

# Outlaw Chronicles

*Sappers clear the way!*



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Dari: 11 Hut 1391

Pashto: 11 Kab 1391

## Outlaw 6 Sends



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As Task Force Outlaw's Commander, I get to "preside" over many worthy events such as award ceremonies, promotions and events that recognize achievements. Last week, I had another such distinct honor.

Command Sergeant Major Raby and I traveled to the FOB in Southern Afghanistan where the 1433rd resides. We presented the coveted Oklahoma National Guard Thunderbird Medal to the 3rd Brigade, 205<sup>th</sup> Corps, Afghanistan Route Clearance Company (3/205 ANA RCC), at the approval of The Adjutant General of the Oklahoma National Guard, Major General Myles Deering. The idea of presenting the Thunderbird Medal was born from trying to find method of recognizing

the 3/205 ANA RCC recent achievement of *Independent with Advisor* validation (see story on page 7 by Captain Wyckoff). Partnering with ANA Engineers to help increase their proficiency and independence was only one of the missions tasked to Task Force Outlaw. And it was an honor to recognize their achievement. What was particularly interesting about the event was the pride the ANA RCC soldiers displayed in their accomplishments, as seen by the smiles behind their bad\*ss mustaches, and the recognition from their *mentors* as "good to go." Each ANA RCC soldier stood tall as Captain Falor, Commander of the 1433<sup>rd</sup> Engineer Company from the MI-ARNG (their mentoring

Engineer Company), and I took turns addressing their accomplishments. The mentors from the 1433<sup>rd</sup> appeared just as proud of the achievement, and rightfully so. The security of Afghanistan will soon be in the hands of the Soldiers you trained and they are *willing and able* to take that mission on, thanks to the Soldiers of Task Force Outlaw...HELL YEAH!

— LTC Jack Ritter



## Task Force Outlaw



## XO Foxhole

### “As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”



Many of you have probably seen the movie, “The Bucket List”. The bottom line of the movie is that a corporate billionaire (Jack Nicholson) and a working class mechanic (Morgan Freeman) have nothing in common except for their terminal illnesses. While sharing a hospital room together, they decide to leave it and do all the things they have ever wanted to do before they die, according to their Bucket List. In the process, both of them heal each other, become unlikely friends, and ultimately find joy in life.

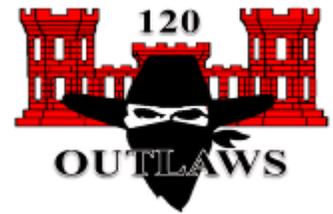
This movie has inspired many people to create their own Bucket List and begin the journey of doing all the things on their list. Of course, if I was a billionaire it would be easier to accomplish these tasks, so most people tend to tailor their list based on their means or current abilities. I disagree with this. You never know what the future holds and it keeps the dream alive of accomplishing something great, or at least something you have always wanted to do. You should always have things on your list, big or small, that you always wanted to try or obtain or acquire.

I have had a list for a while and continue to add to it (and remove some things off the list that I have lost interest in). One of the items on my list is to run a marathon. With failing knees and the boredom of running, I have decided that a 15K is a good enough accomplishment for now. I don't even have interest in a half marathon, at this time. But I will keep them on the list in hopes that someone will inspire me to check those off my list someday.

After I joined the military, I had on my list to deploy to “war”. I'm sure this is a common item for many that join the military. After deploying to Iraq in 2004, I added another item to my list, deploy to Afghanistan. Well, here I am a veteran of two Contingency Theaters of Operation...check, check.

For those of you that this is your first deployment, about 50% of all Task Force Outlaw soldiers, you are now a veteran of foreign war. This is an accomplishment that less than 8% of all living American's can claim for all wars. You are also a part of an elite group of less than 1% of American's that deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. So whether this was something on your “list” or not, I want to tell you congratulations on being in the top 1% of American's, which is worth putting on anyone's list.

— MAJ Brian DeShazo  
XO, 120th EN BN

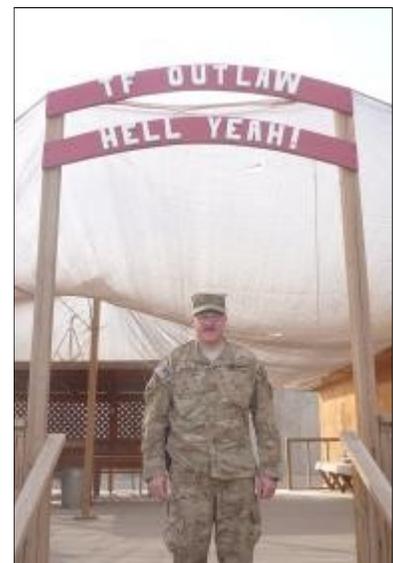


## Customs and Courtesies

### Reminder:

**When addressing more than one male officer, the proper term to use is “Gentlemen,” not “Sirs.”**

**When addressing more than one female officer, the proper term is “Ladies,” not “Ma'ams.”**



## Command Highlight: 84th Engineer Company

### CPT Michael Carvelli

- Hometown: Anchorage, AL
- Years of service: 7 years
- Married? Yes
- Kids? No
- Parents in the military? No, I am the only immediate family member in the military
- Why did you join? To Serve my country and for free college
- Deployment job: Commander
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?  
It is different, with the draw down challenges and becoming comfortable with the equipment.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:  
I am proud of my soldiers and their professionalism in their initial training.
- How does this deployment compare to others? Not much has changed since my last time here...
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs!
- Favorite food: Meat
- Favorite Sports team: Auburn Tigers
- Vehicle you own: Subaru Outback and Jeep Grand Cherokee
- College? Rochester Institute of Technology – Civil Engineering
- Plans to do when back home: My wife and I have planned a trip to Thailand.



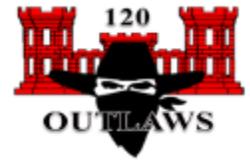
## Command Highlight: 84th Engineer Company

### 1SG Willard Ottman

- Hometown: Corning, CA
- Years of service: 19 years
- Married? Yes
- Kids? 3
- Military Family? Yes, Grandmother and Grandfather were both Marines
- Why did you join? Always dreamed of being a Soldier/Marine
- Deployment job: Company First Sergeant
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?  
The deployment so far has went well. Our FOB and the surrounding area will be a challenge to keep IED free, but having a FOB inside another FOB is also nice.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:  
This deployment has taught me that no matter what unit you are in, that you may be asked to do a mission outside your skill set.
- How does this deployment compare to others?  
Reception, Staging, Onward-movement and Integration (RSOI), for the Route Clearance Packages was not established for Operation Iraqi Freedom. CENTCOM has put together a real training plan for here that works!
- Dogs, or cats? 1 Dog
- Favorite food: Steak
- Favorite Sports team: Raiders
- Vehicle you own: 2011 Jeep
- College? Central Texas College – General Studies
- Plans to do when back home: PCS



# Medical Corner: Strains vs. Sprains



**Strains** are injuries that affect muscles or tendons, thick bands that attach muscles to bones. They occur in response to a quick tear, twist, or pull of the muscle. Strains are an acute type of injury that results from overstretching or over contraction. Pain, weakness, stiffness, bruising and muscle spasms are common symptoms experienced after a strain occurs. The treatment plan for strains is as follows: provide some type of protection such as soft padding that will minimize impact with objects. Next rest, rest is necessary to accelerate healing and reduce the potential for re-injury. Ice your injury. Apply ice to reduce swelling by reducing blood flow to the injury site. Never ice for more than 20 minutes at a time. Compression is the next step in the treatment plan. Wrap the strained area to reduce swelling with an ACE wrap. Finally elevate the injury. Keep the strained area as close to the level of the heart as is conveniently possible to keep blood from pooling in the injured area. The ice and compression will stop the pain

and swelling while the injury starts to heal itself. Controlling the inflammation is critical to the healing process and the icing further restricts fluid leaking into the injured area as well as controlling pain. Ibuprofen will also help with the inflammation and pain control. They can take a month heal completely. **Sprains** are injuries that affect ligaments, thick bands of cartilage that attach bone to bone. They occur in response to a stretch or tear of a ligament. Sprains are an acute type of injury that results from trauma such as a fall or outside force that displaces the surrounding joint from its normal alignment. Sprains can range from a mild ligamentous stretch to a complete tear. Bruising, swelling, instability, and painful movement are common symptoms experienced after a sprain occurs. The treatment plan for a sprain is the same as for a strain. Sprains take weeks to months to heal completely.



By: Medic of the year "aka" SPC Osterloh



## Soldier Spotlight: 693rd Engineer Company

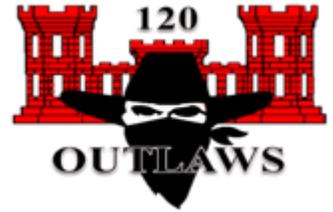
### SGT Christopher Marise

- Hometown: Memphis, TN
- Years of service: 7
- Married? Yes
- Kids? Yes
- Immediate family service: (prior or current) Not a Military Family
- Why did you join? No good options in the civilian world.
- Deployment job: Route Clearance, Team Leader
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? No political opinions, No personal thoughts or opinions.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: My first Blow In Place (B.I.P); that I have never been struck by an IED in three deployments so far; and that I have saved some money.
- Dogs, or cats? I have two dogs, Jack (yellow lab) and Ellie (boxer)
- How does this deployment compare to others? About the same. This deployment for me has been more active. by that I mean more insurgent activity than previous deployments.
- Favorite food? Chicken Wings
- Favorite Sports team: Tennessee Titans and Memphis Grizzlies
- Vehicle you own: '01 Chevy S-10
- Plans to do when back home? Prepare for transition to civilian life.



## Outlaw Sudoku

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



## From the Snake Pit

“You call, we haul!”  
~LT Bell



## 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

“Neither a wise man, nor a brave man lies down on the tracks of history to wait for the train of the future to run over him.”

– Dwight David Eisenhower



**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)

## Soldier Spotlight: 23rd Sapper Company



### SGT Harold Neely

- Hometown: Summerfield, FL
- Years of service: 11
- Married? No
- Kids? No
- Immediate family service (prior or current): My father was prior service Army
- Why did you join? For some structure in my life.
- Deployment job: Automated Logistics Specialist
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?

I find it to be tedious. I'm always looking for ways to improve, though. The DFAC is pretty good. I don't like the limitations on water, or not having a real PX, but such is the life of a Soldier: Mission comes first; and I think our mission on this deployment was very crucial.

- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:  
It taught me how to interact more with Soldiers and it taught me to value my time back home with family and friends and be grateful for what I have.
- Dogs, or cats? No pets; I live in the barracks.
- How does this deployment compare to others?  
It's a longer deployment. On my first tour, our mission was completed after 3 months, so they sent us all home.
- Favorite food: Ribeye Steak
- Favorite Athlete: Phil Mickelson
- Vehicle you own: Pontiac G8
- College? (favorite or major): Favorite School – Indiana University.
- Plans to do when back home: Take a vacation and play some golf.



## 1138th Engineer Company: “Camp Sapper 3”

Since last month First Sergeant Parks posed an excellent idea to provide individual pride in the Engineer Regiment and our Sapper Family. His idea was to name our barracks area "Camp Sapper 3". Why the number 3 you might ask? The root meaning of Camp Sapper 3 establishes Ft. Leonard Wood as Camp Sapper 1, the 1138th in Iraq as Camp Sapper 2, and the 1138th in Afghanistan as Camp Sapper 3. The sign is wood that was

sawn into an elongated arch which displays the sapper scroll. The scroll is flanked on each end with



flared ends that give it the look of a ribbon. The Sapper scroll was formed by SGT Jason Vails. SPC Robert Dielschneider spent hours painting the scroll red and adding the detailed old English lettering. The scroll

was hung with rope (albeit MCLIC rope) between two concrete barriers at the entry to our living area and is a sign of pride with the Engineer Regiment and identifies us from the rest of the FOB. Special thanks are in order for SGT Vails and SPC Dielschneider for their efforts in making this possible.

— CPT Jason Davis

## Afghan National Army Recognized for Excellence



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jack Ritter (right), commander, 120th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Outlaw, presents the Oklahoma Thunderbird Medal to Capt. Aslam (left), commander of the Route Clearance Company, 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps Afghan National Army. Ritter congratulated Aslam on his company's recent validation to conduct independent route clearance operations.

KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – An Afghan National Army (ANA) unit partnered with the 1433rd Engineer Company is now validated to conduct full independent route clearance operations as part of their normal duties to keep the roads safe in Afghanistan.

The 120th Engineer Battalion and its 1433rd Engineers met Feb. 19 to congratulate the Route Clearance Company (RCC) of the ANA's 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps, on their successful validation of mission essential tasks.

"The common core tasks that the ANA were tested on are essential tasks that need to be mastered in order to conduct

route clearance here in Afghanistan," said Sgt. First Class Barry O'Callaghan.

Sgt. First Class O'Callaghan and Sgt. Marvin Niemi are part of the 1433rd Engineer Company's ANA partnership team in charge of training. "The soldiers of the 3rd of the 205th are highly trained and efficient. They have actually been conducting limited independent opera-

tions since early August" said Niemi.

The RCC finished the validation process on 14 February 2013.

"The ANA soldiers that work with the 1433rd are very proficient, well trained soldiers. The validation process gave them the ability to showcase their abilities and prove that they are ready to take the lead in defense of

their country as the number of American troops decrease over the next few years", remarked O'Callaghan.

Lt. Col. Jack Ritter, 120th Engineer Battalion Commander, presented Capt. Aslam, commander of the 3rd Bde., 205th Corps RCC, with the Oklahoma Thunderbird medal in recognition of the RCC's achievements.

The Oklahoma Thunderbird Medal was designed to recognize and reward an individual or organization demonstrating outstanding service, achievement or contribution made in support of the Oklahoma National Guard in the performance of their missions. Eligible recipients must



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jack Ritter (right), commander, 120th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Outlaw, congratulates Capt. Aslam (left), commander of the Route Clearance Company, 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps, Afghan National Army, for the company's recent validation to conduct independent route clearance operations.

## Afghan National Army Recognized for Excellence, Cont...



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jack Ritter (left), commander, 120th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Outlaw, addresses the soldiers of the Route Clearance Company (RCC), 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps, Afghan National Army. Ritter congratulated the soldiers on their recent validation to conduct independent route clearance operations.

them for the great working relationship that they have had over the last nine months. He also presented 5 soldiers with 120th Eng. Bn. coins to recognize their efforts and dedication to the ANA mission.

Task Force Outlaw ANA liaison Capt. Montana Dugger explained the way ahead now that the ANA Company is validated. “We will take more of a back seat role as the ANA take the lead. Our company level partnership teams will move more towards mentorship, concentrating more on critique of effectiveness and less on training.”

- CPT Paul Wyckoff

not be members of the United States Armed Forces, but can include retirees, foreign dignitaries, or coalition forces.

After presenting the Thunderbird Medal to Capt. Aslam, Lt. Col. Ritter addressed the ANA troops in formation and thanked them for their outstanding service and dedication to making their country safer.

“The 3rd of the 205th is one of the best ANA Route Clearance Companies in Afghanistan, and the 1433rd did a great job in partnering and preparing them to take the lead in clearing routes in this area” Ritter said. Capt. Todd Falor, commander of the 1433rd Eng. Co., also addressed the troops and thanked

the 205th has been a pleasure to work with and is a very professional group of soldiers. We’ve never had a detonation when following down a route that they have cleared” remarked O’Callaghan.



KANDAHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jack Ritter (back left), commander, 120th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Outlaw, and Capt. Todd Falor (back right), commander of the 1433rd Engineer Company, congratulate Capt. Aslam (left), commander of

### CSM Says:

**"I don't care what others do wrong, I care about what we do right."**

**-CSM Raby**

## Soldier Spotlight: 370thth Engineer Company



### SGT James Herpeche

- Hometown: Graham, TX
- Years of service: 5
- Married? Yes, to Eleanor Case Herpeche
- Kids? No
- Parents? Nathan Herpeche and Sherry Tune
- Why did you join? I joined the Army to get out of my hometown and for a better life.
- Deployment job: Team Leader, CROWS Gunner RCP 25
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? This deployment is getting off to a good start. We are at a great FOB and I work with a lot of good guys. That makes this deployment better in a sense. Our operations run smoothly and everyone is proficient in their jobs.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: This deployment is teaching me to be a better leader on a daily basis. Leadership differs from garrison and being deployed. It is not just about training and mentoring, but now it is ensuring that your Soldiers are able to accomplish the mission. You're a leader in a combat zone. It is your job to ensure they return home safely while still accomplishing the mission.
- Dogs, or cats? No
- How does this deployment compare to others?  
My last deployment was to Iraq. Between here and there it is a whole new world. The mission is still route clearance, but the environment is different, the enemy is different, and the threat is different.
- Favorite food: any kind of BBQ
- Favorite Sports team: I am not a big sports fan, but it is never a bad thing to root for the home team. Texas Rangers all the way.
- Vehicle you own: 2008 Chevrolet Silverado, crew cab, 271 4X4, blue
- College? Working prerequisites for electrical engineering
- Plans to do when back home: Spend time with my wife and take a trip to Bora Bora.



## Humor In Uniform: Kilroy was Here



Everyone who has ever been in the military is well aware of Kilroy, the long-nosed little man who always managed to get there first. Legend has it that Kilroy has adorned the walls of Liberty Ships, the Statue of Liberty, the Arc de Triomphe, the Marco Polo Bridge, the George Washington Bridge, and just about anywhere US troops managed to walk, wade, ride, fly or swim to in the Second World War. He was found at gas stations, bus stops, restaurants, and just about everywhere else one can imagine. He was even seen on beaches of Pacific Islands as Marines and GIs came ashore.

According to the *Straight Dope* news website, the legend is attributed to one James J. Kilroy at the Bethlehem Steel Shipyard in Quincy, Mass. Mr. Kilroy was a welding or riveting inspector, who kept track of the work accomplished by marking it with a crayon. The welders (or riveters) started changing the marks, in order to get double-paid for their work. Eventually Mr. Kilroy made his work too elaborate to fake, and Kilroy was born.

After the war, the Transit Company of America held a contest to find the real Kilroy. Some forty applicants appeared with their stories, and Mr. Kilroy's was judged the most credible. He won a trolley car that he placed in his yard for his children to use as a playhouse.

Well, Kilroy even made it here, to Kabul Afghanistan! Here he is, immortalized in a concrete sidewalk, at the Kabul Compound, a US military base. Sappers Lead the Way!

## 584th Awards Ceremony

As we wave goodbye to another unit, we give them one last thing to remember the



Outlaws by. The 584th Mobility Augmentation Company recently had an awards ceremony as part of their last days with Task Force Outlaw.

The 584th's home battalion, the 20th Engineer Battalion, is now in theater and some of it's members were in attendance.



The 1SG and Commander were

presented with De Fleury medals, signifying their outstanding support of the Engineer Regiment. The 584th was also this years FORSCOM recommendation for the LTG Emerson C. Itschner Award, an award that recognizes the "best Engineer Company" in the Army. Soldiers of the unit also received many awards up to and including, one Purple Heart.



Smiles all around were seen on the faces of the 584th Soldiers. They've done an excellent job and were greatly rewarded. Cpt. Frederick, the 584th Commander, spoke to his troops after receiving the De Fleury Medal, explaining all of

the accomplishments and the significance of the award; that it was indicative of the entire company's efforts and sacrifices.

Lt. Col. Ritter and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Raby presented the 584th with a Battalion Plaque, in appreciation for a job well done.

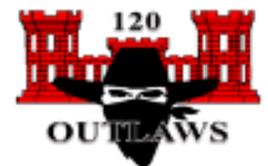
Well done Woolly Bullies. Good luck, and Godspeed.



## Soldier Spotlight: FSC, 120th EN BN

### SGT Chris Wilson

- Hometown: Okemah, OK
- Years of service: 10
- Married? Nope
- Kids? Nope
- Immediate family service: (prior or current) Grandfather served in Korea, Twin Brother (SSG Wilson) serves currently with the 1220<sup>th</sup> ENGR BN and is currently going through Pre-Mob. Scheduled to be in Afghanistan at sometime around mid April.
- Why did you join? I was in College when 9/11 happened. I felt as though I could do more for my country at the time, than I could while going to school. And I was seeking a challenge.
- Deployment job: FSC Admin NCO, /Assistant OPS
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? It's a lot better than the last two. One of the first things I saw when I got here was someone talking on a cell phone. It really made me do a double take. It's a good thing that you have the means of staying in touch with your friends and family and its almost always accessible.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: Just proud of all the Soldiers that I serve beside. We have faced many challenges during are time here and continue to learn and get better with every mission thrown our way.
- How does this deployment compare to others? It's a lot better than the last two. Like I mentioned, the ability to communicate with people back home. Things are a lot safer. From the vehicles you drive to the body armor you wear.
- Favorite food? Italian
- Favorite Sports team: Oklahoma Sooners and OKC Thunder
- Civilian career? Active Guard (AGR)
- Vehicle you own: 2002 GMC Z71
- Plans to do when back home? Burn some leave. Take some time to get everything together, eventually buy a house and get back to work.



## Soldier Spotlight: 23rd Engineer Company



### SFC Andrew Wieczorek

- Hometown: Bridgeport, NY
- Years of service: 11
- Married? Yes, to Jaime
- Kids? 3 year old son
- Why did you join? The sense of adventure, and to see new things while serving my country.
- Deployment job: Operations NCO
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? I see the company's mission to provide Route Clearance (R. C.) as very important. Providing Battle Space Owners with freedom of maneuver and diffusing situations between battle spaces, as well as keeping admin stuff straight back home will be fulfilling, once we get soldiers back-paid and promoted on time.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I earned my associates degree while here, and I've learned the capabilities of different organizations throughout the army as well as other countries' militaries
- How does this deployment compare to others? It's a very slow-paced deployment. I'm still sitting behind a desk this time around, instead of, putting boots on ground, or conducting R.C. It's also different because my son is old enough to know that I'm gone.
- Favorite food? Chicken and Steak
- Favorite Sports team: Not really into sports, I'd rather spend time outdoors with the family.
- Vehicle you own: Ford F-350 Super Duty (Gotta haul the toys!)
- College? (favorite or major) Excelsior in N.Y.
- Plans to do when back home? Get ready for fishing and hunting seasons. Taking fishing/camping trips with family. Mainly just spend time with family outdoors.



### 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

Joshua 1:9 “...Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the LORD your God is with you wherever you go.”



— 120th EN BN Chaplain Assistant, SPC Jacob Few



## Soldier Spotlight: 62nd Engineer Company

### CPL Achille Nzigiyimana

- Hometown: Denver, CO – originally from Rwanda
- Years of service: 5
- Married? No
- Kids? No
- Military Family? No
- Why did you join? I always wanted to be in the military, so after I received my Green Card, I joined.
- Deployment job: Medic for 62nd Sappers
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?

We just got here but the classes are going well so far. Ready to get out to the FOB!

- What are you looking to get out of this deployment:

I just want to do a good job here and bring back all of my guys in one piece.

- Dogs, or cats? I grew up around cats, but I like both.
- How does this deployment compare to others?

My last two deployments were to Iraq. It is much different here because before I was working either construction or retrograde.

- Favorite food: Rice, beans and chicken
- Hobbies: Reading and going to the gym. I think I might take some language classes while here as well.
- Favorite Sports team: Broncos and Nuggets!
- Favorite Vehicle: Porsche Cayenne
- College? Two years at Metro Tech of Denver

Plans to do when back home: To get my Bachelors degree in Geographic Information Systems.



## 1433rd Engineer Company: ANA Leading the Way



Here at the 1433rd EN. CO. we recently held platoon evaluations of our partnered ANA company. On 2 Feb 2013 3rd platoon from our company evaluated the 3rd platoon from the ANA company. During the evaluation LT. Hernandez stated, "Since we have been here the ANA have come a long way. I have noticed there communications with us have gotten better and when



situations arise they are quicker to react." SFC Mashek also wanted to add, "The ANA showed good spacing while on route and when they dismounted to clear a section of road all personnel understood their responsibilities." We will continue to evaluate the remaining platoons and have good reason to say they will succeed.



These evaluations will put a good perspective on how we have influenced our ANA counterparts since our time here. Our company is very pleased with the outcome of this influence, as well as, the ANA Brigade and how they now view their ANA route clearance company as being a good asset. - SFC Barry O'Callaghan



## ANA Command Highlight: 3rd of the 205th

### CPT Aslam

- Years of Service: 9 years
- Married? Yes
- Children: 9 Children
- Why did you join? I was in the military before and wanted to continue my service to my country.
- Job: Commander of the RCC of the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps ANA
- What do you think of your service so far? It is good that day by day we improve and serve for our country's people and our future.
- How does this job compare to what you did before? I was in the military before there was the ANA.
- Anything this job has taught you or that you are proud of?  
We have a good job here and also a good chain of command. We follow the rules and our orders from command and higher. This helps make us successful.
- Hobbies: Watching TV for news and reading newspaper to keep up with events
- Favorite food: All Foods!
- Favorite Sport: Jogging/Running
- Plans to do after the military? I have not decided as of yet...



## ANA Command Highlight: 3rd of the 205th

### 1SG Mohammad Rafiq

- Years of Service: 3 1/2 years
- Married? Yes
- Children: 2 Children
- Why did you join? I was in the military before and wanted to continue my service to my country
- Job: First Sergeant of the RCC of the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps ANA
- What do you think of your service so far? I am proud that work for my people and my country
- How does this job compare to what you did before? Now I feel better because of the improvements in the Afghan Army (more modern equipment and training).
- Anything this job has taught you or that you are proud of? My job makes me proud. I had training as a First Sergeant in the past, and training my soldiers to do their jobs well makes me proud.
- Hobbies: Reading and studying books, reading the newspapers to keep up with events
- Favorite food: All Foods!
- Favorite Sport: Gymnastics
- Plans to do after the military? Only Allah knows!



## The Heart of a True Outlaw!

Sometimes our jobs here in Afghanistan don't go quite as we planned. We all know the dangers, but we have the means, and work the best we can to mitigate the risks. Occasionally, against all our best efforts, Soldiers still get hurt. One such incident happened recently. Pvt. 1st Class Joseph Blanch was injured while performing route clearance missions in Kandahar province. During the course of a normal day on the road, the enemy got lucky, and one of our own received an award that most of us hope to not be in the position to ever get.

Pvt. 1st Class Blanch, a Husky driver for the 693rd Sappers, found an IED the hard way. The incident was fully investigated to help keep a similar instance from repeating, but in the meantime Pvt. 1st Class Blanch is recovering from



120th Engineer Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Ritter visiting with Pvt. 1st Class Blanch at the hospital.

wounds sustained in the blast. He is expected to make a full recovery.

The incident included the medical evacuation of two other Soldiers as well. The other injuries were less severe and all are expected to make a full recovery. Before Pvt. 1st Class Blanch was moved to Germany for further medical care, Maj. Gen. Robert "Abe" Abrams, Third Infantry Division and Regional Command



Maj. Gen. Robert Abrams pins the Purple Heart Medal to Pvt. 1st Class Blanch after the official orders were read aloud to all present.

(South) commanding general, visited him in the hospital to present him with the Purple Heart Medal.

Pvt. 1st Class Blanch was in good spirits and had already talked with his family on the phone to assure them that everything was going to be ok. When asked about the incident Blanch had one thing to say: "Seat belts save lives."

— CPT Paul Wyckoff  
120th EN BN, Public Affairs



Maj. Gen. Abrams presents Pvt. 1st Class Blanch with the certificate (signed by Brig. Gen. Abrams) that accompanies the medal.



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

**"Less than 1% of  
Seahorses make it  
to adulthood."**

**1LT Duncan's  
Griffin Lore:**

**"The Griffin is a mythical creature that has the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a Lion. Sometimes it is depicted as having a long snake for a tail. Most of the time, only the female has wings and males have spikes on their backs instead of wings."**

## Command Highlight: 137th Sapper Company

### CPT James Tenner

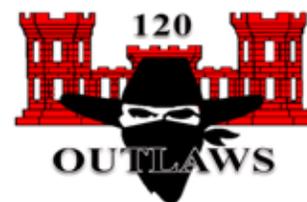
- Hometown: Glensfalls, NY
- Years of service: 13
- Married to CW2 Joyce Tenner
- 4 Children
- Immediate family service (prior or current): Too many to list.
- Why did you join? I was at a time in my life when I needed structure and discipline. I thought the Army would provide that for me.
- Deployment job: 137th Sapper Company Commander
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?  
Thus far the 307th EN BN has conducted a great train-up and have provided the leadership here with the ability to facilitate the Battle Space Owner.
- What are you looking to gain from or accomplish with this deployment?  
We're looking for the company to facilitate the [Local] and ANSAF forces to provide their own security.
- Dogs, or cats? 2 dogs: 1 Puggle and 1 Golden Retriever.
- How does this deployment compare to others?
- This is my 4th deployment. It'll be different because we've never retrograded before. There's going to be a lot of retrograding.
- Favorite food? Crawfish Etouffee
- Favorite Sports team: NY Giants.
- Vehicle you own: 2004 Chevy Silverado, SS.
- College? (favorite or major): Troy University.
- Plans to do when back home? Taking my family on a Disney Dream Cruise.



## Command Highlight: 137th Sapper Company

### 1SG Jamal Latore

- Hometown: Brooklyn, NY
- Years of service: 14
- Married to Iliana Latore
- 3 Children
- Immediate family service (prior or current): My uncle served in the Navy.
- Why did you join? Something I've always wanted to do. I'm a firm believer in having no regrets, so I didn't want to let the opportunity pass me by.
- Deployment job: 137th Sapper Company 1SG.
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? We just got here, but there are 2 things. 1.) I would like to bring everyone home. 2.) I want to focus on leadership and personal development; have everyone leave here a little better than they were before.
- What are you looking to gain from or accomplish with this deployment? Three things: 1.) Further my education and knock out some more college. 2.) Increase my physical well-being. 3.) Adjust my leadership style and try some new things.
- Dogs, or cats? My wife has a Shiatsu.
- How does this deployment compare to others?  
This is my 4th deployment. It's hard to tell just yet. You'd have to ask that question later. My previous tours have all been in Iraq, so this is my first time in Afghanistan.
- Favorite food: Lasagna; Arroz con Pollo.
- Favorite Sports team: NY Giants.
- Vehicle you own: Dodge Caravan.
- College? (favorite or major): Currently enrolled at Excelsior University in New York.
- Plans to do when back home? Taking a long overdue trip with my family. I'm looking at taking a cruise and visiting family in Jamaica.



# HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



## 1433rd:

1LT Matthew Duncan 03/02  
SSG Jesse Gendron 03/03  
SGT Thomas Edson 03/04  
SPC Robert Kellner 30/08

## 120th HHC:

SFC Barry Curtis 03/07  
MSG John Wallace 03/08  
SPC Timothy Parker 03/11  
SFC Robert Ruckel 03/11

## 120th FSC:

PFC Quindale Faulkner 03/04

## 1039th:

SGT David Wilcoxson 03/01  
SSG Michael Sanders 03/03  
SPC Phillip Bickerstaff 03/07  
SPC Michael Vinson 03/08  
SFC Wayne Reynolds 03/08  
SSG Larry Farmer 03/13

## 693rd:

PFC Shane Black 03/01  
PV2 Christian Johnson 03/02  
SGT Thomas Bush 03/03  
SPC Diego Aramayo 03/11  
SFC James Stachowicz 03/14

## 23rd:

SGT James Anderson 03/12

## 370th:

SPC Andrew Taylor 03/02  
SPC Kyle Reynolds 03/12

## 84th:

PFC Johnchristopher Davis 03/02  
PV2 Robert Castillo 03/10  
SPC Jordan Blount 03/14

## 62d:

SPC Mark Jorgensen 03/03  
SPC Joseph Taylor 03/12

## Words From the TOP: Duty, Honor, Country

"...If you leave here with the word DUTY implanted in your mind; if you leave here with the word HONOR carved in your soul; if you leave here with love of COUNTRY stamped on your heart, then you will be a twenty-first century leader: worthy...of the great privilege and honor...of leading...the sons and daughters of America..."

— From a speech in Eisenhower Hall Theater to the Corps of Cadets on 15 May 1991 by General H. Norman Schwarzkopf

As our time here is coming to an end, we must keep in mind that we came to do our duty. Although some of you may feel like you're not doing a whole lot to help out, you have to understand that you are an integral part of the team, no matter what your job is.

Keep your chins up and your heads held high. We're almost done with our duties here and we're close to that ceremony and having a cold one. Don't let yourselves get complacent and slip up. It's too close to the end now. When you get home you'll receive a hero's welcome, and get to relax. For now, just suck it up and drive on! Keep up the awesome work and always do your best.

— 1SG Scott Lasiter



## Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Company



### SGT Gregory Rogers

- Hometown: Lepanto, AR
- Years of service: 7 years
- Married? No
- Kids? No
- Military Family? No, I am the only immediate family member in the military
- Why did you join? I wanted to serve my country in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Deployment job: TC, Driver, Gunner
- What are your thoughts on the deployment?  
This seems much different than the last one, the war is not the same
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:  
Just that I am here and am able to serve with my brothers in arms.
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my third deployment; I think the action has slowed down a lot.
- Favorite food: Fried potatoes, beans and cornbread
- Hobbies: Hunting and fishing
- Favorite Sports team: Miami Dolphins
- Vehicle you own: 2006 Chevy Silverado
- College? Arkansas Razorbacks
- Plans to do when back home: Relax and spend time hunting and fishing



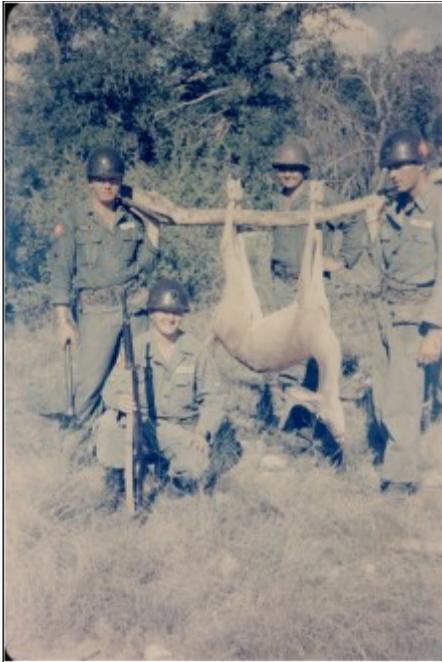
## Soldier Spotlight: 370th Engineer Company

### SPC Richard Brown

- Hometown: Glenrock, WY
- Years of service: 2
- Married? Yes, Marie
- Kids? Yes, Anthony, Sara, and Richard
- Parents? Robert P. Brown- retired policeman of 21 years, Vivian Shammel- Owns accounting business
- Why did you join? I joined to support my family and to look for a better career opportunity (college, military, training).
- Deployment job: CROWS gunner- route clearance patrol 25
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? We have a good group of Soldiers who want to do all they can, so we can take pride in what we do here.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: The deployment has taught me to appreciate the way we live in the states. It has also taught me to take pride in my country, and the importance of working as a group.
- Dogs, or cats? No pets until we have a yard for a dog.
- How does this deployment compare to others? So far not too rough, we are better trained than last deployment. It seems like we are better prepared in general. This one is 3 months shorter so that is something to look forward to.
- Favorite food: Barbecued ribs
- Favorite Sports team: Denver, Broncos
- Vehicle you own: Dodge Journey
- College? Not yet.
- Plans to do when back home: Go see as much of Germany with family as possible until we PCS. Go fishing with my son.



# ...The Last Word: Army Rations



The Army has made many changes over the years to include our rations and our mess operations.

I have read that during the Civil War Soldiers were grouped into cooking units. One Soldier carried a coffee pot, one carried a frying pan, and one carried a boiling pot. Everyone carried a tin cup that was used to eat as well as drink from. The rations were often spoiled meat, black eye peas (called goober peas), and a bread called hard tack. This was supplemented from whatever they could harvest from the field or beg/steal from civilians and farmers.

I remember my Grandfather telling me that during World War I they ate a ration that still included hard tack bread.

During World War II the Army issued what was called K Rations.

When I enlisted we were issued C Rations to eat. They came complete with a P38 can opener (I still wear the one issued to me in Basic Training on my dog tags), John Wayne paper, and small packages of cigarettes. Some of the brands were L&M, Chesterfield, Winston, Salem, and others. The cigarettes made great trade items. A lot of Soldiers heated these meals with small stoves that used chemical heating tabs, others sat them on vehicle exhaust manifolds, and sometimes they

were heated with a small piece of C4 explosive.

When we went to the field we ate A Rations cooked by our mess section. I bet some of you older Soldiers remember having to set up mess tents, digging sump pits, and working on kitchen police (KP) duty. We had to practice what was called a tactical feed where Soldiers had to stand in line 5 meters apart, collect and eat their meal from a mess kit, and then wash them in immersion heaters. It took three immersion heaters: one for a pre-dip, one for a soapy wash (often done with a toilet brush), and a final sterilizing rinse dip. When we wanted to fill our canteens we did it from canvas lister bags.

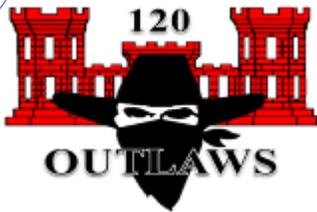
I remember when MREs first came out. They had a fruit bar that was like eating a piece of styrofoam and some kind of dry meat bar that didn't taste anything like meat. I remember when we were told not to eat any of the chicken meals since several lots turned out to have worms in them. They have come a long way since then.

Now we eat A Rations cooked in a mess trailer and served on paper plates that are simply thrown away. Unless we are deployed, then we eat from Mess Halls (I mean DFACs) cooked and served by civilian contractors while our mess section is busy loading and driving trucks for our distribution platoon.

Recently one of our retired Engineer Soldiers that was a member in B Co, 120 Eng Bn sent me a picture taken from a 1958 Field Training Exercise in which they practiced ration supplementation. I guess the deer just ran across the weapons qualification range at the wrong time. (Yea, right!) Soldiers have always been resourceful!

— 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!!!**

