

ON POINT!



CONTENTS

How sweet it is.....Page 3

ANSF extend the bubble.....Page 4

Patrolling with EOD.....Page 6

For Infantry Medics, Training is Key.....Page 8

ABF holds leadership conference.....Page 9

STT-SFAT mentor ANA (Part 1).....Page 10

Photo PagePage 12

ABP lead successful operation.....Page 14

C-IED teams locate roadside bombs.....Page 16

Bringing technology to the frontlines...Page 18

Photo page.....Page 20

Medical simulation center training.....Page 22

District gov. visits FOB Spin Boldak.....Page 23

Forging New Bonds.....Page 24

Border mission critical for future.....Page 26

Chaplain's Corner.....Page 27

Arrowhead Remembers.....Page 28

COVER

An M1126 Stryker armored fighting vehicle, from the 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., conducts overwatch atop a hill in southern Afghanistan while its occupants patrol neighboring villages in the area.

BACK COVER

(Photos by Capt. Marius Dinita, Staff Sgt. Joshua S. Brandenburg and Sgt. Christopher McCullough, Combined Task Force Arrowhead Public Affairs) (Illustration by Spc. Mark Neace)

3-2 SBCT Commander
Col. Charles Webster Jr.

3-2 SBCT Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel G. Murphy

3-2 SBCT Public Affairs Office

Capt Troy Frey.....Public Affairs Officer

Staff Sgt. Joshua S. Brandenburg.....NCOIC/Photo Journalist

Sgt. Christopher G. McCullough.....Photo Journalist/

Layout and Design

Sgt. Nathaniel D. Phillips.....Broadcast Journalist

Spc. Mark E. Neace.....Illustrator

Contributors

Chaplain (Maj.) Edward I. Choi, Capt. Marius Dinita, Capt. Jeff Hickman, Master Sgt. Roger Gonzalez, Sgt. Satya Chhe, Sgt. Brendan Mackie, Sgt. Matt Young, Cpl. Jason Nelson, Senior Airman Joshua Turner

The ON POINT! is a command information magazine authorized for members of the U.S. Army and the 3-2 SBCT community. Contents of the ON POINT are not necessarily the official views of , or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense or Department of the Army. The editorial content of the magazine is the responsibility of the 3-2 SBCT Public Affairs Office. Any story or photo submission should be forwarded to the editor at troy.scott.frey@us.army.mil

How sweet it is

Story and photos by Capt. Jeff Hickman, 117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Farmers from Spin Boldak attended a shura on June 18, 2012, at the District Police Center to discuss ways to better harvest, pack, market and export the area's famous sweet melon crop. This was the first of many events planned that will link farmers and traders.

"The overall air of the shura demonstrated a commitment to economic gain through cooperative engagement and partnership not only with the US government, but with their fellow farmers," stated Steve Tavella, field program officer, United States Agency for International Development. "Despite the challenges that come with any attempt in this environment to change old patterns of behavior, develop new relationships and create new systems...

Discussions at the shura focused on building trade relationships beyond the traditional decades-long Pakistan market, finding new sources of credit and collective problem-solving to enhance wholesale collection of their melon crop during harvest."

With the harvest coming up in about a month, the meeting allowed farmers to exchange ideas, in the context of a cooperative, which will ultimately benefit them as a group for the future.

"With a newly formed farm cooperative operating in the Robat area, there is much more

potential for economic gain among a broader swath of farmers than ever before," Tavella said.

The co-op will also receive help from USAID to construct a small structure to house a packing facility. The funding for the building may come from the Community Horticultural and Marketing Program, but the revenue has not been finalized. Direct input from the farmers at the shura provided recommended dimensions and designs of the building that will meet their standards in regards to a truck loading zone and shading for the fruit.

"This is an important year for the establishment of trade relationships beyond Pakistan that promise new and lasting economic gains for these farmers," said Tavella. "Last year USAID assisted several farmers in exporting 21 metric tons of sweet melons to the United Arab Emirates. That program demonstrated that there is a demand for their product beyond the traditional Pakistan market."

The take-aways and ideas shared



Spin Boldak-area sweet melon farmers held a shura on June 18, 2012, at the District Police Center to discuss better ways to pack, market and export the area's famous crop.

at the shura provide an excellent starting point for the co-op, further bolstering the Spin Boldak sweet melon export strategy. Countries such as India, United Arab Emirates and even Europe were mentioned as export targets.

Future projects for this co-op include two training programs: pest management and the second on sorting, grading and packing for market. The co-op will be getting assistance in acquiring the appropriate packaging and labeling for export, something they were lacking last season. There is still a lot of coordination that needs to be done to update and improve the existing processes, but the future is sweet for the farmers in Spin Boldak.

"As this traditionally disenfranchised tribal area emerges from conflict and tastes the economic benefits of trading with a higher value market," said Tavella.

ANSF extend the bubble and reduce the seam

Story and pictures by
Sgt. Chris McCullough
CTF Arrowhead Public Affairs

Continuing to strengthen their abilities, the Afghan National Army Soldiers led a joint presence patrol with coalition forces through several villages in the Shamulzai district of southern Afghanistan, this past month.

While the ANA from 1st Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps have partnered with Soldiers from Battle Company, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment before, this was the first time that Battle Company had been on any sort of patrol with 2nd Company's Shamulzai detachment in the southern Afghan district of the same name. The mission was planned and directed by 1/2/205th ANA Soldiers who took charge and led the way as they and B/5-20 Inf. visited six villages over the course of two days.

Throughout the patrols the Soldiers of Battle Company took a back-seat and followed the ANA's lead. They watched and evaluated the ANA as they handled their duties with little-to-no U.S. influence.

"They did a good job and, in my opinion, they pushed out to the local populace," said Capt. Joe Mickley, commander, B Co., 5th Battalion 20th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment. "We did several patrols where - we wanted to

create an ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) presence within the villages (the ANA) doesn't normally go to. They did a good job of planning which villages they wanted to go to and then requesting certain kinds of enablers and support from us but obviously taking the lead in those missions."

From the beginning, Battle Company's command group enabled the ANA to take the lead, said 2nd Lt. Matthew Domenech. The ANA's officers-in-charge, notably Capt. Sayed Baba Mansory and Capt. JonBaz, both of 1/2/205 ANA, planned the routes, briefed the plan and then accompanied their Soldiers throughout the two day patrol. Domenech and his Soldiers were always nearby should the ANA have needed help, but they proved themselves capable of executing their plan with little assistance.

Given the language barrier, one would have suspected problems

might occur. However, once the two partners were together on the scene they knew exactly what to do, whether it involved dividing their respective teams up to search the villages - or to come up with one single plan, said Domenech.

"I mainly worked with Lt. (Muhammed) Nabi, the platoon leader from Heavy Weapons Company, and I think he and I had a good working relationship in the past," said Domenech. "We understand each other almost to the point that (we don't need) an interpreter."

Over the course of the two days, ANA and U.S. forces navigated their way across the southern Afghanistan landscape visiting villages that had little to no GIROA or ANSF influence. At the end of the first day, in the village of Samogay, the ANA came across several acres of poppy fields which they got rid of in accordance with Sharia law. It was an important decision

made by Mansory, the Shamulzai detachment OIC, because it sent a strong message to the insurgents.

"It sends a message that ANSF and GIROA (Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan) are going to target the Taliban's financing of their insurgency," said Mickley. "So when they see drugs they're probably going to go after them because - they're illegal in Afghanistan and they're actively going to target that."

The partnered missions were not limited to ANA-U.S. forces either. On the second day of patrols, the Afghan National Police linked up with the 1/2/205th ANA and B/5-20 Inf. Together, the ANA and ANP worked in tandem as they visited four more villages in Shamulzai district; the ANA maintaining security outside the settlements, while the ANP visited with village elders, assessing if they had any needs that required assistance.



Capt. Joe Mickley (right), commander, Battle Company, 5th Battalion 20th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, greets Afghan National Police District Commander, Lt. Shah Khan, Shamulzai District Commander, while on patrol in Sawkray, Afghanistan, May 7, 2012. The ANP's involvement in the security and welfare of villages throughout Afghanistan is necessary to keep insurgents, and their shadow courts, out of the villages.

At the end of the two days, it was said by everybody involved that the partnerships were a success; notably the coalition between the ANA and the ANP - two groups who have overcome problems in the past to come together for the security of Afghanistan.

"The past three days the missions we had were very successful and people do recognize the police here and that they are doing a good job and that they are responsible," said Mansory. "This is my hope that the ANP will go on more patrols (with us) and visit more villages."

Battle Company's commander agreed that their own partnership with the ANA was good.

"All in all, our partnership with both 2nd company and 1st Kandak is good," said Mickley. "When they ran into trouble they asked for

support and we helped them and it was a very good mission."

Good partnerships are important to the welfare of Afghanistan at every level. On the ground, it is very important for the ANA to do as many Afghan-led patrols as possible and improve on minor issues they encounter so that someday soon they can provide their own security without any support from International Security Assistance Forces.

"We have a return trip scheduled (already)," said Mickley. "Our focus of getting the ANSF to conduct targeted operations out there, it's something that's kind of a priority for us, so we will be going back out there to follow up with them and hopefully extend the security bubble between Shinkai and Shamulzai so we reduce the seam that insurgents are allowed to operate in."



Afghan National Army Soldiers from 1st Kandak, 2nd Brigade, 205th Corps, Shinkai district, move into the village of Sowkray, May 7, 2012. The patrol, one of several that week, was planned and directed almost completely from start to finish by 1/2/205th ANA Soldiers who took charge and led the way.



1st Sgt. Talib Hussain (left), 1/2/205 ANA Corps discusses the upcoming patrol with 2nd Lt. Matthew Domenech, 5-20 Infantry, TF 1-14 Cavalary.

Patrolling with EOD one step at a time

Story and photos by Sgt. Matt Young,
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Recent Pentagon reports have shown U.S.-led troop deaths from improvised explosive devices in Afghanistan are dropping sharply even though the numbers of IEDs planted by insurgents are near record levels.

"A few days ago we received word from a local villager that the Taliban have been coming by his house and placing IEDs in the roads, and that he knew the location of two of them and there could possibly be more," said Staff Sgt. Gregory Hoff an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 787th Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, Combined Taskforce Arrowhead explained.

Hoff has been here in the area of Talukan, Afghanistan for only two weeks and already in the past two days has found, disarmed and disposed of 10 improvised explosive devices.

On June 20, 2012 Hoff and his team, Spc. William Rohler and Spc. Jacob Stewart both explosive ordnance disposal technicians with 787th EOD Company teamed up with Soldiers from Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division and a small group of Afghan National Civil Order Police to conduct a foot patrol to speak with the villager and find and dispose of the IEDs.

Before the patrol could make its way to the local villager's house they came upon the first IED. A Soldier with 3rd Platoon at the front of the patrol scouting the area with Hoff using metal detectors came across the IED and then it was time for EOD to take action.

Rohler and Stewart dropped their packs and began to get supplies needed to uncover and retrieve the device, while the rest of the patrol set up security for any other possible threats.

Hoff and his team were able to disarm the IED, thus rendering it safe from being detonated by the enemy.



On June 20, 2012, in southern Afghanistan with the help of an interpreter, Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment and their attachment of Afghan National Civil Order Police speak with a local villager about Taliban activity in the area. On their way to the villagers house the patrols explosive ordnance disposal team from 787th EOD Company found, disarmed and detonated two improvised explosive devices.

"Once we did that I went down and confirmed it was disarmed and collected the pressure plate so we could send it off to a lab to have fingerprints and biometrics tests ran on it to try and figure out who is emplacing the IEDs," explained Hoff.

This turned out to be the case for both IEDs found this day, which were both placed in the road before making it up to where the villager lived.

"Both IEDs that were discovered were no more than 30 meters apart and set in the known foot path of the Soldier's patrols with the pressure plate connected to a plastic jug which was filled with homemade explosives," said Hoff. "When a person walks by and

steps on the pressure plate it completes a circuit and detonates the explosive."

IEDs have become one of the main threats here in Afghanistan, and the insurgents that are putting them out there are getting smarter with how they are making them and where they are being placed.

"We blew the main charges on both IEDs where they were, which is called 'BIP' blow in place, because it's the safest way to go about doing it," explained Hoff.

Once the IED has been taken care of, the EOD team makes their way down to the blast site to conduct post-blast inspection to confirm it is safe for the rest of the patrol to push forward.

"It's actually a relief once we find it so I know where it's at, the most nerve-racking part is actually up there searching and making sure that you don't miss anything," said Hoff.

No other IEDs were found this day but each bomb that is found is not only good for the Soldiers who are out patrolling those streets everyday but also for the locals, their children and livestock who also walk those same paths.

"It's not just my life on the line it's the guys behind me on the patrol," Hoff said.



Staff Sgt. Gregory Hoff an explosive ordnance disposal technician with 787th EOD Company conducts a post blast inspection after finding, disarming and detonating the second improvised explosive device found on a foot patrol June 20, 2012 in southern Afghanistan..

For Infantry Medics, Training is Key to Saving Lives

Story and pictures by
Sgt. Chris McCullough
CTF Arrowhead Public Affairs

Soldiers in Afghanistan go to great lengths to prevent being injured. Sometimes, though, even their best efforts are not enough and a vehicle is struck by an improvised explosive device or Soldier is injured by small arms fire, at which point, combat medics spring into action and apply their training in order to save the Soldier's life, limbs or eyesight.

A combat medic's ability to take action and save lives, in what are often chaotic scenarios, is the culmination of years of instruction that usually begins in their Advanced Individual Training, which follows basic training. The classes for medics include trauma based training such as the BCT3 - brigade combat team trauma training - prior to being sent to their unit, explained Sgt. Michael Hood, Senior Line Medic for Battle Company, 5th Battalion 20th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1st Squadron 14th Cavalry Regiment. The BCT3 provides instruction on tactical combat casualty care for combat medics assigned to brigade combat teams. The training focuses on controlling bleeding, treating chest wounds and their associated problems, and clearing airway obstructions.

Once at their unit, a medic's training does not stop. In addition to their usual academic training, medics routinely go over their skills by means of mock casualty scenarios which are designed to create a more realistic situation, explained Hood. Such training

prepares them for their annual verification process, called Table 8, which is designed to replicate a battle setting where their medical skills would be needed

"Table 8 is a skills verification that they do in conjunction with our EMT (Emergency Medical Technician) recertification training where you have to demonstrate all of your skills," said Spc. Michael Henchen another of Battle Company's line medics. "The training involves a team of two medics entering a darkened room where their ability to triage and treat several simulated casualties is tested in a timed exercise, explained Henchen. The key to passing Table 8 is communication," Henchen added.

Yet medics cannot be everywhere all the time which is why they count on Combat Lifesavers, who are non-medical Soldiers trained to provide advanced first aid and life-saving procedures beyond the level of self-aid or buddy aid.

CLS training is provided to other Soldiers, by the medics them-

selves, in a week long class. It is not designed to take the place of medical personnel, explains Hood, but allows Soldiers to provide immediate care to a wounded Soldier's condition until medics arrive. The focus of such training largely centers on what is referred to as MARCHH; Massive bleeding, airway, respiration, circulation, head trauma and head to toe injuries.

They get the background on (MARCHH) over the first three days and the last two days we ... do a lot of hands on," explained Hood.

The training a medic goes through is pretty much nonstop. If they are not training themselves, they are providing it to other non-medical Soldiers. While there may be a lot of training, the medics of Battle Company feel it is worth it in the end when their training enables them to save lives, and at the end of the day that is all that matters.



A medevac helicopter takes off following an improvised explosive device strike against an Afghan National Army vehicle, May 8, 2012. Because of the quick response and treatment by medics from 5-20 Infantry, TF 1-14 Cavalry, the two ANA Soldiers affected lived.

Afghan Border Police holds leadership conference

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brendan Mackie
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

More than 100 members of the Afghan National Security Force and the International Security Assistance Force attended a 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police commander's conference, May 26.

The conference highlighted overall zone operations, personnel issues, logistics and communications of the 3rd Zone ABP, which is the main force at checkpoints along the border in southern Afghanistan.

"The security status and situation of Afghanistan is getting better day by day," said Afghan Brig. Gen. Tafseer Khan, commander of the 3rd Zone ABP. "We are doing very well but there is way more ahead and many things to take care of."

Besides discussing logistical issues, Afghan leadership spoke about their ambitions and future operations of the 3rd Zone ABP.

"Throughout our mid-term cycle we will be able to defeat insurgents, Taliban and smugglers," added Khan. "If not, at least we will be able to reduce the number of their activities."

The long-term goals and objectives of the 3rd Zone ABP include the defeat of the Taliban, increasing the capabilities at border checkpoints, and providing more training and education for all border police members.

"To reach all of these goals and objectives, our staff needs to



Approximately 100 members of the Afghan National Security Force and International Security Assistance Force gathers for a 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police commander's conference at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak, May 26, 2012.

benefit from this opportunity and become one team," said Khan. "As a result of all these developments, the 3rd Zone ABP will become a role model for other regions and zones."

Although the ANSF is spearheading border operations, Khan recognized his goals wouldn't be possible without the support from ISAF members who are aiding in the country's stabilization.

"All of these national and international interests will be achieved with the help of ISAF," said Khan, "so we can move forward and have the ability to stand on our own feet."

Australian Army Brig. Gen. Chris Field, deputy commander for force development of Regional Command-South, spoke accolades about accomplishments made by the local ABP.

"You are here on the border, and you are responsible for stopping the insurgents trying to do harm on the people of Afghanistan, and

you do a very good job," said Field. "It's now the professionalization of your forces which will continue to make things better."

The ABP's strength, posture and vigilance are especially important; their armed forces are the first show-of-force encountered but anyone crossing the border into Afghanistan. They are part of the larger Afghan National Police and fall under control of the Afghan Ministry of Interior Affairs. The border police are responsible for enforcing immigration and custom regulations along the border and at the country's international airports.

"The things you do here impact the police in Kandahar. It impacts the ANA further inside your country," added Johnston. "Thank you for your leadership and thank you for bringing freedom to your country."

STT-SFAT mentor ANA to employ an Afghan solution to an Afghan problem

Story and pictures by
Sgt. Chris McCullough
CTF Arrowhead Public Affairs

Part 1 of 2 - It is safe to say that after 11 years the focus of the war in Afghanistan has evolved from a conflict led and fought by International Security Assistance Forces, with a focus on brigade combat teams completing missions, to a more Afghan-centric struggle where the Afghan National Security Forces are responsible for their own country's security. In effect, the emphasis both in the field and on the forward operating bases here has shifted to the security force assistance teams, or SFATs, which appear to be the answer to getting the bulk of American Soldiers out of Afghanistan after a decade of war. But what exactly is an SFAT and why has the attention turned to them?

"The security force assistance team is a team organized of subject matter experts - commanders, senior noncommissioned officers and officers, personnel (and) logistics - (whose) mission here in Afghanistan is to enable the Afghan security forces, primarily the police and the army that we're working with, to be able to ultimately take control and lead into independent operations," explained Lt. Col. Chuck Rush, commander, 1st Battalion 8th Infantry Regiment and (SFAT) team leader for the brigade advisory team that covers down on the 2nd (Kandak) of the 205th (Afghan National Army) Corps in Zabul province.

The SFATs, though new in their current form, have roots in the original transition teams concept developed and implemented earlier in Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom. Those 11-man teams, first developed in 2006, worked with Iraqi and Afghan units in battle spaces overseen by U.S. or International Security Assistance Forces, but often reported to a different chain of command.

The idea behind the foregone transition teams was to advise the security forces of Iraq and Afghanistan in the areas of intelligence, communications, fire support, logistics, operations and infantry tactics. Though the models are similar, there are notable differences between the Military Transition Team model and the SFAT concept, said Rush, of Hutchinson, Kansas. One such idea is to maintain continuity and unit cohesion to some extent by selecting senior officers and noncommissioned officers from the same brigade.

"What's really different about SFAT versus the MiTT model of old (is) instead of taking a team and piecing it together from across the Army, and giving them a multi-month train-up at Fort Riley or Fort Polk, the Army moved in the direction of taking a brigade combat team ... and making us the lead BCT for this organization," said Rush. "Then from that (the) brigade commander tasks each of the battalions to field police and army teams based on the requirement (from ISAF)."

It is that tasking from the brigade commander that dictates how the SFAT is organized by duty position and rank. For instance, an ANSF commander at the brigade level would be advised by a U.S. Army lieutenant colonel, while a lower ranking ANSF commander at the battalion level would be advised by a U.S. Army captain. The same could be said with regard to positions. If the battle space owner feels an expert in logistics or communications is needed in their province, then U.S. Soldiers with those skillsets would be allocated to one or more of the SFATs.

Another unique aspect of the SFAT concept is the way it incorporates the numerous roles of the independent transition teams - Military, Police and Border Transition Teams - into one team. So instead of several different transition teams advising various branches of ANSF, one SFAT advises them all, though different SFAT teams advise different divisions of ANSF. In Zabul province, for instance, there are 10 such teams that mentor either the Afghan National Police or the ANA but not both.

To accomplish this mission, the SFATs are trained to work with and alongside ANSF from the onset, notably during their train-up at Joint Readiness Training Center, Fort Polk, La.

"They've had a tremendous amount of training in the United States," said Sgt. Major Joseph Marra, the Zabul province



Capt. Matt Yarnell (right), commander, Security Force Assistance Team 22, Forward Operating Base Lagman, talks with an Afghan National Policeman from the Qalat district. SFATs are teams of organized subject matter experts whose mission in Afghanistan is to enable the Afghan security forces, primarily the police and the army, to be able to take control and lead into independent operations. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Satya Chhe)

stabilization and transition team senior noncommissioned officer-in-charge and senior advisor, who assists the numerous SFATs. "They've been down to JRTC which has a wonderful advisor school that is spot-on with the key leader engagements and dealing with the Afghan military and Afghan police. They have all the tools necessary to be successful."

The STT-SFAT training at JRTC focused on key leader engagements, language training and cultural awareness and once in the field the SFATs are able to incorporate into their formula the use of non-lethal effects that are actions that designed not to kill. Primary contributors of NLE are civil affairs, public affairs, information operations and military information support operations. As well, SFATs have been known to utilize civil-

military operations as well. Previously, such operations have included building schools, upgrading water plants or improving thoroughfares, all of which are "a big, big deal over here," said Marra.

Non-lethal operations training is aimed at training ANSF to focus on effecting the manner in which Afghan people think and to help them understand how the insurgency's actions affects the Afghan people. In essence, it enables ANSF to demonstrate to the people unequivocally, "that the new government is working and that their lives are better than before," said Marra. Non-lethal effects are designed to gain the backing of the Afghan people who otherwise would not be inclined to support the government and would instead back the insurgency.

"If the government can show they can do things in a secure environment ... that's a big powerful tool that takes away the power that the insurgents have," Marra said. "(The insurgent's) message is 'the government can't protect you and we can help you solve your disputes quicker and better.' (ANSF) can counter that message until (the insurgents) either leave the area or they decide to talk to the government and say 'you know what, we want to become part of that because it looks good to us.'"



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chris McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chris McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chris McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chris McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chris McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brendan Mackie



ROU photo by Capt. Marius Dinita

Afghan Border Police lead successful operation in southern Afghanistan

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brendan Mackie
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Afghan Border Police and International Security Assistance Force members participated in Operation Southern Strike II in the Spin Boldak district, June 2 to June 16.

The operation, led by the 3rd Kandak of the ABP, focused on interacting with the local populous as well as disrupting enemy formations in the vicinity of major passes in the area.

"The major areas of focus were the Ganjitsu Pass, then the P'sha Pass and obviously the Wonake or Enjergay Pass," said Capt. Sean Nolan, commander of Company

C, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division. "These are the major passes in our area that the enemy uses to push supplies and equipment and men through to support their fight both in the Spin Boldak area and in Afghanistan proper."

During the operation, 17 insurgents were killed, four suspects were detained and numerous caches of explosives and weapons were discovered.

Among the recovered contraband includes more than 1,400 pounds of explosives, 19 personnel mines, 12 pressure plates, four rifles, two rocket launchers, two directional fragmentation charges, one pistol and numerous rounds of

ammunition.

Miscellaneous components of improvised explosive devices also recovered include 12 cell phones, 13 power sources, eight blasting caps, eight motorcycles, 18 feet of detonation cord and 50 feet of lamp cord.

Although these statistics are important, the biggest accomplishment resides in the performance by the ABP, said Nolan.

"This was our first major operation with them and we were unsure how things would go at a larger level," he continued. "It was just impressive on all ends."



A member of the Afghan Border Police breaks a lock on an abandoned building during Operation Southern Strike II in southern Afghanistan, June 6, 2012. The ABP-led operation focused on disrupting enemy formations in the vicinity of major passes, as well as positive interactions with the local populous.

During the operation the ABP was able to provide a continuous level of support to include providing themselves with water, food, fuel as well as the ability to perform at a tactical and strategic level not seen before in this district.

"I was very impressed by them," he continued. "What was really exciting to see, as the operation commenced, [was when] they took more and more of a lead role."

Early in the operation, the ABP and ISAF forces exploited areas that were identified through intelligence sources. In those villages, locals were able to provide the ABP with valuable information about the enemy and their movements.

"By midway to the end they [ABP] were pointing out objectives," Nolan added. "They were taking the lead and telling us, 'we need to go here and do this and that,' to the point where we were actually having to hold them back to coordinate assets. It was very impressive to see them really take leadership and ownership within their own area."

Looking forward, the biggest thing to understand is how ready the Afghans are in taking over the mission, said Nolan.

"They're just looking for us to enable them to win," he said. "It's no longer the old days of us having to drag them to the objective and show them what right looks like. They want to go. They know

where to go. They know what to do when they get there." Although this was the first operation between Nolan's company and the local ABP, he looks forward to the next installment.

"It excites me for the remainder of my tenure here, and our tenure here as a company, knowing that we have partners who are just chomping at the bit, and all we've got to do is enable their success, and that's really where we want to be."



Staff Sgt. Jose Rivera, weapons squad leader, directs one of his gun teams during Operation Southern Strike II near Ganjitsu, Afghanistan, June 5, 2012. All are Soldiers from 3rd Platoon, Company C, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, based out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

C-IED teams locate roadside bombs using metal detectors on steroids

Story and pictures by
Sgt. Chris McCullough
CTF Arrowhead Public Affairs

The joint Afghan National Army-U.S. forces counter improvised explosive device team of seven Soldiers walked down the dusty rural road in Shamulzai district, Afghanistan, ahead of their convoy; scanning the route with their eyes for subtle clues that might help them visually identify an IED hidden on the road. When they see nothing, they verify as much by sweeping the same area with their VMR-2 MineHound and VMC-1 Gizmo metal detectors in a slow precise manner before walking ahead.

"We walked a good four and a half (kilometers at the) front of the whole convoy because we had just recently been hit with an IED on the route back to (FOB Sweeney),"

said Staff Sgt. Antonio Barajas, 3rd platoon, 5th Battalion, 20th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1st Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, out of Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. "All seven of us had Gizmos and MineHounds (and were) out there clearing the whole road so the rest of the convoy could make it back to FOB Sweeney safely."

"The Gizmo is just an easy (to use) metal detector used to identify metal or you can switch it to minerals," explained Barajas when asked to describe the two devices used that day.

"It's a lot like the metal detectors you see men on the beach with, but on steroids," said one of his Soldiers, Pfc. Niko Williams, also from 3rd platoon, 5-20 Infantry, Task Force 1-14 Cavalry.

The use of such gadgetry has been a blessing to both ANA and International Security Assistance Forces in Afghanistan. For Barajas and his team, the MineHound's ground penetrating radar enabled them to discover a secondary IED earlier in the day, prior to the IED strike on their convoy. That IED was only a hundred meters forward of the one that hit them. Without the MineHound, there stood a chance Barajas' team may have missed that roadside bomb.

The VMR-2 MineHound and VMC-1 Gizmo metal detectors, by Vallon, are "the current state-of-the-art technology dual sensor detectors capable of detecting Command Wires, Non-Metallic and Low-Metallic Signature IEDs using Ground Penetrating Radar" according their product description online. "In addition to

GPR, the MineHound uses Vallon's advanced Metal Detector sensor, which is the same MD sensor used in Vallon's VMC1 Gizmo detector to find both metallic and non-metallic threats."

The Vallon Company claims to have more than 2,000 MineHound detectors currently in use in Afghanistan. However many are here, they - along with the Gizmo - have become an invaluable item in finding IEDs and weapons caches before they can be used against ANA or ISAF forces.

The use of the MineHound and Gizmo detectors started with combat engineers and explosive ordnance disposal personnel, but they are now issued to non-EOD units such as Battle Company 5-20 Infantry to aid in the discovery of IEDs and weapons caches.

Since the onset of the Afghan War in 2001, homemade bombs have increasingly become the insurgent's choice of weapon here in Afghanistan and certainly their most effective weapon. Almost 60 percent of all coalition forces wounded or killed in Afghanistan since the start of the war in 2001 have been due to IEDs, according to a May 2011 report from the Joint Improvised Explosive Device Defeat Organization, a U.S. Department of Defense organization located in Washington D.C.

To complicate matters, insurgents in Afghanistan have been increasingly constructing IEDs to circumvent simple metal



Staff Sgt. Anthony Shaw, (left) 787th Ordnance Company, 3rd Ordnance Battalion, uses a VMR-2 MineHound to search for possible secondary improvised explosive devices following an earlier incident. The MineHound's ground penetrating radar allows operators to locate IEDs that may otherwise not be found by the naked eye.

detectors. Some IEDs contain rudimentary materials such as wooden boards, foam rubber, and plastic containers. The finished product contains very little metal making it difficult for a traditional metal detector to pick up, but not for the MineHound with its ground penetrating radar.

Increasingly compact, collapsible, light-weight metal detectors, such as the MineHound and Gizmo, are finding IEDs with more frequency than ever before, all of which has reduced the number of injuries or deaths to Afghan civilians, ANA and ISAF troops. In the hands of an infantry platoon, or similar-type unit, they are also being used to find weapons caches which often provide the insurgency with ample arms to fight for weeks or months.

"In the orchards (the MineHound and Gizmo are) good because

that's where they often hide the caches," said Barajas. "So far we've found two caches with the Gizmo and Mine Hounds, and also with the ANA helping us out with their resources."

Without doubt, improved technological devices such as the VMR-2 MineHound and VMC-1 Gizmo metal detectors are helping coalition troops across Afghanistan.

"It helps a lot when we're in the orchards or going through the towns when we use the Gizmos and Mine Hounds because it also allows if something does get missed by sight it will pick it up," said Williams. "That's what makes the Gizmo and Mine Hound so important," said Williams. "It helps make sure people are not being taken out of the fight ... (that) you're keeping them in," said Williams.



Pfc. Nikko Williams, 3rd Platoon, Battle Company, 5th Battalion 20th Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1st Squadron 14th Cavalry Regiment, uses a Minehound to search for weapons caches in an orchard outside the village of Sowkay Tangay, Afghanistan, May 7, 2012.

Bringing technology to the frontlines as easy as 1-2-3

Story and photos by Sgt. Matt Young,
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers on the frontlines all throughout Afghanistan are using a device called the HIIDE, which stands for hand-held interagency identity detection equipment, on a daily basis during patrols.

This device can accomplish a number of tasks used to identify an individual. It can scan the individual's retinas and fingerprints, and also take the persons picture. This information along with personal data such as name, province, district and reason for enrollment goes into a file that can be uploaded into

a database to help identify any persons of interest.

Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Bravo Co. 1st Brigade 23rd Infantry Regiment, here in southern Afghanistan, are one of the many elements that employ the HIIDE during each patrol they go on.

"This patrol was mainly to engage the local populous and talk with them about any insurgent activity and to deny the insurgents the freedom of movement in the area of Naib Kalay and Fukiran," said 1st Lt. Alexander Wingate platoon leader of 1st Platoon, Bravo Co. 1-23 Infantry Regiment.

The device is light weight, quick and small enough to fit in a Soldiers pack without slowing him or her down. It has replaced the 'old-days' tactics of a point and shoot camera for pictures and trying to write down information about the individual which was a very time consuming task while trying to conduct missions.

"It helps you keep track of local villagers and lets you know how successful you've been as far as engaging the local population," said Wingate.

Since being integrated into patrols here in Afghanistan the HIIDE has



Sgt. Michael Towey, a Soldier with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment, enrolls a local villager with the handheld interagency identity detection equipment in the Naib Kalay area of Afghanistan June 23, 2012. The HIIDE system scans an individual's biographical information and stores it in a database and allows Soldiers to identify whether or not the individual is on a watch list.

been used to enroll hundreds of thousands of individuals into a large database, making it possible for all military services to keep track of many of the Afghan

people. The local Afghan people do not have birth certificates or social security cards, so it's rare that any of them have any form of identification at all.

part of any type of insurgency where evidence was collected and fingerprints were taken it would pop up on the HIIDE and that individual would be detained.



Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment and their attachment of Afghan National Civil Order Police search 12 males found in a compound in the Naib Kalay area of Afghanistan June 23, 2012. After being searched the individuals will be enrolled into a database using the handheld interagency identity detection equipment.

"Everyone in the platoon has been trained and is capable of operating the HIIDE, it's an easy to operate great piece of technology," explained Wingate.

"It has become a standard now, that if we talk to someone while out on a patrol we will enroll them into the HIIDE system," Wingate said.

When a Soldier on patrol finds and collects evidence such as weapons, cell phones, bomb making materials or even improvised explosive devices, they are sent off to labs to get as much information from them as possible. Fingerprints are a big help if there is any found on whatever was collected. The fingerprints are stored in a database so that if a person were to be enrolled into the HIIDE system and happened to be a

With the number of individuals being enrolled increasing each day, it is becoming easier for the Soldier to identify insurgents.



Sgt. Michael Towey, a Soldier with 1st Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion 23rd Infantry Regiment, takes a retinal scan of a local villager with the handheld interagency identity detection equipment in the Naib Kalay area of Afghanistan June 23, 2012. The HIIDE system scans an individual's biographical information and stores it in a database and allows Soldiers to identify whether or not the individual is on a watch list.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chris McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matt Young



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Satya Chhe



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Chris McCullough



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Brendan Mackie



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Joshua Brandenburg

Medical simulation center provides harsh training realities

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brendan Mackie
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

The feedback students receive at the Medical Simulation Training Center from the site's realistic mannequins can be very harsh and exacting.

If students don't apply a tourniquet properly or open an airway quickly in training scenarios, an "injured" mannequin with simulated vital signs can quickly deteriorate into a "lifeless" mannequin.

Experiencing a simulated death can be a tough lesson for a student. But it's better to experience the lesson on a training site than the battle field, said Gerald Smith, MSTC site leader.

"The training here is special

because it features realistic scenarios for students," said Smith. "We feature \$50,000 medical mannequins that breathe and bleed just like a real person." Smith teaches all service members here life-saving skills ranging from standard Combat Life Saver courses to advanced, battle-simulated medical training.

"Our training allows medical personnel to practice realistic treatments on life-like mannequin casualties that breathe and bleed," said Smith.

"[A] training [facility] like this is rare, especially in Afghanistan." Aside from this MSTC, Bagram is the only other location in Afghanistan that has a MSTC. There were six MSTCs throughout Afghanistan but only two remain

due to troop draw downs, Smith said.

Smith trains about 250-300 service members each week but said the MSTC had the capability to train even more troops each week. The MSTC can also validate medical certificates for emergency medical trainers and medical providers. Smith and the MSTC's staff provide a curriculum that balances the basics as well as the latest battlefield techniques. Smith emphasized the center is eager to share important medical-treatment knowledge with all service branches. "We are here to support everyone," Smith said. "The opportunities for unique, high-quality training exist here. Some units just don't know who we are and what we have to offer."



From left, Spc. Larry Harper of the 209th Aviation Support Battalion, Spc. Martin A. Cardenas, Sgt. Raul Zepeda and 2nd Lt. Andre Mathews Sr. of the 57th Expeditionary Signal Battalion (right), transport a simulated casualty during medical training at the Medical Simulation Training Center at Kandahar Airfield, June 14. Kandahar Airfield features one of only two Medical Simulation Training Centers in Afghanistan.

New district governor visits FOB Spin Boldak



Mohammad Hashim Agha, the new district governor, Spin Boldak, greets Col. Gary Johnston, commander, 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Combined Task Force Viper, at Forward Operating Base Spin Boldak, May 15, 2012.

Story and photos by
Sgt. Brendan Mackie
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Mohammad Hashim Agha, the new district governor of Spin Boldak, met with Col. Gary Johnston, commander of the 504th Battlefield Surveillance Brigade, Combined Task Force Viper, and other key leaders during a district security shura here May 15.

The district security shura focuses on security issues and trying to get at mutual concerns of security and government processes," said Johnston, outgoing commander of Combined Task Force Viper. "The new governor brings new energy and the right vision to move the mission forward."

During the shura, Agha also met Col. Alden Saddlemire, deputy commander of the area's Security Force Assistance Team, and Johnston's successor, Lt. Col. Timothy Davis, commander, 1st Battalion, 17th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division.

"I have no doubt you will be successful," said Saddlemire to Agha, "because you bring a lot of good qualities to this job."

During the shura, Agha spoke about his vision of the future of Spin Boldak, including concerns with the various local tribes. "There is a very sensitive relationship between tribes [in Kandahar province] but specifically the small sub tribes

here in Spin Boldak are different from Kandahar if you look at it from a different angle," said Agha. "Since we have a good understanding of that, we will be successful in keeping that balance."

As district governor, Agha replaces Abdul Ghani, whom completed his three-year term this month.

Forging New Bonds

Story and photos by Cpl. Jason Nelson
Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul

An Air Force Staff Sergeant stands at attention after being promoted in front of his Provincial Reconstruction Team and begins to recite the Air Force Creed. Dozens of voices strongly join in, while many of the PRT warriors remain conspicuously silent. One of the warriors who remains quiet is the man directly behind the Staff Sergeant, even though he was responsible for reading the promotion warrant.



U.S. Air Force Lieutenant Colonel Marc Sheie, Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul Commander, speaks with a village elder in northern Qalat, May 16, 2012. Colonel Sheie spoke with the village elder to help assess the quality of water for a future project. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Turner)

“That is probably the hardest part of merging services into one unit,” says Army Sgt. Major Ronald Morse, from Las Vegas, and a member of the National Guard’s 421st Regimental Training Institute. “The difference in ceremonies, awards and promotions is distinct.”

Sgt. Maj. Morse, a former armor company 1st Sergeant and veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, has one of the most difficult positions in the PRT that is assigned to Zabul province,

Afghanistan. An integrated team of Air Force and Army personnel and civilian agencies, the PRT has the responsibility of assisting the Zabul provincial government as it moves towards transition.



U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Ronald Morse, Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul, congratulates U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Danielle Sweat during the PRT’s recent patch ceremony. Part of his responsibility is to find a way to blend the traditions of the two branches of service which make up the unit. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Turner)



U.S. Army Sergeant Major Ronald Morse, Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul Sergeant Major, and U.S. Army Master Sergeant Doten James, Agriculture Development Team, discuss potential areas for a future project May 16, 2012 in northern Qalat. The U.S. and Romanians joined forces to assess security and irrigation in the village. (U.S. Air Force photo by Senior Airman Joshua Turner)

As the top enlisted man in the unit, his job is to advise the commander regarding the enlisted personnel in the unit. “There is a balance that needs to be struck between the two service philosophies,” says Morse. “Whether it is counseling, awards or their different approaches to a project, each service has a unique way of doing things.”

Having served four years in the Air Force, Sgt. Maj. Morse knows of those differences. One of the main things, he believes, is that while the Army acts as a team, the Air Force is more like a family.

“But even though there is that difference,” Morse adds, “I believe that both services do their best to make sure that their people are able to succeed.”

Ensuring that each service member is put in a position to excel is of vital importance considering the unique mission that the PRT has to accomplish.

“It’s our job to make sure that the provincial government can stand on its own two feet long after we are gone,” Morse says. “We are helping them expand the reach of that governance, and supporting their efforts to help their own people here in Zabul will increase the odds that they succeed in the long run. By utilizing everyone to their full potential, we are also being more effective in that mission.”

All members of the PRT have needed to take on extra responsibilities during the deployment, and many are

operating outside of their own areas of expertise. However, Sgt. Maj. Morse says that all of the warriors have been quick to embrace the work, staying motivated throughout the process.

“I have been impressed by their willingness to adapt and do anything it takes to meet our goals,” Morse adds. “This is a great group of people who continually rise to any challenge.”

But when asked if he would take on the challenge of learning the Air Force creed for future ceremonies, Morse responded in the way only a Sergeant Major could; with a steady and silent stare.

Border mission critical for future of Afghanistan

Story and Photos by
Sgt. Brendan Mackie
117th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Afghan National Security Force liaisons and International Security Assistance Force members at the Joint Border Coordination Center are working to ensure peace and stability along a 1,100-kilometer stretch of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border. They battle insurgent smuggling operations using words – not weapons. Through effective communication between security forces on both sides of the border, the JBCC works to ensure a stable future for Afghanistan.

“I believe the contributions of the team here, as well as all of our ANSF partners and ISAF here, has put Afghanistan on an irreversible path of progress,” said Maj. Gen. Jim Huggins, commander of the Regional Command-South and the 82nd Airborne Division. “Under the most trying circumstances, we are working with our Afghan brothers and our Pakistani friends, trying to keep tensions down here so we can continue to provide regional stability for this part of the world.”

The JBCC here, one of only two such locations in the country, was established in October 2009 with the mission to communicate information about near border operations with various forces, which include the Afghanistan Border Police, Afghanistan National Army and Pakistan military.

“My primary goal is to facilitate transition of the JBCC, into an

AFPAK Border Coordination Center,” said Col. John H. Burke, director of the JBCC. “As we all look to see Afghans in the lead, it is imperative that I seek to improve direct communications between ANSF and PAKMIL forces conducting near border operations.”

According to Burke, two key players in this transition are Afghan Col. Abdul Khalil of the border police and Afghan Lt. Col. Sayed Asadi of the army.

“Both are senior liaison officers for their respective services and act as the JBCC’s communications link to their service,” said Burke. “Col. Khalil is especially important as the 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police are the major force here on the RC-S border with Pakistan.”

In an organization focused on ensuring situational awareness across the AFPAK border and determined to eliminate Taliban

smuggling and other illegal operations, Khalil and Asadi are critical assets.

“Both are very respected by their peers and come with a wealth of experience,” said Burke. “They work diligently and professionally and are fine examples of what Afghan officers can aspire to be.”

Progress sometimes means that Burke and his team are not always part of the decision making process between Khalil, Asadi and their PAKMIL partners across the border.

Along the border, solid coordinated efforts and effective communication will only benefit the peace and prosperity of both Afghanistan and Pakistan. Both countries rely on revenues generated through commercial travel across the border.



Maj. Gen. Jim Huggins, commander of Regional Command-South and the 82nd Airborne Division, meets with Lt. Col. Sayed Asadi of the Afghan National Army (center), and Col. Abdul Khalil of the 3rd Zone Afghan Border Police, outside the Joint Border Coordination Center at FOB Kostel, May 17, 2012.

Chaplain's Corner

As we are in the summer season, the temperature here in Afghanistan is getting really hot. Currently the average high is 100 plus degrees and to think that it will get hotter by July and August seems unbearable. Just like the hot temperature life could get really “hot”. Life is full of challenges and obstacles. In the Bible it tells us that life is full of problems and warns us to expect tough times but also encourages us to be courageous in the face of adversity and to trust him.

In Ephesians 6:10-13, Paul reveals that the real battle happens in the spiritual realm; and if we rely on our own strength and talent, we will be defeated. Our fight isn't really against other people. We have an enemy who will do everything he can to steal, kill, and destroy. If he can discourage you, he will. If he can divide us, he will. If he can cause doubt and disbelief, he will.

The battle is won or lost by those who rely on the power of God and who: Expect it. Jesus says, “In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world” (John 16:33). Better still, He promises peace right in the middle of the battle.

The only way to prepare for and stand up to a spiritual battle is to put on the spiritual armor as mentioned in Ephesians 6: 14-20:

Be true. Wear the Belt of Truth. This belt holds together all the other parts of the armor. When

you practice integrity and have a clear conscience, you can have no fear. You never have to look over your shoulder or wonder when a lie will catch up to you.

Be right. Put on the Breastplate of Righteousness. True righteousness only comes when your heart is made right by faith in Christ. His forgiveness is forever, but asking for forgiveness for your sin each day keeps this protection in place.

Be ready. Slip on the Shoes of the Gospel. When you wear these shoes, it means you are ready to share your faith in Christ. You seek opportunities to live out your faith and show others the love of God.

Be sure. Carry the Shield of Faith. The shield was typically large (4 ft by 2 ft) and could be interlocked with the shields of other Soldiers to form a nearly impenetrable barrier. Faith protects you from the fiery darts of the enemy.

Be smart. Place the Helmet of Salvation upon your head. The helmet protects your mind and the way you think. You need to continually renew your mind if you want to have a transformed life (Rom. 12:1-12). When you get to know His word and put it into practice, you are unlikely to fall into negativity, pessimism, criticism, and complaint. A positive attitude rooted in His truth and the assurance of eternal life brings peace in the midst of the storm.



Be stilled. Swing the Sword of the Spirit. When you know the Word of God, He brings verses to mind right when you need them most. Then you can't be led away by false teaching. Jesus used God's Word to address the attacks and temptations of the Devil in the wilderness, and you can do the same.

Do you expect the heat? Are you ready for it? And will you stand against it?

-Chaplain (Maj.) Edward I. Choi, 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division

Arrowhead Remembers



MA2 Sean E. Brazas

Sean Edward Brazas was born on May 1st, 1986 in Greensboro, NC.

Sean entered active duty on August 17th, 2006 and reported for Recruit Training at Naval Recruit Training Command, Great Lakes, Illinois.

After completing Recruit Training and Master-at-Arms "A" School; he reported to his first command; Naval Security Forces, Naval Support Activity Souda Bay, Crete.

In March 2008, Sean transferred to Maritime Expeditionary Unit Seven

based in Guam. Due to his outstanding performance, he was hand selected to attend Military Working Dog (MWD) school at Lackland Air Force Base, San Antonio, Texas.

MA2 Brazas was awarded the Purple Heart, Army Commendation Medal, Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Good Conduct Medal. Petty Officer Brazas is survived by his wife Allie Marie Brazas, stepdaughter Addison, father Edward Brazas, mother Patricia Brazas and sister Kelly Nance.



Cpl. Bryant Luxmore

CPL Bryant Luxmore, born in Illinois, joined the US Army in April 2011 as an Infantryman. He was assigned to Fort Benning, Georgia where he completed basic combat training and AIT. He arrived at Ft. Stewart, GA to the 1st Battalion, 64th Armor Regiment in August 2011.

CPL Bryant Luxmore was a young, dedicated Soldier who showed much promise for a bright future. He will be remembered as a Hero to a grateful nation, his fellow Soldiers and the Bayonet family.

He is posthumously awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and Combat Infantryman Badge.

His other awards include Army Commendation Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal with Campaign Star, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal (ISAF).

He is survived by his wife Jamie, his stepson Lane, his parents Leonard & Brenda, and his brother Brock.





Sgt. Joseph Lilly

SGT Joseph Lilly, born in Michigan, joined the US Army in July 2005 as a Combat Engineer. He arrived at Joint Base Lewis McCord, WA to the 18th Engineer Company, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment in March 2009 and deployed to Iraq with the Sappers in August 2009. He will forever be remembered by his Soldiers, his unit, and the United States Army as a beacon of courage, bravery and above all, sacrifice.

His awards include: the Purple Heart (1 OLC), Bronze Star Medal, Army Commendation Medal (1 OLC), Army

Achievement Medal, Army Good Conduct Medal (2 knots), National Defense Service Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, Iraq Campaign Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Korean Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon (numeral 3), the NATO Medal, the Combat Action Badge, Driver and Mechanic Badge and Marksmanship Badge.

He is survived by his wife Katrina, his son Alexander and his father Michael.



Spc. Trevor Pinnick

SPC Trevor Pinnick, born in Virginia, joined the US Army in August 2010 as a Combat Engineer. He went to Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri, where he completed basic combat training and AIT. He arrived at Joint Base Lewis McCord, WA to the 18th Engineer Company, 1st Battalion, 37th Field Artillery Regiment in December 2010.

SPC Pinnick was an inspiring young man, a dedicated Soldier, and a tremendous asset to the United States Army. He will be remembered by his fellow Soldiers as a hero who gave all for his

country. His awards include the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, Army Good Conduct Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, Overseas Service Ribbon, NATO Medal, Combat Action Badge and Marksmanship Badge.

He is survived by his wife Martha, his daughter Melody, his parents Thomas and Nancy and his brother Thomas Jr.





ARROWHEAD

On Point!