

Outlaw Chronicles

Sappers clear the way!



Volume 2: Issue 01

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Outlaw 6 Sends:



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Outlaws... This issue of the Chronicles comes with the passing of another year. 2012 is out and 2013 is in, and if you're like a lot of people I know... you've probably got yourself a handful of "New Year's resolutions" you've been waiting all year to start. Sometimes, New Year's resolutions are fun... like resolving to complete your SCUBA certification or to save for that Las Vegas getaway or even letting that mustache grow out. Other times, New Year's resolutions are made with good intentions but have a tendency to lead to disappointment... like resolv-

ing to drop 40 pounds or going to the gym seven nights a week. I personally like the idea of making New Year's resolutions, and I do make them. But, I always do so with a bootfull of reality. I must know my limits and my capabilities, and *try* to keep my goals achievable. If I set my sights on something out of reach, such as competing for a fourth time in a WWF cage match, I'll probably end up quickly realizing that another prize belt is too elusive and give up shortly after I start. However, the goal to compete, once again, for the Mr. Atlas title (something actu-

ally achievable) might just be the ticket to staying with my New Year's resolution. So, set goals that make you work hard and a better person. But, make sure they are realistic and achievable. Good luck and thank you for everything you do for our Nation... HELL YEAH!

— LTC Jack Ritter



Task Force Outlaw



XO Foxhole

“As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”

Well, despite the circumstances, I had a great holiday. Since I couldn't spend it with family, at least I got to spend it with friends. Of course, Christmas or not, there is always work to do, so we had a meeting and brief Christmas morning. Right after the brief, we went into a Command and Staff Christmas Party. We did a gift exchange, “Dirty Santa” style and had lots of snacks sent from home. Thanks all! The range of gifts was as diverse as my wife's shoe collection. I always love the creativity of our soldiers. I haven't laughed that hard since we got to Afghanistan. I appreciate the sense of humor that our folks have and the willingness to take a joke, even though it seems I am the subject of a lot of them.

With the coming of a new year, it means that we are half way through the deployment and on the other side of the hill. We look forward

to coming home, but still have a lot of work to do here. We have a lot of soldiers dependent on us to support them and keep the mission going. No doubt we will finish strong and go full steam all the way to the end. We will be working redeployment plans soon and will keep everyone back in Oklahoma informed of when we anticipate the Welcome Home Ceremony.

Oh, did I mention that I am turning 40 years old over here. Haha, I got one over on everyone back home. I don't have to put up with all of the harassment, jokes and stuff that come with cresting the hill of life. It is hard enough that I am getting grey hair on my forearms and on the corners of my BAM. Don't you go calling me old though. I am on the LTC Ritter Workout Plan. I am still not sure how healthy working out 7 days a week is on my body. You would think it would be a good thing, but trying to keep up with LTC Ritter is hard



work. My knees hurt, my joints ache and ... well enough about me.

We look forward a new year and completing our mission successfully. Please keep all of our soldiers and their families in your prayers until everyone of them returns home.

And that is how I see it from my perspective.

— MAJ Brian DeShazo
XO, 120th EN BN



Humor in Uniform: 4 Creative Ways to Get Hired

How do you get hiring managers to hire you? Don't pull these actual, creepily creative stunts:

1) Applicant put up posters of himself in the company parking lot.

2) Applicant announced his candidacy with a singing telegram.

3) Applicant rented a billboard, which the hiring manager could see from his office, listing his qualifications.

4) Applicant delivered prepaid Chinese food, including a fortune cookie with his name and phone number.

Soldier Spotlight: SGT Miguel Navedo, 584th Engineer Company

- Home: Holyoke, MA
- Years in Service: 10 years
- Married? Yes
- Kids? No
- Why joined? I was a senior in high school when the attack on September 11th 2001 happened. That was the day I decided that I wanted to serve my country.
- Deployment Job: 584th LNO
- What are your thoughts on the deployment: This deployment has had a lot of challenges for everyone, but I am thankful that we have been able to get the job done, continue to look out for each other, and accomplish the mission. We will be able to redeploy home to our loved ones with another successful deployment.
- Something this deployment has taught you, or that you are proud of: Keep your friends close, but your enemies closer. Proud of being able to support our soldiers regardless of the challenges presented.
- How does this deployment compare to others? In OIF 1, I was a PFC and in 2010, I was a battle NCO and S-2. On this deployment, being an LNO has afforded me the ability to interact with FSR's and others that allow me to support my company making the lives of our soldiers easier.
- Dogs or cats? Dogs... One dog, a female boxer named Hella
- Favorite food: Mom's home cooking!
- Favorite Sports team: New England Patriots, Boston Celtics, and Boston Red Sox
- Vehicle you own: 2010 Dodge Charger SXT
- College? Ashworth College, criminal justice major
- Plans when you go back home: ETS and look forward to a contracting job where I can continue to support the military while also continuing service in the National Guard.



Soldier Spotlight: SPC Jacob Lomoro, 1433rd Engineer Company

- Home: Bridgeman, MI
- Years in Service: 6 years
- Married? Yes
- Kids? Yes 3 month old boy
- Why joined? To do something greater than myself. Both brothers are Marines, and service is part of the family now.
- Deployment Job: Husky driver
- What are your thoughts on the deployment: We are very fortunate to be in the area we are. Relatively low number of significant actions means we can focus more on improving areas.
- Something this deployment has taught you, or that you are proud of: I have been very proud of my ability to focus during catastrophic events. Also have had four confirmed finds and zero dets so far.
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my first deployment
- Dogs or cats? Definitely dogs
- Favorite food: Beer and pizza
- Favorite Sports team: Don't really follow sports
- Civilian career: AT&T sales
- Vehicle you own: Ford Truck
- College? Grand Valley State University, Business major; University of Michigan
- Plans when you go back home: See and spend time with my son – spend time being a father.



Medical Corner: Afghanistan Snakes



This viper was found and killed by FSC in the motor pool last month. If your battle is bitten by this snake immobilize him and the body

part bitten in a neutral position. Avoid manipulation of the bitten area. Transfer to Role 3. Do not give soldier alcohol or stimulants. Do not apply ice or a tourniquet. Do not try to suck out the poison!! Do not cut open the bites, you are not a surgeon! Role 3 does have a small amount of anti-venom, but it takes 4-6 vials of anti-venom at first then every 6 hours up to 18 hours 2 more vials are given. So Role 3 can only treat maybe a couple of people. So the take home message is if you see Mr. Viper leave him alone!!

Vipera aspis

Activity and Behavior

This viper is diurnal in cooler months, nocturnal in hot summer months. Tolerates very cold weather; observed to move about in temperatures as low as 5 degrees C. Usually sluggish & not aggressive. When approached, generally will stop & freeze. Will bite if threatened. Oviparous w/ 2-9 young/ litter reported; eats available lizards, small mammal & birds.

Venom Characteristics

Their venom is moderately potent hemotoxin. Symptoms may include pain, swelling & discoloration, necrosis, vomiting, weakened pulse, subnormal body temperatures. Later symptoms may include jaundice, renal impairment, & liver damage leading to death.



The three headed and five headed snakes both drank out of the poo-pond and grew multiple heads. So, do not drink out of the poo-pond, or you too will have three or five heads! After taking multiple pictures of you, you will then be left here in Afghanistan. It is possible that you may be able to join the circus and live a full life!



— SPC Osterloh
AKA: Medic of the Year

Outlaw Sudoku

3			2	4			6	
	4						5	3
1	8	9	6	3	5	4		
				8		2		
		7	4	9	6	8		1
8	9	3	1	5		6		4
		1	9	2		5		
2			3			7	4	
9	6		5			3		2

Guess the B.A.M.!

See if you can properly Identify the owner of this Task Force Outlaw Engineer's B.A.M.!!!



Leadership Corner

"The truth of the matter is that you always know the right thing to do. The hard part is doing it."

—General Norman Schwarzkopf



KNAPP'S NUGGETS

"For the cost of living is entirely too much, But the price of life is never enough... Make your life worth millions!"

~SGT. Knapp

Hey Everyone!

If you want to see more photos and awesome events and happenings, check out the Task Force Outlaw Facebook Page!!!

www.facebook.com/TaskForceOutlaw

Soldier Spotlight: 1433rd Engineer Co.



SFC Barry O'Callaghan

- Home: Ithica, MI
- Years in Service: 22
- Married? Yes
- Kids? 2, a boy and a girl
- Why joined? To serve the country and family tradition (father was in the Air Force); and to pay for college as well.
- Deployment Job: ANA training and leadership development, ANA liaison NCOIC
- What are your thoughts on the deployment: The thing I enjoy is the improvement of ANA Since my last time working with them 2 years ago.
- Something this deployment has taught you, or that you are proud of: I'm very proud of how the Soldiers of our unit have come together to work as a team.
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my fifth deployment – not too many things seem to come as a surprise now
- Dogs or cats? Dogs... or either – no real preference
- Favorite food: Spaghetti
- Favorite Sports team: Denver Broncos
- Civilian career: Financial planner
- Vehicle you own: Dodge Charger
- College? University of Colorado, Boulder – International Business and Geography
- Plans when you go back home: Take three months with my son to hike the Appalachian Trail.



Soldier Spotlight: 1138th Engineer Company

SSG Gary Lewis

- Home: Chaffee, MO
- Years in Service: 16; 8-active duty Marine Corps, and an 8-year break.
- Married? Yes.
- Kids? 5; ages 20, 18, 13, 11 and 11
- Why joined? Always wanted to be a Marine... Got back in because I missed the camaraderie.
- Deployment Job: Motor Sergeant
- What are your thoughts on the deployment:
Very busy, especially in the beginning getting the motor pool set up. Mantec FSR here is much better than expected though.
- Something this deployment has taught you, or that you are proud of:
Learned a lot about flexibility and adapting to changing environment here.
- How does this deployment compare to others? They're all different. The living conditions are much better here.
Communications here work much better as well.
- Dogs or cats? Dogs! Wife works for a Veterinarian clinic and we have 10 dogs.
- Favorite food: Lasagna
- Civilian career: Technician mechanic for FMS shop
- Vehicle you own: Ford Expedition
- College? University of Wisconsin
- Plans when you go back home: Family time with wife and kids.



Touchdown Pioneers!!!

On December 15th 2012, the FOB MWR Team hosted their 1st annual Flag Football Championship. With a nice gravel road for a field and the stench of ANA grey water seeping under the adjacent T-walls, the stage was set for some sloppy football. Cobbled together from HQ personnel and line platoon Soldiers not on patrol, the 693rd team took the field just happy that the infantry remembered to tell them there was a football tournament. They were led at quarterback by the company's supply sergeant, SSG Michael Pules. Re-marked SSG Pules, "Even a mediocre player from West Texas looks like Heisman material against chumps from the other 49 states. I was glad I had a chance to demonstrate that here in Afghanistan."

The 693rd's team was put together at the last minute to answer a challenge laid down by the 4th Battalion – 23rd Infantry Regiment earlier that morning. The Tomahawks fielded four quality teams and no doubt believed that they had hustled the Sappers into games that the engineers were sure to lose. "They definitely looked at us like we were underdogs," stated SGT Mark Burch in reference to the 4-23 Officer's team, "They had all sorts of stupid plays written on wrist bands and ran around doing a bunch of collegiate looking calisthenics before the game. I guess they learned that crap at West Point or something."

At 0945, the first game of the three-round tournament kicked off with the 693rd playing against the FOB EOD team. While the 693rd and EOD have a close working relationship on the field, flag football is a different story. When asked about this, SFC Stuart Walker replied, "I told my guys to be careful with EOD techs. They're kind of fragile and we'll

In one particularly tense moment, SPC Blake "Pantene" Bondie hammered the 4-23 battalion XO into a T-wall while attempting an interception. "I guess when you sit behind a desk all day, you aren't quite ready to take a hit like the one I laid on him," said SPC Bondie, "I felt bad for a second, but then I thought about the fact he makes almost four times as much

money as me and then I felt better." In the end, the 693rd Sappers would win by a score of 7 – 6 over the 4-23 IN staff officers.

As the sidelines swelled with throngs of excited ANSF and CF fans (about 5 people in total), it was clear that the championship game had arrived. This hallowed game featured Tomahawk's A-Team (the BDOC Staff) against the Sappers.

While the Tomahawk team tried to look ready, it was clear their earlier swagger was gone, especially after the Pioneers scored four unanswered touchdowns to go up 4 - 0. The BDOC team pulled within one in the second half, however, keeping the game interesting. The Pioneers held out, though, and ended the game with a quarterback sack, final score 5 – 4 winning a Sony Playstation Move Kit for each Soldier. "I was hoping for something a little more useful," said PFC Scott Hyland, "but I guess a blowup doll was out of the question."

By PFC Brett Mack



need them in the future, so we don't want break any of them. Of course, there was no way we were going to let them win." The Sappers outscored EOD 5-4.

After the first game, the 693rd team took a break to conduct command maintenance. They returned in the early afternoon to face a team of officers from 4-23 IN's battalion staff. The game was intense throughout with 693rd leading at the half, but having to mount a comeback to tie the game in the second half and send it into overtime. Two more overtimes followed, with both teams hitting each other into the T-walls.

OPSEC for Christmas Operations 1433rd



It appears that not only the military has issues with Operational Security (OPSEC). This Joint Task Force Operations order was recently found unsecured on a nearby FOB. Fortunately, it was outdated, and the operation was already complete!

Army Christmas Operations Order 00-5689:

Subject: Christmas

1. An official visit by MG Santa (NMI) Claus is expected at this headquarters 25 December 2012. The following instructions will be in effect and govern the activities of all personnel during the visit.

a. Not a creature will stir without official permission. This will include indigenous mice. Special stirring permits for necessary administrative actions will be obtained through the S1. Mice stirring permits will be processed through the S2 for proper clearances and obtained through Veterinary Services, KYDT.

b. Personnel will settle their brains for a long winter nap prior to 2200 hours, 24 December 2012. See SSG Veltkamp for pre-napping medical requirements. See SFC Krasowski for napping demonstration. Uniform for the nap will be: Pajamas, cotton, light, drowsing, with kerchief, general purpose, camouflage; and Cap, camouflage w/ear flaps. Equipment should have been drawn from homestation CIF prior to deployment.

c. Personnel will utilize standard

Kandalay Market sugar plums for visions to dance through their heads. Artificially sweetened plums are authorized for those in the unit weight control program. Specifications for this item will be provided by the servicing dining facility.

d. Stockings, wool, cushion sole, will be hung by the chimney with care. Necessary safety precautions will be taken to avoid fire hazards caused by carelessly hung stockings. LT Duncan, safety officer will submit stocking hanging plans to this headquarters prior to 0800 hours, 24 December 2012, ATTN: CPT Falor, for approval.

e. At the first sign of clatter from the lawn, all troops will spring from their beds to evaluate noise and cause. Immediate action will be taken to tear open the shutters and throw open the window sashes. PMO Plan (1SG Rye), Reference LO No. 3, paragraph 6c, this headquarters, 23 December 2012, will be in effect to facilitate shutter tearing and sash throwing. PLs and PSGs will familiarize all personnel with procedures and are responsible for ensuring that no shutters are torn open nor window sashes thrown open prior to start of official clatter. See 1LT Mitchell for hardcopy.

f. Prior to 2400, 24 December 2012, all personnel will be assigned "Wondering Eye" stations. After shutters are thrown open and sashes are torn, these stations will be manned.

g.

SFC Mallison will assign one each Sleigh, miniature, M-66, and eight (8) deer, rein, tiny, for use of MG Claus' driver who, in accordance with current directives and other applicable regulations, must have a valid SF368 properly annotated by Driver Testing; be authorized rooftop parking and be able to shout "On Dasher, on Dancer, on Prancer and Vixen, up Comet, up Cupid, on Donner and Blitzen".

2. MG Claus will enter quarters through standard chimneys. All platoons without chimneys will draw Chimney Simulator, M-6, for use during ceremonies. Chimney simulator units will be requested through SGT McNeilly on Job Order Request Form submitted to the Furniture Warehouse prior to 19 December 2012, and issued on DA Form 3161, Request for Issue or Turn-in.

3. Personnel will be rehearsed on shouting "Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night." See SSG Brannon for demonstration. This shout will be given on termination of General Claus' visit. Uniformity of shouting is the responsibility of section NCOICs.

/s/
CHRISTOPHER K. RINGLE
Colonel, USA
OIC, Special Services
Distribution:
Everybody Who Still Believes

Command(er) and Conquer

CPT Seth E. Jacobs is the son of Dennis Jacobs and Christine Studebaker. CPT Jacobs' hometown is Highland, Arkansas, but he now resides in Collinsville, Illinois. He has been married to his beautiful wife Karina for six years, and when asked about kids he said "not yet", which I assume will be in the works upon return from deployment. He joined the Arkansas National Guard for two main reasons, "to serve the nation post 9/11 and for the educational benefits to help get through grad school." CPT Jacobs has spent eleven years in the Army, all with the Arkansas Army National Guard. He served four years on the enlisted side as a 12B while attending school at Arkansas State University where he took reserve officer training corps (ROTC) courses. Upon completion of ROTC, he took his commission as an engineer branch officer to continue his desires as an "Essayon" Soldier.



When asked about what the deployment has taught him, CPT Jacobs stated, "A Soldier and unit can never fully prepare for combat. Regardless of whether you have done the same mission ten times before, things will change and challenges will arise that you were not prepared for. Being flexible to these situations, learning from mistakes, and continuously improving upon what you already have experienced are essential to achieving success."

This deployment is the second for CPT Jacobs. His previous deployment was to Baghdad, Iraq in 2006-2007. When inquiring about differences of this deployment and the last, CPT Jacobs recalls the major differences as "terrain is extremely rugged, many more pieces of equipment and enablers, weather has a much greater impact, working with NATO forces are all very different than Iraq, and prove challenging." "...from a commander's perspective it is a very stressful, yet the most rewarding experience that I have ever had."

CPT Jacobs recognized things he can be proud of as the company commander of the 1039th Engineer Company, "it never gets easier to be away from family and friends, but the camaraderie and watching this company grow into a tight-knit unit is something that cannot be experienced anywhere else."

After the deployment, CPT Jacobs plans to spend lots of time with family and friends, then take a vacation to a country that doesn't end with STAN, drive his Mazda CX-7 (which is basically a super-charged Prius), and play several rounds of golf before returning to his financial management position at Scott Air Force Base, Illinois.

— 1LT Aaron T. Dougherty



Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Company

SPC. BLAINE MIDDLECOFF

- Home: Hoxie, AR.
- Years in Service: 2
- Married: NO
- Parents: Mary Harp and Carry Middlecoff
- 1st thoughts when hearing about Deployment: I was very nervous, wasn't too sure if I really wanted to go, but I had a couple of friends talk me into it.
- Something you have learned on this Deployment: Local nationals are as bad as I first perceived them to be. Didn't expect all the rocks, I had imagined it would be sand.
- Favorite Food: Chinese Food
- Sports Team: St. Louis Cardinals
- Hobbies: Play sports, Xbox games and just going out and hanging with my friends.
- Plans when you go back home: Reenroll in College, hopefully make the ASU football Team and get a good job
- What were your thoughts on your first mission outside the wire? Long and tiring, it was a new experience to me.
- Final Thoughts: Don't get complacent; keep your situational awareness up. Don't make stupid mistakes. Do as you are told and all will be good.



Chaplain's Corner: Relationships

As one year ends and another begins, it's a good time to reflect on what went well and what you'd like to improve. We are getting closer to getting home and it is time to start thinking about reintegration. That's where relationship resolutions come in. Relationships rarely thrive without some effort from both partners. Here are some resolutions to help your relationship flourish in 2013.

1. Put your relationship first.

Always place each other first not second.

2. Set tech-free zones.

Pay more attention to one another instead of checking your phone every 5 minutes. Give your partner the attention they deserve.

3. Work on your communication.

Try to listen attentively. Reiterate what you think they are saying so perception doesn't get in the way.

4. Be more affectionate.

Give more hugs and kisses. Speak more words that show affection.

5. Play together.

Instead of watching TV all the time do activities together.

6. Praise each other.

Speak words of affirmation into each other's lives.

7. Be kind.

Treat each other like you would want to be treated. It is called Respect.

8. Share your feelings – not your thoughts.

Say what you feel not what you are thinking. For example say, "I feel bad when you say this to me." Instead of "You're a jerk."

—Chaplain (CPT) Matthew S. Brown



NCO of the Quarter: SGT Jaymor Paul

Sgt. Jaymor Paul is the A Team Leader for 3rd Squad, 2nd Platoon of the 23rd Engineer Company currently deployed in Regional Command South, Afghanistan. His actions are being recognized and he has been designated as the “Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter” for Task Force Outlaw.

“...Sgt. Paul is an invaluable member of RCP 20. His sound judgment, technical and tactical proficiency, and mental toughness led to his selection as lead vehicle commander. Sgt. Paul has been RCP 20’s ‘Tip of the Spear’ for over 30 missions since 1 OCT 2012. During this period he was directly responsible for the successful clearance of 1500 kms of contested MSRs and ASRs and the successful rendering safe of two IEDs. On 4 NOV 2012, Sgt. Paul utilized his outstanding knowledge and ability to execute Engineer tasks to safely fire two Mine Clearing Line Charges (MICLICs) and successfully conduct proper misfire procedures to provide valuable clearance support of 4-23 IN BN’s operation ‘Break the Chain.’ Sgt. Paul’s dedication to the mission and platoon undoubtedly had extensive influence on the overwhelming success for 2nd Platoon, 23rd Engineer Company (Airborne).

Sgt. Paul is often sought by seniors and peers to share knowledge he obtained at various schools he has attended. During the 23rd EN CO’s Super Sapper Competition on 30 OCT 2012, Sgt. Paul led by example, placing 1st among all other NCOs in the company. His mentoring was responsible for one of his Sappers placing 1st among all other junior enlisted Soldiers and another placing 3rd.

Sgt. Paul sets an impressive physical example for all Soldiers to follow. On 30 OCT 2012 he scored 338 points on the APFT extended scale, maintaining the Physical Fitness Badge of Excellence.”



Soldier of the Quarter: SPC Shuan Linville

Spc. Shuan Linville has proven himself to be invaluable to the mission-essential, as well as the day-to-day operations of the 120th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Outlaw. His dedication and “Can Do” attitude have earned him the title of Task Force Outlaw’s “Soldier of the Quarter.”

“Spc. Linville is a major asset to Battalion network operations. During the Combined Training Exercise at Camp McGregor, Spc. Linville worked with the civilian contractor for CPOF, the network Switches, the 75th trainers, and the 5th Army Division to assist in the set up of the TOC/CPOF operations. Spc. Linville received written commendations from the Civilian CPOF contractor and the 75th S-6 shop to receive “Soldier of the Battlefield” certificate.

Spc. Linville also worked diligently with FSC, 120th EN BN and the 1138th EN CO to ensure they also had their CPOF and Ventrilo systems up and running. Spc. Linville’s dedication to the training mission and the success of the 120th EN BN and the 5th Army Communication, allowed multiple forms of communication within the training environment.

Spc. Linville has completed his Information Assurance Systems Operations, Information Management Officer training and has received an IMO account, to be able to conduct network administrative tasks needed to assist in the completion and the modification of network accounts that are required for the operation of the Battalion’s business. He has also attended the Comsec handler course to enable him to handle secret equipment and load sets for the Secure Key Loaders needed for tactical communication of radio and Blue Force Tracker.

Spc. Linville has displayed a great attitude towards the tasks set before him. He has spent countless hours updating and installing network systems throughout the Battalion. Spc. Linville has a strong desire for the success of the S-6 shop and the 120th EN BN. He has also been instrumental in the training of two other individuals in the S-6 shop for network operations and accounts.”



Not so Lost in Translation

As the 120th Engineer Battalion moves forward through their tour in Afghanistan, some often overlooked assets come to light. One of such assets is the interpreter.

The 120th En Bn. uses interpreters in many different aspects. The battalion itself uses an interpreter, as well as with each down-trace unit. Each down-trace unit receives one interpreter per route clearance package (RCP) and one in reserve. All of the interpreters come from Mission Essential Personnel (MEP) and are processed through each unit's Liaison Officer (LNO) and then transported to each unit individually.

There are three types of interpreters: local national linguists (LNL), category 2, and category 3. The LNL is someone who is indigenous to the area and has an understanding of the local population, customs, and surroundings. The category 2 linguist is a non-naturalized American citizen and possesses a security clearance. The category 3 interpreter is a naturalized American citizen and also holds a security clearance, he is also trained as a professional linguist.

The 23rd Engineer Company (Sapper), in particular, uses their interpreters to interact with the local population to accomplish their mission. 1st Lt. Jacobs explains that the 23rd's mission is not so much to interact with the public. He said that their interpreter takes on a slightly different task. Jacobs said, "Depending on our mission set, we may or may not use the interpreter a lot. There are days when we'll use him two or three times in one mission then again we might go a whole week without using him at all."

When asked about what the interpreter does on route clearance mis-

sions, Jacobs said, "I find the fact that my interpreter grew up locally to be very useful. I don't know how many others take advantage of something like this, but I use my interpreter to point out things that seem out of place. I'll ask him about certain gatherings of people or why things that may seem strange to me are happening and he'll provide me with information."

Jacobs explained the benefits of also having his interpreter ride along in the same truck as him during operations. Other units have also developed relationships like the one the 23rd has established with their interpreter in order to accomplish similar tasks.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Wesley Gautreaux utilizes his interpreter to brief Afghan National Army Soldiers before a route clearance mission in the Uruzgan Province

Most of the interpreters that are used at each down-trace unit, or with each RCP, are LNLs and are familiar with the local regions. This is helpful when establishing relationships with the local populations, because they have some common ground. Developing and maintaining good relationships with our interpreters is just one more way that Task Force Outlaw accomplishes it's vital mission in RC South, Afghanistan.

— Spc. J. Alex Klein



LT SAYS...

"Don't watch others pass through your doors, seize your opportunities."

**-1Lt. Dougherty
~Sapper~**

**Reminder:
To vote in Federal
and local elections
while deployed, use
the voting assistant
guide at**

WWW.FVAP.gov

**or find more
information at**

**[www.facebook.com/
ArmyVoting](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyVoting)**

23rd Engineers Christmas



On the 22nd of December the entire 23rd Engineer Company consolidated at Forward Operating Base (FOB) for an Organizational Day. It was a day with no route clearance missions and no details around the FOB. The Organizational Day gave the Soldiers a fantastic opportunity to allow their minds to focus on something other than missions, and to accomplish some company level training.

The day was started with a brisk company run around the FOB as the sun rose. The engineer cadences and raucous cheering was enough to wake even the

most sound sleeping infantry man. After breakfast, the platoon's taught safety classes; and creatively captured the attention of their audience as they demonstrated the proper wear of the ECWCS on a fashion model runway. Then the company split up and conducted a round robin classes focused on proper weapon clearing procedures. At each



station the Soldiers were tested and validated on their knowledge of that specific weapon system. Afterwards, the mechanics gave a class on how to safely and properly utilize a vehicle wench, and how to load and unload a M916 Trailer for vehicle recovery.

After all the training in the morning, it was time for some fun! The Soldiers teamed up for flag football and volleyball competitions. And after everyone was thoroughly exhausted from the fun, the day concluded with a BBQ. 1SG Nordlof manned the grill, and was assisted by SFC Wieczorek and SSG McNary. The company filled up on delicious steaks, ribs, and burgers, and no one went away hungry. The day was a great success. It accomplished training objectives in a fun and entertaining way, and allowed everyone to blow off steam through sports and relaxing around a meal. We are more ready than ever to continue our mission and keep the roads clear of IEDS. From everyone here at the 23rd Engineer Company, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

— 2nd Lt. Alexander Blake

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



1433rd:

Spc. Nathaniel Racine 01/03
Spc. Joseph Clement 01/06
Sfc. Michael Krasowski 01/08
Ssg. John Jurecic 01/10
Spc. Jonah Latimer 01/13
Spc. John Downing 01/14
Pfc. Josiah Sherron 01/14

120th HHC:

Ssg. Xuan Bohlman 01/02
Maj. Brian Deshazo 01/04
Spc. Bryan Kruse 01/12
Cpt. David Goetzinger 01/13
Ssg. Manuel Castillo 01/13

120th FSC:

Sfc. Michael Dunson, Sr. 01/02
Pfc. Cale Forester 01/10
Ssg. Clinton Reimer 01/10
Spc. Christopher Leflore 10/14
Spc. Keyle Besse 01/14

1138th:

Pfc. Rusty Fisk 01/07
Sgt. Jonathan Bollinger 01/10
Spc. Michael Oberkramer 01/14

584th:

Sgt. Michael Hopkins 01/12

1039th:

1Lt. Michael Lyons 01/01
Spc. Quintin Falls 01/05
Spc. Randy Davis 01/10

23rd:

Pfc. Wesley Wallace 01/01
Pv2. Marcus Munce 01/01
Pv2. Daniel Wright 01/12

693rd:

Sgt. Christopher Martin 01/15

Words From the TOP:

It wasn't until I became a first sergeant that I realized how vital the union of [the company commander and the 1SG] is in forming a strong company command team and setting the command's climate.... There has to be a bond between these two leaders before they can form their team. That bond building can be done by working on five elements: relationship, responsibilities, loyalty, duty, and goals.

-Relationship- The commander and first sergeant relationship has to be one of mutual understanding and respect. They must share experiences and ideas both good and bad. They must take each other into consideration and give honest responses. Openness leads to proper sharing between the team. Friendship is also important. Not "buddy buddy," but one of personal concern for each other and their families....

-Responsibilities- These are well defined in AR 600-20. The commander is responsible for everything and the first sergeant implements. Share tasks. Do it in any manner that is comfortable for both leaders....

-Loyalty- This is the element that bonds the team. Loyalty to and from each other must run deep....

-Duty- This is professionalism at its best.... Both the company commander and first sergeant must be truly professional and set high standards....

-Goals- Short term goals must be established early along with the long term goals. These goals could last into the next change of command. But setting these goals does pay off....

A command team forms if a commander and first sergeant work out the five elements discussed. That team has a sense of direction and duty built on mutual trust and will assist each other in accomplishing their mission.... The team attitude will allow you both to lead your company and successfully take care of your soldiers and lead them where you want them to go. From -1SG Grover L. Watters
— 1SG Kevin Scott Lasiter, FSC 120th EN BN





What's in a Name?

To be considered an Outlaw is a prestigious and coveted title. In fact there are many soldiers out there that wish they could count themselves among us. Our reputation spreads far and wide, and is whispered with fear on the lips of our enemies. Many Soldiers wish to be us, but only a limited few can actually do so.

Even our infamous logo has shown up emblazoned on vehicles, T-Walls and even as tattoos, at great distances around the world.

Recently, a Soldier was spotted who is doing his best to uphold the Outlaw name. In fact, his actual name is Out-law! Now I am not saying he purposefully changed his name to be like us, I'll leave that leap of imagination up to you. I asked if he would like to get a copy of the Out-law Chronicles, and he of course said yes! Upon obtaining his email address, I discovered that his email moniker and longtime nickname is "Warlord." At this, I almost decided to petition the Commander to have him

made an "honorary" Outlaw... But finally decided, while noteworthy, this was still circumstantial. Only by taking positive action and effort to grow out his mustache would I put in a good word for him. His distinct lack of a BAM shows that his Outlaw support still has limits. There is still hope if he changes his mind. His current assignment may be with the 235th Aviation out of Hawaii, but I think we know where he would rather be. To all the others out there who still aspire to become Outlaws, take heart. Through hard work and determination, you could train to be in the next generation of Outlaws. If you prove worthy, you might not have to change your name, to call yourself one of us.

— Cpt. Paul Wyckoff



Winning!

After ten weeks of diligent support and monetary donations to the Kandahar Koughers Cigar Club, 1LT Lageman is finally a winner! A Casa Magna baseball cap is hopefully just the beginning of future prizes to be won!

...The Last Word: The Choices We Make



It seems a lot of people think we are a product of our environment. Do you agree with that statement? It seems to suggest that we have no choice or responsibility in what happens to us or how we react to certain situations.

By taking responsibility by the choices we make we will become empowered. It is a philosophy that can give us freedom, unlock our potential, and put us in a better position to control of our lives.

I will agree that bad things and unfavorable situations can and will come our way but we still have a choice in how we will react to those things. Your choices will affect the quality of your life and your success. You can be surrounded with negative people, thoughts, and a bad environment (gangs, drugs, alcohol, stealing, poverty etc.) but you can make a decision to avoid them and put yourself in control of your future.

The harder a person works, the more successful he will be. Hard work and success applies to all areas of a person's life: academics, athletics, economics, finances, marriage and relationships, etc. There are many things that can affect success but I believe the most important is hard work and determination, which is a choice that you can make.

Many would rather take the easy road, the road of irresponsibility. They will blame their environment or upbringing on their failures, their lack of success, and their substandard living. They have chosen the path of least resistance, the path that presents the least challenge. This is often the path of easy money through crime, escape through the use of drugs and alcohol, and sometimes suicide. They often just give up.

Negative things, adversity, and tough times can make you stronger and more resolute and help make the next challenge easier to overcome.

So set some long and short range goals, take responsibility of your life, learn from others and the choices they have made both good and bad, and refuse to use the excuse that you are a product of your environment. Become empowered by taking responsibility and control of your life through your choices.

— CSM Richard Raby





COMING SOON!!!

**MORE EXCITING
NEWS AND
EVENTS!!!**



Safety First, and then Teamwork:

We look around our offices and view screensavers and posters that remind of being careful not speak about sensitive issues in an unsecured manner. Violating this principle can compromise the safety and security of our fellow service members. We should also remind ourselves to be equally careful with written material. Always be mindful of what you write down and where you place it. For example: how many of us have taken notes or written down material for educational purposes within a simple notebook or on a piece of paper that we then quickly shove into our pocket for later use that day? Seeing that no human being is perfect, it may only be a matter of time before it's forgotten. How easy then would it be for such material to then end up in the hands of the wrong person working in a laundry facility? Make sure that all sensitive information is kept in a secure location or is placed in one of the designated burn boxes when no longer needed. Doing so removes the chance for opportunists of unsavory character to sell or pass along information for which the enemy could then use against us. Soldier safety includes cleaning out your pockets. Thank you.

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER???
DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD???
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN A LATER ISSUE???
IF SO, CONTACT US THROUGH YOUR COMPANY 1SG!!!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

