCATIONS.

**Time:** 14 September 2012 0600-1200

**Location:** Boardwalk

**POC:** TSgt Joshua Willson DSN 420-2099 or Email [Joshua.willson@kdab.afcent.af.mil](mailto:Joshua.willson@kdab.afcent.af.mil)

Presenting Sponsors:

**NORTHROP GRUMMAN**



Four Star Sponsor:



Three Star Sponsor:



No Federal endorsement of sponsors intended.



Pfc. Brandon McMullen, Supply Clerk, Tonawanda, NY. "I'd like to thank all my Family and friends back home for all their support and for dealing with me when no one else would. Thanks for standing behind me with my decision to come on this deployment. I'd like to congratulate my sister and soon-to-be brother-in-law on their wedding."



Sgt. Kevin Root, a forklift operator with HHC, 427th BSB, from Corning NY, at the Bagram Airfield Retro-Sort Yard Says "Hello to Sarah!"



Spc. Jonathan Solomon, a communications specialist with HHC 18th CSSB says, "for all the cool cats at Colombia City, Ind., 'I miss you guys and I love you mom and dad!'"



Spc. Bobby Ortiz, Human Resource Specialist, Grafenwoehr Germany, "To my wife and son. Hi, doing well and keeping the faith. I'll be home soon. I love you and miss you."

## Team Pratt

Team Pratt is small in size but great in spirit. With 25 soldiers from the 427<sup>th</sup> National Guard Headquarters Company of New York, the 1462<sup>nd</sup> National Guard Transportation Company of Michigan and the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Team Pratt MAKES IT HAPPEN!

Our team is responsible for taking all excess retrograde material to help deal with the great amount of logistical transfer in Afghanistan. With the amount of items inbound, we have to accept all types of supply with "no questions asked".

We are also moving! We are jumping to a nearby new location called Camp Pratt. We are writing history by the day to make a mark out here. Soldiers are learning how to live and work in an austere environment and are enjoying rough it out. Spirits are high and all missions are accomplished daily!

## Team Bagram

"Task-force Awesome" Soldiers have been diligently working hard and making a difference in Operation Enduring Freedom supporting the retrograde mission in Afghanistan. Being on ground for over two months now, we run the most efficient retrograde sorting yard! We strive to gather all perishable, sustainable containers, equipment to upgrade and redistributed back into the system to serve other units.

The Bagram Retro Sort Yard has started a new process to boost our production by 25%. We have also saved the United States Government money by sending all detention containers (containers that we pay rent for) back to their perspective companies. Soldiers are also volunteering on their off time in the Retro Sort Yard to assist their fellow brother and sisters in arms on processing daily multipack boxes and containers. This in return is boosting the Soldiers spirits and they look forward to doing their best in making the retrograde mission an astounding success, "Hammer Time"!

## What it takes: Excerpts from a young company commander. (continued)

with our Chaplain. It has never been more important to ensure that Soldiers are calling home and receiving mail. We as leaders need to be involved, making sure Soldiers are doing more than sitting by themselves. Sometimes all it takes is an initiation to go to the gym or for a run.

We must always remember our core values and look after our Soldiers. I make it a point to ride the bus with them, get my hands dirty doing the same job they do, and praising them when deserved of praising. If Soldiers lose trust in you, they will give up hope and feel you cannot handle their problems. We as leaders must never ever get to that point.



# The Hammer Times

## The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



**Website:**

Like us on  
facebook!

<http://www.eur.army.mil/21tsc/16sb/18cssb/index.html>

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/18thCSSB](http://www.facebook.com/18thCSSB)

**E-mail:**

[18thCSSB@googlemail.com](mailto:18thCSSB@googlemail.com)

### Mission Statement:

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion rapidly, and safely, deploys worldwide, providing expeditionary logistics; command and control over the full spectrum of sustainment operations as part of a Battalion, or Theater Sustainment Command operation as directed; on order support of U.S. Army Europe deployment and redeployment operations.



**Have any ideas, stories or photos  
for the newsletter. Contact the  
18th CSSB's Public Affairs Office**

**1LT Henry Chan**

[henry.chan1@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:henry.chan1@afghan.swa.army.mil)

**1LT Justine Nixon**

[justine.nixon@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:justine.nixon@afghan.swa.army.mil)

**SPC Isaac Adams**

[isaac.adams@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:isaac.adams@afghan.swa.army.mil)