

TASK FORCE BAYONET



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BAYONET UPDATE

1



Aloha Friends and Family of Task Force Bayonet,

As I reflect back on this deployment, I am truly amazed by how much this battalion has accomplished. The Soldiers of Task Force Bayonet have demonstrated their dedication to the mission and ability to remain flexible in the most trying situations.

As we grow anxious to return home, please remain vigilant and avoid complacency. Even though the weeks after our redeployment to Hawaii will be filled with happiness and good times with Friends and Family, they will also be filled with the difficulties of returning back to Garrison life. Just as we came to Afghanistan as one Ohana, we will return to Hawaii as one Ohana. It's important that we keep each other safe and accountable.

Mahalo to all the Families and Friends of Task Force Bayonet for your support. We appreciate everything you do, day in and day out. We cannot wait until we return to Hawaii to thank you in person. God bless – First In, Last Out!

LTC Dave Acker, Bayonet 6

Aloha from the office of the Task Force Bayonet CSM,

Upfront, I want to express my gratitude to all of the Leaders, Soldiers, Civilians, and especially the Families who courageously stood upright and helped us accomplish the mission. I am so proud of everything our Soldiers have accomplished during our time in Afghanistan.

Task Force Bayonet definitely has set the standard and executed every one of our missions successfully. As I attend my final meetings at 4th Infantry Division, leaders at every level repeatedly compliment the command on the professionalism and warrior ethos demonstrated by the Soldiers of the 65th Engineer Battalion.

My travels have carried me across three different regional commands and I have had the honor and privilege to serve with the best Engineers in today's Army. Following in the footsteps of the fellow veterans that have served in this great battalion honorably, our Soldiers resonate loyalty, expect tough training, exemplify leadership, embody family and demonstrate good order and discipline across the ranks. These qualities are the essential ingredients that clearly make this organization great.

Mahalo,
CSM Harold McVicker III, Bayonet 7



LTC Acker and CSM McVicker giving the 1438th Command Team a parting gift to show their appreciation



LTC Acker giving awards to the Soldiers of the 849th Mobility Augmentation Company



LTC Acker speaking at the 576th Engineer Company's Awards Ceremony

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Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Strike First!

2

HHC Leaves a Lasting Impact as They Anxiously Look Toward Home

As the Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company ready themselves to return to home station, a quick reflection upon their myriad of achievements reveals the true impact of each and every member of Task Force Bayonet. HHC Soldiers tracked the battle across three Regional Commands comprising of over 150,000 square kilometers of patrolled routes and operational areas. HHC Soldiers managed and conducted the retrograde of over 1,200 items of non-rolling stock comprising of computers, radios and other assorted items while simultaneously turning in 21 vehicles and over 80,000 rounds of ammunition from just their company alone. These same Soldiers conducted reset services on over 400 items to prepare for the return home, and spent many hot days preparing containers to ship their equipment home for use at Schofield Barracks. They managed intelligence analysis for an entire division, facilitated the retrograde of thousands of other items across the battalion footprint, processed personnel actions and awards for over 800 Soldiers, trained over 8,000 incoming personnel from every Coalition Partner, provided security for the training of hundreds of Afghan National Army Soldiers and left an indelible mark upon the entire nation of Afghanistan, serving honorably through the first successful democratic election in that nation's entire history.

Maintaining their professionalism and Soldier skills, every HHC Soldier re-qualified on their assigned weapons prior to leaving theater and maintained the same standard of 350-1 training required by units in garrison to ensure that the SHARP, EO, CSF2 and other programs received the attention and support they deserved. They upheld military standards of discipline, and maintained an admirable force posture to mitigate threats within their area of operations. They distinguished themselves from other Soldiers within Task Force Bayonet, with one HHC winner for Soldier of the Quarter and two Noncommissioned Officers selected as NCO of the Quarter out of three such competitions during this nine month rotation.

HHC Soldiers achieved all of these things and more, carrying out every difficult task with a smile on their face and determination in their hearts. Actions speak louder than words, and their actions demonstrated a clear focus on mission accomplishment and a safe return home to their loved ones. As your Soldier gets off of the plane and meets you for the first time on their return, know that they have worked tirelessly to ensure that they and all of their comrades in arms got to see their spouses, their children, their siblings, their parents, their grandparents and all of their other family members and friends once more. It is all the sweeter in the knowledge that they return, as so many Americans before them, with the honor of successful service in de-

fense of the interests and citizens of the United States and their allies. I can honestly say that every Soldier here awaits that moment with as much excitement as you. Renegades!



SPC Martin of the HHC Guardian Angel team oversees training of Afghan National Army Soldiers on Kandahar Airfield

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Soldiers of FSC Reflect on Deployment

Maintenance Platoon

Since arriving back at Kandahar Air Field, Maintenance Platoon has spearheaded the retrograde of the battalion motor pool. The Soldiers and NCOs took the initiative and worked long hours to complete projects to reduce the size of the footprint. Some of these projects include dismantling the welding shed, removing bunkers and office buildings, and working with Distribution platoon to ship off storage containers and scrap wood/metal. As an end of mission unit, we are responsible for turning in every piece of our equipment. The maintenance platoon has done an awesome job in the last month prepping numerous vehicles and communications equipment for turn-in. The motor pool is just about empty which was a huge task and accomplishment for the platoon. SGT Nobleorgerson received her promotion to Sergeant/E5 just in time to compete in the NCO of the Month board along with SGT Manibusan. Our two competitors received overwhelming support from the platoon and company making us all proud at how well they completed their events. Hard work does not go unnoticed; five more of our Soldiers received either company coins and/or battalion coins. We can't wait to see our friends and family back in Hawaii. See you soon!

- SSG Boyles, Maintenance Platoon



Maintenance Soldiers SGT Beal, SGT Nobleorgerson, SPC Aguirre, SGT Gregory, and SGT Earvin unloading communication equipment for turn-in

Distribution Platoon

The months continue to fly by for Distribution Platoon. The platoon played a key role in the movement of the Company back to KAF after the closure of FOB Lindsey II. In addition to moving personnel, we moved all remaining equipment off of FOB Lindsey. After a day off, we moved into our new mission, retrograding the entire motor pool and turning in the rest of property book. It has been an interesting process and unique opportunity to work with the four different civilian agencies during turn ins. We transfer some property to other units, some gets shipped back to the states, and other older equipment is melted down or destroyed. The Distribution Platoon has also been making preparations to head back home. We closed the old offices and have been conducting redeployment medical exams and various other reintegration trainings to prepare us for coming home. The past month we have also packed bags and containers to ship back to Hawaii. Packing everything up felt like a major step towards getting back to the island! Distribution Platoon has seen our own SPC Zavious Muhammad win the Soldier of the Quarter and is excited to support him in the upcoming Soldier of the Year Competition. All of us in the company have been quizzing him and rucking in preparation for the competition. In our free time, the "Phoenix Ballers" have played a couple of basketball games and we all continue to hit the gym and do daily PT. We are excited to finish our mission here, and get back to Oahu.

- SSG Simpson, Distribution Platoon

PSD Platoon

Ever since we assumed command of FOB Lindsey and since returning to KAF, we have been working hard to retrograde our motor pool and prepare for redeployment. So far so good. The job is almost complete and everyone is looking forward to seeing our loved ones. PSD has taken the Army Physical Fitness Test and everyone has continued to raise the bar and met the platoon standard of 270. Also, those who are part of PSD were tasked out for another mission, to train the ANA Soldiers on their engineering equipment. With the help of two NCOs from 82nd FSC and Franky, your friendly neighborhood interpreter, everything went smoothly. The ANA Soldiers worked hard, learned a lot, and always continued improving. During one of the training days, they told us how much they appreciated what we were doing for them, but the truth is, this has been a learning experience for all of us. Never would I have thought I would find myself in Afghanistan, but I am truly grateful for it. I'm grateful for all of the people I've met since I became part of the PSD family. No matter what, I know I can always count on my battle buddies and my outstanding platoon leadership. I had the chance to meet people like Franky, and I've learned a lot about him and his culture just through our day-to-day interactions. Thank you Family and Friends for supporting us and keeping us in your prayers. It means a lot and we love you dearly. For us that are first time deployers, we truly do appreciate the love and support that all of 65th Engineer Battalion has given us. This is one experience that none of us will ever forget, so again, we thank you from the bottom of our hearts and know that your love never went unnoticed.

- PFC Martin, PSD Platoon



PFC Martin receiving a coin from the Battalion Commander



PFC Moore of Distro helps load the Hazardous Materials Container to go back to Hawaii

The 82nd Leaves Lasting Impression on Leatherneck Comrades

As we come to a close in our final month of conducting missions, RCP 78 and 83 reflect on what it means to have operated as the only Army route clearance company in Regional Command South West. The first thing to come to mind is pride. Not simply pride for your platoon or company, but pride in our branch of service. With less than 300 Soldiers on Camp Leatherneck, 82nd Engineer Support Company is in a unique position of always being the odd man out. Among the sea of Marines, Georgians, Jordanians, and civilian contractors, we are outnumbered everywhere we go and are easily recognizable, and thus continually showing effort, discipline and professionalism has won Soldiers in the 82nd well deserved recognition.

RCP 78 concluded their last month of missions and provided clearance support and security to the 7th Marine Combat Logistics Battalion (CLB) and the Army's 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion during two separate missions. Tasked to coordinate clearance support and provide outer-cordon security during controlled detonations, the patrol had no small task in ensuring local nations did not breach the cordon and cause self-endangerment when over 11,000 pounds of explosives detonated. Taking the initiative to close gaps and preempt potential breaches in security, truck commanders moved their vehicles to the most advantageous points and managed their tasks and purposes. The 7th CLB thanked RCP 78 for their support, echoing Charlie Company of the 1/9 Marine Infantry Battalion praise, "You don't have to babysit the Army route clearance...you just tell them what you want and they make it happen."

RCP 83 continued route reconnaissance and retrograde operations in Regional Command Southwest, supporting both Army and Marine combat logistic patrols. RCP 83 strategically planned route reconnaissance missions

based on threat streams and significant enemy activity throughout the battle space in order to provide the safe passage for coalition forces, local nationals and Afghan National Security Forces. With the considerable increase in retrograde operations, route reconnaissance proved to be an integral part of the planning process and execution phase with an overall understanding of enemy and friendly activity within the area of operation. RCP 83 looks forward to a smooth hand over to our replacements and adjacent units.

The 82nd Engineer Support Company is honored for the unique opportunity to go from horizontal construction to route clearance operations. Throughout a 9 month deployment, the company has cleared over 12,000 kilometers, installed 20 culvert denial systems, conducted 25 route reconnaissance missions, and directly supported the retrograde effort in Regional Command Southwest; all accomplishments are something for our Soldiers to be proud of. With redeployment on the horizon, the mighty 82nd continues to strive for success in all that they do and look forward to the beautiful beaches of Oahu. Army Engineers clear the way! Essayons!

- 1LT Anne Nagy "Fist In, Last Out"



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.

Public Affairs Officer: 2LT Brenna Heisterman
Brenna.heisterman@afghan.swa.army.mil

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