

Outlaw Chronicles

Sappers clear the way!



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Outlaw 6 Sends:



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Outlaws.... I just wanted to take an opportunity to remind everyone (not that I need to, but because I want to) that even though we are here, miles away there are folks back home taking care of business. Our family, friends, coworkers, and employers are "keeping on" keeping on. On the occasions I get to talk to my wife, I'm reminded that the world didn't stop back there just because I'm over here. Bills need paid, the roof needs fixin' and the grass needs mowed. I'm pretty certain I don't thank my wife, or anyone else for that mat-

ter, enough for maintaining the home-front while we're here at the war-front. I've said it a number of times but I think it deserves repeating. All we have to worry about is staying alive and getting back home (in the simplest of terms that is), while our families have to worry about keeping home together. I'm certain that's no easy task. It's a challenging task when I'm there, so I know it's even more so when I'm not. So, I'd ask everyone to remember the struggles our families, friends, coworkers and employers endure as we endure ours. Everywhere

I turn I'm reminded of their gratitude. I'd simply ask that we make an effort to show them ours. You are the best of the best, and I suggest that they are the best of the best as well. I'm proud to serve with each of you! Keep on, keeping on!.....Hell Yeah!

— LTC Jack Ritter



Task Force Outlaw



XO Foxhole

“As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”



The Army Engineer Branch has a storied history. There are many traditions and historical ties of other military branches and honors. You go to any major military post, at home or abroad, where there is an Engineer unit and you will find an Engineer flag flying.

In General Orders No. 13, 23 November 1887, by authority of the Secretary of War, officers of the Corps of Engineers were authorized to carry on boats belonging to the engineer works under their charge, a square scarlet flag, with a white castle in the center. These flags corresponded to those of the battalions of the engineers. These flags distinctly identified engineer units that were conducting engineering operations and missions. In my research, I could not find another authorization for any other Army branch to be authorized their



own regimental branch flag.

If you have attended any major military ceremonies with a general officer in attendance, then you probably noticed posted next to the American flag and unit colors is a scarlet colored flag garnished with gold fringe and one, two, three or four stars centered on the flag representing that the respective general officer is in attendance. Have you ever wondered why the flag color is red? The original flags authorized for general officers were boat flags, scarlet in color. They were first authorized in War Department General Orders No. 4 dated 22 August 1903, for use of officers of the Army when making official visits to Navy vessels. The same provisions for boat flags were promulgated in Article XXVIII, paragraph 232 of Regulations for the Army of the United States, 1904, with amendment dated 31 December 1905. These

amendments authorized the use of the general officer flags to be flown on land as well. The tradition of the engineer flag flown on boats while conducting engineering missions carried over to scarlet colored flags for use on ships for general officers and the tradition continued on to current day distinction for all general officers, besides chaplain and medical branch general officers. Stay tuned for part II of the impact of the engineer branch on army lineage and honors.

— MAJ Brian DeShazo
XO, 120th EN BN



Humor in Uniform: Army Medical Care

An army Major visiting the sick soldiers, went to one private and asked, "What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic syphilis, Sir."

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get back to the front, Sir."

"Good man," said the Major.

He went to the next bed,

"What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic piles, Sir."

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get back to the front, Sir."

"Good man," barked the Major.

He moved to the next bed,

"What's your problem, Soldier?"

"Chronic gum disease, Sir"

"What treatment are you getting?"

"Five minutes with the wire brush each day."

"What's your ambition?"

"To get the wire brush before the other two, Sir!"

Soldier Spotlight: 1433rd Engineer Company

SPC Trevor Damron

- Hometown: Marshall, MI
- Years of service: 5 Years
- Married? No
- Kids? 1 three year old girl and 1 on the way
- Family in the service? 2 grandfathers served
- Why did you join? I really wanted the military training. I worked in a rock quarry with explosives, so Engineer was the perfect branch selection.
- Deployment Job: RG driver and DOKING operator
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? Going pretty well... Just a few rough spots. Still getting mail though!
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: It has taught me to stay vigilant – to do your best to be ready for anything. I am also proud of DOKING operations. You have to work fast while everyone waits on you.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
This is my first deployment
- Dogs or cats? Dogs
- Favorite food: Crab legs and Taco Bell
- Civilian job: Construction
- Vehicle you own: Harley Road King
- Plans to do when back home? Look at houses – find a place with land. Get married and spend time with the kids camping.



Medical Corner:

Threat of Leishmaniasis in Country



Leishmaniasis is a parasitic disease caused by the bite of infected sand flies. Sand flies are tiny sand coloured flies that, similar to mosquitoes, feed on the blood of animals and you. The females are the main contenders when it comes to biting their prey; they bite at dusk and dawn, preferring to bite in your tasty calf region. Also, the little buggers are poor fliers so they are mainly active when no wind is present. However, don't think you're safe when it's windy! Sand flies will readily enter your home or tent to catch you when you're sleeping. Neither will mosquito netting protect your hide, for these nasty critters are so small they can squeeze through the holes in your supposed netting.



But not to fear my friends! There are ways to combat this not so tiny threat. To keep them out of your rooms, move to the second floor (sand flies are not fans of heights). While outside, wear approved insect repellent and no matter what the style trends are this season, don't wear the shorts! Sand flies may not be aware of said trends, but they sure do love the sight of your pretty skin.

Leishmaniasis can be divided into four categories:

Cutaneous Leishmaniasis (infects the skin) - most common form that results in open sores on your skin, just look at that perfect circle shown above. Beware! These sores don't always show up right away; sometimes the infection hides under your skin, biding its time, maybe for weeks, just waiting to catch you off guard.

Mucocutaneous Leishmaniasis (infects the nose and mouth) - this one is the sneakiest of them all, waiting 1-3 months before rearing its ugly head! It likes the wet, squishy parts of your nose and mouth; sometimes having the same effect as long-term use of cocaine- eating away your nose.

Diffuse Cutaneous

Leishmaniasis

(also infects the skin) - Giant pimples and leprosy!

And last, but certainly not least, the one that takes the cake (as well as your liver) in our countdown...

VISCERAL LEISHMANIASIS (infects your innards) -

This disgusting infestation, also known as the **Black Disease**, will fester in your guts and lymph nodes. Mainly your liver and spleen. The symptoms of having your insides eaten alive may include fever, weakness, diarrhea, swollen glands, and in some cases (mostly children) swollen bellies.

If you are indeed one of these not-so-lucky people and you contract this disease, there may be hope! You might not die. The treatment to save your life involves injections of a drug called Pentostam, usually one injection daily for 20 days. These shots can be given in your muscle or into your very veins by way of IV fluids. Though this medicine can potentially save your life, the list of side effects is almost as long as the disease itself!

Please consult your doctor before use

If you have any questions about this illness, the peril you may face, or just want to know the grisly details, we have a survivor in our midst. SFC Mahan can answer any and all questions you have. And remember patrons, don't wear the shorts! Or you may end up looking like this...



— SPC Mitchell

Outlaw Sudoku

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



KNAPP'S **NUGGETS**

For Weakness may
be the Death of
you... Unless you
turn that Weakness
into Strength!

~SGT. Knapp

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

"Leadership is a potent combination of
strategy and character.

But if you must be without one, be
without strategy."

—General Norman Schwarzkopf



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/](http://www.facebook.com/TaskForceOutlaw)
TaskForceOutlaw

Soldier Spotlight: 23rd Engineer Company

SGT Alex Tyerman

- Hometown: Palm Springs, CA
- Years of service: 4 Years
- Married? Yes
- Kids? Yes, one.
- Why did you join? It was the right choice for my life at that point in time.
- Deployment Job: Bravo Team Leader/ BIP (Blow in Place)
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? The deployment is going well; I made it past my birthday without being in Germany.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:
The deployment has taught me to let fewer things bother me. I'm proud of my team.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
This deployment has a slower tempo than my last one, there seems to be less activity.
- Dogs or cats? None.
- Favorite food: Here: Pizza
- Vehicle you own: Ford F-150
- Plans for back home? Spend time with my family and enjoy lots of camping trips.



Soldier Spotlight: 29th Engineer Company

1LT Aaron Bodine

- Hometown: Phoenix, Arizona
- Years of service: 4 years Marines Corps/ 2 years Army
- Married? Yes
- Kids? 3yr. old boy (Jackson), 1 due in June
- Parents? Barry Bodine, Rosalinda Baker
- Why did you join? Only job I have found that I enjoy every day.
- Deployment job: 3rd PLT Platoon Leader
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? My main focus is getting my soldiers ready for missions and fully equipped to be successful each and every day.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I am proud of how hard my soldiers have worked and grateful to the 1138th for welcoming us into their family.
- Dogs, or cats? None
- How does this deployment compare to others? 1st deployment as in Iraq, so compared to that one this one is already better, we have internet, phones and rooms here.
- Favorite food? Steak
- Favorite Sports team: Arizona Cardinals
- Civilian career? (if not A.D.) Active duty
- Vehicle you own: 2011 Honda Accord
- College? Northern Arizona University
- Plans to do when back home? Spend more time with family and buy a house.



Improving the Fox-hole

As the time for the 120th Engineer Battalion's tour in Afghanistan winds down, an extremely beneficial project at the Valhalla command compound is in full swing. The Valhalla reconstruction project is coming to fruition with the completion of many of the buildings, the relocation of the battalion's S-6 shop, and the completion of the new "MWR" building or Catlett Cinema 1 (CC1). The Valhalla reconstruction project was originally only a 60-day project, but encountered some difficulties and also experiences quite a few improvements as well.

1st Lieutenant Brian Lageman, the OIC of the project and HHC 120th XO, says that due to recent "green on blue" attacks in other areas, security issues have caused it to become increasingly more difficult to keep up with the security for restrictions for all of the workers. "The project was originally only supposed to be a 60-day project," said Lageman, "But most of the delays came from the military side and security



issues with the base. It's been a fight to keep people badged and working to finish the project." Although there have been significant difficulties, the project is still proceeding at full speed and is approaching completion.

One of the most notable things about this project is the safety aspect and the speed of progress. The buildings have all been made safer through the efforts made by 1st Lt. Lageman as well as others. The buildings have all been reinforced with kevlar boards and steel plate doors, to protect in case of any incidents. They were designed with safety in mind, without sacrificing any level of comfort.

Although the project has taken longer than expected to complete, its success comes at the hands of many people. 1st Lt. Lageman said that the project has taken effort from a lot of people within the battalion. Captain Joe Pace, HHC 120th Commander, said, "I personally appreciate everything the different sections have done to help with guard watches and providing security over the lo-

cal national workers."

The S-6 shop (Communications) has greatly benefited from this reconstruction project. Before the project started, the S-6 was in a small building with many network issues.

The S-6 has recently moved into a new building that came as a result of the project. When asked about the new building and workspace, the S-6 NCOIC, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ruckel said, "The building's awesome! We have bigger cubicles to work out of, and we're working with an all new network that's more reliable, there's plenty of



light and it's safer because of the new blast boards and steel doors." Ruckel also commented on the efficiency of the new building as it pertains to the S-6, saying, "I mean, we do our job no matter what building we're in, but it's definitely a more comfortable and cleaner work environment. It's also cooler which allows our equipment to stay functional.

One of the most notable parts



Improving the Fox-hole (Continued...)

of the entire project is the CC1 building. CC1 or Catlett Cinema 1 is named after HHC 120th's 1st Sgt.: 1st Sgt. Scott Craig Catlett. The entire building, besides the actual structure itself, was physically built and installed by Cpt. Pace and 1st Lt. Lageman. "A lot of the lumber came from tearing up the old decks. We just recycled," said Lageman. Friends, family, and supporters from all over the U.S. donated different items such as a full surround sound system, dart board, poker table, and bench cushions for the theater style benches to complete the compound's theater. According to Pace, "the stadium seating and benches only took about three to four days of hard work." The theater also houses a server for everyone to upload and share their digital copies of movies.



The entire project was designed to benefit both the local Afghans and well as the Troops. There was an opportunity to build something that the 120th could call their own that would not only serve the 120th Engineer Battalion, but also every other unit that comes through

and uses the compound. The other side of the project is the benefit to the local economy. "We're providing these workers an opportunity to work on a more involved project and giving them an opportunity to work in better than 'third-world' work conditions. It puts money into the Afghan economy and allows the Afghan

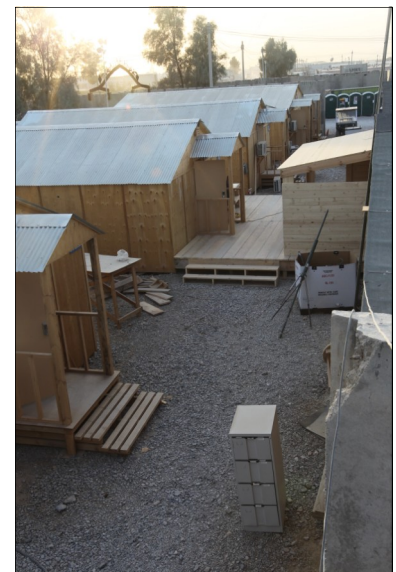


contractors to see what right looks like," said Lageman. Cpt. Pace also stated that although the training and exposure the local contractors are receiving is great, without the aggressive action and amount of effort put in by 1st Lt. Lageman, the project wouldn't have been accomplished or it would be still be in its infant stages.

"We've had a plan for this since we came out here with the PDSS, and once we got the project approved and received a notice to proceed, we finalized all the construction plans," said Pace. 1st Lt. Lageman said, "I think this is showcasing our abilities as a National Guard Engineer Battalion; helping get these [contractors] up to standard and taking all the respon-



sibility for the project. We get to use skills we've obtained to get it done right without all of the bureaucracy." There are many different aspects to the project including two renovated gym buildings with all new equipment, as well as another building to house pool and poker tables. The estimated completion time for the rest of the project is one and a half weeks. Pace said, "Just like the Colonel says, 'Always improve your Fox-hole.'"



— Spc. J. Alex Klein

Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Company

SFC Joe Shelby

- Hometown: Bono, Arkansas
- Years in Service: 26
- Married: No
- Parents: Joe and Ida Shelby
- 1st thoughts when hearing about Deployment: Here we go again
- Something you have learned on this Deployment: Patience. The equipment is totally different that what I had to use last time in Iraq.
- Favorite Food: Chinese
- Sports Team: Arkansas State: ASU Red Wolves
- Hobbies: Photography and body building
- Plans when you go back home: Hopefully I will still have a job at Blue Scope North America
- What were your thoughts on your first mission outside the wire? These people in Afghanistan really need our help. It is like stepping back in time.
- Final Words: Get as much of the pre training that you can get. Get all your soldiers trained on all the equipment before you ever hit the ground. Try to get as many soldiers as possible through R2C2 training back in the states.



Chaplain's Corner:

As we have come into the new year I would like for us to think about what we are going to do when we get back home. For some of us we already know and for others the unknown is weighing heavily on their hearts and minds. For those of you who are uncertain please start planning ahead and communicating with others to develop a plan. We have several people in our battalion that are more than happy to help you out. You just have to ask. When you develop a plan please make sure that it is a plan that can be accomplished. Too often we plan something that does not seem feasible and cause ourselves undue stress. Also, plan an activity with your family or friends when you get back. Studies have shown that people that have plans are less likely to be depressed or have problems. Remember you can set things in motion.

—Chaplain (CPT) Matthew S. Brown



584th Promotions and Awards



The 584th MAC conducted three ceremonies on 01, 03 and 04 January 2013 to recognize deserving Soldiers for their achievements. A total of 10 Soldiers in the company were promoted highlighted by SSG Jose De Los Santos and SSG Jordy Anthony pinning on Sergeant First Class. Brigadier General Weeks, JTF Empire CDR, stopped at FOB Walton to conduct the promotions. He also presented the



three Soldiers Combat Action Badges and three Purple Hearts for wounds suffered in combat. On 03 January 2013, SPC Kudla was awarded his CAB making the company eligible for the Combat Action Streamer. The Steel de Fleury Medal was presented to SSG Suarez and CPL Adame for their outstanding contributions to the engineer regiment. The first ceremony conducted on 01 January recognized 15 deserving Soldiers by presenting Driver's Badges on behalf of LTC Ritter for their outstanding effort to operate their vehicles safely in Kandahar protecting both the local nationals and Task Force OUTLAW'S reputation. The company also recognized the Soldiers who earned the rank of specialist by promoting them.

— Cpt. Joseph Frederick
Commander, 584 MAC

Soldier Spotlight: 584th Mobility Augmentation Company

SGT Andrew Skipper

- Hometown: Monroe, Georgia
- Years of service: 9 years
- Married to Leah Skipper for 5 years
- 2 Kids: one girl: Isabella and one boy Wyatt (9mos. old)
- Mother: Teri Skipper
- Why did you join? I joined to get out of Monroe. I was bored and ready to leave that town; joining the Army seemed like the easiest way out. It's kinda funny because I'm moving right back out to Monroe after I ETS.
- Deployment Job: Recovery NCOIC for Maintenance.
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? It's good that we're coming out here to make a difference. But it's moving slowly, I just ready to go home now.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:
If you want something, you have to go get it; no one's gonna do it for you.
Oh! And a mustache does NOT look good on me.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
It's a lot more fast paced; there's a lot more going on for me. Compared to this one, my other deployments were pretty boring.
- Dogs or cats? I have a cat named Sam. I like coming up with generic people names for pets. I used to have a cat named George.
- Favorite food: Japanese Hibachi
- Vehicle you own: 1967 Chevy Nova
- Civilian Career (after ETS): I plan on becoming a Police Officer.
- Favorite sports team(s): Georgia Bulldogs and the Boston Bruins
- College: None yet, but definitely in the near future.
- Plans to do when back home? Spend time with my family and get to know my son!



Making a Clean Sweep

The 120th Engineer Battalion is leaning forward in the effort to make things easier for the units to follow. Updating the buildings and wiring in the Valhalla compound is just one of the things that has made life easier here, not only for us, but for the next unit to occupy our battle space. In addition to this, a big push is being made here, and at all of our down



trace companies, to turn in all excess equipment and materials that are not being currently used. This mission is being referred to as "Clean Sweep".

SPC Gabriel Atwell identifies electronics that are prime examples for turn in.

Leading this mission are the personnel from the Battalion S-4 office. SPC Cody Henson said "This has been a good hands on experience and helped us network with other units to get the equipment that is needed, in the right place with the right unit." Many items that we currently have in stock, although nice to have, may not be used much or in some cases, not at all. "Getting these items turned in will ultimately help all future units, and as the troops begin to pull out of country, make it much easier for those units to transport the items they have home" Henson said.

SPC Gabriel Atwell, also working on the mission, said that "[this] Has really helped us determine what equipment is outdated and get

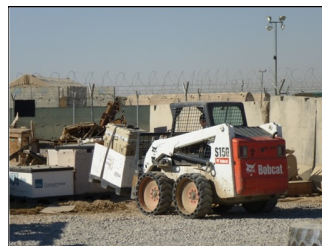


Areas that have been cleaned and cleared due to Clean Sweep

the newest equipment to replace it for our units. Getting unused materials out of shipping containers and turned in has really helped. That, and getting excess equipment turned in, creates more space and makes it easier for units to accomplish the mission."

So far, personnel from the S-4 shop have visited 9 units on 6 different Forward Operating Bases. They have looked through over 140 shipping containers and turned in over 7,000 pieces of equipment. This relates into over \$22.5 million worth of property book items and \$1.5 million worth of class II and class IX items.

"Turning in items helps in many ways besides just reducing our footprint here. It also helps supply sergeants and commanders reconcile their books for accountability, making inventories in the future much easier" Atwell remarked.



SPC Cody Henson moves items that have been identified for turn in.

As the 120th passes the halfway mark on this deployment, the effort continues to identify and turn in all items that we can possibly live without. Cleaning, organizing, and improving our operations. As the Battalion Commander LTC Jack Ritter recently stated, "Take advantage of the time that we have, and never stop improving your fox hole."

— Cpt. Paul Wyckoff



LT SAYS...

Create an "I Love Me" folder with all your achievements. Get a Copy, Keep a Copy.

No one will promote you, except yourself.

-2nd Lt. Hinkley
120th FSC

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

693rd Takes it to the “Streets”

During the Christmas season, the 693rd was overwhelmed by a deluge of care packages from all over the United States. The company received more personal hygiene products, candy, and other assorted items than could possibly be used up during the course of the deployment. PFC Acosta, from 2nd platoon, was quick to notice that many of these valuable products were sure to go to waste if a plan to distribute them wasn't in place. At the same time, during his platoon's route clearance patrols, he had observed that a large group of Bedouins regularly congregated near the river watering their animals and laundering their clothes. “I don't really know anything about Kuchi nomads, but they looked pretty poor to me,” noted PFC Acosta. “I figured there's only so many baby wipes I can use during a deployment, even when you factor in Taco Wednesday. So why not give some of this stuff to the Afghans?”

PFC Acosta brought this up to his team leader, SGT Robinson. “When I mentioned my Soldier's idea to my platoon ser-

geant,” said SGT Robinson, “SFC Walker is always calling us fat and lazy, so of course he was going to agree to giving away all of our candy.” Once the platoon decided to conduct this additional humanitarian mission, they quickly began gathering excess supplies. It became a group effort with everyone chipping in items

to finally meet some Afghans,” remarked platoon medic PV2 Jackson. “But I have to admit I was a little worried about what kinds of funky stuff they were going to want me to look at. Nothing ended up being too nasty, but I did see some stuff you wouldn't want me to tell you about while you are trying to eat your grits.”



In the end, the mission was a big success. When several Soldiers dismounted and began to hand items out, it didn't take long for a swarm of children to make the boxes of candy disappear. As the platoon leadership interacted with the elders, the medics were able to patch up several children

unlikely to be used by Soldiers.

The platoon filled up the trucks on their RCP with close to a dozen boxes of hygiene supplies, candy, and snack foods to distribute. The platoon's medics also took along extra bandages and other accoutrements to enable them to conduct basic care for any sick or injured Kuchis who would likely approach them as soon as they stopped to hand out care packages. “I was pretty interested

who had an assortment of bumps and scrapes. “It was a good feeling, being able to help a small group of Afghans,” recalled PFC Acosta. “Seeing how excited they got about basic stuff we gave them is definitely different from anything I've seen back home.”

—PFC Brett Mack

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



1433rd:

Spc. Casey Wilson 01/15
Pvt. Thomas Davies 01/17
Sgt. Sean Duggan 01/17
Sgt. Joseph McNeilly 01/17
Sgt. Joshua Rose 01/20
Pv2 Aaron Yelland 01/24
Spc. Stosh Benson 01/28
Sfc. Jeffrey Mallison 01/29
Pv2 Charles Hough 01/30
Sfc. John Palacios 01/30

120th HHC:

Spc. Melissa Osterloh 01/18
Spc. Shuan Linville 01/23

120th FSC:

Cpl. Sean Ramsey 01/20
1Lt. David Bell 01/31

1138th:

Sgt. Dustin Rees 01/17
Pfc. Robert Rodgers 01/19
Sgt. John Reeves 01/31

584th:

Pfc. Andres Martinez 01/17
Pfc. Ariel Johnson 01/19
Pv2 Brandon Willson 01/26
Spc. Omar Ortiz 01/26
Cpt. Joseph Frederick 01/26
Pfc. Jeewaka Karunarathna 01/27

1039th:

Spc. James McCrary 01/16
Sgt. Michael Antonacci 01/16
Sgt. George Pierson 01/28
Spc. Zachary Trayler 01/31

23rd:

Pv2 Tanner Bell 01/22
Pv2 Rodger Biles 01/25
Sgt. James Wells 01/26

693rd:

Sgt. Christopher Martin 01/15
Ssg. Michael Pules 01/18
Pv2 Vincent Grey 01/19
Pfc. Joseph Blanch 01/21
Pfc. Levi Archuleta 01/28
Pvt. Steven Storozuk 01/31
Pfc. Scott Hyland 01/31

Words From the TOP:

What type of bracelets can be worn with the Army Uniform? The only authorized bracelets worn in uniform are the POW/MIA/KIA (only metallic) and the medical identification (only red in color). Soldiers may wear one on each wrist. The wristwatch is also considered a bracelet IAW AR 670-1 para. 1-14a. Braided 550 cord bracelets, rubber band style bracelets (supporting certain causes, awarenesses or foundations) and friendship bracelets are not authorized IAW Regional Command (South) / Combined Joint Task Force – 3 (Uniform Wear, Appearance, Conduct and Standards) dated 01 November 2012 para. 22c.

This is a common uniform violation seen throughout the Army. Nobody cares who made the bracelet or if it has sentimental value; nobody cares which cause or foundation you are showing your support for; nobody cares if you can make awesome sh*t out of 550 cord. Hang these bracelets on a wall or just take it off and put it in your pocket.

1SG Michael E. Behnkendorf
693rd Engineer Company (Sapper)





1st Sgt. Scott Catlett

(-) 2D BN 146th FA, Det1 HHC 1-161 INF, BTRY B(-) 2-146th FA, and HHC 120th EN BN.

1SG Catlett's military education includes the Heavy Construction Equipment Operators Course, Engineer Construction Equipment Repair



Course, Fire Support Specialist Course, Joint Fire Power Control Course, Carpentry Masonry Specialist Course, Airborne School, Air Assault School, Sapper Leaders Course, and all NCO Development Courses through the First Sergeant Course. He has received numerous awards over his career to include the

BSM (1 OLC), ARCOM, AAM (4 OLC), and the Combat Action Badge.

The following is the dialogue from an interview of 1SG Catlett:

What inspired you to join the military?

"I had always been around the military and military bases. I had a sense of adventure. Even as child, my parent would regularly have to track me down while I was out exploring the neighborhood and woodlots."

What has kept you in the services for 26 years?

"I have always thought that I could do better than the person in front of me. That feeling of 'If I stay a little bit longer, then I can make that much more of a difference' has been consistent through my career."

How would you sum up your military career in a phrase?

"The military shaped my life, but it did not make me who I am."

What else do you want out of the military?

"I have already gotten what I wanted out of the military. If I could have a dream position, it would be a brand

HHC's 1SG is the embodiment of what makes our military the finest in the world. He is a man of character, tempers his action with wisdom, and truly mentors those around him. There is a lot that any one of us, regardless of where we are in our lives or careers can learn from him. 1SG Catlett has taught me a great deal in my time working with him as the Company Executive Officer. Though most of it was never intentional, but rather through the example of a leader he sets.

1SG Scott Catlett was born in Okinawa, Japan. He joined the Army in October of 1986 as a heavy construction equipment operator. During his career, 1SG Catlett has served as First Sergeant twice, Fire Support Platoon Sergeant, Fire Support Sergeant, and Heavy Construction Equipment Operator. He has participated in Operation Desert Shield, Operation Desert Storm, Operations Iraq Freedom twice and Operation Enduring Freedom. His assignments include the following units in sequential order: Co B 120th EN BN, HHC 82nd EN, Co A 34th EN BN, 618 EN CO, HHB

1st Sgt. Scott Catlett (Continued...)

new battalion where I could start with a clean slate and truly make a difference.”

What do you think of the progression of the military over your career?

“Times changes, but the military does not change as much as people think it does. It will go through cycles in times of war and peace. People’s perspective from where they are in their maturity changes and that affects how they see the military.”

How has the public’s perception of soldiers changed over time?

“I remember my mother’s irritation with the American public’s celebration of the hostages returning from Iran in the late 1970’s verses the way the Vietnam POW’s were being treated upon their return. In the 1980’s, it became acceptable again for children to be imitating soldiers with toy guns, and the culture began to have a more positive perception of the military through the Cold War. During the late 80’s and 90’s the military seemed to be more of an afterthought for the American people; although the Gulf War did bring some patriotism.”



“After 9/11 the country became very patriotic, but over the course of the last decade, the war has become an afterthought again to the general population again. This does not apply to the smaller communities where they are directly vested in the conflict with their love ones and friends in harm’s way. The current military has also drawn into itself to a certain extent, not believing the civilians really understand the military or the issues we have to deal with.”

What do you see in the “American Soldier”?

“There have been changes between different generations, but the training approach is pretty much the

same. The modern soldier needs to know the ‘why’ more so than the last generation.”

What are your future military goals?

“I have never aspired to a particular rank. I thought I was done at PSG, but opportunities have been presented throughout my career. I have always done the best I could with what opportunities were given to me.”

What are your future life goals?

“I would like to stay healthy and see my daughter grow up.”

What is your most important trait as a leader?

“It would be effective communication. I have encountered many people who were great at their job, but lacked the ability to teach it to others.”

What is your major challenge as a leader?

“I would say the largest challenge is the mental endurance to always be motivated and engaged in the many issues that come up.”

What is your most memorable military event?

“I was given the oppor-

1st Sgt. Scott Catlett (Continued...)

tunity to build my own platoon from nothing, and then take that platoon to combat (81st Brigade in the Washington National Guard)."

What is your most memorable event on this deployment?

"The time we had training on the Camp Gruber MOUT site was fun and more beneficial than anything we did at Ft. Bliss. We brought people with all different backgrounds together to form a combat team in a great exercise of teamwork."

What unit have you gained the most from over your career?

"The 82nd gave me a real sense of being a soldier. They emphasized that whatever your job was: mechanic, equipment operator, etc; you were first a soldier, and you had to fight as a soldier until it was time to do your job. There also sent me to all the schools to teach me to be a soldier."

How would you compare your civilian career as a police officer to your military career?

"The military has aligned more with the police,

and the police have had to adopt more military type tactics. It has been beneficial to have both perspectives because I can help bridge this gap. "

What are the challenges of the current deployment?

"Most of our challenges stem from combating



complacency. It is even harder in HHC because the majority of the unit is separated from the direct battlefield. We have to avoid getting in a rut."

How does the current deployment compare to the other you have been on?

"It is a different kind of grind that can be mundane, but it is a good mission that is actively engaged in the fight

from the theater perspective. In my last deployment to Iraq, the missions focus was more on sustaining ourselves."

What do you think the average citizen owes his country?

"They need to be engaged in the running of the country, not blindly voting. They should take it upon themselves to understand the Constitution, research the facts about candidates and events, and not rely on news channels to tell them what their point of view should be. Within the military, I think that leaders should be required to have taken courses in Constitutional Law."

What defines a person?

"You are defined by your actions, what you do here and now."

What makes a good person?

"They live their life with some sort of ethos and integrity. I have a lot of respect for someone that can truly be honest with themselves. That trait speaks strongly to who they are and where they will go in life."

— 1LT Brian S. Lageman

...The Last Word: Commemorative Firearms



The last order for our commemorative firearms has been submitted and should go into production any day now. Every time I acquire a new firearm I joke with my wife, Sue, and tell her I made a new investment, something that is sure to appreciate in value. The prices we are paying on these firearms were originally several hundred dollars cheaper than we would have paid on the open market but in the meantime all firearms have taken a sharp increase in price. I was told that a similar Colt carbine is now costing around \$3000 in some areas. I don't know of any other investment that has increased that much in value. I should have bought several of them. We have a total of 89 rifles and 50 pistols on order by my last count. Colt said that this is the largest commemorative rifle order they have ever had.

The early firearms used by our colonial militias were matchlock muskets brought with the Pilgrims and other early settlers from Europe. Eventually they started making their own muskets. The Smithsonian Museum has a weapon on display that is .75 caliber with the name Newton branded into the stock in three places. In 1631 Newton was an outpost of the Massachusetts Bay Colony that had the mission of maintaining and issuing muskets to the early militias. At that time the law required all men that were 16 years or older to be armed and to bring them to all church and public assemblies. This dates the musket from 1631- 1636 since the town of Newton was changed to Cambridge in 1636. This may be the oldest specimen of an American made firearm.

The "Rifle Shoppe" located in Jones, Oklahoma started building reproductions of this musket for the Enlisted Association of The National Guard (EANGUS) with all the net proceeds going to help finance emergency grants to Soldiers and Airmen of the National Guard that have had a catastrophic loss.

More information about this firearm can be found at www.newtone.com

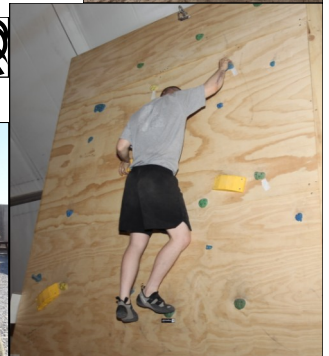
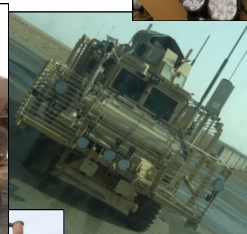
— CSM Richard Raby





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!!!

