

Outlaw Chronicles

Sappers clear the way!



Volume 2: Issue 03

February 01, 2013

Outlaw 6 Sends:



Inside this issue:

| | |
|-------------------------|----|
| XO's Foxhole | 2 |
| Outlaw Sudoku | 5 |
| Route Clearance Reality | 6 |
| Chaplain's Corner | 9 |
| 693rd Digs In... | 12 |
| HHC 120th MWR | 15 |
| Photo Gallery | 18 |

Outlaws... Once again I have to say that I'm amazed at everything you do. Everywhere the CSM and I travel, our Brothers in Arms have nothing but complimentary words to speak about the Engineers....and I couldn't agree with them more. It takes a special strength, discipline, dedication and drive to get up when many are just getting ready to go to bed; to meticulously inspect each piece of equipment as you ready for the day's movement; to prepare for a 15-18 hour day along some

of the most unforgiving terrain this planet has to offer; to heroically detect and defeat the hideous explosive devices crafted and concealed by a cowardly enemy...and then, do it all again the next day. All in service to our fellow Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines...All in honor of the ideas our Nation was founded upon. Very few risk traveling the menacing roads, trails and paths in this country unless "Engineers have cleared the way". You lead the way.

You are the true "tip of the spear". Be proud of your profession and be proud of your performance on the battlefield...And once again, thank you for all that you do, every day! Hell Yeah!

— LTC Jack Ritter

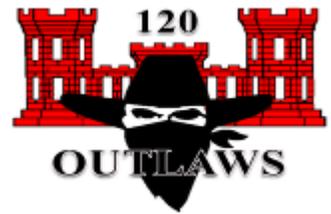


Task Force Outlaw



XO Foxhole

“As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”



As a continuation of the history of the Engineers and the influence of the Engineer Regiment on the Army lineage and honors, there is a link between the Engineers and the Field Artillery branches.

In 1789 after the Revolution there was only one battalion of four companies of artillery. In 1794 a "Corps of Artillerists and Engineers" was organized, which included the four companies of artillery then in service and had sixteen companies in four battalions. In 1802 there was a reduction of the army. The Engineers were separated from the Artillery and the latter formed into one regiment of 20 companies. In 1808 a regiment of ten companies called the "Light Artillery" was formed.

After the split of the Artillerist and the Engineers, to form two separate branches, the carry-over of the scarlet color re-



mained with both regiments as their branch distinctive color. For the Artillery branch, scarlet has been the official color throughout the history of the branch. In order to distinguish an Artillery Officer from an Engineer Officer, a band of white piping was added to the scarlet as the official colors of the Engineer branch in 1872. Before that date, several other colors had been associated with the Engineers.

The motto for the Engineer Regiment is “ESSAYONS”, meaning “Let us try”.

— MAJ Brian DeShazo
XO, 120th EN BN



Customs and Courtesies

Reminder:

When addressing more than one male officer, the proper term to use is “Gentlemen”, not “Sir’s”.

When addressing more than one female officer, the proper term is “Ladies”, not “Ma’am’s”.



Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Company

1LT Wes Gautreaux

- Hometown: Brookland, AR
- Years of service: 9yrs
- Married: Nikki Gautreaux, 1 child
- Family in the service (or prior): Grandfather served in the Army during WWII.
- Why did you join: Initially joined for college benefits; motives changed after tour in Iraq. I went to OCS, because I like to lead Soldiers.
- Deployment job: 1st Platoon, Platoon Leader
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? I would rather be out on mission the whole time here, rather than be on the FOB.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I've learned my limitations as a person and as a leader. I enjoy being out on the routes on mission, leading my guys.
- Pets: 1 dog, named Joker.
- How does this deployment compare to others? A lot more responsibility as a platoon leader. IEDs are definitely more concealed here than they were in Iraq. Mission is a lot more hectic due to terrain and equipment constraints.
- Favorite food: Nice, juicy, rare steak.
- Favorite Sports team: LSU Tigers
- Civilian career: USPS Mail Carrier
- Vehicle you own: Sold my truck before I left, so I'm shopping at the moment.
- College: Arkansas State University; BA in Criminology and a BA Sociology.
- Plans to do when back home: Pick up my little girl and give her a big hug.



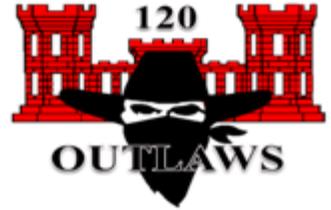
Soldier Spotlight: 1433rd Engineer Company

SGT William Barnett

- Hometown: Ann Arbor, MI
- Years of service: 6 Years
- Married? No
- Kids? No
- Family in the service? Both parents are prior service, Air Force and Army
- Why did you join? Family tradition was a big part of it, college benefits were as well. My grandfather served in the military as well.
- Deployment Job: RG driver and dismount
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? Different, but it has been a good time so far.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: Proud to know we have made a difference and made the roads safer for the locals and all involved.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
It is worse here than it was in Iraq. The job here is easy and not hard, but there are more incidents to deal with.
- Dogs or cats? Dogs of course!
- Favorite food: Hamburgers
- Civilian job: Student
- College: Eastern Michigan, major in mechanical engineering
- Favorite Vehicle: The entire GM line... and the RG 31!
- Plans to do when back home? When I get home, I plan to go active duty.



Medical Corner: Cold vs. Flu



Cold symptoms usually begin with a sore throat, which usually goes away after a day or two. Nasal symptoms, runny nose, and congestion follow, along with a cough by the fourth and fifth days. Fever is uncommon in adults, but a slight fever is possible. The nasal drainage is watery secretions for the first few days. Later, these become thicker and darker. Dark mucus is natural and does not usually mean you have developed a bacterial infection, such as a sinus infection. Several hundred different viruses may cause your cold symptoms. Cold symptoms usually last for about a week. During the first three days that you have cold symptoms, you are contagious. If cold symptoms do not seem to be improving after a week, you may have a bacterial infection, which means you may need antibiotics.



Flu symptoms are usually more severe than cold symptoms and come on quickly. Symptoms of flu include sore throat, fever, headache, muscle aches and soreness, congestion, and cough. Swine flu in particular is also associated with vomiting and diarrhea. Most flu symptoms gradually improve over two to five days, but it's not uncommon to feel run down for a week or more. A common complication of the flu is pneumonia, particularly in the young, elderly, or people with lung or heart problems. If you notice shortness of breath, let Maj Ali know right away. Another common sign of pneumonia is fever that comes back after having been gone for a day or two.

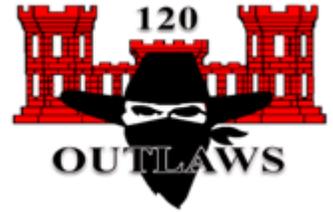


Facts: Just like cold viruses, flu viruses enter your body through the mucous membranes of the nose, eyes, or mouth. Every time you touch your hand to one of these areas, you could be infecting yourself with a virus, which makes it very important to keep hands germ-free with frequent washing to prevent both flu and cold symptoms.

By: Medic of the year "aka" SPC Osterloh

Outlaw Sudoku

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 9 | | | | | | | 4 | 7 |
| 8 | | | | | 6 | 1 | | |
| | 5 | | 3 | 2 | | | | |
| | 2 | | 8 | | 9 | 7 | | |
| | | 4 | | | | 8 | | |
| | | 1 | 2 | | 3 | | 5 | |
| | | | | 8 | 7 | | 9 | |
| | | 8 | 1 | | | | | 2 |
| 6 | 7 | | | | | | | 1 |



KNAPP'S NUGGETS

Even though
tomorrows
forecast may
show
thunderstorms,
Doesn't mean you
shouldn't soak up
all the sunny
weather of today.

~SGT Knapp

Guess the B.A.M.!

See if you can properly Identify the
owner of this Task Force Outlaw
Engineer's B.A.M.!!!



Leadership Corner

"The single biggest way to impact an organization is to focus on leadership development. There is almost no limit to the potential of an organization that recruits good people, raises them up as leaders and continually develops them." *–John C Maxwell*



Hey Everyone!
If you want to see
more photos and
awesome events and
happenings, check
out the Task Force
Outlaw Facebook
Page!!!
[www.facebook.com/
TaskForceOutlaw](http://www.facebook.com/TaskForceOutlaw)

23rd Engineers, Route Clearance Reality

Things out here in Southern Afghanistan have been progressing smoothly since we last wrote. While, of course, maintaining our “mission first” attitude, we are shifting our priorities during our refit time to plan for our RIP (Relief In Place) by the next unit and make our plans of reuniting with all of you. It’s been pretty exciting to gather leave forms for the upcoming block leave and consider our uniform for our redeployment ceremony in fewer than two months! Of course, redeploying provides a whole new set of tasks and challenges, so we’ll be busy in February. As always though, we will put all our focus into every mission until the official Transition of Authority to the incoming unit; there’s no chance to take a ‘senior slide’ in Afghanistan!

We have taken over some new routes here and are continuing our tedious but essential job of clearing IEDs. Speaking of our mission, I’m sure many of you took the chance to see our very own documentary, “Heroes of Hell’s Highway.” Alliteration aside, don’t put much stock in what you see there; just remember that their job is to entertain viewers, not provide an realistic depiction of Route Clearance Operations in

Afghanistan. I want to provide you a real behind-the-scenes glimpse into “The REAL Heroes of Hell’s Highway.”

Our scene begins with a dusty road, panning to show the lifestyle of the locals: mud-huts, farming, praying, and locals engaged in lengthy conversations spurning from a lifestyle unencumbered by TV and internet. Entering the scene is a Route Clearance Package, kicking up dust along the dirt road, and moving slowly...very slowly...seriously... walking speed. The camera



stays here for a full 5 minutes to give the viewers an accurate sense of the tediousness that is Route Clearance

The next scene unfolds with one Platoon Leader on the ground talk-

ing to the locals, asking if there are Taliban in the area. Predictably, they say no that there are no Taliban here (inevitably, the Taliban are always in the NEXT village over). An interpreter translates a conversation requesting information about IEDs, and the Platoon Sergeant says some of the information is of good intelligence value. During this scene, the conversation is broken up by clips of conversations with Soldiers about their experience here. Many Soldiers likely talk about missions being boring or give honest answers about their desire to see more action (younger Soldiers always want more ‘action’). They likely complain that we drive really slowly and stop too frequently to enroll locals in our fingerprint system. Their attitudes are earnest though, not cynical. A single question is asked to each Soldier: “If the missions are so tedious, would you rather just stay back?” The Soldiers’ responses are varied but amount to an overarching theme of “HELL NO- not while other members of my Platoon are out there!” Cutting back, the conversation with the local is wrapping up and the convoy is remounting their vehicles. They head back out of the area again

Route Clearance Reality (Continued...)

moving slowly.

The next scene is of an early-morning preparation. Soldiers bring trucks up, check them to ensure everything works well, conduct radio checks, mount weapons, and ensure that when they are ready for the day's mission. The NCOs are spot checking and helping with issues. A few snippets of a Patrol Brief give a glimpse into the mission as well as the camaraderie associated with waking up early to work together towards a shared goal. The scene then shifts to the Company-level intelligence officer explaining the overall mission, which is not in-fact to "take the hit, so the other forces don't have to." He goes through the concept of Counter-Insurgency, and how vital it is to keep supply lines open, and share gathered intelligence from around the battlefield.

The Executive Officer then speaks about the underappreciated headquarters positions that keep the company functioning: mechanics keeping the equipment maintained, the Command Post monitoring the missions and providing oversight, the weapons and comms team working on their specialized equipment, the night shift handling communications and administrative work, the

medics staying fit in the gym so they can haul our butts to safety if ever



needed, the liaison at Battalion ensuring that the company gets the support necessary to function, and the supply team that keeps accountability of many millions worth of equipment.

A final scene shows maybe the most important aspect of conducting Route Clearance in Afghanistan: the human dimension. It begins with getting back after a long mission. The com-



pleted mission is ambiguous: they may have found an IED or they may have just had a long day because of many interrogations of possible IED spots. The Soldiers assemble for a mission debrief and then quickly get to work cleaning and putting all equipment away.

The scene then cuts back and forth between how Soldiers use their precious free time. Some smoke cigars as a group, some go to the gym, some watch DVDs or play computer games, some catch their wives and children online, some practice an instrument, some hit golf balls out of the living area towards the mined area outside of our FOB, and some start organizations such as SETA (Soldiers for Ethical Treatment of Animals); this one following the refusal of a Platoon Leader to set a donkey free.

Ultimately, the message is clear. The Soldiers of 23rd are not actually the 'heroes' from the TV show; they're good-natured, sometimes crazy and often ridiculous, Soldiers that are doing the best they can over here, and are looking forward to the time that they'll be back with their loved ones in America.

-LT Smith and LT Blake

Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Company

PFC Cameron Benard

- Hometown: Shawnee, OK
- Years of service: 1 yr.
- Married: No
- Kids: No
- Family in the service (or prior): 2 Uncles Navy: Lt. Commander Todd Benard, Lt. Commander B.K. Benard.
- Why did you join: To pay for college.
- Deployment job: 12-B: Combat Engineer; RG-31 Driver (Leader Roller); Dismount.
- Thoughts on the deployment: I think we're here for the right reasons. Clearing IEDs is our most important focus, because we've seen what happens when it hurts locals especially the women and children. Makes me feel pretty good knowing that we're getting something done, and that the Afghan people are better prepared to run things themselves. And also that when we leave here, the area will be relatively secure and safe.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: Without really realizing it, I've learned a lot about Self-less Service. I've been working with 3rd Infantry Division's Provincial Reconstruction Team and I'm proud of the work I've accomplished with them. I've even earned a coin from 3rd ID's command.
- Pets: None.
- Favorite food: Italian.
- Favorite Sports team: Chicago Bears
- Civilian career: Full-time student.
- Vehicle you own: Ford F-150
- College: University of Central Oklahoma, Studying BS in Nursing.
- Plans to do when back home: Continue going to college, and continue being a lifeguard.



Humor In Uniform: Formation

As a group of soldiers stood in formation at an Army Base, the Drill Sergeant said, "All right! All you idiots fall out!"

As the rest of the squad wandered away, one soldier

remained at attention.

The Drill Sergeant walked over until he was eye-to-eye with him, and then raised a single eyebrow. The soldier smiled and said, "Sure was a lot of 'em, huh, Drill Sergeant?"



Crisis Intervention Hotline

Reminder:

The Crisis Intervention Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have the need to talk to a counselor, you can reach them from any NIPR phone by dialing 1-1-1

You can also reach Crisis Counselors by Local National Phone. Dial 070-113-2000, (wait for tone) then 1-1-1

To reach Crisis Counselors by email, use the following NIPR address:

OEFCRISISHOTLINE@afghan.swa.army.mil

Chaplains Corner



The Best Valentine's Day Gift For Her

As we come near to the season of love, most of us are already getting excited about the much awaited day. This is also the day when we busy our selves thinking of some wonderful gifts we could give to our loved ones this Valentine's day. Unlike men, women are more sensitive and expect more when it comes to relationships. Even small things bother them and make a big difference to them. So whether you are thinking of giving her a diamond bracelet or some cheap flowers, those will definitely mean a lot to her. For her, whatever you decide to give is considered as an expression of your love and care. So when you think of giving her gifts on Valentine's Day, remember to give her something that would express well of what you have in your heart. You don't need to give something very expensive or something big. There are gifts that are simple and small but can make a major difference. We suggest that you give her a valentine gift that is memorable. And to make that day special and memorable, you should consider giving a personalized valentine gift. A simple embroidered pillow or personalized photo frames where you can put your happy photos together are just some of the gifts that will surely be appreciated. Unique valentine gifts may also make a big difference. Unique gifts add excitement and enjoyment to the recipient. This is because choosing a unique gift is not an easy task for everyone. Even if that gift is the simplest one could find, its uniqueness adds value to it. The only thing that you must do if you are thinking to give a unique gift is to start looking for it in advance so you will have more time finding and choosing the best one that will express your feelings to her. If you don't know where or how to start, you can get some suggestions from your friends or browse the internet to find something that will suit her taste. While doing it, you must list at least ten of the gifts you think she would probably like and then narrow it down to five until you can make the final decision of what to buy. You can use a friend's or a recommendation from of the family members if you are confused of what to select. Now, if you are a very busy person, flower gifts, chocolate gifts, scented candles and gift baskets are some of the common gifts that are appropriate for almost any occasion regardless of recipient's age and gender. These are gifts that are commonly found in your favorite mall or on line store. Just make sure that you choose something that will agree to her preferred color, scent and taste. Basically, women want to feel that they are loved and valued. Giving her gifts not only on Valentine's Day but also on ordinary days would make her feel that she is loved, cherished and being thought always. That for her, is the most romantic gift anyone can have on Valentine's Day and always. —Chaplain (CPT) Matthew S. Brown



ANA moves toward independent operations

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Army (ANA) forces working as partners with the 1433rd Engineer Company are now conducting independent route clearance operations as part of their normal duties to keep the roads and routes safer in Afghanistan.



Recently, the 3/205th Route Clearance Company (RCC) of the ANA has started conducting route clear-

ance missions on their own. While occasionally, they still travel with the 1433rd Engineer Company, their missions are now almost exclusively conducted independently. Sgt. Joshua Rose, 1433rd ANA liaison, says this is a good thing as it allows their teams, along with the ANA RCC, to work on differ-



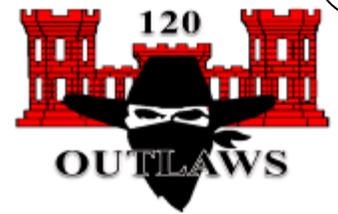
ent areas and cover more miles of roads in Southern Afghanistan.

Recently, the ANA RCC

and 2nd Platoon, 1433rd En. Co., conducted live fire training. The training was to shoot and train on the ANA RCC's M16 rifles and 240B machine guns. "Everyone was surprised at how accurate their shot groups were at the range" Rose said. The two days of crew served weapons training went very well. Their level of training was comparable to U.S. troops.

"With the ANA at such a high level of training, and independently conducting route clearance on basic routes, it is more difficult for them to find time to embed in our missions" remarked Rose. The future of U.S. forces in Afghanistan is limited. Rose stated that, "In the coming years it will be imperative that the ANA forces have learned as much as possible before we depart. It is good that they are already showing such promise."

— Cpt. Paul Wyckoff



**CPT Veiga's
Seahorse fact of the
day:**

**Contrary to popular
belief, the Seahorse
does not eat hay.
They do however
eat small
crustaceans and
plankton.**

**Reminder:
To vote in Federal
and local elections
while deployed, use
the voting assistant
guide at
WWW.FVAP.gov**

**or find more
information at
[www.facebook.com/
ArmyVoting](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyVoting)**

Soldier Spotlight: 584th Engineer Company

PFC Jeewaka Karunarathna

- Hometown: Wennappuwa, Sri Lanka
- Years of service: 2 Years
- Not married, no kids
- Parents still live in Sri Lanka
- Why did you join? I joined for the discipline and lifestyle. The excitement and adventure have kept me interested.
- Deployment Job: Gunner / Driver
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? I wanted to deploy... to get the full experience of the Army and my job. I wanted to experience the hardships of being a Soldier. We've been very lucky to be at this FOB, and the conditions here have been very nice.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: This has been a great chance to see this part of the world and how they live here. I have learned how to execute my job in a combat environment. The experience of being in an IED strike as a gunner (exposed) was a real eye opener. It goes very fast and over before you know it. My friends and fellow Soldiers did a great job helping me through it and keeping me calm.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
- This is my first deployment. I was in the States for 6 years, so I am used to not being near family. My family has been very supportive of what I do. It was great that I was able to visit them on my R&R.
- Favorite food: Pizza
- Favorite Sports team: LA Lakers
- Vehicle you own: Would like to buy a Dodge Charger
- College: Plan to go for Mechanical Engineering
- Plans to do when back home? Buy a car and go sky diving.



Soldier Spotlight: 584th Engineer Company

SPC Marcus Hangaripaii

- Hometown: Palau, Pacific Islands
- Years of service: 4 Years
- Married to Glenda Hangaripaii for 13 years.
- 5 Kids: 2 girls and 3 boys (the two 1-year olds are twins)
- Family in the service? Father worked with the Navy after World War II.
- Why did you join? I've always wanted to join the Army, but my father didn't want me to join. After my father passed, I thought I was past the age requirement, but I saw that the Army raised the age limit so I was able to join.
- Deployment Job: At first I was the Night Shift RTO and Company DTMS, now I work in Supply.
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? It's good, I really have no complaints. I'm enjoying the amenities that the FOB offers. I like the challenges of everyday work: coming in everyday, doing everything I can to help the guys out there on the ground.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:
While working Night Shift RTO, I would go and pick up hot chow for the guys rolling out. It made me feel proud and like part of the team. As far as the Army job: Do the best you can in everything you do and to work as part of a team. Family side: stay close with family. It's nice to be able to talk to them often and give them assurance that I'm okay.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
This is different: last deployment I was out on line with the guys, but this time I'm helping from the FOB.
- Dogs or cats? None. I want a dog, but my wife says not yet.
- Favorite food: Here: Pizza and Buffalo wings; Back home: Chicken and Rice.
- Vehicle you own: 2 Kias; an Optima sedan and a Sedona van for the kids.
- College: George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia and Chaminade University in Honolulu, Hawaii.
- Plans to do when back home? Spend time with my kids in Galveston, Texas.



693rd digs in for the long stretch

Throughout the course of any deployment there is bound to be at least some down time for Soldiers. Living on a small FOB means that when it comes to finding things to do during this personal maintenance time, Soldiers have to get a little creative. Our FOB provides some recreational options for the 693rd, including a gym and a small MWR center. For those Sappers who no longer need to work on getting “huge” or “swoll” at the gym or who would prefer to rub Tabasco sauce in their eyelids rather than play another round of MarioKart at the MWR, new interests and hobbies need to be explored to make the time fly by.

PFC Nicholas Dileo, for example, has taken up playing an acoustic guitar left behind by a 182nd Engineer Soldier. “I didn’t want to spend too much time in the gym, 'cause I'm already pretty jacked, and I've got to fit in the Husky you know? And since I’ve always enjoyed rocking out to John Denver and James Taylor and I figured it would be wicked cool to learn how to play guitar myself” said Dileo, “but there was always too much stuff going on back home. If I learn now, by the time we redeploy I should be good enough to get at least one or two ladies to take off their clothes for me.”

Not everyone in the 693rd is

musically inclined, though. SGT Donald Parker, a team leader in 1st Platoon, has been working an hour each evening on his knife throwing skills on a wooden target in the company's smoking area. When asked by PFC Crom why he’s learning such a seemingly impractical skill, SGT Parker quickly responded, “It's always been a dream of mine. Ever since I used to go to the New York State Fair as a kid up in Syracuse, it's just something I've wanted to do. I mean, I remember there was this one guy with the biggest Kentucky Waterfall mullet you ever saw, had half a can Copenhagen stuck in his lip, just



throwin' knives and ninja stars and hitting balloons at fifty meters. I knew that someday I'd have to learn how to do that, too.”

But no one has pursued their deployed hobbies with the same artistic vigor as the 693rd's maintenance section. Thanks to the efforts of maintenance section leader and aspiring chef, SGT Tumanuvao, the motor pool is now equipped with a makeshift kitchen furnished with an electric skillet, a rice maker, and well stocked pantry with all the accoutrements needed

to prepare a hasty and nutritious meal. When asked what the impetus was for a motor pool kitchen, mechanic SPC Jordan replied, “a route clearance mechanic is always two things while deployed: busy and hungry. The DFAC is a good 15 minute walk from the motor pool and that’s time we could be working. I prefer SGT Tumanuvao’s Samoan spam and rice to the DFAC anyway.”

Similarly, PFC Joe Gonzalez, a member of 1st Platoon, has a new found love of Pepperidge Farms cheese and sausages thanks to a gift package sent from his grandmother, Gladys. “My grandma has always been a sweet old lady, but she really outdid herself this time. In 1st Platoon, we're pretty big fans of foods heavily laden with saturated fat and preservatives, so the Pepperidge Farms sausage and cheese really hit the spot. We liked it so much, that I buy more every month. But I tell you what, between that stuff, the shelf stabilized milk, and MREs, sitting in an RG-31 with a bunch of dudes can be rough sometimes.”

Whatever their fancy, it’s clear the Soldiers of the 693rd have found ways to make the time while deployed fly by. Many of them will return home with a newly discovered skill, others with a refined taste for motor pool cooking and mail ordered sausages. —PFC Brett Mack

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



1433rd:

PVT Mitchell Hammer 02/01
PV2 Daven Bosma 02/02
SPC Michael Sexton 02/04
PFC Brandon Hess 02/07
SPC Carl Foat 02/08
SPC Matthew Spear 02/08
PFC Jamie Mattson 02/12
SPC Nicholas Hagen 02/12
SPC Ryan Abramson 02/14

120th HHC:

SSG Gregory Smitherman 02/06
SGT Terry Backus 02/09

120th FSC:

SPC Kevin Miller 02/01
SSG Larry Nutt 02/01
SGT Nathan Kent 02/04
SPC William Norris 02/06
SPC Trent Patterson 02/14

1138th:

SSG Craig Wadlow 02/02

1039th:

SPC Tevren Mitchell 02/03
SGT Ricky Peek 02/03
1LT Lucas Jennings 02/04
SPC Walter Simmons 02/14

23rd:

SSG Andrew
Wieczorek
02/04
SSG Bryan Comstock 02/07
SGT Valentin Gomez 02/14

693rd:

PV2 Sergio Blanco 02/01
SPC Ronald Wagle 02/12
SPC Devin McHenry 02/13

Words From the TOP: The M4 Rifle



Weapons Wednesday



- Clean assigned weapon
- Change out magazines
- Wipe down ammo

Weapon Facts: M4 Rifle

- Length- 33 in extended
- Length- 29.75 in retracted
- Barrel length- 14.5 inches
- Weight loaded 6.9 pounds
- Muzzle velocity- 2970 fps



TTT

Did you know the major cause of most malfunctions in the M4 is your magazine?!?

“Inspect and test all magazines before conducting an operation. Ensure they feed properly and inspect for bent/damaged feed lips, weak springs, etc. Mark every magazine you own and if one fails to perform in training or inspection, throw the thing away. DO NOT PUT IT UP FOR SALE ON TOP OF YOUR GUNSHOW TABLE. If you do, you’re a scumbag, and we hope you die a slow, painful death.”

— 1SG Scott Catlett

Doc Holiday, on Holiday?



Who is this person? And where did these strange clothes come from? Although this rare photograph mysteriously showed up in my office, I cannot seem to find anyone willing to sign a sworn statement that our Battalion PA, AKA Doc Holiday, was actually seen wearing anything but the authorized uniform here in theater. It has been confirmed however, that as of this release, Doc's orders have expired and he is officially off the clock! However, because of his extreme patriotism and dedication to our health and welfare, he has continued to work and provide the best possible care to all soldiers visiting the Role 1, TMC over the last few days. I decided to employ a few somewhat shady investigative reporting techniques to find out more information. Luckily for us, I found that orders to extend his time here are imminent and should be signed by the Secretary of Defense within the next 24hrs. This is especially good news for me, as I seem to be accident prone and subject to repeated, not always self-inflicted injury. I am sure that you all are very glad to hear that our favorite and beloved PA will be here for the rest of our time in theater. - Cpt. Paul Wyckoff



Soldier Spotlight: 1138th Engineer Company

1LT Perry Hoffman

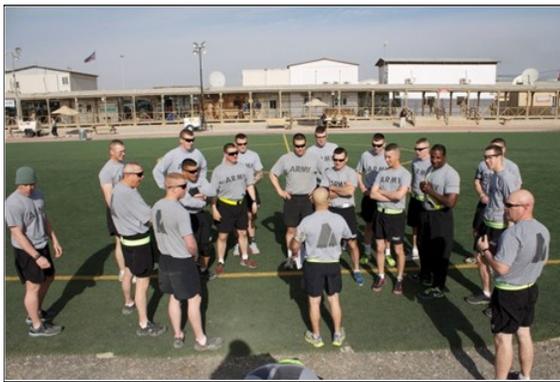
- Hometown: Rolla, Missouri
- Years of service: 9yrs
- Married: Yes, 3 children
- Parents: Perry Hoffman, Carol Pruet
- Why did you join: First time I joined, I did so in the act of patriotism and the sense of duty by serving my country. The second time, I felt I needed the camaraderie that is present in the military life.
- Deployment job: Route Clearance Patrol Leader
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? I have noticed the need and purpose for route clearance packages. RCP truly ensure freedom of movement for every element in the operating area. It is very rewarding to me to know that I am contributing to something that keeps fellow soldiers and Afghan partners safe.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I am proud of my platoon, how they have developed as a team, and how professional they have become. I am also satisfied that we can do this job with the best of them (active duty).
- How does this deployment compare to others? I went to Hati my first deployment as an enlisted soldier; this deployment is different because I have more responsibility due to being a platoon leader and also there is more of a demand for "platoon effort" in route clearance operations.
- Favorite food: Sushi
- Favorite Sports team: Kansas City Chiefs and St. Louis Cardinals
- Civilian career: Sales Manager (E.E. Distributing), I manage 6 salesmen that cover 400 accounts in the Missouri and Illinois area
- Vehicle you own: Ford Fusion and Dodge Ram 4dr 2500
- Missouri Science and Technology (formerly known as UMR)
- Plans to do when back home: In addition to resuming my career, I am buying a jet boat and going on many river fishing trips.





HHC 120th MWR

It was a cool brisk morning and the sun was low on the horizon just peaking over the mountain range east of Kandahar. The sun began to warm up the air, and the warriors that would soon take the field in a fun but serious competition between Team Reaper and Team Back That Pass Up. A few minutes of warm up,



and the teams were called together to go over the rules to start the game. The first game was a fierce shootout. It was an offensive battle early with both teams staying neck and neck. The score stood at 21 points apiece in the first 30 minutes of game time. Then the game took a wild one way swing team with Reaper took a



hard nose defensive stand and scored 21 quick points 14 from interceptions for touchdowns, and one from a defensive stop and a TD pass. This wasn't the end of the game however and team Back That Pass Up came storming back scoring the next 21 consecutive points driving down the field to score the first touchdown and then an interception for another. Back That Pass Up stopped the Reapers on downs again to get the ball back, which resulted, a couple plays later, in a TD. The score was deadlocked at 42 -42 and time was running short. Team Reaper was on a drive just crossing the 50 when time expired ending the first game at a tie.

A 15 minute break was enjoyed by all as we all got together and talked about the first game. A few rules were re-



worked and the game was on again. The teams switched ends of the field and it began again after a short message from LTC Ritter reiterating that this was a game and not worth any injuries so take it easy. The Second game started much like the first a back and forth for the first 21 points on each team. This is where the



game took a turn for the worst for team Back That Pass Up. After some dropped balls and a few missed tackles, Back That Pass Up fell behind 42-21 once again, but again they did not give up. After a back and forth battle and a lot of defense Back That Pass Up pulled within one TD 49-42. Back That Pass Up would not have a chance to tie the game however as time expired ending the game.
— CPT Montana Dugger

1039th Engineers build stronger bonds with ANA

URUZGAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The 1039th Engineer Company has been working somewhat behind the scenes with the 4th Company of the 205th Afghan National Army (ANA) route clearance company, the ANA company assigned to them. As late January approaches, the 1039th prepares to validate the 4th of the 205th ANA Company. Up until recently the 1039th has been training their ANA company and working with them to prepare them for independent operations.



Sergeant Stephen Matthew Grass, the “A-Team” (1039th’s ANA Mentorship Team) Mechanic and Recovery Supervisor, said that he has confidence in their capabilities and that they’ve progressed a lot specifically in the maintenance area. “Before I got here they didn’t know too much about vehicle maintenance; they only had a three-day course on it. Now they

are a lot more knowledgeable and can pretty much handle things themselves.” He also stated that he feels they are ready to handle missions on their own; “the guys might goof around on the compound, but out on route, they get down to business and they’re actually pretty intelligent.”

A large part of the success that the 1039th and 4th of the 205th are experiencing is the bond that has been created between them. When asked about this, Sgt. Grass explained that at the beginning, partially due to the language barrier, things were quiet and tense, but now they’ve created a bond with each other and things are operating a lot smoother. Certain extenuating circumstances created a lack of necessary tools to properly work on the vehicles and slowed the advancement of the ANA’s learning and functionality. Sergeant Grass saw the need and filled it, by purchasing some of the tools they needed. “I bought them tools out of my own pocket. They help make their [the ANA Soldiers] jobs go faster and much easier than before. They really didn’t have anything to work with,” said Grass, “it helped us become a stronger team together, knowing that I can trust them and their abilities.”

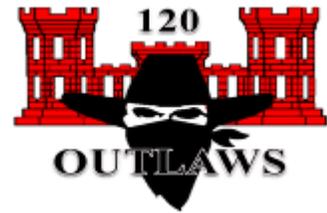


Grass stated that he was proud of the bond that they’ve created together saying things like: “we’ve become almost like family,” “I feel good that I get to watch them improve; I think we all do, on both sides.” The 1039th’s time with the 4th of the 205th is coming to a close. The bond that they’ve made with the 1039th has aided both the Afghan people by equipping the right people to help keep them safe, and the Coalition Forces, by improving our relationship with Afghanistan. Improvements take time and effort which can be clearly seen by the results the 1039th has achieved, one step at a time.

— SPC J. Alex Klein



...The Last Word: Hellbenders



Last week LTC Ritter and I went to visit the 1138th Sappers at their FOB.

Their FOB has a newly completed mess hall. Last June the old one burnt to the ground when some Taliban insurgents breached the perimeter. After a short battle they locked themselves in the mess hall's walk in freezer. The 713th Engineers did what Engineers do best and blew the doors off which resulted in the mess hall fire as well as taking out the bad guys.

The following day I went out with 2nd PLT on a route clearance mission. The PLT LDR said he expected to find IEDs since the route had not been cleared in a long time. I rode in the HEMTT wrecker with SGT Reeves that day as we hasty cleared down the black top with mine rollers out front and then turned off onto a dirt road. At that point we started doing a slow and deliberate clearance with the Huskys. We watched carefully as motor cycles and cars passed us, trying to see if they could be carrying any IEDs. Several times the Huskys picked up a signal and marked the area with dye. The Buffalo was then called to the front and interrogated the ground, digging with its arm trying to locate one. Eventually we passed a graveyard that was marked with rocks and poles with various colored flags as people from a nearby village walked in our direction. As we neared their location we noticed the adults were gone and two boys were left. One had a hoe and chopped at the ground a couple of times and just looked at us. This seemed strange to me but SGT Reeves said they see this often and think they are cutting some kind of plant that is used for animal feed. It seemed these guys were doing very little chopping and a lot of looking though. Could they be spotters counting the number of vehicles and crew served weapons? SGT Reeves said there was a good chance that IEDs were cached or hid in the grave yard but that it would take special permission for us to dig in the graves to look for possible IED hide sites. Onward we went, clearing and interrogating at a slow pace, finally nearing a village. At this point the interpreter said he could hear Taliban chatter over the radio and he was telling others that we were coming and to get ready. It sounded like an ambush was being set up, but this was also the location we were to stop clearing, turn around, and go back to the FOB.

Later that evening LTC Ritter and I were at the TOC checking emails and talking with other Soldiers. By the use of a surveillance system that was over watching the route we had cleared that morning, we watched three men walk out to the road and start digging and emplacing an IED. We were hoping a plane would be called in to take these guys out but for some unknown reason no one gave the permission and the men finally finished and walked back to town. At least we know where it is located.

It turned out to be a great visit and the 1138th EN did a professional job.

— CSM Richard Raby





COMING SOON!!!

**MORE EXCITING
NEWS AND
EVENTS!!!**



Safety First,

and then Teamwork:

Adhere to good network practices, keep our network security passwords secure and do not write them down where they can easily be seen. Information Assurance is a security measure implemented by DOD to manage risks related to the storage, processing and use of data and the systems that process that information. The department of defense has spent much time, money and effort in protecting personnel, information and equipment from any security threats or violations. Implementing rules on the proper use of computers, equipment and data with the use of passwords, CAC cards, security level clearance, and mandatory Annual Information Assurance training. A password is a secret set of characters and or letters used to identify and authenticate the user to gain access to certain resources. We use passwords to access computers at work, at home to access e-mail accounts, financial institutions, education, social media, programs, and data. All these are password protected for a measure of security. When a password is written down and stuck on your computer, under your keyboard, in your desk drawer (that has no lock) it offers as much protection as if there was no password to begin with. So practice good security and memorize your passwords or place it in your pin protected phone, or if you must write it down keep it in a secure location locked up. Another good idea is to change it often and never share your password with anyone. Fundamentally people have good intentions and want to do a good job. So practice good Information Assurance and protect yourself!

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER???
DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD???
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN A LATER ISSUE???
IF SO, CONTACT US THROUGH YOUR COMPANY 1SG!!!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

