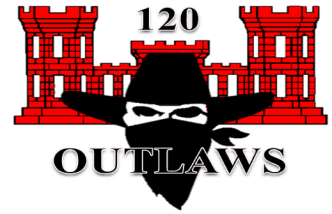




Engineer Round-Up

Sappers clear the way!



Volume 1: Issue 6

September 22, 2012



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Outlaw Six Sends:

Headquarters, Southern Afghanistan. One of the last legs of a journey that started more than 18 months ago. Everyone that's a part of this effort should be proud of themselves. It hasn't been easy, and it took a solid effort from everyone to get where we are. I appreciate the outstanding effort and dedication from every Soldier on Task Force

Outlaw. Now that we're here, keep up the mission focused drive to excel. We have an eight to nine month path ahead of us, and there are more than 1000 Soldiers clearing the routes for the people of Afghanistan and our coalition brothers in arms depending on us to perform. The 120th Engineer Battalion has a long history of success on the

battlefield. It's our charge to maintain that heritage.
Hell Yeah, Essayons!



1433rd Engineer Company Trains the Afghan National Army



Training the ANA Soldiers of the 3/205th has been going better than the 1433rd En Co ANA Team could have hoped for. The 3/205th RCC has already been conducting route clearance missions without a partnered Route Clearance Platoon from the 1433rd well ahead of schedule. Showing

that the training has been helping the ANA Platoons understand and create better TTP's. This has also been a tremendous help to our platoons by cutting down on their work load. Our ANA brothers have been finding IED's on their own and have been willing to conduct extra missions to help their infantry brothers that have been finding them as well. While doing this they have picked up their enthusiasm on training. The number of Soldiers attending training and participat-

ing has increased and they have even been letting us know areas they would like to learn about and think that they need to improve on. Even with the conflicts that have been happening across the world we still take the phrase "Shona Ba Shona" (shoulder to shoulder) to heart and still work as closely with the ANA Soldiers of the 3/205th as possible.





1039th Engineers Partner with Afghan Troops

By U.S. Army Capt Paul Wyckoff

Task force Outlaw, 120th Engineer Battalion Public Affairs



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URUZGAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army 1st Lt. Wesley Gautreaux briefs Afghan National Army Soldiers before a route clearance mission in the Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, Sept. 7. (Photo courtesy Task Force Outlaw Public Affairs)

to work with the 1039th.

The 1039th Soldiers conducted themselves professionally and worked well with the ANA Soldiers, conducting a successful mission and building trust and stronger relationships with the ANA.

SHAW'S LAWS

“Never do Anything Questionable with Someone You can’t Outrun.”
– SSG. Shaw

URUZGAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The 1039th Engineer Company engaged in its first partnership with Afghan National Army on a route clearance mission in the Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, Sept. 7.

the 1039th are working with the ANA; assisting them on route clearance and force protection training to better prepare the ANA to take the lead in operations without U.S. forces.

This experience is just opening the door to better experiences down the road as missions continue and for better cohesion between U.S. and ANA troops.

Soldiers from the 1039th from Arkansas, based out of a Forward Operating Base in Southern, Afghanistan, had the opportunity to work with the Afghan National Army for the first time without their 223rd En. Co. counterparts. The ANA had a small group of Soldiers that were attached to a platoon of 1039th for a route clearance mission.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Wesley Gautreaux, with the 1039th briefed 1LT Janagha with the 4/205th ANA just prior to the mission. Janagha expressed excitement at the opportunity



URUZGAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Soldiers of the 1039th Engineer Company and Afghan National Army Soldiers depart on a route clearance mission in the Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan, Sept. 7. (Photo courtesy Task Force Outlaw Public Affairs)

The Soldiers from

LT Says...

“I’m just going to say ‘Yes,’ because I don’t know any better.”

1LT David Bell
Co. A 120th EN BN

Power Point Ranger: Safety is Everyone's Concern...



Guess the B.A.M.!

See if you can properly Identify the owner of this 120th Engineers' B.A.M.!!!



B.A.M. CONTEST!!!

Howdy Outlaws!

We will be having a **B.A.M. CONTEST!!!** While in Country.

This is just a "Sneak Peak" for now...

We will **SHAVE** on "Turkey Day" and The **B.A.M.s** will be **Judged** on "Christmas Day"

More to come later!
OUTLAWS! HELL YEAH!

Greetings from the Medical Corner

From the Chaplain

"Being busy does not always mean real work. The object of all work is production or accomplishment and to either of these ends there must be forethought, system, planning, intelligence and honest purpose, as well as perspiration."

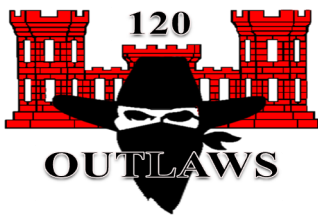
- Thomas Edison

From Chaplain (CPT) Matthew Brown

I am sure all in theater who are reading this have no doubt that we are in a combat zone. As such, all are taking precautions to carry and secure your weapons, travel in pairs, and maintain situational awareness. These are all good and commendable things to ensure returning our returning home safe and sound. However, did you know that 80% of casualties are due to Disease Non-Battle Injuries (DNBI)?

DNBIs include just about anything that occurs off the battle-field and not a result of direct or indirect fire. A large percentage of these include infections, respiratory, gastrointestinal, and vector (insects or small animal) borne disease. While many are self limiting others may leave you with a lifelong disability and some may even cause death. As much suffering as they cause, there are no Purple Hearts for DNBIs.

I bring this to your attention as a reminder, especially if you are one who pays attention to the odds, that simple measures such as hand washing, taking your anti-malarial medication, and avoiding contact with the local animal population, domestic or wild will go a long way to ensure an uneventful deployment and safe return home. As always, be safe and watch out for each other.
— Doc



Remembering 9-11

Words of Wisdom from the TOP

1SG Rye, 1433rd - I always signed my correspondence back home with the quote " Train as you fight is over, we must now fight to win" Of course that was to reference our training up as we prepared for coming to theater. But one quote I really like to put out, especially now with the current world situation the way it is:

The Soldier is the Army. No army is better than its Soldiers. The Soldier is also a citizen. In fact, the highest obligation and privilege of citizenship is that of bearing arms for one's country" — George S. Patton Jr.



Soldiers from the 120th Engineer Battalion stand in formation as Chaplain Matthew Brown speaks in 9-11 remembrance ceremony.

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - On September 11, 2012, Soldiers from Headquarters and Company A, of the 120th EN BN, gathered together in remembrance of September 11, 2001.

The Soldiers were in a formation and a ceremony was given by Army Chaplain, Capt. Matthew Brown and his assistant Spc. Jacob Few. The Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Jack Ritter, and Battalion CSM Richard Raby also spoke a few words to the Soldiers. The ceremony was short, but very powerful.

Army Sgt. Jerry Nichols was in Company A's formation and had this to say, "The ceremony was

very moving to me. It hit on a few things that made me remember those past events in a different way."

Upon further conversation about his immediate



Soldiers from the 120th EN BN stand at attention and salute during the playing of Taps to show their respect for the fallen.

reactions and thoughts, Nichols revealed some of the emotions he experienced on September 11, 2001. "This tragedy really hit home for me, not because I was personally affected, but it took away that feeling of invulnerability. It made

me realize that we're not invincible," said Nichols.

Spc. Dustin Bradford of Headquarters of Headquarters Company 120th was also in formation that day. He had a similar experience.

"I remember being in my 7th grade Language Arts class. My teacher came in crying and turned on the TV; we all just sat and watched in shock as the second tower fell," said Bradford.

When asked about the ceremony, Bradford said, "This was a sobering realization of why we are actually here fighting. Sometimes it's so easy to forget."

With many other people in that formation, some who were personally affected and other who were part of a wounded Nation, emotions were high.

As Spc. Few read a poem, hearts were touched, like that of Sgt. Nichols.

Nichols had a final quote to sum up the events and thoughts of all who were in attendance, "No life is forgotten. They may be gone, but never forgotten. Their sacrifice was not in vain, and they will be remembered forever."

Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Co.

My spotlight today shines on SPC Justin Baeza, age 20 out of Blytheville Arkansas. SPC Baeza is the middle child of two other brothers in his family. SPC Baeza had served only one year in the 1039th Engineering Company, when the unit received word of this deployment. SPC Baeza signed up to join the Arkansas National Guard for financial reasons and to keep himself busy. Not realizing that this experience in his life would soon turn into apprehension, excitement and the realization that he was actually going to war in defense against Terrorism.

The year 2011 flew by with SPC Baeza training up on Army Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills. During the train up, SPC Baeza polished his skills and formed a tighter bond with his brothers in arms in the 1039th Engineer Company (SAPPER).

Mobilization rolled around and as the Company landed at Fort Bliss, Texas, SPC Baeza started realizing the similarities between Fort Bliss and Afghanistan. He stated



that the first thought on his mind was "man it sure is going to be hot." SPC Baeza was involved in Route Clearance training where he learned to operate the RG-31s, Harris radios, and the crew served weapon systems on the vehicles.

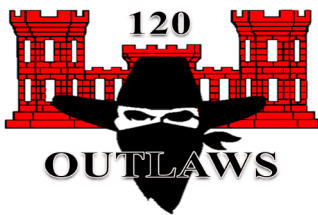
Soon thereafter, SPC Baeza boarded a flight from Texas to Afghanistan. When asked what he thought about the 18 plus hour flight, he said that he slept most of the way through to keep his mind off of the trip.

Since arriving at his final destination in Southern Afghanistan, SPC Baeza has entered the world of route clearance. SPC Baeza stated

that "training versus real life is two totally different things." As a driver he "focuses on the road looking for signs of IED emplacements, road conditions, and always on the lookout for small children that run out to greet you."

SPC Baeza said "the living arrangements are actually better than he thought they would be, with the chow hall and PX just around the corner. What more could a Soldier ask for?" Welcome to Uruzgan Province, Afghanistan SPC Baeza.

1SG Siebert



288th "Hilltoppers" Coast Down the Hill

URUZGAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – After a year long deployment, members of the 288th Engineer Company are departing Afghanistan and heading home.

U.S. Army Capt. Brenton Montgomery recounts his unit's efforts throughout the deployment.

"The 288th has done exceptionally well, they've never quit and done an amazing job," said Montgomery. "They were always developing new ways to do things, and incorporating all the different elements available here."

Clearing hundreds of routes and finding numerous improvised explosive devices, the Hilltoppers ensured the safety of countless local nationals and follow-on forces. The effects of their mission contributed to the preservation of life.

Losing one of its members to non-battle causes and having several others injured, the deployment was not without its trials. With having to use equipment new to the unit, there was one major lesson the unit learned.

"I wished we'd trained more on the GPR [ground penetrating radar]," said Montgomery. "The operators did really well with adapting and learning it once they got here, but there was no way to work with them stateside, and it's been vital in helping us find IEDs."

The road home for the 288th includes training their replacement unit, the 1039th Engineer Company, on route clearance within their area of operations.

"It RIP (Relief in Place) went good, their guys picked up on everything we taught them, we can already tell they are expanding on what we've taught them," said Montgomery. "If they follow all the TTPs they learned from us and develop new ones, they'll keep the insurgents wondering what they're going to do next; they'll always a step ahead."

One of the more challenging aspects of this deployment, is working with Afghan National Army (ANA).

"There will definitely be an adjustment period," stated Montgomery. "In the Afghan culture they like to get to know people before working with them, so they'll have to get settled in and develop that relationship. It's just customs and courtesies the Afghan way."

The return home comes as a welcome event as the Soldiers are ready to get back to their loved ones.

"We appreciate the support from all the families, allowing their fathers, husbands and sons to serve," said Montgomery. "They always sent us care packages and stood behind us. As we're deployed so are the families and its

hard on families as it's a hard on us. Just thank them for supporting the troops, it's been really awesome."

"I'm excited about going home," said U.S. Army Sgt. Nathaniel Cook, 288th En. Co. Liaison Officer. "It's been an experience that I am better for having going through it. It was really great to be able to support my company in our mission."

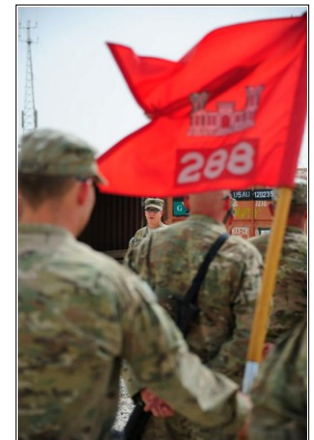
The 288th ensured their replacements will continue to make the road safer for those who follow.



U.S. Army Col. Gerald Hadley, of the 76th Infantry Brigade Combat Team presents U.S. Army Capt. Brenton Montgomery, of the 288th with a plaque during their Transfer of Authority ceremony, Sept. 7. The plaque is out of appreciation for the work the 288th has done in support of the 76th IBCT.



Members of the 288th Engineer Company stand in formation during their Transfer of Authority ceremony, Sept. 7. The 288th is transferring responsibility of their route clearance missions to the 1039th En. Co.



Members of the 288th Engineer Company stand in formation during their Transfer of Authority ceremony, Sept. 7. The 288th is transferring responsibility of their route clearance missions to the 1039th En. Co.

713th "Boas" are Heading Home

FORWARD OPERATING BASE, Afghanistan – After a year-long deployment, members of the 713th Engineer Company are departing Afghanistan and heading home.

U.S. Army Capt. Cecil Pendleton, commander of the 713th En. Co. recounts his unit's efforts throughout the employment.

"Redeploying does not seem real," said Pen-



Members of the 713th En. Co. Stand in formation during their Transfer of Authority ceremony, Sept. 9. The 713th is ending their year-long deployment in Afghanistan and handing over the responsibility of route clearance operations to the 1138th En. Co.

dleton. "We have been waiting a long time for this, and now that it is here; I find it strangely difficult to let go. Also, we have had a very long and hard year, but our mission is complete; it is time to go home."

Clearing hundreds of routes and finding numerous improvised explosive devices, the Boas ensured the

safety of countless local nationals and follow-on forces. The effects of their mission contributed to the preservation of life.

"You cannot keep doing the same thing and expect to be successful," said Pendleton. "You have to be flexible and change with the battlefield. For those Soldiers and leaders that have been deployed before, don't get caught up in what you did before.

Afghanistan is totally different than Iraq."

Losing six members of the company and having several others injured, the deployment was not without its trials.

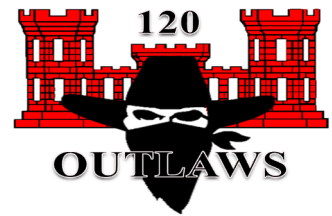
"Not bringing everyone home is something I struggle with everyday," said Pendleton. "I have to constantly remind myself that."

The road home for the 713th includes training their replacement unit, the 1138th Engineer Company, on

route clearance within their area of operations.

"The Relief in Place has gone very well with the 1138th," said Pendleton. "Every Soldier and leader arrived focused and ready to work and train. If they weren't directed engaged in a mission, the leaders had their Soldiers going through battle drills and hands on training and familiarization with hand held devices and robots." The return home comes as a welcome event as the Soldiers are ready to get back to their loved ones. U.S. Army 1st Lt. Stephen Otten, 2nd Platoon, Platoon Leader, had this to say, "The deployment was challenging but rewarding. I'm just really glad we're about to go home."

The 713th ensured their replacements will continue to make the road safer for those who follow.



Members of the 713th En. Co. Stand in formation during their Transfer of Authority ceremony, Sept. 9. The 713th is ending their yearlong deployment in Afghanistan and handing over the responsibility of route clearance operations to the 1138th En. Co.



The 713th En. Co.'s guidon flies for the last time in Afghanistan as the company prepares to redeploy back to the states. The 713th conducted their Transfer of Authority ceremony, symbolizing the end of their deployment as the transfer the responsibility of route clearance operation to the 1138th En.Co.



COMING SOON!!!

**MWR EVENTS
-
BATTALION
FACEBOOK
-
AND MUCH MORE!!!**

Photo Gallery



Remember Everyone:

As we arrive in Afghanistan, there are a few safety and Internet Security Notes to consider.

- 1.) Be Very Cautious of what you post on Social Media Platforms such as Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, etc.
- 2.) Don't post or say anything that could be considered offensive to any race, gender, religion, or anything of that kind.
- 3.) Don't plug any Unauthorized device(s) into any government computer.
- 4.) If you have anything that you think is questionable, check with the S-6 before you do anything with it.
- 5.) Any pictures or video of personnel, equipment, vehicles, etc. must be cleared for release by Battalion Public Affairs Office.

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER???
DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD???
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN A LATER ISSUE???
IF SO, CONTACT US!!!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

