



THE 18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION'S WarhammerTimes

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 18TH CSSB

DECEMBER 2012

ISSUE 5

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Pfc. Troy Harriot, with B Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, fires the German made Heckler & Koch G36 rifle during the qualification for the *Schützenschnur* badge, at the German marksmanship range, on 17 Oct. in Mazare-e Sharif, Afghanistan. (Photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th CSSB Public Affairs)
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18th CSSB Command Team

Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher



Happy Holidays to all members of the Warhammer Battalion and their Families!

As I write each one of these letters I am shocked that a month has passed. This December we are extremely busy as we prepare for two transfers of authority, the holidays, and then move into January which will have the headquarters preparing for their redeployment. This is a month to recognize the hard work, selfless service and dedication to duty of the 427 BSB Soldiers who have established what we now know as the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element (CMRE) sourced solution to the retrograde mission. It is time to welcome the 289th QMSC and the 247th QMSC as they assume the mission, time to reflect on the blessings in our lives, and finally to time to shape the next year as we get ready to welcome 68th CSSB.

HHC and Bravo Companies 427th BSB, two National Guard Companies from New York are preparing for their award ceremonies, reliefs in place and transfers of authority to the 247th QMSC from Fort Carson, CO and the 289th QMSC, respectively, from Fort

Hood, TX. After nine months deployed to Afghanistan and months dedicated to the preparation, we couldn't be prouder of their service and dedication to the mission. In total, they accomplished over 600 missions, brought over \$618 million dollars of property brought to record and established tactics, techniques, and procedures that will not only become Army doctrine but will be written in history books. It is through the hard work of these Soldiers and the support of their Families that our success in the Afghanistan retrograde mission is exceeding expectations.

"The first holiday away from home is the one by which you will measure all others." I remember vividly reading these words on my first Christmas away from home. My father, a Vietnam Veteran, wrote this to me when I was stationed in Korea. Since then I have missed three more due to deployments and I always reflect back to these words of experience and wisdom. I find such truth in these words and as I discussed with a friend yesterday, my life is about quality time, not quantity time and I ensure that the moments and holidays that I am with friends and family are that much more special. I also use the

holiday season to reflect on the words, "Peace on Earth". Those words tend to hold a special place with me since it is the lack there of, that requires your service member to be on point this holiday season. Although we are more than honored to do so, I can't help but focus on that goal-Peace on Earth.

Finally, the headquarters is preparing for the reception of the 68th CSSB and our reintegration back in Grafenwohr. We are setting our final goals, writing papers and handbooks to capture lessons learned and planning Spring Breaks upon our redeployment block leave. I know being away during the holidays is hard but be inspired by the near term return of your loved ones. As always, I couldn't be prouder to be serving you and your service member. Happy Holidays and may the New Year be full of peace, love, and prosperity. It's Hammertime!

We Forge Ahead!

Warhammer 6

Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher



Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

Warhammers!

We are in the month of December and things are moving along. First of all let's give a big shot out to Sergeant... that's right... Sgt. Angel Montanez, from the HHC, 18th CSSB. He just got promoted. Sgt. Montanez got to witness across VTC, or video telecom communication, his son enlisting in the Army. That is awesome! We also completed the "Warhammer of the month" and the "NCO of the month". Spc. Eagleton, from the HHC 18th CSSB won the Warhammer of the month and Sgt. Taylor, from B company 427th Brigade Support Battalion won the NCO of the month. Congrats to these outstanding Warhammers.

As we move along we have just received two new units in, which are the 289th Quartermaster Support Company from Fort Hood, Texas and the 247th QMSC from Fort Carson, Colorado. We are so glad to have them here on the team pushing retrograde. With that brings us a sad moment and that is us telling HHC, 427th and B, 427th so long and be safe. I want to give a special thank you to them they have done a great job and represent our country very well. 1st Sgt. Vergith and 1st Sgt. Evans have both led great organizations. Be safe in your travels my friends.

We are approaching Christmas and the New Year. Let's make sure we stay in touch with our families during this time. Also, make sure we utilize our battle buddies at all costs. They are a key to our success. Happy holidays! Warhammers be safe and strive to excel.



Warhammer 7
Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin



Sgt. Canille Warde, a retrograde sergeant in the Camp Pratt Retro-Sort Yard, with Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, fires the German made Rheinmetall MG3 machine gun during the qualification for the *Schützenschnur* badge, at the German marksmanship range, on 17 Oct. in Mazare-e Sharif, Afghanistan. (Photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th CSSB Public Affairs)

"In a lot of ways, this experience made the whole deployment worthwhile"

-Spc. Brandon McMullen

Warhammer Soldiers aim for the German *Schützenschnur*

By Spc. Isaac Adams
Public Affairs Specialist, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
18th CSSB Public Affairs

MARZARE-E SHARIF, Afghanistan – Ten Soldiers from the Headquarters Company 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher and B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, commanded by Cpt. Maurice Amaya qualified for the *Schützenschnur*, the German weapons proficiency badge with the Marmal Panzer

Task Force in Mazare-e Sharif, Camp Marmal, Afghanistan.

The StVersKp PATF MeS, or Stabs- und Versorgungskompanie Patnering Advising Task Force Soldiers are active duty Service Members of the Bunderwehr, or the German Army.

Sgt. Benjamin Mayer, a native of Weikersheim, Germany, and the Supply Sergeant for Headquarters Company of the 18th CSSB, volunteered as a liaison with the PATF to get the information to participate in the qualifications held in Mazare-e Sharif.

The Soldiers of the 18th CSSB who par-

ticipated comprised of Spc. Angel Montanez, Sgt. Benjamin Mayer, Spc. Isaac Adams, Sgt. Matthew Skilling and Sgt. Canille Warde, all from Headquarters Company, 18th CSSB out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, and Pfc. Troy Harriott, Pfc. Stephanie Luis, Pfc. Simeon Taylor, Spc. Brandon McMullen, and Sgt. Benjamin Krystaf all of Bravo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion out of the New York National Guard.

The qualification for the *Schützenschnur* is a multi-weapon event for the Americans. Depending on qualification scores, the badge is

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18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Co.

Top U.S. military logisticians visit the Bagram Retrosort Yard

By 2nd Lt. Henry Chan
18th CSSB Public Affairs

Heads of logistics operations from different military branches toured the Bagram Retrosort Yard on Friday, Nov. 16th.

A star-filled entourage with Director of Logistics Joint Staff, Air Force Lt. Gen Brooks Bash, U.S. Army Deputy Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, U.S. Air Force Director of Logistics, Air Force Lt. Gen Judy Fedder, U.S. Navy Director of Energy/ Environmental Readiness, Navy Rear Adm. Kevin Slates, Commanding General of United States Marine Corps Logistics Command, and Marine



Cpt. Christian Nomba

Congratulations to the officers who recently received a promotion to Captain in the United States Army: Capt. Ennis, Capt. Thornsley, and Capt. Patry. I would like to extend my congratulations to now Sgt. Montanez, recently promoted to the Noncommissioned Officer

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Maj. Gen. Charles Hudson, Central Command Director of Logistics/Engineering, Marine Maj. Gen Robert Ruark, observed retrosort operations at the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard.

A retrosort yard is a vital facility in the reduction of the amount of excess materiel in Afghanistan. The BAF RSY operates along with two other retrograde sort yards in Afghanistan under the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher. According to Letcher, since taking over the facility, the 18th CSSB and 427th BSB Soldiers have increased production by 58 percent.

Letcher commenced the tour with a short brief on the RSY's capabilities and handed the group over for a tour of the yard from RSY noncommissioned officer in charge, Army Sgt. 1st Class Edward Dowd, of the Headquarters Company, 427 Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard.

The group examined the condition of excess materiel arrives to the facility. Dowd opened two containers that were full of truck wheels and fuel storage bags stacked on top of each other.

Dowd illustrated the importance of Materiel Recovery Teams taking the lead and organizing items prior to them being shipped by showing the

group two containers, one organized by MRT, neat and stacked well; the other, thrown together with trash, for the RSY workers to sift through.

The group also had a chance to witness the Virtual Warehouse.

The Virtual Warehouse operates to recirculate highly-requested items to local units on the battlefield. This program effectively saves the U.S. taxpayer money in supplying surplus items to units in theater rather than requiring a requisition back to the United States.

Dowd walked through the hazardous material section and arrived at the medical supply sorting area, where Staff Sgt. Matthew Cook, leader of the Medical Sorting Task Force based out of Kuwait,



1st Sgt. Charles Odom

The First Sergeant's Blurp

Dear Soldiers, Family and friends of HHC, 18th CSSB

Wow, how time is just flying as another month is behind us. It will not be long until families and friends can be reunited and rejoice upon our return from Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. I hope everybody had a wonderful Thanksgiving and are now preparing for Christmas and for 2013 to arrive. The month of November has brought with it cooler days and colder nights, but nothing as what it is like in Germany. So to all, I ask to take more caution while traveling during the upcoming winter months.

This has been a wonderful month filled with great achievements and surprises. We had three of our finest Soldiers be inducted into the Audi Murphy club. This is no

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427th BSB, Headquarters Company

Army military leadership visits 427th Soldiers in Sharana

By Chief Warrant Officer James Fiorilli
Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion

Paktika Province, Afghanistan— Forward Operating Base Sharana had the pleasure of showing off their hard work and achievements of the Base Closure Assistance Team One and the establishment of Forward Retrograde Elements One headed by Chief Warrant Officer James Fiorilli.

Fiorilli and his Noncommissioned Officer in Charge Sgt. 1st Class Zaremski are in-charge of BCAT I for Regional Command – East, Paktika Province. Their team consists of three soldiers and six civilian contractors to conduct the mission of advising, assisting and assessing bases across the Combined Joint Operations Area of Afghanistan.

Fiorilli has assumed decentralized execution and command and control of the Retrograde Sort Yard from the 701st BSB. The operation of sorting, processing and moving government property from theater takes shape of the new FRE.

Civilian team leaders along with members of Task Force 4/1, briefed the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III and Under Secretary of the Army Dr. Joseph W. Westphal in regards to BCAT and CMRE operations on Nov. 21 at the Brigade conference room.

On Nov. 24 2012, Fiorilli, Retrograde Sort Yard supervisors, Staff Sgt. Joseph Robillard, Sgt. Daniel Horn and civilian contracting leadership showcased the

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Cpt. Gregory Pforter

The Captain's Corner!

The 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team and the 427th Brigade Support Battalion have been very well represented during this deployment to Afghanistan while conducting the CENTCOM Materiel Retrograde Element mission. Everyone should be very proud of the accomplishments and contributions of our Soldiers.

I would like to thank all the families for their continued support during this deployment. It has not been without challenges but would have been a greater hardship and much more difficult without your support from home. Thank you for

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(From left) Deputy Commanding General Support of 1st Infantry Division CJTF-1, British Brigadier General Felix G. Gedney, FOB Sharana Retrograde Sort Yard Officer in Charge, Chief Warrant Officer James Fiorilli, U.S. Army Central Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Lieutenant General Vincent K Brooks, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Commanding General Brigadier General Kristin K. French at FOB Sharana



1st Sgt. Robert Vergith

The First Sergeant's Blurp

Dear family and friends,

Well we have safely made it to our last month and as you would know we're looking forward to going home to our families.

Sgt. Garcia-Hernandez and I traveled to Forward Operating Base Fenty to visit the Base Closure Assistance Team, Materiel Recovery Team, Redistribution Property Assistance Team and Customs personnel. The Logistics Task Force Officer in Charge for the 3-401st Army Field Support Battalion, Lt. Col. Vandeven, continually boasted about the work performance and great attitude of the RPAT OIC and NCOIC, 1st Lt. Ligouri and Sgt. Manns, as well as the Customs Agent assigned there, Sgt. Fuller. "Sgt. Manns and Sgt. Fuller have done a great job with non-rolling stock, especially the weapons portion of our retrograde." The BCAT and MRT are in the process of establishing a mini-retrograde sort yard at Fenty as well. That team consists of Sgt. 1st Class Peuser, Sgt. Rabah, Sgt. Weeks Sgt. Devine and Sgt. Lorenzo and they are making significant headway.

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ISSUE 5

427th BSB, Bravo Company

NY TAG Visits Soldiers in Afghanistan

1st Lt. Jennifer Speeckaert
B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion Public Affairs

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan – The Adjutant General of the New York National Guard, Maj. Gen. Patrick Murphy visited the Soldiers in Afghanistan in October. Kandahar Airfield was one of the several locations that he travelled to. B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, of the 27th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, is one of units stationed there.

There are approximately 1,700 NYARNG Soldiers currently serving in Afghanistan and Kuwait. They come from the 42nd Infantry Division and the 53rd Troop Command.



Cpt. Maurice Amaya

The Captain's Corner!

Dear Families and friends,

As Bravo Company prepares to go home, there are a few things I would like to say in my last Captain's Corner. This deployment has been a great learning experience for everyone. The Soldiers have worked hard, and been flexible as we have changed over and over. Remember to keep that flexibility as we go home, as you readjust to home life. The deployment may be nearing its end, but it won't be over until everyone is

home and has settled back into their civilian lives. Remember that the National Guard is here to support you.

We aren't done yet- we still have to make onto the plane at Kandahar, and then through the demobilization process at Camp Shelby. Don't gloss over any problems you have – this process is for you, and we want to send you

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"It was awesome to see Maj. Gen. Murphy taking time out to meet with his soldiers during combat operations and giving soldiers the opportunity to get to know their highest leadership."

-Spc. Gadsden

Murphy addressed B Company, thanking them for what they have done. It was a morale boost for the 131 Soldiers who have been deployed since April.

Spc. Gadsden said, "it was awesome to see Maj. Gen. Murphy taking time out to meet with his soldiers during combat operations and giving soldiers the opportunity to get to know their highest leadership."

After addressing the troops, Maj. Gen. Murphy promoted Private 1st Classes Ian Belanger, Aaron DeMunn, and

Brandon McMullen to the rank of Specialist, and then performed the re-enlistment ceremony for Staff Sgt. Jason Marzan, re-enlisting for six years, who already has 17 years on his service history.

"It is already an honor to serve my country here in Afghanistan. It was an honor to raise my right hand in front of Maj. Gen. Murphy to continue my service for 6 more years," said Marzan.

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Maj Gen Patrick Murphy, the Adjutant General of New York State, pins Specialist rank on Aaron DeMunn, Soldier of B Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, a New York Army National Guard unit currently serving in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Jennifer Speeckaert, B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion Public Affairs)



1st Sgt. David Evans

The First Sergeant's Blurp

Dear Families and friends,

Battles buddies, stay battles buddies. Everyone thinks the tour has come to an end. This is incorrect. For some Soldiers the tour may never end. So battles have to stay battles. When we leave theater for home we enter another phase of the deployment. First will we go thru the demobilization process, easy. Then comes reintegration, for some not so easy. As Soldiers admittedly or not we will have changed, so too will all those we left behind. In some small way we all be strangers meeting strangers. We will have to reacquaint ourselves with compromise as Household 6 has taken on responsibilities and put plans in motion, things that we may have taken care of before. We will need to be respectful of the roles others have taken on. So back to battles stay bat-

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Schützenschnur (Continued)

(Continued from page 3)

awarded with either a bronze, silver, or gold device and is worn with a cord by U.S. enlisted Soldiers on their dress uniforms.

The German word “Schützenschnur” translates to English in two parts. “Schütze” translates to rifleman and “schnur” to “cord”. The award is similar to the US Army’s Blue Infantry Cord.

The ten Soldiers of the 18th CSSB that participated qualified for the “Gold” Schützenschnur badge.

The Kompaniechef, or Com-

pany Commander, of the PATF, Hptm. (Capt.) Glawatz, said “I am, as I am sure that all of my comrades are, glad to have had this chance to work together with all of you. Events like these build upon the relationships between our Armies and the countries, and we hope that all of you that participated feel the same way.”

Mayer, who helped by translating for the event said, “I knew that they have had other ranges for other American forces, but of course, I would help (everyone set this range up).”

The Soldiers from B/427th BSB, were especially glad to be able to

get this opportunity. As National Guardsmen, they rarely get the opportunity to train with foreign force and even more rarely get the chance to earn to the German Schützenschnur.

“One thing that is good about this, was that we are going to be some of the very few people in the company back home (in N.Y.) to have (the badge) on my uniform,” Stated McMullen, “In a lot of ways, this experience made the whole deployment worthwhile”

German weapons qualified for the Schützenschnur



G36 Infantry Rifle

The Heckler and Koch G36 rifle uses the standard NATO 5.56x45mm cartridge, and is a gas operated, magazine fed rifle that is capable of semi, burst and automatic fire. With a built-in bullet drop compensated 3x magnification sight, and a close quarters 1x combat red dot sight on top, the G36 is a highly effective weapon up to 800m. This weapon has served the German Army, or the Bundeswehr, since 1997, replacing the older Heckler and Koch G3.



P8 (USP) Pistol

The Heckler and Koch P8 pistol, or the USP (Universale Selbstladepistole or “universal self-loading pistol”) is a blow-back operated magazine fed standard NATO 9mmx19 caliber pistol. This pistol has served the Bundeswehr since 1994, and continues to serve other law enforcement and military agencies worldwide. Similar variants such as the H&K Mk23 are also used in select U.S. military units.



MG3 General Purpose Machine Gun

The Rheinmetall MG3 General Purpose Machine Gun is an air cooled, belt fed machine gun that fires the NATO 7.62x51mm cartridge. This highly reliable design that has been in service since the 1950s. The highly reliable design is directly derived from the MG42, originally produced in 1942. It is one of the few well-designed weapon systems in the German arsenal that have survived constant modernization.

(U.S. Army photos by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



(Above) Headquarters 427th Brigade Support Battalion Soldiers enjoy Thanksgiving dinner together at Forward Operating Base Shank. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Sgt. Robert Vergith, Headquarters 427th Brigade Support Battalion)

HHC 427th BSB 1st Sergeant's Blurb

(Continued from page 5)

I spent Thanksgiving at FOB Shank and had dinner with Maj. Balog, Cpt. Scheuer, Sgt. 1st Class Bond, Sgt. Reidy, Sgt. Dorsainvil, Sgt. Garcia and Sgt. Callahan. Their spirits are high knowing we are nearing the end of the tour.

At FOB Sharana, Capt. Miles, Staff Sgt. Vanorden, Sgt. Andujar and Spc. Persons are well and doing great things. Spc. Persons works 10-12 hour a day and then volunteers at the USO at night assisting Soldiers with various tasks. Chief Fiorilli, Sgt. 1st Class Zaremski, and Spc. Dejesus make up the BCAT at FOB Sharana. They have successfully established a Forward Retrograde Element (FRE) and a mini-

Retrograde Sort Yard. They too are making progress and seeing results. During the deployment we have had approximately 10 Soldiers promoted to Sgt. and enter the NCO Corps. To recognize their promotions and celebrate their accomplishments, there is an NCO induction ceremony that'll be held in Kandahar in December. Congratulations to all those Soldiers!

"Hammer down!"
Hemmer 7
1st Sgt. Robert Vergith

HHC 427th BSB Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)

meeting those challenges head-on and with much success. I would like to wish all, a happy and safe holiday season and a very Merry Christmas.

"Hammer Down, HHC".
Hammer 6
Capt. Gregory Pforter

The Morale Mill



HHC 18th CSSB Capt's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

corps, the backbone of the US military.

We are also well within 90 days of re-deployment. Please allow me to remind the Soldiers how important it is to remain vigilant and alert, to avoid complacency and to stay away from any trouble or compromising activities, in order to safely return to our respective families and loved ones.

God bless our Soldiers, God bless the US military, and God bless the USA!

Headhunter 6
Capt. Christian S. Numba

HHC 18th CSSB First Sergeant's Blurb (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

small feat to accomplish without long hours of studying and the personal drive to achieve this. Our three Soldiers were Sgt. 1st Class Cannon, Staff Sgt. Bell, and Staff Sgt. Guzman. Some more great news was that on 1 December, the following officers and Soldier got promoted to the next rank. The following Officers were promoted to Captain; Capt. Patry, Capt. Ennis and Capt. Thornsley. 2nd Lt. Chan was promoted to 1st Lt. and Spc. Montanez was promoted to Sergeant. Sgt. Green earned his promotable statues. Let's not forget we had a best Officers completion which involved 17 officers within the Bat-

talion. Cpt. Patry was named the winner after two hard days consisting of a board and a hands-on portion.

Lastly let me say Thanks to our Family Readiness Group for all they do for our families as we continue on this journey, for the light in the tunnel grows stronger as we put more time in our past and more predictability in our future.

Headhunter 7
Sgt. 1st Class Charles Odom

B 427 Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

home 100% fit. It is better to spend one extra day at Camp Shelby then to return to the doctor and pay out of pocket and have a continuing problem!

I'd also like to mention the hard work put in by the staff of 18th CSSB, in supporting us and helping us make this mission a success. They helped us BCAT, MCAT, and MRT our way to the finish line. We may have started the mission, but the 18th has helped us develop the mission and taking it beyond what we imagined. They coordinated with the 593rd, booked flights, boosted our morale, and performed all the other functions we didn't know we needed until we had them.

The 18th took us in, in spite of the fact that we are National Guard, and made us a part of the battalion. We were scolded, we were praised, we

joined in and lead sessions of Leaders Development Program and Noncommissioned Officer Development Program. Many of our Soldiers are now planning trips to Germany. Many friendships have been struck that will hopefully last, at least on Facebook. Finally, welcome to the 289th Quartermaster Company! I know that Capt. Calo and 1st Sgt. Rodriguez will take over and continue the mission, developing the FREs and making them into a reality. I know they will take what we've started and improve it and built it up. I wish them clear sailing, and the strength to get through their own challenges.

Goodnight, Afghanistan!

Bulldog 6
Capt. Maurice Amaya

B/427 First Sgt's Blurb

(Continued from page 6)

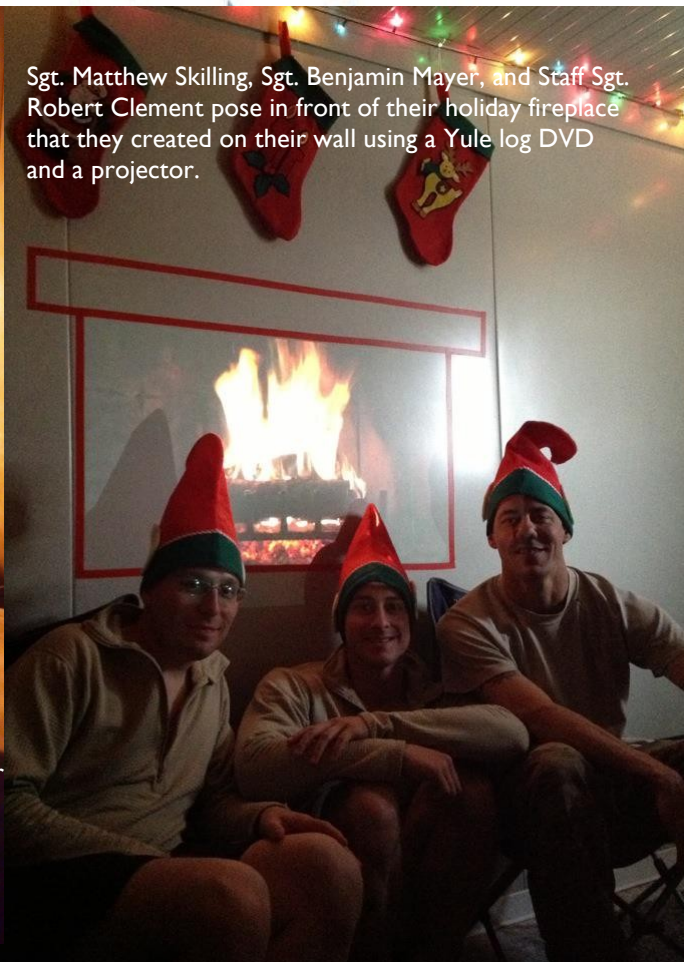
tles.... Everyone here has found someone they confide in and share their thoughts. That needs to continue as we reintegrate upon our return home. The company will reform again with chains of command and channels of communication based on our homes of record. Leaders need to reach out to the Soldiers and Soldiers need to address problems to their chain of command. For some the tour will never be over. Battles need to stay battles.

Bulldog 7
1st Sgt. David Evans

'Tis the season!



Sgt. Mark Anthony Coloma displays his tree in his room after getting ready to go to sleep.



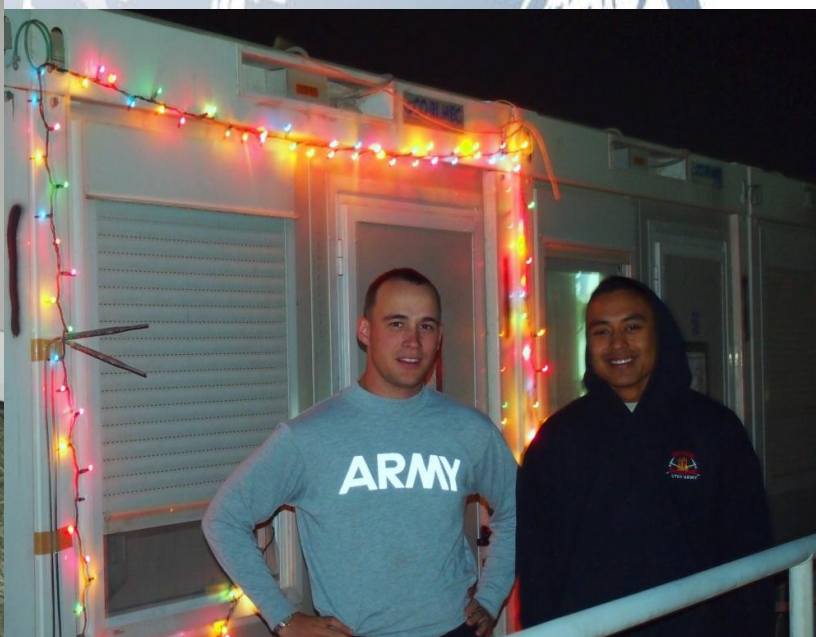
Sgt. Matthew Skilling, Sgt. Benjamin Mayer, and Staff Sgt. Robert Clement pose in front of their holiday fireplace that they created on their wall using a Yule log DVD and a projector.



Sgt. Matthew Skilling, Sgt. Benjamin Mayer, and Staff Sgt. Robert Clement all set out one of their combat boots as stockings for the holidays.

05/12/2012

(Below) Spc. Isaac Adams, and Spc. Michael Islas pose in front of their room after decorating it with lights for the holidays.



(U.S. Army photos by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

Top Logisticians (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

illustrated the process of sorting medical items that come through the RSY.

From expired pills, controlled substances to biohazard waste, Cook's team filters out and isolates for medical disposal. Brig. Gen. French, commander of the Joint Sustainment Command- Afghanistan, praised the efficiency of the medical supply sorting area.

Army Master Sgt. Archie Belton brought the group to the center of the sorting tent to show the visiting officers how items are processed. Boxes upon boxes were lined up on rollers, and items were constantly being taken out, re-entered into the Army Supply System, and tagged for shipment.

The group of logisticians used the opportunity to facilitate conversation on potential logistical discussion between the services.

According to Letcher, the visit "[spoke] to the importance of the Central Com-

mand resourced mission," and that she was inspired by the "engaged leadership from [the] most senior logisticians across all services."



(Above) Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher, Commander of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, discusses disposition of materiel with Lt. Gen. Raymond Mason, U.S. Army G-4 Deputy Chief of Staff at the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

NYARG TAG (Continued) Army leadership visit (continued)

He followed this by giving two junior officers his official challenge coin. Challenge coins are a time-honored tradition, presented to Soldiers for accomplishments or by leaders in commemoration of an event, such as attending the National Training Center at Ft. Irwin, Calif. They are called "challenge coins" because if a Soldier can challenge another Soldier to see if he or she is carrying the unit coin or a coin, with varying consequences for failing to produce the coin.

Later in the day, officers and senior noncommissioned officers from the various New York National Guard units on Kandahar Airfield met with Murphy on the boardwalk, where he discussed the future of the New York National Guard.

Retrograde Sort Yard to the commanding general of the Third Army, U.S. Army Central Coalition Forces Land Component Command, Lieutenant General Vincent K Brooks, 3rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) Commanding General Brigadier General Kristin K. French and Deputy Commanding General Support of 1st Infantry Division CJTF-1, British Brigadier General Felix G. Gedney, explaining the day-to-day operations.

Members of the FRE, MRT and BCAT fielded questions from the visitors and posed for several photo opportunities.

At the end of the day, the distinguished visitors were extremely impressed with the progress and impact the teams are having on ground in Afghanistan. As the tip of the spear to retrograding 10 years worth of military equipment that has amassed on the battlefield back towards the U.S. military's supply system.



Chief Warrant Officer James Fiorilli, Base Closure Assistance Team-One Leader meets with the Vice Chief of Staff of the Army, Gen. Lloyd J. Austin III and the Under Secretary of the Army, the Honorable Dr. Joseph Westphal after a briefing at FOB Shahrana.

Ten Soldiers of Headquarters Company, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and B-Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, participated in the German *Schutzenschnur* qualification. *Schutzenschnur*, directly translated as “rifleman’s rope”. The *Schutzenschnur* is awarded in three levels, bronze, silver, and gold. All ten participants of the 18th CSSB earned the gold *Schutzenschnur*. Participated Soldiers include (from left to right) Spc. Isaac Adams, Pfc. Troy Harriott, Pfc. Stephanie Luis, Sgt. Matthew Skilling, Spc. Angel Montanez, Sgt. Canille Warde, Sgt. Benjamin Krystaf, Spc. Brandon McMullen, Sgt. Benjamin Mayer, and Pfc. Simeon Taylor.



The Warhammer Times



Haaappy Birthday!



Cpt. Jean Patry
2-Dec
Cpl. Angel Ramos
2-Dec
Staff Sgt. Joseph Robillard
2-Dec
Sgt. Joseph Callahan
3-Dec
Pfc. Daniel Perry
3-Dec
Staff Sgt. Vallon Smith
4-Dec
Sgt. Eric Stafford
5-Dec
Sgt. 1st Class James Rosencrans
6-Dec
Chief Warrant Officer Brian Trudeau
6-Dec
Sgt. William Mansfield
8-Dec
Pfc. Keyron Cooper
10-Dec
Master Sgt. Andrew Lampkins
13-Dec
Staff Sgt. Christopher Smith
15-Dec

Cpt. Elitha Smith
18-Dec
Pfc. Esther Viteri
18-Dec
Chief Warrant Officer Michael Renwick
18-Dec
Sgt. Jeremiah Cortes
23-Dec
Spc. Daniel Salas
27-Dec
Sgt. 1st Class Mark Simsick
28-Dec
Spc. Otto Coello
29-Dec
Spc. Jason Colon I
29-Dec
Sgt. 1st Class David Chapin
29-Dec
Spc. Joshua Sherman,
29-Dec
Spc. Thomas Hand
30-Dec
Sgt. 1st Class Steven Mellott
31-Dec

Maj. Russell Talma of the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion and Sgt. 1st Class Stephanie Washington of the Headquarters Company 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, show off some "Christmas goodies" that they received in a care package for the Camp Pratt Retrosort Yard. Camp Pratt Soldiers said, "Presents from home really raise holiday spirits here—keep 'em coming!" (U.S. Army photo by Capt. Erica Conrad)





Sgt. Joriann Garcia-Hernandez from the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion says, "hello to all my family and friends back home. I especially would like to send shout outs to my beautiful wife Kristie and her family. Val Barton, Lon Barton, Cody Barton and Melissa Barton. Merry Christmas to all and a Happy New Year! We will be home soon. Warhorse! "



Staff Sgt. Vallon Smith from the Headquarters Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion, "Hello to everyone back home. Hope you guys have a safe and joyous holiday season."



Spc. Rosquita, Bennett, a Human Resource Specialist from Greenwood, Miss. stationed out of Grafenwoehr Germany says, "Hello family and friends! It's really hard being away from you all during the holiday seasons. I miss you and love you all! See you soon!"

Sgt. Dawn Kincer, an Intelligence Analyst from Austin, Texas. Currently working as part of the 316th ESC ammo abatement team at Kandahar Airfield says, "I'd like to tell my friends and family that I miss them and I'll be home soon."





SSG Kim Bell
18th CSSB SHARP Representative



Diversity & Climate Bulletin



SSG Robert Clement
18th CSSB Equal Opportunity NCO

Safe holidays! Stay SHARP!



Staff Sgt. Charles K Mutinda
18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,
Equal Opportunity Leader

(BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—The festive holiday seasons are yet upon us and with it all the gift giving and joy of family and friends. Let us not forget that it is during these times that most perpetrators

find their avenues to prey on individuals. According to the RAINN website, or the Rape, Abuse, and Incest National Network, 2/3 of rapes were committed to someone known to the victim, 38% of rapists are a friend or acquaintance, 28% are an intimate, 7% are a relative and more than 50% of all rape or sexual assault incidents were reported by victims to have occurred within 1 mile of their home or at their home. The Army value mandates us to take action and intervene when things do not look right, act accordingly when our battle-buddies are in need, be motivated and motivate others to make the change by taking action. Equal opportunity is a commanders responsibility so is SHARP it is our sincere hope that this season as we celebrate the holiday season we remain aware of our cultural diversity and the promotion of equal oppor-

tunity in our work places. Intervention and the direct approach has been the cornerstone of resolving these issues at the lowest level. We are grateful to all Warhammers, seniors, juniors and all for fostering the suitable environment to work and adopting this attitude. We owe it to you all for getting this far into our deployment smoothly. It is our sincere hope that this EO/SHARP corner will continue to help us all remain aware of cultural diversity and the need to eliminate Sexual harassment/sexual assault. Have you the best that your area of operation offers for this holiday season and stay SHARP and EO ready. Feel free to contact your representatives if you have any questions regarding EO or SHARP.



I AM THE FORCE BEHIND THE FIGHT.™

I Am Committed
to Stopping Sexual Harassment
and Sexual Assault.

I Am Living
the Army Values.

I Am Protecting
the Members of My Team.



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www.PreventSexualAssault.army.mil

DoD Safe Helpline: 1-877-995-5247

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The Warhammer Times

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Website:

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Mission Statement:

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion rapidly, and safely, deploys worldwide, providing expeditionary logistics; command and control over the full spectrum of sustainment operations as part of a Battalion, or Theater Sustainment Command operation as directed; on order support of U.S. Army Europe deployment and redeployment operations.

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