

Outlaw Chronicles

Sappers clear the way!



March 15, 2013

Volume II: Issue 06

Dari: 25 Hut 1391

Pashto: 25 Kab 1391



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Outlaws.... It's been pretty busy in Regional Command South the past couple of weeks. Along with Mustache March hitting Afghanistan, we've had two Engineer Companies depart while another three took their places.

I'd like to give a big "Hell Yeah" welcome to Mustache March, the 137th Sapper Company (Airborne), the 84th Engineer Support Company (Airborne/Arctic), and the 62nd Sapper Company. The CSM and I took our mustaches on a quick "round the battlefield" tour to preside over events as the 23rd Sapper Company (Airborne/Arctic) and the 1433rd Engineer Company "cased" there guideons for the return trip home. To use

Outlaw 6 Sends

a cliché, they were bitter sweet events. Task Force Outlaw "fell in on" the 23rd and the 1433rd when we arrived. Both Companies were executing missions superbly, and had their battle rhythms down. Having a couple of "seasoned" Companies already "operational", assisted Task Force Outlaw's transition in.... not to mention they had some darn fine leaders and Soldiers in their formations. The 137th, 62nd and 84th arrived prepared to pick up and continue the mission. Their leaders and Soldiers are highly motivated, trained and ready. To use another cliché, they arrived "willing and able" to move the mission forward. So, God's speed to

the Warriors of the 23rd and 1433rd as they return to Alaska (23rd) and Michigan (1433rd).... I pray you find comfort knowing that you made the world a better place. And, "Hell Yeah" to the 137th, 62nd and 84th... I know they'll continue Engineer business here in Afghanistan the only way Engineers know how... out in front, clearing the way for others to follow! Hell Yeah!



Task Force Outlaw



XO Foxhole

“As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”



Hey Outlaws! I want to start off by saying to our new units, “Welcome to TF Outlaw!” We have three recently deployed companies; 62nd EN CO (Ft Carson, CO), 84th EN CO (Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, AK) and the 137th EN CO (Ft Bragg, NC). For the sake of the new units, I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself, since I rarely get out of KAF to meet everyone at the other locations.

I write my articles from the perspective of how I see things happening from the 9.5' X 11.5' plywood sheathed cube of electronic mayhem and seemingly endless white boards, where I spend 12-14 of my 24 hours a day sitting in front of a computer screen of spreadsheets, colored charts, and reports with three phones on the wall that ring constantly. By the way, I have been known to have two phones up to my ear at once. I have had the opportunity to have many of you passing through KAF, stop into my office and sit down for a chat or dive into a really deep philosophical discussion. This office has served as a location for many chats with the commander that seem to end with us figuring out solutions to all the world's problems or put-

ting an end to the current conflict we have found ourselves projected into. This office is often the center of many immature arguments, as well, like which type muffins are the best, or whether or not a detonation on a mine roller is considered a strike or a find. In the end, the commander usually wins the discussion, but mostly I allow him to think he did, just because I have a lot of other things to do and need to get back to my dungeon.

Now, on to better things. Many of you may be asking, “Who is this guy that talks of fun-filled adventures that resemble an episode of ‘The Office’”? For those of you that don't know me, I am most notably known as “Major D”. I hope it is obvious where I got the nickname from, but for those of you who can't figure it out, then try pronouncing my last name. I have the privilege of talking on the phone, daily, to several soldiers from several different units. I answer the phone, “Outlaws! Major D”. For those of you that have called me before can verify. In fact, I enjoy visiting with as many folks from Task Force Outlaw as I can, but I would prefer to talk with them in person whenever possible. Since I am still hand receipted for this nice plush office chair, then I guess

the commander has not let up on his adamant stance that I stay incarcerated to this office. So, in the mean time, I try to take advantage of meeting as many Soldiers as I can as they come through Kandahar Airfield (KAF) on their way out to their final location or as they stop in to conduct business here. Next time any of you are at KAF, stop by my office in the Outlaw Command Group and say Hi or grab some beef jerky or a cold drink. BAM! Outlaws!

— MAJ Brian DeShazo
XO, 120th EN BN



Soldier Spotlight: 62nd Engineer Company

Name SPC Kody Meeder

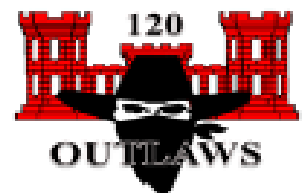
- Hometown: Butler, PA
- Years of service: 4
- Married : No
- Kids: No
- Family in the Service (or prior): My grandfather was both Army and Air Force
- Why did you join: I wanted to do it, so that other people don't have to
- Deployment job: Gunner/Dismount
- Thoughts on the deployment: Ready to get going, and ready to start running missions
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I am proud to have been able to do route clearance in both Iraq and now Afghanistan to make it safer for fellow Soldiers
- Pets: Prefer dogs over cats
- How does this deployment compare to others: I am here on the Advance Party (ADVON), so it has been a slow start, but ready to get to work
- Favorite food: Deer venison
- Favorite Sports team: Pittsburgh Steelers
- Vehicle you own: Toyota Tundra
- College: Penn State
- Plans to do when back home: PCS to Ft Drum, NY



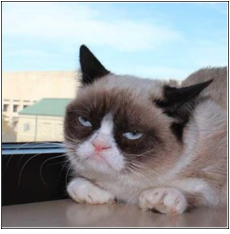
Soldier Spotlight: 137th Engineer Company

PV2 Joseph Gelsano

- Hometown: Orange, CA
- Years of service: 1 yr.
- Not Married.
- No Kids.
- Immediate family service (prior or current): None.
- Why did you join? I just wasn't ready to go to college yet, and I wanted a little adventure
- Deployment job: Route clearance. I'm a 12B.
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?
We just got here so I'm looking forward to saving up a good amount of money and buying a car.
- Something you're looking forward to, or any thoughts on the deployment:
I'm just ready to get everything started. I have faith in my company to be successful, so I'm not too concerned about what will happen.
- Dogs, or cats? None.
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my first deployment.
- Favorite food: Asian food.
- Favorite Sports team: L.A. Lakers
- Vehicle you own: I don't have one...yet!
- College? (favorite or major) UCLA is my favorite college.
- Plans to do when back home? I plan to get married. I also plan to visit the Philippines.



Medical Corner: Stress Management



Everyone here has or will experience some type of stress. It is best to have a plan of action to help manage your stressor and how you respond to stress. Not all stress can be avoided, and it's not healthy to avoid a situation that needs to be addressed. You may be surprised, however, by the number of stressors in your life that you can eliminate. If you can't avoid a stressful situation, try to alter it. Figure out what you can do to change things so the problem doesn't present itself in the future. Often, this involves changing the way you communicate and operate in your daily life. If you can't change the stressor, change yourself. You can adapt to stressful situations and regain your sense of control by changing your expectations and attitude. Some sources of stress are unavoidable. You can't prevent or change stressors such as the death of a loved one, a serious illness, or a national recession. In such cases, the best way to cope with stress is to accept things as they are. Acceptance may be difficult, but in the long run, it's easier than railing against a situation you can't change.

Step 1- Avoid people who stress you out – If someone consistently causes stress in your life and you can't turn the relationship around, limit the amount of time you spend with that person or end the relationship entirely.

Step 2- Avoid hot-button topics – If you get upset over religion or politics, cross them off your conversation list. If you repeatedly argue about the same subject with the same people, stop bringing it up or excuse yourself when it's the topic of discussion.

Step 3-Pare down your to-do list – Analyze your schedule, responsibilities, and daily tasks. If you've got too much on your plate, distinguish between the "should" and the "musts." Drop tasks that aren't truly necessary to the bottom of the list or eliminate them entirely.

Step 4-Express your feelings instead of bottling them up. If something or someone is bothering you, communicate your concerns in an open and respectful way. If you don't voice your feelings, resentment will build and the situation will likely remain the same.

Step 5-Be willing to compromise. When you ask someone to change their behavior, be willing to do the same. If you both are willing to bend at least a little, you'll have a good chance of finding a happy middle ground.

Step 6-Be more assertive. Don't take a backseat in your own life. Deal with problems head on, doing your best to anticipate and prevent them

Step 7- Manage your time better. Poor time management can cause a lot of stress. When you're stretched too thin and running behind, it's hard to stay calm and focused. But if you plan ahead and make sure you don't overextend yourself, you can alter the amount of stress you're under.

Step 8- Reframe problems. Try to view stressful situations from a more positive perspective. Rather than fuming about driving 12 mph, look at it as an opportunity to pause and regroup.

Step 9-Look at the big picture. Take perspective of the stressful situation. Ask yourself how important it will be in the long run. Will it matter in a month? A year? Is it really worth getting upset over? If the answer is no, focus your time and energy elsewhere.

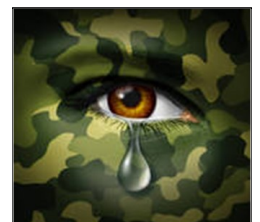
Step 10-Adjust your standards. Perfectionism is a major source of avoidable stress. Stop setting yourself up for failure by demanding perfection. Set reasonable standards for yourself and others, and learn to be okay with "good enough."

Step 11-Focus on the positive. When stress is getting you down, take a moment to reflect on all the things you appreciate in your life, including your own positive qualities and gifts. This simple strategy can help you keep things in perspective.

Step 12- Don't try to control the uncontrollable. Many things in life are beyond our control— particularly the behavior of other people. Rather than stressing out over them, focus on the things you can control such as the way you choose to react to problems.

Step 13- Look for the upside. As the saying goes, "What doesn't kill us makes us stronger." When facing major challenges, try to look at them as opportunities for personal growth. If your own poor choices contributed to a stressful situation, reflect on them and learn from your mistakes.

Step 14- Share your feelings. Talk to a trusted friend or make an appointment with a chaplain or SPC Bixler. Expressing what you're going through can be very cathartic, even if there's nothing you can do to alter the stressful situation.



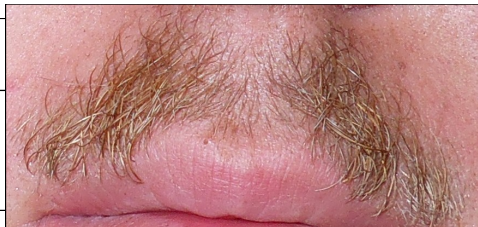
By: Medic of the year "aka" SPC Melissa Osterloh
and
SPC Cody Blackwell

Outlaw Sudoku

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

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

"You learn far more from negative leadership than positive leadership. Because you learn how not to do it."

– By General Norman Schwarzkopf



Sapper

Says

"You don't have to be crazy to live in this world... It just helps!"

~ LT Dougherty~

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: HHC 120th EN BN



SPC Charlie Johnston

- Hometown: Stringtown, OK
- Years of service: 5 years.
- Married? No.
- Kids? No.
- Immediate family service: Sister is in Marine Corps.
- Why did you join? College Money, and enjoy military lifestyle.
- Deployment job: Human Resources Specialist in BN S-1 Shop.
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? It has been a lot easier than I expected.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I have learned a lot about myself and that we are perceived as arrogant by some other countries.
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs – I have a rescue dog at home.
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my first deployment.
- Favorite food? Homemade biscuits and gravy.
- Favorite Sports team: Thunder Basketball!
- Civilian career? Full time Student.
- Vehicle you own: 2007 Kawasaki ZX10R special edition.
- College? East Central University of Oklahoma – General Business Administration.
- Plans to do when back home? Finish college, get my commission, and spend some time at the lake.



1433rd Transfer of Authority (84th & 62nd)



CPT Chychota and 1SG Swanson uncasing the 62nd Engineer Company guidon.

On March 6th, CSM Raby and I traveled out to preside over another Relief in Place with the 1433rd Engineer Company from the Michigan Army National Guard and two incoming Engineer Companies. The uniqueness of this event was the fact that the 1433rd, which controlled four route clearance platoons, was being replaced by two separate Companies that will control two route clearance platoons each. The 84th Engineer Company from Ft. Richardson, Alaska

and the 62nd Engineer Company from Fort Carson, Colorado replaced the 1433rd during the ceremony to case the guidon of one Company, and un-case the guidons of two. CPT Chychota and 1SG Swanson command the 62nd and CPT Carvelli and 1SG Ottman are the command team for the 84th. COL Katers joined the event to wish the 1433rd safe travel and welcome the 84th and 62nd on mission. LTC Anderson from TF Rifle, 3-41 Infantry was there to thank CPT Falor and his Company for a job well done.



CPT Carvelli and 1SG Ottman uncasing the 84th Engineer Company guidon.



CPT Falor and 1SG Rye case the 1433rd guidon.

The 1433rd (which is a combination of the 1433rd and 1432nd Engineer Companies, combined and under one command – flag – the 1433rd) arrived June 2012 in Afghanistan. They performed incredible on mission and received the Combat Action Streamer for both the 1433rd and 1432nd guidons for their actions. As with all Soldiers leaving Afghanistan, TF Outlaws wishes the Soldiers of the MIARNG all the best with their return home.

— By: LTC Ritter

Engineers Support Afghan National Police



Kandahar- SPC Stephen Fadden welding the seam between the ramp and platform portions of the loading dock. The welding portion of the project was a critical piece in order to ensure the structural integrity of

As the deployment winds down, it does not mean the work stops. SGT Smokey Lyons was asked to head up a project and enlisted the highly skilled welders from CO A, FSC, 120th EN BN. The project was to build a loading dock that will directly impact the operational success of the NATO and ANP personnel.



Kandahar- SPC Zachary Belisle uses a sledge hammer in conjunction with the 10K forklift to better align the plate steel used in emplacement of the ramps outer skin. The difficult alignment of the pieces was compounded by the weight of the steel along with the angle at which they had to be

SGT Smokey Lyons, SPC Stephen Fadden and SPC Zachary Belisle were the highly skilled and motivated welders tasked with the project. It is safe to say, that the CO A, FSC, 120th EN BN welders exceeded all expectations. The loading dock would be utilized for loading and unloading of critical supplies, materials and equipment for the Regional Logistics Command South (RCLS). The dimensions of the loading dock were twenty foot by ten foot ramp, with an attached ten foot by ten foot platform that is five feet off the ground. The loading dock will be utilized by the NATO-Afghanistan training mission personnel at FOB Lindsey to aid in the operations of the RLCS. Their joint mission is to provide the resources necessary to support three provincial headquarters units and one police training facility. The dock will serve as the hub for the shipping and receiving of all classes of supply in and out to these locations. This mission was a huge success from cradle to grave with the support of security forces and local nationals unloading the ramp at final destination. By having the use of the dock the NATO and RLC personnel will become one step closer to self sustainment and support while building its

organizational capacity and reducing the frequency and need for the Transportation Movement Request (TMR) support to take care of the mission which by definition of the Joint Regional Area Command (JRAC)



Kandahar- SGT Smokey Lyons uses a cutting torch to trim the dock plate of the ramp to facilitate a cleaner better fit to enable the

leaders is at an annual cost of \$12 Million a year. Now even though the use of the ramp will not eliminate the need for additional TMR support elsewhere on post it will reduce the need for it significantly.

SGT Lyons and his team facilitated all phases of the project from concept and design to layout, fit and weld out. During the actual construction process SGT Lyons supervised the welders operations to ensure the structural integrity would not just do the job but stand the test of time and serve as a re-

Engineers Support Afghan National Police, Cont...



FOB Lindsey- The use of an M870 low boy trailer made the move from Kandahar Airfield to FOB Lindsey a smooth

They were met with gratitude and thanks from the ANP folks due to the efforts put into the project. It was evident how much they truly appreciated the build.

Ultimately the dock will serve its purpose for distribution of supplies but its underlying message

minder of the partnerships that have been established here. The build itself gave the team an opportunity for all three Soldiers to sharpen, enhance and practice their welding skills while deployed and in doing so has given them a better understanding of what all can go into a large project such as this.

is one that will strengthen the relationship between NATO and ANP forces for many years to come.

- SPC J. Alex Klein

On Thursday March 7th SGT Lyons and his team were met by the JRAC leadership and their ANP partners. Where they met the Ministry of Interior and ANP Commandant to deliver and place the ramp on site.



FOB Lindsey- SGT Lyons explains and demonstrates the loading ramps dock plate to the Afghanistan National Police forces. The use of the dock will assist the JRAC service

Customs and Courtesies

During the playing of the Army Song, how will individuals stand?

They will stand at attention and sing the lyrics of the Army Song when played.

Although there is no Department of the Army directive in this regard, commanders, other officers, and other personnel can encourage the tribute to the Army by standing at attention when the band plays "The Army Goes Rolling Along."

1138th Engineer Company: Good Times at the Demo Range

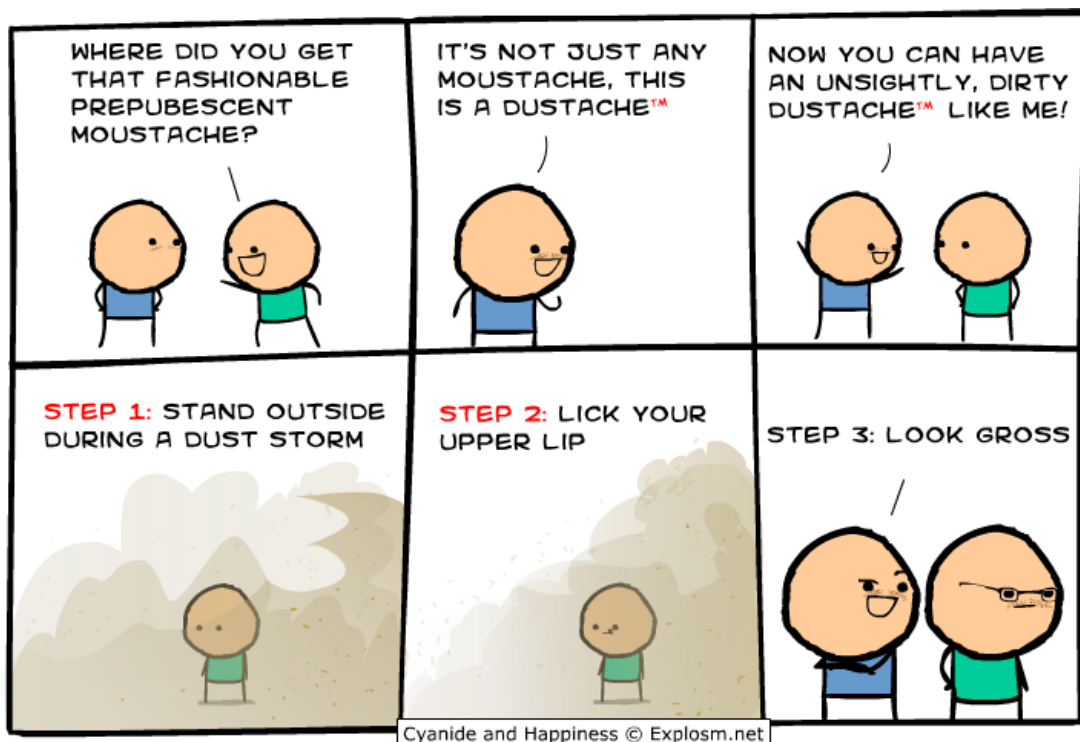


This month, members from 1st Platoon of the 1138th EN CO, found some time in between their busy Route Clearance schedule to conduct demo training. The training began with the Platoon practicing knot tying and charge calculations and ended with priming and detonating six, shape and cratering charges. Once all the demolition charges were detonated, several Soldiers were allowed to practice throwing M67 fragmentation grenades at the pit they had created with their cratering charges.

1st Platoon's Squad Leader, SSG Lawrence Johnson was in charge of the Demo training and he had this to say about the range, "The range allowed us to get away, even if just for a few hours from our mission and allowed us to practice the combat engineer's greatest asset, demolitions." The morale of the Platoon seemed to be high on this day and best summed up by SPC Patrick Feldmann's statement; "Any time you get to blow something up, it is a great stress reliever and good photo opportunity. Sometimes getting off mission and hitting the range is what you need here." - 1LT Perry Hoffman (Outlaw 1-1/ RCP 50)



Humor In Uniform: The "Dustache"



RCC Recovery NCO Takes Ingenuity to New Level



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – 370th Sapper Company returned to Afghanistan after just over a year of dwell time with a great deal of experience from lessons learned during their last deployment to Regional Command – East in 2011. This rotation, now in the Regional Command – South, brought back many veterans with high hopes and great ideas. Among those individuals is U.S. Army Sergeant Jason Newman, Recovery Team Leader and Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic with Route Clearance Package (RCP) 25 and 370th Sapper Company.

Sergeant Newman is a veteran of the Ordnance Corp with service as both a wheel and track vehicle me-

chanic. He is a graduate of the H8 Wheeled Vehicle Recovery Course and the Maxxtow Recovery Operators Course. Sergeant Newman has ten years service, and he is currently on deployment number four, with this marking the second time around in Afghanistan as a Recovery Team Leader for RCP operations. Needless to say, recovery operations are his specialty.

With every deployment comes growing challenges in the ever changing environment that is a combat zone. Sergeant Newman is no stranger to the Maxxtow Recovery Vehicle (MRV). He was one of the first to be fielded the latest recovery asset the Army has to offer in 2011. While conducting RCP operations in

now coming around for deployment number two, Sergeant Newman came in with a plan. He understood the ins and outs of the MRV, both its capabilities and its limitations. He understood the importance of his job as a recovery NCO working with route clearance. He knows the importance of reducing recovery time on mission. Drawing from his experience, he

knew full well that recovery is an essential part to RCP operations and one of the key enablers used is mine rollers, which always adds a curveball to any RCP recovery when duty calls.

According to U.S. Army Sergeant First Class Victor Almodovar, 370th Sapper Company Motor Sergeant,

Task Force Outlaw, this is a topic that Sergeant Newman and all of his Soldiers are passionate about. They wanted to find a way to improve the MRV to make mine rollers a curveball that can be easily overcome.

Sergeant Newman came up with the idea of a mine roller sling. One that has a perfect center of balance and is meant specifically



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Specialist Nicholas Martindale (left) and Sergeant Jason Newman (right) demonstrate the use of their Mine Roller Sling on a Maxxtow Recovery Vehicle at Forward Operating Base Walton (Photo by U.S. Army Specialist John Hinojosa, 370th Sapper Company Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic)

Ghazni Province, Afghanistan his MRV sustained an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) strike, blowing the front-end off his vehicle only a few weeks after getting the vehicle. This event put his team down as the first to ever sustain a strike in an MRV.

Being one of the few in the unit with experience on the MRV

RCC Recovery NCO Takes Ingenuity to New Level, Cont...

for the sling points of any SPARKS series rollers. His focus was targeted at designing a sling that will allow for rapid recovery of rollers without impairing the ability to continue further recoveries with the same MRV on patrol. He completed his plan at the drawing table and turned to the unit welder, Specialist Nicholas Martindale, to begin the fabrication.



KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – “Don’t Wing It, Sling It” Mine Roller Sling shown in its stowed position on the back of a Maxxtow Recovery Vehicle at Forward Operating Base Walton (Photo by U.S. Army Specialist John Hinojosa, 370th Sapper Company Wheeled Vehicle Mechanic)

forts of Sergeant Newman and Specialist Martindale proved to be the key to fighting their curveball on recovery while reducing time on target and increasing the safety of recovery Soldiers.

According to U.S. Army Captain Craig Miller, 370th Sapper Company Commander, Task Force Outlaw, safety of Soldiers and proficiency on mission is vital to our goal of bringing everyone home. Ser-

geant Newman is a Non-Commissioned Officer who understands what it takes to make this happen and goes the extra mile to get it done.

— 1LT Jon L. Trump
370th Sapper Company

for stowing the sling was added to the truck and the new slogan from Sergeant Newman was born, “Don’t Wing it, Sling it”.

The ingenuity and relentless ef-

23rd/137th Transfer Of Authority

On March 5th, CSM Raby and I traveled out to preside over the Relief in Place between the 23rd Airborne Sapper Company (Arctic) from Fort Richardson, Alaska and the 137th Airborne Sapper Company from Fort Bragg, South Carolina. COL Katers, the 555th Engineer Brigade Commander and LTC Sylvia, the 307th Battalion Commander, joined in at the event. CPT Billmann and 1SG Nordlof cased the 23rd guideon fol-



Cpt. Billmann and 1SG Nordlof casing the 23rd Sapper Company guideon.

CPT Tenner and 1SG Latore uncasing the 137th Sapper Company guideon.

lowed by CPT Tenner and 1SG Latore uncasing the 137th guideon, a symbolic act signifying the relief of route clearance missions for the

23rd and the assumption of those missions by the 137th. CSM Raby and I took a few moments to welcome the Soldiers to the TF Outlaw, and

thank CPT Billmann and 1SG Nordlof for the professionalism they brought to TF Outlaw. The 23rd arrived June 2012 in Afghanistan and did an outstanding job throughout. They performed route clearance missions for units in Regional Command Southwest before being assigned to Regional Command South and Task Force Outlaw. As with all Soldiers leaving Afghanistan, TF Outlaws wishes the 23rd all the

best with their return home.

—LTC Ritter



Soldier Spotlight: 1138th Engineer Company



SPC Nathan I. Derstine

- Hometown: Marthasville, MO
- Years of service: 3 Yrs
- Married? Yes
- Kids? No
- Parents? Yes
- Why did you join? I wanted to serve my country.
- Deployment job: Buffalo Arm Operator for RCP 50.
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? It has been an experience that I will never forget.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I have done over 200 interrogations and have dug up 17 PPIEDS without incident.
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs.
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my first deployment.
- Favorite food? Pizza
- Favorite Sports team: St. Louis Blues
- Civilian career? Certified Welder
- Vehicle you own: Izuzu Rodeo
- College? East Central, ECC
- Plans to do when back home? Finish college and obtain my Bachelors degree.



Crisis Intervention Hotline

Reminder:

The Crisis Intervention Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have the need to talk to a counselor, you can reach them from any NIPR phone by dialing 1-1-1. You can also reach Crisis Counselors by Local National Phone. Dial 070-113-2000, (wait for tone) then 1-1-1.

To reach Crisis Counselors by email, use the following NIPR address:

OEFCRISISHOTLINE@afghan.swa.army.mil

Chaplains Corner

Psalm 37:28

For the LORD loves the just and will not forsake his faithful ones.
Wrongdoers will be completely destroyed; the offspring of the wicked will perish.

— 120th EN BN Chaplain Assistant, SPC Jacob Few



From the Griffin's Nest



"From Fighting the Enemy to Fight Lines at Green Beans"

Transition from Company to Battalion has been a smooth and beneficial for 1LT Duncan and SPC Janulis. They have been able to bring their knowledge from being on the front lines to the Battalion in the S-2 and S-3 shops. LT Duncan offers first-hand experience as a platoon leader during the biggest effort TF Fury made in the middle of last year fighting season. LT Duncan has also covered countless miles of route in RC-South. SPC Janulis comes into the S-2 Shop from being the 1433rd NCOIC for the CoIST. During this time in Zharay, he has worked closely with the BSO's to develop operations to attack INS networks. He has also had the pleasure in acting in his real 12B MOS and has been out on numerous RCP missions.

1LT Duncan first started out as the 2nd platoon leader for the 1433rd. He arrived in RC-South at the beginning of July, just as the summer fighting season swung into full effect. He has been a part of it all as a PL. His platoon has cleared routes in almost every district in RC-South, Arghanbad, Panjwa'l, Maiwand, Kandahar and of course Zharay. His platoon has conducted dismounted common wire sweeps, employed the Doking and utilized APOBs to defect IEDs. These Blue TTP's he has helped developed have brought the S-2 shop that much closer to the battle field. This insight is also brought to the Division Counter IED Working

Group, which can be a real disconnect to what is really going on. He was also involved in major operations, in which RCPs are asked to create "Combat Cuts" for the infantry. Again, bring in perception to what the Platoons/Company needs for support from the battalion during those large scale CONOPs by simply asking, "what did I need or didn't get?" After his time as a PL, he moved into the more relaxing, air condition office of the CoIST at the 1433rd. He got the crash course



of the S-2 world from SPC Downing and SPC Janulis and was able to pick it up well since all the platoons work closely with the CoIST, all the 1443rd Ops came from there. The transition for the front lines to the support role has given a greater appreciation and understanding to the TF Outlaw S-2 shop.

SPC Janulis comes to the 120th S-2 as a former CoIST NCOIC for the 1433rd. Even before the deployment, he and SPC Downing formed the CoIST section 2 years before. Together they had developed an SOP for the CoIST section then

threw it out the window of an RG-31 as soon as they got here. He has also worked with three different BSO's, seeing the different process in which operations. He took 1433rd from just receiving CONOPs a 48-24 hours out, to sitting in the targeting meetings with the heads of the S-2, S-3 and BC to attack the battle space. Thus giving feasible capabilities to the BSO on what RCPs can do and what needs to be done from a FoM standpoint to combat the INS. Having going through those trials before first hand, he has been able to help give insight to the other CoISTs some of their success. SPC Janulis also was able to weasel his way into missions, claiming he needed it to help provide insight into his S-2 assessments. In all seriousness, his opportunity to go out on missions as a gunner, gyro cam operator and dismount, reduce tree lines/compounds in both framework and directed operations has been helpful to translate that aspect in the Battalion.

These two look forward to staying on and working to support and assist all RCPs as much as possible, and bring what knowledge and unique culture to the TF Outlaw war fight as they can. 1LT Duncan and SPC Janulis free up the seasoned S2 staff so they can conduct battle field circulations and gain firsthand experience and visuals as well.

— 1LT Duncan

1433rd Returns Home to Families



On 9 March 2013 the 1433rd and 1432nd Engineer companies (combined under the one flag of the 1433rd) were recognized in their end of

tour awards ceremony. "I am proud to be here and have the opportunity to recognize this unit for the excellent work they have done," remarked LTC Ritter, 120th Engineer Battalion Commander. As the 1433rd transitions out of theater, they are replaced by the 62nd Sapper Company and 84th Engineer Support Company which have already assumed control of the mission here in Southern Afghanistan.

The 1433rd accomplished many things while here in Afghanistan. Their achievements include clearing over 37,000 Kilometers of routes, which provided freedom of movement for allied forces, as well as, safe passage for the Afghan people. During this time, they maintained an 87% find/clear rate and participated in over 900 operations. Their efforts in this tasking resulted in 134 Soldiers being awarded the Combat Action Badge, 3 awarded the Combat Medical Badge, and 6 awarded the Purple Heart.

"I really appreciate the innovation and ingenuity that the 1433rd brought to the fight here," LTC Ritter said. "These soldiers have been amazing from day one. Operating in the most kinetic area of Afghanistan, the 1433rd

and the 1432nd came together as a single team, and exceeded the standard on all assigned missions," said CPT Todd Falor, commander of the 1433rd.

Many smiles were seen as members of the 120th Battalion shook hands and wished their comrades farewell. We know that as the 1433rd heads home to families, another milestone is reached in our own deployment, and we will also soon be headed home as well.

- CPT Paul Wyckoff



Soldier Spotlight: 693rd Engineer Company

PV2 Zachary (Action) Jackson

- Hometown: Stanfield, NC
- Years of service: 2
- Married? Yes.
- No Kids.
- Immediate family service (prior or current): None.
- Why did you join? For the College benefits.
- Deployment job: Combat Medic
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?

I think that the IED detection assets we [the Army] currently use should be better and much more reliable.

- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: It's taught me to make the best out of the time I get to spend with family and friends and to spend time with them as often as possible.
- Dogs, or cats? One dog, he's an albino boxer.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
- This is my first deployment.
- Favorite food: Mexican food.
- Favorite Sports team: Washington Redskins
- Vehicle you own: Hyundai Accent
- College? (favorite or major) Texas Tech, for Architecture.
- Plans to do when back home? Spend time with my family and friends.



ANA Command Highlight: 4th of the 205th

Captain Said Mahboob

- Years of Service: 26 years
- Married? Yes
- Children: 10 Children
- Why did you join? When I was 15 I knew that I wanted to help my people. So I decided to join the military to help protect our country.
- Job: Commander of the RCC of the 4th Brigade, 205th Corps ANA
- What do you think of your service so far? I like it very much and my family does as well. I want to make a military family, and I want my family to provide honest service for our people.
- How does this job compare to what you did before? My first job was in military service
- Anything this job has taught you or that you are proud of? I am proud that I have an honorable job and I can proudly serve for my country.
- Hobbies: I like to spend my time improving the ANA to be a professional organization to protect our country and make the Afghan people safer
- Favorite food: Fish with yogurt and mulberries (traditional Afghan dish)
- Favorite Sport: Volleyball
- Plans to do after the military? I dream to have my own business near my home where my family can be close. I have spent a lot of time away from them, so I will spend all the time I can with them then.
- What do you think of the partnership with the unit here? From the first meeting until now, it has always been professional. I am very proud to have worked and trained with them. They are the best unit we have worked with. Because of the training, I am 100% sure we can now do our job outside the wire.



ANA Command Highlight: 4th of the 205th

1SG Mohammad Nader

- Years of Service: 6 years
- Married? No
- Children: No
- Why did you join? I wanted to serve the Army to bring younger, new ideas to the military
- Job: Company First Sergeant of the RCC of the 4th Brigade, 205th Corps ANA
- What do you think of your service so far? My duties so far have been honorable from my mother command. It has been successful and I am proud of this
- How does this job compare to what you did before? When I was younger I worked for my father's mechanic shop and it is good to make my own way and have my own job. His shop worked mostly contracts to fix military heavy weapons.
- Anything this job has taught you or that you are proud of? I have responsibility to my country and I am proud to be able to serve the people of Afghanistan
- Hobbies: first I want to work towards a peaceful Afghanistan, then I want to train to be a professional pilot.
- Favorite food: Afghan tortellini (manto)
- Favorite Sport: Kickboxing
- Plans to do after the military? After retirement, I want to be a school teacher
- What do you think of the partnership with the unit here? I proudly say that this team is very professional and provided us classes that have made us the best in our Brigade. They are the best company and because of these skills we have picked up, we are the best. Because of them, we have also been able to fix our own vehicles and this lets us do our jobs more effectively.



ANA Soldier Spotlight: 4th of the 205th

1LT Hamidullah Shojah

- years of Service: 3 years
- Married? Yes
- Children: No
- Why did you join? When I saw on the news civilians were getting killed and the ANA helped, I decided that I wanted to do the same. So I joined to help find mines that were killing our people.
- Job: Platoon leader and EOD tech of the RCC of the 4th Brigade, 205th Corps ANA
- What do you think of your service so far? I think our job is difficult now, but getting better and better for the Afghan people. Because for each IED we find, we can save 4 or 5 lives and this makes me happy.
- How does this job compare to what you did before? I worked through school to help my family by working in a shop. My job is more difficult now, but I am uniquely qualified to do this.
- Anything this job has taught you or that you are proud of? The past situation in Afghanistan was bad. Getting to school or to work was dangerous. Now we can bring peace and make this easier for all Afghan people. The police and army provide safety on the roads so all can easily get to school and work.
- Hobbies: I just want to work to make Afghanistan more secure, then we can spread out and help other countries as well. I do this by working to become the most professional officer I can.
- Favorite food: Afghan palaw (rice with meat and carrots)
- Favorite Sport: jogging and cricket
- Plans to do after the military? After retirement, I want to be a teacher to the younger military soldiers



23rd Engineers Departs, for Arctic



On 7 March 2013 the 23rd Sapper Company (Airborne, Arctic) was recognized in their end of tour awards ceremony. "The 23rd is an outstanding company, they have some of the best Soldiers in the Task Force and added to the professionalism of our team," remarked LTC Ritter, 120th Engineer Battalion Commander. As the 23rd transitions out of theater, they are replaced by the 137th Sapper Company (Airborne) which has already assumed control of the mission here in Southern Afghanistan.

The 23rd accomplished many things while here in Afghanistan. Their achievements include clearing over 14,000 Kilometers of routes, which provided freedom of movement for allied forces, as well as, safe passage for the Afghan people. During this time, they had 23 IED finds and 9 strikes resulting in a 60% find/clear rate. They also participated in over 40 directed operations. Their efforts in this tasking resulted in 12 Soldiers being awarded the Combat Action Badge, and 1 awarded the Combat Medical Badge.

555th Brigade Commander Nicholas Katers was also present at the ceremony and had this to say, "As you go home, be proud of the job you have done here. The security you have provided, and the hope for the future that the people now have, is a direct reflection of the work you have done."

As many members of the 120th Battalion expressed a bittersweet farewell to the 23rd, each also understands that this represents another milestone in our own deployment. Soon, our replacements will arrive and our own awards ceremony will be scheduled. To the 23rd Sapper Company we say, God bless, and God speed!

- CPT Paul Wyckoff



4th of the 205th ANA Receives Thunderbird Award



URUZGAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – An Afghan National Army (ANA) unit partnered with the 1039th Engineer Company is now validated to conduct full independent route clearance operations as part of their normal duties to keep the roads safe in Afghanistan.

The 120th Engineer Battalion and its 1039th Engineers met Feb. 23 to congratulate the Route Clearance Company (RCC) of the ANA's 4th Brigade, 205th Corps, on their successful validation of mission essential tasks.

"Our ANA partners here have done a great job of learning their tasks to become independent and conduct route clearance here in Afghanistan," said 1st Lt. Michael Lyons, 1039th ANA liaison officer.

"The soldiers of the 4th of the 205th are highly trained and efficient," said Sgt. 1st Class

Barry Curtis. "They have actually been conducting limited independent operations since early for several months."

Lt. Col. Jack Ritter, 120th Engineer Battalion Commander, presented Col. Mohammad Rasool Qandahari, commander of the 4th Bde., 205th Corps, with the Oklahoma Thunderbird medal in recognition of the RCC's achievements.

The Oklahoma Thunderbird Medal was designed to recognize and reward an individual or organization demonstrating outstanding service, achievement or contribution made in support of the Oklahoma National Guard in the performance of their missions. Eligible recipients must not be members of the United States Armed Forces, but can include retirees, foreign dignitaries, or coalition forces.



Before presenting the Thunderbird Medal, Lt. Col. Ritter addressed the ANA troops in formation and thanked them for their outstanding service and dedication to making their country safer.

"This award is a direct reflection on the work and dedication that the soldiers of this unit put forward. Each and every member of this company made the efforts to earn this award," Ritter said.

"The 4th of the 205th is one of the best ANA Route Clearance Companies in Afghanistan, and the 1039th did a great job in partnering and preparing them to take the lead in clearing routes in this area" he added.

Capt. Said Mahboob, commander of the 4th of the 205th RCC said, "It gives me great pride to help improve the ANA

4th/205th ANA Receives Thunderbird Award, Cont...



as a professional organization, and to protect our country by making it safer for the Afghan people.”

Following the presentation of the award, many members of the unit took turns getting their pictures taken with the plaque. Approximately a dozen members of the ANA, to include the Brigade and Company commander, were invited to dinner with Lt. Col. Ritter, his staff, and the 1039th command.

“It was great to be there and see the unit recognized for their efforts,” said Task Force Outlaw ANA liaison Capt. Montana Dugger. “They have come a long way, and made great strides to accomplish this.”

Dugger also explained the way ahead now that the ANA Company is validated: “We will take more of a back seat role as the ANA take the lead. Our company level partnership teams will move more towards mentorship, concentrating more on critique of effectiveness and less on training,” he explained.

— CPT Paul Wyckoff
120th EN BN, Public Affairs



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)

1LT Duncan's

Griffin Lore:

The Griffin is said to be native to India, although nobody knows for sure exactly where it came from. These winged monsters would find gold in the mountains and built nests from it. Of course this lured hunters, so Griffins kept a very hostile guard over their nests. They would eat the men and devour their horses.

Soldier Spotlight: HHC 120th EN BN

MAJ Alan Ali

- Hometown: Pittsburgh, PA
- Years of service: 13 years
- Married : Yes
- Kids: 3 Children
- Family in the Service (or prior): I am the only immediate family member in the military
- Why did you join: I enjoyed the military training opportunities and wanted to do my part as some of my peers have done.
- Deployment job: Battalion Surgeon (PA)
- Thoughts on the deployment: It has been good and I have seen and done things that I would not have had the opportunity to do otherwise.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I am just proud to have had the opportunity to have served in this capacity
- Pets: We have both dogs and cats at home
- How does this deployment compare to others: This is my first deployment and it has been a good experience. I have a greater appreciation for those that have been here.
- Favorite food: Chinese
- Favorite Sports team: Pittsburgh Steelers
- Vehicle you own: Ford F-150
- College: University of Nebraska, Masters in Physicians Assistance Studies
- Plans to do when back home: Relax and spend time with family



Soldier Spotlight: 29th Engineer Company

SPC Deric William Burnett

- Years of service: two years
- Married: I am married
- Kids: None
- Military: My brother is with the Military Police
- Why Did You Join: I wanted to get out and experience more than what I had back at home. I also wanted to develop into a better man.
- Deployment Job: I am the primary Buffalo driver on route clearance missions.
- What Are Your Thoughts on Deployment: It can be stressful.
- Something The Deployment Has Taught You: It has taught me to be more responsible and accountable.
- Dogs Or Cats: I have two dogs.
- How Does This Compare To Other Deployments: This is my first one.
- Favorite Food: Famous Amos cookies
- Hobbies: I like to play Basketball and workout at the gym.
- Favorite Sports Team: L.A. Lakers
- Vehicle You Own: Pontiac Torrent, Nissan Versa and a Yamaha R6.
- College: I have not been to college.
- Plans After Redeployment: I want to go to the E-5 board and be promoted to SGT. I would like to trade in my car and start going to school.



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



120th HHC:

SGT Patrick Todd 03/15
SGT Carol Day 03/17
SPC Caitlin Mitchell 03/21
SFC Clayton Thompson 03/21
SPC Sean Singley 03/22
CPT Joe Pace 03/24
SFC James Miller 03/25

120th FSC:

SFC Gary Titsworth 03/15
SGT Jeffery Etheridge 03/27
SPC Jari Murphy 03/28
SGT Thomas Brewer 03/31

370th:

SPC Mathew Lundgren 03/26

84th:

PFC Nathan Gryder 03/25
SGT Andrico Bray 03/27

62nd:

SPC Nicholas Terrazas 03/15
SGT Oscar Olivo 03/23
SGT John Parkinson 03/29
1LT Matthew Ryan 03/30

1138th:

PFC Anthony Simmons 03/16
SPC Shelby Hovis 03/16
PFC Justin LaFave 03/23
SPC Kluesner 03/26
1LT Joseph Estes 03/28

693rd:

PFC Barnard Gbada 03/20
PFC Javier Monterrosa 03/30
CPL Sean O'Donnell 03/30
PFC Jacob Haugh 03/31
PFC Jordan Cookson 03/31

1039th:

SGT Hank Sprouse 03/16
SPC Cody Raines 03/20
SSG Larry Farmer 03/23
SGT Douglas Taggart 03/23
SSG James Duboise 03/27
SPC James Kemp 03/29
SPC Nathaniel Walker 03/31

Words From the TOP: Battle Buddy

As I walk around the FOB each day, I am constantly seeing soldiers without their Battle Buddy. I stop soldiers and ask them where is their Battle Buddy? I get all kind of replies from, "well he didn't want to get up to go eat" to "I was just running to the PX." Those answers are cop outs. Every soldier needs a Battle Buddy, from the highest ranking officer to the lowest enlisted soldier. I know it is not always 100% possible to have one by your side all the time, but we need to strive to move everywhere with one. Your Battle Buddy is there to make sure your uniform and weapon is squared away and accounted for; whether leaving the DFAC, Movie Theater, motor pool, or any of the other places soldiers go. Your Battle Buddy is there to help you watch for traffic in the event you are walking and to back you up if some unfortunate incident happens. Your Battle Buddy is there to listen when you have issues at home or in theater, to offer advice, or just a pair of ears for you to preach to. Your Battle Buddy: The soldier, that when you say "I am fixing to walk through Hell," says "I got your 6, bro."

— 1SG Frederick Siebert



Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Company



SGT Jesse Cross

- Years in Service: 6
- Married: to Jami Cross
- Parents: Ron Cross and Faye Miller
- First thoughts when hearing about Deployment: Good opportunity to make some money
- Something you have learned on this Deployment: I have learned leadership skills and gotten experience as a team leader.
- Favorite Food: Vanilla Ice Cream
- Sports Team: Arkansas Razorbacks
- Hobbies: Riding motorcycles and fishing
- Type of car you drive: Ford Escape
- Plans when you go back home: Buy a Harley Davidson
- What were your thoughts on your first mission outside the wire? The ways my knees hurt sitting in the TC seat of a RG-31
- Final Words: Don't get complacent, be careful and that the GPR doesn't work well in rocks, so keep your eyes peeled for anything out of the ordinary.



Soldier Spotlight: 1138th Engineer Company

SGT Kristopher Moore

- Years of service: 8
- Married to Amanda Moore
- Kids: 1 Boy, Kolby
- Military family: Father was in Air Force, Sister is in Army, Brother is in Navy
- Why did you join: College was expensive
- Deployment job: Supply SGT
- What are your thoughts on the deployment: They happen too frequently, training and prep for the deployment was about as long as the actual deployment
- Something the deployment has taught you or that you are proud of: learned to manage stress better and deal with individuals who I didn't see eye to eye with, very effectively
- Dogs or Cats: Dog, Siberian Husky
- How does this deployment compare to others: This is my first deployment
- Favorite food: Stuffed Chicken Marsala with a glass of red wine
- Hobbies: Cardinals baseball and school, working on masters degree in criminal justice, so no time for hobbies.
- Favorite sports team: ST Louis Cardinals
- Vehicle you own: 2007 Ford F150
- College: SEMO BS in Criminal Justice/Sociology, now working on masters
- Plans to do upon redeployment: Finish masters then family time



...The Last Word:

The 120th Engineer Battalion and World War I (April 1917 to July 1918)



After returning home from the Mexican Punitive Expedition against Poncho Villa on February 23, 1917, the 1st OK Infantry (with its Engineers) settled back into their civilian lives for the next two months. But in April of that year the Soldiers again found themselves going back on active duty.

Since 1915 Germany had damaged or sank 17 U.S. ships. In addition the British had intercepted a message from Germany asking Mexico to invade the United States from the south after they declared war on the United States.

The OK Army National Guard headed to Fort Sill where they remained until August 1917. From there they went to Camp Bowie, Texas where they reorganized with the Texas National Guard and were renumbered by the War Department to become 36th Infantry Division.

The OK Engineers became the 2nd Battalion, 111th Regiment Engineers, 36th Inf Div under the command of Major Frank B. King with the Engineer Regiment under the command of Colonel J.W. Barden. The 1st Battalion was made from the Texas Engineers.

Deployment training for the 36th Infantry Division began but not without problems. Texas was entering the worst winters they had had in several years. The Soldiers were overcrowded and winter clothing had not been issued. A fire had burnt down the base's hospital and our nation was hit with the greatest flu pandemic known to mankind. Children would sing, "I had a little bird, its name was Enza, I opened up the window, and In Flu Enza". In September 1917 the Hospital's admission recorded 44 sick soldiers, in October there were 487 sick soldiers, in November 3,894 sick soldiers, and in December 1,577 sick soldiers. Of these sick soldiers 216 died from the Spanish Flu.

In July 1918 the 2nd Engineer Battalion boarded trains headed Camp Mills, New York and from there they sailed for Brest, France. The Engineers underwent additional training at Bar-Sur Aube and participated in the St. Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne battles repairing roads, operating quarry and dump areas, and operating narrow gauge railroads.

The 36th Division returned to Camp Bowie, TX in the spring of 1919 and the OK National Guard reorganized as the 45th Inf Div. Their Engineers became a part of the 120th Eng Regiment with units located in OK and NM.

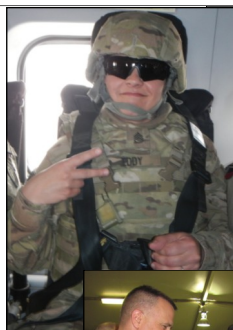
— CSM Richard Raby





COMING SOON!!!

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



Safety First, and then Teamwork:

Adhere to good network practices, keep our network security passwords secure and do not write them down where they can easily be seen. Information Assurance is a security measure implemented by DOD to manage risks related to the storage, processing and use of data and the systems that process that information. The department of defense has spent much time, money and effort in protecting personnel, information and equipment from any security threats or violations. Implementing rules on the proper use of computers, equipment and data with the use of passwords, CAC cards, security level clearance, and mandatory Annual Information Assurance training. A password is a secret set of characters and or letters used to identify and authenticate the user to gain access to certain resources. We use passwords to access computers at work, at home to access e-mail accounts, financial institutions, education, social media, programs, and data. All these are password protected for a measure of security. When a password is written down and stuck on your computer, under your keyboard, in your desk drawer (that has no lock) it offers as much protection as if there was no password to begin with. So practice good security and memorize your passwords or place it in your pin protected phone, or if you must write it down keep it in a secure location locked up. Another good idea is to change it often and never share your password with anyone. Fundamentally people have good intentions and want to do a good job. So practice good Information Assurance and protect yourself!

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!!!

