

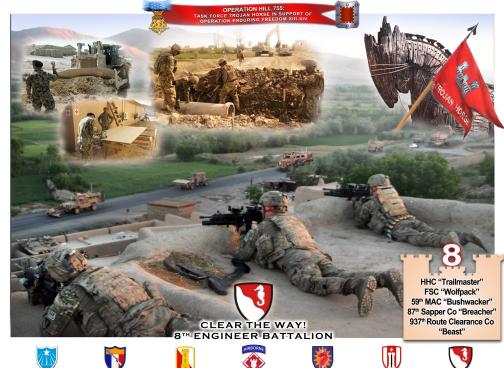
The Trojan Horse Watering Hole

8th Engineer Battalion OEF Newsletter



Don't miss out on a piece of history!





















Task Force Trojan Horse is commissioning a piece of artwork by acclaimed military artist Jody Harmon. Above is a digital concept for the project by Jody which he will blend together in pencil sketch. The sketch will commemorate the hard work, dedication, and valor of Trojan Horse Soldiers in OEF 13-14. Prints are \$50 a piece and would make a great gift for your Soldier as he returns home. Please contact 1LT Steven Keith if you are interested at keith.steven@afghan.swa.army.mil or through the Battalion Facebook page. The deadline for orders is 23 November 2013.

Issue 2

The Trojan Horse Watering Hole

8th Engineer Battalion OEF Newsletter





The Battalion Commander's Corner

Trojan Horse Family

Since our last newsletter, Task Force Trojan Horse has continued to experience steady change which I'll cover shortly. However, one thing that has remained constant is how all of our Soldiers that make up the task force continue to rise above the many challenges that face them as part of our difficult but vital mission here in eastern Afghanistan. It's difficult for me to express just how proud we are of them. The times that CSM Sparger and I look forward to the most are when we're able to get out on mission with our Troopers and experience first-hand the tremendous work they are doing here in Afghanistan.

Through the end of the summer and into the fall, we said farewell to the $402^{\rm nd}$ Sapper Company "Reapers" of the Iowa Reserves and to the $40^{\rm th}$ MAC "Punishers" who returned to White Sands Missile Range. The "Punishers" were replaced by the $216^{\rm th}$ MAC "Argonauts" (CANG) from Longbeach, CA. Also during this period, our higher engineer headquarters switched-out from the $555^{\rm th}$ Engineer Brigade to the $130^{\rm th}$ Engineer Brigade, out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

As we approach the winter, the pace of the changes throughout Task Force Trojan Horse has noticeably increased. The first major change was the end of mission for the 57th Sapper Co (Airborne) "Rough Terrain", who has already completed their journey home back to Ft Bragg, NC. Prior to their departure, I was able to accompany them on their final company "Rough Terrain" (literally) run up the hills of FOB Shank. We also executed both Battalion and Brigade-level awards ceremonies for the Company, with our new Brigade Commander, COL Holland, officiating. It was truly an honor to formally recognize all of the dedicated Paratroopers of the 57th Sapper who executed over 190 route clearance patrols successfully clearing 13,000 KM of main supply routes of all explosive hazards such as IEDs.

The next major transition has been the end of mission for the 937th Clearance Company, "The Beast." Due to the company being attached to an adjacent engineer battalion and some weather-induced flight delays, we weren't able to attend their awards ceremony. However, CSM Sparger and I did get the opportunity to say our good-byes to some of the Beast Troopers at their transient sleeping tent at Bagram. We are equally proud of their accomplishments, which included the execution of over 330 route clearance patrols successfully clearing almost 40,000 KM of main supply routes of all explosive hazards. By the time many of you read this, the last of the company should be returning to Ft Hood.

On the other end of the spectrum, the 59th MAC "Bushwackers" have

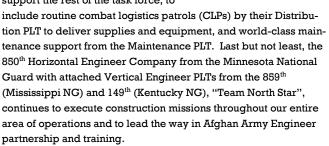
finally been fully reunited, with all three of their platoons now here at FOB Shank. A large portion of the 87th "Sappers" have relocated to FOB Shank as well, so it's been nice to see the smiling faces from both the "Bushwackers" and "Sappers" which we normally don't get the chance to see as often.

The HHC "Trail Masters" have also undergone an internal transformation. We recently held a combined awards ceremony and

change of command from CPT Kelly Giraud and CPT Darell Coffey.

Other Trail Master news includes their Co FRG Leader, Angel Pavey, being recognized as the 4th Quarter, Fiscal Year 2013, Hood Heroes Civilian Volunteer of the Quarter – this continues the long line of Trojan Horse FRG Leaders who have been recognized at the Ft Hood installation-level.

The FSC "Wolfpack" continues to support the rest of the task force, to



As Thanksgiving approaches, it's comforting to know that many of our Troopers will be able to spend the holiday with Family and friends. For those of us still here in Afghanistan, we have many things for which to be thankful, especially the support that all of the TF Trojan Horse Troopers give each other while on mission or during day-to-day life here and for all of your continued support for your Soldiers – they simply couldn't do it without each other and without you!

CLEAR THE WAY!

TH6



Issue 2



The Trojan Horse Watering Hole

8th Engineer Battalion OEF Newsletter







Trojan Horse Family, I am extremely proud of our Soldiers and their contribution to providing a better life to the people of Afghanistan. As I circulate across our continually changing battlefield, the one consistent trend I see is how hard the Soldiers are working. You would be very proud to know that our unit has an outstanding reputation in all that we do. Some of the high lights are: clearing routes, construction, deconstruction, logistic support, and internal human resources support. Regardless of their specific job, our Soldiers prove daily that they are true professionals and greater Americans. The courage and selfless service that I consistently encounter from Trojan Horse Soldiers always impresses me; it reminds me of how Blessed I am to be a part of such a great organization.

Additionally, the work that our Family Readiness Group Leaders accomplish in support of our families and community is nothing less than excellent. I rest assured knowing that outstanding volunteers from the Trojan Horse Family are always available to assist other families in need. Not to mention, all of the gatherings for making cakes in jars, morale packages, and other events that assist the Soldiers. Thank you for your continued support of our unit and Soldiers, and I will continue to circulate our area and take photo's of the great Soldiers in action. I cannot express how great the Soldiers are, or how thankful I am of your willing sacrifices back on the home front. Clear the Way! TH7





HAPPY HALLOWEEN from FOR Share

Trailmasters Blast

HHC, 8th Engineer Battalion FOB Shank, Afghanistan

Commander's Corner

Trailmaster Family and Friends, I am happy to be the new Company taking over for CPT Kelly Giraud after an outstanding job leading the Trailmasters through a tough deployment, through preparation and mission readiness. She will be missed as her and her family move on to their next assignment. I hope to bring the same energy and time honored tradition to make this unit the best in the Army. I commend the families, friends, and loved ones for all of your support while we have been deployed. I look forward to reuniting with you and working with you in the future. We have some of the best and brightest Soldiers, Noncommissioned Officers, and Officers the Army has to offer.

God Bless You all!

TM6

TOP: CPT Coffey and SFC Perkins reconcile their books. PV2 Greene assists in a CLS class

MIDDLE: Change of Command Ceremony from CPT Giraud to CPT Coffey



Change of Command

This month, HHC began inventories for Change of Command from CPT Kelly Ann Giraud to CPT Darell Coffey. From 5 to 25 October 2013, all sections in HHC conducted layouts of all their equipment and vehicles for CPT Coffey and CPL Knox to inventory. These inventories have yet again shown that our Trailmaster's are committed and dedicated to duty while operations out on the battlefield continue. The Change of Command Ceremony occurred on 29 October 2013. As we farewell and thank CPT Giraud for her service to the Trailmaster Family, and welcome CPT Coffey to the Trailmaster team, we carry on with retrograde operations here at FOB Shank.

Trailmasters First!



1SG's Corner

Fellow family and friends, greetings once again from FOB Shank, Afghanistan. The Trailmaster Soldiers continue to show their versatility and multitasking capabilities with the handling their duties as well as retrograde operations and change of command inventories simultaneously. Many new faces have deployed here in the last month and we graciously welcome them to the Trailmaster team. Soldiers of the unit are happy the Armed Forces Network is airing sports again as they anxiously wait for the weekend to watch their favorite college and NFL football teams. This month we welcome CPT Coffey as the incoming commander and will say our good byes to our out going commander CPT Giraud. The Trailmaster family wishes her the best in her next assignment and thank her for her selfless service and leadership to the Trailmaster family.

Welcome to our Late Deployers

In late August, we welcomed 2LT Christopher Zoeller, who has now moved to the 87th Sapper Company to become a Platoon Leader, and SSG Anthony Wilkinson of the S2 shop. In late September, we received six additional late deployers to HHC. We welcome CPT George Staggs and 1LT Edwin Jimenez to the S3 shop; SSG Ralph Valdez to the S4 shop; SGT Nakyraih Woods to the S6 shop; SPC Adrienne Vaughn to the S1 shop; and PV2 Matthew Greene to the HHC Operations section. Upon arrival, we immediately got them trained in Combat Lifesaver with SSG Engel and then integrated into the sections.

- TM7

LIVE FROM FOB SHANK, AFGHANISTAN

FSC, 8th Engineer Battalion

THE WOLFPACK HOWLER

September 2013







Above: SGT Ritchie and 1LT Fagan turn in ammo.

A LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER

Wolfpack has passed the halfway mark for this deployment and experiences continued success, moving supplies and conducting maintenance in support of the Task Force. In the coming weeks, our sections and platoons will prepare equipment and facilities for the change in weather as temperatures cool. As we shift focus with an eye on retrograde and redeployment, we look to keep ties with our families at home station strong. - Wolfpack 6

FIRST SERGEANT'S CORNER

The first 120 days down. We should all be very proud. The fact that we have had no injuries up this point is testament to the skills and knowledge each of our Soldiers poses. There is no one individual that makes all this happen, it is a team effort. I am absolutely amazed by our Soldiers on a daily basis. Every day these men and women get up, gear up, and go out to accomplish every mission that is asked of them whether that be outside the wire or inside the wire. The next 90 days will bring us much change; the weather is changing, the enemy is changing, and our higher headquarters is changing. Most of us welcome the changing weather; it is getting cooler so it is more comfortable wearing all that gear. The enemy will be intensifying his efforts as the end of the summer fighting season draws to a close. Rest assured our Soldiers are prepared and can handle anything and everything the enemy can come up with. We eagerly await the missions, challenges, trials, and tribulations, the next 90 days will bring. -Wolfpack 7

SEND-A-HOWL

SPC O'hala sends a HOWL to his wife Megan!!



Above: CPL Loop replaces a truck axel

The Wolfpack Leads the Way in Retrograde

The Wolfpack has become heavily involved in turn in and retrograde in order to reduce the amount of equipment in the FSC Company area. Our soldiers have been coordinating with multiple Logistical agencies in order to turn in excess equipment and minimize the amount of extra equipment in their footprint. Our soldiers have been commended by the Battalion as leading the way in this effort! This means that the Wolfpack is one step closer to getting home! Go Wolfpack!

WOLFPACK ANNOUNCEMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS TO SPC MELTON ON BEING PROMOTED TO THE RANK OF SPECIALIST THIS MONTH! ALSO A CONGRATULATIONS TO THE RITCHIE FAMILY ON THEIR NEWEST ADDITION!

LOOK BELOW FOR A SNEAK PEEK AT THE COMPANY T-SHIRTS THE WOLPACK IS DESIGNING.



<--Front



Back->



SAPPERS DEF NEWSLETTER

SAPPER 6

Sapper Family,

Another month complete! We have had several promotions and reenlistments as your Sappers continue to show excellence at a very difficult mission. Things are continuing to change for the better here in country and we are fortunate to have such great platoon leadership! The cake's in a jar were delicious and devoured quickly! We continue to receive support from the Kaplan Foundation, from our Cigar's for Warrior's friends, and a new group from Ohio who continues to send us giant boxes of treats and snacks. These are great for staying awake in a vehicle during an 18 hour mission! SGT Walker is back in the states and continues to show great progress. Rear-D has been doing an excellent job preparing for the eventual move to 20th Engineer Battalion after our redeployment. More will follow in the months ahead as we solidify this plan with both 8th Engineer Battalion and 20th Engineer Battalion. Finally, I appreciate your continued support during this government shutdown. Your Soldiers need you most during these times of uncertainty. Please pray for resolve and peaceful negotiation between officials in order to reestablish structure and duty. An American flag was sent to us by an Elementary School which we hang on our building as a sign of unwavering support from you and all American citizens! I pray that love and peace be with our entire Sapper Family!

FIRST SERGEANTS CORNER

Sapper Family,

Things are going well for the Sappers as we transition into the winter and pass our halfway mark through our deployment here in Afghanistan. I can't begin to express to you how proud I am of your Soldiers; they continuously lead the way for Task Force Trojan Horse and provide safe passage in Afghanistan. Most of our troops have moved back to FOB Shank with the rest of 8th Engineer Battalion; it's good to be back amongst our comrades. Thank you for your continued support! - Sapper 7



BUSHWACKERS DEF NEWSLETTER

59th MAC, 8th Engineer Battalion

FOB Shank, Afghanistan

BUSHWACKER 6

As October draws to an end, the days get shorter and the nights longer but it means the Bushwackers are coming home. We have had several moves in preparation to get our Soldiers home. 2nd Platoon has moved from its long time home at Bagram Airfield. On October 26, 2013, 1st PLT Platoon moved from FOB Gardez to FOB Shank making the 59th MAC have two of its three Route Clearance Platoons on FOB Shank. The third and final Route Clearance Platoon, 3rd Platoon is still at FOB Gardez but the time you read this issue they should be making their way to FOB Shank on their final patrol. The Field Maintenance Team (FMT) has all moved to FOB Shank assisting the Platoons in fixing their equipment and getting it ready and fully mission capable before they sign it over to the civilian contractors located at FOB Shank.

It is bittersweet to be writing this final issue of the Bushwacker Newsletter. I am truly blessed to have led and served with such brave men and women that comprise the 59th Mobility Augmentation Company. We left our family, friends and

Leading a company run!

MAC. I will never forget each and every one of my Bushwackers especially my battle buddy 1SG Ortiz. We will see you soon and I cannot wait to see all the families and loved ones as they greet us once we get back to the great place. If you didn't get a chance to get to our Facebook page, the Bushwackers were highlighted this week on the CBS evening news. It was absolutely amazing to see 1st PLT, "Pain Embracers" highlighted by SGT Roberts truly CLEAR THE WAY! From AKO to CBS the Bushwackers have truly made it and it is all due to the hard work and dedication of your Soldiers and our 59th MAC Family!

Bushwacker Highlights

Awarded the Army

Achievement Medal (AAM):

SPC Vandeleest, for his attention to detail on target identification and efforts on his force protection posture. Additionally SGT Stalker received his impact AAM for setting the company up for success in sling-loading over 5,000 LBS of demolition and ammo from FOB Warrior to Bagram Airfield.

NEW PROMOTIONS:

PFC Hopper: to SPC 20131001 (3rd Platoon, Combat Engineer)

PV2 Thompson: to PFC 20131001 (2nd Platoon, Combat Engineer)

PV2 Riley: to PFC 20131001 (2nd Platoon, Combat Engineer)

PFC Vasquez: to SPC 20131001 (2nd Platoon, Combat Engineer)

SPC Frye: to SGT 20131001

(2nd Platoon, Combat Engineer Team Leader)

SGT Hutchison: to SSG 20131001 (3rd Platoon, Combat Engineer Squad Leader)

loved ones at Fort Hood, Texas doing a mission that is truly vital to the war in Afghanistan. Not only that, but it truly is the most dangerous and time consuming mission anyone in theater does. I continually get inspired by all of your brave men and women have done during these 9 months.

With this tour drawing to an end so is my command with the 59th





NORTH STAR

850TH, 8TH ENGINEER BATTALION FOB SHANK. AFGHANISTAN

Commander's Corner

Family, friends, and fellow soldiers, your 850th HEC continues to work at the expeditious pace we have built our reputation on. Each and every one of your soldiers have contributed to the success of this unit, and everyone should be proud to look back at all that the 850th has accomplished as a reflection of their hard work, tireless effort, and sacrifice.

The glue that holds the fiber of this unit together is the love and support each of you give to your soldiers each and every day they are away. Without each one of you in our corner, the success we would have would be a mere shadow of what has transpired. We thank you, for being the rock we need, so that we can focus on the mission at hand. In this, our 8th month away from you, the long road is getting shorter and we anticipate seeing you all again very soon.

NORTHSTAR 6



1SG's Corner

The 850th HEC has been building more than roads, force protection, and buildings during this deployment. We have been building a reputation for hard work and an unrivaled dedication to mission accomplishment. With soldiers spread throughout Regional-Command East the reputation of this unit starts with the will and intestinal fortitude of each and every soldier who calls themselves Northstars. The unity of mind and teamwork displayed by every 850th platoon is a testament to the training and leadership displayed down to the team level. This kind of reputation is only possible through sustained preparation and motivation. I

have immense pride in our soldiers, and what they have accomplished. Thank you, family and friends for your continued support as we march on toward mission completion.

NORTHSTAR 7

En Vivo FOB GHAZNI, AFGHANISTAN

216th EN MAC, 8th Engineer Battalion

The ARGONAUTEXPRESS November 2013





Above: CPT Bejarano and 1SG Alatorre assume mission during the Transfer of Authority Ceremony at FOB Ghazni, Afghanistan.

Incoherent Scrawlings from ARGONAUT 6

To the Friends, Family and Fellow Countrymen of the 216th:

We have arrived. We are digging in and we are focused on fulfilling our Engineer Mission. Less than one month ago the proud Soldiers of the 216th assumed our responsibilities on this battlefield and have in the following weeks established themselves as warriors amongst warriors. We look forward to see what the winter campaign holds for us and appreciate everyone's support both at home and here in this perplexingly beautiful country. Keep the love coming! Essayons! - Argonaut 6

From the line

The 216th MAC has been fitting right in at FOB Ghazni. We've had many successes already in our short time here, learned several lessons, and are representing the California National Guard with pride. The Soldiers of the 216th are the most professional group of men | have had the pleasure to work with, and I am honored to be part of their brotherhood. As far as day to day life goes, we are well accommodated with two gyms and a busy chow hall that serves surf and turf every Friday night. FOB Ghazni is owned by the Polish Army, whom we have great fun interacting with. We are definitely working hard but also having a great time. Though we may be on the other side of the world, our thoughts are never far from home. We continue to serve with distinction and look forward to the time when we will be reunited with our loved ones. We feel your thoughts and prayers constantly. Keep sending us your love.

LT Minkyu Park

ARGONAUT 7's Corner

Argonauts! With our pre-mobilization training and RIP/TOA complete we now stand at the foot of this mountainous task of ensuring mobility in RC-E. In the coming months, we will continue to become even more confident in our abilities to accomplish our mission. It is of dire importance to NOT let complacency set in. Continue to perform excellent PCI/PCCs. Keep on maintaining your arms and equipment. Remain vigilant while on route. I know each one of you is a true warrior and ready to carry out our Engineer tasks aggressively and vigorously. I look forward to seeing each of you on route! Strength & Honor!



Above: Chaplain Cuchens prays with the Argonauts prior to a combat patrol.

Quarterly News

Warrior Training Area

FOB THUNDER, Afghanistan – Soldiers from the 850th Horizontal Engineer Company (HEC), Task Force Trojan Horse, took part in a ceremony to recognize the



hard work, dedication, and achievement of Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers in the 203rd Corps Engineer Kandak (CEK). Soldiers advising the 203rd CEK oversaw the planning and completion of a counter-improvised ex-



plosive device training area that will enhance the preparation of ANA Soldiers for combat.

Soldiers from the 850th HEC are part of an Embedded Training Team (EMTT) and provided guidance during the construction. The main focus of construction was to make a Freedom of Movement training site dedicated for the Warrior Training Alli-

ance (WTA) and the Explosive Hazard Reduction Course (EHRC). The WTA focuses on enabling Afghan freedom of ma-

neuver with courses involving counter-improvised explosive device training and driving with mine rollers. The EHRC course will provide training to ANA Soldiers on explosive ordnance detection and disposal.

"The most impressive part of the construction of this training area was that it was spearheaded and completed by the newest Soldiers in the 203rd CEK. Due to operational requirements, most of our veteran and experienced Soldiers

were on mission; these guys really stepped up and made the mission happen" said Sgt. Corey Ullom, a Noncommissioned Officer in the EMTT hailing from Huntington, West Virginia.

In the coming months, more

construction is planned for the Freedom of Movement training site, including an on-site permanent shelter that can house ANA Sol-

diers during the classroom portions of instruction. The site is expected to train between 300-500 Afghan Soldiers annually; this number will increase as the site continues to grow.

"What I love about this training site is that it enables ANA Soldiers from across the entire 203rd Corps to train, learn, and hone their skills regardless of their job. It's truly a force multiplier that will benefit the ANA for years to come," said EMTT Officer in Charge, 1st Lt. Mike Carr of St. Cloud, MN.

Quarterly News

Facilities Engineer Training



The soldiers from 850th were very proud of their Afghan counterparts, who after only 5 weeks of training began showing mastery in the FET pro-



gram. The program consists of classroom and hands-on portions revolving around the upkeep and maintenance of machinery at Afghan National Army bases. That includes, but

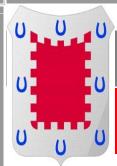
is not limited to plumbing, carpentry, air conditioning/heater repair, and generator repair.

"This training enables
Afghan engineers to be
able to take care of their
facilities after the coalition departs. If we can
teach these soldiers
how to fix this equipment, there is no doubt
in my mind that it can
provide many years of
use", said 1st Lieutenant
Jonathan Hickey of
Boston, Massachusetts.



1st Lieutenant Hickey is the Task Force Trojan Horse Afghan National Army Partnership officer, and tracks all partnered projects in training for the task force.

The partnership between 850th and their Afghan National Army comrades will continue as they begin to focus on more construction-focused engineering at FOB Shank and beyond.



TROJAN HORSE TROOPERS



Above: SPC Joslin receives his CAB from CPT Elliott



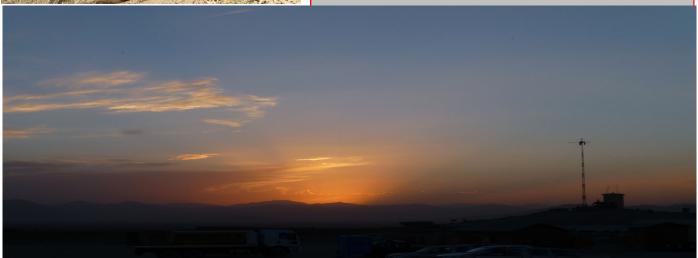


Left: Soldiers from 1/87th Sappers have a team prayer before rolling out on mission

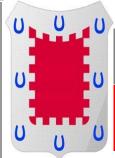


Above: Soldiers from Trojan Horse before entering the promotion

Left: Soldiers from 87th conduct an AT-4 range



Sunset over FOB Shank



TROJAN HORSE TROOPERS







Left: FSC Soldiers work on repairing an axle

Far Left: A Soldier on the roads of Afghanistan

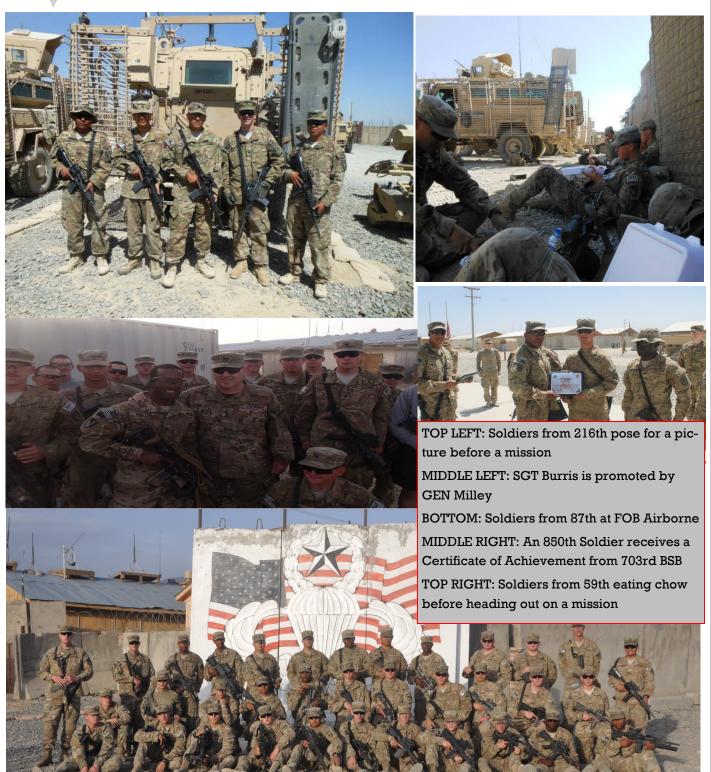
Middle: Lieutenants having some fun during Halloween

Below: FSC Soldiers compete in a friendly game of Basketball





TROJAN HORSE TROOPERS





TROJAN HORSE REENLISTMENTS

CONGRATULATIONS AND THANK YOU FOR YOUR SERVICE

SPC	HARTNELL, CHRISTOPHER	ННС
SPC	AUBREY, SONYA	ННС
SGT	PAPCIAK, JAROD	ННС
SSG	WILKINSON, ANTHONY	ННС
SSG	RAMOS, MICHAEL	ННС
SSG	ENGEL, NEIL	ННС
SPC	WARD, SETH	FSC
SPC	GARCIA, ANDRES	FSC
SPC	GARCIA, DANIEL	FSC
SPC	GUZMAN, CARLOS	FSC
SGT	PENTON, EBONY	FSC
SGT	BEATTY, ROY	FSC
SGT	SNYDER IAN TRAVIS	FSC
SSG	WILSON, COURTNEY SR	FSC
SSG	GREEN MICHAEL DEAN	FSC
SPC	MCNICOL, JAMES	59TH
SPC	RUSSELL, ERIC	59TH
SPC	ELLIOTT, LARRY	59TH
SPC	FORD WILLIAM HENRY V	59TH
SPC	ROBERTS, KEVIN	59TH
SPC	ADARME, RANDELL	59TH
SPC	AHKIONG, CHRISTOPHER	59TH
SPC	CHARTIER, ALAN	59TH
SPC	MOTA, ARTURO	59TH
SGT	GOODMAN, DARRELL JR	59TH
SGT	HAYSE, DERRICK LEE	59TH
SPC	AWANG, WINMARK	87TH
SPC	SARGENT, TIMOTHY	87TH
SPC	CAMIRO, DANIEL	87TH
SPC	SAMOOJ, DONALD	87TH
SPC	BLACK, ROBERT	87TH
SPC	MAY, ROGER	87TH
SPC	FIEDLER, SHELBY	87TH
SGT	BLACKMAN, KIRK	87TH
SGT	MAKANANI, KANEALA	87TH
SFC	TAYLOR, JOSEPH	87TH
SGT	GALLEGOS, JOSHUA	937TH
SGT	GUAJARDO, MICHAEL	937TH



Above: CPT McHugh from 87th reenlists two Soldiers

Below: 1LT Keith reenlists SPC Guzman flying in a Blackhawk Helicopter



TASK FORCE TROJAN HORSE

*'Clear the Way'*OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM XIII-XIV

