



THE 18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION'S WarhammerTimes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 18TH CSSB

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ISSUE 6

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Explosive Ordnance Disposal Platoon Leader, Capt. Andrew Word, and Forward Operating Base Shank Dog Handler, Air Force Staff Sgt. Rocky Foreman conduct familiarization training with Tactical Explosive Detection Dogs. Air Force Dog Handler from a FOB Shank canine unit, Staff Sgt. Rocky Foreman said, "Dogs are a great asset, nothing can sniff out bomb odors except for dogs."

(U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

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18th CSSB Command Team

Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher



Happy New Year to all members of the Warhammer Battalion and their Families!

The New Year brings the birth of new things and fresh starts. Last year was extremely busy and as we moved into January we have two new companies assuming the mission and the headquarters preparing for their redeployment. This is a month of patching ceremonies, receiving the advance party of the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and preparing for our transition of the headquarters while picking up momentum of retrograding excess from Afghanistan. Our progress continues to impress the most senior leaders in our military.

Last month brought the redeployment of two of the most talented National Guard companies: the Headquarters Company and B Company 427th Brigade Support

Battalion. It was an absolute honor to serve with these two commands. Equally impressive are 247th Quartermaster Company from Fort Carson, Colo. and 289th Quartermaster Company from Fort Hood, Texas. This month, both companies filled with first time deployers will participate in patching ceremonies. The combat patch dates back to World War II and this month we will welcome a new group of veterans to our ranks.

These veterans spent time away from their loved ones during the holiday, but found energetic and fun ways to celebrate. Secret Santa exchanges, ugly sweater contests, and partaking in the abundance of care packages from home assisted in the resiliency efforts to keep our Warhammer Soldiers "Army Strong" during the holidays.

The headquarters is preparing for the reception of the 68th CSSB.

The first elements will begin arriving at the end of this month and our headquarters prepares for their reintegration back in Grafenwoehr. This is done simultaneously as we push enabler teams across the battle space and continue to develop our Forward Retrograde Elements at the operational hubs in Afghanistan. Our junior leaders have taken the lead and continue to mature the processes we have established back in June. I continue to be inspired and proud of all the hard work of our Soldiers deployed, of our Soldiers at home and our Families that keep us Army Strong. May the New Year be full of peace, love, and prosperity. It's Hammertime! We Forge Ahead!

Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher
Warhammer 6



Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

Warhammers!

Happy New Year Warhammers! It is good to ring in the New Year. It is hard to believe 2013 is upon us. As we welcome the New Year we have people all over the battlefield doing great things for Afghanistan. It is truly an honor to be your command sgt. maj..

To start off the month we had the NCO of the Month and Warhammer of the Month competition. We had competitors from each organization but there can be only one winner for each group. Sgt. Jeremiah Sparro from the 247th Quartermaster Supply Company won the NCO of the Month. Spc. Francisco Ortiz from the HHC, 18th CSSB

won the Warhammer of the Month competition. Congratulations to both Warhammers, on a job well done.

As we begin pushing through this month, all Soldiers need to remain diligent and remember we are in a war zone. Leaders ensure we are exercising the battle-buddy rule. As we are spread across the battlefield the battle-buddy system becomes imperative for our troops safety. All leaders need to stay engaged and fight complacency. Every day is different and everyone needs to maintain their situational awareness. As we embrace the constant fluctuation in weather, ensure we are prepared and conduct proper checks on cold weather

gear prior to any missions. Warhammers, ensure we stay safe. Let's also maintain positive contact with our families as we start the New Year. For our families are our strength throughout the deployment.



Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

Warhammer 7

Soldiers of the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company deployed from Grafenwoehr, Germany to Afghanistan to clear various bombs, or improvised explosive devices. In three months, the company has completed more than 90 missions and clearing more than 40 indirectly fired mortar and rocket incidents. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



Warhammers neutralize bombs in Afghanistan

By 1st Lt. Henry Chan 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – After three months, 90 missions, 40 indirectly fired rockets and projectiles cleared, and 280 pieces of evidence processed to identify bomb makers, the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company secures its foothold in eastern Afghanistan.

The Soldiers work under Combined Joint Task Force – Paladin, towards their motto, “defeat the device, attack the network and train the force.”

The company operates 11 EOD teams at multiple locations in support of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, also known as Task Force Bayonet.

These EOD Soldiers provide EOD support to coalition force bases, and maintains what the military calls

“freedom of maneuver” throughout Wardak and Logar Provinces. “Freedom of maneuver” means that troops are more liberal to conduct their missions without restriction from hostile forces.

Improvised bombs have been a reoccurring theme through Operation Enduring Freedom, and the 702nd is an intricate part of accomplishing that mission.

While other Soldiers were celebrating Oktoberfest in Bavaria, the 44-Soldier unit and their Families prepared for departure from their home unit, the

18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion “Warhammers,” commanded by Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher at Grafenwoehr, Germany.

Capt. Andrew Word, native of Houston, is a platoon leader in the bomb disposal company. “We had been training for over 12 months before we stepped on that plane,” said Word, “and still, we push our techs to train whenever we have down time.”

Training did not stop with the deployment. Soldiers continue to raise their analytical and skill proficiency with bomb disposal. When the unit is not busy with missions, noncommis-

sioned officers constantly mentor and challenge Soldiers with different puzzles to solve.

The EOD puzzles are mock bombs that the more experienced NCOs construct to mentor and challenge other technicians. EOD Soldiers and NCOs will spend hours out of the day in using differ-

ent techniques and tools to defeat the devices. Spc. Robert Neidner is a new EOD tech from Idaho Falls, Idaho, with nine months in the unit, on his first deployment. As the “new guy” on the team, he constantly tries to hone his skill with bomb disposal to meet the high expectations that his leadership sets for him.

“A lot of the guys have been really good in helping (me) into the unit,” Neidner said, “compared to basic (training) and advanced

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“All it takes is a phone call and we’ll drive hours with a gallon of gas to bail each other out ”

-Sgt. 1st Class Marvin DeWitt



Sgt. Christopher Birch disassembles a PAN, or Percussion Activated Neutralizer, after training. Bomb technicians use the PAN to fire a precision projectile to disable vital portions of a bomb. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Co.

Maj. Gen. Stein and Maj. Gen. Dahl visit the Bagram Retrosort Yard

By 1st Lt. Henry Chan
18th CSSB Public Affairs

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein, commanding general for the 1st Theater Sustainment Command and Maj. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl, deputy commanding general for support, U.S. Forces Afghanistan visited the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard on the morning of Dec. 30th.

The installation is under operational control of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col.



Cpt. Christian Noumba

us who are here in Afghanistan.

We are a month closer to redeployment than the last time when I had the opportunity to address you on this platform and this time we can all see the finish line. I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone that we have a mission to accomplish and the mission does not end until we all reunite with our families back in Germany and/or back in the US. I want to remind our Soldiers down-range that Afghanistan is a war

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Michelle Letcher, and the 593rd Sustainment Brigade, commanded by Col. Douglas McBride.

The BAF RSY operates along with two other retrograde sort yards in Afghanistan that either ships excess materiel out of the Afghan Theater back into the Army supply system, or re-distributes excess materiel within Afghanistan for deployed military units to re-use them.

After the Soldiers and Sailors welcomed the generals, 18th CSSB Executive Officer, Maj. Rosendo Pagan began the tour an overview of one of

the most mature redistribution and reconfiguration operation in Afghanistan.

"We have put \$234 million back into the supply system here," said Pagan as he explained the retrosort process, "We also issue items locally to units around Bagram. Just last month, we redistributed some treadmills and gym equipment to the new 'Warrior Restoration Center' to help Soldiers in need. We also redistributed several spools of copper wire to Task Force Power to prevent unnecessary ordering of materiel already in theater and cut transportation costs."

Dahl responded saying, "If they have a requirement and that you are able to fulfill, that is just excellent."

The group also viewed the processing and customs area. Pagan explained that an item receives a "Materiel Release Order," and then is packaged and inspected by Navy Customs. Once this final procedure is completed, the items are packaged and shipped out.

While Dahl passed through the Customs area in the processing tent, he presented Spc. Maritza Guzman of the 247th Quartermaster Company, based out of Ft. Carson, Colo., with a challenge coin for her hard work.

"Guzman was new to the unit," said her com-

The First Sergeant's Blurp

Dear Soldiers, Families, and friends of HHC 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,

I pray that everybody enjoyed the holidays and brought in the New Year with cheers. It is times like this that put our values and strengths to the ultimate test. Our armed forces is made up of less than 1 percent of our great nation's population, so with that said on the average most people will never understand what a military spouse, friend, or significant other, goes through when their Soldier is down range and what everybody who is touched by the conflict raging in Afghanistan must endure. So with that said, Soldiers, Families, and friends of HHC 18th CSSB and anybody else who may be reading this, I ask you to take a monument of silence for those who made that sacrifice and will not with their loved one's this year 2013.

As we finished another month and brought in the New Year, our timeline brings us even closer to returning home. As we all anticipate coming home I ask everybody to stay vigilance until we reach home

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1st Sgt. Charles Odom

247th Quartermaster Company

Military branches join forces to save taxpayers' money

By Spc. McShane Murphey, 427th Quartermaster Company Public Affairs

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- United States Army and Navy forces have joined their efforts to save the taxpayers' money on government resources.

Both Army and Navy forces are working around the clock in an effort to redistribute government resources as the United States continues to assist in the reallocation of government resource in Afghanistan.

On Dec. 23rd, the 247th Quartermaster Company, stationed in Fort Carson, Colo., recently arrived in Afghanistan and fell under



Cpt. Gary Taylor

the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Central Command Materiel Recovery Element (CMRE) under the command of Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher. The 247th QM CO participates in a coordinated effort to review, confirm and allocate supplies, equipment and medium to requesting military units along with the United States Navy Customs Sailors and civilian counterparts.

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the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Central Command Materiel Recovery Element (CMRE) under the command of Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher. The 247th QM CO participates in a coordinated effort to review, confirm and allocate supplies, equipment and medium to requesting military units along with the United States Navy Customs Sailors and civilian counterparts.

"By combining our efforts with the Navy Sailors, we can truly maximize our efficiency and responsiveness to better serve the people of the United States," said Spc. Martiza Guzman, of Ontario, CA, 247th

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Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Nathan Atkinson and Army Spc. Eduardo Barraza, of Burbank, CA, 247th QM Co., inspect a box of weapon mounts before the container is sealed and shipped at Forward Operating Base Shank in Logar Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

The First Sergeant's Blurp

The Head Hunter Team arrived into theatre on Dec. 8th and has been running full speed ever since. I want to thank Capt. Pforter and 1st Sgt. Vergith and the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion from the New York National Guard for a smooth transition. We were welcomed by Lt. Col. Letcher and Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion out of Grafenwoehr, Germany to the Warhammer Team. We assumed the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element (CMRE) mission on Dec. 23rd and look to enhance the already successful theater-wide retrograde mission. I want to wish all the Soldiers and families of the Headhunter family a Merry Christmas and a very rewarding 2013.

1st Sgt. Harold Smith
Headhunter 7



1st Sgt. Harold Smith

ISSUE 5

289th Quartermaster Company

Sharana FRE builds a new home

1st Lt. Charles Roberts
 FOB Sharana Forward Retrograde Element Officer in Charge

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Soldiers at the Material Retrograde Yard on Forward Operating Base Sharana have saved the taxpayers thousands by reutilizing scrap equipment for yard operations.

Soldiers of 289th Quartermaster Company, commanded by Capt. Joel Calo, stationed in Fort Hood, Texas reported under the command of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element, commanded by Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher.

The CMRE effectively and efficiently plans, coordinates, executes and synchronizes available assets and resources to conduct and implement retrograde operations to re-



Cpt. Joel Calo

currently operating out of four main locations here in Afghanistan with missions that sometimes place them in up to 15 different Forward Operating Bases and Combat Outposts on the battlefield. Thus far I have watched our sabers work together for countless hours never missing a beat. Once again I have to say that it is a pleasure

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duce stagnant property and equipment across the country of Afghanistan.

The 289th Soldiers are responsible for conducting all retrograde operations in the FOB Sharana vicinity.

The Material Retrograde Yard operates sorts usable equipment, repairable equipment, and scrap metal and shipping it directly from FOB Sharana back into the army supply system, an army depot for repairs, and assisting with local sales respectively.

A Large Area Maintenance Shelter (LAMS) Tent was turned in as excess. A LAMS tent is an aluminum framed shelter that is

75 ft. wide, 40 ft. tall, and varies in length. The Soldiers and Civilians inventoried the retrograded equipment and coordinated support for construction of the large shelter.

Both Soldiers and civilian contractors previously had no shelter from the elements to work to sort and retrograde usable equipment from bases that are closing to the next user.

Workers are now able to significantly increased productivity in all weather conditions in the heated and well lit environment. The yard directly reduces the

workload for the Bagram Air Field Retrosort Yard, also supports a significant amount of retrograde throughout all of Afghanistan.



(Left to right) Spc. James Braithwaite, Sgt. Andrew Markley, and Spc. James Moore stand in front of their completed Large Area Maintenance Shelter on the FOB Sharana MRT yard.

The First Sergeant's Blurb

Sabers!

We have just completed our first month in Afghanistan. Since our arrival to Afghanistan the Soldiers of the 289th Quartermaster Company have successfully completed every task assigned to them. Our Base Closure Assistance Team, Mobile Container Accountability Team and Mobile Redistribution Team elements have dispersed all over Regional Command-South. Every Soldier had adjusted successfully to a very complex and different mission from what we were accustomed back in Fort Hood.

Every single day our Soldiers continue to see a different face of the Army. Some of you have experienced flying in a helicopter for the first time, being part of a

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1st Sgt. Ramon Rodriguez



702nd EOD (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

individual training, my time (in the 702nd) has been mind blowing, there is still a lot to learn.”

The deployment has also opened opportunities for the company to work with other military branches and foreign troops.

The 702nd works with and is responsible for the Czech EOD, shares a compound and partners on missions here at FOB Shank.

“Most of my role here is to integrate EOD assets into the larger mission (to ‘defeat the device, attack the network and train the force’), and to control our U.S. EOD teams and Czech (EOD) teams,” said the 702nd Company Commander Capt. Erik Wood, “that role is increasingly in support of Afghan National Security Forces, the 702nd and (our predecessor) have (extensively) trained Afghan EOD personnel, and they are

actively engaged in defeating the IED threat in Logar and Wardak Provinces.”

The company’s 2nd platoon at Forward Operating Base Airborne has extensively trained Afghan police and National Directorate of Security EOD Teams as part of the transfer of security operations to the Afghan authorities.

Recently, the EOD Soldiers started familiarization training with the local explosive detection dog teams. EOD teams often request the presence of dogs in order to verify threats.

“Their accuracy is spot on, these dogs save us precious time with our jobs (in finding bombs),” said Word.

Bomb disposal is a stressful job. EOD Families and Soldiers have a different ways of dealing with the stress. Most Soldiers find that the camaraderie helps unit members focus on the job.

For veteran explosive ordnance disposal technician, Sgt. 1st Class Marvin DeWitt, Afghanistan is one of the three countries that he has disarmed bombs in his six year career. “We’re a family,

100 percent. We have our quarrels like brothers, but at the end of the day, we are a family and we will stick together,” said DeWitt, “that’s the best thing about being in a small and specialized community like us. All around the world, we take care of each other. I’ve got friends who are (EOD) techs in the Australian Army, British Army and Irish Army. All it takes is a phone call and we’ll drive hours with a gallon of gas to bail out (a friend in need).”

Wood said, “the Family Readiness Group has been really helpful. All platoons participate in various ‘adopt’ programs, we receive an amazing amount of support from the FRG and Soldier sponsor programs. I’m surprised how much (support) we get from elementary schools and communities.”

The 702nd EOD continues to serve coalition forces with bomb disposal support in Afghanistan. As many other Soldiers return to their living quarters in Regional Command-East, 702nd EOD teams continue stand by for their next mission.



(Above) Explosive Bomb Technicians, Sgt. Christopher Birch and Spc. Cody Hlavka train with an RTR-4 X-Ray scanner to detect contents of unknown packages. This helps the technicians determine the type of threat they are dealing with. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

(Right) Forward Operating Base Shank Dog Handler Sgt. Thomas Kirkland from the 173rd Special Troops Battalion, stationed out of Bamberg, Germany works with his canine partner, Tactical Explosive Detection Dog (TEDD), Alex, during familiarization training with bomb disposal technicians of the 702nd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company. EOD platoon leader, Capt. Andrew Word said, “Their whiff of the odor and accuracy is spot on, dogs save us precious time with our jobs.” (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



289th Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

and a honor to serve with such hard working, motivated and dedicated group of Soldiers. On a separate note, I would like to take this time to personally thank our families and friends for the wonderful support and the many care packages we received this holiday season. It is a wonderful reminder that someone back home always cares and remembers our Soldiers.

Capt. Joel Calo
Saber 6

289th First Sgt's Blurb (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

convoy, inventorying equipment in distant locations, and briefing general officers. As you can see the requirements of the mission will demand that you get out of your comfort zone. But, like always I am very confident in your abilities. As we close out our first month. I would like to wish you a happy new year and remind you to challenge yourself every day. Keep up the good work. Saber Support!

1st Sgt. Rodriguez
Saber 7



Sgt. Andrew Markley and Spc. James Braithwaite from the 289th Quartermaster Companies, also members of the Forward Operating Base Sharana MRT Team evaluate working space upon arrival to their new home.

247th QM Captain's corner (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

ery Element (CMRE) mission. Our unique task organization allows us to provide support to our teammates in the form of Base Closure Assistance Teams (BCAT), Mobile Redistribution Teams (MRT), Mobile Container Assessment Teams (MCAT), Ammunition Abatement Teams, and Customs Inspection Teams. The training requirements and rank structure of this type of task organization demonstrates the flexibility, maturity, and outstanding work ethic of our Sustainment War fighter's. We genuinely appreciate the support and appreciation we've received from the home front this holiday season . Headhunters, twenty-four-seven!

Capt. Gary Taylor
Headhunter 6



Capt. Gary Taylor, 247th Quartermaster Company Commander subdues his opponent during a combatives tournament held by the 1st Special Troops Battalion, 1st Sustainment Brigade. (U.S Army photo by Spc. Kyle Rice, 247th Quartermaster Company public affairs)

HHC 18th CSSB 1SG's Blurb (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

station in Germany. I know a lot of changes are in store for everybody when we reunite with our family and friends and ask to remain flexible and to keep reasonable expectations.

I would like to give big shout out to the following individuals, Spc. Eagleton, Demarcus R. earned his promotable status and Spc. Ortiz, Francisco M. won the Soldier of the month board in December. Two achievements that took great dedication to prepare for, and to accomplish with spectacular end results. I would like to thank Capt. Ennis, David M. mother for providing us with a Christmas tree, Chaplin Shulman and our FRG for arranging and sending us care packets.

Headhunters: Heads will roll!

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Odom
-Headhunter 7

HHC 18th CSSB Capt's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

zone and we need to remain vigilant and avoid drifting into complacency. We ought to stay vigilant, here in Afghanistan and back at home station and understand the possible dangers and risks surrounding us every day and in everything that we do. Let's continue to think Safety when we conduct our daily missions and let's keep in mind that our goal is to get everyone home safe and in good health, if not better. During the past 30 days, another Soldier received a promotion on 1 January 2013: Lee Schroeder went from 1st Lieutenant to Captain; congratulations Capt. Schroeder! Many of our Soldiers continue to volunteer in local organization to occupy their downtime and help keep trouble away. The company has also reached out to the Army Community Service in Germany to provide Soldiers with access to programs that are not available downrange. We are doing this to prepare everyone, especially those deploying for the first time to be aware of and armed to overcome some of the reali-

ties that Soldiers face upon redeploying. The last session that we had receive a lot of praise from Soldiers and I encourage family members to contact the ACS to learn more military programs that are available in the Grafenwoehr community.

I will address you one more time before we return to Germany. Meanwhile, keep your eyes on the prize and stay alert and vigilant. Stay motivated, and make sure you talk to someone if something is bothering you. I wish you all well and I can't wait to bring everyone home safe.

God bless you,

God bless the 18th CSSB

God bless the United States Army

God bless America.

Capt. Christian Numba

-Headhunter 6

The Morale Mill



18th Soldiers run to support German War Graves Commission

By Spc. Isaac Adams
Public Affairs Specialist, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
18th CSSB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan - The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion held a 5 km (3.1 miles) fundraiser run in support of the German War Graves Commission on 15 Dec.

The German War Graves Commission is a non-profit organization that is committed to giving fallen German Soldiers their proper honors and burial. The Federal Republic of Germany does not have national fund that is used to bury their fallen war fighters, so the commission was designed to fill that need, by receiving the funds from the German population through donations. The 18th CSSB, Warhammer Battalion,

was the first and remains the only foreign military unit hold a partnership with the German War Graves Commission, and has been since 2009. The Warhammers have worked closely together with the Bundeswehr, German for 'Federal Defense Force', and the city of Freihung in the support of the commission.

Five km runs are commonplace in Kandahar Airfield, about one every week. Each run is set up to support different organizations and have proven to be a great way to raise money and awareness for those organizations.

"[This was] my 14th and last 5K that in Afghanistan. I won 3rd place for females. I'm very proud of myself!" stated Sgt. Shemile Colin, a chaplain's assistant with Headquarters Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion.

The Warhammer battalion decided that they would hold a run in support of the War Graves Commission shortly after they arrived in country in June.

The run was planned, organized and operated by the operations section of the 18th CSSB, Cpt. Stewart McGurk and Sgt. 1st Class Miguel Quinones.

McGurk said "Since the German War Graves Commission is not yet part of the Combined Federal Campaign, the 18th CSSB worked with the Kandahar Signal Support Group, a signal company from the Bundeswehr stationed at KAF. The KSSG solicited donations for the group and many Soldiers from the 18th voluntarily donated."



Participants begin the race that the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion held on 15 Dec. in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. The 5 kilometer (3.1 miles) fundraiser run was to support of the German War Graves Commission. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

Maj. Gen. Stein, Maj. Gen. Dahl (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

mander, Capt. Gary Taylor, “without hesitating, she jumped into the mix, came on deployment and learned the Customs work from the Navy Customs Sailors.”

“We are lucky to have people like that,” said Dahl.

The group also had an opportunity to inspect the engine draining area. Used engines, transmissions and axles that are off-loaded from shipping containers are often still filled with engine oil, coolant, transmission fluid or gear oil. The engine drainage area isolates the vehicle parts for re-use or turn-in, while the fluids are separated by type and turned in for treatment by the hazardous-material disposal facility.

As the group left to view other facilities on Bagram Airfield, Dahl said to the group,

“you’re doing a great job, you’re firing hard enough... but you’ve got a big job ahead of you, the next (few) years, you’re going to receive a lot!”



(from left) 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Executive Officer Maj. Rosendo Pagan, Navy Customs Officers, Lt. Cmdr. Seth Burmaster and Chief Warrant Officer Kenneth Helm Jr. talks with Maj. Gen. Kurt J. Stein (center) and Maj. Gen. Kenneth R. Dahl (right) during a visit at the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard. The Navy Customs teams under the Central Command Materiel Recovery Element to inspect and ensure that all items leaving Afghanistan pass stringent U.S. Customs and Border Control standards. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Sup-

247th QM joint effort

Quartermaster Company.

The CMRE mission is to effectively and efficiently plan, coordinate, execute and synchronize available assets and resources to conduct and implement retrograde operations to withdraw US personnel, property and equipment from the country of Afghanistan, according to the 247th QM Co. CMRE mission.

“The joint effort so far has been greatly successful. The Navy Custom Sailors and the 247th Headhunter Soldiers are contributing substantially to border control and the implementation of retrograde operations across Afghanistan,” stated Cpt. Gary N. Taylor, 247th QM Co. Commander.

The 247th QM Co. has been training for this deployment and the current mission

since reactivation on October 24, 2011.

The main goal is to move equipment from outlying bases to centralized collection points spread across Afghanistan.

“We are distributing the resources from the bases that are closing to relieve the American citizens the financial burden of military expenses,” stated 1st Lt. Ayana Kendal, Bagram Retrosort Yard officer in charge.

In a recent visit from the 593rd Sustainment Brigade Commander, Col. Douglas M. McBride, said, “[the] key to this operation is velocity, velocity, velocity.

The more effort we put into this operation, the more we can save the people [of America].”



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Nathan Atkinson inspects customs-sealed packages and customs clearance forms before approving items for shipment out of country at Forward Operating Base Shank in Logar Province, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



The Warhammer Times

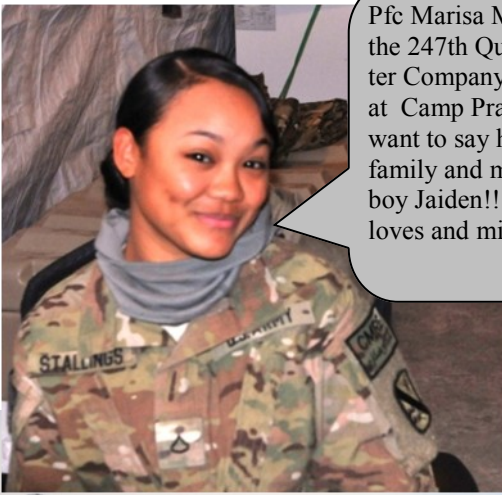


Soldiers from the 247th Quartermaster Company and Sailors from Navy Customs work together in the customs mission to protect the U.S. borders. The Central Command Materiel Recovery Element operates customs assets in all six regional commands in Afghanistan to assist with the redistribution of U.S. government property. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

Haaappy Birthday!

Staff Sgt. Robert Clement 1-Jan	Staff Sgt. James McBeth 11-Jan
Spc. Sean Hayes 2-Jan	Spc. Phillip Kimbel 12-Jan
Spc. Carwin Gonzales 3-Jan	Pfc. Robert Brown 15-Jan
Spc. Saul Andrews 4-Jan	Staff Sgt. Mario Hayes 19-Jan
Pfc. Avery Brown 4-Jan	Spc. Daniel Swinney 20-Jan
Sgt. 1st Class Isani Labriel 4-Jan	Spc. Francis Allowen 24-Jan
Sgt. Evens Joseph 5-Jan	Spc. Julia Bembry 24-Jan
Spc. Phyreoun Chea 6-Jan	Sgt. Pamela Richards 24-Jan
Pfc. Kontor Krupp 6-Jan	Staff Sgt. Alexander Olivieri-Rodriguez 25-Jan
Sgt. 1st Class Sung Park 10-Jan	Sgt. Aaron Decker 25-Jan
Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Washington 10-Jan	Spc. Curtis Johnson 29-Jan
Sgt. Arttory Benson 10-Jan	Pfc. Natasia Horton 29-Jan
Sgt. Porchia Barrett 11-Jan	





Pfc Marisa Meza from the 247th Quartermaster Company, currently at Camp Pratt says, "I want to say hello to my family and my baby boy Jaiden!! Mommy loves and misses you."



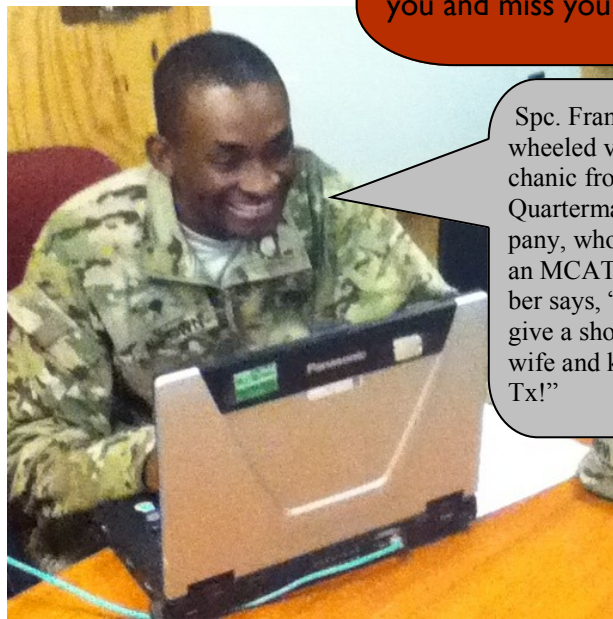
Spc. Ortiz, Francisco a Cargo Specialist from Puerto Rico, stationed out of Grafenwoehr Germany. "Hi, I just wanted to thank my wife for all her support in all the years. I will be back soon to enjoy our time together. Love you, Fransheska!"



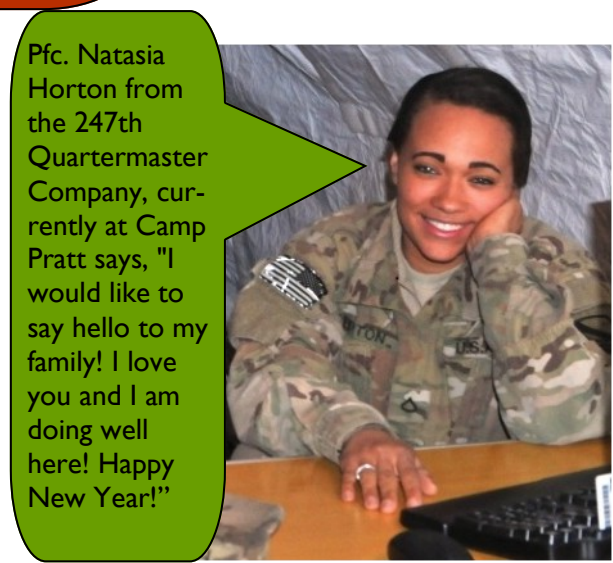
Spc. Nicholas Small from the Headquarters Company 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at Bagram Airfield says to his family in Augusta, Georgia, "Hello to my mom, dad and sister, I'm doing well down here. Can't wait to come back home and see you all! I love you and miss you very much!"



Spc. Katrina Seabury, an automated logistician from the 289th Quartermaster Company, currently serving as an admin clerk says, "I want to give a shout out to my beautiful children Jamel and Jaela. My mother in Killeen, TX... and my family in N.Y, N.J., Pa., Va. And N.C.; love & miss you all!!!!"



Spc. Francis Allown, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from the 289th Quartermaster Company, who is service as an MCAT team member says, "I want to give a shout out to my wife and kids in Dallas, Tx!"



Pfc. Natasia Horton from the 247th Quartermaster Company, currently at Camp Pratt says, "I would like to say hello to my family! I love you and I am doing well here! Happy New Year!"



SSG Kim Bell
18th CSSB SHARP Representative



Diversity & Climate Bulletin



SSG Robert Clement
18th CSSB Equal Opportunity NCO

Martin Luther King Jr.

By Staff Sgt. Robert Clement
18th CSSB EO Representative

We celebrate Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday on Jan. 21st.

On Aug. 2nd, 1983, President Ronald Reagan signed into law that the third Monday in January is a Federal holiday commemorating Dr. King's birthday, twenty years after Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. gave his famous "I have a dream" speech.

The holiday honors the life and death of America's greatest contributor to

human rights and equality. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. dreamed of a color-blind society and was instrumental to help make it a reality.

Americans celebrate this holiday to recognize the leader who embraced the unity of all faiths in truths and peaceful ways. On this holiday Americans must realize the Dr. King was more than just an American influence, he encouraged peaceful resolution to equality throughout the world. He fought for more than racism, he fought for poverty, disabled, uneducated and the under privileged.

African Americans alone account for

nearly 30 percent of Army enlistees, according to Defense Department statistics compiled in 2008. Latinos represent nine percent of the Army and 12 percent of the population. Black women comprise nearly half the Army's enlisted women.

We should remember that this man although peaceful was jailed many times; his family and he were constantly threatened. He was subjected to beatings and harassment; however, he continued to assemble marches and demonstrations to unite a country.



The Warhammer Times

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



Website:



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

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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.

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Spc. Kyle Rice

Spc. McShane Murphey

1st Lt. Katherine Hansen