

Outlaw Chronicles

Sappers clear the way!



May 1, 2013

Volume II: Issue 09

Dari - 11 Saur 1392

Pashtu - 11 Ghuayai 1392



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Outlaws! Well, without a doubt, this is my last Chronicle article here in Afghanistan, so I want to do some "shout outs" as sort of a goodbye message. To my Commanders: Thank you for a job well done, and thank you for your dedicated support to Task Force Outlaw, our Soldiers and our Nation. May each of you soon find your way safely home. To Soldiers of Task Force Outlaw: Hell Yeah, job well done. Stay safe, do the right thing, and thank you for your service. I hope the days pass quickly and weeks pass even quicker. To the Outlaw Staff: Yep, you are that darn good.

Outlaw 6 Sends

None better and thank you for your support. To the Task Force Triple Nickel: Outstanding support, guidance and leadership. Willing and Able! To the families: Your sacrifices have not gone unnoticed. Thank you for being strong and unwavering. Our Nation is forever in your debt. To all the Soldiers in Afghanistan: We'll pray for your safe return. You embrace the true meaning of the American spirit. May God bless you and keep you safe. To the friends of Task Force Outlaw: May we meet again, somewhere much cooler next time, say a football game or a tavern.

The beer, whiskey, or if it's Major Newcomb, Zima –complete with cinnamon Jolly Rancher stuffed in the bottle, is on us. To my wife: I've missed you every day. I'll be home soon.... and in the words of the 120th Engineer Battalion FSC "Hell Yeah, hell yeah." Outlaw 6 out.

— LTC Jack Ritter



Task Force Outlaw





XO Foxhole

“As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”

Well here we are at the end of the deployment. This will be my last article for the newsletter. As stated last week in my article, I am looking forward to a couple of long vacations. As admired by many, as evidenced by the highly publicized photo, I have been working really hard to make sure I look my best for my beautiful bride when I get back and when headed to the beach.

For those of you that haven't done much physical activity beyond lifting a fork or walking to the portable toilets, I am here to tell you that you are too late. Not even CPT Dugger can help you now. I would suggest you just buy some bigger shirts when you get home.

I have seen it many times over the past few months, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and especially contractors, trying to hit the gym the last two weeks they are here. They are working biceps and ... biceps to try and look impressive when they get home. Sorry, but that gut just tends to overshadow any progress you think you have made above the waistline. You may have to rely on having your “special person” focus on staring into your eyes.

For those of you that have done a little more than walk-

ing to work, over the past few weeks, there is a glimmer of hope and I can give you my alternate plan. First, you have to start today. You have to take every opportunity, two to three hours per day, and hit the gym. You have to do weight training and cardio for at least an hour.



Second, you have to throw out any junk food you have and eat only stuff off the salad bar. I might even suggest carrying a pocket full of carrots or cucumber slices to munch on throughout the day. Now, when you get back to your demobilization site you will need to continue this regimen and stay away from the PX Courtyard establishments. Sorry, no Buffalo Wild Wings for you! Now you won't have the likeness of a SFC Mahan or CPT Reed, but at least you can look

presentable and take pride in knowing that you won't go home in worse shape than you came over here in.

For those of you that have been faithful to keep in top physical condition, I salute you. We all know how important physical activity is for stress relief and that sweating is good for your immune system. Of course the results of working out can be a benefit too, like looking good wearing an orange Speedo.

I am by no means the epitome of a David Hasselhoff physique, but I am in better shape than I came over in. Although I look like I just came out of Dachau, because I can't seem to put any meat on my bones, I feel good and I will have the stamina to keep up with all the activities that will come on two vacations with my family.

Well, there you have it, as seen through the eyes of the XO (with a little help from LTC Ritter). Keep up the great work and remember it doesn't end until you are safely back home with your family. Enjoy your time off and stay safe.

— MAJ Brian DeShazo
XO, 120th EN BN

Sapper Knievel jumps the Kandahar River Basin



"All I seen was water, it was crazy flooded. Just minding my own gosh [dang] business trying to feed my stomach at 2300, headed over to the Independence DFAC. I wanted to take the driest route to DFAC, which would be the raised sidewalk. I saw the concrete protruding from the water. I jumped my bike onto the presumed sidewalk, in mid-air I questioned



whether this could be a drainage ditch, obviously too late to turn back, I was then baptized with Kandahar's finest conglomeration of feces, contractible diseases, and active bacteria," remarked 1Lt. Dougherty.



**KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan –
Sapper Knievel jumps the Kandahar River
Basin, 27 March 2013**

120th Engineer Battalion Transfers Authority



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – As the 120th Engineer Battalion's time in Southern Afghanistan came to an end, a new command group has risen to take their place. The 120th En Bn, Task Force Outlaw, was replaced in theatre by the 878th En Bn, Task Force Dynamite, a group of engineers from the state of Georgia.

The 120th En Bn has paved the way for the 878th En Bn to continue the mission by completing successful Route Clearance and Support operations within RC South. "The 120th has set the standard high, but I have no doubt

that the 878th will continue in the same fashion" said COL Nicholas Katers, 555th BDE Commander. The 120th En Bn will soon leave the area of operations to return Fort Bliss, TX for demobilization and then to return home to Oklahoma.

The 878th En Bn took full control of its area of operations on 28 April, 2013.

LTC Eduardo Granados, Commander of the 878th stated, "We've trained hard and are prepared to execute this mission. With the assistance of the 120th through the RIP process and their professionalism, we are that much more poised to have a successful deployment." Granados went on to say, "Despite their name, the Outlaws showed us amazing hospitality and ensured that we were fully prepared."

Now that the official Transfer of Authority has taken place, many Outlaw Soldiers are packing their things and mailing last minute items home. Smiles are seen all around as we look forward to seeing our families and loved ones soon.

I know I would like to personally thank the Soldiers of the 878th for their diligence and their "Willing and Able" attitude to continue this mission as we head home to our families. And to give them one last Outlaw "Hell Yeah!"

— Cpt. Paul Wyckoff
Task Force Outlaw Public Affairs



Medical Corner: Depression



At times, everyone feels sad. However, depression is when feelings of sadness get so intense that you feel helpless, hopeless, or worthless for longer than a few days. Sometimes you also may have trouble concentrating or sleeping and you may feel incredibly tired all the time.

Some Signs of Depression:

You can't stop feeling sad or crying.

You often feel angry.

Feeling like you are not needed (soldiers returning when family has gotten the essentials done without them during the deployment)

You've lost interest in things you love.

You're having a hard time dealing with stress.

Depression affects 1 in 10 people in the U.S.

Getting help:

<http://www.militaryonesource.mil/>

-Medications: Anti-anxiety/Anti-depressant

-Therapy

Types of Therapy

Cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) works on the assumption that negative thinking affects your mood. It helps you see how your own thought patterns can contribute to your depression and teaches you practical ways to change them.

Psychodynamic therapy helps you understand and cope better with problems by identifying and talking about unresolved conflicts that may be contributing to your depression.

Interpersonal therapy focuses on helping you improve communication with family and friends and increase your self-esteem so you can interact with them in a healthy way.

Understanding Your Depression

Nobody knows for sure what causes depression. But we do know that you don't have to have a "reason" to feel depressed. A combination of all sorts of things -- like stress, genetics, hormonal changes, emotional setbacks or tragedies, and even your gender -- can all work together to trigger depression.

A lot of people have a hard time accepting that they may have depression. They feel ashamed. But depression is not something you brought on yourself. It's a disease, just like heart disease or diabetes.

Depression: can have a huge effect on your life. Without treatment, people may struggle for months or years feeling down or outright miserable. Their families and careers may suffer as well.

That doesn't have to happen to you. With help, you can beat depression. But the longer you put off treatment, the harder it can be to get it under control.

Exercise Can Help

When you're depressed, just getting out of bed can seem hard enough. The idea of starting the day with a walk or jog might seem impossible. But exercise releases chemicals in the brain called endorphins, which boost your mood. Studies have shown that regular exercise -- even just walking -- can make you happier, build your stamina, and boost your self-esteem.

Getting Started: Start with something simple, like a 10-minute walk around your neighborhood every morning. It's much easier to work your way up from there instead of setting goals that seem impossible to reach.

Tips for Success: To help you stick to your goals, exercise with someone else. Meet a friend at the gym a few times a week or take after-dinner walks with a neighbor.

How to Get Started

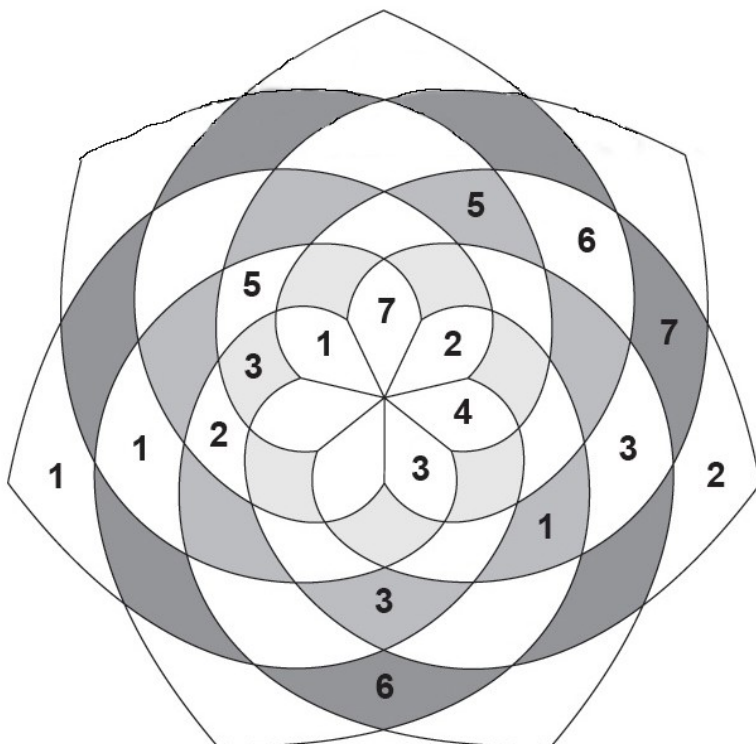
Ask your family doctor for a recommendation for a psychologist, social worker, or counselor. Although your primary care doctor can prescribe antidepressants, ask your doctor if you should work with an expert, like a psychiatrist. They have more experience with depression medicines and with psychotherapy.

If you ever think about hurting yourself, [get help immediately](#). Call your doctor or an emergency hotline or go to the ER right away.

The sooner you start treatment, the sooner you'll be able to manage the feelings of sadness or fatigue that seem overwhelming right now.

Outlaw Sudoku: Lotus Logic

- Each arc must contain the numbers 1 – 7.
- Each ring of shaded petals must contain the numbers 1 – 7.
- Each ring of white petals must contain the numbers 1 – 7.
- No number can be repeated in any arc or ring.



Guess the B.A.M.!

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



Leadership Corner

"The leader can never close the gap between himself and the group. If he does, he is no longer what he must be. He must walk a tightrope between the consent he must win and the control he must exert."

— *Vince Lombardi*



The BAM

We hope you have enjoyed our anonymous BAM pics. We did not get a chance to show all of the great mustache growth in TF Outlaw, but we did our best despite the efforts of some (SSG Krattli, 1138th), who refused to have their BAM published. We can only assume that those who refused to have their picture taken are "True Outlaws" and fear capture by authorities upon return to the U.S.

— Cpt. Paul Wyckoff

Hey Everyone!

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

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

TaskForceOutlaw

April: Month of the Military Child



Faith Lasiter...

is the daughter of Tonya Lasiter and 1SG Scott Lasiter, she is a senior at Eufaula High School and is a very outgoing and dedicated young lady who loves sports and academics. She is an active member of the Eufaula VFW Posts Ladies Auxiliary, North Fork Baptist Church and has worked numerous hours as a volunteer, on fund raisers and events, for the Co A. 120th Eng Bn. Family Readiness Group. Faith loves spending time, with her family, on Lake Eufaula wakeboarding, surfing, fishing and tubing with her younger sisters, Hope and Gracie-Jane. Faith has been accepted to the University of Oklahoma, where she will be working on her degree in Pharmacy.

Accomplishments:

- President of National Honor Society
- President of Eufaula Fellowship of Christian Athletes (FCA)
- Student Council Secretary – 2 years
- Math/Science Club
- President of her freshman, sophomore, and senior classes
- Softball – 3 years
- Golf -4 years: 2013 Class 3A Golf Individuals Conference Champ and
- Individuals Regional Champ, 2012 Class 3A Golf 5th Overall in State, 2011 3A Golf 12th Overall in State
- GPA: 4.23



1138th Engineers Transfer Out



Task Force Outlaw says “Goodbye for Now” to 2 final units. The first being the 1138th Engineer Company from Missouri. The unit cased their colors just a few days ago before moving onto the same base as the 120th EN BN, for the final step in their trip out of Afghanistan.

The 1138th played an essential role in Task Force Outlaws mission and displayed everything that is expected of

an outstanding Engineer Company.

Their mission of Route Clearance in (RC) South, Afghanistan, provided the needed support for those in their area of operations.

The 1138th left clear paths for other Coalition Forces and the local population to travel on, without fear.

The 1138th Transferred Authority to the 848th Engineer Company.

In doing this, they pass on the mantle in the hopes that their efforts will be rewarded with a free Afghanistan someday in the future.

Cpt. Davis (1138th Commander) said this when addressing his troops at the 1138th Awards Ceremony: “Working

as a team has made us successful and I cannot thank the Soldiers of the 1138th enough for the great job they have done.”

— Pvt. J. Alex Klein;
Public Affairs, TF Outlaw



Soldier Spotlight: 137th Engineer Company



SPC John Bouknight

- Hometown: Roosevelt, NY
- Years of service: 7 years
- Married? Married for 7 years
- Kids? One, 9 year old daughter
- Why did you join? To better take care of my family and to go to college
- Deployment job: Supply specialist
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?
It has been pretty good so far. We are building the team as a family and no major problems so far.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:
I have learned to work harder and sometimes on my own to accomplish the mission.
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs
- How does this deployment compare to others?
Unit cohesion has been better on this deployment. Working with combat MOS's has built a mutual respect for the importance of each others jobs.
- Favorite food? Pizza
- Hobbies: Reading and writing poetry
- Favorite Sports team: NY Nicks
- Vehicle you own: None, right now
- College? Central Texas College, major in Homeland Security
- Plans to do when back home? Re-enlist and try to get stationed in Hawaii!
- Last words: Hang in there when you first get here, it is tough, but it gets better!



News From the 693rd



My name is PFC Polk and this is my first post. Everyone should now be used to the whimsical ruminations of SPC Mack or McHenry from previous editions of the Battalion newsletter, but now it's my turn and it's about time to stop being friendly and start being real. In the words of my great warrior-poet role model, "go 'head, switch the style up, and if they hate, then let them hate, and watch the money pile up."

From my fly-on-the-wall position, I have a unique insight to the TOC life. With the addition of the Notre Dame mascot [read 2LT Crossman],



I have noticed an increase in confidence from the other lieutenants. The XO, 1LT Herold has given up his lecture series on the

importance of conserving paper and toner. His usual line of, "in a budget constrained... something or other," has been replaced by the sound of him printing out one day per page RCP schedules, his favorite Pinterest ideas, and even bodybuilding plans using all of his daily quota of valuable Class II. I even saw him folding napkins like origami swans in preparation for his upcoming wedding. XO and 1LT Weber are riding high on their countless victories in Spades. After trouncing SFC Feldman and the CO, I heard him scream, "The champ has arrived." And "You can touch this." *A special note: 1LT Herold aka. LT Straight-Laces is known for showing emotion as frequently as a rock, so everyone is too baffled to let him know the phrase is actually "you can't touch this," but only SFC Stachowicz has mentioned being uncomfortable with it.

I overheard the CO mention that the defeat in Spades was due to an unfortunate lack of caffeine during the game. You see, here at the FOB, there is an impending ban on Rip-Its and pre-workout supplements. The guys on the line seem pretty upset about the pre-workout ban. PFC Postelwait, in an Arnold accent, said, "This is ridiculous, I always keep my pre-workout with me, right here, it's like my weapon... which is not on me right now..." But, according to SGT Burch, we should really be upset about the

ban on energy drinks. Just the other day he told me... [in the interest of public decency, brevity, and SGT Burch's career, his rant has been deleted. Understand he is very upset that he is now forced to drink water and V8].

On a final note, my mustache is coming in nicely. After 5 grueling months of tireless effort, I think it's finally starting to show. Just in time for Mustache May. I won't be embarrassed like I was for Mustache April, Mustache March, Mustache February, or Mustache January.



— PFC POLK

3rd/205th ANA and 84th En. Co. Demolitions Range



We are well into the phase of turning Afghanistan's security over to the Afghanistan National Army. Many units to date have provided valuable training to the ANA. One unit that is continuing this invaluable training is the 84th Engineers in the Zharay District. The 84th's partnership with the 3/205th ANA has proven to be successful. They've taken an existing program and made it better. Instead of teaching one person from each platoon, on a specific technique, they train all the non-commissioned officers and allow those ANA NCOs to develop their junior Soldiers.

I recently spent a few days with Soldiers of the 84th observing demolition training they provided for the ANA Soldiers of the 3/205th. Staff Sgt. Jones brought in 1st Lt Tracy Porter from the 766th EOD Platoon to conduct explosive's training. The training consisted of safe handling of explosives, techniques to disable IEDs via water-

impulse charges, and real-world training destroying IEDs and damaged munitions.

According to Staff, Sgt. Jones of the 84th "the ANA we've trained to date has successfully located over 100 IEDs since January of 2013." He also remarked the "train the trainer program" the 84th was utilizing to educate the ANA is in full swing.

Staff Sgt. Jones mentioned this method of training has proven to be the most effective style of training, and the 84th is already seeing big dividends. Staff Sgt. Jones further remarked that he definitely

noticed the ANA Soldiers demolition skills have improved.

When asked about the training they received,

Sgt Abdul-Qayyuw of the 3/250th replied "the training was good, and I enjoyed learning new techniques." The 3/205th ANA Soldiers have already requested additional training in disposal operations as they are the primary EOD team in the Zharay District.

— SFC Michael Bignardi;
PAO 878th EN BN



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."

Soldier Spotlight: 370th Engineer Company



SPC Luke Frey

- Hometown: Belvidere, TN
- Years of service: 9 Years
- Married? No.
- Kids? No.
- Immediate family service (prior or current): Brother is a prior service Marine.
- Why did you join? I joined to get out of Tobacco farming.
- Deployment job: Operation RTO
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?
It's pretty easy. There's really nothing going on so far, which makes my job really easy.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:
This deployment has taught me resilience through normal day-to-day activities.
- Dogs, or cats? I have 2 bloodhounds.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
Well this is my 5th, and it's definitely the easiest of all of my deployments, in all aspects.
- Favorite food? Venison steak.
- Hobbies: Hunting and Fishing
- Favorite Sports team: Tennessee Volunteers.
- Vehicle you own: 1969 Shortbed Chevy.
- College? None yet.
- Plans to do when back home? I plan on attending the University of Tennessee.



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: On the Homefront...

"When a strong man, well armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe."
— Luke 11:21

SPC Jacob Few; 120th EN BN Chaplain Assistant



ANA Soldier Spotlight: 3rd/205th ANA



SGT Zabiullah

- Years of service: 3 Years
- Married? Yes
- Kids? No
- Hometown: Kabul
- What is your current position? Sergeant
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?
“Good, I am very happy to serve for my country.”
- What job do you do for your unit: Driver.
- Dogs, or cats? No.
- What did you do before joining the ANA? Farmer then I joined the Afghan army.
- Favorite food? Kabab beef meal
- Hobbies: write stories
- Favorite Sport? Football.
- Plans to do when back home? I will do personal work after the army, like farming.



Soldier Spotlight: 848th Engineer Company

SPC Chase Nelms

- Hometown: Sylvester, OK
- Years of service: 2 Years
- Married? No
- Kids? No
- Why did you join? To gain Experience in the medical field before college
- Deployment job: Combat Medic
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? It’s never as bad as you think.
Plan for the worst then if its anything less, it’d be a piece of cake.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:
Be flexible, plans change daily.
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs.
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my first deployment.
- Favorite food? Fried Porkchops
- Hobbies: Swimming
- Favorite sports team? None
- Vehicle you own: Land Rover
- Job back home: Student
- College? Nursing program
- Plans to do when back home? Start and finish college



Words of Wisdom From the “TOP”

“There are times to lead and times to follow; and the Wisdom to know the difference is a gift from God.” — Charlie Daniels

— From 1SG Scott Lasiter, Co. A/FSC 120th

84th Engineer Company: Comments from the Commander

Greetings again from Southern Afghanistan. The weather is heating up, reaching the 90s for mid-April.

We recently had a visit from the Joint Expeditionary Team. They embedded with us for a week looking at our procedures and planning. All of the Platoons were praised by the team for their planning and knowledge.

Recognition this month goes to SPC Robert Hatén (84th En. Co.) for being the Battalion Soldier of the Quarter and to SGT Van Zabo-jnik (84th En. Co.) as the NCO of the Month for the Company. The efforts of both of these Paratroopers directly increase the Kodiak mission readiness.

Unfortunately, we had to send SPC Hooks back home, through Germany, due to an ankle injury. PFC Zatarain is on his way out here to keep the Maintenance Team fully manned.

The Company continues to set the example for the Task Force keeping all Paratroopers safe both inside and outside of the wire. No friendly unit in our area has received a strike from an IED!

The Kodiaks are getting to the weapons ranges often, employing all of their weapons as well as being able to shoot some Anti-Tank rockets (AT4s) on the range. Even 1LT Gill was able to fire one with 1st Platoon.

Until next time—Kodiak 6



Captain Carvelli
84th En. Co. Commander:
Kodiak 6

Military Humor: “Firing Squad”



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)

Razorbacks Sign-Off (1039th En. Co.)



Task Force Outlaw says “Goodbye for Now” to 2 final units. The first being the 1138th Engineer Company from Missouri. And now the 1039th Engineer Company (Call Sign: Razorbacks) from Arkansas.

The unit cased their colors just a few days ago before moving onto the same base as the 120th EN BN, along with the 1138th, for the final step in their journey out of Afghanistan.

The 1039th was pivotal in the accomplishment of Task Force Outlaws mission and not only displayed everything that is expected of a Route Clearance Company, but also trained a portion of the Afghan National Army (ANA) to be able to conduct their own missions.

Their mission of Route Clearance in (RC) South, Afghanistan, provided the needed support for those in their area of operations. And their ANA Mentorship team performed above and beyond the call of duty.

The 1039th left clear paths for other Coalition Forces and the local population to travel on, without fear.

The 1039th Transferred Authority to the 833rd Engineer Company.

In doing this, they leave with the hope that their efforts will be will aid in future operations with hopefully a free Afghanistan someday in the future.

Cpt. Jacobs (1039th Commander) said this when addressing his

troops at the 1039th Awards Ceremony: “I appreciate the Soldiers of the 1039th and their support in this challenging mission. [I’m] Proud to have served with you all and experienced the camaraderie of being here with you.”

— Pvt. J. Alex Klein;
Public Affairs, TF Outlaw

Soldier Spotlight: 62nd Engineer Company

SPC Michael Olson

- Home: Lynn, MA
 - Years in Service: 3 years
 - Married? Yes
 - Kids? 2 children, 1 boy, 1 girl
 - Military Family? Both brothers were in the Army
 - Why joined? I wanted to experience new things and achieve new accomplishments
 - Deployment Job: Primary IED Identifier. Engineer Explosive Ordinance Clearance Agent (EEOCA)
 - What are your thoughts on the deployment: This deployment has not been bad. Some of the routes are a little constricted, but the operational tempo is slower than my last deployment.
 - Something this deployment has taught you, or that you are proud of: I am just glad to be here and able to play a key role in what my platoon does.
 - How does this deployment compare to others? On my last deployment, I was in Helmund Province and things moved much faster. The environment was much more kinetic.
 - Dogs or cats? Dogs... I have a German Sheppard / Rottweiler mix at home.
 - Favorite food: Pasta – spaghetti
 - Favorite Sports team: New England Patriots / Boston Red Sox
 - Vehicle you own: Infinity
 - Hobbies: Ride motorcycle / spend time with family
 - Plans when you go back home: Starting college in January majoring in Criminal Justice
- Words of Wisdom: Don’t forget situational awareness! Keep your head on a swivel!



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



120th HHC:

SPC Patrick Barr 05/10

120th FSC:

SGT Dylan Garcia 05/08
SGT Richard Bielser 05/11
SPC Antonio Young 05/14
SFC Hugh Jackson 05/14

370th:

SPC Derek Blair 05/05
SPC Richard Brown 05/12
SPC Clifton Myers 05/12
SFC Robert Ybarra 05/13

1039th:

SPC Nathan Greer 05/05
SPC William Brint 05/07
SPC Corey Cope 05/07

1138th:

PFC Austin Calvert 05/06
SPC Joshua Yakel 05/06
SGT Walter Koon 05/07
SSG Kerbert Krattli 05/07
SGT Joshua Stevens 05/10
PFC Christopher Hawkins 05/12
SPC Logan Young 05/12
SPC Christopher Richie 05/14

84th:

SPC Isidro Gonzalezhernandez 05/06

SSG Matthew Morlock 05/07
PFC Christopher Heilemann 05/08
PFC Steven Calloway 05/10
SPC Gregory Purdy 05/12
SGT George Dotson 05/13

693rd:

SPC David Land 05/03
PFC Isaac Ramirez 05/05
PFC Daniel Wells 05/08
SSG Clinton Small 05/09
PFC Michael Acosta 05/12
SPC Coty Pogue 05/12

62nd:

SGT Timothy Coulter 05/09
SPC Isidro Gonzalez 05/12
SSG Paul Bays 05/12

878th HHC:

SGT Monique Stephens 05/03
SPC Rodriquez Tutt 05/14
SSG Charles Stevens 05/15
SPC Charles Wallace 05/15
SGT Thomas Sprague 05/18
SSG Thomas Jones 05/19
SSG Rodney Davis 05/20
SGT Latrice Spence 05/22
SPC Christopher Hiser 05/22
SGT Michael Hall 05/24
SPC Joshua Hicks 05/24

SPC Veronika
Lopez 05/26
SSG Antonio Williams 05/27
SPC Justin Griffith 05/29
SPC Terry Richie 05/30
2LT Michael Elbaz 05/30

878th FSC:

None

– 1LT Josh Trenkel (Outlaw 1-4/ RCP 56)

...The Last Word: **Last of the “Last Words?”**



We are almost to the end of our deployment and I can finally write the last words of the Last Word.

This deployment has been very different than the one we had in Iraq.

Since we re-organized a few years ago this is the first time we have had a chance to utilize our Forward Support Company the way it was indented. They have done an absolutely outstanding job in supporting our down trace units with maintenance, recovery, and logistical support. It has been a new type of mission for them and they have gained a huge amount of experience and lessons learned.

Another big change from the way we have operated in the past is having down trace units under our command from other State National Guard units as well as Engineer companies from Active Duty units. This has presented its own unique challenges. I must say that we have been blessed with excellent Commanders and First Sergeants. All the units have supported us with lots of teamwork, cooperation, and friendship. I believe we have learned from each other and have made a united Task Force that has been very successful.

There is one thing that I believe is significant and that is our Battalion came over here with only 1/2 – 2/3 of our organic Engineer Soldiers. The rest of them have been cross-leveled from other units within our state plus a few Soldiers that volunteered from other states. From the very beginning these Soldiers pitched in and became part of our team and were accepted and treated like one of our own Engineer brothers. They have all done a tremendous job, many of them working outside their normal MOS and proved the versatility and resourcefulness of our men and women.

We have much to be thankful for but without a doubt the biggest, is that we have not lost one single Soldier while having a truly dangerous mission. In addition we have not had any Soldiers that required amputations and the few Soldiers that have been injured are expected to make a full recovery.

I want to thank all the families of our Soldiers. Without a doubt you carry a huge burden and are a big part of the war effort.

I feel honored to have had the privilege of being the CSM of such a great group of Soldiers. I wish everyone the best of luck. God bless all of you.

— CSM Richard Raby





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NEWS AND
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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!

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