

# TASK FORCE BAYONET

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# BAYONET UPDATE

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Aloha Friends and Family of Task Force Bayonet,

The holiday season has come to a close and the Soldiers of TF Bayonet begin a New Year with fresh energy and enthusiasm to face the challenges of 2014. We trust everyone back home had a wonderful Christmas and we wish all of the Families and Friends of TF Bayonet a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Your Soldiers continue to perform at an exceptionally high level and the Command Sergeant Major and I are extremely proud of their service. Unfortunately, service always comes with sacrifice, and we want to thank the Families and Friends of TF Bayonet for the sacrifices you make every day while your Soldiers are deployed. We appreciate everything you do!

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, and we look forward to the day when we can be reunited and "talk story." Until then, God bless and Happy New Year!

LTC David Acker - Bayonet 6



Aloha from the office of the Task Force Bayonet Command Sergeant Major,

Greetings from Kandahar Airfield, as the cold winds continue to blow we say good bye to 2013 and ring in the New Year with many things to look forward to. Within hours of the New Year, Task Force Bayonet transitioned under the control of the 4<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division. As we worked diligently to pack away all the Christmas novelties, several Soldiers, Non Commissioned Officers and Officers across the Task Force found welcomed promotions in their stockings by way of the Department of the Army. I would just like to take a moment to congratulate these Soldiers-jobs well done- as we continue to build the future Leaders of tomorrow.

Over the next few months, the Task Force will continue to provide mission command and freedom of movement. Your Soldiers are performing admirably and the Commander and I are truly impressed with the discipline and unity of effort the Soldiers assigned to Task Force Bayonet exhibit daily. As we continue on the glide path of 2014, I want all our family members to know you are never far from our thoughts and prayers. Until we meet again on the sandy beaches of Hawaii, Aloha/Mahalo and Stay Safe!

Happy New Year

CSM Harold McVicker III - Bayonet 7

## *Bidding a Fond Farewell*

Early in December, Task Force Bayonet had to say farewell to the 515th and 819th Sapper Companies as they finish their deployment and head back to their home station of Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri and Belmont, Arizona. Although short, the 515th and the 819th made a honorable impression on Task Force Bayonet and their expertise and experience will be missed. Farewell Sappers and Essayons!



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# Headquarters and Headquarters Company

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CPT O'Nan (HHC Commander) with CPT Borchik (RC-W TAC OIC)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our friends and Family back home. We enjoyed Christmas, Afghanistan style, with a little time off and an amazing Christmas dinner with our Tiger Family. Though we missed everyone back home, we are thankful that we can welcome in the New Year and the fact that we are a little closer to coming home. This month's company article comes from the HHC Medical section that has been representing the battalion exceptionally well.

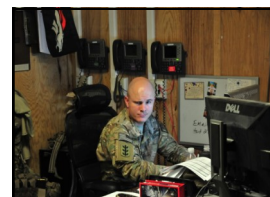
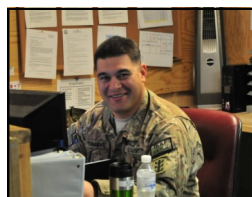
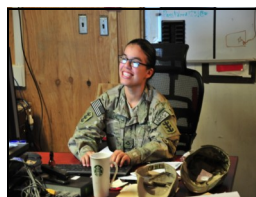
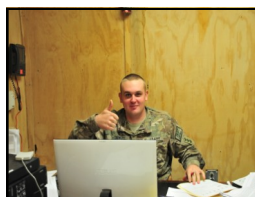
CPT O'Nan  
Tiger 6

## *Holiday Greetings from the 65th Medical Section!*

Happy holidays from the medical section of the 65th EN BN! In the last month, we have supported our battalion by ensuring great patient care, orchestrating additional Flu Drives, providing medical support for ranges and missions, coordinating medical training such as Combat Lifesaver classes for the unit, and participating in bi-weekly medical lectures to expand our knowledge. We are also proud to inform you that we have reached our goal of 100% for the influenza vaccination two weeks earlier than the due date! 1LT David Minnick, our medical operations officer, has been working closely with 489th EN BN to cover all the medical needs of our area and provide the best care possible for our Soldiers 24/7. CPL Stephanie Wobby, the KAF BAS NCOIC, has assisted in the training of all Soldiers in the aid station, including medics falling under the 489th EN BN. She has also been updating all of the senior medics falling under TF Bayonet with medical readiness updates. In the past month, she has sent a handful of personnel to both the CLS class offered in the KAF MSTC (Medical Simulation Training Center) site, and the Field Sanitation class offered at KAF's Liberty House MWR site. PFC Brian Kirby and PFC Cole Snodgrass, two of our junior medics, have restocked and reorganized various medical points across the FOB, inventoried our medical supply connex, and provided medical support for all FSC missions. The medical section in Leatherneck had officially moved to KAF. It is comprised of our Battalion P.A., CPT Joelle Chin, Battalion Senior Medic, SGT Jonathan Hurley, and one of our junior medics, PFC Thomas Ratzel. Come January, we are all going to be working out of the Multinational Medical Unit (MMU). It's a medical facility that provides care to the entire post, 40% of which is comprised of personnel who are not organic to any medical providers. Our Battalion Surgeon, MAJ Katherine Cocker, and CPT Chin are continuing to conduct their battlefield rotations to outlying bases to ensure the medics are providing care and performing to standard, to see patients and to supervise training as needed. In her last rotation to FOB Apache, MAJ Cocker gave 50 vaccinations to the Soldiers of 927th EN Company. Wherever your Soldier is, we are there to ensure that they are receiving optimal medical care.



P.S. Temperatures are dropping quickly out here! Make sure to tell your Soldiers to wear their cold weather gear to work! Happy Holidays to your Family!



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# 65th Engineer Training Team

# HELL HOUNDS

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This has been a busy month for your Hell Hounds. To begin with, we must congratulate SGT (P) Yiznitsky for passing the board and earning his promotable status. He worked hard, continuously stepping up as a leader within the team and truly earned this great honor. Every man counts in the pack, and our pack has grown with the addition of SGT Chumley. We expect his presence to have a big impact for our future operations as he applies the years of experience to training our Afghan partners. Also, Doc Martin got the team's first opportunity to train Afghans, instructing Afghan medics in the correct procedures for physically carrying patients across the battlefield.

In case you have not heard, we moved! Camp Stone is but a memory to the team after our transition to Camp Arena, but don't worry, plenty of mail has been pouring in as our address remains the same. The team has also been busy building our new living arrangements. Your Hell Hounds have had an excellent opportunity to get hands on training the big equipment they already know so well. SGT Garcia has been driving the front end loader and SGT Koeth spent over 20 hours operating the grader building unimproved roads.

SGT Schellenberg operated the Wrecker crane lifting steel fence poles for the build. It was a team effort and we can say with certainty that it paid off immensely as we move into our new, improved billets.

With this move, the ETT has truly learned that no matter our location, we are home as long as the team is together. The holiday season has passed and it was a very Merry Christmas due to the resourcefulness of the team. We managed to locate a live Christmas tree and decorate it with lights. With the holidays upon us, know that we are thinking of you and we know that you are thinking of us; and as always, remember to Unleash Hell and love your Hell Hounds.



Your Hell Hounds, gathered round the Christmas Tree in our operation center. (From Left to Right: SGT Yiznitsky, SSG Outlaw, SSG Washington [333<sup>rd</sup> EN CO], SGT Clarito, SGT Garcia, SGT Schellenberg, SPC Martin, SGT Chumley)



Soldiers from the ETT, TF BAYONET, and RC (W) TAC open care packages sent to them for the holidays. (From Left to Right: SSG Outlaw, SSG Gardner, SGT Koeth, SPC Martin, and SGT Garcia)



Soldiers from ETT, TF BAYONET, train on Handheld Detection Devices for an upcoming mission. (From Left to Right: SFC Turpin, SGT Schellenberg, SGT Garcia)

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# Forward Support Company *RISE UP!*

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## *SUSTAIN THE BATTLE!*



Hello friends and Family, my name is SPC Krystal Torgerson from the Forward Support Company in 65TH Engineer Battalion. I am a 91B mechanic/recovery specialist. Being here is very close to what we do back in Schofield Barracks. We still have PT everyday and work about the same hours, except if something is mission essential, we stay to complete the task. Our job as mechanics is keep our equipment fully mission capable and also I operate the MRV (recovery vehicle). After we are done working for the day I am usually completing school work or going to the USO, where we hang out, watch movies, and play cards. I talk to my husband and Family from back home as much as I can. I appreciate all the support I have within the FRG, friends, and Family. Thank you for all the love and support

-SPC Krystal Torgerson

This is my first deployment and as a Soldier I have learned to have a lot of confidence in my leadership. Whenever you have a problem they'll always be by your side, no matter how difficult the situation that we may face. Deploying is easy, but being away from my Family is the hardest part. If it wasn't for technology, morale services like the USO and my brothers and sisters in the FSC who knows what would happen. Every day that I come to work I always prepare for the worst, and hope for the best. RISE UP!

-SPC Jack Penitusi



Getting ready for this deployment I was pretty nervous for the fact that this is my first one. I didn't know what to expect, but every day at work I find myself feeling good about working with everyone. Seeing everyone come together, whether it is doing a small task or being on mission, we look out for each other and help one another. So when it comes time to prepare for a mission, I feel confident that we will get the job done. I feel very proud being a part of the Phoenix team.

RISE UP!

-SPC Robert McDonald



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# Forward Support Company *RISE UP!*

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## *Personal Security Detachment*



First and foremost the members of the Personal Security Detachment would like to say thank you to the Families and friends of the 65th Engineer Battalion. Your everlasting support keeps our morale up more than you can imagine. Life here is made easier every day knowing that we have a strong foundation back in the rear, and for that you have our gratitude.

Our mission here is very simple, protect the Battalion Command Team, as well as provide security for our Forward Support Company (FSC). We have also been involved in supporting retrograde operations, so that our brothers and sisters in arms can come home safely. We have conducted a few Key Leader Engagements as well, so that we can keep good relations with the Afghanistan National Army. While our missions vary from week to week, our platoon has one primary mission, to bring everyone home safely to their loved ones.

Life in Kandahar Air field is hard work at times, but a blessing as well. We have internet access, a fully stocked Post Exchange, a variety of food shops to eat at, as well as a boardwalk that includes many international versions of our own base exchange and many local shops. Kandahar makes life easy for us, but our job keeps us busy. Work here is much like it is back home, except that we work weekends as well. We wake up every morning and some of us decide to do pt in the morning, some of us in the afternoon. After that we eat breakfast, and come to work. Our daily duties range from working on our vehicles to get them ready for mission, to retrograding projects in support of the battalion. We conduct training every day to keep our skills sharp. Training includes warrior battle drills, convoy battle drills, first aid, and ranges. After work the platoon usually hangs out around our living area, where we talk about home and upcoming events for the deployment.

We, the Soldiers of the Personal Security Detachment thank everyone back home from the bottom of our hearts. Your undying support keeps us going every day, and will continue to keep us motivated in the months to come.

-SGT Kevin Pons, Personal Security Detachment

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# 82nd Engineer Support Company

## BLADE

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The infamous “First Hundred Days” in theater often serves as the bench march for units to put their noses to the grindstone and overcome the steep learning curve. While we are still within those first one hundred days, then 82nd Engineer Support Company has grown remarkably as a team and has excelled as one of the most highly trained and lethal assets to the entire regional command. Already, each platoon is becoming masters of their trades and acquired the finesse of conducting route clearance in some of the most complex situations. With three months of route clearance operations under our belts, we continue to perfect our skills and work with other elite units. Our company mentality to protect the force and always complete the mission is how the Blade team continually exceeds expectations and set the highest of standards.

One of the most unique assets in the route clearance arsenal is the Tactical Explosive Detection Dog (TEDD). These dogs, selected as puppies only weeks old, are trained basic commands then further groomed for military service. These dogs go through a selection process where only the smartest and best become military working dogs. Each dog is then paired with a handler who is responsible for every aspect of the dog’s wellbeing and training. TEDDs dogs provide the unique capability to sniff out explosive components to an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). Unlike humans, dogs are able to smell the components to the overall end item. While a human would smell a cheeseburger, a TEDDs would smell the yeast in the buns, the sesame seeds, the cheese, the meat, etc. This is especially useful in searching for IEDs because the dog can detect minute amounts of explosive within the most deep-buried and well hidden IEDs.



Four year old, 95 lbs German Shepard named Morris is assigned to 2nd Platoon of 82nd ESC. Morris was born in a kennel in Holland and has one previous deployment to Afghanistan. Prior to meeting their platoons, the TEDDs teams deployed early in order to complete a rigorous 70 day training program in Bagram. SSG Massengill served with distinction as the Kennel Master during this training program and was the Non-Commission Officer in Charge of 30 TEDDs and their handlers. Since arriving to 2nd Platoon, SSG Massengill has served as an additional squad leader, utilizing his knowledge as a former infantryman to train dismount teams on basic movements and security posture. These dismounts provide SSG Massengill and Morris the necessary security they need while conducting searches on the ground. SSG Massengill and Morris have accompanied 2nd Platoon in every patrol and have been employed in multiple occasions to clear bridges and points of interest. Undoubtedly, this team has greatly enhanced the platoon’s overall security, not to mention, everyone loves having a dog on patrol.

Dig Deep. First in, Last out. Essays on.

- CPT Trevor Dursky, Commander, 82nd ESC



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## Unexpected Reunion in a Combat Zone

By 1st Lt. Robert Lind

Platoon Leader, 455th Engineer Company

Forward Operating Base Pasab, Kandahar Province, Afghanistan – There was a slight chill in the air this past Thanksgiving in Afghanistan for the 455th Engineer Company. 1st Sergeant Adam Schoessler woke up SPC Matthew Walters to participate in a special mission by shaking Walters' bed and telling him to get up and get to the Company Tactical Operations Center (TOC), he was on detail and he was going to be late.

This was the first time Walters had been told he was on this detail and looking back, he explained his racing thoughts of what he could have done to get in trouble.

After quickly getting dressed he arrived at the TOC to be greeted by the Company Commander who proceeded to tell him to be on top of his game and not to mess up, they were going to pick up some VIP's from the flight line. All of this, he later explained continued to further his thoughts of being in trouble for something.

The First Sergeant arrived at the TOC with a gator utility vehicle and they headed to the flight line. Not knowing the VIP's expected to arrive would be particularly significant to Walters.

Upon arriving to the flight line, Walters was instructed that the flight had just landed and he was to start loading the baggage into the back of the gator. Walters headed towards the landing area door to start grabbing bags, not knowing who they would belong to, when two Soldiers in full gear came out and stood face to face with him.

For a moment Walters stood frozen, his mind racing, thinking he should know these two Soldiers, until his mind was able to catch up and he realized who was standing in front of him. Command Sgt. Maj. Matthew Walters, 11th Military Police Battalion, Criminal Investigation Division (CID), from Fort Hood, Tx. and SGT Rex Walters with the CID office from Fort Huachuca, Ariz. They were Walters' uncle and dad.

Still at a loss for words, he said later his mind was attempting to process that out of all the places to have a small Family reunion; most people would not expect one in a combat zone.

When asked if he knew that his uncle and dad were in country, he simply responded with, "I knew they were in country and that they would attempt to come and visit, I just didn't know when they could make it."

After driving back to the TOC, the First Sergeant told Walters that he had the rest of the day to spend Thanksgiving with his Family. The Walters' enjoyed catching up by spending time at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation Center and getting a tour of the base.



SPC Matthew Walters (center) stands with his father, SGT Rex Walters, and his uncle, CSM Matthew Walters, after Matthew was surprised by their unexpected visit on Thanksgiving.





# 576th Engineer Company *SPARTANS!*

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With four months under our belts and nearing the half way mark of this deployment, the 576th EN CO dedicated time off mission to allow Soldiers to celebrate during this Holiday season. Christmas lights were hung, cards from family and friends displayed, trees decorated, and stockings filled to lighten the mood and bring in the New Year!

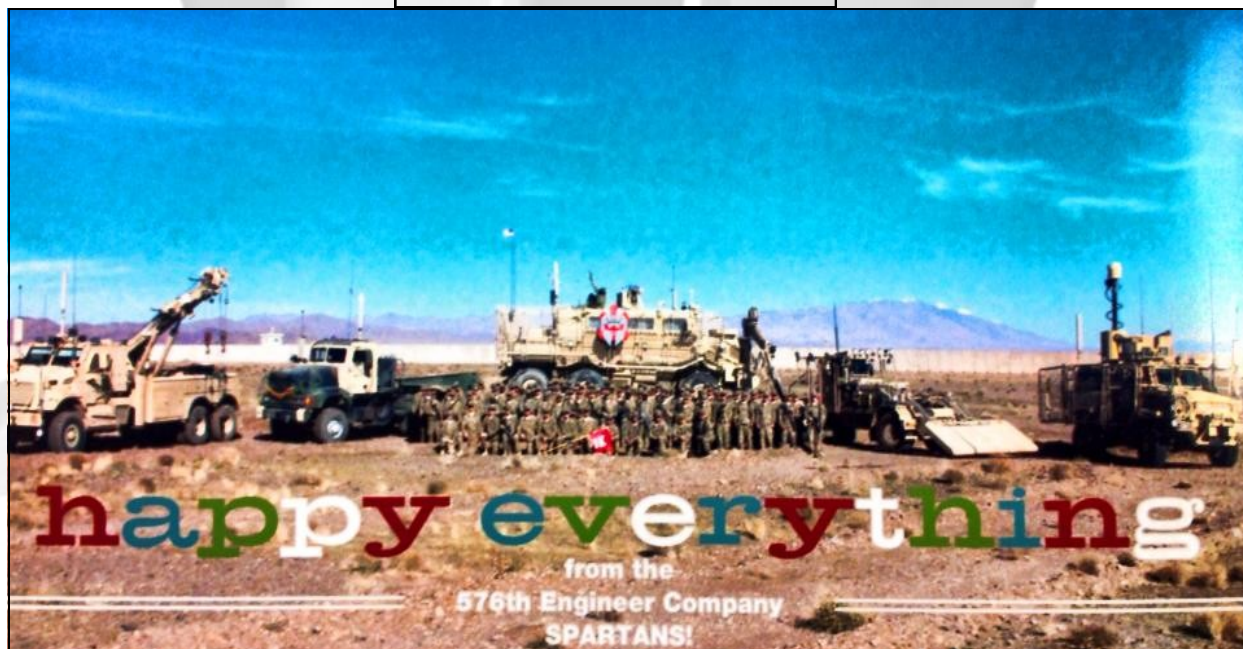
To the Family and friends of the Soldiers in the company, thank you for your continued support (and goodie boxes) this Holiday Season!



Santa Krug makes an appearance to Shindand to hand out presents and stockings to the company!



Top Left: SPC Maene celebrates his birthday and Christmas with a visit from Santa; Top Right: SGT Sheehan; Center: PFC Zavala; Bottom Left: SFC McCoy; Bottom Right: 1LT Brown



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Top: Soldiers represent the company during the 10K Christmas run and RCP 35's buffalo crew sets up the start/finish line.



Left: SPC Dukes and PFC Spoon finish the 10K run strong.



Right: 2LT Thomson and SSG Pendleton in festive gear during the 10K run.



Top: SFC Dzuricky runs the Shindand Christmas run in full gear representing the company and his downhill mountain biking club (Mojo Wheels) back at



SPC Cook places 2nd out of all Shindand females in the 5K run.



SPC Marshall places 1st out of all Shindand females in the 10K run.



1LT Krug places 2nd out of all Shindand males in the 10K run.



# 849th Mobility Augmentation Company

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## NITRATE

This holiday season the company was in the midst of relocating to another forward operating base to take over operations shortly after the first of the New Year. While each Soldier was not with their family and loved ones, they were able to spend it with their battle buddies and share some laughter and build memories that will last a life time. This month, two Soldiers of our unit will express how things have been going for them here, and give a shout out to their family and loved ones back home.

This month has really gone by in the blink of an eye. We were just finishing up doing a few named operations, and before I knew it we were relocating to a different base. During the process of preparing for the move I had spent some time training other Soldiers on some tasks with in the operations center. One of those classes was giving a refresher to the Soldiers in the line platoons with intentions on making BFT operations a lot smoother for them while they're out on mission. The operations set up at the new base is taking longer than desired. And I have a feeling the biggest delay is due to the holidays here and out of Kandahar Air Field as well. But we are all chomping at the bit to get going here and get back into the battle rhythm we were in prior to the relocation. Even though I'm thousands of miles away from home where my family and friends are. I'm doing well here and enjoying my time with my battle buddies. For my Family and friends back home enjoy this time you have together, stay warm and safe with the cold and snow back there. And before you know it we'll be counting down the hours and days till I'm home, and we can enjoy some of the good old Minnesota warmth and humidity. Love you all!

-SGT Daniel Caldow, Headquarters Platoon, 849th MAC



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# 849th Mobility Augmentation Company

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## NITRATE

In the past month I have been conducting route clearance patrols with my platoon. Mostly we have been clearing the theater controlled routes north of Kandahar City to provide friendly forces freedom of movement along those routes. In addition to those routine clearance missions, we have done some named operations. On one mission we inspected culvert denial systems on 35 culverts within the province we are operating in. Another mission we did was clearing 30km of tertiary route in support of a named ANA (Afghan National Army) operation. Our platoon spent two long days clearing the tertiary route all the way to an ANA COP that had not been visited by coalition forces for several months. To say the route was an unimproved road would not begin to do it justice; the route was ruined from years of war and neglect. At the end of our second day the route gave way as one of our Huskys was negotiating a wadi, resulting in the rear module of the Husky breaking off. We ended up staying out at a patrol base an extra, unexpected night awaiting QRF (Quick Reaction Force) to recover our inoperable vehicle. Despite the condition of the road we were all treated to some spectacular mountain vistas and the pleasure of seeing a thriving Afghan village in a lush mountain valley. I would like to say hello to my wife Kate and my daughter Amelia. I love you both and I miss you.



-SSG Roger Peet, 1st Platoon, 849th MAC



CPT Jukkala briefs his Soldiers on FOB Frontnac before a upcoming mission

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## BREACHER

Greetings from Forward Operating Base Apache! We've been in country for just over a month now and in that time, we have accrued experiences which if recounted linearly might suggest that we have been here much longer. From theater specific training in Kandahar, Transfer of Authority, to Combined Arms Breaching Teams, to Afghan National Army Route Clearance training, a named operation, fire mission support planning, and Combined Arms Breaching Team missions with our Romanian TF partners we have, thus far, had a "full" deployment. As I look forward to what may lie ahead for the 927th, I am reminded of our journey here: to this place and time. All deployments are different in some or many respects, and this one is certainly shaping up to provide the Soldiers of the 927th with experiences that will last. With so many things going on this first month, I'll remark on a few.



Members of the 927th stand with their Afghan partners after a training event in early December.

Also on the "international relations" front, we have recently partnered with the Romanians of Task Force 151. Mission dependent, the "Black Wolves" Infantry Battalion will increasingly begin providing us with our required maneuver elements for CAB-T movements. Easy to work with and always professional, the "Black Wolves" have made a big impact on their AOR with a sustained security presence and aggressive posturing. By aligning our Engineer efforts with that of these Infantry Soldiers, I believe the effects will be notable in the months to come.

As we continue to develop our line of effort in regards to ANA training and partnering, we are impressed with the work that these Afghan Engineers have done – and with the circumstances under which they have done it. Although we hold the role of instructor/advisor in the relationship, I can't ignore that by our time's end here, we stand to learn much from them. They are brave and dedicated, evidenced by their primary clearance method: dismounted. Only a fellow Engineer can truly appreciate the reality of that.



Soldiers of the 927th are working hand in hand with their Romanian counterparts to accomplish their mission.

While I reflect on the past month, it occurs to me that my focus drifts towards the future. It's both a relief and a fulfillment to finally be here, doing this work. We are proud to call ourselves part of Task Force Bayonet and look forward to the successes and honor that this deployment will bring to the Sappers of the 927th.

40 days in...but who's counting. Until it's done: Sappers Lead the Way.

-CPT James Hoover, Commander, 927th Sapper Company

# 1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company

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## RIVER OTTERS

### *HOLIDAY GREETINGS!*

*1ST Platoon, 1438th MRBC*

*1LT Daniels/SFC Mincher*

It's been another great month for 1st Platoon of the 1438th EN CO (MRBC). As different sections moved from Camp Leatherneck to Kandahar Airfield (KAF), 1st Platoon was the last section to close down shop and make the move. The move was a great change of pace, as the amenities on Kandahar Airfield are far better than those in Camp Leatherneck. We look at it as another chapter in the deployment book closed and a box checked to getting us closer to coming home. In the near future, we have another one of our routine runs along HWY 1 to fix and repair all bridges along the route. This is where your Soldiers really get to shine and make a name for themselves in Afghanistan. Our Soldiers really enjoy these runs and the opportunity to get out and see some of the country. But I think the main reason is, it breaks up the monotony and makes the time fly by much faster. You should all be very proud of our Soldiers. They have completed every task that has been thrown their way, many of which were passed up by other units because they said it could not be done. They are a hard working group of individuals and it is amazing to see what can be accomplished with a group of Soldiers that have a "let us try" attitude, which is the motto of the Engineers. Continue to keep our Soldiers in your thoughts and prayers, and we look forward to returning home and seeing our friends and Family.

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# Snapshots of Task Force Bayonet

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# Re-Enlistments, Promotions and Ceremonies

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## Public Affairs Information

The *Task Force Bayonet Newsletter* is an authorized newsletter for members of the 65th Engineer Battalion. Contents are not necessarily endorsed by the Dept. of the Army, Dept. of Defense, or United States Government. Content is reviewed, edited, and approved by the Battalion Public Affairs Officer.

For questions, comments, or submissions, please contact the Battalion PAO.

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