



FROM THE FRONTLINE

Inside this issue:

Battalion Events	1
Message From the Battalion Commander	
Visit From the 45th Sustainment Brigade Commander	
Promotion, Awards, and Patch Ceremony at KAF	
HHC Company "Hazard"	3
Update from Hazard 6	
Frontline Fitness Center	
A Company "Animals"	4
XO's Note	
Platoon Stories	
B Company "Black Knights"	6
Message from Black Knight 6	
Message from Black Knight 7	
Platoon Stories	
C Company "Cheyenne"	8
Recent Events	
334 Signal Company "Bolt"	9
FOB Masum Ghar Improvement	
Pictures of Bolt Soldiers in Action	
Updates from the FLEs	11
1-23 FLE	
1-37 FLE	
Advice from the Chaplain	12
Contact Information	12

We are online! Check out our Facebook page for current events and photos!

Message From the Battalion Commander

Lieutenant Colonel Michael B. Siegl

Frontline Team, it has been yet another remarkable month for our Frontline Soldiers here in Afghanistan! The Soldiers of the Frontline Battalion have settled in and are performing the missions of the Arrowhead Brigade to the best of their abilities. I am truly proud of how far we have come and I am looking forward to our constant progress.

As I have made my way around the vast areas of Afghanistan in which we operate, I have witnessed the hard work and tireless efforts of our Soldiers to complete the missions at hand. The capabilities that our Soldiers provide are allowing the Arrowhead Brigade to strengthen the stability in this region.

We have hosted many guests here at our Battalion footprint over the past few weeks, and it is a common theme to hear their praise of how well the Frontline Bat-

talion has presented itself and the progress that has been made — a true testament to the great work our Soldiers are doing.



LTC Siegl Addressing Frontline Soldiers of the 1-14 FLE

I thank you for the support that the Frontline Families continue to give us and please enjoy the stories on our Soldiers found in this edition.

Visit From the 45th Sustainment Brigade Commander

On May 21st, the Frontline hosted distinguished visitors from the 45th Sustainment Brigade to include the Brigade Commander, Colonel Jeffrey Drushal. The 45th Sustainment Brigade supports several units and task forces within Regional Command—South here in Afghanistan.

The visit and presentation provided Colonel Drushal and his staff an opportunity to see what the Frontline does on a day to day basis, our capabilities as a unit, and how far we have come from arriving to

KAF over two months ago. He was impressed with the amount of work our Soldiers have done to improve our footprint here on KAF.

The guests were then allowed to see first hand the changes we made on our footprint with a guided tour from our Battalion Commander, Lieutenant Colonel Siegl. Areas toured included the Battalion Tactical Operations Center, the Aid Station, and motorpool which included both A Company's and B Company foot prints.



Battalion Events

Promotion, Awards, and Patch Ceremony at KAF

On May 1st, the Frontline Battalion recognized several Soldiers for their outstanding achievements and promotions. Additionally, a large number of Soldiers were presented their 2nd Infantry Division combat patches for 30 consecutive days of service in a combat zone.

The ceremony began with a large formation that first recognized those who received a promotion or an award. Army Achievement Medals and Certificates of Appreciation were awarded for various acts to



COL Webster Presenting a 2ID Patch

Once these Soldiers were recognized, they quickly marched off to make room for the very large formation of Soldiers receiving the 2nd Infantry Division patch, or "Indian Head Patch." For many of the Soldiers in the Frontline Battalion, this deployment is their first with the 2nd Infantry Division. They now retain the right to wear this patch the remainder of their career in the Army.

Distinguished guests in attendance included our Brigade Commander, COL Webster, and Brigade Command Sergeant Major, CSM Murphy, as well as our Romanian allies.



The Frontline Formed For the Ceremony

include the Battalion Honor Guard, which served during the month of January at JBLM, and outstanding performances by Soldiers in their respective roles.



The Persons to Be Recognized in Formation



Hazard, Headquarters and Headquarters Company

Update from Hazard 6

First Lieutenant Robert Price

Hello everyone and welcome back to the Headquarters and Headquarters section of the Frontline Bulletin. First I would like to say thanks for all the care packages and snacks sent downrange. The Frontline Express Room is fully stocked with snacks, reading material, and hygiene products. Our Hazard Soldiers are still in the construction mode as we push forward with numerous projects:

Frontline Auditorium: We recently converted a room into a training and presentation room, complete with fresh paint and framed pictures from around the Pacific Northwest.

Frontline Fitness Center: Set up exercise equipment to include Free weights, punching bags, stair steppers, treadmills, rowing machines, and cross fit room.

MWR: We are currently in the construction phase of converting office spaces into various rooms, to include ping pong table room, phone room, internet café, movie room, and a board game/cards room.

Once the above projects are completed, the First Sergeant and I should be able to go out and visit the other 92G's (Army cooks) out at the different FOBs and Field Feeding Team sites.

Until next month, Hazard 6 out.



1LT Price

Hazard Promotions in May

PFC Deontae Allen

PFC Jason Bryant

PFC Nikesha Mangey

PFC Tre Williams

The Frontline Fitness Center

Soldiers primarily from HHC have worked diligently to build a gym for the Frontline Battalion and visiting members of the Arrowhead Brigade during the past month.

Initially the building provided was an office space, built with many walls and furniture to clear out, but we worked hard to transform it into a viable gym. The gym now includes two changing rooms, a toning room, a cross fit room, an elevated platform for various cardio machines, and an area for free weights. Several of the Battalion's distinguished unit insignias adorn the gym, painted by your very own HHC Soldiers.

We will be receiving new equipment to include free weights, punching bags, stair steppers,

treadmills, and rowing machines. The gym will be opening soon in the next month and will serve to better the health of all Soldiers in the Brigade, especially within the Frontline.



A View of the Cardio Section Machines



Animals of Alpha Company

"Welcome to the Animal House"

Executive Officer's Corner

First Lieutenant Curtis Radoff

Greetings from the Animal Command Post in Kandahar, Afghanistan! You will be happy to hear that the Soldiers of Animal Company, 296th BSB have continued to excel after 60 days of being deployed in Operation Enduring Freedom. The Company has found a battle rhythm that seems to be working because there has been a lot accomplished. The Soldiers have reorganized the entire motor pool, built a beautiful shade patio to get away from the hot sun, all the while conducting high-tempo operations seven days a week. They continue to work hard, and are having a great time while they are here. Until the next time....Animal 5 Out



1LT Radoff

Animal Promotions in May

PV2 Jamaricus Collins
SGT Steven Bain
PV2 Jerold Robinson
SPC Tobbie Rodgers
SPC Thomas Wood

Headquarters Section

Alpha Company 296 BSB HQ section has been running at high speed. We have issued over 57,000 gallons of JP8 and counting and tracking 45 missions totaling over 4500 miles. We are receiving tons of mail from you guys in the rear; thank you for all your support. Alpha Company is hosting a Memorial Day BBQ to help boost the morale of all the Soldiers in the company as well as the Battalion.

We are continuing to train in all aspects of operations. 1SG Reichard continues to run a tight ship and make sure that all administrative data is correct and to the point. We are starting to submit End of Tour Awards, so you know what that means. The time is drawing near for our return home. Hooray!

SSA Platoon

The SSA continues to remold their sections daily to meet the Frontline's mission. They conducted the first Authorized Storage List (ASL) review for the deployment, which resulted in a total of 1,969 ASL lines valued at \$13,193,264. After several weeks of hard work and dedication Soldiers were able to process more than one hundred 463L pallets (ALOCs). Each section consists solely of Soldiers in the ranks of E-2- E-4, who are entrusted with the duties of NCO's.

On May 1, 2012, fifteen Soldiers of the SSA were awarded their first combat patches during the 296 BSB Combat Patch Ceremony in which both COL Charles R. Webster and CSM Samuel G. Murphy, 3-2 CTFAH Command were in attendance. Along with the patch ceremony, PV2 Patrick Key was promoted to

the rank of Private First Class. During the month of May, SPC Marla Vazquez was welcomed back to the SSA. Chief Amaya was officially welcomed to the Animal Company at



In the Motorpool



Animals of Alpha Company (Continued)



Chief Amaya's Hail by CPT Dyer

MET Platoon "Roughnecks"

Sergeant First Class James Chestnut

It's been a busy month for the Roughnecks Platoon. We've completed the turn in of many MRAPs and upgraded to the much more comfortable MRAP ISS. Our drivers tell us they drive like a Cadillac. We've started focusing training on some of the less common skill sets that we need to be experts at, such as setting up landing zones, deliberate vehicle recovery, and Blue Force Tracker. As each mission is completed we identify areas that we need to train and those that we may need to hit again.



MET Squad 2

The month of May saw a reorganization that shifted our 3rd Squad to the Animal Company Distribution Platoon. While it was a hard decision to make, it benefited our overall mission. And 3rd Squad isn't out of the convoy rotation either; they still maintain the ability to roll out in gun trucks to perform convoy security as a backup to our primary Squads.

the Battalion's first Hail and Farewell at Mama Mia's Pizzeria at the boardwalk, as you see pictured to the left. CPT Dyer had some great things to say about him in the short period of time Chief Amaya has been with us. Each day, the platoon is responsible for receiving and issuing the supplies that individual units need in order to accomplish their missions at the exorbitant pace that deployment requires. While this pace requires a lot of hard work, the Soldiers make the best of their time in Afghanistan and always focus on the accomplishment of the mission.

We've had some interesting missions lately. And many of us have had some dismounted time among the local populace. We quickly learned that the local children love getting pens and pencils as well as snacks, drinks, candy and anything else they can get their hands on. I recently learned



SFC Chestnut With Local Children

this the hard way, when I glanced at my watch while dismounted and was immediately surrounded by children asking for it.

All in all it's been a good month. There have been some growing pains, but we're getting closer to where I think we should be. Everyone is safe, enthusiastic and mission focused. We miss our families and friends back home, and thank them all for the support and sacrifices they make.

Stay Strong, SFC Chestnut

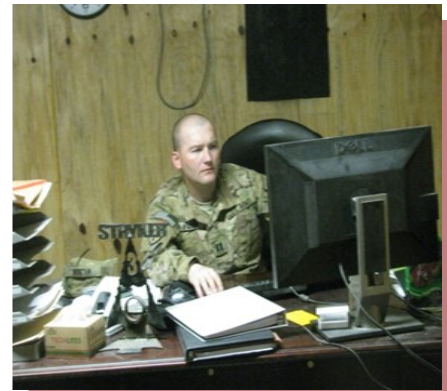


The Black Knights of Bravo Company

Message from Black Knight 6

Captain Ryan Wilson

The Soldiers of Bravo Company have made great strides. Combined we have completed 1225 work orders over the course of two months. This is incredible work that is not only important to the battalion, but important to our mission here. The motorpool looks great, morale is high, and I cannot ask for a better group of Soldiers. I wanted to congratulate the Bravo Company FRG and all the spouses for their support. Congratulations to all of you for being the first to complete the Walk to Afghanistan at JBLM. Without our families behind us we could not achieve all that we have done. Again, thank you.



CPT Wilson

Message from Black Knight 7

First Sergeant David Lee

Hello everyone. Well, it's starting to get hot and I know it's going to get hotter. Soldiers are conducting themselves like the professional Soldiers that they are. Despite working very long hours in the heat and in their coveralls, they maintain their morale and work even harder no matter what comes their way. I am very proud to be serving with all the Soldiers in B CO and I couldn't have asked for better Soldiers. We stay very busy so the time is going by very fast and soon we will be getting ready to go back home.



1SG Lee

Wheeled Vehicle Platoon

Staff Sergeant Neagle

This month in the Bravo Company Wheel Vehicle Platoon we had SPC Laird, SPC Riddick and Pv2 Bramall go to and return from "H-8" (Recovery School) so they can pick up vehicles that cannot move under their own power. Also SPC Laird and PFC Berry are replacing a HET (a truck able to move heavy equipment) engine and transmission. Our own SPC O'Neal was chosen to be the Battalion Commander's Driver so we will be repairing trucks without him for a while. PFC Maestas, PFC Arceo, and PFC Ochieng replaced two complete sets of light on PLS (Palletized Load System) trailer to bring them up to FMC (Fully Mission Capable).

Our recovery section also did a great deal: SSG Peppler, SGT Greenwood, SGT Southern, and PFC Martin went

out on a 12-hour mission recovering Cougar vehicle as well as numerous other recovery missions.



A Member from WV Platoon Working

Black Knight

Promotions in May

PV2 Patrick Berry

PFC Nathaniel Booker

PFC Lawson Brown

PV2 Bryan Heffernan

PFC Kevin Martinez



The Black Knights of Bravo Company (Continued)

Headquarters Section

Staff Sergeant Tillero

The Service Section of the Headquarters Platoon continues to awe the Arrowhead Brigade with their abilities in fabrications. Led by SSG Naber, the section has made numerous items showing their great ability to think out of the box and produce items directly for the Brigade Commander, Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Battalion Commander and Battalion Command Sergeant Major. They have also been fabricating items which will assist with fighting against insurgency. The section consists of only five Soldiers: SSG Naber, SGT Duran, SGT McConnell, SPC Hopkins, and PFC Spiritosanto.



Members of HQ Section

MSP Platoon

Sergeant First Class Kirk

This has been a busy month for the MSP Platoon. The Armament Section has performed numerous repairs on the M777A2 155mm Medium Towed Howitzer. Armament's highest concern is the mission capability of these imperative force protection weapons. Within the last 30 days, we have conducted five missions conducting semi-annual services and major component repairs on 10 Howitzers. SPC Prieto and PFC Wetzel have been leading the way and are currently repairing and servicing the Howitzers in the outlining FOBs. Armament has been working tirelessly ensuring all weapon systems throughout the Arrowhead Brigade are maintained to a fully mission capable status. This will ensure that the lethal fighting force of Task Force Arrowhead maintains a consistency in mission success.



SFC Kirk Hard at Work

Black Knight

Promotions in May

PFC Trevor Luffman

PFC Justin Wetzel

SPC Matthew Baylis



Black Knight Welding



SSG Widmer Walking the Motorpool



Cheyenne, Charlie Company

Recent Events

First Lieutenant Sing Wang

May included many noteworthy and significant developments within C Co 296 BSB. On May 10th, 2012 SFC Michelle Parks, the outgoing First Sergeant for the company, was replaced by the incoming First Sergeant, MSG Darwin Copeland. SFC Parks served with distinction and her influence was ubiquitous within company. We will sorely miss her. 1SG Copeland comes to C Co from our sister battalion 5-20 IN, which deployed in December 2011. We welcome his experience and lessons learned from having already served five months in country.



SFC Parks and 1SG Copeland

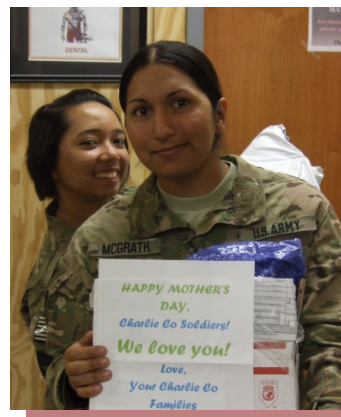
Several healthcare and ancillary service providers-CPT Ravi, CPT Rice, CPT Garcia, CPT Williams-spent several days to weeks amongst the various Forward Operating Bases, and lent their skills and technical knowledge to those locations. Additionally, we welcome CPT Wojnarski back from his time spent at a combat outpost, while simultaneously we wish safe travels to SSG Betke and SPC Robbins.

The treatment and evacuation platoon continue to



CPT Lindstrom Instructing Members of Cheyenne

meet the challenging demands that a deployed environment places upon an organization and its soldiers. While shouldering the requirement to provide Level II medical support for 296 BSB and all soldiers within 3-2 SBCT, the soldiers of Charlie



SGT Stillwell and SPC McGrath on Mother's Day

Company have done a wonderful job training at the KAF Role 3 Hospital, conducting EO, SHARP, 8 Step Training Model, resiliency, burn treatment, and numerous other training events.



SPC Tending to Medical Equipment

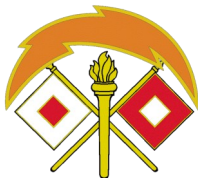
With assistance from the CSM, the arrowhead care clinic is being established this month. SGT Acevedo and LT Salazar have spent a considerable amount of time administering the program. Since the month of May is still not over, stay tuned for additional updates on the platelet drive headed by LT Salazar and the upcoming Evacuation/Headquarters vs. Treatment C Co. Basketball game!

Cheyenne

Promotions in May

SPC Preston Robbins

PFC Abbi Trimble



Bolt, 334 Signal Company
FOB Masum Ghar Improvement
First Lieutenant Blake Bugaj



The greatest concentration and home of 334 Signal Soldiers is on FOB Masum Ghar. The Bolt Company assumed control of Signal Hill. The area needed improvement and the good part of a month was spent cleaning up to the Bolt standard. It felt like being live on the TV show *Hoarders*. Days were spent sifting through various boxes filled with books, soap, toothbrushes and various unwanted items from care packages. The FOB almost ran out of fuel from all the trips that were made in the John Deere Gator to the garbage dump.



The old tent. Note: door the small mini door.

New CP with locking cipher door.

The tent was finally cleared of all rubbish. The next step was to tear down the tent completely and remove all the flooring to make way for the new tent. The vacant area of rocks where the tent previously encompassed was a beautiful picture. The musty air of the old tent was gone. The unoccupied scenery was short lived because the Bolts were hard at work erecting the new tent. Having washed and sanitized the floor boards, they began to rebuild their new command post. Just to be safe, and to link

all the boards together, another layer of plywood was hammered into place.

The groundwork had been laid and the next tedious task of building walls, doors and desks was set in motion. Framing walls might not sound like a difficult task, however on the side of a mountain it becomes exceptionally cumbersome. For starters, the floor was uneven and far from level. Secondly, the tools at our disposal were slim to none. No chisel to hollow out a hole for the door knob? No problem, we have a screwdriver for that! The Signalers had to make it work with what they had; a Soldier will always accomplish the mission. It was a perfectionist's nightmare. The walls were askew, doorways were either tapering up into a triangle or down into the shape of a 'V'. We had to settle for the middle ground and did our best at making it resemble the blueprints, which were mental of course.



Old tent interior

We are into the final stages of the construction. The civilian electrician from Task Force Power was brought in to wire up the office with outlets and lighting. A master at his craft, Ricky, bent conduit, spliced wires and rigged the tent for success. A few final touches and the command post will be open for business soon. The combined effort of everyone that pitched in to help is what made this daunting task a success. I would like to thank everyone that participated in the process from start to finish and Ricky for all his hard work.

Bolt
Promotions in May

SPC Michael Filby



1SG Mabey, SPC Baumgartner and SSG Seibert raise the frame for the wall to the Commander's office.

Doorways leading to the CDR, XO and 1SG offices. Ricky is putting the final conduit in for the electricity.



Bolt, 334 Signal Company (Continued)

Bolt Soldiers In Action



All the participants in the 5k gather for a group photo, including the German Sheppard.



SPC Anthony stands proud with her 1st Place medal.



SPC Porter sighs as she passes more and more rocks, the bane of her existence on FOB Lagman.



The company stands ready for the promotion of PV2 Alexander to PFC.



CPT Bardell and SSG Seibert promote Alexander by pinning on her new rank.



PFC Alexander does push-ups as the humidity rises.

Updates from Our Forward Logistics Elements (FLE)

1-23 FLE at Zangabad

Sergeant First Class James Lunsford

The Soldiers of the 1-23 FLE have begun to settle into daily rhythms but still work a minimum of 12 hours a day. It takes lots of hard work and planning to support an Infantry task force spread across several different FOBs. Some of our Soldiers were recently recognized by the battalion commander for their hard work and excellent results. SPC Kennedy and SPC Burkeen both received Army Achievement Medals for their work on recovery missions. SPC Hildreth, SPC Wells and PFC Love received Certificates of Achievement for their mission success driving trucks during resupply missions. CPL Hubbard and PFC Campbell received coins for their work in the dining facility. Having a hot meal at the end of a hard day really raises your morale.

During the month of June, the temperatures will pick up and we will get even more deeply involved in the mission here. We all look forward to making a positive impact on the battalion mission.



CPL Hubbard and PFC Campbell Serving Dinner



CPL Hubbard and PFC Campbell Looking Through Recipes

1-37 FLE at Lagman

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jose Yañez

On 30 April 2012, SSG Selman reenlisted at FOB Lagman for an indefinite period. LTC Siegl, 296 BSB Battalion Commander, made time out of his busy schedule to convoy to FOB Lagman and perform the reenlistment ceremony. For LTC Siegl, this was his first deployment reenlistment ceremony, so not only did SSG Selman reenlist for the final time in his military career, but it was a first for LTC Siegl as a battalion commander in a deployed area.

"This was an important day for me and my family," said SSG Selman after the ceremony. "This helps keep my family safe and secure, and also lets me stay in the Army doing what I like to do,



LTC Siegl administers the Reenlistment Oath to SSG Selman

lead and take care of Soldiers." SSG Selman is the FLE NCOIC for the 1-37 Field Artillery Battalion. This firing battalion has a battalion headquarters on FOB Lagman along with numerous firing



LTC Siegl and SSG Selman After the Ceremony

points across the Arrowhead battlefield. SSG Selman makes sure that FOB Lagman and the firing points have maintenance, fuel and all other classes of supplies. SSG Selman is from Tuscaloosa Alabama (Roll Tide!) and entered the Army in 6 AUG 2001. SSG Selman is married and has 4 children.

Not only did it mean a lot to SSG Selman to have LTC Siegl come to our FOB and have him reenlist him in front of the FLE Soldiers and the 1-37 battalion leadership, but it meant a lot to LTC Siegl. "I will always remember my first deployed reenlistment", LTC Siegl said, before the official ceremony. After the ceremony, LTC Siegl addressed the Soldiers of the 1-37 FLE and talked about the mission and the great things SSG Selman and FLE Soldiers are doing.



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

Advice from the Chaplain

Nine months is a long period of time to go without seeing family and friends. In the attempt of passing the time as quickly as possible by staying busy and keeping ourselves occupied we are going to run the risk of getting worn out. One thing we all have in common is that we are all looking forward to the time that we will be reunited at home. Here are some ideas on how to help stay motivated through the deployment:

- 1) A motivation board filled with pictures of where you will be going while on Block Leave;
- 2) Countdown jars where one jar is filled with an amount of jelly beans that's close to the amount of days we have left of the deployment, and another jar that is empty – with each passing day move one jelly bean to the second jar, using both as a visual motivator of how we are getting closer to being reunited;
- 3) Create mile markers and celebrate each time you reach a certain "mile" – for instance, a mile marker could be a month of deployment, and you celebrate by having a popcorn and movie night every time a month is completed.

Having reminders that we will be reunited in a certain amount of time can help us be patient while we continue to grow in our excitement of being together again.

With respect and blessings,
Chaplain Ryan McKinnon

Forward Deployed Contacts:

BN Commander

LTC Michael B. Siegl

BN CSM

CSM F. Cervantes Jr.

Executive Officer

MAJ Stefan Bandas

HHC Commander

1LT Robert Price

A Company Commander

CPT Scott Dyer

B Company Commander

CPT Ryan Wilson

C Company Commander

CPT Bryan Shrives

334 Sig. Company Commander

CPT Brittany Bardell

Rear Detachment Contacts:

OIC

CPT Fredrico DeVera

NCOIC

MSG Darren Nixon

2IC

CW3 Aaron Skinner

FRSA

Mary Hanchek-Scott

Battalion Staff Duty: 253-967-6959