

# STEEL PRESS

Vol. 1, Issue 5

JULY 2012



## INSIDE AFGHANISTAN



BEST JOB IN ARMY

THE RIGHT COMBINATION

GOING GREEN  
WITH 233RD TC

SHADOW RUN

GETTING UP CLOSE & PERSONNEL

COR - AFGHAN TRUCKING CO.





# LETTER FROM THE

# 113TH SB PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

One Team!

Hello, Steel Brigade Soldiers, and a special hello to the friends and family members of the 113th Sustainment Brigade. Welcome back to the Steel Brigade's Magazine - the Steel Press.

This month's issue is focused on a trip that a team (right) from the public affairs office took to visit the Soldiers from the 113th Sustainment Brigade that are supporting Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

I'd like to recommend that you take a look at our two social media pages on the web: [facebook.com/113thsb](https://www.facebook.com/113thsb) and [flickr.com/photos/113thsb](https://www.flickr.com/photos/113thsb). Please tell your family, friends and employers to check out our social media sites and register with our family readiness coordinators to receive this and future newsletters. The 113th SB family readiness coordinator is Ms. Sandra Tanner, who can be reached via email at [sdptanner@aol.com](mailto:sdptanner@aol.com). Our unit's State National Guard family support coordinator is Ms. Katy Jones, who can be reached at [katym.jones@us.army.mil](mailto:katym.jones@us.army.mil), or you can call her at (336) 691-7700, ext. 15649 or toll free at 1-800-621-4136, ext. 15649.



Our objective is to keep everyone back home connected and informed of our accomplishments and other exciting events that will occur during this deployment. This newsletter is a part of that connection along with our social media pages.

## JOIN US ON FACEBOOK & FLICKR



## STEEL PRESS

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**821st Trans Bn:** Spc. Leticia Samuels

Do you have something you'd like to add to the magazine? Tell us! Contact your battalion UPAR for your story submissions, ideas, pictures, editorials, poems or art - become a published author/photographer/artist!

Interested in becoming a UPAR? Contact your battalion UPAR for training information.

#### External Links:

**113th Sustainment Brigade:**

E-mail us at [113thsubdepao@gmail.com](mailto:113thsubdepao@gmail.com)

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/113thsb](https://www.facebook.com/113thsb)

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**728th Combat Sustainment**

**Support Battalion:**

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Shutterfly: [www.728thcssb.shutterfly.com](https://www.728thcssb.shutterfly.com)

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# LETTER FROM THE COMMANDER

Greetings to all Steel Brigade Soldiers and Families!

We have entered into the hottest part of the year here in Kuwait, and yet, the Steel Warriors continue to drive on without letting up. During this past month, we have truly lived up to the Steel Brigade's goals of being: "READY. PROACTIVE. FLEXIBLE."

Since our last newsletter, we have seen the return of many Soldiers from Afghanistan, the re-deployment of units back to the United States, the welcoming of new units to Kuwait, and the departure of others to Afghanistan. In addition, this has been a time for recognizing the achievements of our units and our Soldiers. We've conducted several End of Tour Awards Ceremonies, Transfer of Authority Ceremonies, and Casing of Colors Ceremonies.

We have wished safe travels home to the 233rd Transportation Company, 250th Financial Management Detachment, the 261st Ordnance Company (Detachment 3), the 2/368th Financial Management Detachment, the 1/374th Financial Management Detachment, the 486th Movement Control Team, the 513th Transportation Company, the 651st Harbormaster Detachment, the 926th Movement Control Team, and the 1452nd Transportation Company. Before the end of August, we will say "Farewell" to both the 821st Transportation Battalion and the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Some of these units will be the last that can look back at, and reflect upon, performing missions in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan within one single deployment.

I want to take a moment to remind those with upcoming departures that their journey does not end with Kuwait in their rear-view mirror. As I've stated before, the most important phase of any deployment is the reintegration phase. I continue to charge all Soldiers who enter into this phase of the deployment to do so with an open mind and a focus on Family.

As some of our units re-deploy, we know that there is still work to be done here. We have witnessed the Transfer of Authority of our higher headquarters. While the 364th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is making its way back to Washington, the 316th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) is settling into their role here in Kuwait as Task Force Steel. Let's continue to exceed all expectations and show why our motto is **One Team! TWICE AS STRONG!**



COL. DAVID L. JONES





# LETTER FROM THE

## COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

Greetings Steel Brigade Soldiers:

We all know the Soldier's Creed and the NCO Creed. Along with the creeds we have the Army Values which basically outlines our core beliefs that are the foundation of who we are; American Soldiers, Leaders. Let me start with my version of strong leadership. It is not the book definition. It is formed from personal observations, interactions and experiences.

Strong leaders communicate clear expectations so their subordinates know and understand what is required. Well maintained order will save you immense amounts of time and energy.

So how do you keep strong Soldiers with their ambitions and goals on your team? There will be moments of disagreement and conflict. You cannot compromise your purpose and the Army values and yield. If you do, you will lose those strong Soldiers. A strong leader wisely knows how to stay within his purpose to find a common ground. Strong Soldiers will take pride in a strong leader. Leaders cannot be held hostage by those they lead. Soldiers will respect strength even if they do not totally agree with you. Soldiers will quickly grow tired of weak leadership. Leadership is not only the ability to task Soldiers to do things, but to hold them accountable for the successful completion of the task. Many great leaders are born with abilities that others lack, however, leadership skills and abilities can be learned and enhanced. You must always pursue the resources, assets, education and experience that will enhance your leadership abilities increasing your effectiveness. Never stop seeking personal and professional improvement. You must lead in the face of inevitable criticism that comes from being out front. There may be times when you may be bombarded with plausible sounding criticism. The key to success in such environments is resisting the urge to have an extreme reaction to the criticism or opposition.

Now let me hit on what I see as the "Sun Gear" in a planetary set of gears called the Army values. The sun gear is Selfless Service. Without it as the driving input and force, none of the other values/ gears can be put in motion. If you do not understand this reference ask a maintenance Soldier.

Self promoting people who constantly announce their achievements soon have everyone's eyes rolling. Simply put, if you put yourself on a pedestal, you will eventually get knocked off of it. If you humble yourself you will find that your subordinates, peers, and superiors will lift you up and keep you on that pedestal.

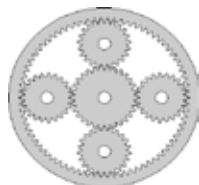
Ken Blanchard wrote in his book *The Power of Ethical Management*, "People with humility do not think less of themselves; they just think of themselves less". Our culture is service based. We must genuinely care for those we serve as well as those who serve with us. Desire to serve is the foundation of our success.

Your duty is to those you serve, your country, and the leaders appointed over you. Your responsibility is to your unit, your battle buddies, and your family. Your obligation is to yourself.

Selfless service is resisting the temptation to over step your authority and interject your opinion, or broaden the interpretation of governing policies or publications to achieve your personal desired results.

You are the future leaders that will shape the future formations of our Army. You must uphold and enforce Army Regulations, Policies and Standards. You are the executors of the mission. You are the Sun Gear.

"One Team, TWICE AS STRONG"



*William Gill*

Command Sgt. Maj. William Gill

# AROUND THE BRIGADE



## 113th STB

STB has had two senior noncommissioned officer promotions: Master Sgt. Rodney Creason and Sgt. 1st Class Willie Coe and they will be leaving the battalion when the 113th Sustainment Brigade redeploys. The battalion has had 22 soldiers that have graduated WLC, and there are five noncommissioned officers left in B Company to have the battalion at 100 percent WLC completion.



## 728th CSSB

The battalion won both the Soldier and NCO of the Quarter for the 113th Sustainment Brigade, and received a Safety streamer for not having any Class A or B accidents during this deployment. They are getting ready to go home and their replacements, the 191st CSSB, have arrived.



## 420th MCB

Seven Soldiers from Afghanistan graduated WLC Class 12-707 with two on the Commandant's List. They have redeployed two movement control teams from Afghanistan to Kuwait and on to home station. They resized contracts for the theater of Kuwait saving over \$80 million.



## 821st TB

Ten Soldiers from the HHD, 821st Transportation Battalion attained promotion and the eleventh Soldier is awaiting promotion orders. WLC Class 12-207, marked a great accomplishment for the HHD, all eligible Soldiers successfully graduated from the course.



## SAFETY MESSAGE

---

# SUMMER HEAT

**As we prepare for the summer heat in Kuwait, here are some ways to prevent heat injuries:**

**Drink water, limit carbonated beverages**

**Eat balanced meals to include adding some salt to meal to replenish what was lost to perspiration**

**Exercise early in the morning or late evening, unfortunately it is still 100 degrees either way**

**Limit caffeinated beverages, hey I like coffee too**

**Get your rest (not at work)**

**Acclimatize yourself ( yes you have to go outside for some period of time).**

**Steel  
Safety is  
Always  
Safe!**

As we prepare for Summer here and home remember, always plan prior to activities, ensure you use sunscreen, hydrate, hydrate, hydrate, and always be safe.



SOLDIERS LEADERS CIVILIANS FAMILIES

# Take 5

for Sports and Fitness

- Know your limits for physical activity.
- Just because you're deployed doesn't mean you can ignore safe practices and take risks.
- Establish an emergency medical plan.
- Don't let indiscipline during sports or fitness activities take you out of the fight.

*Take 5 ... then take action.*

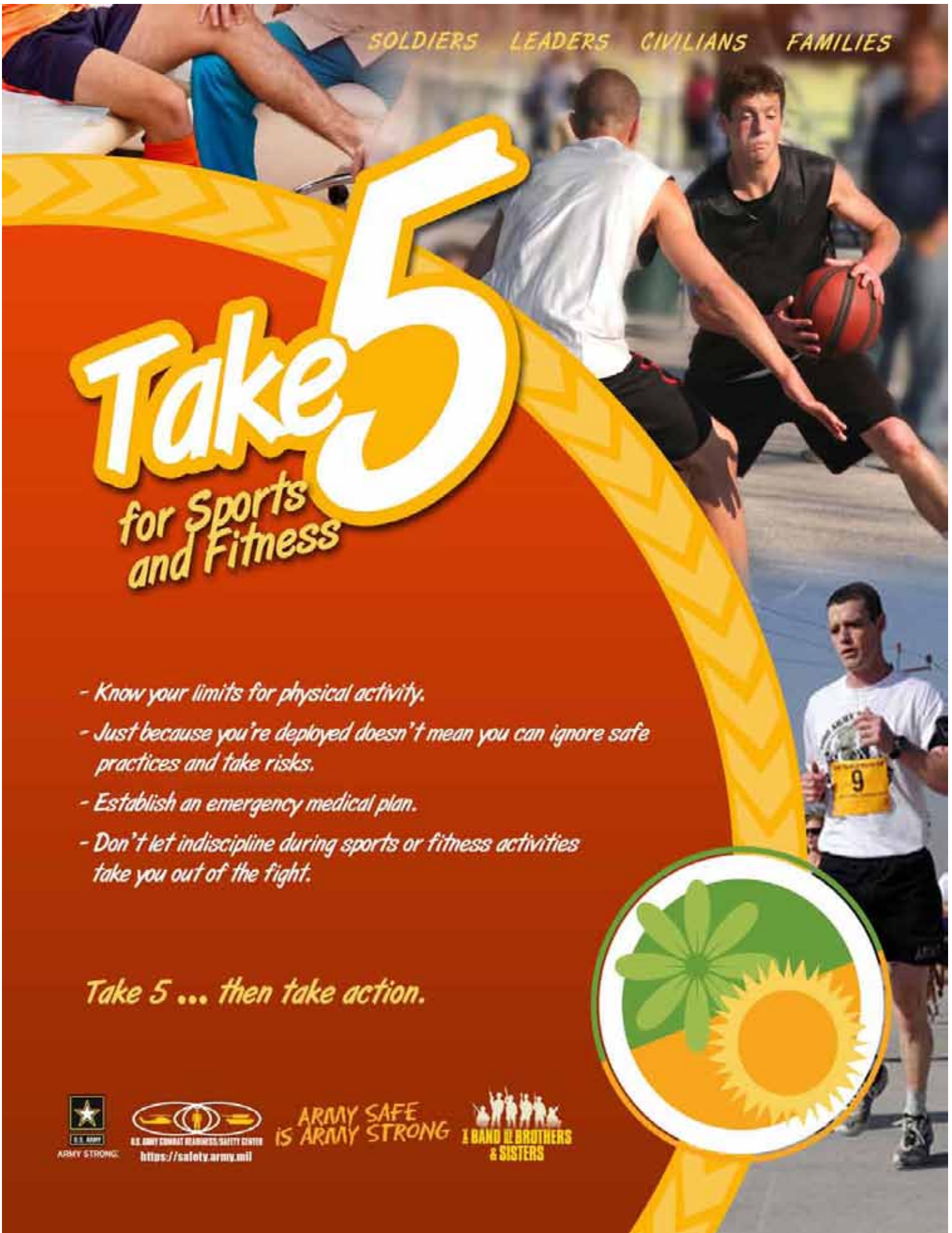


ARMY STRONG



U.S. ARMY COMBAT READINESS SAFETY CENTER  
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ARMY SAFE  
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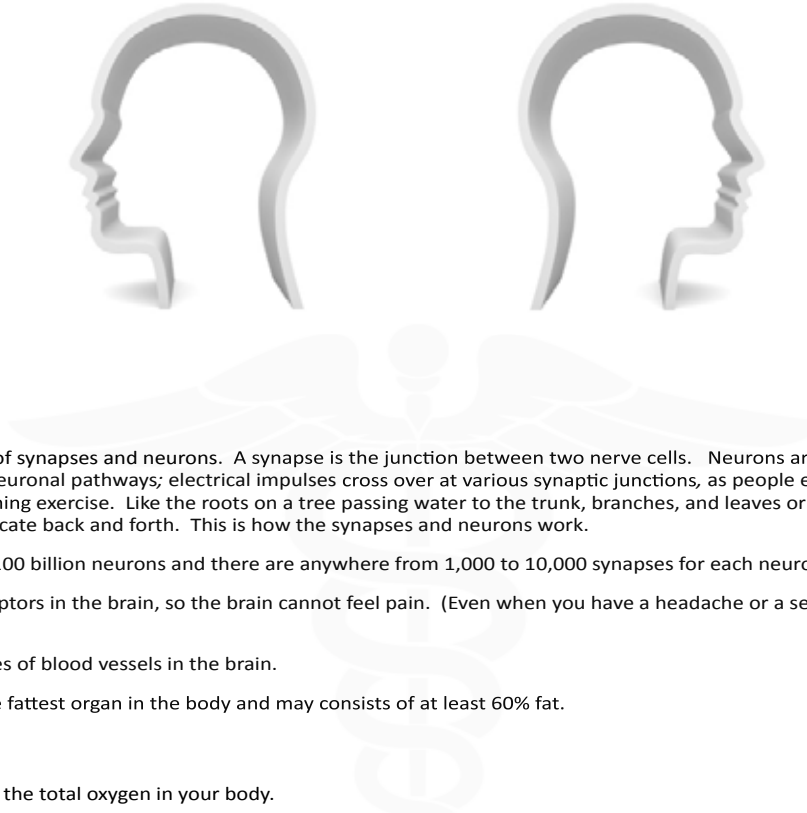


# SAFETY MESSAGE

# FROM THE WHISKEYS

## WHAT'S GOING ON IN YOUR HEAD?

Facts that you probably never knew about the human brain are very interesting and intriguing. For instance, the weight of the human brain is three pounds, and it's amazing how something so small can be constantly in control of things! The brain works harder when you sleeping than when you are awake all day. The brain is made up of 75 % water.



### Physical Attributes:

1. The brain is made up of synapses and neurons. A synapse is the junction between two nerve cells. Neurons are said to be firing as information passes along various neuronal pathways; electrical impulses cross over at various synaptic junctions, as people experience a brain wave or participate in a brainstorming exercise. Like the roots on a tree passing water to the trunk, branches, and leaves or telephone lines passing signals to be able to communicate back and forth. This is how the synapses and neurons work.
2. Your brain consists of 100 billion neurons and there are anywhere from 1,000 to 10,000 synapses for each neuron.
3. There are no pain receptors in the brain, so the brain cannot feel pain. (Even when you have a headache or a severe migraine it is not your brain that is hurting)
4. There are 100,000 miles of blood vessels in the brain.
5. The human brain is the fattest organ in the body and may consists of at least 60% fat.

### Brain function

1. Your brain uses 20% of the total oxygen in your body.
2. As with oxygen, your brain uses 20% of the blood circulating in your body.
3. If your brain loses blood for 8 to 10 seconds, you will lose consciousness.
4. Information can be processed as fast as 120 meters/sec, which is about 268 miles per hour.
5. While awake, your brain generates between 10 and 23 watts of power, or enough energy to power a light bulb.
6. It is thought that a yawn works to send more oxygen to the brain, therefore working to cool it down and wake it up.
7. The highest body temperature recorded ever was 115.7 degrees and the man survived.
8. Excessive stress has shown to "alter brain cells, brain structure, and brain function."
9. You can't tickle yourself because your brain distinguished between unexpected external touch and your own touch.
10. For years, medical professionals believed that tinnitus was due to a function within the mechanics of the ear, but newer evidence shows that it is actually a function of the brain.
11. Memories triggered by scent have a stronger emotional connection, therefore appear to more intense than other memory triggers.
12. Anomia is the technical word for tip-of-the tongue syndrome when you can almost remember a word, but it just won't quite come to you.

### Dreaming and Sleep

1. Most people dream about 1-2 hours a night and have an average of 4-7 dreams per night.
2. Studies show that brain waves are more active while dreaming than when you are awake.
3. While you are sleep, your body produces a hormone that may prevent you from acting out your dream, leaving you virtually paralyzed.
4. If you are snoring, you are not dreaming.

# FROM THE WHISKEYS

## Fun and Interesting Facts

1. Each time we blink, our brain kicks in and keeps things illuminated so the whole world doesn't go dark. We blink about 20,000 times per day.
2. The average number of thoughts that humans are believed to experience each day is around 70,000.
3. Those who are left-handed or ambidextrous have a corpus collosum (the part of the brain that bridges the two halves) that is 11% larger than those who are right-handed.
4. Albert Einstein's brain weighed 2.71 pounds and was 35 % wider in the area that is responsible for math and spatial perception.

Whether we believe it or not, we have a lot going on in our heads constantly that we are not even aware of. I hope that you enjoy this and have found these facts to be interesting.



Look at the chart and say the **COLOR** not the word

**YELLOW BLUE ORANGE**  
**BLACK RED GREEN**  
**PURPLE YELLOW RED**  
**ORANGE GREEN BLACK**  
**BLUE RED PURPLE**  
**GREEN BLUE ORANGE**

**Left - Right Conflict**  
 Your right brain tries to say the **COLOR** but  
 your left brain insists on reading the word.

[www.StrangeCosmos.com](http://www.StrangeCosmos.com)



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CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait: Chief Warrant Officer 4 Allen Layton struggles to crack open a safe, in temperatures approaching 110 degrees Fahrenheit. Safes that are not claimed on a unit's property book and that are locked and unable to be opened are placed in a sort yard to await Layton's team of safecrackers.



Story by Maj. Matt DeVivo, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait –Chief Warrant Officer 4 Allen Layton and his team struggled to crack open a safe, in temperatures approaching 115 degrees Fahrenheit.

It wasn't the first time the team had been called upon.

The day's hot project: a 1,300-pound Diebold safe.

And it was all perfectly legal.

"This is the sixty-third safe we are opening," Layton said, a 28 year veteran in the North Carolina National Guard who resides in Greensboro, NC. "There are 94 in all that need to be opened, and these Diebold's, so far, are the toughest to crack."

The North Carolina Army National Guard's 113th Sustainment Brigade has been deployed to the Middle East for more than six months in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq, convoys of Soldiers and materiel from Iraq traveled south by the thousands. With that movement came hundreds of trucks carrying containers full of equipment, including locked safes. The safes that are not claimed on a unit's property book and that are locked and unable to be opened are placed in a sort yard to await Layton's team of safecrackers.

The safecracking mission is an example of additional duties that the 113th has been called upon to accomplish.





“The preferred method of opening the safes,” Layton said, “is to cut a hole in the top and break the lock open from the back side of the door.”

Once opened and emptied, the safes are delivered to Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services, which manages the surplus federal property warehouse here.

Master Sgt. Terrill Huggins, 113th SB maintenance readiness noncommissioned officer-in-charge from St. Pauls, NC and Chief Warrant Officer 3 Billy Canada from Kinston, NC are members of Layton’s safe-crackers team. “All of our enlisted personnel and other NCOs are forward in Afghanistan setting conditions for the beginning of the responsible drawdown of forces there,” said Canada. “So me and the senior guys in the section are having some fun getting dirty and out of the office for a change,” he concluded.



**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait:** 113th Sustainment Brigade’s Chief Warrant 4 Allen Layton (left) and Chief Warrant 3 Billy Canada (right) work on opening a safe. During the responsible drawdown of forces from Iraq, convoys of Soldiers and materiel from Iraq traveled south by the thousands. With that movement came hundreds of trucks carrying containers full of equipment, including locked safes. The safes that are not claimed on a unit’s property book and that are locked and unable to be opened are placed in a sort yard to await Layton’s team of safe-crackers.

For the past month they have been cracking open unclaimed, locked safes returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, securing the items found in them, and delivering the goods to the brigade’s intelligence officer for disposition.

“We mostly find nothing inside the safes, but on occasion, when we find documents we turn them over to our S2” said Huggins. “With every safe we start to open comes that excitement that maybe there is something interesting inside.”

To date, Layton’s team of safe crackers has recovered reams of unclassified miscellaneous papers and file folders, a few love letters and receipts for items purchased in Iraq, some tools and a few empty ammunition magazines. His team expects to finish this mission by the end of July.

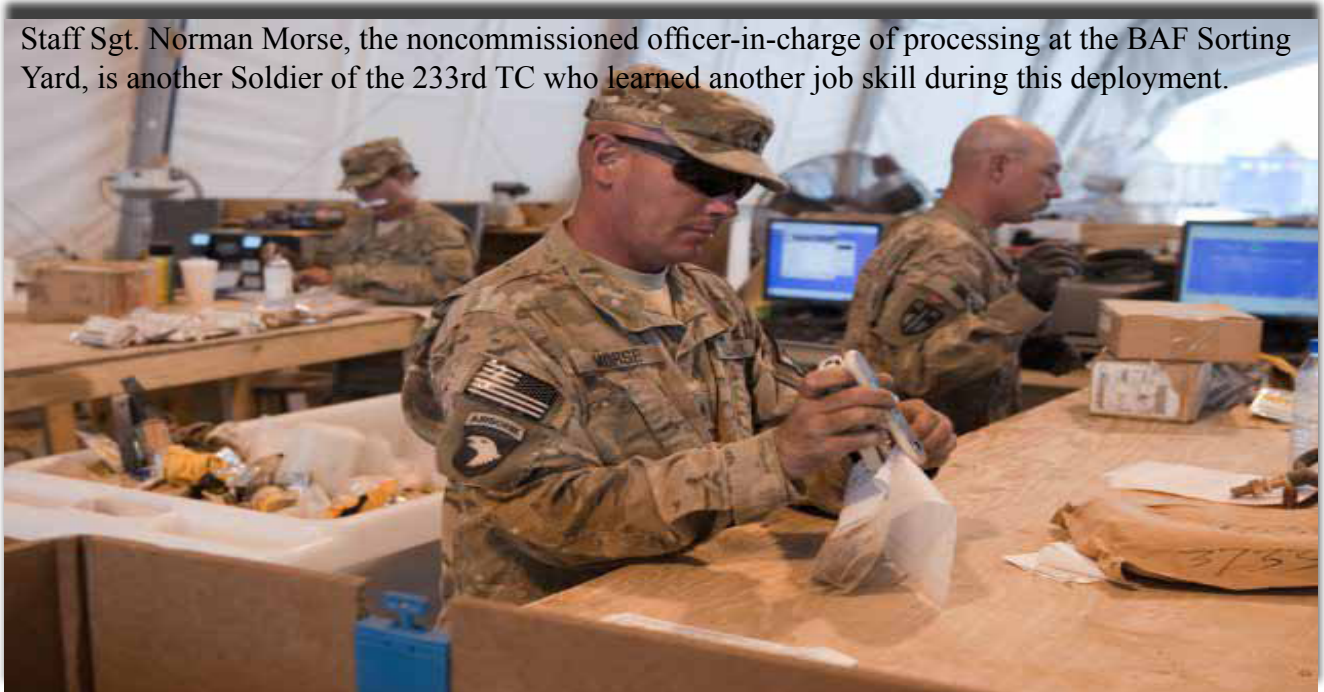


# GOING GREEN

BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN – Spc. James Clayton wants you to think about your local recycling center back home.

Only this recycling center is probably bigger than what you have in mind. This recycling center doesn't just have newspapers, glass bottles and smashed soda cans. This yard contains millions of dollars in vital equipment that is ready to be put back, "recycled", into the United States Army's system for use by Soldiers here or in other bases around the world.

Staff Sgt. Norman Morse, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of processing at the BAF Sorting Yard, is another Soldier of the 233rd TC who learned another job skill during this deployment.



“Sometimes we get to see some really interesting things,” said Clayton, a native of Pembroke, Ga. “Every now and then you come across something that you’ll never see in your Army career, simply because your specific job doesn’t use it.”

On his fourth deployment in seven years, Clayton’s unit, the 233rd Transportation Company, has participated in two separate missions and Clayton has been stationed at various forward operating bases (FOBs), making this a very unique deployment for them all.

“When we first deployed, we were stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait,” said the all-wheeled vehicle driver. “My unit was running missions back and forth from Iraq, assisting with the complete drawdown.

“Once our Iraq mission was completed, we got the order to move to Afghanistan,” said Clayton.

A specialist in operating various Army vehicles, Clayton never thought that he would have anything to do with managing a recycling yard, much less the (BAF) Sorting Yard. Not only did the young Soldier learn a new job skill, but he traveled to six different FOBs to show others how to successfully run a retro sorting yard.



233rd Soldiers inspect every container and “sort” through all items to see if anything can be salvaged and put back into the Department of Defense supply system. If the equipment is completely unserviceable, it is properly disposed of.

**SIDE BAR NOTE: BAF Retro Sort Yard mission: To provide high quality, redistribution, retrograde and disposal services to Regional Command-East, -North, and -Capital Task Forces in order to gain visibility and accountability of excess non-mission essential equipment and material that is not on the property book. Materials will be processed for disposition or redistribution, retro graded and/or disposed of through local agencies on Bagram.**

Staff Sgt. Norman Morse, the noncommissioned officer-in-charge of processing at the BAF Sorting Yard, is another Soldier of the 233rd TC who learned another job skill during this deployment.

Originally an all-wheeled vehicle driver as well, Morse is on his fourth deployment, too. His first three deployments have all been to Iraq, where he worked at different FOBs as a driver. This is the first time he has done something outside his military occupational specialty.

“It was very different at first, but my Soldiers and I worked together as a team and were able to get it down fairly quickly,” said Morse, a native of Montague, Mich. “After a while, I was able to not only really understand how to work the mission, but then I was able to see a few ways that we could make the system better.”

How does the sort yard work? Most sorting yards have a basic schedule for incoming equipment; convoys will bring in trucks hauling containers filled with all different types of equipment. This equipment was packed by units who are getting ready to leave Afghanistan or have already left.



Retro Sort Yard mission: To provide high quality, redistribution, retrograde and disposal services to Regional Command-East, -North, and Capital Task Forces in order to gain visibility and accountability of excess non-mission essential equipment and material that is not on the property book. Materials will be processed for disposition or redistribution, retro graded and/or disposed of through local agencies on Bagram.



Once the trucks are inspected for safety purposes, the containers on the trucks are unloaded into the yard where 233rd Soldiers will begin to go through each container to see if anything can be salvaged and put back into the Department of Defense supply system.

Morse noticed that trucks were just dumping their boxes and connexs anywhere in the yard. He was able to organize a system in which the bigger pieces of equipment, such as engines, compressors, refrigerators, etc. are placed in specific locations, while containers with smaller pieces, such as pipes, tools and batteries, are placed inside tents where the Soldiers can sort through in the shade and out of the heat.

Units from the 113th Sustainment Brigade are some of the first units to begin setting conditions for the responsible drawdown of US forces in Afghanistan.

“It’s an honor to serve in two different and dangerous operations areas (Iraq and Afghanistan)” said Clayton, “especially in one single deployment. I’m very proud of my unit, and this is definitely an experience I’ll never forget.”





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**T**he 113th Sustainment Brigade's command team strongly encourages all Soldiers of the Steel Brigade and subordinate units to participate and cast your vote in the 2012 Presidential Primaries and Election.

Voting is one of our most important Constitutional rights. You can exercise your right to vote by completing the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA Standard Form 76) [<http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fpca.pdf>] or by complying with the ballot request procedures enacted by the state in which you vote.

See your Unit Voting Assistance Officer (UVAO) for your state requirements. The FPCA Standard Form 76, or other request, should be mailed or sent electronically as soon as possible. You should then receive your absentee ballot as requested.

If you are an OCONUS voter and have not received your regular absentee ballot 30-45 days prior to your state's deadline, you should complete a Federal Write-In Absentee Ballot (FWAB) [<http://www.fvap.gov/resources/media/fwab.pdf>] and send it to your local election official. If you receive your absentee ballot late, I encourage you to complete the FWAB and mail it in. Mailing guidelines differ from state to state; I recommend you check your state's guidelines by contacting your UVAO.

**It's a Freedom you defend -- Vote!**



# LEAN 6

Story by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Milton Autry

CW4 Autry was awarded his Lean Six Sigma Green Belt Certification for coordinating completion of a team project regarding Theater Provided Equipment Planner (TPE-P) utilizing the Lean Six Sigma: Define, Analyze, Measure, Improve and Control (DAMIC) process. The project was credited for cost avoidance to the Army of over 216 million dollars. The project cost avoidance was validated by USARCENT G8 Cost Analyst, the Lean Six Sigma Master Black Belt, Mr. Jack Gross and USARCENT Deployment Director, Mr. Anthony Merritt.

Utilizing the Lean Six Sigma DMAIC process, I selected a team of TPE-P users from within the 113SB to identify areas that we deemed, as a command, needed to improve upon. We needed to ensure all areas regarding TPE-P were addressed and training was in place for future units rotating into theater.

The 113SB was the first Brigade to implement the Theater Provided Equipment Planner (TPE-P). The initial TPE-P training did not include transition training from Theater Property Book Team to the Brigade, and from the Brigade to the Redistribution Property Accounting Teams (RPAT). Our project identified weaknesses and developed cost savings procedures to improve equipment custody transfers and turn-ins when utilizing the TPE-E process.

## SIGMA

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Milton Autry (113 Sustainment Brigade), Warrant Officer 1 Cuyler Delimont (821 Transportation Battalion), Sgt. 1st Class Stacy Jones (728 CSSB), Master Sgt. Linda Phoenix (113 SB). (Photo provided by Chief Warrant Officer 4 Milton Autry).



# MCT

## 516th

### Movement Control Team

### ‘We got ourselves a Convoy’

By Staff Sgt. Loquita Burnett, 420th Movement Control Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait - Staff Sgt. Mario Morales, of the 420th Movement Control Battalion, and Staff Sgt. Keith Kettenbach, of the 516th Movement Control Team, travel daily to work at the Kuwait Rear Operational Cell (KROC).

The two Soldiers work with interpreters Huda and Mohammed, who assist in discussing the missions of the day to the Kuwait escort teams and troubleshoot any issues that may arise. The 420th MCB is in constant contact with the Kuwait Ministry of Interior, the Kuwait National Guard, and the Kuwait Military Police. Each organization works together to ensure logistics convoys of troops and equipment move efficiently and safely throughout Kuwait with minimal impact on the civilian population.

Morales and Kettenbach’s work shifts are often unpredictable. Both Soldiers said that they strive to maintain a positive attitude, regardless of their tasks and challenges as they assist in strengthening relationships between the United States military and their Kuwait partners and hosts.



photo by SSG Loquita Burnett 420th MCB

516th Ops center at KROC- Their long work shifts are often unpredictable. Both Morales and Kettenbach maintain a consistent positive attitude regardless of their tasks and challenges and have done an outstanding job strengthening our relationships with our Kuwait partners and hosts



Staff Sgt. Mario Morales (on right) of the 420th Movement Control Battalion (MCB) and Staff Sgt. Keith Kettenbach (on left) of the 516th MCT travel from Camp Arifjan daily to work their shift at Kuwait Rear Operational Cell (KROC). The two Soldiers work with interpreters Huda and Mohammed who assist in discussing the missions of the day to the Kuwait escort teams and trouble shoot any issues that arise during the day.

photo by SSG Loquita Burnett 420<sup>th</sup> MCB





# FREE PASS TO NATIONAL PARKS

## Service Members, Families Get Free Pass to National Parks

By Lisa Daniel American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON, May 15, 2012 – Service members and their families will be able to enter all of America's national parks free of charge for a year under an initiative announced today.

The pass – the America the Beautiful National Parks and Federal Recreation Lands Annual Pass, which normally costs \$80 – will become available to service members and their dependents on Armed Forces Day, May 19.

Interior Secretary Ken Salazar made the announcement this morning, along with National Park Service Director Jon Jarvis, at a ceremony at Colonial National Historical Park in Yorktown, Va., the site of the last major battle of the Revolutionary War. The area surrounding the park hosts installations from all the military services, including the world's largest naval base. "I think when one goes into Virginia and you see all the sites, the Yorktown battlefield and the whole history of the country, it's important that those who have fought in the tradition of making sure the nation's democracy and freedom are protected also have access to these wonderful sites there," Salazar said yesterday in a conference call with reporters. The passes allow the holder and passengers in a single private vehicle access to some 2,000 sites that charge per vehicle. At sites where entrance fees are charged per person, it covers the pass owner and three adults age 16 and older.

The National Park Service estimates that giving away the passes to service members and their families will result in a revenue loss between \$2 million and \$6 million, but Jarvis said that won't cause a significant impact on the agency, which collects about \$150 million in fees each year.

Military personnel can get the passes at any national park or wildlife refuge that charges an entrance fee by showing their military ID. Family members also will be able to obtain their own pass, even if the service member is deployed or if they are traveling separately.

The pass will be accepted at National Park Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Army Corps sites that charge entrance or standard amenity fees.

The free pass will be made available for activated members of the National Guard and reserves, but not for military veterans or retirees, whom Jarvis said have other opportunities for free or reduced admission, such as the National Park Service's "Access Pass" or a seniors pass for those 62 and older.

Jarvis, a 40-year Park Service employee, said that while the free passes are a first, they are representative of the parks' history with the military, which dates back to the Buffalo Soldiers' battles with Native Americans in the mid-1800s and the recruitment of former military members to serve as park rangers under the first NPS director, Stephen T. Mather. The Park Service maintains many military historical sites from Gettysburg to Pearl Harbor, and in World War II even closed some parks, such as Mount Rainier in Washington state, to all but active military members, he said.

Right after World War II, the Park Service invested heavily in infrastructure to prepare the parks for returning service members, Jarvis said. Today's generation of warriors also deserves a deep connection to the parks, he said.

"From my perspective, it is incredibly important to return this group of returning military members to their national parks," Jarvis said. "Nothing is more core to the American experience than the national parks. These are places for quiet and contemplation and to reconnect to the American experience. And we don't want there to be any barriers to that."

The free pass initiative is part of the "Joining Forces" campaign First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden, wife of Vice President Joe Biden, launched last year to rally Americans around supporting service members and their families.

"Our nation owes a debt of gratitude to our servicemen and women who make great sacrifices to protect our country and preserve our freedom," Dr. Biden said in a White House statement. "In recognition of their service, we are so pleased to be putting out a welcome mat for our military families at America's most beautiful and storied sites."



# Finding the Links in Afghanistan: 113th SB Liaison Teams

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Keith Warzon, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

**BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan** - The 113th Sustainment Brigade has more than 100 Soldiers in Afghanistan supporting the redeployment and retro-sort mission here.

To make sure Soldiers are properly taken care of, two 113th SB liaison teams were formed. The first team, consisting of 1st Lt. Raymond Ackley and Staff Sgt. Stephen Pearce are stationed here. The second team, based in Kandahar, is made up of 1st Lt. Christopher Blair and Sgt. 1st Class Rita Rice. The teams' primary mission is to coordinate movements in and out of the country and Soldier accountability.

After their arrival in theater, both teams quickly realized that they each were facing similar problems and setbacks: lack of communication, accountability, work space, and transportation.

"The teams had to be proactive and work with the unit they were attached to for space to work, including access to computers and phones," Ackley said.

Over the past couple of months, the teams said they've established positive working relationships with their host units and have received support needed to accomplish their important mission.

"However, communication is still the biggest challenge," Rice said.

Without government cell phones, the LNO teams have to rely on face-to-face communication, secure office phones and e-mail to stay in touch with each other and communicate with incoming and outgoing units. Blair said that transportation challenges only add on to their issues.

"Due to the lack of reliable transportation, both teams walk everywhere, which sometimes causes delays with information dissemination," he said.

Col. David Jones, the commander of the 113th SB, visited both teams recently during a battlefield circulation tour of 113th SB Soldiers in Afghanistan, was very impressed with how much the teams do with very little to work with.

"Overall, the liaison teams have done an outstanding job getting proper accountability of 113th SB troops on the ground, and continue to track the numbers while Soldiers arrive and depart from the country," said Jones.

Pearce was able to accompany Jones on the commander's latest tour of Afghanistan, called the trip the highlight of his deployment.

"That has been the highlight of my tour here so far" Pearce said.

In the last two months, the Bagram LNO team has monitored all 113th SB personnel movements and supported 60 flights into and out of the country. While coordinating and tracking the movement of various Soldiers and units, the teams also assist the Red Cross, said Rice.

The teams enjoy their Afghanistan assignment and are ready for the next challenge, they said.

"I can speak for both teams,"

Ackley said, "when I say that we are not only making a difference for the Soldiers of the 113th Sustainment Brigade, but for any servicemember who comes through our doors for assistance."



First Lt. Ray Ackley and Staff Sgt. Stephen Pearce of the 113th Sustainment Brigade show off the best overlook at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, June 23. The Soldiers are stationed here as the liaison team for incoming and outgoing service members. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Miko M. Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs)



# SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE FOR NORTH CAROLINA VETERANS

If you were a resident of North Carolina when you entered military service, your child may be eligible for a scholarship from the State of North Carolina to attend an approved university, community college or technical institute within the State of North Carolina. Funds for these scholarships also provide scholastic support to help children of certain disabled, deceased, combat or POW/MIA veterans.

For additional information visit,  
<http://www.doa.nc.gov/vets/locations/> to find your local  
N.C. Division of Veterans Affairs Service Office.





# BEST JOB IN THE ARMY

A F G H A N I S T A N





Story by Sgt. Leah Rowell.

**BAGRAM AIR FIELD**, Afghanistan - Sgt. 1st Class Deana H. Abernathy says she has the best job in the Army.

Abernathy is the detachment sergeant for Operational Support Aircraft Command Flight Detachment 17 here.

The detachment is a small North Carolina Army National Guard unit, just 15 Soldiers, part of the 449th Theater Aviation Brigade in Morrisville, N.C. The detachment is the only fixed-wing unit in the North Carolina Army Guard.

Abernathy, an aviation operations specialist and native of Kenly, N.C., has served more than 14 years in the Guard, all with the same brigade.

Abernathy became the detachment's top sergeant after completing a deployment to Iraq in 2009. She's also the only female Soldier in the detachment. Shortly after Abernathy was assigned to the unit, Sgt. Phillip Becton, one of her Soldiers from the 449th TAB, joined the detachment.

While working together in Iraq, Abernathy and Becton tracked all aviation operations throughout the country for their brigade, including aircraft known as white birds, which carried distinguished visitors.

"We used to watch the white birds flying the DVs to remote locations that most Soldiers never get to see," Abernathy said. "We would say to each other, 'it would be awesome to work in an aviation unit like that.' We never guessed we would actually have that opportunity. Now, look where we are!

"This really is the best job in the Army," she added.

The detachment flies fixed-wing C-26E aircraft. A military version of the Fairchild Swearingen Meritliner, the twin turboprop carries two crewmembers and up to 14 passengers.

Since arriving here in March, the detachment has flown more than 700 distinguished visitors or service members.

The detachment's pilots also had the opportunity to fly retired Lt. Col. Bruce Crandall, a Medal of Honor recipient from the Vietnam War; Crandall is a Master Army Aviator in both fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters. They also flew Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.), who is also a colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

"Your worst day in the air is better than any day on the ground," said one of the detachment's pilots, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jason J. O'Brien, of Concord, N.C.

The detachment also flies space available passengers whose destination matches the unit's flight missions, Abernathy said.

"Although our primary mission is air movement for distinguished visitors, my favorite part of the job is helping the normal everyday Soldier get to their destination," said Abernathy. "If we have the ability and space to get them where they need to be, we are more than happy to help out. I love helping fellow service members."



*Members of the Operational Support Aircraft Command Flight Detachment 17 walk out to their C-26E aircraft at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan, June 23. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Leah A. Rowell, 113th Sustainment Brigade)*

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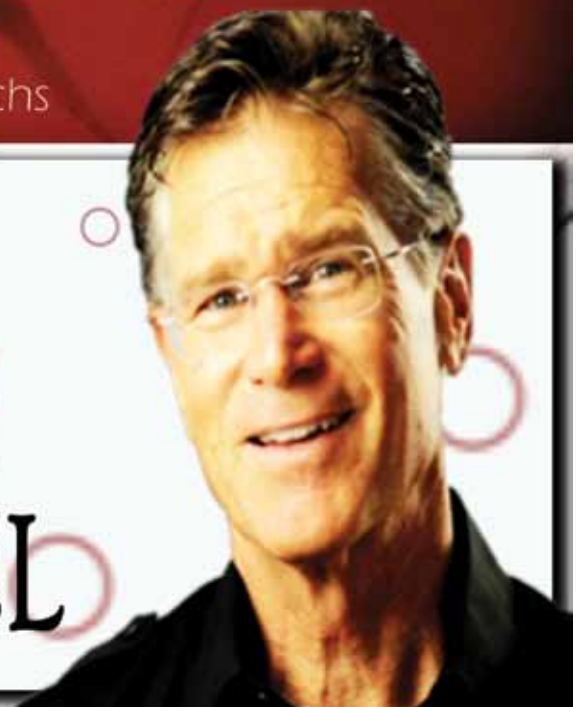
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*Camp Arifjan Kuwait:* Soldiers from the 113th Sustainment Brigade coordinated a shadow marathon on May 26th in an effort to support the second oldest marathon in North Carolina - the Ellerbe Springs marathon. The race began at 10pm in attempts to have the coolest temperatures possible during the race.



# Shadow Run

Story by Capt. Kristine Knodel . Photos by Spec. Damian Flowers

Camp Arifjan, Kuwait May 26 2012

Soldiers from the 113th Sustainment Brigade coordinated a shadow marathon on May 26th in an effort to support the second oldest marathon in North Carolina - the Ellerbe Springs marathon. The Ellerbe Springs marathon was originally held in March of this year. A “make-up-run” was held in May at Ellerbe Springs with a shadow marathon and relay held at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait.

Mark Long, the founder of the Ellerbe Springs marathon, while driving through the beautiful town of Ellerbe, NC thought that the town’s roads, shady trails and countryside would make a great place for a marathon. He and a few running enthusiasts decided to organize a marathon in 1991 at Ellerbe Springs, and the rest is history. The Ellerbe Springs marathon, now in its 22nd year, is a Boston marathon qualifying race.

Capt. Kristine Knodel, an Army lawyer with the 113th Sustainment Brigade, with the assistance of her husband, Chris back in NC organized the shadow run at Camp Arifjan. Capt. Knodel and her team, consisting of Capt. Sara Day and Capt. Lee Pearson, worked for weeks to coordinate the support and the many volunteers needed to ensure an event of this magnitude went off safely and without a hitch.

On the night of May 26<sup>th</sup> at 10 pm, the whistle sounded, and 46 participants cheered as the marathon and relay race began. The teammates for the relay teams waited anxiously for their turn to show the grit and determination of a US Army Soldier. The mood during the entire event was positive and full of camaraderie and mutual support amongst service members. There was representation from across the 4 battalions of the 113th and from the US Navy Logistics element stationed here.



The final runner of the Desperados

**Camp Arifjan Kuwait:** The four man relay team Desperados with a winning time of 3:16 was nearly fifteen minutes faster than the sec-Sgt. Nate Autry also had the honor of running the fastest 4-person relay leg at just over thirty-seven minutes (a pace of approx. 6 minutes per mile for 6.5 miles).



**Camp Arifjan Kuwait:** Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Stump from (Defense Logistics Agency) was an inspiration to everyone by running his first full marathon with a time of 4 hours and 51 minutes. He was the lone entrant to complete the four-lap course on his own.

team, Master Sgt. Rodney Creason, crossed the finish line to jovial cheers from the other participants and was welcomed with high fives from his three teammates, Sgt. Nate Autry, Spc. Josh Autry and Pvt. 1st Class Andrew Autry. The Autry's are all brothers from the same family serving together in the 113th here.

The Desperados with a winning time of 3:16 was nearly thirteen minutes faster than the second place team from the 420th Movement Control Battalion who finished the race in 3:28. Sgt. Nate Autry also had the honor of running the fastest 4-person relay leg at just over thirty-seven minutes (a pace of approx. 6 minutes per mile for 6.5 miles).

There were two teams that participated in a two-person relay, with the top team finishing the late night marathon with a time of 3:45:26. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class James Stump from the Defense Logistics Agency here at Camp Arifjan, was an inspiration to everyone by running his first full marathon with a time of 4 hours and 51 minutes. He was the lone entrant to complete the four-lap course on his own.



When asked to describe the race, Capt. Knodel said, "Everyone really worked together as a team. This event would not have been possible without the help my husband and friends back home, the Mangum Track Club for providing the medals, the numerous volunteers from the 113th Sustainment Brigade and the 420th Movement Control Battalion. I'd also like to thank Spc. Damian Flowers from the 113th Public Affairs Office. I am very grateful for everyone's hard work."



**Camp Arifjan Kuwait:** Command Sgt. Major Richard Anderson from the 420th Movement Control Battalion runs towards the finish line and completes his portion of the four-man 6.5 mile relay.

# UP CLOSE & PERSONNEL

## 421ST QUARTERMASTER DETACHMENT

Story by Maj. Matt DeVivo, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

AL UDEID AIR BASE, Qatar – Sgt. Cory Hinkle of the 113th Sustainment Brigade’s personnel section was given a unique mission: deploy to Qatar for 90 days and support the 421st Quartermaster Company’s rigger detachment as its administrative and personnel noncommissioned officer.

Shortly after receiving his new assignment, Hinkle was on his way to Qatar. He quickly learned what it meant to be part of this proud unit; he was put to work immediately. The unit had been without an administrative noncommissioned officer since deploying overseas; the Soldiers were beginning to feel the pressure of mounds and mounds of paperwork.



Detachment 1, 421st Quartermaster Company, a U.S. Army Reserve unit from Fort Valley, Ga., work as long and as hard as it takes to ensure needed supplies and resources are delivered to U.S. and international forces across the Central Command area of responsibility.

Hinkle went right to work. By establishing solid communications with the unit’s rear detachment in Georgia to update all Soldiers’ online personnel files.

“Their records were out of date and were keeping Soldiers from putting in promotion packets, attending the Warrior Leaders Course and other classes to help them professionally,” Hinkle said.

Hinkle processed all of the unit’s end-of-tour awards, their rest and recuperation leave packets, promotion packets, and numerous other personnel actions. Hinkle also held workshops for the detachment’s Soldiers on how to write awards, Army counseling statements, and NCO evaluation reports.

“He’s a lifesaver,” said Sgt. Kenneth Golden, of the 421st. “Sgt. Hinkle was very knowledgeable of the regulations and procedures for the S-1 [personnel] shop and was a tremendous help to us.”

“He fit right in with unit and our attitude, “ Golden added.

Hinkle said he got a chance to do something else not in the usual job description for human resources specialists. He was also given a rare opportunity to assist the riggers after completing his personnel duties.

“It’s hard work preparing cargo for aerial delivery,” Hinkle said. “These guys are some of the hardest-working Soldiers I have ever been around, and it was an honor to have served here with them.”

Hinkle said he felt lucky to be able to help the riggers.

“On my days off, I was allowed to observe actual airdrop missions over Afghanistan,” Hinkle said. “It’s an incredible feeling knowing that you helped construct the cargo bundle that has just slid out of the back of a C-17 aircraft, and will in moments land near a forward operating base.”

“He didn’t worry about getting his hands dirty assisting us in the shed preparing cargo for aerial delivery. To be honest, we all miss him; he was a great addition to our detachment,” said Golden.

“The riggers deliver, and I have been able to be a part of their extremely important mission to directly support the warfighter,” Hinkle said.



Sgt. Cory Hinkle of the 113th Sustainment Brigade on board a C-17 Globemaster III somewhere over Afghanistan. The large bundles to his right are only minutes away from exiting the the aircraft.





# North Carolina Outward Bound

## NORTH CAROLINA OUTWARD BOUND VETERANS AND SERVICE MEMBERS PROGRAM

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Now, through generous funding, this tremendous opportunity for adventure, challenge and self-discovery is available **TUITION FREE\*** to Veterans. For more information or to enroll call Matthew Rosky, Veterans Program Manager at 866-699-6262 or visit: [www.ncobs.org/veterans](http://www.ncobs.org/veterans).

### What Veterans and Service Members Are Saying About Outward Bound

“Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! Thank you! I can't even begin to tell you how much the veterans trip meant to me. The entire process was great. The staff were perfect for this group. I could read a strong sense of compassion for our group and I sincerely appreciate their leadership. The setting was perfect for a Veterans group. It meant a great deal to me to be an Outward Bound participant.”

**Chris J., USA - Florida Everglades Participant, Spring 2011**

“The adventure we embarked upon as a team was life changing in many ways that I can't put into words. I have really found direction in my life and one day I want to try and make a difference in people's lives as much as my Outward Bound instructors have made in mine. I hope this opportunity continues for military service members because North Carolina Outward Bound has an extraordinary and everlasting impact on people's lives.”

**Brett B., USMC - North Carolina Mountains Participant, Spring 2011**

### 2012-2013 Program Schedule

#### North Carolina Mountains

Backpacking, rock climbing and a high ropes course challenge in the Appalachian Mountains of Western North Carolina.

April 28<sup>th</sup> - May 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2012

July 4<sup>th</sup> - July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

September 1<sup>st</sup> - September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2012

October 15<sup>th</sup> - October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2012

#### North Carolina Outer Banks

Sea Kayaking along the Cape Lookout National Seashore.

May 6<sup>th</sup> - May 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012

June 3<sup>rd</sup> - June 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012

August 12<sup>th</sup> - August 18<sup>th</sup>, 2012

#### Florida

Coastal canoeing in the Everglades National Park and the Ten Thousand Islands National Wildlife Refuge.

February 20<sup>th</sup>- 25<sup>th</sup>, 2012

March 4<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup>, 2012

March 12<sup>th</sup>- 17<sup>th</sup>, 2012

December 2<sup>nd</sup>- 7<sup>th</sup>, 2012

December 10<sup>th</sup>- 15<sup>th</sup>, 2012

February 18<sup>th</sup>- 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2013

March 9<sup>th</sup>- 14<sup>th</sup>, 2013

### We're Getting Veterans and Service Members Outward Bound!

\*Instructors, permits, technical gear, food and travel for course are covered by North Carolina Outward Bound. If a participant enrolls and cancels 30 days or less from the course start a \$250 cancellation fee applies. Participants are required to place a credit card on file at time of enrollment. Participants are responsible for providing clothing and some gear for the course. For more information about the program contact Veterans and Service Members Program Manager Matthew Rosky at 866-699-6262.

# 113th Sustainment Brigade Supports 1st Theater Sustainment Command – Forward

Story by Maj. Matt DeVivo, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

**Kabul, Afghanistan** – Five Steel Warriors were chosen to deploy to Afghanistan recently to assist the 1st Theater Sustainment Command in establishing a forward operations center focused on warfighter sustainment and to set the conditions for the responsible re-deployment of forces and equipment out of Afghanistan.

Originally stationed at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, Lt Col. Bob Wright, Maj. Wes Lockman, 1st Lt. Paul Street, Sgt. 1st Class Robbie Mullis and Sgt. John Wienbrock now call Kabul their “home” for the next few months.

“We hit the ground running,” said Lockman. “Lt. Street and Sgt. Wienbrock are invaluable to the 1st TSC here. On their own initiative, they designed, tested and produced the operations web portal for the command.”

For this achievement, Street and Wienbrock were each awarded a commander’s coin for excellence from Maj. Gen Kenneth Dowd, the commander of the 1st TSC. Dowd cited their hardwork and efforts in preparing the operations center for the special recognition.

This operations center will be a major player in sustainment and redeployment operations in the years to come, Lockman explained.

“It has been tough work, but well worth the long hours in the end,” said Lockman.

Maj. Wes Lockman (back row forth from left), 113th Sustainment Brigade’s Intelligence officer and other 113th SB officers and NCOs are in Afghanistan working at 1st TSC’s Forward Command Center. Marine Corps Gen. John Allen, commander of International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces Afghanistan is in the front row center and visited the ops center







**Steel Brigade** soldiers in Kabul, Afghanistan, recognized for outstanding achievement by Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dowd, commander 1st Theater Sustainment Command: First Lt. Paul Street and Sgt. John Wienbrock are presented 1st TSC coin of excellence for their hard work in establishing a new operations web-based information portal.





# BEST MISSION SO FAR

## Afghan Trucking Company Contract Representative Team

### 113th Sustainment Brigade

Story by. Sgt. Miko Booth, 113th Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs

BAGRAM, AFGHANISTAN - Ask Capt. Joe Jennings, a North Carolina National Guard, 113th Sustainment Brigade supporting operations officer, what he thinks of his current deployment here, and the one answer he will give is: “fulfilling.”

While most of the soldiers he deployed with are currently based in Kuwait, Jennings was one of the small groups of 113th SB soldiers to head to Afghanistan once reaching Kuwait in December 2011.

“Once I heard that there was a possible mission in Afghanistan for a logistics officer, I volunteered for it,” said Jennings. “I let the unit know that someone with a trucking background would be best for the mission.”

Jennings, who is the operations manager for a trucking company in Charlotte, N.C., was selected for the position and parted ways from his unit within the first month of their deployment.

The contract officer representative for the National Afghan Trucking Company is responsible to oversee contracts worth more than 200 million dollars. Jennings said that this was the best position for him.

“I think a really valuable bit of information I was able to bring here is that I understand the concept of contracting with trucking companies,” he said. “I understand the various parts of trucking management, down to the little things that your average person wouldn’t even consider.”

When he first arrived here, he noticed that there was a little bit of a delay for the contractors to be paid. This became his first mission. Soon, Jennings and his team were able to fix the problem.

“My team was able to turn over \$300 million in cost avoidance,” said Jennings.

Jennings and his team not only oversee the contracts made with the trucking companies, but also check for illegal activity within the operation.

Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles Phillips from the 113th Sustainment Brigade, deployed to Afghanistan to assist Jennings and said, “This operation is very hands on to ensure they (Afghanistan trucking companies) are following their contract.”

“We work closely with CID and the FBI to catch those carriers who commit fraud,” said Jennings. “The Afghanistan trucking companies want to do the right thing; we just catch the exceptions.”

Jennings and Phillips have been able to weed out those who commit fraud and forgeries, and they find it very

fulfilling to keep the good contracts.

“Those who are just here to do the job and are trustworthy deserve the contracts,” said Jennings. “They are really trying to run a good trucking company.”

On July 15th, the 113th Sustainment Brigade COR team’s replacements arrived in Bagram, and Capt. Jennings and Chief Phillips have redeployed to Kuwait to finish their tour.



The Afghan Trucking Company Contracting Representative team in Bagram, Afghanistan.



*Capt. Jennings (second from right), who is the operations manager for a trucking company in Charlotte, N.C., is the contract officer representative for the National Afghan Trucking Company. The team is responsible to oversee contracts worth more than 200 million dollars. Photo left to right - Chief Warrant 3 Charles Phillips, Capt. Tom Spurgeon, Lt. Col. Michael Boger, Capt. Joe Jennings, and Capt. JP Guess. The Contract team is comprised of soldiers from the National Guard’s 113th Sustainment Brigade and the U.S. Reserve’s 257th Joint Movement Control Battalion*

# STEEL WARRIORS OF THE WEEK

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Keith Warzon, 113th Sustainment Brigade, Public Affairs

**CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait** – Soldiers assigned to the 113th Sustainment Brigade and its subordinate units have a chance each week to be recognized for something special. Battalions submit names of nominated Soldiers to the brigade and the commander selects the winner. Prior to the brigade update brief, Col. David L. Jones presents the Steel Warrior with a certificate of achievement in front of leaders from across the brigade.

**SPC. Jarrel Fielder** from the 411th Transportation Detachment (LSV-5) served as the Food Operations Manager for the past nine months. He was responsible for the planning, preparation, and serving of over 1000 meals to 32 Soldiers worth more than \$140,000. He was alone for more than two months of that time, fulfilling the role of three cooks. Once new junior enlisted cooks reported to the unit, Fielder trained them to the uniqueness of watercraft food preparation. He is a paramount asset to the team.

**SPC. Myra Cason** from the 486th Transportation Company Detachment was assigned as a movement specialist and additionally as the administrative noncommissioned officer. Her administrative duties included making sure that paperwork was ready for the First Sergeant and Commander to review. She learned the arduous process of filing a local movement request and re-mission request, which led to faster turn-around times for utilizing more than 1300 nation Afghan truck assets and re-utilizing more than 400 nation Afghan trucks to move more than 2,500 pieces of military equipment. Cason's duty as mail-handler benefitted the morale of her peers, subordinates, and superiors. Her duties often required her to work more than 14 hour days with no days off and she maintains the professionalism of a senior noncommissioned officer.

**SPC. Ilva Cerino** of Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 420th Transportation Battalion (MC) is entrusted to run the night-shift battalion Plans, Programs, and Operations sections. She has competed and made it to the finals of the Camp Arifjan Combatives Tournament after winning her weight class in Combatives Level 1 training, which she was recognized for from her Battalion Command Sergeant Major. She has recently completed Combatives Level 2 and volunteers her personal time to assist with other Combatives classes. Her recent Army Physical Fitness Test score of 293 has earned her the Army Physical Fitness Badge. She continually encourages those around her to be better Soldiers.

**Cpl. Torri Ghaner and Sgt. Cassandra Harvey** competed for and won the 113th Sustainment Brigade's Steel Soldier and Steel Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter boards held 30 June 2012 at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. These two Soldiers are both from the 728th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and have set the standard for future boards. They were both awarded Army Achievement Medals for their accomplishment.



(From left to right: CSM GILL, SPC Fielder, COL Jones)



(From left to right: CSM GILL, SPC Cason, COL Jones)



(From left to right: CSM Anderson, SPC Cerino, COL Jones)



(From left to right: COL Jones, SPC. Ghaner, SPC. Harvey, CSM Gill)



