

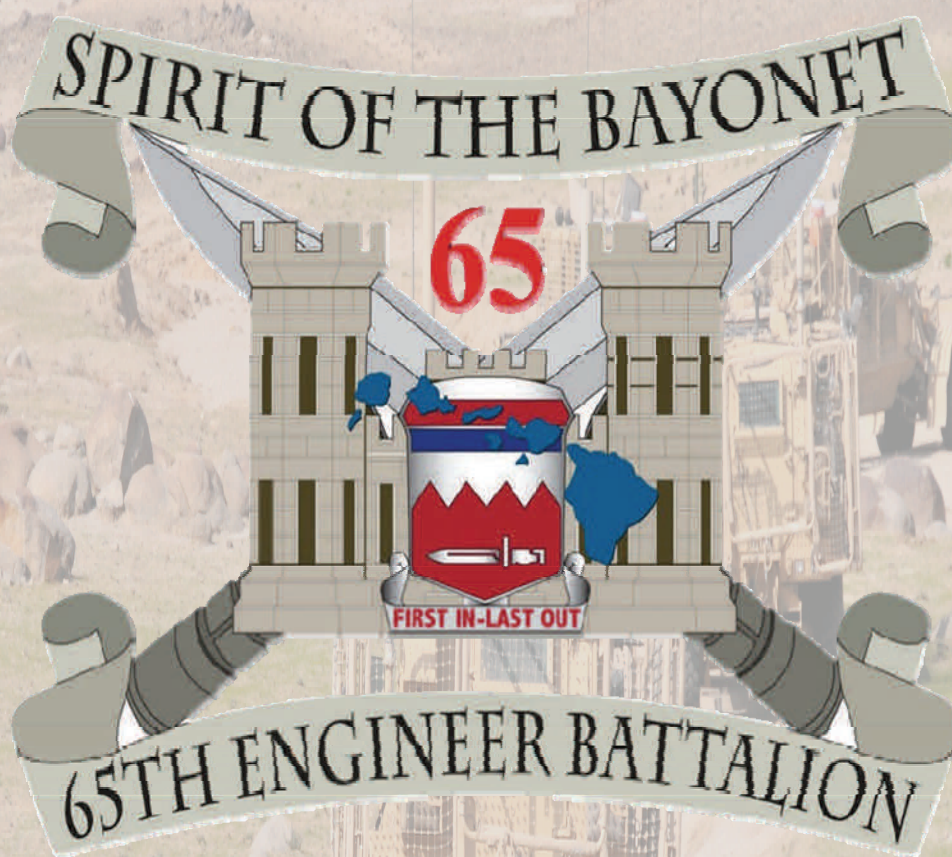
TASK FORCE BAYONET

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BAYONET UPDATE

1



Aloha Friends and Family of Task Force Bayonet,

The Soldiers of Task Force Bayonet continue to make their reputation for excellence known across the Combined Joint Operational Area Afghanistan! Your Soldiers go above and beyond every single day, and I am both proud and humbled to be a part of such a fantastic organization.

The discipline, professionalism, and competence of these Soldiers are a testament to their character and dedication to duty. We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

Mahalo to all the Families and Friends of Task Force Bayonet for your support. We appreciate everything you do.

God bless – First In, Last Out!

LTC David Acker,
BAYONET 6

Aloha from the office of the Task Force Bayonet CSM,

The time has finally arrived where we are in the last 100 days of our deployment. As I travel to various forward operating bases across Regional Command West, Southwest and South and talk with Senior Leaders, they continue to be impressed with the tactical mindset of Task Force Bayonet Soldiers.

Whether providing assured mobility, interrogating IEDs, conducting dismounted patrols, or providing base defense, your Soldiers continue to exemplify excellence.

I would like to congratulate two outstanding Soldiers this month. Task Force Bayonet has selected SPC Borges from 82nd ESC as the TF Bayonet Soldier of the Month and SSG Crabtree, from HHC, for being selected as the TF Bayonet NCO of the Month.

We hope you enjoy this month's newsletter, and we look forward to our return back to the islands.

Mahalo,
CSM Harold McVicker III,
BAYONET 7



LTC Acker and CSM McVicker giving trophies for the top male and female finishers for the Fallen Engineer 5k



LTC Acker speaking with the E5 and E6 Soldiers during their luncheon



CSM McVicker and MAJ Nordin, the Executive Officer, coming in at the finish of the 5k.

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Strike First!

Happy Easter to all of our friends and family back home. As we near the final stretch of the deployment, HHC continues to work extremely hard and stay focused on the mission at hand. This last month we had ten individuals visit from the unit replacing us. We were able to provide a thorough overview of our responsibilities so that they will be better prepared when they arrive in a couple months to assume our mission and tasks. This month's company article comes from the S3 Operations Sections and the RSOI training team and captures the dedication and devotion they give to the Bayonet Team.

Operations and RSOI Staff

five Bayonet Soldiers who teach two specialty areas.

SSG Smith working in the TOC

They monitor all reports and relay the information to the Battle Captain and Battle NCO as necessary. The TOC uses multiple forms of communication and the RTOs are fully qualified on all communication platforms. SSG Smith and SSG Sailo serve as the Battle NCOs. Both NCOs are fully capable of running all TOC operations and also enforce TOC standards. SGT Hansen is the movement NCO who coordinates all rotary and fixed wing flights for TF Bayonet. 1LT Spies and 1LT Payne serve as the Battle Captains. They are overall responsible for TOC operations. The TOC Battle Staff is a cohesive team that plays a vital role in TF Bayonet's mission. The Battle Staff will continue to strive for excellence every hour of the day.

The RSOI element has been tasked to provide training for new units arriving in theater. The training is broken down into two elements which teach the training. The counter improvised explosive device (C-IED) element is comprised of eight Bayonet Soldiers who teach five specialty areas; the tactical directives element is comprised of

SFC Justin leads the tactical directives training. His additional trainers consist of SSG Outlaw, SSG MacCracken, SGT Rehmert, and SPC Steward. They provide a thorough brief to all incoming Soldiers which outlines the current operating environment in Kandahar. The training that Soldiers receive during RSOI is critical for mission success. The RSOI element will continue to execute this necessary mission until redeployment.

We look forward to a strong finish these
next three months and a successful redeployment
back to Hawaii!



SPC Holmes briefing during his RSOI
lane

65th Engineer Training Team

Unleash Hell!

3

ETT Continues ANA Training and Says Goodbye to Italian Friends

Your Hell Hounds are having a significant effect on the future of Afghanistan. On a daily basis, we are giving the 207th Corps Engineer Kandak the skills they require to succeed on the Afghan battlefield. This month marked the end of our first phase of training. Over a seven week period, we taught over 85 Afghans both horizontal and vertical engineering skills. We taught the Afghan Engineers to build structures, connect electrical wire, connect plumbing and to operate bulldozers, graders, rollers, excavators, loaders, bobcats and dump trucks. It was amazing to see Afghans completing guard shacks, made from both wood and cinder blocks, fully wired with electricity, and combat outpost with anti-vehicle ditches and a 150-meter road. Nothing happens without your Hell Hounds protecting the trainers. They are trained, proficient, and professional on and off the battlefield. Your Soldiers stand guard, vigilantly monitoring the area and ensuring that all training occurs within a safe environment. SGT Maledda also deserves our praise. He stepped forward to assume the role of Operations Sergeant, monitoring the team when it leaves the wire and managing the team's tactical operations center. Nothing moves on the battlefield and no training can occur without him watching over the team.



ANA Soldiers build a guard shack.



Your Hell Hounds receiving Certificates of Appreciation from their Italian partners.

We said goodbye to our first group of Italian partners. They finished their six month tour and headed home to Italy. They were grateful for the excellent work that we did for them and they showed it by providing the entire Hell Hound team a certificate of appreciation. They were replaced by a new team, the Italian Military Advisor Team V and we look forward to building a strong relationship with them as well.

Despite how busy we are, the 65th ETT still finds time to enjoy ourselves as a team. CPT Oliver took the team out for a fancy Italian dinner at Camp Arena's Casa Italiano. The food was excellent and SGT Koeth and SGT Schellenberg demonstrated the closeness of our team by sharing their meals. We keep busy to try to keep our morale and spirits high; we are propelled forward knowing that our families and loved ones are



Your Hell Hounds enjoy a beautiful evening of camaraderie and delicious Italian cuisine.

constantly supporting our efforts. As we execute the final phase of our mission and count the days until our return to Hawaii, always remember to Unleash Hell and love your Hell Hounds!

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SUSTAIN THE BATTLE!

The Forward Support Company stayed extremely busy during March as they took the lead on a whole new mission on Forward Operating Base (FOB) Lindsey located right outside of Kandahar Airfield. The team started the month by transitioning out with the old unit here on FOB Lindsey and taking control of all base defense operations in support of preparing the base for transition to the Afghan National Army. The company was extremely happy to welcome 11 new members to the team from Schofield Barracks, Hawaii for assistance with the new mission set.

Platoon Updates

PSD Platoon

PSD kept extremely busy as they took responsibility of the Quick Reaction Force (QRF) on Lindsey in support of the company's FOB defense operations. The switch has had its set of both positives and negatives. The platoon lost some of their favorite luxuries provided on KAF such as the numerous restaurants, coffee shops, and recreational activities. However, living on a smaller base has allowed the Soldiers to see how their contributions directly affect the successful day to day operations of FOB Lindsey. PSD continuously makes trips back to KAF to ensure the company has the necessary supplies needed to sustain ourselves. PSD also is responsible for bringing back mail for all the Soldiers in the company. March was an especially good month for PSD, as



we saw our team grow by five Soldiers. Three of the Soldiers, PFC Martin, PFC Caldwell, and PFC Khan, all volunteered to

deploy from Hawaii at the end of February to join us here. PSD also gained two Soldiers, PVT Carey and SPC Pahuamba, from different platoons within the company. All five Soldiers have made a seamless transition into PSD and are a great asset for the team. PSD remains motivated and continues to accomplish a variety of different and changing missions every week.

Distribution Platoon

Distribution Platoon has enjoyed the new challenge and re-mission over the past month. The base defense mission has been very unique and challenging in many different ways. Distribution Platoon soldiers have shown how adept they are at their individual Soldier

skills and specialties, as well as adapting to the very different atmosphere of FOB Lindsey.



Along with the help of maintenance platoon, the distribution platoon continues to aid in logistics patrols, managing third country nationals, manning surveillance equipment, and providing security at towers and control points 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Distribution Platoon works hard throughout the day, and "owns the night" in base security. The fuelers from the platoon have been able to fall back into their known Military Occupational Specialty as they continue to work the fuel point and all fueling operations on FOB Lindsey. Distribution Soldiers have still found a way to cram in study time for upcoming promotion boards. The platoon has earned more than 400 promotion points since the deployment started and has 4 Soldiers preparing for upcoming promotion boards. The platoon is very excited that the weather is changing to spring time and they continue to work extremely hard with the thought of going home in the back of their minds.

Company Intelligence Support Team

The COIST team stayed busy since arriving on FOB Lindsey. The team worked hard and quickly became proficient on every new piece of base defense equipment. The team continues to make intelligence products every week, but they are enjoying a more hands on experience with the intelligence at FOB Lindsey. The team is in charge of operating a camera tower that allows the Base Defense Operations Center the ability to observe any visual threat within line of sight of the FOB. With our multiple cameras, we are capable of taking pictures of our dismounted patrols and recording interactions with the locals. SSG Lopez also regularly runs Transverse and the radio out to the Soldiers at the Entry Control Points and on Quick Reaction Force. The force protection measures identified from KAF are now in place on Lindsey. The COIST also learns a lot of new techniques from the Counter Intelligence team that works with them on Lindsey, such as how to do background checks on visitors and to exchange visitor badges for IDs ensuring that we know who is on the FOB at all times.

Maintenance Platoon

Since arriving at FOB Lindsey, maintenance platoon has been involved in a variety of operations since the transfer of authority with the outgoing company. Multiple NCOs and Soldiers from the platoon have assumed responsibilities as the Sergeant of the Guard, entry control point, guard tower operators and key roles within the Mayor Cell assisting with the daily operations that take place on Lindsey. SGT Gogue transitioned from supervising the Armament maintenance section to supervising and managing the Food Service Section of five newly arrived cooks. He supervises and runs the containerized kitchen which has become the sole DFAC ("Gogue's Grill") on Lindsey, providing two hot meals daily to over 400 personnel. Soldiers of the Shop Office section continue to run all maintenance operations from FOB Lindsey. Additionally, they have participated in presence patrols through the village next to the FOB as members of the FET (Female Engagement Team) to ensure a positive relationship with the local villagers. The platoon welcomed SPC Rice to the team, who has adapted well to the unit and platoon.



This new mission continues to bring the Soldier's in FSC closer together due to the variety of new skill sets each Soldier brings to the base defense operations mission. With less than one hundred days left in Afghanistan, everyone in the company looks forward to being reunited with their family and loved ones, while still remaining dedicated to performing our duties as Soldiers.



SGT Earvin explaining to BG Rainey his part in supporting the base defense of Lindsey

82nd's Joint Operations Contribute to Mission Success

Camp Leatherneck is known worldwide to be the home away from home for the United States Marines. Although our uniforms are of a different color, Camp Leatherneck has been our home as well, and we have been welcomed with open arms by our sister services and foreign military agencies. We have worked hand in hand with Marines, Navy Corpsmen, Airmen and even Coastguardsmen. Soldiers of the 82nd Engineer Support Company (ESC) have also had the chance to extend outside the United States Forces and work with foreign militaries from various countries to include the United Kingdom, the country of Georgia and also members of Afghanistan National Security Forces (ANSF).



The Marines have brought some critical skills to our patrols and on each and every patrol, Marines are right there with us. This partnership has led to increased safety and security, vital for our mission's success. The Navy Corpsmen have been helping the talented medics of 82nd ESC provide solid medical service to 90 Soldiers for the past six months. Airmen and forces from the United Kingdom have been working with the Company Intelligence Support Team to ensure 82nd ESC has the most current intelligence. We then can share all of what we know to help all other forces in our area accomplish their missions. The Coastguardsmen have been helping with preparing our containers to ship back to Hawaii. They have also been providing new sea-worthy inspections to ensure we will be able to ship each container home. Recently the Soldiers of the 82nd ESC have developed a working relationship with the Georgian forces and members of ANSF. With this

experience, Soldiers have gotten the unique opportunity to work with interpreters and hone their communication skills through interpreters.



With all of these interactions with military members outside the United States Army, we have been exposed to new cultures and ideas. We have had the chance to experience a little taste of life within each respective new service and country. The cross service and multinational operations have brought the best that the world can offer and the training and knowledge the Soldiers are gaining is unlike anything we could have hoped for before we deployed. As we near the final chapters of the company's deployment, we are confident and excited that we will continue to develop our skills with the unique resources we have.

Dig Deep! First in, Last out! Essayons!

- 1LT Cathleen Rush, Company Intelligence Support Team, 82nd ESC

A Message from the Commander

Hello from Kandahar Airfield,

Even with a fast mission tempo, the Soldiers of the 455th have been able to accomplish many additional tasks to further their military proficiency and military and civilian careers. Tasked with many operations around Task Force Bayonet and Task Force Iron Mans' area of operation during the past month, the company has once again consolidated in Kandahar. These differing experiences have allowed us to share all of the lessons we have learned over the past month to each other.

Also during this past month, 455th Soldiers have been extremely active. We had a team participate in the Kandahar Air Field Basketball League, the 82nd Sustainment Brigade Basketball Tournament, Football Tournament, and over 60 Soldiers participated in the Fallen Engineer 5K run. The run was a great opportunity to support the Fallen Engineer Memorial at Fort Leonard Wood, MO. We are enjoying the opportunities at Kandahar Airfield to participate with all the sporting activities offered, greatly improving company morale.

We thank all of our families, friends, and community members who have supported us and donated so much for our comfort overseas. Your dedication to the Soldiers of the 455th has greatly enhanced our ability to perform the job required of us. Thank you again for continued support.

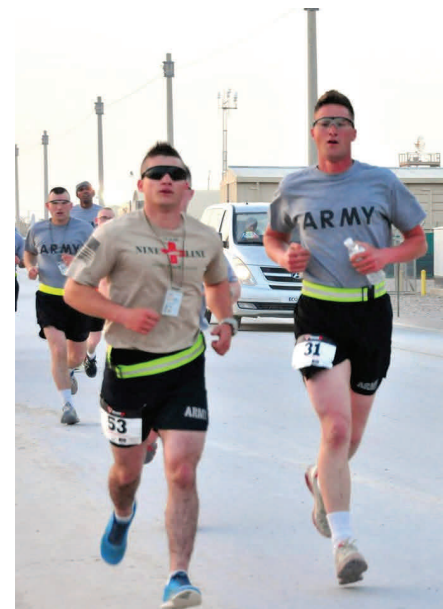
- CPT Mason J. Flemmer, Lobos 6



1LT Ehlert participating in Officer Physical Training



The 455th's Football Team at the MWR Tournament



CPL Fenstimaker and SPC Willis running in the Fallen Engineer 5k

Newest Spartan Family Members

Even though lives of Soldiers seem to stop when they go on deployment, the lives of all their Family and loved ones continue as they support their Soldier from afar. Some of the most joyful continuations are the addition of a child to the Spartan family. Whether it be through Skype or a phone call, Soldiers are afforded time off mission during the birth of their child to be as close to the birth of their child as possible. Here are the newest additions to the Spartan family that each father is anxiously waiting to see:



Myra Hope Cradlebaugh

One of the first new additions to the Spartan Family was Myra Hope. Myra entered SPC Cradlebaugh's life on November 9, 2013 at 7:50pm, at 6lbs 12oz and 19.5 in long.



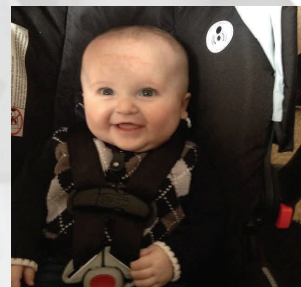
Alyssa Gomez

Alyssa Gomez was born in Lodi, CA on November 5, 2013 at 7:37pm. Her mother, Johanna Gomez, takes care of Alyssa and gets her ready for the return of her father, SGT Gomez. Pictured is her as she enjoys her 4 month birthday cupcakes. Time flies when you are having fun!



Sophia Rose Garza

SSG Garza's beautiful daughter, Sophia Rose Garza, was born in Colorado Springs, CO on December 21, 2013. Her nickname, until her father returns home and finds something else to call her, is Soapy. SSG Garza talks about how excited he is to see his daughter for the first time, "I can't wait to see her smile at me in person."



Carter Miguel Moffatt-Jones

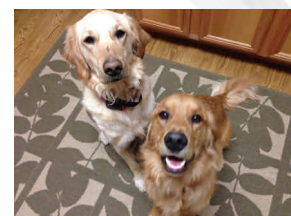
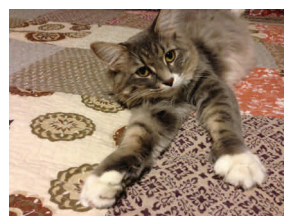
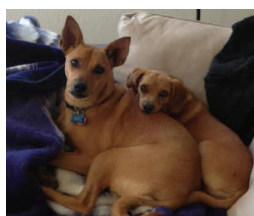
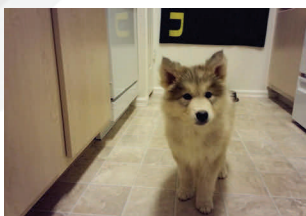
SPC Jones was able to Skype and see the birth of his child, Carter Miguel Moffatt-Jones. Carter was born at 1:45am on October 22, 2013. He was born at 8lbs 3oz and 21in long.

First born into the Spartan family was Jace Thomas Keyser on August 22, 2013 at 1:30am to PFC Keyser and his wife Freda. He was 7lbs 7oz and 20in long. He is their third child.



Jace Thomas Keyser

And we can't forget the Spartan Fur Babies either!



849th Mobility Augmentation Company

NITRATE

9

Nitrates Support Upcoming Presidential Election

As we progress into the year and the weather improves, the activity in our area also increases. It is a welcome change for our unit as we draw closer to our return home. With home on the horizon, having a busy schedule again will help keep all of us focused on the task at hand, and in turn our time to go home will approach more quickly. In a few short weeks, we will experience history here in Afghanistan as the people will elect a new president for the first time in eight years.

The preparations for the election have been going on for a good portion of our deployment, as both of our platoons were tasked to support Operation Chamtoo II and III. Second platoon had just returned from supporting Operation Chamtoo II when we got tasked to support the next operation. First platoon was detached to an outlying FOB to carry out future missions as part of Operation Chamtoo III.

During the last month, first platoon supported TF Cougar, who was assigned the job of assisting Afghan forces in their preparations for the upcoming election. With this new mission and the election right around the corner, our Soldiers were afforded an added sense of purpose. As of now, they have completed three of their directed route clearance operations with their Afghan counterparts taking the lead.

The majority of March has been spent toward the efforts of Chamtoo III. It speaks volumes of the professionalism and motivation of all the Soldiers within the unit that we have been routinely chosen to support these named operations. Our operational time in country might be coming to an end, but our drive and determination to do the job right is higher than ever.

- 1LT Andrew Schiller, Company COIST OIC



1st Platoon at FOB Frontenac; taking a moment during their mission preparation for a platoon picture to send back to their families.

(Photo taken by: SFC Scott Larson)



2nd Platoon posed for a picture to send back home as a thank you to former 849th MAC Soldiers that sent over a package of some delicious beef jerky. Knaus jerky is among the favorites for jerky while on deployment, simply delicious.

(Photo taken by: SGT Ryan McCann)

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"Work Hard, Play Hard" Mentality Raises 927th Morale

All work and no play makes for a dull Sapper! The 927th Sappers work hard and play even harder. When the 927th Engineer Company is not fulfilling their route clearance duties or training to become more proficient soldiers, they utilize their down time to unwind from the stress of deployment. Some of the more popular activities include improving physical fitness in the gym, enjoying movies and video games at the MWR, and playing cards and board games. Luckily, wireless internet is available in the barracks so the soldiers are able to use social media to remain in touch with their loved ones back home. At the beginning of the month, we hosted a volleyball tournament on Apache which helped to boost unit morale and esprit de corps. After a fierce competition, the Regulators from 2nd platoon were victorious against the team from the 761st EOD.

Also this month, Task Force Bayonet hosted the "Fallen Engineer 5K" at KAF. The 927th was well represented by SGT Darren Dufour, SPC Jason Buras, and SPC Nicolas Oubre. While visiting KAF, the Soldiers got a chance to patronize the boardwalk and enjoy a variety of cuisines at the dining facilities.

Finally, congratulations to the following Soldiers for being promoted: SPC Ethan Hutton, SPC Tyler Townsend, SPC Nicholas Phillips, SPC Benjamin North, SPC Dylan Boyd, and PFC Clint Duhon.

Letters to Home

Dear Mama,
I have been doing fine out here. Really miss you guys & hope all is well. Tell Naynay and Megan that I am proud of them. Sorry I won't be home to see them graduate. Hope work isn't terrible like always. Thanks for the gummy bears and hot fries. I'll try to Skype you guys soon. The internet has been messing up. Talk to you soon! Love you and miss you lots!

Love,
Your Son Tyler
SPC Townsend



Dear Mom,
So far everything is going good, the platoon and company are still intact. On a daily basis we get hands on experience with mine detectors, cool robots, along with radios and other cool little engineer gadgets. The food is great and the living area is ok but the internet is slow; however, we do have warm showers. Overall it's a new experience but I'm looking forward to coming home soon.

Your son,
Brandon
SPC Alleman



Dear Melissa Hills,
Can you believe that just a year ago I was at MEPS joining the Army? It's been a year and more has happened to me within the first year of my Army career than most people experience throughout their entire Army career. I can't believe that I'm on a deployment right now away from the people I love the most. This is a great experience for me but you of all people know that I would love to be home right now. I can't wait to get back so that we can take that little vacation together with all our high school friends to the city of nights - Las Vegas. I hope you have a good time at Fort Leonard Wood in the winter even though I already know you don't like the snow. I never got a chance to welcome you to the Army family so I guess this is going to have to do until I get back home. You have no idea how much I miss you guys and can't wait until we are reunited and changing the world together.

Love forever,
Darrion
PFC Jenkins





927 EN CO Volleyball Tournament champions: 2nd PLT "Regulators" (Pictured L-R: SPC Ducre, SGT Ward, SPC Baker, PFC Webb, SSG Ward, PFC Duhon)



SPC Lofgren attempts to return the serve while SSG Lanoux and SPC Resendiz look on.



Members of the maintenance team playing in the volleyball tournament. (L-R: SGT Nargo, SPC Egan, SPC Gates, PFC Hollier)



1LT McCoy enjoys spending his time in the gym when not fulfilling his Executive Officer duties.



Mail call is one of the most important times of the week. The families back home show their support of the sappers by sending many care packages.



1st Platoon enjoys some down time between training in the motor pool. (Pictured L-R: SPC North, SGT Shelby, PFC Morales, SGT Dufour, SPC Ruckhaber)



Newly promoted SPC Townsend, SPC Hutton, & PFC Duhon



SPC Knippers assists SGT Dufour set up his new sleeping quarters on the back of a MRAP.



SPC Baker and SPC Fontenot pose for a picture during Hasty Road Repair training.

1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company

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RIVER OTTERS

In Honor of Women's History Month, What the Women of the 1438th are Most Proud of During This Deployment



SGT COURTNEY ARMOUR
Construction Equipment Repairer

I most proud of my Family Support on this deployment. My Family has shown the strength that has transferred into my strength I use to make it through my third deployment. Jordan, Jake, Tammy, Bryce, Mom and Dad have paid their dues supporting their Soldier and deserve recognition for it. "Thank you so much for believing in me more than I believed in myself."



SSG DENISE LEO
Admin NCOIC

I am most proud that of being the unit ADMIN NCO and not having any formal training prior to volunteering for the position. I feel a sense of accomplishment when I know that I am taking care of the Soldiers in our company. I am also proud of the fact that this is my second deployment; my first being OIF and second being OEF.



SPC JENN COOPER
Unit Supply Specialist

I'm incredibly proud that I was able to pay off all my debt, including my student and car loans during this deployment. The army enables me to be a strong, independent woman.



SPC MELISSA ALEXANDER
Bridge Crew Member

I'm most proud of participating in a half-marathon and running the entire 13.1 miles without stopping.



SFC KARI BOETTCHER
Medic

I am most proud that I am 51 years old and I scored a 314 on the company APFT.



SPC DANIELLE MYERS
Bridge Crew Member

I'm proud that I've been on every mission and made it back safely each time.

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1438th Multi-Role Bridge Company

RIVER OTTERS

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SPC MOLLY JASPER
Construction Equipment Repairer

During this deployment I am most proud of the amount of knowledge I have not only learned about maintenance but also myself, the Afghanistan culture and the second family I have gained in the process. This experience is unforgettable and has taught me that any and everything is possible!



SPC YARELIS SOTO
Commo/Crew Specialist

I'm proud of the amount of knowledge I've gained throughout this deployment. I'm proud that I'm the go-to person for anything CREW related. I am also proud that I was selected for the 4th ID Hero of the Battle.



SPC REBA COLONY
Unit Supply Specialist

I'm most proud of the amount of knowledge that I have gained on this deployment. I feel much more confident in the supply field. I am proud of the amount of confidence people have in my abilities. To be sent to KAF early to begin setting up the S4 shop on my own was an incredible and stressful feeling.



SGT NATALIE DUBOIS
Bridge Crew Chief

I'm proud I'm the only female gunner in my platoon.



SPC SAMMIE MULHERIN
Construction Equipment Repairer

I'm most proud of organizing the upcoming 5K run to support the American Stroke Association, in honor of my mother who suffered a stroke earlier this year.

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Snapshots of Task Force Bayonet

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Re-Enlistments, Promotions and Ceremonies

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TF Bayonet Soldier and NCO of the Month



Soldier of the Month: SPC Borges, 82nd ESC



NCO of the Month: SSG Crabtree, HHC

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.

Public Affairs Officer: 2LT Brenna Heisterman

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