

OCTOBER 2013

Task Force Bayonet

OEF 13-14

Inside this Issue:

CMD Group	1
HHC	2
FSC	3
82nd	4
455th	5
515th	6
541st	7
576th	8
849th	9
1438th	10



CSM McVicker and LTC Acker prepare for a aerial reconnaissance flight

Command Team Corner

Aloha Friends and Family of Task Force Bayonet,

A month has passed since our battalion deployment to Afghanistan. The time has quickly flown by, and it seems like yesterday we were sitting with you all back in Hawaii. The 65th Engineer Battalion has grown in numbers and now boasts some of the finest Soldiers from across the Army. Of course you are familiar with the HHC, FSC and 82nd Engineer Support Companies organic to the 65th Engineer Battalion. However, we now have the 576th Engineer Company (Sapper) out of the 4th Engineer Battalion in Colorado, the 541st Engineer Company (Sapper) out of the 54th Engineer Battalion in Germany, the 1438th Multi Role Bridge Company out of the Missouri Army National Guard, the 515th Engineer Company (Sapper) out of the 5th Engineer Battalion in Missouri, the 849th Mobility Augmentation Company out of the Minnesota Army National Guard, and the 455th Mobility Augmentation Company out of the Idaho Army Reserve. TF Bayonet is now nine companies strong and continues to excel every day. CSM McVicker and I are impressed every day with the competence, determination and professionalism of this amazing team of teams, and we are both humbled and honored to lead this extraordinary Task Force in the months to come. Your Soldiers have accomplished much in a very short time, and we are all very proud of their Service to our Nation.

As we transition into the winter months, your Soldiers will continue working towards the goal of turning the country of Afghanistan over to the Afghan Security Forces. TF Bayonet is setting the standard for the International Security Assistance Forces, and during the past month your Soldiers have amassed some serious stats. Our route clearance patrols (RCPs) have driven over 7,500 km of routes, finding and clearing numerous IEDs. Additionally, our multi-role bridge company has completed countless bridge inspections, inventories, Afghan training missions, and rounded out the month with an overbridge extension on the Tom Bridge in Helmand Province. The Engineer Security Forces Advise and Assist Team (ESFAAT), led by CPT Jason Oliver, continue partnering efforts with the 207th Corps Engineer Kandak of the 207th Afghan National Army Corps. The 207th CEK is the newest Afghan National Army Engineer Battalion, and is finishing up basic training at Camp Phoenix. We look forward to future partnering efforts with this group of Afghan engineers. Of course, none of this would be possible without the incredible support provided by the Forward Support Company and our Headquarters and Headquarters Company. Their grit and determination to do the job right have been vital to the success of TF Bayonet as a whole. CSM McVicker and I thank all of the Soldiers of TF Bayonet for doing their part to make the 65th Engineer Battalion the most successful task force in the country of Afghanistan.

We are also very thankful for the tremendous support we have received from the Rear Detachment Company and the Family members of the Family Readiness Groups back at Schofield Barracks and across the many installations this Task Force hails from. Your unwavering support of our Soldiers has truly been a blessing. Our Soldiers are able to focus on their jobs here in Afghanistan because they know their Families have a support network back home that will help them through the difficult times. Strong Families equal strong Soldiers, and this command team is committed to ensuring our Families are well taken care of. Though we may be separated by thousands of miles, the team of teams that is TF Bayonet remains strong!

"First In, Last Out"

LTC David Acker - Bayonet 6

CSM Harold McVicker - Bayonet 7

O
C
T
O
B
E
R

2
0
1
3



HEADQUARTERS COMPANY

TIGERS

OCTOBER 2013



PSD getting ready to go out on mission

Aloha Family and friends of the HHC Tiger Family!

The last month has flown by as we moved into our new homes in Kandahar, Leatherneck, and Arena. Our ADVON party, which landed mid-September, set the stage for a successful transition and hand off from the 307th EN BN (C)(A). With the arrival of the Main Body at the first of the month, everyone hit the ground running. We spent about two weeks working side by side with the Soldiers, NCOs, and Officers from Task Force S.A.W. (307th) before Task Force Bayonet (65th EN BN) officially accepted the responsibility of overseeing and coordinating engineer operations across the southern part of Afghanistan. Eight additional engineer companies transitioned under the battalion with the transfer of command, and each of our HHC staff sections has been extremely busy incorporating the various units into the Bayonet Team. With the reigns officially in our hands, our busy days have calmed down a little and allowed us some time to relax, go to the gym, spend time at the MWR, or grab a cup of coffee at Green Bean. We also have a great group of runners that have been able to participate in the Leatherneck Marine Corps Marathon, as well as a few other fun runs that both Leatherneck and Kandahar have hosted. Since our arrival in theater, six Soldiers have volunteered to re-enlist. Congratulations to SSG Smith, SSG Outlaw, SGT Houle, SGT Cruz, SPC Keller, and SPC McNeil on their re-enlists. Thanks to all the friends and Family who are sending packages and letters! Everyone looks forward to seeing their name on the mail board that lists who has packages and letters waiting! Aloha,

Tiger 6.

CPT Chelsey O'Nan



PSD Soldiers preparing to go out on mission



FORWARD SUPPORT COMPANY

PHOENIX

O
C
T
O
B
E
R

2
0
1
3

It's hard to believe that most of October is almost behind us! The past month can only be described as fast-paced as the Phoenix Team arrived in country and hit the ground running. Over the past month we moved into our new home, conducted a **left-seat right seat ride with the outgoing unit where they "showed us the ropes" of Camp Leatherneck**, inventoried and signed for equipment, did additional training, and completed our first two Combat Logistics Patrols (CLP).

During the first CLP that the Phoenix team completed in Afghanistan, the Soldiers and NCOs showed off all of their training and hard work that they have put in over the last eight months. They were trained and ready, and boy did it show! From ensuring that their vehicles were mission ready and mechanically sound, to tying down equipment, to making all communications mission ready and rehearsing, rehearsing, rehearsing, FSC kicked off their first mission in support of logistic operations flawlessly.

While not planning for or on mission, Soldiers of the FSC provided their sister units with first class logistical support by assisting them in the movement of their equipment around Camp Leatherneck, help with turn-in of excess equipment, and the troubleshooting and repair of their vehicles. They also put in countless hours to ensure that their new work spaces are clean and ready to work in.

During the month of October, we also welcomed 15 new awesome Soldiers to the Phoenix Ohana from the Personal Security Detail (PSD), HHC, 65th EN BN. The addition of these Soldiers gives us more flexibility when planning missions and are a definite force multiplier! We are very happy to have them a part of the Phoenix team.

All in all, the Phoenix Soldiers continue to impress. From the selfless dedication of the Headquarters, Maintenance, and Distribution sections, to the commitment and resiliency of the Convoy Team, the Phoenix team has never been stronger. We thank our **families and friends for their continued support as we fulfill our higher unit's mission.**

Keep up the good work!

- Phoenix 6

CPT Mark Milligan



82nd ENGINEER SUPPORT COMPANY

BLADE

O
C
T
O
B
E
R
2
0
1
3



This was a busy month for the 82nd ESC. The unit arrived at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan in early October. They immediately began the transition by completing various theater required training. This included counter improvised explosive device (IED) training, briefings and ranges.

The platoons settled into their new living accommodations and began inventorying their new equipment. 1st and 2nd platoon conducted joint route clearance missions with platoons from 618th ESC as part of their transition. Field Maintenance Platoon (FMP) **established themselves in the motor pool and worked hard to ensure that 82nd's vehicles were fully mission capable.** Headquarters platoon worked hard to establish the command post. The company officially took the reins from 618th on October 20, 2013.

The company's area of responsibility expanded into RC South when it took over for 541st Engineer Company on October 28, 2013.

We expect the rest of deployment to be busy as we conduct route clearance and retrograde operations.

From the Commander:

Aloha Blade Family,

I find myself saying this a lot, but I've got to say again how proud I am of our Soldiers. As you read these updates and see the pictures of our Soldiers in action, I hope you'll feel the same admiration for how many skills this team can bring to bear. The amount of equipment these Soldiers operate and maintain on a daily basis is impressive. Over the course of the deployment we will publish this newsletter at the beginning of every month. Your Soldiers are doing great things over here and I am thrilled to think of the **story we'll continue to tell in future newsletters.** I only hope we can be creative enough to fit it all in the limited space available.

-Blade 6
CPT Trevor Dursky



455TH MAC

Wolfpack

Family and Friends,

The Wolf Pack has arrived! Safe and sound in Afghanistan. After 62 days of Mobilization training at Fort Bliss, the pack has been released back to where they belong, clearing the route and leading the way throughout Afghanistan.

Currently, the 455 is stationed at Kandahar Air Field, where we train and certify our Soldiers in preparation to clear the way. In short time, the Company will be separated as we leave a Platoon here at KAF to run missions. The remainder of the company will head north to conduct a Relief in Place with the 515th Sapper Company. Till then, the Maintenance team has been working diligently on repairing and maintaining our Gun Trucks, making them fully mission capable. The Platoons have been training, studying, rehearsing on our equipment, missions, and procedures.

We have been welcomed in under our new command, the 65th Engineer Battalion, **"Task Force Bayonet"**, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, and under the command of LTC Acker and CSM McVicker. We are looking forward to their leadership, guidance, and mentorship throughout the next 9 months.

Our prideful tradition of being called the "Wolf Pack" will come to an end in this theatre. In honor of our brothers in arms during our last tour in Ramadi, we have decided to keep the name as true to our identity as possible. The Wolf Pack will change its call sign from **"Wolf"**, to **"Lobos"**, for Lobos is Spanish for Wolf. So to our brothers from past and those at home, we will proudly carry your tradition forward under the call sign, **"Lobos"**.

As our tour begins to ramp up, we appreciate all care packages and support coming from the States. We look forward to your packages, momentary words on the phone, and letters from home. Unfortunately, we ask that you wait till the Company is settled before packages are sent and can give you a correct APO address. We thank the FRG at home for monitoring each other and taking upon themselves to look after families. The strength of each Soldier of the 455 comes from our Families, Friends, and Community.

"Prey to Kill"....Wolf Pack!

- Lobos 6

CPT Mason Flemmer



O
C
T
O
B
E
R

2
0
1
3





515TH SAPPER COMPANY OUTLAWS

O
C
T
O
B
E
R
2
0
1
3

Family and Friends,

The Outlaws are in command! We officially assumed the mantle for Route Clearance Operations in our area of responsibility on 23 October 2013. Conducting our Relief in Place / Transfer of Authority ceremony that day we un-cased our beloved unit guidon signifying our assumption of the mission while the 62d Sapper Company cased their colors marking their relief from the mission they had held for the last nine months. We wish the Reapers safe travels and resilient return home.

As for the Outlaws, all are well here in Kandahar on FOB Pasab. Everyone is extremely pleased by the quality of life here on the FOB and morale is high. We had a brief stay at Kandahar Airfield so that we could conduct some required training and get acclimatized to the area. Ever since then, we have been aggressively getting after the mission.

The Outlaws have been welcomed warmly by the Bayonet Battalion, 65th EN BN and have already established a relationship that will be rewarding for all over the next several months. LTC Acker presided over our RIP/TOA ceremony with great remarks for the 515th.

We recently changed our call-sign to **"Gunslingers"**. However, we intend for it to **only be a temporary solution while a sister company out here borrows the "Outlaw" moniker. Whether we are "Gunslingers" or "Outlaws", the 515th will be sure to make you proud.**

As always, we truly appreciate your support from the states. The packages we have gotten thus far have been tremendous and we are kept ever abreast of the great events our FRG is taking part and putting on. Thank you so much. The strength of our Soldiers is our Families.

Sappers In!

First In!

Outlaws!

Ricky L. Brown
CPT, EN
Commanding
515th Sapper Company
"Gunslinger 6"



541st Engineer Company (Sapper)



O
C
T
O
B
E
R

2
0
1
3

Soldiers, families, and friends of 541st EN CO (Sapper) Outlaws!

October has been a month of change for the Outlaws. First, the temperature has finally cooled with highs dropping into the mid-80s. On 21 October, the 307th Engineer Battalion (C) (A), Task Force Sappers, Athletes, and Warriors (S.A.W.), transferred authority to the 65th Engineer Battalion and so, we are now a part of Task Force Bayonet. Most importantly, we transitioned our area of operations to the 82nd Engineer Support Company and are now focused on retrograde and redeployment operations. In total, the Outlaws conducted more than 230 combat patrols clearing a total of 22,000 kilometers, reducing 22 improvised explosive devices along the way. November will be a hectic month for the company as we turn-in all of our equipment, close our footprint here on Camp Leatherneck, and ship our organic equipment back to Germany.

We would like to congratulate the following Soldiers on passing the October Promotion Board: SGT(P) Jason Grieco, SGT(P) Robert Tierney, SGT(P) Michael Rebenstorff, SPC(P) Dionicio Cabrera, SPC(P) Brandon Jackson, SPC(P) Timothy Horschler, and SPC(P) Brandon Lovato. We would also like to wish SFC Deforest Rutledge, SGT Nathaniel Claye, SGT(P) Jason Grieco, SGT(P) Michael Rebenstorff, SPC Wendell Burley, SPC(P) Dionicio Cabrera, SPC Willis Chandler, SPC Caleb Hubbard, SPC Amra Palmer, SPC Stephen Wolfinger, and PFC Riley Pendleton a Happy Birthday this month.

The FRG is always looking for volunteers so if you are interested please contact Trina Haro, Christina Mitchell, or myself. Our goal is to keep all family members informed and involved in our organization. As always thanks to all of our friends, family, and loved ones for the love and support that you continue to show us.

For the latest Outlaw news, you can follow our Facebook page located at <https://www.facebook.com/#!/pages/541st-Sapper-Company-Outlaws> (541st Sapper Company "Outlaws")

CPT Justin S. McMillan – Outlaw 6
justin.s.mcmillan.mil@mail.mil

1SG Otto B. Valdez – Outlaw 7
otto.b.valdezvaldez.mil@mail.mil



1st Platoon conducts post-mission regeneration, which includes equipment maintenance, washing



576TH ENGINEER COMPANY

SPARTANS

O
C
T
O
B
E
R

2
0
1
3

Family and Friends,

The first month in the deployment is always the most busy. Now that our platoons all have had some time in country and gotten a feel for the area of operations, things are starting to gel. Patrols are going more smoothly, reports are being sent faster, repairs on vehicles are carefully tracked, and pop-tarts are starting to get old.

Between the three clearance patrols they have traveled nearly 4,000 miles since we first touched down in Afghanistan. Now as October starts winding down the days are becoming noticeably shorter and cooler as we prepare for winter. At night we have seen people start whipping out the snivel gear as the temperatures occasionally hit the low 40's. As the holidays creep ever closer we all anxiously await the looming rainy season that follows.

From the Commanders Desk:

Families and Friends of the Spartans, I hope this note finds all of you well as the company continues to aggressively execute missions throughout our Area of Operations.

The Spartans hit the ground running when we arrived on Shindand Air Base, taking over the daunting task of clearing the routes for safe travel of Coalition and Afghan forces as well as the local population throughout all of RC-W. With maintenance remaining a never ending task and rehearsing what the Soldiers do best – clearing explosive hazards – the company is never without something to do. As mail continues to trickle in, morale increases with the receipt of letters, pictures, words of encouragement and love, and of course, something that nobody can live without – fatty cakes! We remain a proud and competent company, ready to accomplish our missions to the **highest “Spartan” standard, and that is a direct reflection of the support we continue to get from our families and friends back home.**

Search-Fight-Destroy: SPARTANS!

-Spartan 6





849th MAC
Nitrates

849TH MAC NITRATE

O
C
T
O
B
E
R
2
0
1
3

Friends and Family of Nitrate,

As we come to the end of October, the 849th MAC has transitioned into operating out of FOB Frontenac on our own. Earlier this month we completed a relief in place at Kandahar Airfield with the 591st Sapper Company. Then the following week we turned around and relocated to FOB Frontenac. Since relocating we completed a relief in place with both the 848th and 833rd EN companies. Both Nitrate platoons are enjoying being able to finally run missions on their own that are not considered relief in place missions. With having replaced two companies we inherited their footprint, and are also responsible for the retrograde of that larger footprint as well. Since arriving we have made great gains to reduce that footprint and assist 2-2CR with their retrograde mission here on FOB Frontenac.

With any transition it takes time to get comfortable, and get into a battle rhythm. Despite those challenges the high levels of motivation and morale among each Soldier has remained. Nitrate is now nearing two months being into country and we have constantly improved operationally, and can see the personal and professional development in each Soldier. As we continue to operate in this AO we look forward to the challenges that arise along with enhancing our skills as we push ourselves to constantly improve.

1LT Schiller, 849 COIST OIC



1438TH MRBC

RIVER OTTERS

O
C
T
O
B
E
R
2
0
1
3

Greetings from the River Otters of the 1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company, Missouri Army National Guard. Since our arrival in theater we have been going non-stop. In the month of October, we have completed several tasks and missions. Our primary focus is maintaining freedom of maneuver throughout theater by maintaining, repairing, and emplacing military bridges. During October, we have completed, seven bridge repairs, one bridge reconnaissance, relocated a portion of our company to KAF, and conducted a bridge training event with the Afghan Ministry of Public Works in Lashkar Gah. Additionally, we have turned in \$3,220,016 worth of equipment in support of retrograde operations. Our operational tempo will remain high in the coming months as we have several large bridge missions scheduled. The 65th Engineer Battalion has hit the ground running and we appreciate all of the attention given to the MRBC. We look forward to our continued work with the BN and refining our understanding of what is expected of us while helping them understand issues we need assistance with.

Bridge the Gap!

1438th MRBC



OCTOBER 2013

Task Force Bayonet Happenings

82nd doing Minehound Training



Dust storm rolling in



CPT Davis and LT Hanratty showing some Aloha



Soldiers preparing to go out on mission



Task Force Bayonet All Stars



SGT(P) Curry won NCO of the Month for September due to her outstanding performance in 65th's Forward Support Company.



SPC Smith won Soldier of the Month of September due to his outstanding performance in the HHC PSD platoon.



1LT Lostetter ran her first marathon with a incredible time of 3 hours and 35 minutes.



SSG Cornett and PFC Saunders from 515th won NCO and Soldier of the month for October due to their unyielding dedication to the mission and hard work.



First In, Last Out!



PAO CORNER



<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/65ENBN>



facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/65th-Engineer-Battalion>