



FROM THE FRONTLINE

Inside this Issue

Message from the Battalion Commander	1
Message from the Battalion Command Sergeant Major	2
Battalion News	3
<i>Wounded Warrior 5K</i>	
<i>Battlefield Circulations</i>	
HHC Company "Hazard"	5
<i>Message from Hazard 6</i>	
<i>An Update from the Staff</i>	
Animals, Alpha Company	6
<i>The Maneuver Enhancement Platoon</i>	
Black Knights, Bravo Company	7
<i>Message from Black Knight 6</i>	
<i>Message from Black Knight 7</i>	
<i>Wheeled Vehicle Platoon</i>	
<i>Headquarters Platoon</i>	
<i>MSP Platoon</i>	
Cheyenne, Charlie Company	9
Bolt, 334 Signal Company	10
<i>Commander's Corner</i>	
<i>Hello From "RETRANS Hill"</i>	
<i>First Sergeant's Corner</i>	
Updates from our Forward Logistic Elements	12
<i>1-23IN FLE at FOB Zangabad</i>	
<i>1-14CAV FLE at FOB Apache</i>	
<i>1-37FA FLE at FOB Lagman</i>	
Advice from the Chaplain	15
Contact Information	15

Message from the Battalion Commander

Lieutenant Colonel Michael Siegl

Frontline Families,

The month of July marks several important milestones for those of us deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. The first is that July is the hottest month of the year, with temperatures above 100 degrees daily, often much hotter. Fortunately it seems that the highs are dropping, although slowly. Despite the heat, the Frontline Battalion came together and held a "4th of July Extravaganza" to celebrate the nation's birthday. There were no fireworks; however, the day did include a relay race where the companies competed in a series of events testing their strength and endurance, a basketball tournament, Xbox contest, and a barbeque. Through these competitions, we not only strengthened the bonds of the Frontline, but we were fortunate enough to have our Romanian allies participate as well. This allowed us to continue building camaraderie between our ranks and with our coalition partners.



For our Afghan partners, July is the beginning of Ramadan. As the holiest month in the Islamic faith, it requires strict observance of a defined rule set, the most noticeable being that they will not eat or drink from sunrise to sunset. Soldiers throughout the battalion, no matter where they are based, have been trained on how to interact with the Afghan population throughout this period. Whether they are security forces, interpreters on our convoys, or local national workers, we are taking this time to gain an understanding of their culture and improve relations.

Finally, and most importantly, July denotes the fourth month deployed for the battalion. Over the past several months, Soldiers have received an enormous amount of support from their families, friends, and the Family Readiness Groups, keeping their morale high. As we near the halfway mark of our time downrange, I ask for your continued support of the Soldiers and Frontline Battalion.



The 4th of July Frontline formation



Message from the Battalion Command Sergeant Major

Command Sergeant Major Francisco Cervantes

FRONTLINE to all Families!

First, I want to extend to all of you my great appreciation for all of your support and involvement in enabling the Frontline to be at this point in this very historic deployment. I know the days seem a little longer, and especially if you find yourself still in the Pacific Northwest, the days really do last

much longer and can make things a little more difficult than when the kids were off at school. Nevertheless, we are getting much closer to returning and I could not be more

proud of all the truly great accomplishments Frontline Soldiers are achieving across the Combined Joint

Operational Area of Regional Command (South).

Your loved ones are being recognized for everything they accomplish, from their metal works to supporting the significant combat operations occurring in the Horn of Panjwai, Spin Boldak, and Zabul Province; the frontlines of the fighting effort. They are, without a doubt, working diligently to preserve the Frontline legacy here in Afghanistan while continuing to set the standard on "Sustaining and Supporting the Frontline!" Again thank you for all you do, stay involved, active, and before you know it, the holidays and redeployment will be before us all. Keep sending brownies!



CSM Cervantes at FOB Masum Ghar



Frontline Announcements

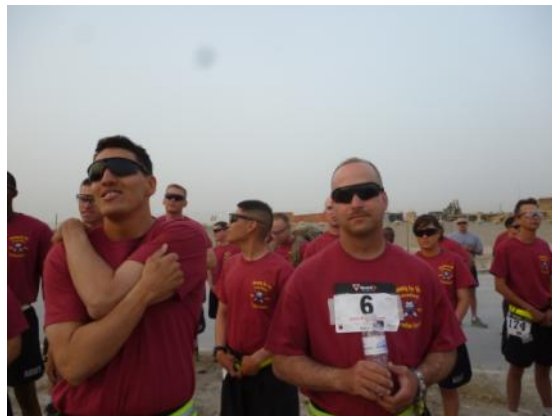
- Over the past four months Frontline Soldiers have been accomplishing great things in support of 3-2SBCT. Soldiers from each company and FLE have earned awards; the award they received and their names are listed in the left hand column on their respective unit's page—Check it out!
- Like the pictures in this month's edition of *From the Frontline*? Our Facebook is updated regularly, so visit our page to see more pictures from the deployment so far



Battalion Events

Running for the Wounded, a Frontline 5k

Last month's edition of *From the Frontline* included an article about some members of the battalion who run in the various 5ks hosted by other units on KAF. On the 27th of July, they finally got an opportunity to run in a race hosted by their very own unit. The event was put together by the Chaplain team, Chaplain McKinnon and Specialist Butkos and open to any Soldier on KAF. The purpose was not just to host an event and build *Espirit de Corps*, but possibly more importantly to honor those who have been wounded in battle. There were some 200 Soldiers who came out that morning, some ran it and others rucked it, but no matter how they got across the finish line, they got out of bed earlier than usual to support both their unit and fellow Soldiers.



SSG Munoz and SGT Burrell waiting for the race to begin



SPC Butkos explaining the route to the participants



CSM Cervantes getting ready to ruck the event



The competitors assembling moments before the race began



Battalion Events

Battlefield Circulations—Visiting Frontline Soldiers

296th BSB may be headquartered at Kandahar Airfield, but there are Frontline Soldiers all over Combined Taskforce Arrowhead (CTFAH). Some serve on Forward Logistics Elements (FLEs), units comprised of maintenance, distribution, medical and field feeding sections, while others, often cooks, work in one or two man teams to support a small Forward Operation Base (FOB) or Combat Outpost (COP). They may lack easy access to internet or phone for a call home, air conditioning on the hottest of days, or a mattress upon which to sleep, all things readily accessible to those posted at KAF.



A Frontline convoy in Kandahar City

Those Soldiers, operating in Spartan conditions, often work harder over longer hours to ensure the mission happens. However, since there is no BSB command element with them, they usually receive little recognition for their accomplishments. Throughout the deployment, and July in particular, Lieutenant Colonel Siegl, Frontline 6, has made it a point to visit every FOB where a Frontline Soldier is serving in order to recognize their outstanding support of the maneuver elements of 3rd Stryker Brigade Combat Team.



Frontline 6 awarding AAMs to Soldiers of the 1-37FA FLE at FOB Lagman



PFC Thompson and SPC Davis of 1-14FLE being given a Frontline coin for their efforts



Frontline Support 1 and Frontline 6 at FOB Luke



LTC Siegl with the 1-23IN CRT at FOB Zangabad



The promotion of SPCs Esquivel and Love



SGT Fischer-Davis of 1-37FLE being awarded an Army Achievement Medal



LTC Siegl congratulating SPC Oaks after awarding him an AAM



Frontline Support 2 and Frontline 6 at FOB Lagman



Hazard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company

A Message from Hazard 6

First Lieutenant Robert Price

Another month in Afghanistan has come and gone, which means we are one month closer to redeployment. July was a busy month for HHC, from providing support for battalion-wide events like the 4th of July Extravaganza to the Frontline 5k.

The Mayor's Cell is continually working to improve the facilities, obtaining more resources for the recently opened Arrowhead Resiliency and Arrowhead Fitness Centers. We were also able to upgrade all the battalion vehicles this month, swapping our used and abused non-tactical vehicles (NTVs), cars basically, for brand new ones.

The upcoming month is looking to be busier than the last one, and we are prepared to meet any challenges that come our way. From every Soldier in HHC, I want to say thank you for the continued support, the care packages and letters; they provide a huge boost to morale and keep everyone going. See you all in a few months!



Hazard 6 and SGT Velasco of Command Group at FOB Masum Ghar

An Update From the Staff

The month of July has been marked by several officers moving in and out of the tactical operations center (TOC).

The former battalion S4, 1LT Hensley, is currently circulating around the battle space in support of the brigade's mission to retrograde as much excess equipment as possible from outlying FOBs. 1LT Meade and 2LT Han, a battle captain and medical support operations officer, respectively, became OICs for two different Forward Logistic Elements (FLEs)[See the FLE sections for their updates]. 2LT Fitzgerald, the assistant S3 moved to 334 Signal Company at FOB Masum Ghar and is currently a platoon leader. Finally 1LT Adams, another battle captain, is about to redeploy so she can attend Combined Logistics Captain's Career Course at Fort Lee, Va.

The Frontline Battalion TOC welcomed Major Kienzle, formerly the brigade S4 and now the new executive officer, in mid-July. The S3 shop added two new officers, 1LT Maxwell from 5-20IN and 2LT Stone, formerly a platoon leader in Bravo Company. Finally, 1LT Jackson, a late deployer, will begin performing duties as the S4 when he arrives.

Despite this reorganization, the staff is still meeting all guidance and performing above the standard ensuring that the company's missions, from maintenance to convoys, are fully supported.



Hazard 7 with the company on the 4th of July

Hazard Awards

Army Achievement Medals

1LT Tillar, Haven
2LT Fitzgerald, Blake
SSG Hernandez, Jairo
SSG Stafford, Clifford
SGT Andress, Timothy
SGT Bradford, Sabrina
SGT Jones, Tishune
SPC Bracey, Corinthian
SPC Brown, Rolena
SPC Butkos, Casandra
SPC Castro, Vincent
SPC Colangelo, Tayler
SPC Walker, Doris
SPC Williams, Monique
PFC Burrell, Adolphus
PFC Northcutt, Raymon
PFC Mangey, Nikesha
PFC Shaw, Robert
PFC Vergara, Jose

Certificates of Achievement

CPT Sanborn, Melvin
1LT Han, Jennifer
1LT Hensley, Colin
1LT Meade, Laura
SFC Lott, Matthew
SSG Misner, Thomas
SGT Jones, Tishune
SGT Velasco, Alan
SPC Barham, David
SPC Campbell, Jonathan



Animals, Alpha Company

The Maneuver Enhancement Team

July, for the Soldiers of Animal Company's MET, started busy and the pace of operations only quickened as the month progressed. The month began with Army Achievement Medals being awarded to SGT Bayne and SPC Rodriguez at the monthly Battalion formation. In regards to operations, the squads changed their areas of support, allowing Soldiers to see and become familiar with different parts of RC-South and the FOBs that the Frontline supports.



Frontline Support 1 Soldiers in the motor pool prior to a mission

Squads continued to improve their skills this month; training included M-4 and crew served weapons ranges, landing zone operations, driver's training and vehicle recovery operations. This training, coupled with the lessons they have learned while on the road over these past four months ensures the METs are better able to react to ever changing circumstances while on mission. With help of other sections within the Frontline Battalion, over 35 convoys to a dozen FOBs were conducted this month. By supporting other battalions with food, water, ammunition, medical supplies, and repair parts, the maneuver units are able to continue their missions.

Each convoy team had the opportunity to escort the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major on several battlefield circulations this month as well. While that is normally the mission of Frontline Support 4, Frontline Support 1 and 2 were able to show off their skills and take the Frontline leadership around to visit Soldiers located at outlying FOBs our logistic pushes support.

Due to some officer moves, SSG Hall had to step up and fill the role of Convoy Commander for Frontline



Frontline Support 2 Soldiers geared up and ready to go

Support 1. With SGT Garcia as the Assistant Convoy Commander, they have continued to perform above the standard while on mission. There were also several new Soldiers the MET welcomed this month; SPC Address is now a driver for Frontline Support 2 and Frontline Support 1 added SPC Stoneback, also a driver. In the two weeks since joining the unit, they have proven themselves and will continue to be a great asset as the deployment continues.

Always striving to support Combined Task Force Arrowhead's maneuver units to the best of their abilities, MET squads will continue to develop their skill sets and improve the standards they have set for themselves over the coming months.

Animal Awards

Army Achievement Medals

SGT Bayne, Steven
SGT Mackowiak, Jason
SPC Address, Maria
SPC Downing, Justin
SPC Ellington, Shanee
SPC Joyner, Hank
SPC Kaba, Mohamed
SPC Rodriguez, Gabriel
PFC Tela, Heston
PV2 Ma, Xiaolong

Certificates of Achievement

SFC Andoh, Kweku
SFC Washington, Tilton
SGT Hall, Michael
SGT Reed, Markita
SPC Dawson, Travis
SPC Draper, Daniel
SPC Ellington, Shanee
PFC Jablinske, Dustin
PVT Collins, Jamarcus
PVT Robinson, Jerold



Frontline Support 4 receiving a convoy brief

Frontline Support 4 receiving a convoy brief



Black Knights, Bravo Company

Message from Black Knight 6

Captain Ryan Wilson

As another month passes, Bravo Company continues to strive for excellence. We continue to build our team and morale. July 4th we competed against fellow companies in a series of physical events. In addition, we got the chance to celebrate the 4th of July by honoring Soldiers with awards, watching movies, and a BBQ hosted by our own Headquarters Company. Although the weather is hot, our Soldiers continue to work hard and accomplish great things. Please continue the amazing support back at JBLM, we really appreciate all that you do for us.

Message from Black Knight 7

First Sergeant David Lee

Hello to all Black Knight Soldiers and families! We have gotten past the hottest part of the year in Afghanistan and it is slowly getting cooler each day. Don't get me wrong, it is still in the low 100s, but that is certainly better than 110 plus. Bravo Company and our Soldiers throughout the battlefield who support the war fighters were busier than ever this month, conducting more vehicle repairs and recovery missions in support of combat operations. Although we will be slowly packing up over the next several months, we need your support to stay motivated and focused on the mission.

Black Knight Awards

Army Achievement Medals

SSG Ferrari, Anthony

SGT Solorio, Andres

SGT Torresrivera, Jonathon

PFC Daddosio, Joseph

PFC Medina, Vianca

PFC Smith, Demetri

PV2 Booker, Nathaniel

PV2 Brown, Lawson

PV2 Martinez, Kevin

Certificates of Achievement

SSG Herren, Mario

SSG Naber, Stephen

SGT Gammons, Leon

SGT Small, James

SGT Torresrivera, Jonathon

SPC Berlin, James

SPC Galloway, Allen

SPC Hopkins, Ashton

SPC Pass, Christopher

SPC Upshur, Tafonser

PFC Daddosio, Joseph

PFC Freels, Michael

PVT Berry, Patrick



Black Knights in formation before the 4th of July festivities



SSG Neagle congratulating the recently pinned SSG Torres on his battlefield promotion

Wheeled Vehicle Platoon Staff Sergeant Pepler

In the last month, the Wheeled Vehicle platoon performed 10 annual services, completed over 200 jobs and performed Quality Assurance/Quality Control inspections on all 296 BSB vehicles.



PFC Arceo repairing one of the many Black Knight gators

The Soldiers of the platoon worked constantly to sustain and fix vehicles in various states of disrepair in order to allow the mission to continue. Often the platoon stayed late to close out open jobs or to fix vehicles right before convoys departed in order to correct a recently discovered fault. Many in the platoon also had the opportunity to work alongside personnel from the Romanian military to assist in the repair of their nation's vehicles. Not only did the Soldiers enjoy working together and learning from each other, but they also strengthened the bond between two allies.



Black Knights, Bravo Company

Headquarters Section

Staff Sergeant Widmer

This month's focus is on our Welders and Allied Tradesmen of the Service and Recovery Section. The five Soldiers in the section are SSG Naber, SGT Duran, SGT McConnell, SPC Hopkins, and SPC Spiritosanto. They have been working every day on special projects that have vital importance to the Frontline mission. Through these dog days of Summer, they have worked without air conditioning in temperatures often exceeding 100 degrees! These guys have true dedication to the mission



The flag stand built for the 82nd Airborne Division



SSG Naber working on another job

and it shows in the quality of their work. Their latest creation in steel, which encompassed several hundred man-hours of work and untold gallons of sweat was a gift for the 82nd Airborne Division. I sure hope those Paratroopers appreciate this work of art and give it a befitting place of honor!

MSP Platoon

Sergeant First Class Kirk

The MSP Platoon continues to be an important asset to the Frontline battalion by providing support across the area of operations, and July has proved to be an even busier month than the past three. The EMS section spent much of the month conducting more than 20 air resupply missions or inspecting excess equipment in or-



The Armament section receives instruction from its NCOIC, SGT Howell



PV2 Martinez and PFC Medina pose for the camera as SGT Ulrich looks on

der to turn it in. The armament section performed maintenance on 10 M777A2 Howitzers, including routine maintenance, software updates, and repairing deadlining faults. GSE currently has three Soldiers on the mobile maintenance team, providing additional maintenance support to outlying FOBs. The platoon has repaired many types of equipment, from refrigerators to A/C units in trucks, and has completed three services and 20 unscheduled maintenance jobs including six Bobcats and a forklift.



Cheyenne, Charlie Company



The medics, providers, and command team of Cheyenne Company at Kandahar Airfield

Cheyenne Awards

Army Achievement Medals

SPC McGrath, Rita

SPC San Agustin, Gerald

PFC Delpino, David

PV2 Sugden, Cal

Excess Reduction

Sergeant Carla Stillwell

Upon arrival to KAF, Cheyenne Company assumed a Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) Property Book valued around \$13 million. Roughly a month into the deployment we identified 154 items that were no longer needed and required turn in. Turning in excess equipment is not as simple as many would assume; it is a multi-step process, including the initial identification, technical inspection to determine if the equipment is still useable, a whole lot of paper work, and then finally the actual handing over of the equipment. While the job of a supply sergeant may not be glamorous or overly exciting, it is a critical position for the overall success of a company.

As the supply sergeant received turn-in instructions, she worked closely with the sub-hand receipt holders on the technical inspection and ensured all the equipment was cleaned and prepared in accordance with specific instructions. Based on the guidance given by the TPE Planner, the equipment would either be turned into the Redistribution Property Accountability Team (RPAT) or the Defense Reutilization Management Office (DRMO). Once the required documentation was prepared, the supply sergeant would then schedule a turn-in time and date. Prior to the turn in, the supply sergeant would work with the platoon sergeants in order to get the required transportation and Soldier support, and depending upon the type of equipment, that could range from one Soldier to the whole platoon. After all those steps were completed, the items were then officially removed from the Commander's property book.

To date Cheyenne Company has turned in over \$10 million of excess equipment, the largest being the three Stryker Medical Evacuation Vehicles (MEVs) that were no longer required for the Cheyenne mission. Turn-ins will continue

until we redeploy, as this process is critical to help the Army prepare for the reduction of forces and equipment across Afghanistan and the successful handover of the mission to C CO, 702nd BSB.



Cheyenne Company conducting inventories and identifying excess equipment



Bolt, 334 Signal Company

Commander's Corner

Captain Michael McCasland

Another month down, sounds nice doesn't it. The deployment is two-thirds of the way done and even though most families don't know, we are already making preparations to come home. Key leaders from our replacing unit will be here this week doing their PDSS (Pre-Deployment Site Survey) preparing for their pending deployment. Your Soldiers continue to amaze me on a daily basis. Their attitudes, work ethic and drive set them apart from most other companies I see around here. I'm very proud of them and all their sacrifices, I know you are too.

The FRG is up and running with new leadership at the helm, I would like to take a minute to note the FRG is going to be what we make of it. You have two new very willing FRG Leaders, Jacqui and Christina, who want to make the remainder of this deployment as fun as possible. They are currently planning events and a Bingo Potluck is already planned for July 25th without your support/attendance at these events, the company FRG becomes ineffective. Family support is what drives a Family Readiness Group; without you, it will not work.

Quite a few Soldiers will be changing locations within the next week, please make sure you get with them incase their address changes. I would hate for a package to be lost in transit when that situation could have been avoided. On that note, keep the care packages coming, trust me, mail delivery is the highlight of the week.

That's all I have for this month, again do not hesitate to contact the company command group or the FRG Leaders for any questions or assistance you might require. Finally, when I was telling my wife that I had to write this today, she said to make sure I mention how awesome she is (in a joking manner). Jacqui McCasland, you are awesome.

-BOLT 6



Bolt Awards

Certificates of Achievement

SGT Neely, Kenneth

SPC Baumgartner, Tyler



SGT Krauss trying to slow down PFC Massey during a football game at FOB Masum Ghar

Hello from "RETRANS HILL" SGT Kenneth Neely

Hello families and friends of the finest communicators ever to grace this dry and depressing country. It has been a very hot and busy month for us on Retrans Hill. Bolt Soldiers competed in the July 4th relay race which consisted of 4 outrageous events, a 1.5 mile run up the highest hill on our Forward Operating Base the now famous "OP 6"! Next was a 100lb kettle bell sprint to the base of OP6, a 20 meter tire flip, and no it's not the tire on your car! The final event was bobbing for apples. Team Bolt finished the job for a 1st place victory in 10 minutes 40 seconds. So it is safe to say that the 1SG's "Oh look, it's a hill, lets run it!!!!" is paying off. During the past week we have opened our stride and running at full speed ever focused on the tasks ahead. Retrans Soldiers would like to say thanks to the FRG for the awesome care packages!



SPC Warner, SGT Neely, SPC Porter, and SPC BG (L to R), the Bolt 4th of July BDE Relay Champions



First Sergeant's Corner

Sergeant First Class Nelson Mabee

Fellow Bolts and Bolt Family and Friends,

Another busy month has come and passed. We have passed the midpoint of the deployment and are well on our way to the return. On that point, I must remind all Bolts (and families) to remain vigilant in their duties and persevere to the end.

This month was especially enjoyable to me as I was able to spend a couple of weeks in the JBLM area with my family. It was very relaxing and recharged my batteries. A quick note on R&R leave to Soldiers and families: If you have not gone on leave yet, make sure that you and your family have the same ideas of what you want to do while there. Fifteen days to relax can go by quickly with no relaxing if you cram too much into your schedule. The key is relaxation, time with family, and did I mention relaxation...

Good job Bolts while I was gone maintaining the standard and continuing the mission. Now that I am back however, time to turn it up a notch and finish strong. I will be coming out to visit every site and can't wait to see all of you hard at work accomplishing the Brigade's signal mission.

As always, to the family and friends (you're all part of the Bolt family) back in the civilized world we miss you all and thank you as we couldn't do it without every one of you; you are always in our thoughts and minds.

-BOLT 7

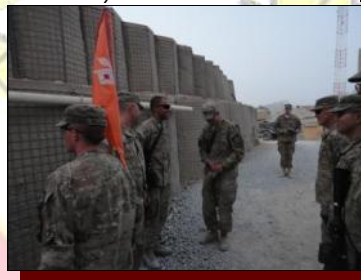
Bolt Soldiers In Action



2LT Fitzgerald, the newest Bolt, anxiously awaiting his first 1SG's PT session



Ssg Brown supporting "The" Ohio State University in his customized helmet



SPC BG promoting SPC Jones



SPC BG and PFC Kenady preparing to set up a radio antenna



SPCs Anthony and Shine taking a break for a photo



Bolt Soldiers preparing for some PT led by SSG Miller



SPC Nichols opening a package at FOB Lagman



Updates from the Forward Logistics Elements (FLEs)

1-23 Infantry FLE at FOB Zangabad

First Lieutenant Laura Meade, FLE OIC

Over the past month, the 1-23 FLE at FOB Zangabad and outlying locations has engaged in a series of new projects to ensure the Tomahawks of 1-23 Infantry Battalion are receiving the best support possible. By providing continual support, the maneuver companies can complete their missions without having to worry about supplies, food, or fuel.

Since coming to the FLE mid July, I have taken over the fun and exciting planning, coordinating and PowerPoint work. This has allowed SFC Lunsford and the rest of the NCOs to do what they do best - making the mission happen. The biggest improvement to FLE operations was the creation of the fuel farm at FOB Zangabad. This new infrastructure means the FLE can have 60,000 gallons of fuel on hand, allowing us to serve as a fuel hub for the entire battalion.

Our field feeding teams continue to work to improve their tremendous support of the Tomahawks. COP Mushan is currently building a new dining facility that will include improved kitchen appliances to help serve Soldiers as well as a large dining area.

The distribution section, led by 1LT Hardin (1-23), SFC Lunsford and SSG Perotte (1-23), has completed 22 support missions over the past



CPL Hubbard and PFC Shaw serving lunch— Steak and Cake for the 4th of July

month, to include its first coalition support mission with the ANA, assisting them in transporting supply containers from COP Lyon to COP Palace.

Finally, the CRT continues to lead the way in the outstanding vehicle, ground equipment, and power generation maintenance to ensure the Battalion is an able and ready force at all times. This month they completed nine recovery missions and conducted repairs on 13 small arms, 22 air conditioning and refrigerator units, 41 vehicles, 11 optics, four mine rollers, and seven welding fabrications.

We all want to say thank you for the support from home, we wouldn't be able to do our job without you!



SGT Pease and his hard earned belt, the prize for winning the hot dog eating contest on the 4th of July

1-23 FLE Awards

Army Achievement Medal

SGT Witcher, Lanelle

SPC Burkeen, Troy

SPC Chapman, Curtis

SPC Fite, Marlon

SPC Rodriguezaviles, Alexis

PFC Archibal Derek

Certificates of Achievement

SGT Quinteros, Darwin

SPC Angelette, Michael

SPC Bush, Justin

SPC Fite, Marlon

SPC Fleming, Keith

SPC Hildreth, Najee

SPC Holtzclaw, Dustin

SPC Kennedy, Robert

SPC Rodriguezaviles, Alexis

SPC Wells, Charles

PFC Love, Koven



SPCs Rodriguez and Angelette at the beginning of the fuel farm expansion project



Updates from the Forward Logistics Elements (FLEs)

1-14 Cavalry FLE at FOB Apache

Second Lieutenant Jennifer Han, FLE OIC

The TF Warhorse Forward Logistics Element has been very busy throughout the month of July, as is typical for the distribution and maintenance elements on Apache, but the Soldiers remain in high spirits and are proud of their accomplishments. As SGT Ray puts it, "we have been busy, but it's good because we're growing together as a unit." The longest mission the element of the FLE stationed at FOB Apache conducted this month was at FOB Sweeney, where they remained in standby support for five days. SPC Roglin's thoughts about this and the FLE's efforts in general were summarized by his statement that "we make difficult missions look easy."



SPC Nettles and SPC Collins download a wrecker after a recovery mission.

1-14 FLE Awards

Army Achievement Medal

SGT Drennon, Timothy

SGT Kramer, Kyle

SGT Simmons, Kaleb

SGT Ray, Jamie

SPC Hensley, Stephanie

SPC Kamel, Jack

SPC Li, Jiayin

SPC Martinez, Gene

SPC Wallace, Sarah



Soldiers pose before going on a mission.

Aside from sections of the FLE located at FOB Apache, the cooks and maintenance teams at outlying locations have been working hard and maintaining high standards, and in some cases setting new ones. As SPCs Rhoades and Coburn put it "there is always the option to cook UGR-As (prepared heat-and-serve rations) for the FOB, but we take a lot of pride in our job and there is no skill in that." Despite the absence of their noncommissioned officer for the majority of this month due to EML, they have performed above the standard and the residents of FOB Sweeney have had nothing but positive comments for the DFAC since those Soldiers arrived. 1SG Alexander even requested that SPC

Rhoades stay in Sweeney for the duration of the tour as the quality of food has improved since his arrival.

The next month will be slower operationally for the Squadron, mainly due to the Ramadan holiday period that began on 20 July. Our FLE Soldiers will continue to remain busy, however, as fewer maneuver operations provide an ideal time for scheduled maintenance. Most of our mechanics have been consolidated on FOB Apache to help make the work more efficient, and they have been staying busy servicing nearly all the vehicles within the Squadron. With SSG Hogge on leave, SGT Simmons has taken charge of the shop and continues to perform tasks above the standard. Meanwhile, SGT Keskin has been leading the weapons maintenance team in servicing an entire troops' worth of weapons in a day, which is no small feat.

The 1-14FLE in Zabul Province is doing well, but miss you all very much and look forward to returning home. Ironhorse!



Updates from the Forward Logistics Elements (FLEs)

1-37 Field Artillery FLE at FOB Lagman

Second Lieutenant Valerie Zagursky, SERRT OIC

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Yañez, FLE OIC

1-37 FLE Awards

Army Achievement Medal

SGT Fisher-Davis, Jordan

SPC Colson, Eriquon

SPC Hannah, Marc

SPC Merritt, Mark

SPC Oaks, David

PFC Anders, Daniel

PFC Kwok, Gregory

PFC Matthews, Alonza

PFC Morgan, Solomon



1-37 FA FLE posing for a group photo

This past month, the 1-37 FLE has been exceptionally busy. SSG Applegate and the maintenance section have performed over 100 jobs, serviced over 20 vehicles and have gone on several recovery missions that were critical not only to the US mission, but also to our Romanian counterparts. The recovery crews have also helped our sister battalion 1-14 CAV recover some of their mission critical equipment. SGT Palmer and his Soldiers have performed over 10 fueling missions to the outlying FOBs in the Qalat area and have also gone on various combat logistical patrols. SPC Peaks and PFC Morgan have supported over 10 resupply convoys by unloading over 50 tons of parts, supplies and equipment. SGT Chang and his squad have received over \$100,000 of critical repair parts. SPC Sekyi and PFC Matthews have also cataloged and inventoried all of the maintenance containers in order to make parts readily available to mechanics as well as other units in the Zabul Province.

2LT Zagursky and SSG Ojeda have been helping in closing FOB Lagman down. They have retrograded over \$2 million and 250 tons of excess supplies and scrap metal with the help of the FLE Soldiers. This is a great example of 296 Soldiers ability to adapt to new missions and help one another.

SGT Duane Butler was promoted to the rank of SGT on the 1st of July, a well deserved and hard earned promotion. SGT Butler thanked all the past and present NCOs who have influenced his career. Birthdays for the month of July were SPC Sekyi and PFC Anders. Overall it has been a great month for the 1-37 FLE.



CW2 Yañez and the newly promoted SGT Butler



On Point!

296th BSB (Forward)

Kandahar Airfield
APO, AE 09355

296th BSB (Rear)

BLDG 3736
Stryker AVE.
JBLM, WA
98433



FRONTLINE SUPPORT
Respect and Honor

From the Chaplain

In the last Frontline Newsletter I spoke about how we need to continue trying to grow together in our marriage relationships even though we are far apart. The same is true for our relationships with our children, too. Just as we strive to think about our spouse and communicate how we love him or her, we need to keep our kids as a very close second to our marriage. They look up to us for encouragement, approval, love, affection and acceptance, all things that can be extremely difficult to provide while we are deployed.

Thanks to the USO, we now have the equipment to establish the United Through Reading program. They have provided us with a video camera, tripod, recordable DVDs, books, and envelopes. The concept is that the Soldier reads a book to their child, while being recorded, so that

both the DVD and book can be mailed home. The child then follows along in the book as he or she watches the parent on the video reading it to them.

This is a new program for us at the Battalion and is about to begin very soon. However, we do not yet have a large selection of children's books. If there is a book that you would like for your Soldier to read to your child then I encourage you to send it to your Soldier. This is a great program that has boosted the morale of many Soldiers, and it has the potential to help keep the relationship of the Soldier and their child close despite being separated.

With Respect and Blessings,

Chaplain (CPT) Ryan McKinnon

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BN CSM

CSM F. Cervantes Jr.

Executive Officer

MAJ Gregory Kienle

HHC Commander

1LT Robert Price

A Company Commander

CPT Scott Dyer

B Company Commander

CPT Ryan Wilson

C Company Commander

CPT Bryan Shrives

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