



SAPPER SENTINEL

"SAPPERS IN!"

JOINT TASK FORCE SAPPER
NEWSLETTER OF THE THEATER ENGINEER BRIGADE IN AFGHANISTAN



Issue 8 — May 2014

Message from the Commander

It is hard to believe that this is the last edition of the Sapper Sentinel. It seems like just yesterday that we arrived at Bagram and assumed responsibility for the Theater Engineer Brigade. Two HQs displacements,



several reductions in personnel strength, and numerous "re-missions" later, we can reflect with pride and confidence that we have gone above and beyond in our support of Coalition Forces in Afghanistan at such a critical period of the Afghanistan campaign.

One of the most gratifying aspects of this deployment was the vast number of engineer units with which we served under JTF Sapper. Eight Army engineer battalions, two Navy Seabee battalions, one Air Force Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group, one Explosives Hazards Team, one Mine Detection Dog Team, two Army bridge companies, and two Army Construction Management Teams - these units were comprised of Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen from across the United States and represented the active and reserve components of each of our military services.

Another satisfying achievement was the impact that JTF Sapper had on the entire theater. Our engineer team supported all Regional Commands with construction, deconstruction, mobility expertise and resources, often on short notice. Every coalition base and unit in Afghanistan received

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At A Glance...

- ◆ JTF SAPPER SERVING AS THEATER ENGINEER BRIGADE, THE ENGINEER HQ AND EXPERTISE IN AFGHANISTAN
- ◆ ENGINEER FORCES SPREAD ACROSS AFGHANISTAN IN SUPPORT OF NATO-LED INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE FORCE (ISAF)
- ◆ JOINT TEAM LED BY 130TH ENG. BRIGADE HQS FROM SCHOFIELD BARRACKS, HAWAII... INCLUDES ACTIVE, RESERVE, AND GUARD UNITS FROM ARMY, NAVY AND AIR FORCE

New Command Ready to Finish Engineer Mission

By Capt. Laura B. Beebe
JTF Sapper Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — The 130th Engineer Brigade, Joint Task Force Sapper transferred authority of the mission as the Theater Engineer Brigade in Afghanistan to the 2nd Eng. Bde., JTF Trailblazer, May 29th.

With the arrival of the 2nd Eng. Bde. Headquarters and Headquarters Company, totaling over 70 Soldiers, from Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska Joint Task Force Trailblazer, takes over the mission of managing the engineer

assets in support of the International Security Assistance Force. This is accomplished through the development of the Afghan National Army engineer force, synchronizing de-construction efforts across Afghanistan, and ISAF troop construction.

During the ceremony, Col. Diana Holland, commander of the 130th Eng. Bde. told the Soldiers from HHC, "We came here to tackle the most difficult, to make a difference, to be value-added, no matter what that entailed."

The 130th Engineer Brigade
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*Joint Task Force Trailblazer
takes over the mission of
managing the engineer assets
in support of ISAF.*



★ REMEMBER THE FALLEN ★

Inside this issue...

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Command Sergeant Major's Corner Command Sgt. Maj. John Etter, "Sapper 7"

*Aloha to our Ohana from
Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan!*

Just a few short days left before we will be able to greet our Ohana back on the sunny island of Oahu. The 2nd Engineer Brigade officially took the reigns and are now performing very well as the Engineer Brigade Headquarters in Afghanistan. I have every confidence, they will excel and succeed at the tasks before them.

Your Soldiers performed exceptionally well over the last nine months and are very deserving of the upcoming break that awaits.

However, as a team, we all must prepare for reintegration. Deployments can be difficult, stressful, and straining on Families and Soldiers and reuniting is not always as easy as we think. It will take patience, understanding, and time to get back into a rhythm and create cohesion in the home. Remember there are

resources available, all you need to do is ask.

As always, remember to have a plan and a battle buddy. Our team members deployed here with us as well as you, our team members back home, have worked too hard these past nine months for something to happen that could have been prevented.

Do things in moderation and remember to keep up with your physical fitness. You can do the traditional weights at the gym and run, but you can also workout while enjoying the island – rent a kayak, surf board, or paddle board from MWR, go for a hike up KoKo head or a swim at Waimea Bay.

Just remember to stay vigilant and watch one another's back. We are extremely excited to reunite with all of our loved ones and Friends in Hawaii – thank you for your support, we will see you soon.

Thank you for supporting your Soldier and Mahalo! ("Thank you!")

Sappers In,
CSM John Etter

(Continued from page 1)
some form of support or assistance from engineers under this task force.

Finally, JTF Sapper's most enduring legacy was its impact on the Afghan National Army. Soldiers and Seabees transferred route clearance, bridging, well drilling, construction, survey and design, project management and engineer mission command to engineer units in every Afghan Corps and at the theater level. We look forward to hearing about the continued successes of these impressive and dedicated Afghan engineers!

We of the 130th Engineer Brigade are exceptionally proud to have been a part of this experience, to have served alongside such extraordinary military engineers, and to have contributed to the fielding, training and sustainment of Afghan engineer units. Best wishes to the 2nd Engineer Brigade as it assumes the leadership mantle of engineering in the months ahead.

ESSAYONS and SAPPERS IN!!

Mahalo,
Col Diana Holland

Multi-Role Bridge Co. Transfer of Authority



Photos by U.S. Army Capt. Laura Beth Beebe
Joint Task Force Sapper Public Affairs



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Public Affairs Officer: CPT Laura Beth Beebe



This newsletter belongs to the
members of Joint Task Force Sapper...

Send us photos, stories, and ideas for
future coverage, and see your unit's
accomplishments highlighted on our
Facebook page and in future editions
of the Sapper Sentinel!

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“A Pump Away”

Seabees Continue Critical Water Well Operations in Kabul

By U.S. Navy MC1 Patrick Gordon
NMCB 25 Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan — A flurry of activity is occurring in the heart of Kabul. At the New Kabul Compound (NKC), specially trained operators work around the clock to ensure mission accomplishment in a delicate operation for the future of Afghanistan. Their target: hiding underground; their mission: locate and obtain the target.

These individuals are not SEALs or Green Berets. They are the “Roughnecks” of Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Two Five (NMCB 25), tasked with digging a new water well to support future NKC operations. And their mission goes until completion; three shifts a day, seven days a week.

“Working on the derrick, mixing the chemicals, everyone has just been working really hard, and really well as a team, 24-hours a day,” said Equipment Operator 1st Class John Cargill, NMCB 25 Water Well Team leading petty officer. “I couldn’t be happier with the way these guys are operating and the way things are going. Our turnover is really good; there is no stop in progress.”

Digging a well to support an installation like NKC is highly technical and involved process, far more complicated than simply drilling until water is found and calling it a day. Once a site is chosen by the command and a drilling location is decided upon, equipment — such as the drilling rig, the “Mud Puppy” mud filtration system, and various material-moving vehicles — are brought in and drilling can begin.

“Next thing you do is you drill a larger hole 20-feet down then we set our surface casing,

then we’ll grout or concrete that in,” explained Chief Equipment Operator Chad Strauser, NMCB 25 Water Well officer in charge. “Then you come back with a smaller drill bit and drill for your actual well casing, minimum of a 2-inch annular space around the pipe; so if you’re going with a 6-inch casing you would need a 10-inch hole bare minimum.”

“With the swelling of the clay around here — because some of it is reactive clay to moisture — it’s very dehydrated,” continued Strauser. “So we use chemicals to prevent that, and we also mitigate risk by taking a larger bit than what would technically be required.”

Strauser explained that drilling goes until the aquifer is found and then slightly beyond that to provide a sump for the well, though water is usually found at a much shallower depth.

“Typically, being that far under the surface there’s ground

pressure, so it’s pushing the static water level up higher,” said Strauser. “We may have a static water level of 70-feet here, even though we found water at about 800- or 900-feet, it’ll actually push the water up the casing pipe and it will sit.

“It’s like a juice box — if you squeeze a juice box, the pressure pushes the liquid up the straw; that’s exactly what the

ground pressure is doing with the aquifer. The earth is pressing down on the aquifer and it’s pushing the water up our tube like a straw and then the water evens out at a static level in the well, and we set our well pump below that.”

The well casing is then packed with sand and gravel to support the structure of the well

while simultaneously adding an extra level of filtration for the ground water to pass through before reaching the well screens. Additionally, air is pumped into the well formation to organize the sand packing around the screens

and push out the finer silt to further clean the well.

Despite the level of expertise the team brings to the project, no well is perfect.

In the case of

NMCB 25’s NKC water well, their first well had to be abandoned in favor of a second due to mechanical failure. This, however, did little to impede their progress.

“The first well’s drill bit broke,” said Strauser. “We believe it was a defective piece of steel. It basically severed itself at a tool joint where it was fused and weld-

(Continued on page 10)



U.S. Navy Photo by Steel Worker 2nd Class Holly Robinson, NMCB 25

Construction Mechanic 2nd Class Phillip Brown, NMCB 25 Water Well Team, repairs a piece of steel casing at the New Kabul Compound water well site April 26 in Kabul, Afghanistan.

Digging a well to support an installation like NKC is a highly technical and involved process, far more complicated than simply drilling until water is found.



Prime BEEF Works Outside the Box on Project



Courtesy photo by Capt. Amy Peabody

Members of the 557th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron, install a wall for a new sewage lift station.

By Maj. Khalid Cannon

380th Air Expeditionary Wing

AFGHANISTAN — After working on the project for nearly four months, the Airmen of the 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron completed a sewage lift station, which will help maintain the base's infrastructure for years to come.

"When we started the project, it was just a giant hole in the ground 35 feet deep," said Air Force Capt. Amy Peabody, the 577 EPBS site officer-in-charge. "We were tasked to build the new structure, and it was an awesome opportunity for these guys to work on a very large project that they wouldn't normally get the opportunity to do."

Prime BEEF built the new lift station to allow sewage to more easily transfer off the base and into a civilian waste treatment facility.

The base's sewage system, which is operated by the 380th Expeditionary Civil Engineer Squadron, will rely on the new

lift station to alleviate frequent backups, according to Peabody.

The main structure of the new station consists of four layers of concrete wall panels that were stacked on top of each other to form one large box.

The sewage runs from the main compound of the base by gravity, and flows into the bottom of the lift station.

From there, three pumps lift the waste up and out into another pipe located just below the ground, which carry the sewage to the next lift station.

Prime BEEF constructed each layer using a 200-ton crane, rented by the 380 ECES, to precisely stack each panel that weighed up to 30,000

pounds. While lowering each panel into position, the contracted crane operator relied on the guidance of Air Force Tech. Sgt. Garrett Gentry, 380 ECES pavement and equipment shop non-commissioned officer-in-charge and a native of Candler, N.C., who communicated through the use of hand signals.

"We worked closely with the

contractor who didn't speak any English," said Gentry. "For 30 consecutive days we overcame a language barrier by using the international crane signals. The operator was very precise, accurate and did exactly what we asked him to do."

Peabody described how the project will impact the base.

"The lift station will be able to handle an increased flow output, thus increasing the base's capabilities and taking a lot of the current maintenance burdens off the civil engineer squadron," said Peabody, who is a native of Lafayette, Ind.

The project's difficulty was compounded by the area's high water table, which caused ground water to constantly fill the work site and required the Airmen to work in knee-deep mud after pumping the water out twice each day.

"I'm very proud because this is the biggest project I've ever been a part of," said Air Force

Senior Airman Brendon Luke, a heavy equipment operator and native of Kansas City, Mo. "We backfilled 10,000 tons of dirt and there were a lot of twists and turns throughout the build."

The new station will be connected to another lift station by contractors at a later date.

Air Force Tech. Sgt. Gary Vergara, the project leader and a Chicago native, detailed how the project was outside of his typical responsibilities.

"My specialty is heating, ventilation and air conditioning, so this project was a big challenge," said Vergara. "We normally do smaller repair projects and minor construction."

"We started out by looking at the prints, we had weekly meetings and got ideas from everyone on the team," said Vergara. "We also received a lot of support from RED HORSE and the civil engineer squadron in the form of equipment and personnel, which helped make this project a success."

[This will] allow sewage to more easily transfer off the base.

[It] will help maintain the base's infrastructure for years to come



Courtesy photo by Capt. Amy Peabody

Staff Sgt. Michael Shortleeve and Staff Sgt. Ivan Alandzak install a 20 foot section of glass reinforces pipe for a new sewage lift station.



Leading Breakdown in Afghanistan



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jon Cupp

A hydraulic excavator is used to demolish a building on a deconstruction site at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

By U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jon Cupp
82nd Sustainment Brigade

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — For most of the war in Afghanistan, soldiers have been asked to build up the coalition presence, moving tons of equipment to smaller outposts while constructing new infrastructure.

But with the war winding down, Fort Bragg soldiers are now leading efforts to reverse that earlier work.

More than 100 soldiers with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade form the core of the U.S. Central Command Material Recovery Element, a conglomerate of units that is made up of about 3,500 soldiers. Their mission is to help process the equipment that has built up in

Afghanistan while also helping to shrink or close military bases.

82nd Sustainment soldiers are spread across about 30 bases in Afghanistan, officials said, but their efforts are mostly focused at three retrosort yards — one each at Bagram Airfield in the east, Kandahar Airfield in the south and Camp Pratt in the north.

The largest retrosort yard is in Kandahar, near the 82nd Sustainment and CMRE headquarters.

[Engineers] are now leading efforts to reverse the earlier [construction] work

There, soldiers, defense civilians and contractors sort through a steady stream of equipment.

From dusty telephones to boots and shovels, each item is sorted before computer programs help officials decide whether the equipment should

be destroyed, transferred to the Afghan government or sent back to military posts in the United States.

Col. Mark Collins, commander of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, said it was a massive effort — and a team effort with partners from other defense agencies and Reserve and National Guard units from across the country.

"We've been given a lot of really good equipment," he said of the more than a decade of war. "We have not wanted for supplies."

He described the process by which much of that equipment is being recycled — either to be reused in theater, turned over to the Afghans or actually recycled

at scrap yards around Afghanistan.

"We understand budgets are important," Collins said. "We're protecting the investments that were made. Everything that leaves this theater is touched by a member of the CMRE."

Based in part on lessons learned from Iraq, Collins

said the Command Material Recovery Element was a unique mission, complicated by terrain and the continuing needs of battle space commanders, but driven by a mission to be good stewards of American tax dollars.

To date, more than \$1 billion in equipment has been returned to the military inventory in the U.S.

"We understand budgets are important, and we're protecting the investments that were made."

(Continued on page 7)



Airmen Construct New 'Pad' for Deployed Helos

Courtesy of U.S. Air Forces Central Command Public Affairs Office

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — As the military redistribute forces and equipment from forward operating bases in Afghanistan, the demand for a larger helicopter landing zone here is a necessity. Airmen of the 1st Expeditionary Civil Engineer Group's, 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Emergency Force Squadron brought the project to life overcoming a few obstacles in the process.

"We are constructing a new helicopter landing zone. Sometimes when you are transitioning and moving forces around you need to do construction to accept those forces from the other forward operating bases so they can find a home at least temporarily until they transition elsewhere," said U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Christoff Gaub, 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron commander.

The Prime BEEF team, forward deployed from Al Udiyd Air Base, Qatar, had to create a drainage system to keep the six-acre area from flooding during

the rainy season.

"Drainage pipes were installed to help maintain the structural integrity of the helicopter landing pad," said U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. William Thomas, a Cincinnati, Ohio native, currently assigned to the 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron. "The water runs off the main pad, into drainage pipes and then filters off into retention ponds."

When you are transitioning and moving forces around, you need to do construction to accept those forces from other FOBs...at least temporarily.

Also, the 15-man team excavated 7,000 cubic meters of fill material to create a landing pad to accommodate numerous helicopter parking spaces.

"Some of the challenges we face as a team are acquiring the needed amounts of various equipment. For a large scale project, such as the Hickory Landing Zone, we usually need to borrow a few pieces of heavy equipment such as dump trucks, bulldozers and graders," said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Orlin Rohde, an Ellisburg, New York native, currently assigned to the 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron.

Due to an increase in workload this team of heavy equipment operators had to acquire



U.S. Air force Photo by Senior Airman Sandra Welch

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Demetrius Brown, 577th Expeditionary Prime Base Engineer Emergency Force Squadron troop construction bravo, grinds down a drainage pipe at Bagram Air Field, May 17. The drainage pipe will assist in keeping the landing zone free of water.

more Civil Engineer personnel to meet mission demands throughout the area of operation.

"One of the biggest hurdles we have overcome is training our own engineers. We only have a limited number of actual trained heavy equipment operators, so we have to train our plumbers, electricians, heating, ventilation, and air conditioning, and structure craftsman on our equipment," said Rohde. "They do

great work helping us out and these types of projects wouldn't be possible if we didn't come together as a team."

Leadership wouldn't think they could meet this task if they weren't confident in their training.

"In Afghanistan we get to have a bigger impact on the whole AOR, and we get to support our fellow armed forces: Army, Navy, Marines, and coalition partners. We are trained combat engineers which enables us to operate in more areas that the traditional engineers cannot," said Rhode.

For some Airmen this isn't just a job, it's a dream that has come to fruition.

"It is truly a proud moment when you get tasked to turn a six-acre field into a fully operational helicopter landing zone, able to support numerous aircraft with a deadline of three months," said Rohde. "Operating Heavy Equipment is every boy's dream, it's the best job in the Air Force!"



U.S. Air force Photo by Senior Airman Sandra Welch

U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Daniel Hutchins, 577th Expeditionary Prime BEEF Squadron troop construction bravo, pours cement rocks on the Hickory Landing Zone at Bagram Air Field, May 17.



Continuing the Deconstruction Effort



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Jon Cupp

Soldiers from the 760th Engineer Company move disassembled boards from a deconstructed building at Kandahar Airfield.

(Continued from page 5)

Another \$5 billion has been recovered from coalition bases in Afghanistan. And \$711,000 worth of unneeded medical supplies was donated to the Afghan Ministry of Public Health.

At the Kandahar retrosort yard, officials make sure each and every piece of equipment is accounted for and ends up in the right place.

That means protecting or identifying sensitive equipment that can sometimes be no bigger than a toaster yet costs hundreds of thousands of dollars, said 1st Lt.

Petar Mostarac, a soldier with the New York National Guard's 133rd Quartermaster

Company who serves as officer in charge of the Kandahar retrosort yard.

It's a 24-hour operation, Mostarac said, with equipment arriving in anything from a 20-foot container to a pickup before it is sorted.

Standing among the "misfit toys" section of the yard, Mostarac said it makes sense to

scrap much of the equipment because of the cost of shipping.

"It doesn't make sense to ship back a shovel or scrap metal," he said.

At the same time, some equipment — such as parts from armored vehicles — are carefully cleaned and inspected by customs officials before they are sent back to the U.S.

Mostarac said the goal is not to leave piles of junked equipment, but to process it and get it to where it's needed.

"We want to leave the space behind better than we left it," he said.

To date, more than \$1 billion in equipment has been returned to the military inventory in the U.S.

It's a similar philosophy across Kandahar Airfield, where another unit within the Com-

mand Material Recovery Element has spent weeks deconstructing the former Soldier Recovery Center near the base hospital.

The 276th Engineer Company — part of the Missouri National Guard — has worked to strip the buildings of their wires and plumbing before taking them apart.

"Anything that can be re-used and recovered is," said Staff Sgt. Cesar Martinez, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the efforts.

The "right-sizing" efforts were just one of many going on across the theater.

Capt. Michele Smith, the brigade engineer, said crews with the CMRE had helped transfer 19 bases to Afghan forces and were working on about 30 others.

"It's a different mind-set for engineers," she said. "When I was here last time, about three years ago, we were still building up."

Collins said much of the work — whether it's deconstruction or retrosorting — is being done by small teams of soldiers who are pushed out to smaller bases.

That reduces the risk to thousands of soldiers, he said, because it prevents unnecessary convoys to

carry equipment to larger bases.

Collins first deployed to Afghanistan in the early days of the war. In 2002, he served with the 528th Sustainment Brigade.

He also served in Afghani-

It's a 24-hour operation



Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Billie Carter

Sgt. Erik Garrard, a heavy equipment operator with the 858th Eng. Co. rebuilds earth-filled HESCO barriers surrounding a FOB.

stan as late as last year, when he was support operations officer for the 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

Collins left Afghanistan in January and said he recalled talking about the Command Material Recovery Element mission with another officer on his way back to Fort Bragg.

"I don't know if I'd wish that on anyone," he told the officer.

Collins took command of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade in March and, two months later, learned he would return to Afghanistan

later in the year to help lead the CMRE.

"It's interesting how things play out," he said. "But you couldn't ask for a better result at this point."



Photo by U.S. Army 2nd Lt. John Story

Spc. Michael Hatfield, a horizontal construction engineer with 858th Eng. Co., operates a 22-ton crane while Spc. Michael Dement, also a horizontal construction engineer for the 858th, hooks and unhooks cable hooks to stage a concrete wall to be emplaced around a compound.



209th ANA Engineers Taught Rugged Skills

By U.S. Army 1st Lt. Antonia Pearse
365th Engineer Battalion, TF Rugged

CAMP SPANN, Afghanistan – The war in Afghanistan has been going on for many years and now, part of the mission is to ensure that Afghans can sustain their security forces without the international community. Part of this is through training and advising Afghan National Army members essential soldier tasks such as shooting, land navigation, combat lifesaving and basic construction skills.

Outside Camp Spann in the ANA compound, members of the 365th Engineer Battalion, out of Schuylkill Haven, Pa., are part of the 209th Kandak Engineer Training Team. The ETT is comprised of soldiers from a multitude of U.S. Army units from the 365th, such as the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, the Forward Support Company, the 284th Vertical Construction Com-

pany, the 663rd Horizontal Construction Company as well as American contractors who specialize in construction.

The ANA is separated into a similar structure as the American Army, with divisions, brigades, battalions, and companies. Battalions are called kandaks in the Afghan Army. The 209th CEK is comprised of Afghan soldiers learning plumbing, electrical, vertical and horizontal construction, and combat lifesaving skills. Most of the commanders of the companies were prior enlisted.

Afghan Army Capt. Ahmad Ziy is the 209th Vertical Company commander and has been in the ANA for six years. The members of his company build wooden houses for the local Afghans. He and his soldiers appreciate having the Americans and Germans there to advise them and teach his soldiers the skills they need to be successful.

"They come every day to

help my soldiers learn and in turn, train others. I cannot complain," said Ziy.

U.S. Army Sgt. Bryan McMullen, a Power Generator Equipment repairman, from Windsor, Pa., of FSC and U.S. Army Sgt. Richard Rogalewicz, a combat medic from Dunmore, Pa., of HHC. Their mission is to train the ANA on maintenance procedures.

Rogalewicz's mission is to

know what to do in the event of a medical emergency.

He first makes the slides in English and then the interpreter translates the English into Dari putting the translation underneath the English on the slide. Through this process, the interpreter learns the class for that day so that he can instruct the Afghan soldiers. This process ensures that the classes go as

"They come every day to help my soldiers learn an in turn, train others."

*- ANA Capt. Ahmad Ziy
209th Vert. Co. Commander*



Photo by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Antonia Pearse

Sgt. Richard Rogalewicz (left), a combat medic and Spc. Matthew Bachert, a combat engineer, both from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 365th Engineer Battalion, show an ANA medic how to properly do a two-man support carry as a part of the CLS class.

give the ANA Kandak soldiers the medical classes, from Combat Lifesaver Level 1 to advanced trainers. Right now, he is teaching some ANA soldiers so that they can train their fellow soldiers after he leaves. He also conducts map reading classes with the Kandak officers and non-commissioned officers

so they can train the other soldiers in the Kandak. He is the primary CLS instructor in charge of designing the classes so that the Afghan medics and leadership

efficiently as possible. Once the classroom portion is done, Rogalewicz takes over to teach the practical portion, like inserting a nasal pharyngeal airway properly or how to use the proper technique when buddy carrying another soldier with a full set of gear on.

"These soldiers want to emulate everything we do," Rogalewicz said. "I show them how important this training is to me so that they have the same amount of passion for training their soldiers as well."

"These [ANA] soldiers want to emulate everything we do."



Photo by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Antonia Pearse

Members of the 284th Vertical Construction Company, pose for a class photo with the ANA soldiers of the 209th CEK. They were taught basic electrical safety as the first module of the electrician class.



Joint Task Force Trailblazer Takes over as TEB

arrived in theater and assumed the role as the Theater Engineer Brigade Headquarters from the 555th Eng. Bde. Beginning the week after the transfer of authority, JTF Sapper has dealt with uncertainty, learning to adapt to many missions and problems presented to them.

Holland remarked about her team, stationed out of Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, "You were truly impressive.

Many of you have donned more than one hat since our headquarters reductions in January."

"You quickly adapted and learned not just to cope in an environment of uncertainty and ambiguity, but to thrive," continued Holland. "You rose to every challenge, worked hard, took nothing for granted, encouraged each other, fully supported subordinate units here and at

Schofield Barracks...and accomplished the mission every time."

The 2nd Eng. Bde. takes over this multifaceted mission at a critical time as the engineers across the country are being called on to figure out how to pull not only American forces, but those of our allies, out of a country it has occupied for over a decade of war.

JTF Trailblazer also remains at the front of the train, advise and assist mission with Afghanistan's National Engineer Brigade based out of Kabul,

Afghanistan, where Naval Mobile Construction Battalion two five continues to work with the ANA on a daily basis.

Holland described this mission with the ANA as being the "most gratifying legacy" for the Theater Engineer Brigade.

"The train, advise, and assist mission with Afghan engineer units is not complete, and there are many challenges ahead, but when all is said and done, the Afghan National Army will have the foundation for its own professional engineer corps," said Holland.

Maj. Gen. Jeffery Colt, the Deputy Commanding General-Separates, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, who presided over the transfer of authority ceremony also commented on the critical role the Theater Engineer Brigade has in training the Afghan engineers.

"More than 6,500 Afghan engineers were trained while establishing the Afghan National Engineer Brigade [under JTF Sapper]. This partnered force completed a host of projects to improve ANA force protection measures and developed an [increased] GIRoA bridge maintenance

"You quickly adapted and learned not just to cope in an environment of uncertainty and ambiguity, but to thrive."



Maj. Gen. Jeffery Colt, the Deputy Commanding General-Separates, U.S. Forces Afghanistan, speaks to those in attendance May 29.



Col. Peter Andrysiak and Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Houston, 2nd Engineer Brigade Command Team, uncasing the 2nd's colors during a transfer of authority ceremony at Bagram Airfield, May 29.

nance capacity," Colt remarked.

Colt told the crowd in attendance for the ceremony, "JTF Sapper was completely effective producing positive results day in a day out. Their efforts have clearly set the conditions for this transition and more importantly, the transition to Resolute Support."

He then expressed his confidence in the 2nd Engineer Brigade team to jump in for the 130th and continue running as the final Theater Engineer Brigade in Afghanistan.

"I trust their expertise and experience will provide all the necessary skill sets required to promote excellence and sustain mission success in the CJOA," said Colt.

The 130th Engineer Brigade headquarters, which traces its history to World War II with campaign credits for Normandy, Northern France, Rhineland, Ardennes-Alsace, Cen-

tral Europe and the Asian-Pacific theatre, heads home to the Hawaii islands the first week of June.

The 2nd Engineer Brigade now assumes control of theater engineer support; planning and synchronizing engineer capabilities and efforts across Afghanistan.

Back at home station, the 130th Eng. Bde. and 2nd Eng. Bde. work parallel in the U.S. Pacific Command. Both support other command's strategic objectives such as building the engineer capacity of the region's armies, fostering their civil-military relations and preparing for natural disasters and operational contingencies.

Holland commented that, "Many of our staff officers and NCOs have served together in previous assignments. It is great to see the Trailblazer team here, full of energy and good ideas, and ready to attack the mission."

"I trust their expertise and experience will provide all the necessary skill sets required to promote excellence"



Providing Water in Kabul

(Continued from page 3)

ed, and it was a fairly smooth, clean break, so we think it may have been a defective weld or overstressed point that just happened to give way.

"There are essentially 5-feet of bit and sub, and 19-feet of drill steel about 540-feet down. We made six attempts at retrieving it, called it done, and just moved over 4-feet and started a new hole."

In addition to providing a clean water source for NKC, the NMCB 25 Water Well Team is also using the project as a teaching tool. This deployment is the first for many of the junior Sailors on the team, and leadership is ensuring that every bit of experience can be gained in the process.

"What I like to do on my shift is make sure everyone gets a chance to rotate, so all these guys have had a chance to do some actual drilling," said Cargill. "What we also do is make sure all of these guys are using their

in-rate training. For example, my derrick is Steelworker 3rd Class

"It's like a juice box – if you squeeze a juice box, the pressure pushes the liquid up the straw"

[Robert] Pyse, and since he's our steelworker he's also doing all of our iron work and steel for us. It's really great to see these guys out here doing they do, because this is what we trained for, and we're happy to do it."

According to Cargill, progress continues just ahead of schedule because of the hard work by all three shifts of the NMCB 25 Water Well Team, and this infectious energy is felt up and down the chain of command on the team.

"We started off a little rough, but ended up succeeding," said Builder 3rd Class Eric Luckett, NMCB 25 Water Well team member. "What I'm going to walk away from this most proud of is although it took us an extra try to drill, after the second attempt we got to where we need to be as far as depth and everything ran smoothly. I mean, honestly, this crew rocks."



U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Patrick Gordon, NMCB 25

Steelworker 3rd Class Robert Pyse, of the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 25 Water Well Team, stick-welds a water diverter April 29.



U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Patrick Gordon, NMCB 25

Construction Mechanic Jedidiah Fox, NMCB 25 Water Well Team, washes down the Mud Puppy filtration system at the NKC site April 30.

(Below) Steelworker 3rd Class Robinson Prasad adds gravel to the well at NKC April 28 to maintain the well's shape and structure.



U.S. Navy Photo by MC1 Patrick Gordon, NMCB 25



Brigade Headquarters & Headquarters Company (HHC)

Sapper Family,

The time has come and 2nd Engineer Brigade is arriving as we speak. We are just days away from being home!



As it currently stands, we are looking to arrive back on the island during the first few days of June. We'll know our exact itinerary here soon and that will be disseminated through the FRG. HHC, 130th EN BN and the FRG will notify you of our expected time of arrival and directions will be provided to everyone on the contact roster.

There will be an un-casing Ceremony at Wheeler Gulch but it should not last more than 30 to 45 minutes. Once the ceremony is complete, everyone will be released to greet their loved ones and given a three to four day pass, depending on when exactly we arrive back in Hawaii.

Your Soldiers have worked extremely hard these past nine months

Following the pass, your Soldiers will complete Reverse SRP over a 6 to 9 day period and transition into block leave. Block leave dates will be from 21 June to 13 July.

If you need any information or are not receiving anything, please reach out to someone. Both my wife, Michelle, and the Prov. Bn. HHC Commander, CPT Riley, are good sources if you are unsure about something.

Your Soldiers have worked extremely hard these past nine months, and every one of them should return with their head held high knowing the amount of effort and dedication it took to adapt to the constantly changing mission and force reductions.

We look forward to seeing all of you! **Combat Ready!**

*-Capt. Matt Jordan
Commander
HHC, 130th Eng. Bde.*



Blackhawks fly overhead as HHC Soldiers conduct customs inspections on the final container to leave country at Bagram Airfield, May 22.

There's help when you need it...

Crisis Intervention Hotline

Warriors: Need someone to talk to, or have a buddy here who needs help?

The Crisis Intervention Hotline is staffed 24/7. If you need to talk to a counselor, you can reach them from any NIPR phone by dialing 1-1-1. You can also reach Crisis Counselors by Afghan Local National Phone by dialing 070-113-2000, (wait for tone) then 1-1-1.

Also reach Crisis Counselors by NIPR email at OEFCRISISHOTLINE@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Remember, you aren't alone!

Photo by U.S. Army Sgt. Kimberly Hackbarth, 4th SBCT., 2nd Inf. Div. Public Affairs



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Laura Beth Beebe

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan — Gen. Joseph Dunford, Commanding General of ISAF, talks with Col. Diana Holland and Command Sgt. Maj. John Etter, before the Theater Eng. Brigade TOA Ceremony May 29.



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Laura Beth Beebe

Southern Afghanistan — 1st Sgt. Vernon Alcorn, 814th MRBC, talks through issues on an upcoming project with Command Sgt. Maj. Bradley Houston, JTF Trailblazer.



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Laura Beth Beebe

Eastern Afghanistan — Spec. Joseph Lopez is awarded the Army Achievement Medal for going above and beyond on a deconstruction project in Bagram Airfield, May 26.



Photo courtesy of USFOR-A Public Affairs

Kabul, Afghanistan — Maj. Eric Palicia (left), JTF Sapper Plans officer, and Capt. Blake Robbins, JTF Sapper CMT officer, participate in the Peasantman Triathlon at New Kabul Compound May 23.



Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Laura Beth Beebe

Eastern, Afghanistan — Soldiers with the 663rd Eng. Co. are recognized for their work on a construction project site at Forward Operating Base Shank May 25.

ACROSS

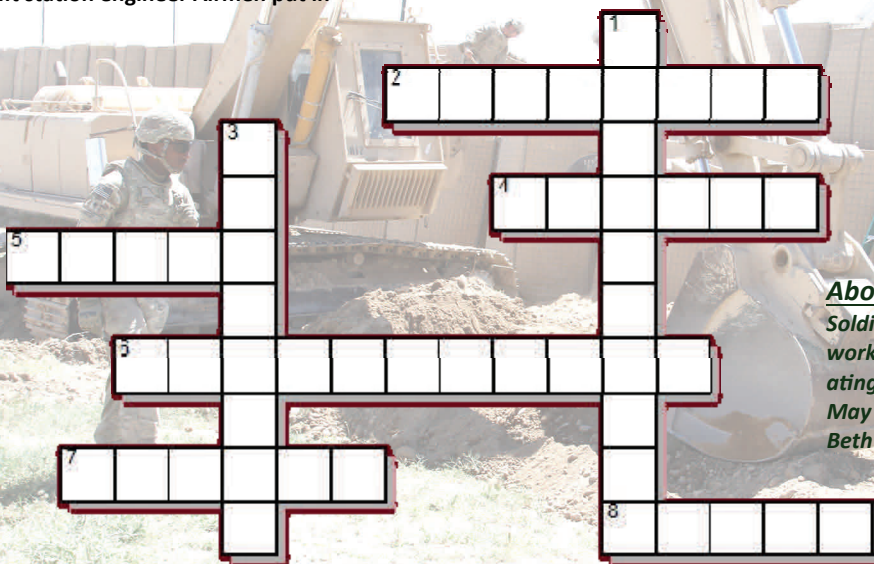
2. State the 276th Eng. Co. is from
4. Location for new helo pad Airmen constructed
5. Camp the 209th CEK train out of
6. New Theater Engineer Brigade HQ: JTF —
7. State the 130th Eng. Bde. is returning to
8. New lift station engineer Airmen put in

DOWN

1. NMCB 25 Water Well Team
3. Location of largest retrosort yard in Afghanistan

JTF Sapper Crossword Challenge!

HINT: EACH ANSWER CAN BE FOUND INSIDE THIS NEWSLETTER



About this Photo:

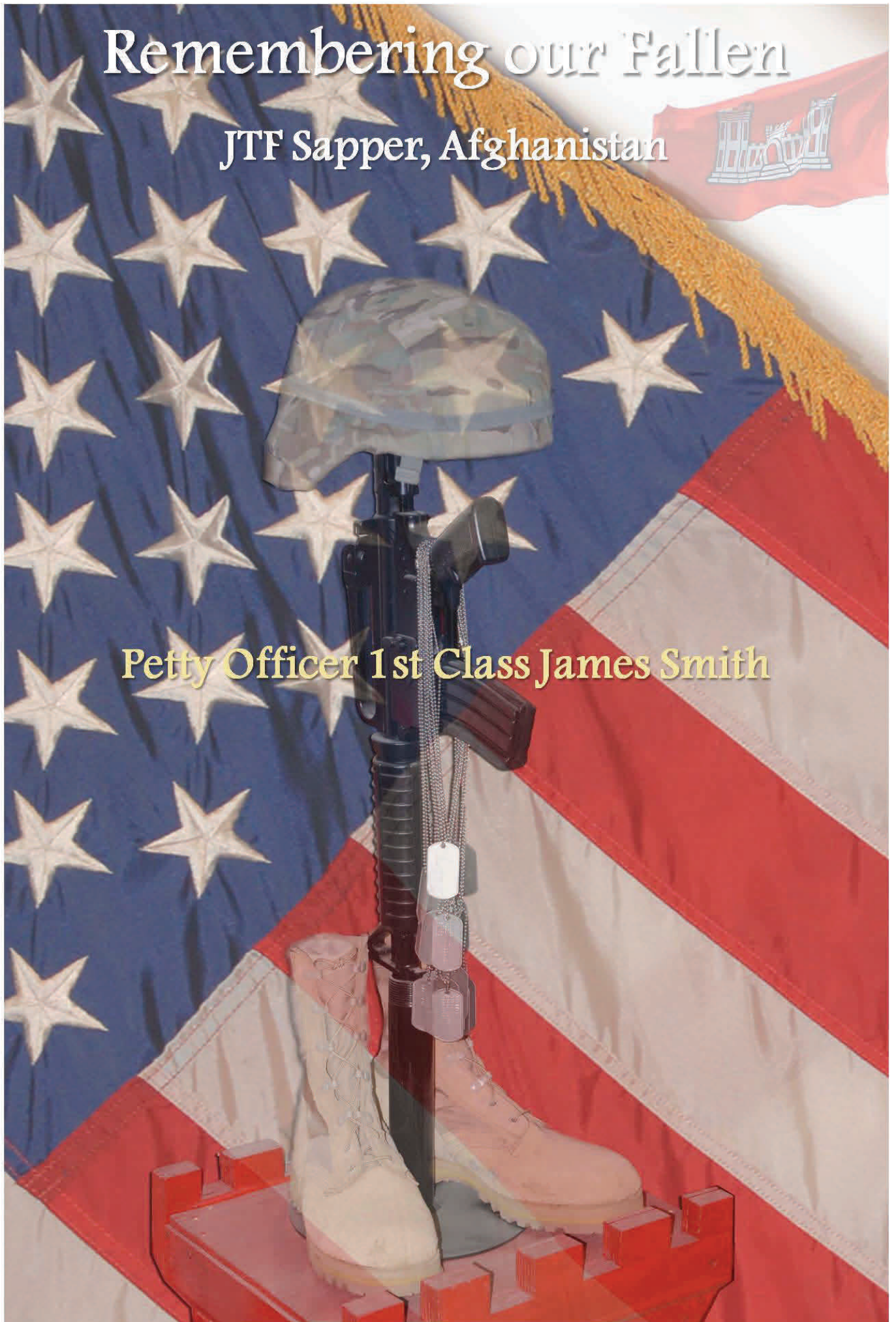
Soldiers with the 663rd Eng. Co. (Horizontal) work on the perimeter wall at Forward Operating Base Shank in Eastern Afghanistan, May 25. (Photo by U.S. Army Capt. Laura Beth Beebe, JTF Sapper Public Affairs).

Remembering our Fallen

JTF Sapper, Afghanistan



Petty Officer 1st Class James Smith



JOINT TASK FORCE SAPPER 'SAPPERS IN'

**Mahalo (Thank you) for all of your support of the 130th Engineer Brigade since September 2013.
We wish the best of luck to the 2nd Engineer Brigade (Trailblazers, Put Em Across)**



**U.S. THEATER ENGINEER BRIGADE
AFGHANISTAN 2013-14**



Questions or comments? Email
CPT Laura Beth Beebe
Public Affairs Officer
laura.b.beebe@swa.army.mil



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