



THE 18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION'S WarhammerTimes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 18TH CSSB

ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 2012

WHAT'S INSIDE

LTC
Michelle Letcher 2

CSM
Ian Griffin 2

1st Div Family 3

18th
HQ and HQ Co. 4

427th BSB
HQ and HQ Co. 5

B Co.
427th BSB 6

EO corner 7

Other Stories
and Blurbs 8



Chief Warrant Officer Evans reenlists Spc. Jonathan Solomon of Columbia City, Ind. in the back of a CH47 "Chinook" Cargo Helicopter for another four years of service in the US Army, at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. Spc. Solomon's father, Kevin Solomon was a CH47 mechanic in the US Army. (US Army photo by 2nd Lt Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

18th CSSB Command Team

Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher



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

"We often take for granted the very things that most deserve our gratitude."- Cynthia Ozick

Thankfully we welcome the month of November. November is a month to remember our Veterans, give thanks, and it is a demonstration of strength as we prepare for the holiday season. Our 427 BSB personnel remain focused on the finish line and our headquarters completes five months deployed. As we continue our stride we must remember those that have served and continue to serve, pay gratitude to those things in our life that give us strength and find resiliency in ourselves, our families and friends.

Almost a hundred years after major hostilities of World War I were formally ended at the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month of 1918 we continue to remember those that have served and continue to serve. Veterans Day is often seen as remembrance of those that wear the

uniform but after eleven years of persistent conflict, I would offer that our families serve as well. This Veteran's Day I would ask that we take a moment to remember our Veterans and their families. This day was originally dedicated to world peace and all of you taking the time to read this are affected by the lack thereof, and remain resolute that one day our children may ask, "what is war?" Serving overseas and away from loved ones allows us multiple opportunities at home and in Afghanistan to reflect on our gratitude for the loved ones in our lives. At the end of a long day, the luxuries of a bath, washing our own laundry, or visiting a grocery store are all daily tasks we take for granted. Spending time in a bunker, going outside to use the bathroom, and not seeing your family reminds us of the challenges we all face as we move through this deployment. As Thanksgiving draws near, we are reminded of the empty spots at the table and our thankful that we have someone worth fighting for, that we have a spouse that values us enough to keep our liberties free, and we have families that support us in

our times of need. I would also add that we are thankful for our brothers and sisters in arms that break bread with us daily in Afghanistan and around the world.

Finally, this time of year is the start of a month and half of festivities that remind us that someone is missing from the routine of preparing for this time of year. Many of us are all too experienced in this ritual and it doesn't get easier but is familiar. I would ask that we all find opportunities to be engaged, build strong social circles, and turn to those things that provide you the most strength when things get tough.

Next year we will all be home and together for the parades and holidays. It is those times apart that make us most appreciative for what we have and luckily we have each other. I couldn't be prouder to be serving alongside your service member. It is their strength and dedication to duty that gives me mine. It's Ham-
mer time!

-WARHAMMER 6

Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

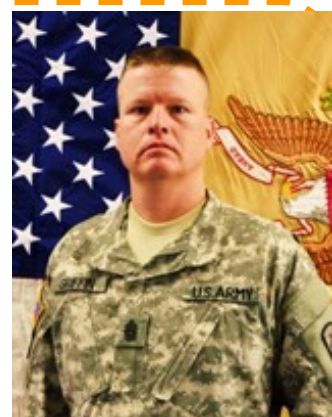
Hello WARHAMMERS,

It is a great day today. We have just experienced Veterans Day down here in Afghanistan and for some this is their first time to officially be called a Veteran. This is a distinction of honor that is not bestowed on just anyone, only those that have served in combat. So my fellow Veterans, I want to say Happy Veterans Day and thank you for your service, I appreciate you and our nation appreciates you.

As we move into November and approach Thanksgiving, we have many moving pieces throughout the battlefield. My

big concern is conducting all missions safely, avoiding complacency at all costs. As we approach the upcoming holiday season let's focus on our battle buddies and ensure we key in on any changes. For some this may be the first holiday season away from home. For others, there may be new hardships not experienced before. Speaking of that, we need to really focus on our fellow warriors from New York. Our fellow Soldiers from the 427th have experienced tragedy with the hurricane on the east coast. As winter approaches it will only compound the situation. Hang in there my fellow warriors.

Lastly, I do want to point out as we embrace this month, we will be receiving two new units next month. They will come in ready to take over the mission for the HHC, 427th and Bravo, 427th. This will be a step closer for the 427th family to return home. It is just around the corner. So let's not slow down but run through the finish line.



-WARHAMMER 7

Like Fathers Like Sons: the 1st Division Family

By 2nd Lt. Henry Chan

18th CSSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Pvt. Chris Griffin of the 1st Sustainment Brigade received his overseas service patch, or better known to Soldiers as the “Combat Patch” on October 12th.

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. The colors of the 1st Sustainment Brigade Shoulder Sleeve Insignia Patch are on a bluff vertical rectangular embroidered device coming to a 90-degree angle point at base, a yellow reversed chevron surmounted over the chevron a vertical red sword, throughout, blade pointing up, all with a 1/8 inch red border. Buff and red are the colors traditionally used by Sustainment units. The reversed chevron signifies support, also illustrating the letter “V,” which alludes to the motto “sustain to victory.” The red sword symbolizes military readiness and suggests the number “1” (affectionately known to Soldiers as the “Big Red One”), depicting the brigade’s lineage to the 1st Infantry Division, the Big Red One.

For Pvt. Griffin, it was his first combat patch earned, but it was not the first for the Griffin family. In fact, Pvt. Griffin is the fifth member of his family to wear the 1st SB or the 1st ID as a “Combat Patch”.

Both Pvt. Griffin’s parents both wear the 1st SB patch on their right sleeve after deploying with the 1st SB.

Pvt. Griffin and his father, Command Sgt. Maj. Ian

“I wanted that patch so bad... now I have it,” said Pvt. Griffin, “my father made Command Sgt. Maj. in 19 years let’s see if I can do that faster!”



(Above) Pvt. Chris Griffin and Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin proudly display their 1st Sustainment Brigade “Combat Patches” at Bagram Airfield during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in October, 2012. (US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

Griffin are wheeled vehicle mechanics in the Army. Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin deployed to Iraq twice while serving under the 1st ID for five years in Kitzingen, Germany and 1st SB in Ft. Riley in 2009-2010. He currently serves under the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, based out of Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin’s wife, Sgt. 1st Class Wibke Griffin served as a tank turret repairer, and deployed under the 1st Sustainment Brigade, leading a personal security detachment” in Operation Iraqi Freedom from 2007-2008. Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin’s brother, Capt. Nathan Moore, displays the 1st ID patch from his service during 2008-2009, leading Mobile Engagement Training Teams (METT) on the Iraqi border.

Pvt. Griffin’s great-great grandfather, Corp. Howard Greenup fought with the 1st Infantry

Division in World War I. Corp. Greenup fought in Meuse Argon, France in the early years of the 1st Infantry Division and proudly displayed a “Big Red One” patch on his shoulder.

“We didn’t know that he was a 1st ID Soldier till we were at our grandmother’s place”, Pvt. Griffin said, “my father and I found a painting of him and saw the bright red ‘1’ on his sleeve... that was pretty cool”.

While Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin recalls the days as a recovery specialist in Operation Desert Storm, both Griffins now enjoy a much more modernized battlefield while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“I remember driving across the desert to a phone tent in Iraq to wait in line for two hours and not be able to call through,” says Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin, “or when we all read our letters out-loud to our friends, because not everyone got to talk to people back

(Continued on page 8)

18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Co.

SHAPE Vice Chief of Staff visits the Bagram Retrosort Yard

By 2nd Lt. Henry Chan

18th CSSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan— Lt. Gen. Philippe Stoltz, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE), visited the Bagram Retrosort Yard (BAF RSY) on Nov. 7th.

It was a first time for the Soldiers to receive a French general. After the small group of officers and non-commissioned officer saluted, they proceeded into the covered area and commenced the brief.



Cpt. Christian Noumba

and their family for the outstanding service that they are providing to the Nation.

We passed our deployment halfway point during the month of October 2012. As we continue to move towards our redeployment date, we must not stop being vigilant and alert as we continue to perform our duties to the best of our abilities. Soldiers have been showing a lot of resilience and

(Continued on page 14)



The BAF RSY operates along with two other retrograde sort yards in Afghanistan under the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher.

Soldiers from the 18th CSSB from Grafenwoehr, Germany and the 427th Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard make-up the military work force at the facility.

The Retrograde Sort Yard is a vital facility in the reduction of the

amount of excess materiel in Afghanistan. According to U.S. figures from ISAF, despite the \$6 billion cost for redeployment, the roughly \$48 billion worth of government equipment makes it well worth the mission.

Unlike US forces, not all other NATO countries have extensive plans for the re-organization and re-distribution of materiel in the battlefield. This means that items are potentially forgotten instead of accounted for and re-used in the mili-

tary supply system.

After Maj. Rosendo Pagan, executive officer of the 18th CSSB, gave the group a detailed brief of retrosort operations in Afghanistan, Sgt. 1st Class Edward Dowd, the facility non-commissioned officer in charge, led the group to view recently opened incoming shipping containers full of armored vehicle tires and fuel storage bladders.

The group then proceeded to the "Virtual Warehouse". The Virtual Warehouse is a successful program devised by the Soldiers of the BAF RSY to re-distribute



1st Sgt. Charles Odom

The First Sergeant's Blurb

Dear Soldiers, Families, and friends of HHC 18th CSSB

Wow, how the time is just flying! October has come and gone in a blink of an eye, and now we are preparing for Thanksgiving. These past weeks our Head Hunter Soldiers have been fully engaged in completing our missions without failure. As I did my battle field circulation throughout Afghanistan to visit our Soldiers, I noticed how there were no individuals but everybody working as team, which was not unusual with the strong leadership emplaced at each location. This showed the discipline and maturity our Soldiers had while away from the rest of the company. Some of our great achievements this month include Sgt. Green, not only winning the NCO of the Month board but also gain his promotable status. Spc. Solomon, reenlisted for another 4 more years. Chief

(Continued on page 16)

427th BSB, Headquarters Company

HHC 427th Soldiers run for breast cancer awareness

By 1st Lt. Thai-Bao NgoHeadquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion
Unit Public Affairs Representative

BAGRAM, Afghanistan- October is Breast Cancer Awareness month. The 401st Army Field Support Brigade 8K Breast Cancer Awareness relay took place on Oct. 6th, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The event turned out to be a success with more than 700 participants who either ordered costumes or even pink fly swatters to raise awareness during the run.



Cpt. Gregory Pforter

team. Let's remain alert and vigilant so we can all cross the finish line together. Unit morale is also on the rise knowing that the end of this deployment that started on 28 January 2012, is drawing to a close. Soldiers are still widely arrayed across the battlespace and have been performing their assigned missions with a high degree of success and professionalism. I've attached a link to a 401st article that mentions the RPAT Yard and Retrosort Yard in Camp Pratt. This describes just a couple of challenges and a taste of the conditions that some our Soldiers stationed there (Continued on page 10)

The Captain's Corner!

Families and Friends,

November is upon us and we are another month closer to going home. Temperatures are steadily decreasing and the sight of our breath in the early morning hours is a regular occurrence. Redeployment and demobilization plans are well under way as we prepare ourselves for an efficient and successful reintegration process. Daily count downs have begun and I would caution Soldiers not to lose focus of the mission and remain safety conscious and oriented at all times. Historically, this time period in the deployment has an increased risk of safety incidences. To date, HHC has established an outstanding safety track record. Safety and Soldier care will always be a priority among the command

Event coordinator, Elba Seilhan said that, "[benefiting organizations] were in awe of what all the runners accomplished and send their deepest thanks." She has received e-mails and notes from survivors in some form of treatment and all of them wanted to convey how motivating the event was to them.

The relay raised awareness for the fight against breast cancer. Breast cancer is the most common cancer among women in the U.S. The disease does not have any restrictions and does not discriminate against age, socio-economic, status or gender which affect all Soldiers and family members.

Soldiers also celebrate breast cancer survivors and honors those who have lost their battle with the disease.

Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion (HHC 427th BSB) had three different teams run the race.

"Team Avengers" was led by team captain 1st Lt. Thai Ngo and consisted of 1st Lt. Kristen Rouse, Sgt. Sodha Prak, Sgt. Robert McNair, Pfc. Dominik Wise. Team Avengers "assembled" to fight breast cancer by providing support to all fighters and organizations involved with breast cancer awareness.

Staff Sgt. Kenneth Sterling, Sgt. Thomas Devine, Sgt. Joriann Garcia-Hernandez and Pfc. Matthew Vanscoter formed another HHC 427 team.

Master Sgt Andrew Lamkins, Capt Victoria Depaulis, Sgt 1st Class Benjamin Lewis and Sgt Marlana Watson from HHC 427th BSB; 1st Lt. Xyla Corpus from 593rd Sustainment Brigade, based out of Joint Base Lewis McChord and Travis Rodenburg from the 401st Army Field Support Brigade made a third team in support towards the fight against breast cancer.

These teams collectively contributed to breast cancer awareness.

Breast cancer awareness is an effort to raise awareness through education on symptoms and treatments.

(Continued on page 9)



1st Sgt. Robert Vergith

Friends and Family,

Another month has passed. I have traveled this month to outlying locations and continue to check and monitor the morale and welfare of our Soldiers. Our Soldiers are doing well and are starting to get excited about where we are in the deployment and knowing it won't be long before they are safely home with their families. I went to Kandahar where the brigade headquarters is located. I also participated as a board member and supported Sgt. Garcia and Spc. Bengert in the Battalion Soldier of the Month Board. Both Soldiers did a very good job representing the company.

The weather over here in Afghanistan is similar to that in New York. It's cool to cold in the evenings and early mornings. All indications are snow will be in the air shortly.

Thousands of our National Guard brethren have been mobilized to support operations in New York City and are helping with relief and recovery actions caused by the devastation brought on by Hurricane Sandy. I am proud of all those Soldiers and applaud their efforts. They are having a positive impact on all those affected by this storm.

I would again like to thank the Families and friends for their continued support. It is truly appreciated.

The First Sergeant's Blurp

Hammer 7
-1st Sgt Vergith

ISSUE 2

427th BSB, Bravo Company

Maintaining Morale

By 1st Lt. Jennifer Speeckaert

B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan- Although the deployment is been cut shorter than previous deployments, the two-weeks leave has been replaced with a four-day pass. Soldiers still manage to keep morale up and smiling faces.

The Soldiers of B Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion (B/427th BSB) of the NY Army National Guard have been away from their homes and loved ones for months. Between their mobilization training at Camp Shelby, de-

ployment, and out-processing B Company will be gone for a few weeks short of a year.

Soldiers of B Company come up with creative ways to come up with different morale lifters.

Working out is one of the biggest morale boosters. Some Soldiers head to the gym, while others go to yoga, Cross-Fit, and ju-jitsu classes. Numerous "fun runs", 5k races in support of various charities also present itself to the group.

One group started doing 17 to 20 mile bicycle rides in the morning. The group even made t-shirts and called themselves "the Sons of Afghanistan" in spoof of the outlaw biker gang TV



Cpt. Maurice Amaya

company's mission, as I have stated in previous newsletters, is to support the drawdown of American Forces in Afghanistan, through the redeployment of equipment back to United States and to assist with materiel transfer from Forward Operating Bases and Combat out-posts. I rec-

show "the Sons of Anarchy."

Capt. Seth Burgess already found a piece of home in Afghanistan. Capt. Burgess has been involved with Masons at home. While deployed in Kandahar, he became in officer in the Canada Lodge.

Burgess said, "my time with the Canada Lodge has been an excellent way to mentally refresh ... enjoy fellowship and practice with other Masons from the U.S. Army, Navy, and Marine Corps, as well as Canada, [Great Britain], and Denmark."

Spc. Jennifer Schuss, of Syracuse, NY, has crocheted five baby blankets, 10 twin-sized blankets, and a full-size blanket. She makes them for friends and family back home, as well as her fellow Soldiers. "I

(Continued on page 8)

The Captain's Corner!

Dear Families and Friends of the Bravo 427th BSB,

As I sit here at my desk in Afghanistan, I realize that this will be my Second to last Bravo Company Captain's Corner for our time remaining here in Afghanistan. Our mission has been tough as our Soldiers have gone above and beyond in maximizing the execution of it. The com-



Sgt 1st Class Trevis Miller, Sgt Scott Ryan, and Sgt Ira Johnson use their day off to replace the engine in Sgt Johnson's Polaris Ranger, using discarded parts they've pieced together to create a working vehicle.



1st Sgt. David Evans

The First Sergeant's Blurb

Dear Families and Friends of the Bravo 427th BSB,

The end is in sight. However not only do we have the mission to continue but a laundry list of tasks to complete in preparation to redeploy. As individual Soldiers we need to have our equipment packed properly to turn in issued equipment OCIE (Organizational Clothing & Individual Equipment) at the mobilization site; our non-essential equipment needs to be packed into our shipping container for its return state side by 15 October; cold weather gear needs to be available for wear later in the year.

It's the Army Physical Fitness Test time! All APFTs will be completed no later than close of business, Oct 31st. Be sure that all documentation is submitted to the orderly room and that you receive confirmation that your information is submitted. Happy Halloween!

Bulldog 7
-1st Sgt. David Evans



SSG Kim Bell
18th CSSB SHARP Representative



Diversity & Climate Bulletin



SSG Robert Clement
18th CSSB Equal Opportunity NCO

Native American Heritage Month

Staff Sgt. Charles K Mutinda
18th Combat Sustainment Support
Battalion, Equal Opportunity Leader

The old westerns made famous the word “hau.” In Lakota/Dakota Sioux, “hau” simply means “hello,” but the American public has been led to believe that “hau” is a universal Native American greeting. Native American tribes are numerous and have different greetings but the word “hau” is of Indian heritage.

Native Americans have been called the “first Americans”, and have significant contributions to the Ameri-

can nation.

Native Americans have served in the United States military, or participated in military actions with distinction for more than 200 years.

From the Choctaw Indian code talkers in WWI and WWII to Hopi Indian Pfc. Piastawa in Operation Iraqi Freedom, and the many who still serve in our ranks in Operation Enduring Freedom, their contributions echo the selfless service American Indians have made to our nation. During National American Indian Heritage Month, we recognize the

tribal cultures, heritage, history, art, and traditions of the American Indian and Alaskan Native.

This month provides an excellent opportunity for Soldiers, civilians, and Family Members to acknowledge the past and present accomplishments of American Indians. On behalf of the command we encourage all members of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and subordinate units to reflect on the contributions of American Indians to both our nation and the military.



U.S. Marine Navajo Code Talkers transmit messages on Pacific Islands. These young Marines served through World War 2, sending encrypted messages in the Navajo language. These “Code Talkers” were able to save countless lives in the face of battle with their messages passed along.

Like Fathers Like Sons (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

home.”

Fast forward 21 years to the year 2012, Pvt. Griffin speaks about spending time, watching DVDs with Command Sgt. Maj. in the MWR (Morale Welfare and Recreation) facility at Bagram Airfield. Unlike other families, deployment for the Griffins brought them more time together.

“It’s great being deployed with him. We didn’t get to spend time together this frequent before. Time has been passing by a lot faster when we see each other,” said Pvt. Griffin.

“I wanted that patch so bad... now I have it,” said Pvt. Griffin, “my father made Command Sgt. Maj. in 19 years let’s see if I can do that faster!”



(Above) Spc. Paul Stelzer, pins the 1st Sustainment Brigade combat patch onto Pvt. Chris Griffin’s right shoulder during the 1st Special Troops Battalion Patching Ceremony at the 1st Sustainment Brigade headquarters at Bagram Airfield on October 12th. (US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

Morale (Continued)

enjoy seeing the expressions on peoples’ faces when they get the blankets, making blankets helps pass the time and is relaxing.”

For those Soldiers who may not already have a hobby, or at least not one they can do in Afghanistan, there are plenty of Morale, Welfare, and Recreation planned activities as well. Units also hold morale events like BBQs and sporting events.

Many chaplains hold movie nights, game nights, or discussion sessions. The sessions are not necessarily religious. Sometimes themes just revolve around home.

“You know sometimes we just need a population of people to talk about life and everyday things other than the army” says Sgt. 1st Class Garth Nibbs, located at Camp Pratt in Afghanistan. Of course, there is also

Bible study, where Soldiers share events that are trouble them and find comfort in each other.

Sgt. 1st Class Trevis Miller and Sgt. Ira Johnson turn towards their jobs for relaxation. Both mechanics, they enjoy working on their vehicles at home. B Company is a maintenance company, but does not conduct maintenance operations during this deployment.

“Gator” vehicles are small, open-air vehicles that resemble four-wheel drive, gas-powered golf carts. The group of maintainers found gators are too broken for others to use, and written-off by contractors as too expensive to fix. These mechanics utilize their “MacGyver-like” skills, a few tools, and some scrap metal parts to create an asset for the company.



Sgt. Ira Johnson works on replacing the engine in his Polaris Ranger on Sunday, his one day off a week. (US Army photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Speeckaert, B/427th Brigade Support Battalion, New York National Guard)

Marathon Team (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

The logo pink ribbon symbolizes the breast cancer awareness advocacy in support of its promise to end breast cancer forever.

The pink ribbon resembles a runner in motion and is meant to reflect the importance of the race for the cure events which receive substantial financial support from corporate sponsorships.

Runners hope that greater knowledge will lead to earlier detection of breast cancer, which is associated with higher long-term survival rates, and that money raised for breast cancer will lead to finding a reliable and permanent cure



(left to right) are 1st Lt. Xyla Corpus, Master Sgt Andrew Lamkins, Capt. Victoria Depaulis, Sgt. First Class Benjamin Lewis, Mr. Travis Rodenburg and Sgt. Marlana Watson on Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan after completing the relay



(left to right) 1st Lieutenant Kristen Rouse, Sergeant Sodha Prak, 1st Lieutenant Thai Ngo, Sergeant Robert Mcnair, and Private First Class Dominik Wise on Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan after completing the relay).

HHC 427th BSB Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

endure each and every day according to an article on army.mil. The civilian contracting force comprises the majority of the workforce now and they are almost at full strength. Contractors are filling in nicely and are achieving mission success in their assigned sections, BCAT, MRT and Retro Sort, with the careful oversight and supervision of our section leadership. Contractors are co-located with our Soldiers at many forward operating bases throughout the Afghanistan. New York Army National Guard Adjutant General, Maj. Gen. Patrick A. Murphy and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks recognized Soldiers assigned to the 427th Brigade Support Battalion deployed to Afghanistan. Both distinguished visitors received briefs regarding the intricacies, complexities and challenges of the unit's assigned retrograde mission. They had lunch and dinner with select Soldiers, made appearances at the 18th CSSB Battalion and HHC 427th command post, the 3-401st Army Field Support Battalion Headquarters, the GFE warehouse, and lastly the Bagram Retrosort Yard and virtual warehouse. Headquarters Company 427th Soldiers are performing tasks at each location and are clearly making an impact. Maj. Gen. Murphy answered questions from Soldiers,

provided insight into recent National Guard developments and events, upcoming unit deployments and redeployments as well as key leader transitions throughout the Empire State. Maj. Gen. Murphy concluded his tour by saying, "Our Soldiers came to do a job. While sometimes the mission changes, we work with the needs of the Army," he continued, "It is very rewarding to see Soldiers do such a great job... a great accolade seeing them go above and beyond their expectations." Three more Soldiers were promoted this month. Capt. Matthew Scheuer, Sgt Michael Mora and Spc Charles Leavitt earned well deserving promotions. Their hard work, dedication and persistence do not go unrecognized. Combat Action Badges were awarded to the following Soldiers by the 593rd Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col McBride: 1st Lt Glenford Rose, Master Sgt Archie Belton, Master Sgt Andrew Lampkins, Sgt 1st Class Edward Dowd, Sgt 1st Class Benjamin Lewis, Sgt Colin Rickson, Spc Sherman, Sgt 1st Class Jeffrey Davis, Sgt Jason Weeks, Sgt Thomas Devine and Cpl Angel Ramos. CABs were also awarded by the 3-401st AFSBn Commander, Lt Col Koch, to Capt Odelle Despot, 1st Lt William Lee, 1st Sgt Nathan Hawker and Spc Bryon Murray for an incident that occurred while at FOB Bostick.

Spc Daniel Rothwell was also awarded the CAB for his actions during the complex attack that transpired on June 1st at FOB Salerno. He was awarded the CAB on the same day as SFC Jimenez, Sgt Tenentes and Cpl Rhoomes but Spc Rothwell was not pictured in the photo or mentioned in the article. I apologize for the oversight. All of our great Soldiers put themselves in harms way on a daily basis. They deserve and are entitled to recognition for their actions and achievements.

Our thoughts are with all those that were affected by Hurricane Sandy. Hurricane Sandy had a significant impact on many Soldiers and their families across New York state. I wish all a safe and speedy recovery. HHC 427th BSB is scheduled to demobilize at Camp Shelby, Miss. in January. There is less than 2 months remaining and the home stretch is almost upon us. Keep up the great work.

**"Hammer Down" HHC.
Hammer 6
-Capt Pforter**

B 427th Captain's Corner (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 6)

ognize that this has been a difficult mission for my Soldiers as this mission was really intended for logisticians, not the infantry Soldiers, medics, mechanics and field artillery Soldiers currently assigned to Bravo Company 427. Nonetheless, we have managed to accomplish this mission instilling one of our highest values within the Warrior Ethos "I am an American Soldier. I am a warrior and a member of a team. I serve the people of the United States, and live the Army Values. I WILL ALWAYS PLACE THE MISSION FIRST..."

**Bulldog 6
-Capt. Maurice Amaya**

The Morale Mill



Happy Thanksgiving!

SHAPE Deputy's visit to Bagram (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

high-demand items back to units with a higher level of customer service.

Soldiers collect items such as pens, binders, printer toner cartridges or even bulk insect repellent from the processing area are gathered here for issue to local units with no charge to the unit. Stoltz jokingly said that the 18th CSSB had established a supermarket for the base.

Dowd led Stoltz to visit the hazardous material sorting and holding areas for items to be disposed, where once disposed engine oil, batteries and other chemicals are safely separated and stored.

Stoltz was exceedingly impressed with the efforts to minimize the environmental impact. He emphasized the importance of responsible environmental practices the international community and the people of Afghanistan.

Master Sgt. Archie Belton, the facility operations supervisor, led the group through the processing area and explained how the Materiel Release Orders (MROs) were generated to account for items.

MROs are the key part of shipping re-circulated items, to indicate the critical information to identify the item.

As the tour drew to an end, the cross-nation experience proved to be valuable for all Allied Soldiers.

Pagan said, "I think the visit was a success in providing a clear picture to Stoltz and NATO on how the CMRE (CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element) developed a proactive approach in gradually reducing the excess materiel from the battlefield and how our leadership are ensuring the stewardship of tax payers money."

As Stoltz concluded his tour around the BAF RSY, he said, "I am very impressed by the organization in place. I hope all [units] in ISAF have the same organization. I am sure that there are lessons learned in Iraq, Kuwait and now, [Afghanistan]."



Maj. Rosendo Pagan, the Executive Officer of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion explains to Lt. Gen. Philippe Stoltz, the Vice Chief of Staff of the Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe, on the process of disposing of excess materiel while conducting accountability for items that have a risk to be turned into weapons against ISAF troops. (US Army photo by Spc. Alexander Amen, 115th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



The Warhammer Times





The Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 18th CSSB, and Bravo Company, 427th BSB pose together after a game of flag football in Kandahar, Afghanistan. Friendly contests between units help Soldiers in a deployed environment unwind and keep high morale. (US Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

HHC18th Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

are continuing to perform extremely well.

To some of our family members who are ailing or recovering from illness or injuries due to accidents, I wish you all the best and keep you and your family in my prayers. To the love ones at home, I implore you to continue to provide your Soldiers down range with the unconditional love and support that only you can effectively provide. The Soldiers need that support and in exchange, they will continue to make you proud.

**HEADHUNTERS ... HEADS
WILL ROLL!
WE FORGE AHEAD!
REST ASSURED!**

Headhunter 6

-Capt Christian S. Numba

Pfc. Nixon Castro	Staff Sgt. Benjamin Adams
1-Nov	19-Nov
Sgt. Benjamin Krystaf	Chief Warrant Officer Phillip Smith
2-Nov	20-Nov
Spc. Troy Harriott	Spc. Jennifer Schuss
2-Nov	20-Nov
Spc. Courdero Douse	Sgt. 1st Class Uribe Jimenez
3-Nov	22-Nov
Master Sgt. Jamie Miller	Spc. Raul Garcia
4-Nov	22-Nov
Pfc. Stephanie Luis	Sgt. Ira Johnson
4-Nov	23-Nov
2nd Lt. Frank Woods II	Spc. Ian Belanger
9-Nov	23-Nov
Pfc. Garrick Davis	Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Phillips
11-Nov	27-Nov
Sgt. 1st Class David Kimbro	1st Lt. Thai-Boa Ngo
13-Nov	28-Nov
Spc. Ian Yannantuono	1st Lt. Ryan Dennison
16-Nov	28-Nov
Staff Sgt. Jennifer Davis	Spc. Alyssa Leggat
18-Nov	28-Nov
Sgt. Phillip Kay	Sgt. 1st Class Trevis Miller
18-Nov	29-Nov
Spc. Christopher Hanno	
18-Nov	



Soldiers from the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion receive the Combat Action Badge (CAB) on the Nov. 1st in Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. The CAB is a cherished distinction, awarded to Soldiers who personally engage or are engaged by the enemy.



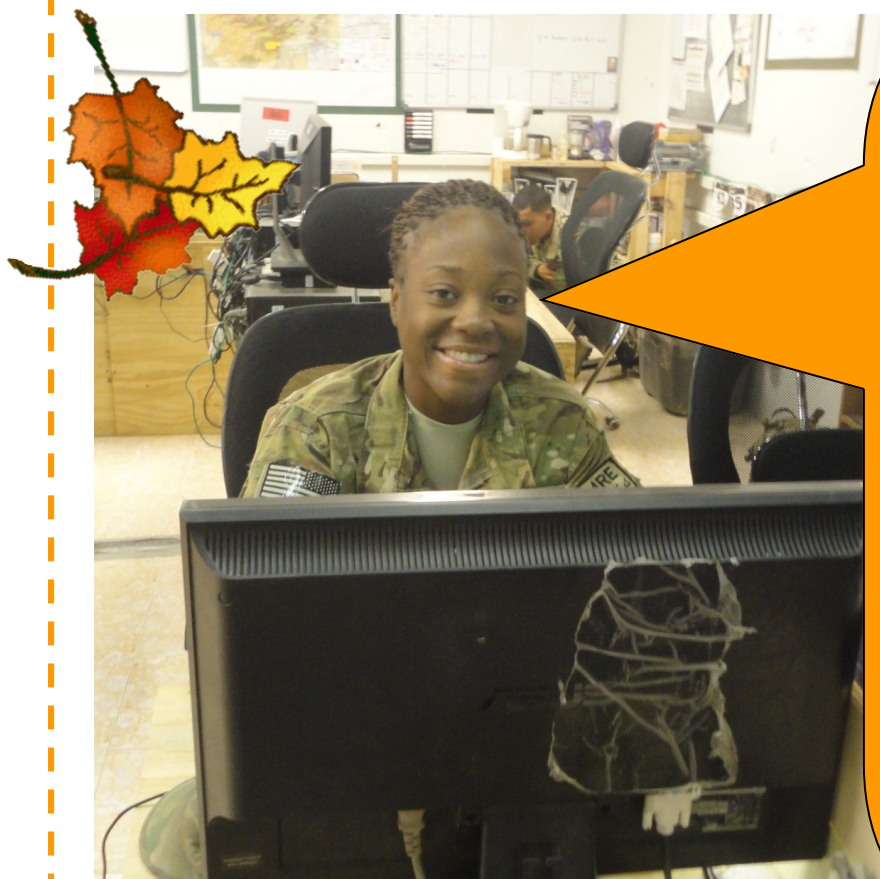
Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion Soldiers of the Bagram Airfield receive the New York National Guard Adjutant General Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy and Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Wicks at the Retrosort Yard .



"It is an honor to serve - we remember all of your sacrifices back home, thank you!" - 1st Lt. Steven Oh is from Antioch, Cali, currently and MCAT Officer-in-charge, working under HHC 427 BSB

BCAT team leader, Lt. Col. Mike Hannon from Saranac Lake, NY says, "Hello friends and family. Miss you all, and will be home soon. Thank you for your support!"





"Deployments are not easy. It's a job that without the assistance and support outside the boundaries of Afghanistan, my sanity would be left behind on the documentation of some military "hospital". With that being said, I would like to place my family on a pedestal: Sean Colin (my "BAH"), Dennis Charles (the world's number one father), Anita Charles (a mother who has nearly reached perfection) and my two brothers: Shem and Shan Charles who have been a direct inspiration to my masculine strength and an example of loving refuge. I look forward to the day where I can express such emotions in person! I love you all! Love, an exhausted soldier!", says Sgt. Shemile Colin, the MCAT Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge from Breaux Bridge, LA

HHC18 1SG Blurb (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

Warrant Officer Lopez, has led the 18th CSSB basketball team to the play-offs. HHC's Esprit de Corps has been phenomenal as we are victorious in our Sunday moral game days, stomping and crushing all those who challenge us.

**HEADHUNTER 7 OUT!
HEADHUNTERS ... HEADS
WILL ROLL!
WE FORGE AHEAD!
REST ASSURED-**

**Headhunter 7
-Sgt. 1st Class Charles A. Odom**

Sgt 1st Class Washington, Camp Pratt Retrosort Yard Contracting Representative Officer says, "Miss'n my battle!" to Sgt. 1st Class Lawrence Johnson in Grafenwoehr, Germany, as she enjoys her time with fellow Soldiers and alcohol-free beer at the Oktoberfest celebration in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



The Warhammer Times

The 18th

**Combat Sustainment
Support Battalion**

Website:



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



Facebook:

www.facebook.com/18thCSSB

E-mail:

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.

18th CSSB Public Affairs Team

Public Affairs Officer

henry.chan1@afghan.swa.army.mil

2nd Lt. Henry Chan

Public Affairs Specialist

isaac.adams@afghan.swa.army.mil

Spc. Isaac Adams

HHC 18th CSSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

B 427th BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

HHC 427th BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative

Pfc. Malcolm Madison

1st Lt. Jennifer Speeheart

1st Lt. Ngo Thai Bao