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Commander's Corner



Happy Holidays and Season's Greetings to our AFSBn-Kandahar family and friends. This has been a busy month and the contributions you have all made in support of our mission were amazing. Your efforts to support the surge recovery with our Mobile RPAT team mission in Farah were greatly appreciated throughout the entire Regional Command-South

Chain of Command. Your ability to continue to repair and issue equipment in response to critical unit requirements provides them increased capability to meet their mission and increased survivability to those Soldiers in harm's way.

One of the real joys of the Holiday Season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you all the very best for the New Year. For our family and friends at home; please know that you are not forgotten. Although the separation during the Holidays is difficult to endure, we appreciate the sacrifices each of you has made to support us here in Afghanistan.

Around the Footprint...



Twass the month of December and all through
the land,
The mountains were snow capped, the plains
full of sand;
Our Soldiers, Civilians, and Contractors too,
Are focused and dedicated on what they must
do;
Supporting our Soldiers, Sustaining the fight,
Maintaining momentum, to do what is right;
In Herat, and Helmand, and Kandahar too,
Nimroz and Farah to name just a few;
Our thoughts drift to family and friends far
away,
As we long to join them on this special day;
The big day approaches, one lone star shines
bright,
"Happy Christmas to all, and to all a good-
night."

Stay Safe and Stay Focused!
Trust and Loyalty!
On Point!
-Excellence 6

Sergeant Major's Desk



We are an organization that should constantly strive to be professional and earn the respect of our leaders, peers, co-workers and subordinates. How we conduct ourselves determines whether or not we are viewed as professionals. Develop the frame of mind that whatever you do, you are in it as a professional and do it to professional stan-

dards. Here are a few traits that I, as the command sergeant major, think professionals have:

1. A professional learns every aspect of the job.
2. A professional is focused and clear headed
3. A professional persists until the objective is achieved
4. A professional remains level headed and optimistic

Respect is something that is earned. Respect is like a boomerang, you must send it out before it will come back to you. Respect cannot be demanded or forced, though sometimes people mistakenly believe that it can.

1. Be respectful of oneself
2. Be respectful of others
3. Solicit and allow for feedback
4. Try to understand the beliefs, values and needs of others.

By being professional and respectful, we as a team will build a positive reputation within the 4-401st AFSBN. How we conduct ourselves can tell whether we are professional and respectful as an organization. In the end we should all ask ourselves do we project a professional and respectful image.

-CSM White

Excellence 7



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The Executive Officer's Pen by Maj. Andrew Shumway



On phone calls to my wife, like most everyone, we discuss what happened at home on that day. Every so often, she tells me that she's a little frustrated as I rarely discuss what's happening here. I tell her that I'd rather hear what's going on back home because that's what's real to me.

That's the way I think of Afghanistan. It's interesting. It's challenging. It's frustrating. There are a lot of really good people here, doing a job that's existentially necessary and largely ignored by the American public. But this isn't what I want the day-to-day world I live in to become. I like my home with my wife, seven kids, ten dogs, three horses, a cat and a guinea pig. Fewer dogs would be good, but that's a story for another time.

The point that I'm trying (and failing) to make is that we're all here for our own reasons and those reasons most likely tie back to home – the real world. We lose sight of that from time to time around here. We get wound up in day-to-day

business and forget what we're really doing.

We're here to support Soldiers so that they can accomplish their mission with the best possible chance of going home in one piece. Everything we do should contribute to that goal. Is that always the case?

I once heard a deployment story about a group of Soldiers in a fight over one of them taking the last bottle of water out of the refrigerator without replacing it. It turned out that the real reason the fridge was empty was that the Soldier who filled it all the time had been killed the week prior. The story ended with a bunch of grown men standing around an empty kitchen appliance, trying not to cry. Was it a comic or a profound moment? I've thought about it both ways since then. Depends on how much I've had to drink.

The vast majority of us here know someone who has died as a result of this war. Think about how you'd feel if you found out that their death could have been prevented by someone who was too busy with their own agenda to do their job.

Let me be clear: I'm NOT saying, "thou shall have no fun." By all means participate in the ugly sweater contest. Go to the bazaar and buy Christmas presents. Enjoy your free time – that's why it's yours. I can't imagine that my dying regret would be not having worked enough days.

I'm saying: keep the distract-

tions to a minimum. For example, there's no point in getting wound up about what we don't have. "I heard that at FOB 'X' every RLB has hot and cold running maid service and everyone gets two NTVs with gold bumpers, mink interior and live musicians in the back seat since the radio doesn't work." Could be, but we're not at FOB X, are we? Besides, mink would get hot in the summer ... but I digress.

CSM White always urges, "professionalism and respect." If someone is doing something that they hope not to get caught doing (e.g. disappearing for hours every day to go take a nap) that's hardly professional. Likewise where's the respect in telling just enough of the truth to mislead a co-worker about what someone else said?

We're all adults and professionals here. We all know different techniques to examine the ethical validity of our actions. I'm not conceited enough to suggest that everyone should use mine. I will say that some in the battalion should use their own a little more frequently.

Back home in the real world, my family is sacrificing so that I can be here. So are my co-workers in my civilian job who are covering my projects for me. I believe that the work that I'm doing is important enough to warrant those sacrifices. That being the case, I have to know that I'm doing it well enough to honor their sacrifices. And the sacrifices of those who don't ever get to go home to their real world again.



***“Well, world
peace would
be nice...”***



“On Point”



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Spotlight: Leatherneck Mobile Parts Hospital by J. Elise Van Pool



A new mobile parts hospital has opened at Camp Leatherneck on the AMC compound.

"We make parts that take a long time to get or that are not in the supply system anymore," said Blake Brodeur, a machinist at the hospital, who is from Anniston, Ala.

The parts hospital provides a critical capability to manufacture parts that would ordinarily take months to receive through traditional supply routes. This capability allows

Soldiers to get their equipment back up and running in a matter of days, rather than months.

"When a truck is down and they can't get the parts they usually come to us," said Grant Broome, the site coordinator, from Gadsden, Ala., "and they can get the trucks and things back on the field."

The parts hospital can also create aviation parts, with the exception of safety items and can do custom orders. The hospital can manufacture items from aluminum, brass, stainless steel, mild steel, and pre-heat treated steel. Even if they don't have the exact material to make and item the parts hospital will work with customers as much as possible to try and make the item needed.

"If they can provide us the material we can give it a shot," said Dallas Cooper, who is from Talladega, Ala., another machinist at the hospital.

To get a work order started the machinists need the part to be replicated (new or damaged), or blue prints of the part. They will also need a national stock number if the part is in the military supply system, a document number if the part has previously been ordered and a unit identification code.

"We check the part out and make sure we can make it first. We draw it up on AutoCAD and then we put the program into the machine. And then a couple days later they come and get it," said Brodeur.

"It's a convenience for the Soldiers too, because they don't have to wait so long on the supply chain," said Cooper. "They can get the parts they need and still have the other parts on order."

The parts hospital on Camp Leatherneck is the newest parts hospital in the theater. It is located on the AMC compound at Camp Leatherneck. There are two other mobile parts hospitals located at Kandahar and Bagram Airfields.

Points of Safety by Mr. Joel Baylor



Existing mines:
Anti-Personal Mines: 8,000,000
Anti-Tank Mines: 2,000,000
Total 10,000,000
Cleared mines:
Anti-Personal Mines: 150,900
UXO Cleared: 515,153
Land Cleared: 240,053,533



Heavy rain and floods have caused Landmine Migration.

Landmine migration is an unplanned movement of undiscovered landmines from one location to another location by means of flood waters throughout Afghanistan.

Between 1999 and 2008, Afghanistan had the highest number of landmine casualties, 12,069, in the world, according to the *Landmine Monitor Report 2009*.

Afghanistan also had the highest number of casualties, 51, among mine-clearing teams in 2008.

First Annual LTF-4 Thanksgiving Bowl by Maj. Robert Smyth



Front Row left to right: Maj. Robert Smyth, Kirk Benke. Second Row: Julienne Byrd, Lisa Mickles, Thomas Scott, Randell Wagner. Third Row: Robert Hill, Robert Murray, Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Edwards. Back Row: Lt. Col. Scott Hamilton.

The first annual LTF-4 Thanksgiving Bowl Game was played at RPAT Field on Thanksgiving day, Nov. 24.

It was a close contest, Maj. Smyth's team versus the commander's team. In the last quarter, the score was tied. Smyth's team was at the commander's 20-yard line; getting

ready to score what appeared to be the game winning touchdown. Smyth threw a pick six and Dale Wagner, Honeywell TPE, intercepted the ball and returned it for a touchdown to win the game.

Cheerleaders were present. Ms. Byrd, TPE Chief and Ms. Mickles, Gov Rep for Full Mo-

tion Video, lifted the moral of the players and spectators!

Scrapes and falls and just a little blood were observed, but no one hurt. Something about playing football in Afghanistan on Thanksgiving Day behind blast walls that makes it purely American.



Command Vision

An accomplished, agile and adaptive organization comprised of skilled and disciplined Soldiers, DA Civilians and contractors who will succeed in any type of mission for our Nation.

A diversified formation that values discipline, initiative and integrity, and respects each team member as someone who volunteered to serve a cause greater than oneself.

A disciplined, combat-experienced organization which all others aspire.

Man in the K-Span: What do you want for Christmas?



**"To be home
with my family."**

~ LeVar Elder



**"The Soldiers to
be home with
their Families."**

~Eraka Russell



**Vacation—I
would gladly go
home right
now."**

~Don Jackson



**"Real vanilla ice
cream with sprin-
kles—not the
chocolate ones,
the rainbow
ones."**

~Melissa Paterson



**"Paying for my
daughter's
college."**

~Gary Sallee

We would also like to welcome the following individuals to the battalion.

Mitchell, Mark
Toney, Joyce
Simenson, Todd
Beauchamp, James
Wempler, Raymond
Boyer, William
Morholt, Richard
Huggins, Frank
Dawson, Tyrone
Carter, James
Wojnar, Anthony
Williams, Tony
Romine, Ricky
Jean, Gerard
Clark, Tondra
Cordis, Winston
French, Dale
Coker, Barry
Waldrep, Joseph
Jenkins, Larry
Ravenell, Kevin
Encinas, Michael
Belcher, Terry
Rudd, Brian
Newton, James



Last Words by the Editor by J. Elise Van Pool



"You'll shoot you're eye out!" It's the claim of every adult in the movie *A Christmas Story*. Ralphie the eight-year-old boy wants nothing more than a Red Ryder BB gun. The whole movie is filled with Ralphie's antics, the build up to Christmas morning, and his quest for the ultimate Christmas gift.

The reason why I love this movie so much is because it reminds me of the happiness of Christmas—of being with your family, decorating the tree and

enjoying good food together.

Although, most of us will be here rather than with our families there are still things we can do to enjoy the holidays. I for one will be watching *A Christmas Story* on Christmas day, just like I always have for I can't remember how long. I will be enjoying good food and I will be enjoying the company of my Army Family. It won't be exactly home, but it will be good nonetheless. It will be good to stop and appreciate one another and the hard work we all do here.

As we approach Christmas, I hope we can all come

together as an Army Family. I hope we can enjoy the food, decorating our offices, and the laughter that will come from the ugly sweater contest. I hope we can all appreciate one another and enjoy being together. I also hope that no one will shoot their eye out.

Merry Christmas.



Farah Mobile RPAT

