

May 2009

3rd BCT, 1st ID

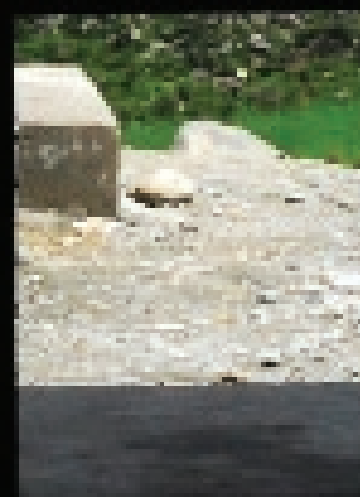
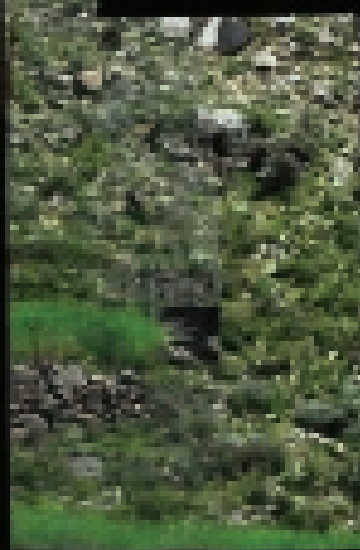
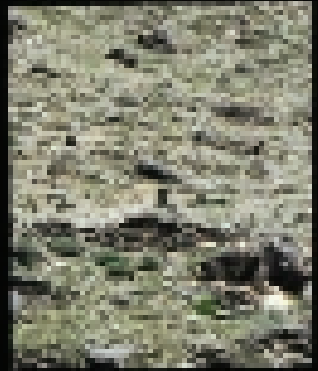
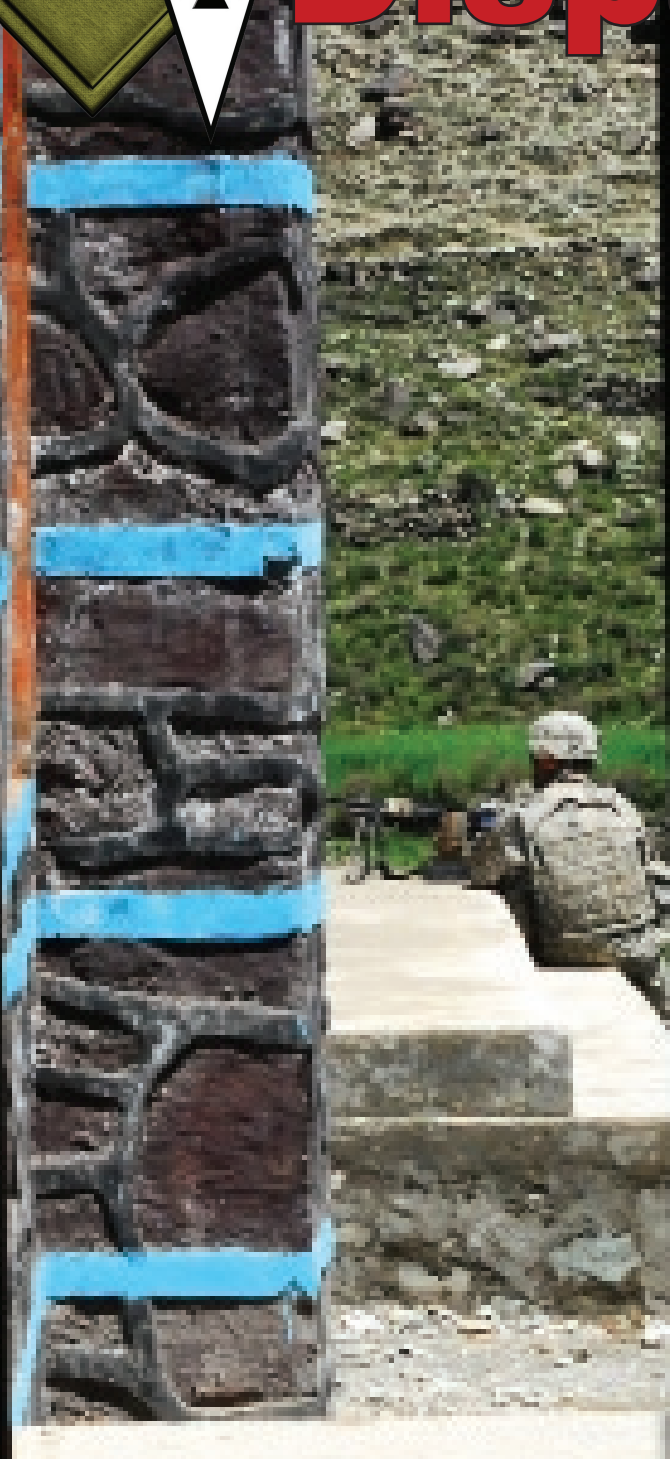
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1



Duke Dispatch



**Secretary Gates
expresses gratitude
to 2-2 Inf. Soldiers**

PAGE 3

Contents



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. David Hopkins

Staff Sgt. Jean-Francois Frenette, noncommissioned officer in charge of the a team from the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion, 351st Civil Affairs Command, San Diego, Calif., pulls security in a mountain village in northeastern Afghanistan. Frenette, from San Diego, Calif., and his team were in the village to meet with elders and school officials about damages to the school roof. The team organizes contracting services and provides funding for the building and repairs of schools, roads and bridges in the area.

Features

3 Secretary Gates visits 2-2 Inf.

Secretary of Defense Robert Gates visits Forward Operating Base Ramrod, the only battalion-sized U.S. unit operating in the Kandahar Province,

5 ADT arrives to Laghman

The Kansas Agri-business Development Team unfurled its colors in Laghman province, Afghanistan, May 3.

9 Laghman air assault mission

Soldiers from the 527th MP company and 3rd BCT, 1st ID's Special Troops Battalion train Afghan National Police on key medical techniques.

11 Water purification

201st BSB Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Fenty are responsible for providing clean water to thousands of Soldiers throughout northeastern Afghanistan.

13 Patrolling unexplored areas

For the first time since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom, American Soldiers crossed a portion of the Kunar River during a dismounted patrol.

15 May Reenlistments

A listing of all Task Force Duke Soldiers reenlisting for the month of May.

4 1-6: Why I Serve

Spc. Jonathan Goodwin, 1-6 FA Supply specialist and father of seven explains why he chose to serve his country.

12 Chosin establishes base

1-32 Inf. Soldiers establish a new Vehicle Patrol Base in the valley and in the districts of Narang, Chowkay and Nurgal.

14 New school in rural village

The Nangarhar PRT joined provincial government officials and the people of a rural village in Dara-Noor District to celebrate the completion of a school.

Columns

6 Commander's column

Duke Soldiers complete final operations in Afghanistan.

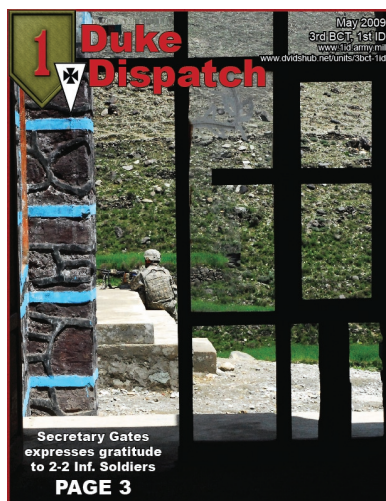
8 CSM's column

Finishing strong as we return home with dignity.

10 Chaplain's column

Remembering the significant events in our lives.

On the cover



A Soldier with 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, pulls security outside a new boys school, in the Kunar province of northeastern Afghanistan, while a team of Soldiers from the 416th Civil Affairs Battalion, 351st Civil Affairs Command, San Diego, Calif., inspects the structure. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. David Hopkins)



3rd BCT, 1st ID Magazine

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Secretary of Defense visits first American Base in Kandahar



Secretary of Defense Robert Gates addresses 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Ramrod during a recent trip to Afghanistan. Secretary Gates thanked the troops for their service. (Photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Jill LaVoie)

*By Tech. Sgt. Jill LaVoie
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

During a trip to Afghanistan, Secretary of Defense Robert Gates visited Forward Operating Base Ramrod, the only battalion-sized U.S. unit operating in the Kandahar Province, approximately 80 miles west of Kandahar City.

Secretary Gates spent about an hour at the FOB, during which he awarded six valorous medals to Charlie Company, 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers.

"Having [Secretary Gates] award these medals means a lot," said Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Roszko, Charlie Company Squad Leader, from Bronx, New York, who earned a Bronze Star with Valor during an Improvised Explosive Device attack. "It shows someone knows what we are doing out here. Our achievement is appreciated more than we realized."

After awarding the medals, Secretary Gates took a moment to talk to the Soldiers and Airmen. He started by thanking them for their service as the only U.S. military unit that falls under Canadian command.

"Thank you for what you have done to help the Canadians, I know they have taken a lot of hits. Your being down here has been very important to them," he said. "I want to thank you above all for volunteering to serve our country and volunteering to serve here. You

are clearly making a huge difference," he added.

He also assured Soldiers he was working hard for their safety.

"I just want you to know that I feel personally responsible for each and every one of you. I have been doing what I can to get you what you need to be successful in your mission and for you to come home safe," said Gates as he fondly noted the number of Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles on the base.

His work to speed the appropriation process for much needed MRAPs was mentioned by Army Lt. Col. Daniel Hurlbut, 2-2 Inf., commander from Killeen, Texas.

"Though [Secretary Gates] was only able to stay for a short time, it was a good opportunity to talk with him," Hurlbut said. "I used the opportunity to thank him for his help with procuring the MRAPs we use every day. His efforts have saved countless Soldiers' lives."

Before leaving, Secretary Gates took time to personally thank and present each of the 253 Soldiers and Airmen with a coin.

The 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division assists NATO in providing a permanent presence in southern Afghanistan. In their year in Kandahar Province, they have reduced Taliban movement of supplies through the area, decreased IEDs on the major highway and built rapport with the local Afghanistan population through constant interaction.

Father of seven serves his country in Afghanistan

*By Pfc. Charles Wolfe
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

Spc. Jonathan Goodwin is a lot of different things. He's a husband and a father of seven children. He's a playful jokester, the kind of person who can light up a room with his sense of humor, but before he was any of these things, he became a Soldier, signing on for his first enlistment in May of 1992.

The decision to serve wasn't a hard one for Goodwin to make. In 1992, Goodwin was an aspiring Chemical Engineering major studying in his native state at the North Carolina Agricultural and Technical University. He was living the stereotypical college student's life. He had a small apartment, three roommates, and a full-time job; however, the costs of education and housing outstretched Goodwin's meager salary and, eventually, hunger began to set in.

"I looked in the refrigerator one day and we didn't have anything but ice and eggs. I didn't know how we were going to make it," Goodwin said.

Then, fate made a very pointed intervention. An Army recruiter was visiting residents of Goodwin's apartment complex. When he saw the young student sitting outside his door, he made an offer Goodwin couldn't refuse.

"He said he would take me out to eat if I just listened to him about joining the military," Goodwin said. "Everything he said to me seemed to make sense."

A dinner later, Goodwin joined the Army's ranks as a Supply Specialist. The decision to

serve wasn't made on the hope of one meal; Goodwin had recently received his first child and knew the military could help provide comfortable stability for his new family.

"I knew it was going to be a struggle to work, go to school and raise my child," Goodwin said. "It made sense to help my family."

As years passed, Goodwin's family grew, and with time, was able to sustain itself without his military paycheck. Goodwin ended his first tenure with the Army to return to life as a private citizen.

However, six children and 13 years after being sworn in, fate found Goodwin again, calling him back to duty for a second time.

"My brother, a Marine colonel, died in Iraq in 2005," Goodwin said. "That was my main motivation for ending my break in service and returning to the Army."

That same year, Goodwin served his first deployment in the same country where his brother passed. Now in his second combat tour, Goodwin has much more to look after than just his unit's supplies.

"I'm the king of my castle, and everyone loves the king."

***Army Spc. Jonathan Goodwin
Supply Specialist, 1-6 FA***

"I have a large family," Goodwin said.

With seven children between the ages of six and 15, the Goodwins are more than double the size of the platonic family.

"They love me and I love them," Goodwin said. "I'm the king of my castle, and everyone loves the king."

Spending a second year



Photo by Army Pfc. Charles Wolfe

Spc. Jonathan Goodwin sits in his "Gator," a motorized working vehicle he often uses to move his unit's supplies from one place to the next. Goodwin, from North Carolina, is a Supply Specialist with the 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery. He will return home to his wife and seven children in June.

away from his wife and children would seem difficult, but the family makes for a very large, very encouraging support group.

"The kids are all very proud to have a dad in the Army," Goodwin said.

"They're proud of me and I'm proud of them. I'm really happy with the way they handle things back at home while I'm gone."

All seven of Goodwin's children made their school's honor rolls this year. Their efforts in the classroom seem to inspire Goodwin to return to his academics as well.

"I still really want to get that degree," Goodwin said.

With plans to re-enlist, it seems Goodwin can take himself as far as his own motivation will allow.

Kansas Agri-business Team arrives to Afghanistan



Photos by Army Sgt. Luke Atherton

A ceremony to mark the arrival of the Kansas Agri-business Development Team took place in Mehtar Lam, Laghman province, Afghanistan, May 3. Prior to their arrival northeastern Afghanistan was comprised of only one ADT. The additional assets will significantly help improve the lives of the Afghan people and economy.

*By Staff. Sgt. Adora Medina
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

The Kansas Agri-business Development Team unfurled its colors in Laghman province, Afghanistan, May 3.

Prior to the unit's arrival into northeastern Afghanistan, The Missouri Agri-business Development Team was the only ADT team operating in the Nuristan, Nangarhar, Konar and Laghman provinces also known as the N2KL region. With additional assets the two ADTs will be able to focus in on specific areas of development.

"Each area of Afghanistan has a unique set of agricultural challenges and advantages that require tailored approaches to resolve. The more focused we are on the strengths and challenges for a specific locality the greater chance we have to succeed in improving the quantity, quality and safety of agricultural products for the consumers," Kansas Agri-business commander Army Col. Eric Peck from Manhattan Kansas,

said.

The Kansas ADT is comprised of Army and Air Force volunteers from across the Kansas National Guard whom are equally skilled in both military and civilian experience.

Key areas of knowledge include infantry tactics, engineering, security operations and a multitude of civilian expertise, which was sought out from all over Kansas, Texas, and Washington to form a truly cohesive melting pot of farmers and Agri-business professionals.



Army Col. Eric Peck, Kansas Agri-business commander, stands beside Task Force Duke Commander, Army Col. John Spiszer, as the Kansas ADT attends a ceremony to mark their arrival into northeastern Afghanistan, May 3.

"Our team is focused on four major agribusiness infrastructure areas: production, storage, processing and education and we have projects and program proposals in those areas that we are discussing with our Afghan Government, Provincial Reconstruction Team and interagency partners." Peck said.

As the team settles into Afghanistan they await the challenges ahead and work to pave the way for several rotations of teams to follow in bol-

stering the Afghan food market and assisting in economic development.

Duke Soldiers complete final operations in Afghanistan



*Col. John Spiszzer
3rd BCT, 1st ID, Commander*

This was a busy month in the Duke area of operation. We continued counterinsurgency operations throughout the provinces of Nangarhar, Nuristan, Konar, Laghman and Kandahar. Highlights for this month have been: Operations in the Gehaziabad district of Kunar; welcomed new troops in the area; hosted a few distinguished visitors; continued operations to build Afghan relationships and governance with Operation Longbow III, and a Memorial Day celebration.

There was an enemy attack on May 1, 2009, where three members of the Duke family, two Latvian Army, four Afghan National Security Force soldiers, and one Afghan interpreter were killed in action. We immediately engaged the enemy forces with suppressive fire, while calling in additional combat air support. Nevertheless, even members of the ANA and one interpreter were taken captive. TF Duke conducted Operation King's Ransom in the Helgal Valley for five days in conjunction with Afghan National Security Forces and Coalition Forces to recover the detained and to punish the enemy for their attack. Ap-

proximately 50 enemy fighters were killed during the operations, which ended successfully May 7, with all 12 Afghans recovered and a split between enemy forces and the local elders of that area.

The Kansas Agri-business Development Team unfurled its colors in Laghman province, Afghanistan, May 3, and we began to welcome new troops into the area from the 759th Military Police Battalion and the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 4th Infantry Division, our replacements both from Fort Carson, Colorado.

In addition, we hosted three distinguished visitors in the region. The Secretary of Defense Robert Gates visited Forward Operating Base Ramrod, the only U.S. military unit that falls under Canadian command operating in the Kandahar Province and awarded six valorous medals to Charlie Company Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment and presented all the other troops with a SECDEF coin on May 6. Newly arrived US

Ambassador to Afghanistan Karl Eikenberry visited with members of TF Duke and the Kunar Governor May 16, to discuss the current situation near the Pakistan border and visit the Konar Construction Center and under construction Marawara Bridges. The German General Egon Ramms Commander for NATO Joint Forces Command in Brunssum also visited and was briefed on current operations and the progress of Team Nangarhar on May 18. Gen David Petraeus, commander Central Command, which covers all US forces in the Middle East visited Torkham gate.

Members of the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team, Kansas Agri-Business Development Team, Marine Embedded Training Team, and the Afghan National Army conducted Operation Longbow III, which was a key leader engagement to provide humanitarian assistance in Laghman Province, Afghanistan May 24, 2008. This

[COL continued on Page 7]



Photos by Army Pfc. Charles Wolfe

German NATO General, Egon Ramms, listens to a brief during a visit to Forward Operating Base Fenty in Nangarhar province Afghanistan, May 18.

Acknowledging bravery and professionalism of Duke Soldiers

[COL continued from Page 6]



Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Adora Medina

Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, CJTF-101 commander awards 6-4 Cavalry Scouts with Army Commendation Medals with Valor, at Forward Operating Base Bostick, Afghanistan.

was the third time that the unit had conducted a tactical air assault into the Garmunay village of the Galuch valley in the Mehtar Lam District in order to build and maintain a relationship with the people in that area.

In recognition of Memorial Day, May 25, 2009, Forward Operating Base Fenty Dining Facility was dedicated and named in honor Sergeant Douglas John Bull, who paid the ultimate sacrifice when he died in action on July 8, 2008, while on a route clearance mission in Kunar province. A plaque with

his image and brief description of his military career and accomplishments was placed on the exterior of the entrance. He was the first 3/1 Soldier to die in Operation Enduring Freedom IX.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the great bravery and professionalism of the following Soldiers who received awards during the month: CPT Dashiell Ballarta received the BSM/V and SSG Robert Evans received an ARCOM/V from Centaur; SSG Anthony Roszko, SPC Kevin Tibbett, SSG Mollahassani Berntsson received BSM/V, and CPL Aaron Barrett, 1LT Timothy Boucher, CPT Christopher Brawley, 1LT Samuel Brown, SGT Callan Bryand, PFC Ryan Hetherington, 1SG Christopher Kowalewski, PFC Robert Patterson, Jared Wagner received ARCOM/V all from Ramrod; SPC Adam Medina, received a BSM/V, SPC Anthony Carlye, SGT Isaac Garcia, SPC Jared Mcdermet received ARCOM/V, all from Nuristan PRT; PFC Christopher Albrecht, 1LT Phillip Malamma, SPC John Molenda, SGT Justin Hall, received

the ARCOM/V all from Chosin; SFC Lucas Young received the Silver Star, SGT Brian Cline, PFC Michael Malecki, SFC Michael Pacheco, SGT Ryan Staback, SGT Jeremy Delany, SGT Adam Goodson, PFC Michael Neighbours, SSG Edward Schaffer, and SGT John Puls received the BSM/V, and SPC Cecil Montgomery, PFC John Greeno, PFC Jose Cruzavala, CPT James Howell, 1LT Steven Benedetti, CPL Jason Meeks, SGT Christopher Vogel, PFC Travis Kegler, PFC Austin Westerman, SPC Juan Herrera, PFC William Carr, PV2 Timothy Burton, SPC Sean Bedingfield, SPC Eric Martin, PV2 Philip Wiersema, SGT Eugeny Tilvaldiev, SPC Zoltan Noe, PFC Justen McKay, SPC Enrique Trevino, PFC Christopher Weis, SPC Jose Velez, SPC Stephen Butler, SPC Jonathan Alaniz, SPC Michael Farrell, SGT Martin Moreno, SPC Jose Rodriguez, PFC Juan Rodriguez, SGT Jearvin Basa, SFC Gerry Allen, PFC Emmanuel Wreh, SPC Bradley Nelson received an ARCOM/V all from Spader; SPC Clifton Crandall, PFC Bryon Norris, CPT Jay Bessey, CPT Bill Evans, SSG Jean-Francios Frenett, SSG Thad Harvey, SSG Lemuel Leach, PFC Luke Murphy, SPC Michael Smith, SPC James Moore, SSG Samuel Alter, MAJ Matthew McCollum received ARCOM/V all from Raider, and SPC Dean Gannon received an ARCOM/V from Valiant.

Last but not least, I would like to take this time to acknowledge the great bravery and professionalism of SGT James Pirtle and SPC Ryan King both from B/Special Troops Battalion who lost their life during operations with the enemy in Gehaziabad. Please keep their Family in your prayers. Finally, thanks to all the Families for their support of us here in Afghanistan.

No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great. Duty First!



Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, CJTF-101 commander, presents 1st Lt. Loren Crowe, 1-26 Inf. Reg., the Silver Star at Forward Operating Base Blessing, Afghanistan.

Finishing strong as we return home with dignity



*Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz
3rd BCT, 1st ID CSM*

Task Force Duke is heading home soon, very soon. This will be a key time for leaders to take care of Soldiers through reintegration and getting Soldiers the help they need to ensure a safe and enjoyable rest and recuperation. During the deployment Soldiers lived and fought from very austere forward operating bases and combat outposts. The same base that protects Soldiers is the same base you eat and sleep in so the uniforms can be interesting at times, such as PFC Boyd from B/1-26 Infantry and the now famous red "I Love NY" boxer shorts. Many bases throughout the Task Force Duke battle-space are frequently attacked and the last thing on most Soldiers minds is getting dressed. The Soldiers instinctively dawn their fighting gear and react to contact. They have practiced this battle-drill over and over for the last year. I have to admit my expectation for uniform standards is ingrained in my head because of the standards required by my position. During this deployment I also learned it isn't the end of the world if a Soldier is wearing the Army uniform to gain a bit of comfort or is

fighting from his foxhole with the current clothes on his back.

On the other hand, returning to garrison, Soldiers will be required to wear the uniform correctly and represent the Army well, no excuses. The uniform is exactly that, a uniform for all Soldiers to wear and exactly the same. No sleeves rolled and a clean and serviceable uniform is required and not optional. Noncommissioned officers will be required to conduct morning inspections to ensure Soldiers have the tools expected of Soldiers to complete the daily mission. The III Corps Standards book is required for all Soldiers as well as pen and paper, identification tags, identification card, drivers' license, etc. All these items will be inspected to ensure Soldiers can complete reintegration without delay. Some of the items such as the III Corps Standards will be issued as soon as Soldiers arrive at Fort Hood, Texas. Read the standards book and comprehend it. Violations are considered punitive.

I've heard some Soldiers complain about living the garrison life and returning to garrison as if this were a lesser degree of a Soldier's duty. Be proud of your service in Afghanistan and be proud to wear the medals and badges you have earned. Wear your uniform like the professional Soldiers you are. Be careful not to brag of your service and be a quiet professional. No one likes a Soldier that brags about his antics from a deployment. Be proud and be professional about your military service. All units in the 3rd BCT, 1st Infantry Division and Task Force Duke performed extremely well and all made a contribution in bringing security to Afghanistan. Noncommissioned officers, I am holding you personally accountable for the conduct of your Soldiers. We must take care that our Soldiers fol-

low instructions and are taken care of. Drinking alcohol to the point of puking is not the way for Soldiers to conduct themselves. Soldiers will use restraint in garrison, the same as you did during the deployment. All the great deeds you did during the deployment can be wiped away in one night or one day if Soldiers don't recuperate responsibly.

Duke Soldiers, I want you to finish strong as we close out the deployment. Don't let down until you are on an airplane heading for home. Set the incoming unit up for success by telling them everything you know. No trickery, just the facts, tactics and techniques to continue the mission. Maintain the standards as you close out the deployment. Noncommissioned officers will inspect all Soldiers to ensure they are clear of all ammunition and in the correct uniform for the return trip home. Take care of you Soldiers now and take care of them when we get home. This is an important duty of the noncommissioned officer.



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. David Hopkins

Soldiers with C. Troop, 6-4 Cav., climb a rugged mountain slope in Kunar province during a joint patrol with Afghan National Army soldiers, to search for caves and enemy passages.

Task Force Bayonet conducts air assault in Laghman



Photos by Army Spc. Jason Dorsey

1st 178th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard delivers two humanitarian aid loads to the village of Garmunay in Laghman Province Afghanistan on May 23 2009. Four kicker box loads were flown in by a CH-47 Chinook. The purpose of this mission was to conduct a Key leader Engagement and deliver HA to the locals of the village as a means of building a stronger relationship to help fight the insurgency.

*By Spc. Jason Dorsey
1-178 IN, 3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

Members of the 1st 178th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, Provincial Reconstruction team, Kansas Agriculture Development Team, Marine Embedded Training Team and the Afghan National Army conducted Operation Lonbow III, which was a key leader engagement to provide humanitarian assistance in Laghman Province, Afghanistan May 24, 2008.

This was the third time that the unit had conducted a tactical air assault into the Garmunay village of the Galuch valley in the Mehtar Lam District in order to build and maintain a relationship with the people in that area.

It was about joint cooperation while conducting counterinsurgency operations to enable the reach of the local government.

After a safe landing on a plateau, everyone exited the aircraft overlooking the village.

Through fields of wheat, Soldiers were greeted by locals who led them to the village elders, where a Key Leader Engagement

was held with local government officials to include Murtaza Hedayt Qalandarzai, Deputy Governor of Laghman Province and Col Mohammed Jan, 201st Afghan National Army Recon 4/2/201st Kandak commander.

During the meeting, village elders expressed the hardships they endure on a daily basis here in the village without such essentials as clean water and electricity.

"Agricultural issues are the main concern for the people of Garmunay Village with water, and good fertilizer, being very scarce items that these people need serious assistance with," said Col Eric C. Peck, 1-6 Kansas Agriculture Development Team commander.

After listening to the issues from the village elders the leaders reassured the villagers of their cooperation and intent for provincial reconstruction efforts and in return the the community locals report insurgent activity to American Forces and not work with the enemy.

A general description of why U.S. Forces are in Afghanistan was also a burning question of some of the local nationals attending the meeting.

Each commander ex-



ANA Recon 4/2/201st Kandak Commander, Mohammed Jan hands HA goods to welcoming villagers during Longbow III in the village of Garmunay, Laghman Province, Afghanistan.

plained to the people how his unit works and how they were there to work in close coordination with Afghan Forces to assist the Afghan government to be successful to the point when the assistance is no longer needed and ISAF forces can go home.

After a handful of issues were covered and discussed, a closing prayer was held by the local mullah. At the conclusion of the KLE, the TF Bayonet Commander announced to the crowd that that they brought HA goods for the village as a show of concern and support from the Afghan Government.

Quickly thereafter, a large crowd of people surrounded the white kicker boxes full of HA. The village elders quickly took charge of the excited crowd and began establishing order by forming lines and passing out the different items from the HA boxes. The ANA along with village elders helped to distribute flour, sugar, beans, rice, hajj kits, and radios to the locals, who expressed their gratitude through smiles and handshakes.

"Longbow III was a success because it was free of enemy interaction, and more importantly it extended the opportunity for the deputy governor of Laghman Province to meet with its constituencies in such a remote location," said LTC Daniel J. Fuhr, TF Bayonet Commander.

Remembering the significant events in our lives



*Chaplain (Maj) Steve George
3rd BCT, 1st ID*

It's been said that memory is one of the distinctive things which makes us truly and uniquely human. We have the incredible power to 'relive' events and situations – the sights, the sounds, even the feelings associated with them – as we recall them in our minds.

The question is, what memories do we hold onto and what influence do they have over us? Psychologists generally agree that by the age of 2, memories begin to help shape who we are. I must confess that I don't remember too much

of anything from my 2nd year of life but I do have clear memories starting at about the age of 4 – I may have been a late bloomer...

Here's a test. What are some of your favorite memories? I recall spending time with family and friends over the years talking, laughing, having fun together. I think of moments spent at the summit of pristine mountaintops in the middle of winter with the morning sun glistening off of freshly fallen

snow. I think of the amazing feeling of drifting quietly toward the earth, suspended by nothing more than a T-10C parachute after exiting a C-130 Hercules in flight.

CBS "60 Minutes" Commentator, Andy Rooney, has suggested that "the trouble with most memories is that...many of them are sad." Indeed, if we focus on the unhappy memories of things gone wrong, hopes dashed, or snafus experienced, we'll likely have a relatively drab and dreary existence. Fortunately, there's good news for all of us. We can choose which memories we'll allow to inform our lives and even better, we can choose how we'll allow those memories to influence and affect us. How can we do that?

First, we need to make a conscious decision to spend time remembering the good stuff. Life is full of all kinds of things – the good, the bad, and the everything in between. If we spend time dwelling on those positive events which have enriched and empowered

"We need to make a conscious decision to spend time remembering the good stuff. Life is full of all kinds of things – the good, the bad, and the everything in between."

*Chaplain (Maj) Steve George
3rd BCT, 1st ID*

us, our memories will be an ongoing source of great encouragement and strength. Likewise, if we dwell on those things which have brought us pain and unhappiness over the years, we'll certainly have plenty of memories to go around – just not the kind of memories we might otherwise seek to cultivate. The book of Deuteronomy says, "I set before you life or death, blessing or curse. Choose life, then, so that you and your descendants

may live..." (Deuteronomy 30:19b). The best memories are those which encourage us to choose life!

Along those same lines, I believe we also need to "invest" in creating memories worth holding onto. The story is told of a father and son who went fishing one Saturday morning. The father, a harried businessman, had been promising to take his son out on the lake for several weeks but work always seemed to come up.

Finally, after much begging and pleading by the son, the father could put it off no longer and he relented, taking the young lad out for a day of angling. At the end of the day, both the father and the son made entries in their respective journals. The father wrote: "Spent the day on the lake; didn't catch a thing. Huge waste of time." The son entered something slightly different in his journal concerning the outing: "Spent the day on the lake with my father; best day I've ever had!" How do we "invest" in our memories? When life's emo-

tional "bank account" runs low, will the investments we've made in positive memories be there to draw from?

During this month of May,

we take time to remember those who have given their last full measure of devotion in the service of our Nation. May our memories be those which celebrate the Heroes who have gone before us and may we continue to "invest" in the recognition that because of them, we are able to enjoy the full blessings of peace, liberty and justice for all. May our memories bring health and happiness in the days ahead – be blessed!

Water Purifiers keep Task Force Duke moving



Photos by Army Pfc. Charles Wolfe

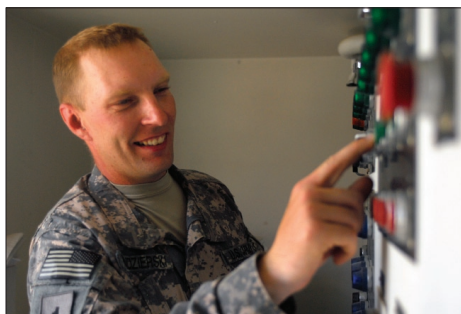
Sgt. Paul Kindziarski, a Water Treatment Specialist with the 201st BSB, stands in front of two of the large storage tanks used to store purified, drinkable water. At any given time, more than 190,000 gallons of treated water are kept ready for use in the Dining Facility, Medical Clinic, or other areas that require clean water.

*By Pfc. Charles Wolfe
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

Water is a substance so basic and essential to life that it bears no need for introduction.

Everyone knows what it is and why they need it, especially in the harsh Afghan environments; however, many Soldiers don't seem to know where it comes from, and what it goes through before it reaches them.

"It's the mystery of water,"



Kindziarski manages the large control panel of the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit, a console used to prepare raw well water for safe consumption.

Sgt. Paul Kindziarski, Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of the 201st Brigade Support Battalion's Water Purification Section, said.

"It's something that's easy to learn, but very few people seem to know about."

To solve the "mystery," one must start at the well, where the water is harvested from beneath the ground. Then, depending on what the water is used for, it undergoes a specific purification process, something Kindziarski and his team did for roughly 3,756,961 gallons of water during the month of May.

Handling such a large amount of water requires some heavy-duty equipment. The Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit, with its panel full of brightly colored gauges and switches, can prepare 3,000 gallons of water per hour, freeing it of materials both visible and microscopic.

The resident goal is to maintain a supply of more than 190,000 gallons ready for con-

sumption.

"We have more than 2,500 military and civilian personnel to look after and without our clean water their Medical Clinic, Dining Facility and Pizza Hut all close," Kindziarski, a 10-year veteran serving in his third combat tour, said. "Without us, everyone is living on Meals-Ready-to-Eat and water bottles."

Working with heavier customer loads, however, eliminates the possibility of sustaining food-service using bottled water.

"We would never be able to deal with a headcount of this magnitude without having a water purification team on site," Sgt. 1st Class James Collins, Food Management NCOIC at Afghanistan's Forward Operating Base Fenty, said. "We use the treated water for sanitation and food preparation purposes. We even make the coffee with it."

A Soldiers' water supply can affect seemingly everything in his daily life—drinking, showers, cleaning clothing and equipment—which makes the job of keeping it clean extremely important.

"We're definitely a force enabler, providing water in some of the most remote regions of the world," Kindziarski, an Illinois native, said. "Without water, people can't survive."

And, of course, one should never underestimate the power of a hot shower under clean water.

"This job lets us affect the mission at every level, from the survivability of Soldiers to the morale they keep," Kindziarski said.

Though they might not understand how the water gets there or where it comes from, Soldiers across Afghanistan seem thankful to have water that is, like Kindziarski and his Water Purification Team, good 'till the last drop.

Chosin soldiers establish new base in border area

*By Sgt. Amber Robinson
Task Force Spartan PAO*

Among the lush green pastures and valleys of Konar Province, Afghanistan, Soldiers of Task Force Chosin, 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, patrol for an elusive guerrilla enemy force.

In the seven-plus years U.S. forces have populated Afghanistan, the Taliban have remained a constant threat.

Although International Security Assistance Forces outweigh the enemy in personnel, resources and advanced weaponry, Taliban fighters continue to move doggedly against U.S. forces, using the local populace in various ways to support their criminal activities.

For Task Force Chosin, constant patrols, communication with the local populace and the strategic placement of tactical outposts and vehicle patrol bases have put a large dent in insurgent activity throughout the province.

One such patrol base, VPB Badel, at the mouth of the Narang Valley, has closed down a large amount of enemy activity in the valley and in the districts of Narang, Chowkay and Nurgal. Up until the past few months, when TF Chosin moved into the province, only a company held the battle space.

"We decided to strategically place a VPB in the mouth of the valley," said Army Capt. Nathaniel Miller, commander C Co., 1-32 Inf. Reg. "The VBP is situated on high ground, which overlooks all roads that go into the valley."

The small base sits atop a small hill which overlooks the valley, the Konar River and all major

roads. The enemy threat is always imminent, especially since the placement of the VPB has greatly hindered the movement of illegally imported and exported goods to and from Pakistan.

"We know we have had an impact," said Miller. "The price of illegal weapons has doubled since we have begun to operate from the VPB. We've also begun to weather more attacks on the base, a result of their animosity at having their illegal trade routes cut off."

Soldiers must adopt an acute sense of battle readiness with an ever-looming enemy threat making life at the outposts and VPBs more precarious than at more established bases.

"We are always battle focused, even when we are out meeting with the people in the surrounding area, even when doing humanitarian aid work, we can't let our guard down," said Army Spc. Lucas Amyx, fire team leader with C Co.

"We know we have had an impact. The price of illegal weapons has doubled since we have begun to operate from the VPB."

***Army Capt. Nathaniel Miller,
Commander C Co., 1-32 Inf. Reg.***

Army 1st Lt. Ryan D. Feeney, a platoon leader in C Co., and his men, move from the VPB on dismounted patrols on a regular basis, working with locals to assess their needs, talk about potential enemy locations and provide an ISAF presence.

The Narang Valley has always been fraught with insurgent activity, but with beefed up mili-



Photo by Army Sgt. Amber Robinson

Army Pfc. David Mitchell, a Soldier with 1-32 scans the landscape surrounding Vehicle Patrol Base Badel, located at the mouth of the Narang Valley in Kunar Province.

tary efforts in the region, officials hope the area will soon see a big change.

Amidst minor ailments, there have been more serious moments which illustrate the progress the VPB has made. Although enemy attacks have all but doubled on the VBP, Soldiers remain positive about the mis-

sion and continue to work toward security in Narang, Chowkay and Nurgal.

Feeney feels the work he and his fellow platoon leaders do at and from the VPB has had a positive effect and will continue to have such an effect as long as troops continue to push against a relentless enemy and embrace a seemingly skeptical local populace.

Cavalry scouts patrol unexplored terrain in Kunar

By Staff Sgt. David Hopkins
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO

For the first time since the start of Operation Enduring Freedom, American Soldiers crossed a portion of the Kunar River in the Tsunel Valley with Afghan National Army soldiers to investigate caves and possible militant attack points.

6th Kandak and C Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, crossed the river on a suspension foot bridge early in the morning and didn't know exactly what they would find in the never-before patrolled mountain on the other side.

"We had a few objectives when crossing the river to go up the mountain," Army Capt. Jay Bessey, C Troop commander, from Greenville, Mich., said. "We wanted to disrupt enemy operations, demonstrate our ability to cross the river, deny the area as a safe haven and demonstrate to the civilian population that we are here to offer support and security."

The Soldiers patrol mountains on the west side of the Kunar River regularly to support Observation Posts along the river, but this mountain provided more challenging terrain than most, which slowed the progress up the boulder-strewn mountainsides and created other challenges.

"It was more strenuous than other patrols we've done,"



Spc. William Cosman, 6-4 Cavalry Scout, pulls security during a mountain patrol.



Photos by Army Staff Sgt. David Hopkins

Sgt. Levi Bradstream, infantryman with C Co., 6th squadron, 4th Cavalry regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, rests while on patrol in the Tsunel Valley of northeastern Afghanistan. The patrol, which is to search for enemy fighting positions, is the first on the east side of the valley. The troop is trying discover where the enemy is attacking convoys from so they can move freely through the valley to resupply Soldiers in the north.

Army Staff Sgt. Eric Winn, C Troop squad leader from Colorado City, Texas, said. "You can only carry so much water and equipment up that kind of terrain and you have to watch out for the enemy the whole time and make sure you aren't making yourself vulnerable."

As observation helicopters buzzed overhead, providing air support, the Soldiers slowly made their way up draws, donkey trails and forged their own path.

"In an environment like that you need to have all the pieces working together," Bessey said. "From the aviation, the artillery, the ANA and us on the ground, they all have to be on the same page so no one gets hurt."

Every couple hundred feet of elevation gain the troop would take short halts to catch their breath, but they didn't fully relax because of the danger of attack.

"We know they attack the district center and the OP across the river from that mountain so we

knew the possibility of an attack on us when on the mountain," Winn said. "We needed to stay alert the whole time."

When the troop reached a plateau near the summit of the mountain they stopped to check maps and investigate the area. Some of the Scouts pulled security while others rested with their backs against the cool boulders in the shade of small trees.

Then a shot rang out, echoing through the valley. The Soldiers were instantly alert, scanning the mountainside for any movement, color variation or any other sign of where the shots were coming from.

"Does anyone see where it's coming from?" one Soldier shouted from a fighting position behind the cover of a rock, but only one shot was fired. There were other shots later, but they were spaced out and no one could tell from what direction they were being fired.

[CAVALRY continued on Page 14]

Rural village sees brighter future with new school

*By Capt. Dustin Hart
Nangarhar PRT*

The Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team joined provincial government officials and the people of a rural village in Dara-Noor District to celebrate the completion of a boys and girls school, May 12.

The school, which cost \$178,000, took less than a year to complete and includes two school buildings, two latrines, and two wells. Due to the rural, mountainous location of Safer Kala village and a nearby river that is prone to flooding, the construction of the school experienced some difficulties.

“Anyone involved with construction knows all projects will have some problems,” Army 2nd Lt. Steve Klenke, a PRT engineer from Detroit Mich. said during the ceremony. “This project was no different. We are able to stand in front of this completed school thanks to the diligence and patience of the people of this village, district officials and the provincial government. I am happy to be a part of that team and play a small role in helping bring education your children.”

Local officials also expressed their happiness with the completion of the school because of the benefits it will offer.



Photo by Air Force Capt. Dustin Hart

Army 2nd Lt. Steve Klenke, an engineer with the Nangarhar PRT, celebrates with local officials during the ribbon-cutting of a new school in Safer Kala village in Dara-Noor District, May 12.

“This is a proud moment for everyone here because even in this remote area, where no school existed before, the government, through the help of the [International Security Assistance Forces,] was able to provide a school building for the children to be educated,” said Mohammad Ibrahim, Nangarhar province deputy director of education.

Elders from the area also ensured the government and PRT that the school would be protected from any outside threats.

“We have requested the support from all the people here to take care and protect this school,” an elder said during the ceremony.

“This school will bring light to the people here and the teachers are giving a bright future to the students. This is making a better life for this village.

“If the insurgents could see the Muslims in this area that are working hard for a better future for their children, they could see what true Islam is about,” the elder added.

Education remains a top priority for the Nangarhar PRT. The school in Safer Kala village was one of 21 schools currently being constructed by the PRT. The PRT has recently completed five schools in five districts and has proposed an additional 39 projects.

1st Infantry Scouts, first to walk Kunar area since start of OEF

[CAVALRY continued from Page 13] to go around the mountain, which took hours.

Shortly after the small attack two locals walked into the area along a trail.

They were questioned and through this a passage over the mountain to a village in the next valley was discovered.

It was previously thought all foot traffic from the next valley had

“We found a new route to a nearby village and we gained a better understanding of the terrain up there for future operations,” Bessey said.

After some exploring on the mountain, the scouts made the challenging hike down under the cover of darkness.

“The trip down was worse than going up,” Army Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Carswell, platoon sergeant from Dexter, Ga., said. “We had to pay constant attention to where we were stepping and that made it difficult to look for other dangers.”

When the troop was safely off the mountain they could officially call the mission a success and rest after the grueling patrol.

May Reenlistments

2nd Battalion 2nd Inf. Reg.

BAKER JACK W. (HHC)
 CALMAN JASON D. (A. CO.)
 CARL JOSEPH K. (FSC)
 CARR LEVI L. (HHC)
 DENNEE TYLER M. (B. CO.)
 DIXON TIMOTHY C. (HHC)
 DUNCAN SEAN K. (HHC)
 FRANCO ISAAC A. (C. CO.)
 GUMBERT MICHEAL P. (D. CO.)
 HARRIS ANDREW M. (C. CO.)
 HART JOSEPH P. (FSC)
 HOCKENBERRY CHARLES (B. CO.)
 HOLBROOK ANTHONY A. (HHC)
 JACOBS CODY B. (A. CO.)
 JALLOH ABDUL R. (FSC)
 JIMENEZ ANTHONY (FSC)
 KIPE MATTHEW R. (HHC)
 KRAUS ALEXANDER N. (D. CO.)
 NIELSEN THOMAS B. (FSC)
 RAMSEY MICHAEL S. (A. CO.)
 REEDY LAURA S. (B. CO.)
 ROSSI KYLE T. (A. CO.)
 SIEBER MICHAEL C. (HHC)
 STROTHER JONELLE D. (HHC)
 THOMAS EARNEST B. II (HHC)
 TIMMONS JOSEPH L. (FSC)

201st Brigade Support Btn.

CANTU CARLOS (A. CO.)
 MIKRUT, MICHAEL JR. (B. CO.)
 VACEK ANGELA MAY E. (HHC)

HHC Brigade

BURTON ALICIA J. (HHT)

Special Troops Battalion

BLACK JOHNNY L. (C. CO.)
 HALL NIGELLE L. (HHC)
 JAMESON MICHAEL W. (HHC)
 LINDSEY ROBERT A. JR (HHC)
 MENDEZ BENJAMIN L. (B. CO.)
 MOTSINGER JAMES I. (A. CO.)
 SHEMWELL MARK R. (B. CO.)
 WIPPERFURTH KEN R. (HHC)

1st Battalion 26th Inf. Reg.

BRAMLETT JASON A. (A. CO.)
 CALLOWAY CHAUNCEY K. (FSC)
 DOHERTY JAMES M. (A. CO.)
 HALL GARRETT A. (HHC)
 JOHN MARLON K. (HHC)
 JONES AARON L. SR (HHC)
 KING JERRY J. JR (C. CO.)
 KOPPELMAN KRISTOPHER (A. CO.)
 PATTERSON ELIJA J. (B. CO.)
 WARREN WILLIAM M. (FSC)
 WEIS CHRISTOPHER A. (B. CO.)

6th Squadron 4th Cav. Reg.

DUNKLEBERGER JOSHUA (B. TRP.)
 GOFF KIRK H. (C. TRP.)
 JONES AARON M. (HHT)
 MEINEKE MATHEW S. (HHT)
 OCONNER NATHANIEL J. (FSC)
 RUMLER RYAN A. (C. TRP.)
 SHAFER CALEB J. (HHT)

1st Battalion 6th Field Art.

ALVAREZ FERNANDO G. (FSC)
 BRIGGINS CHRIS L. JR. (FSC)
 TURNER KENNETH A. (FSC)