



THE 18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION'S Warhammer Times

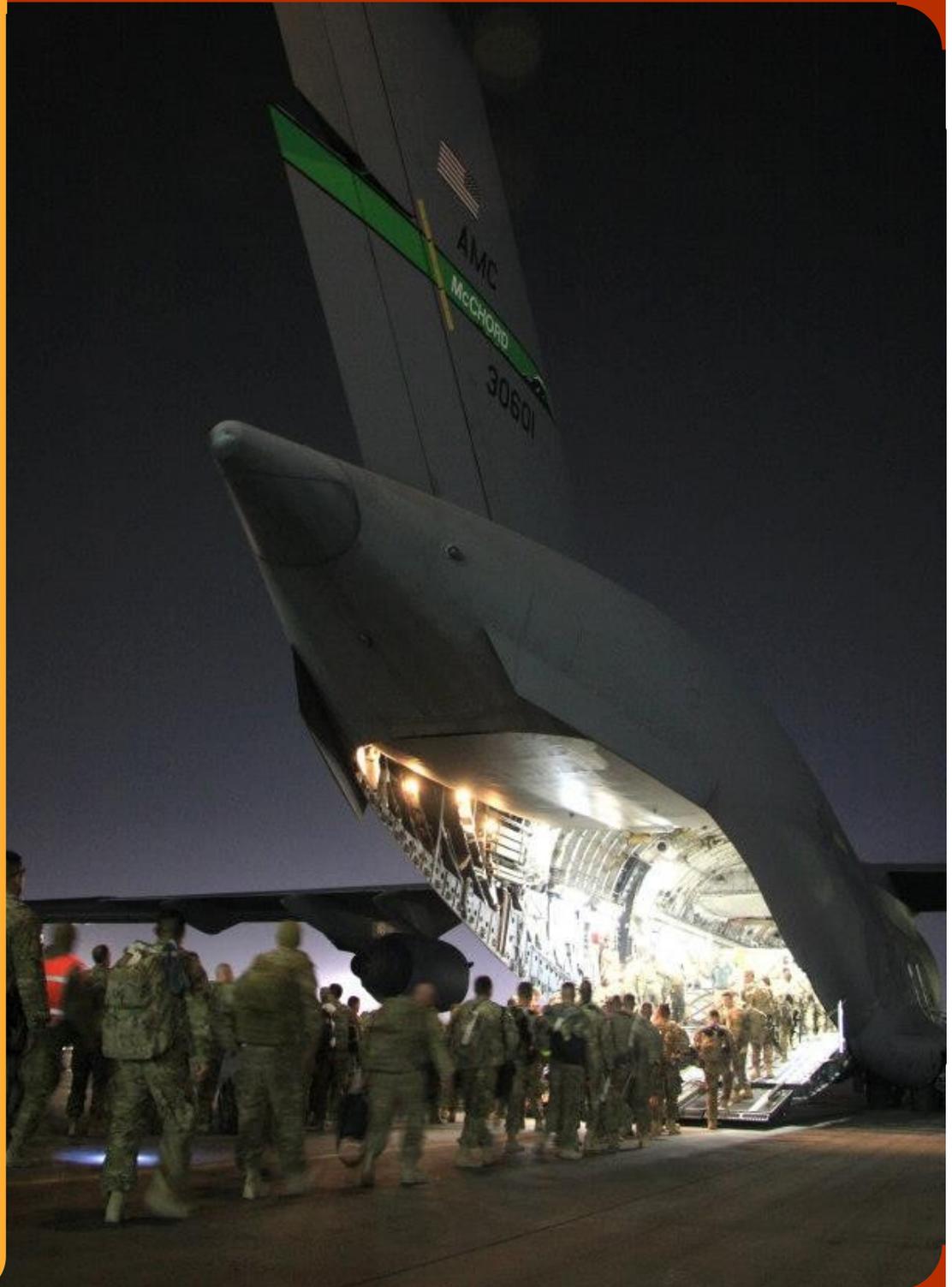
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 18TH CSSB

FEBRUARY 2013

ISSUE 7

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Soldiers return home on a C17 Globemaster III. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion returns home in early March after a nine-month deployment, in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

18th CSSB Command Team

Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher



Greetings!
As we close out the first month of the new year, the Warhammer Battalion prepares for and exciting month in February. This is a month of celebrating successes, preparing for our transition of the headquarters while picking up momentum of retrograding excess from Afghanistan. Our progress continues to impress the most senior leaders in our military.

Last month we witnessed great momentum as the Support Operations section, Maj. Thomas Krupp designed and established the first Forward Retrograde Elements (FRE) for the Army. His vision and execution established seven locations in Afghanistan to support the flow of excess materiel out of country. Additionally, Maj. Rosendo Pagan hosted Time reporter, Nate

Rawlings and shared our successes. See his story: <http://world.time.com/2013/02/05/retrograde-lessons-learning-from-afghanistans-logistical-nightmare/>

The battalion headquarters focused their last month on professional writings and publishing their stories. Our leaders wrote about running the Retrograde Sort Yards, materiel redistribution, customs missions, Lean Six Sigma (we had eight graduates of this very challenging program), intelligence gathering and distribution. These are just a few of the topics you can expect to see published by our talented staff.

Finally we received the 68th CSSB. The next chapter of CMRE is about to begin as we conclude our time in Afghani-

stan. I can't express enough the admiration, respect, and pride I have in your Warhammer Soldiers. They took a new mission and made it their own. They exceeded even their own expectations. In a couple of days our mission in Afghanistan will be complete and Lt. Col. Jeremy Lewis and the 68th CSSB will assume mission command of the CMRE in Afghanistan. We look forward to reuniting with our loved ones and once again assuming mission command in Germany. It's Hammertime! We Forge Ahead!

Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher

Warhammer 6

Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

Warhammers!

The month of February is upon us. During this month we have African-American History Month and also Valentine's Day. We have also welcomed the advance party from the 68th CSSB from Fort Carson, Colo.. It is good to have them on board and we are also look forward to the arrival of the 68th main body as well.

As we push through this month we have experienced changes in the temperature as well as days of sun then days of snow. So leaders lets prepare for the drastic changes when we conduct checks with our troops. Ensure we focus on staying

dry and keeping warm as well. Battle buddies are the key to help enforcing this.

As this is the last newsletter from me deployed, let me take the moment to share some thoughts. First of all it has truly been an honor to serve as your command sergeant major. This thing called the CMRE has been a unique mission. Six months from now it will evolve and become more unique. Each unit, the 247th and the 289th, will face their own unique challenges and exceed even higher expectations with enthusiasm and vigor. While doing your mission don't get complacent. HHC, 18th CSSB lets have safe travels home.

May our paths cross again my friends, keep your powder dry and as Col. McBride would say, "see you on the high ground."



Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

Warhammer 7



Soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion pose for a photo in Manas Airfield, Kyrgyzstan. The day after this photo, the 18th CSSB was split between Bagram Airfield, Kandahar Airfield and Camp John Pratt; they would not meet together until the unit returns in late February. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

18th Warhammers return from Afghanistan

By Spc. Isaac Adams

Public Affairs Specialist, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion operated in Afghanistan for more than eight months to provide materiel recovery and retrograde support to the units on the battlefield as part of the Central Command Materiel Recovery Element, known as the CMRE.

The 18th CSSB took command of the retrograde sort yards, commonly referred to as RSYs, and forward retrograde elements all over Afghanistan to facilitate the recovery and redistribution operations.

The 18th CSSB governs three strategic retro-sort yards in Afghanistan: the Kandahar Airfield RSY, in the south, the Bagram Airfield RSY in the east, and the Camp Pratt RSY in the North. The three retrosort yards are vital facilities in the reduction of excess materiel in Afghanistan.

The CMRE mission was facilitated to keep control and accountability of the material that is recovered from base closures and unit consolidations as the presence of the U.S. forces in Afghanistan continues to decrease as Operation Enduring Freedom draws closer to its conclusion.

Command and control over the materiel that is in country is vital.

As the International Security Assistance Forces transfer authority to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, U.S. troops return to their respective military posts.

Over the past decade of U.S. military involvement in Afghanistan, bases have accumulated more than \$48 billion worth of equipment that need to be recovered, redistributed, and recycled.

The RSYs act as a centralized location for the recovered materiel to be turned in to be processed according to their condition and supply code.

When the items enter the RSY, they are sorted and processed through the Standard Army Retail Supply System. Soldiers use the SARS System to verify whether the item is needed elsewhere in country, in the U.S., or should be disposed.

During this process, the CMRE determines and redistributes materiel to the supply warehouses, local depots and even issue locally to cut down expensive shipping costs.

In the beginning, the CMRE was composed of mobile recovery teams (MRT),

(Continued on page 7) Public Affairs Specialist



Spc. Leray Holmes, a fork lift operator for the local distribution section, out of Bravo Company, 113th Special Troops Battalion, checks to ensure that the tires are processed correctly to ship them to the correct distribution center here on Kandahar Airfield. (US Army Photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,

18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Co.

Defense Logistics Agency Director visits the Bagram Retrosort Yard

By 1st Lt. Henry Chan

18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion
Public Affairs Officer

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan –Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, Director of Defense Logistics Agency Logistics Operations, visited the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard on the afternoon of Jan 30th.

The installation is under operational control of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, commanded by Lt. Col. Michelle Letcher,



Cpt. Christian Noumba

and the 593rd Sustainment Brigade, commanded by Col. Douglas McBride. The BAF RSY operates along with two other retrograde sort yards in Afghanistan that either ships excess materiel out of the Afghan Theater back into the Army supply system, or redistributes excess materiel within Afghanistan for deployed military units to reutilize them. After the Soldiers welcomed the general, 18th

CSSB Executive Officer, Maj. Rosendo Pagan began the tour an overview of one of the most mature redistribution and reconfiguration operation in Afghanistan. Retrograde facilities operated by the 18th CSSB have become vital facilities to Soldiers all over Afghanistan. “We don’t turn anyone away. If they get it here, we receive it, or we physically escort, and facilitate turning (items) into the proper entities,” said Pagan.

Pagan also led the group to visit the newly built washing rack. This structure allows Soldiers wash shipping containers to meet U.S. Customs standards and higher production velocity. The washing rack efficiently cuts wash time by 75 percent.

The group also had an opportunity to inspect the hazardous material area. Workers were busy stacking crates of used welding cylinders that were pending shipment.

As Dowd concluded his visit, he

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1st Sgt. Charles Odom

The First Sergeant’s Blurb

I would like to announce that the HHC’s CMRE mission and time in Afghanistan is drawing to a close as we prepare for our return back to home station in Germany. But, as everything works in the Army our mission is never complete until all Soldiers are all home and we complete our seven half day reintegration process. I ask everybody to keep realistic, achievable goals, whether it deals with money, relationships, or any other materialistic things. Spending this much time away from our families and friends, one must realize even if you don’t notice it, but we have all changed in some way. I am not saying change is a bad thing for example for the family member we left had to play the role of both parents. This is something that must be taken in consideration, and allow time to take its course and should not be forced.

This month I would like to give a big shout out to those soldiers who earned their promotable status, Spc. Francisco Ortiz, Spc. Rosquita Bennett, Spc. Koffi Aziato, and Spc. Andrew Bohn.

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247th Quartermaster Company

FOB Shank FRE

By Spc. Kyle Rice

247th Quartermaster Company Public Affairs

LOGAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Capt. Gary Taylor, commander of the 247th Quartermaster Company “Headhunters,” visited 247th Soldiers serving as the Forward Retrograde Element at Forward Operating Base Shank on the weekend of Feb. 7th.

Upon arrival to FOB Shank, the commander and his group met with the 247th Customs Team, the FRE Officer in Charge, 1st Lt. Chad Frizzell, Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Sgt. 1st Class Delano Ross and Sgt. Brian Lujan.

With harsh winter conditions and FOB Shank’s elevation at 6,200 ft above sea level, the group was able to avoid the



Cpt. Gary Taylor

The Captain’s Corner!

Greetings to all the members of the Headhunter Company and their Families.

With the holidays in our rear-view mirror and our respective battle rhythm’s picking up some speed most of us are starting to notice the days passing at a faster pace. Hopefully it’s the same back home for you and your family. January was an eventful month for the Headhunter Team. Our organizations work

ethic has contributed to the improvement of the retrograde velocity goals for both the Forward Retrograde Element’s (FRE) as well as at the Retro Sort Yards (RSY). The company has quickly made a name for itself resilient, mission focused organization and I couldn’t be more proud of our troops. Our early success is largely due to the love and support that

(Continued on page 8)

bad weather that normally looms. “You and your team made your trip at the perfect time. It’s actually clear and beautiful outside the FOB Shank,” said the FRE Soldiers.

The “Forward Retrograde Element” is a conglomeration of a Base Closure Assistance Team, a Mobile Container Accountability Team and a Mobile Redistribution Team. The BCAT helps units with supply documentation as they close down military infrastructures and the MCAT keeps records of shipping containers.

The MRT receives excess items from remote bases for redistribution before sending them back to large ret-

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1st Lt. Chad Frizzell reenlists Spc. Jonathan Wilson on Feb. 8th. Wilson reenlisted on the tallest hill at FOB Shank. He “re-classed” as a Human Resources Specialist. Wilson said, “it feels great that my command team here supported my decision to re-class. It was a bit of a headache getting to this point, but it was all worth it! I just want to thank everyone!” (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kyle Rice, 247th Quartermaster Company Public Affairs)



The First Sergeant’s Blurp

As we march into 2013 and our second month in theater, I can not express how proud I am of our Soldiers and their contributions to the CMRE mission. In two short months our Soldiers have briefed the Assistant Secretary of Interior, the Army Material Command (AMC) Commanding General and Command Sergeant Major and many other distinguished visitors. We have quickly put our name on the map and people are getting to know the Headhunter Team. The cold winter months have not dampened our spirits and we are preparing the welcome some familiar faces as the 68th CSSB and 43rd SB arrive in the coming days. As the 18th CSSB closes out their historical chapter in the CMRE mission, we prepare to bid safe travels and a huge “thank you!” To Lt. Col. Letcher and Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin and the Warhammer Team for your insight, professionalism and commitment to our success.

1st Sgt. Harold Smith
Headhunter 7



1st Sgt. Harold Smith

289th Quartermaster Company

Celebrating success: FOB Aziz Ullah

By Katherine Hansen

289th Quartermaster Company Executive Officer

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Mobile Redistribution Team of the 289th Quartermaster Company, from Fort Hood, Texas, lead by Sgt. Marvena Marshall has been hard at work to support Operation Enduring Freedom in the Regional Command- South, Afghanistan.

The MRT receives excess items from remote bases for redistribution before sending them back to large retrosort yards, locally issuing items to

units, or simply send off for disposal.

Marshall's team included four Soldiers from the 289th QMC and eight civilian contractors. This team redistributed over what is equivalent to 120 twenty-foot-long shipping containers worth of excess materiel, from Forward Operating Base Aziz Ullah over a three month period.

Following a transfer of authority ceremony between B Company 427th Brigade Support Battalion of the New



Cpt. Joel Calo

289th QM Soldiers currently work from four main locations with missions that sometimes maneuver Soldiers between 24 different forward operating bases (FOB) and combat outposts (COP) on the OEF battlefield. Thus far Soldiers have successfully managed to deal with the cold weather, the dust and the landscape here in Afghanistan. Motivation has not dropped a notch and two months later, our Soldiers are now considered subject matter experts in retrograde

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York National Guard, the 289th QMC's MRT took charge of the mission in FOB Aziz Ullah.

"There was a lot of work still to be done" Sgt. Marvena Marshall observed upon her arrival.

Marshall's team worked with Task Force Spartan, 1-36th Infantry, Texas Army National Guard, as many surrounding FOBs were sending their

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Mobile Redistribution Team of the 289th Quartermaster Company, from Fort Hood, Texas, lead by Sgt. Marvena Marshall retrogrades Forward Operating Base Aziz Ullah. Seen in this photo are, Spc. Carlos Canveral, Chaz Reid, Sgt. Marvena Marshall, Paulino Martinez, Pfc Ali Garza, Gary Randolph, Spc. Brandon Chadwick



1st Sgt. Ramon Rodriguez

Hello Sabers.

We have completed over two months of our deployment and I would like to commend all of you on doing a great job. To date, we've had no major accidents or injuries and we've also had no negative or adverse actions. Missions are being successfully completed as a result of great teamwork from within the Company. Thinking back to Fort Hood and trying to figure out what BCAT, MCAT, RPAT, MRPAT, MRT, and several other acronyms meant. Did you ever imagine this? Millions of dollars worth of vehicles and materials are being processed for redistribution into the supply system or prepared for shipment back to the United States. The Base Closure Assistance Teams (BCAT) has visited approximately 30 Combat Outposts and Forward Operating Bases assisting with closures or transfers. After this initial 60 days of our deployment we are finally starting

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The Captain's Corner!

Dear Soldiers, Family members, and friends,

It has been a little over two months since we left our home station in Fort Hood, Tx. to answer our Nation's call to serve in Operation Enduring Freedom. Our Soldiers, family members and friends have been very supportive so far and the mission is steadily growing. Our Soldiers continue to produce exceptional results conducting daily retrograde operations in Afghanistan.

The First Sergeant's Blurb

Warhammers return (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 3)

base closure assessment teams (BCAT), and mobile container assessment teams (MCAT) that worked to support the flow of materiel to the RSYs.

After the 18th CSSB took control of the recovery operations of the CMRE, they reevaluated the processes behind the BCATs, MCATs, and MRTs. The retrogrades teams were separate and worked apart from each other spending extra time and resources than what was needed to complete the job.

The 593rd Sustainment Brigade Commander brought a solution to the operation, Forward Retrograde Elements, or FREs which save time and help expedite the recovery processes by integrating recovery and retro-

grade operations on the battlefield. The FRE was designed to combine the efforts of the MCATs, BCATs and MRTs in one operation to cut out any time consuming miscommunications.

The FRE is mirrored off of a traditional operational doctrine known as a Forward Logistic Element which can be used by a CSSB to supply forward units on the battlefield.

Maj. Thomas Krupp, the Support Officer of the 18th CSSB, explained "We're doing the same thing here, we're taking pieces of the CSSB and doing the same doctrinal mission as a forward logistic element, only with retrograde and recovery."

The 18th CSSB is spread throughout Afghanistan in order to provide materiel recovery and retrograde support to the units on the battlefield. The 18th CSSB governs three strategic retrosort yards in

Afghanistan: the KAF RSY, in the south, the Bagram Airfield RSY in the east, and the Camp Pratt RSY in the north. The three retrosort yards are vital facilities in the reduction of excess materiel in Afghanistan.

"Some of this stuff is heading back to the [Sierra Army] Depot [in California], and the depot will supply the SSAs (supply support activity warehouses) which in turn will supply other army unit as their customers," explained Chief Warrant Officer Sulaiman Bah, the retrograde support officer-in-charge for the 18th CSSB. Bah also worked as the accountable officer at the Kandahar Airfield Retrosort Yard.

As the deployment winds down, Warhammers will return to their families and friends in Grafenwoehr, Germany. Soldiers have tackled a once in a lifetime challenge, and forever brand the 18th CSSB in the books of history.

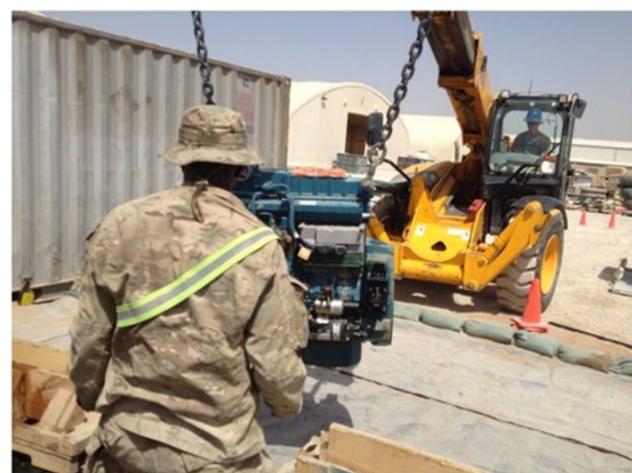


(Above) Sgt. Timothy Vandermied from the 427th Brigade Support Battalion and Spc. Michael Brunger from the 1462nd Transportation Company work on packaging oxygen cylinders that have accumulated in the Bagram Retrosort Yard into bundles for transportation. With each cylinder weighing 145lbs, and upwards of 500 cylinders to clear in the yard, the Hazardous Material section of the yard take on the daunting mission with great tenacity. (U.S Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Public Affairs)



(Top right) Pfc. Stephanie Luis, from Bravo Company, 427th Brigade Support Battalion, of the N.Y. National Guard, works on processing items through the Standard Army Retail Supply System in order put them back into the Army supply system. (US Army Photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Public Affairs)

(Right) Spc. Koffi Aziato, a generator mechanic from Headquarters and Headquarters Company 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, guides an engine onto two Air Force pallets at the Kandahar Airfield Retro Yard, Afghanistan. This loading technique requires patience and communication, and is necessary to drain the engine for a safe turn-in. (US Army photo by Spc. Andrew Bohn, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)



289th Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

operations for Afghanistan, a mission that leaders at all levels recognize as considerably different and presenting more complexity than any other mission we have ever undertaken before. I want to thank the family members and especially the spouses and love ones for the unconditional support and love that they show to our Soldiers. The Family Readiness Group has been particularly amazing in their efforts to keep family members involved in the community and to help them keep in touch with their love ones down range. Remember, if you have any questions please feel free to contact myself or the FRG team. Saber Support!

Capt. Joel Calo
Saber 6



Expeditionary Disposal Remedial Team member, Navy Petty Officer 3rd Class, Lucas Benaridez guides a column of local national trucks to transport scrap metal out of the Forward Operating Base Sharana Materiel Redistribution Yard. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

247th QM Captain's corner (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 5)

we've received from the home front in the form of email's, letters, and care packages. Without your support we couldn't do what we do. Those of us that were not on mission and were dedicated enough to set our alarms for the early hours of Feb. 3rd, enjoyed an entertaining Super Bowl. It was nice to see Ray Lewis go out with a win, but also sad to realize that we'll have to wait another six months for next year's season to begin.

This month we hosted Nate Rawlings a reporter from TIME Magazine who writes for the political, government and military affairs section. His online article provides a detailed look at the

CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element (CMRE) and highlights some of the work our Headhunters are doing both for the 18th CSSB and 3-401st AFSBn. You can find his article at: <http://world.time.com/2013/01/31/afghanistans-big-sort-separating-trash-from-treasure-in-a-container-city/#ixzz2JeUUnrS9>

Thanks again for the love and support we've received from the rear. Headhunters, twenty-four-seven!

Capt. Gary N. Taylor
Headhunter 6

289th 1st Sgt's Blurb (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)

to get settled into our roles and work routine. I am conducting some battlefield circulation and trying to visit my Soldiers in as many places as possible. So far I've been to FOBs Shindand, Sharana and Walton. If I haven't been to your location yet, expect to see me as I want to see the great work I know you are doing. Keep up the great work! Saber Support!

1st Sgt. Ramon Rodriguez
Saber 7

HHC 18th CSSB 1SG's Blurb (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 4)

These soldiers hard work and dedication was evident as they went through there board proceedings. The company also had a promotions which was also well deserved and went our youngest member of the Head Hunter's, Spc. Malcom Madison.

I would like to thanks the HHC, 18th CSSB Soldiers for their unwavering commitment provided to us by our Family Readiness Group (FRG). Their hard work and contribution to both the Soldiers down range and family members and friends in the rear was tremendous in keeping the communication flow between the soldiers and their families and friends.

Sgt. 1st Class Charles Odom
Headhunter 7

HHC 18th CSSB Capt's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 4)

bers. Let's keep an eye on those of us who have their loved ones outside of Grafenwoehr and most importantly outside of Germany.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome the new additions the Headhunter and Warhammer family, notably the latest to my knowledge: Bronson Tin Yu McGurk. My congratulations to the McGurk family and to Bronson I say "May all the love and joy you feel on this special day stay with you through your lifetime."

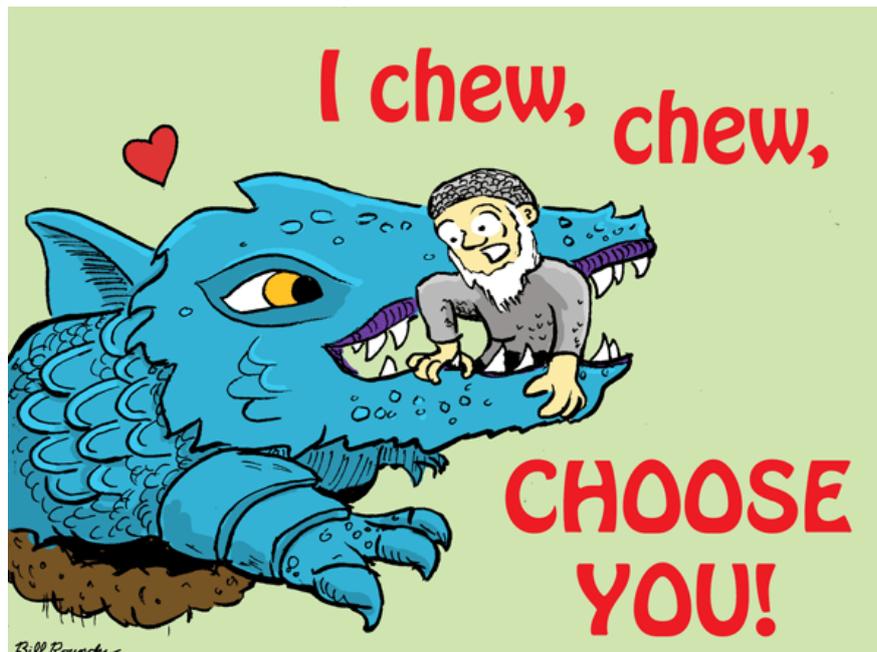
In ending this month's message to you, I want congratulate every

one for the hard work, commitment and dedication that made this deployment successful so far. Let's stay focused on the prize ahead: reuniting with loved ones and returning to full staff by mid-April.

God bless your family and you,
God Bless the United States of America!

Capt. Christian S. Nomba
Headhunter 6

The Morale Mill



Happy Valentine's Day!

Shank FRE 247th QM

(Continued from page 5)

resort yards, locally issuing items to units, or simply send off for disposal.

Frizzell explained to Taylor that the 173rd Airborne has appreciated their presence on the base. The MRT facility and “free issue” program has been helpful for supporting units in need of supplies, while eliminating wasteful ordering and reusing excess items.

As the group discussed, the MRT team received a container from an outlying COP with exercise equipment and extra mattresses. Almost spontaneously, a unit showed up to sign for everything in the twenty foot container.

It does not take long for the word to spread through the base before units show up to sign for the excess equipment that flows through the MRT facility.

“That is actually why we are here and exactly what our job is here in Afghanistan,” said MRT Soldier Spc. Sean Hayes, as base operations personnel pulled their five-ton truck to receive extra equipment. “Our mission is to save money and put that equipment back into use once we shut down a COP or FOB.”

On the other side of the base, 247th Soldiers also supported the 401st Army Field Support Brigade’s retrograde mission with the Redistribution Property Assistance Team. The RPAT deals with large items, such as military vehicles and generators that are destined to return to refurbishing depots.

The RPAT mission could be as dangerous as those outside of the base perimeter. Spc. Erika Wilcox explained that vehicle searches can lead to “explosive” surprises. “I found a hand-grenade once in a MRAP,” she states, “though, we assure that any time we find (unexploded ord-

nance), that we coordinate with the appropriate people and (explosive ordnance disposal) to make sure everyone is safe.”

“Shank is not all about work and finding explosives in vehicles. We still (maintain) Army standards and work hard to give the Soldiers their dues,” said Frizzell.

On the Feb. 8th, Spc. Jonathan Wilson, reenlisted on the tallest hill at FOB Shank. He “re-classed” as a Human Resources Specialist. Wilson said, “it feels great that my command team here supported my decision to re-class. It was a bit of a headache getting to this point, but it was all worth it! I just want to thank everyone!”

As the weekend concluded, Taylor and his group left FOB Shank, and Soldiers returned to serving the base community as they always had.



Capt. Gary Taylor, commander of the 247th Quartermaster Company “Headhunters”, visited 247th Soldiers serving as the Forward Retrograde Element at Forward Operating Base Shank on the weekend of Feb. 7th. Soldiers were in high spirits and motivated to retrograde Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kyle Rice, 247th Quartermaster Company Public Affairs)

General Dowd visit (continued)

(Continued from page 4)

stopped by the processing tent to recognize two soldiers for their outstanding contribution towards the retrograde operations. Sgt. Kenneth Green, the BAF RSY vehicle contracting officer representative, and Hazardous Material Handler, Spc. Ian Parnell, both from the 247th Quartermaster Company, stationed in Fort Carson, Colo. received coins for their hard work.

The general concluded his visit by saying, "I've been coming out here for the past five years," said Dowd, "I've seen the (processing) tent get put up. I remember when we were shipping 250 (twenty foot shipping containers worth of materiel)



per month. Now you are shipping 250 (shipping containers worth of materiel) per week! I'm proud of you, and that gets me psyched up!"

Maj. Rosendo Pagan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Executive Officer, leads Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dowd, Director of Defense Logistics Agency Logistics Operations, through the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard on the afternoon of Jan 30th. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

289th QM Success (cont)

retrograded items to Aziz Ullah.

As a junior noncommissioned officer, Marshall certainly stepped to a position normally filled by a lieutenant or senior noncommissioned officer. She was able to clearly convey to the officers on ground what her mission was, and lead her team to accomplish their mission.

"Though she was slightly hesitant in the beginning, she demonstrated that she was the right leader for this mission, great job," said 289th QMC company commander, Capt. Joel Calo, as the Aziz Ullah team returned from their mission.

When the team first arrived late Dec. 2012



289th QM MRT busy at work clearing one of many yards on FOB Aziz Ullah.



Mission complete on FOB Aziz Ullah on 24th Jan. 2013.



(From top to bottom) A chronological photo depiction of the 289th Quartermaster Company Mobile Redistribution Team at work. This team redistributed more than the equivalent to 120 twenty-foot-long shipping containers worth of excess materiel, from Forward Operating Base Aziz Ullah over a three month period. (Courtesy photo from the 289th Quartermaster Company)



The Warhammer Times



Forward Operating Base Sharana Materiel Redistribution Yard Noncommissioned Officer in Charge, Sgt. Andrew Markley, of the 289th Quartermaster Company, stationed in Fort Hood, Texas, steps out of his forklift after a long day's work. (U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion public affairs)

Haaappy Birthday!

Sgt. Thomas Hoskins

1-Feb

Spc. Kyle Rice

1-Feb

Spc. Melinda Khalees

3-Feb

Sgt. Angel Montanez

4-Feb

1st Lt. Ayana Kendal

5-Feb

Sgt. Noel Noel

8-Feb

Pfc. Esaundra Smith

11-Feb

Pfc. Whitney Harris

13-Feb

Maj. Thomas Krupp

15-Feb

Sgt. Shawne Gauldin

18-Feb

Spc. Francis Pascual

19-Feb

Sgt. 1st Class Frederick Tatum

19-Feb

Sgt. Andrew Hartman

21-Feb

Spc. Kyle Clark

21-Feb

Spc. Isaac Adams

22-Feb

Sgt. Benjamin Mayer

22-Feb

Spc. Taylor Schwartz

25-Feb

Spc. Tristan McLennan

26-Feb

Pfc. Marisa Meza

27-Feb



Spc. Daniel Leal, a Soldier on the FOB Shank Mobile Redistribution Team, at FOB Shank Afghanistan says, "I want to tell all my babies back home. I love them and hope you're having fun! Latasha, I know you're here in country, but I'll see you soon baby!"



Sgt. Demetrius Clyde, the HHC 18th CSSB Bagram Airfield Logistics Task Force supply sergeant from Albany, Ga., wants to give a shout-out to his wife Lataishia Clyde and his kids, Jairus Clyde, Jashon Clyde and Saniah Clyde, "I'll be leaving for Germany soon, and be in Clarksville a few days after. Can't wait to see you and the kids, I love you guys very much, and I'll call you as soon as I get off that plane in Nashville!"

My name is Spc. Shane Pullin, a wheeled vehicle mechanic from the 247th Quartermaster Company, with a Mobile Redistribution Team at FOB Salerno, Afghanistan. I'd like to show off my mechanic talents at PMCS'ing (Preventative Maintenance Checks and Services) my new car. I love you mom and dad. As you can see, I'm doing great out here!"



I'm Spc. Canaveral from Manizales, Columbia. I am apart of a Mobile Redistribution Team from the 289th Quartermaster Company in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. I want to say that I miss my wife and my kids a lot. They are everything in my life and I'll do everything for them.



I'm Spc. Brandon Chadwick from Gloucester, Va. I am apart of the Mobile Redistribution Team from the 289th Quartermaster Company in Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, to all my friends and family back home I love you and miss you. See you soon!



1st Lt. Henry Chan

Public Affairs Officer

Dear fellow Soldiers and Family members,

It has been truly rewarding serving as your Public Affairs Officer for this deployment. History often writes about the difficulties of military logistics operations in Afghanistan, but the documentation has been equally challenging.

One may think that the best reward for a public affairs officer is seeing the publications materialize, or a good review. For me, the most encouraging moment is when I see that glimpse of joy from Soldiers, Sailors and Family members when they see loved ones on our publications. I thank you for that!

Our program has also taken leaps and bounds! Thanks to our Public Affairs Specialist, Spc. Isaac Adams, and all of

the Unit Public Affairs Representatives from each company that we have been with, we have gotten to reach out to visit our Soldiers serving in the most remote corners of Afghanistan. The 18th CSSB has even got published and broadcasted on mainstream international media. As a battalion, this has been a great team effort to show the world our abilities as U.S. Service Members in our roles in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

It has been a good few months out here, and many of us have had new and exotic experiences to share with



our Families. Don't forget to hug the little ones for a few seconds more before you tell those stories from the CMRE mission! I will miss our counterparts from the N.Y. National Guard, Michigan National Guard, North Carolina National Guard, Fort Carson, Fort Hood, and the U.S. Navy dearly. Take care, and I am sure that we will cross paths on future missions!

18th CSSB Public Affairs Officer

1st Lt. Henry Chan

Spc. Isaac Adams

Public Affairs Specialist

Dear readers,

I have been working as the public affairs representative for the 18th CSSB for two years come May 2013. I have had a blast putting the stories of the 18th into the hands of friends, family and Soldiers across the Warhammer Family and around the globe. My ultimate goal was just that; to tell the stories of the Warhammers'.

Since working as a public affairs specialist, I have been involved in documenting the work that is constantly in motion and it has been an experience that has shed a new light of appreciation on how hard the people of our battalion work in their everyday jobs.

As we wind up the gears to make our trip back home to Germany, I just want to say thank you to our audience and the Soldiers of the 18th CSSB, New York National



Guard, Michigan National Guard, North Carolina National Guard, Fort Carson, Fort Hood, and the Sailors of the U.S. Navy. Without your dedication what we have done here would not have been possible.

Don't forget to call home and

Speak with the ones you love and the ones that love you. A simple phone call can mean the world to them.

18th CSSB Public Affairs Specialist

ist
Spc. Isaac Adams



SSG Kim Bell
18th CSSB SHARP Representative



Diversity & Climate Bulletin



SSG Robert Clement
18th CSSB Equal Opportunity NCO

African-American Month



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

NORMANDY, France -Through the romantic month of February, we often associate the color red with St. Valentine's Day. This February, the 18th CSSB Equal Opportunity section shifts its attention to the "Red Ball Express."

The Red Ball Express was a logistics operation to quickly resupply Gen. George S. Patton's 3rd Army .

The French Resistance and Allied war efforts had destroyed much of the railway systems in France while fighting German forces. Patton's troops were pushing towards Germany faster than traditional military supply columns could catch up. The front-line troops were running out of fuel, ammunition, food and other essentials.

The name is derived from the early U.S. rail road red ball signal lights that indicated a fast freight train. The route was marked with red balls, and military vehicles marked with similar red balls received priority on the road.

African American soldiers played a vital role in the Red Ball Express. It was a truck convoy operation that pushed valuable supplies from Normandy to Paris and eventually to the front along France's northeastern border.

According to David Colley, author of *The*

Road to Victory, "on an average day, 900 fully loaded vehicles were on the Red Ball route round the clock. At the Red Ball's peak, 140 truck companies were strung out with a round trip taking 54 hours as the route stretched nearly 400 miles to First Army and 350 to General Patton's Third. The convoys rolled all day, every day regardless of the weather."

During World War II, African American Soldiers faced segregation from participating in the warfront due to stereotypical beliefs that they lacked the courage and bravery for combat.

According to the American Armed Forces Press Service, "the Army relegated blacks primarily to "safe" service and supply outfits and the Navy assigned them as mess stewards. All Marines are combat troops -- the Corps refused to take blacks at all until 1942."

Although the highways were reserved for military traffic only, ambushes and bombings from the Germans were still prevalent.

In Colley's book, *Red Ball Express* truck driver, James Rookard of Maple Heights, Ohio, recalls his days operating on the route saying, "my worst memories of being in the Red Ball Express were seeing trucks get blown up and being afraid that I might get killed."

He said, "there were dead bodies and dead horses on the highways after bombs dropped. I was scared, but I did my job, hoping for the best. Being young and about 4,000 miles away from home, anybody would be scared."

These young African-American Soldiers fought much like the modern logistics Soldier, pushing supplies on bomb-riddled roads in Afghanistan.

In observance of the African-American Awareness Month, the 18th CSSB Equal Opportunity section would like to honor the truck drivers and support personnel of the Red Ball Express.



"On an average day, 900 fully loaded vehicles were on the Red Ball route round the clock. The convoys rolled all day, every day regardless of the weather."

- David Colley

The Warhammer Times

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



Website:



<http://www.eur.army.mil/21tsc/16sb/18cssb/index.html>

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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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