

# Outlaw Chronicles

*Sappers clear the way!*



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Outlaws! At best, I'll have one more time to address our Sappers in the forum. Worst case scenario, this is my final opportunity. With only days left here in theater for the 120<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion, I'm certain all of the moving pieces that come with getting ready to leave, will consume any and all white space I've typically used to take care of the little things. So, I want to take this opportunity to give a much deserved shout out to our Soldiers. I've been an Army Engineer for more than 25 years. I've served with Engineer Soldiers

in peace and at war. I've seen the days of restricted budgets, and the days of plenty. Over the years, all I've ever seen is Engineer Soldiers giving it their best. What's made me proud to be a member of the Engineer Regiment is the creative, energetic, positive spirit of the Engineer Soldier. *Clear the way; Lead the way; Let us try (Essayons)* aren't just mottos; they're attitudes and the way of life for Engineer Soldiers. You are the best of the best. Be proud of the job you have done. You have provided an opportunity for *hope* to grow

where darkness once thrived. You are America's ambassadors of freedom, and the world's ambassadors of peace. It has been an honor and privilege to sever with you. Continue to clear the way for freedom and peace, and may God bless each of you and your families. Hell Yeah!

— LTC Jack Ritter



## Task Force Outlaw



## XO Foxhole

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

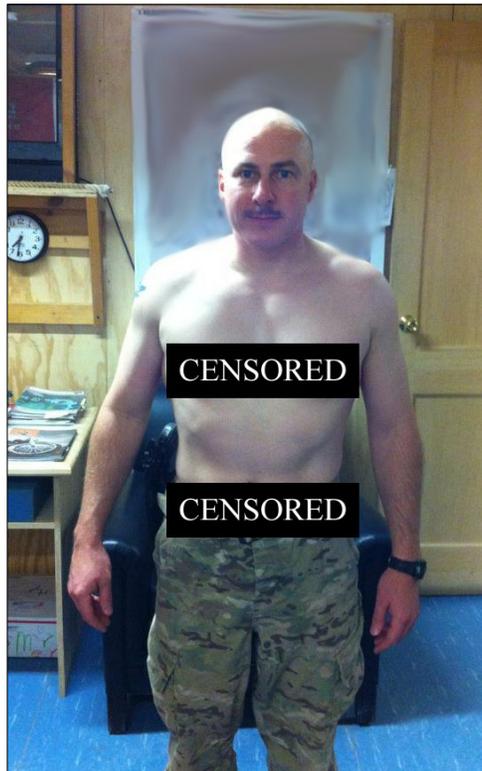


Okay, so I'm sure everyone's got huge plans when they return from deployment. That's what Soldiers do; make big plans for when they return home. Plans like going to Las Vegas for a week with their Soldier buddies, spending bags of money and trying to make up for some of the lost time they spent deployed.

Well, I'm no different, and I've got big plans as well. My wife, Ginger, has been meticulously planning not one, but two, special “get-a-ways” for us. One vacation planned for the entire family, three daughters and a son, and one just for the two of us. Our first fun filled adventure will take place along the shores of California. We plan on flying out (yep, all six of us) and staying close to the ocean. We'll spend some of our time with Mickey Mouse, some in the ocean, and some just being together with family.

After about a week, we'll return to Oklahoma where I'll anxiously await the “solo” trip with my lovely wife to a far off destination in the Gulf of Mexico! I've spent months in the gym getting cut like a razor - feel free to look up my poses on bookface - I'm ready to hit the beach “looking fly”. I'm

also looking forward to lounging on the beach in the bright orange speedos I purchased on eBay and working on my tan while sipping Mike's Hard Lemonade from a tiny umbrella adorned coconut.



I've been preparing for the ocean. In the evenings, when I'm alone in the office at Valhalla, I've been practicing in a mirror so I can be “toes down” in the surf on my newly acquired, Amazon endorsed, blazing pink boogie-board, that way I can impress my wife with handstands and flips. I wanna swim with dolphins and sing with parrots. I have even begun to grow my hair out slightly. That way

when I am blazing down the beach in my new orange speedos, using my newly practiced Baywatch running stride, I can rejoice with the wind blowing through my hair as the sun glistens off my suntan lotion covered skin

The days won't be long enough for all the action I've got planned. I've even located a tattoo parlor on line near our destination that specializes in butterflies and hearts....color me there baby! At night, my wife and I will relax on the beach with a warm camp fire and S'mores. We'll hold hands until sunrise, then we'll do it all again the next day. Who doesn't want to be me!

I hope everyone has special plans to reunite with their loved ones when they return home, and encourage moderation, planning and baby steps on the path to rediscovering family and friends. If you're headed to the Gulf, maybe I'll see you there.

[Story by LTC Ritter as recalled from conversations with the with MAJ DeShazo]

— MAJ Brian DeShazo  
XO, 120th EN BN

## Soldier Spotlight: 84th EN CO



### PFC Jon Johnson

- Married to Alicia Johnson
- Why did you join? To be a part of something bigger than myself, to earn a place in the United States Army with Honor, to serve my country like many before me.
- Deployment Job: Gunner for 3rd Platoon
- What are you looking to gain or accomplish with this deployment? Knowledge, experience, promotion, respect.
- Favorite Food: All kinds
- Plans to do when back home: Go back to college, join the union, maybe start my own business, return to my family and take my wife on a honeymoon



## 693rd Engineer Company Change of Command

On 6 April, the 693rd Engineer Company officially welcomed their new Commander to the unit. In a short ceremony, the company guidon was passed to CPT Daniel Robledo, signifying the official change of command.

CPT Robledo comes from a military family and hails from Yongsan, South Korea. He has been in the military for 7 years and is more than ready to take on this challenge. "Everyone here has been very receptive. I like working directly with a Battle Space Owner (BSO) where I feel I can contribute to the fight," Robledo said.

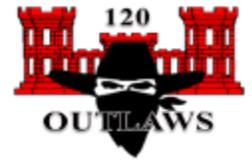
As CPT Morrow moves on to his next assignment, he carries a sense of accomplishment with him about the job that has been done. "It has been a privilege to be in command, and I am confident that I have left my Company in good hands," he said. CPT Morrow also mentioned during his most recent trip to KAF, that he was looking forward to spending some time on his Harley taking a nice long road trip!



After a few words from each commander, and of course, a few words of encouragement from LTC Ritter, it was back to work for the Soldiers of the 693rd. Even though we must take time to recognize these significant events, the mission here in Afghanistan still continues.

— Cpt. Paul Wyckoff  
Task Force Outlaw Public Affairs

## Medical Corner: Home Sweet Home



After months of living in Afghanistan, and your deployment is about over and you're back to living a relatively safe life back home; you need to relax and decompress. Here are a few tips to make your adjustment easier.

**“Limiting parties and visitors is okay-** Upon your return, well-meaning friends and relatives may want to throw numerous "welcome home" parties. After months of being surrounded by large groups of people, some service members coming off deployment look forward to having low-key interaction with others, often preferring to spend the first few days with immediate family only. A revolving door of visitors is the last thing they want to encounter. Don't feel guilty if this is your wish. Explain your desires to your spouse. Often, your wife or husband will be your greatest supporter for the mere fact that they too crave alone-time with you.

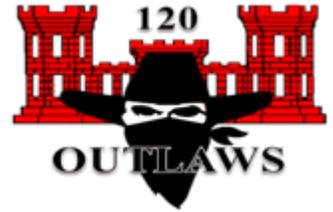
**Solitude-**Time alone to reflect on the past, enjoy the now and prepare for the future is important to many service members. Some Veterans enjoy taking a stroll through the local park, drinking in the beauty of the land they've sworn to protect and defend. Others prefer driving through the quiet countryside. Whether it's fishing, reading or watching a movie without being combat-ready, don't hesitate to embrace moments of solitude. If you're concerned your spouse won't understand your need to get away, there's a good chance your worry is a moot point. Remember, your spouse has your best interests at heart. The odds are good they'll not only support your request, but inform you that they need a few moments alone too.

**Relaxed expectations-** After months of adhering to strict schedules, being on constant alert and sometimes hyper-alert levels, you may have difficulty adjusting to a looser routine. Unwittingly you treat family outings the same as running missions. "We'll SP the house at zero-eight-hundred, RP at the amusement park at zero-eight-thirty and conduct operation 'mandatory fun' with an endex at seventeen-hundred hours..." A flexible schedule for family outings is fine. Strict SOPs are not."

*Kim Wilson: "Downtime After Deployment; Tips for Service members"*



## Outlaw Sudoku



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

### 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

"Leadership is the art of getting someone else to do something you want done because he wants to do it."

— Dwight D. Eisenhower



### LT Says

"There are those, I know, who will say that the liberation of humanity, the freedom of man and mind, is nothing but a dream. They are right. It is the American dream."

—Archibald MacLeish

**1LT Jason Jones**

### 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/](http://www.facebook.com/TaskForceOutlaw)

**TaskForceOutlaw**

## Soldier Spotlight: 137th EN CO



### SPC Stedman Cartwright

- Hometown: Virginia Beach, VA
- Years of service: 6 years
- Married? Yes, Lashonda Cartwright
- Kids? Yes, two girls
- Immediate family service: None
- Why did you join? Always wanted to do this since I was very young.
- Deployment job: RTO in the TOC
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? The training that we have done has come in very handy, and we are glad to be here to perform the mission.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: Take advantage of your time with family and friends while you can, because you miss it more when you are gone.
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs, looking for a new family dog when I get home.
- How does this deployment compare to others? First deployment was in Iraq and the conditions were much better there. Despite the conditions here, I am still grateful for what we do have.
- Favorite food? My wife's lasagna
- Hobbies: sketching, drawing, and music
- Favorite Sports team: Lakers!
- Vehicle you own: Chevy Impala
- College? University of Maryland, major in marketing and accounting
- Plans to do when back home? Reclassify to 42 series, and spend time with family.



### 848th Arrives in Country



The 848<sup>th</sup> Combat Engineer Company out of Douglas, Georgia began to trickle into KAF April 1, 2013. Their final destination is a FOB within RC South. Most of 848's Soldiers have pushed out to their permanent home for the next 9 months while a few remain behind for additional training. The Soldiers remaining at KAF hope to catch up to their main body within

the next two weeks.

I was able to catch up with some members of the 848<sup>th</sup> during a pick-up basketball game on KAF earlier this week. They are excited to get settled into their final place of duty and begin their mission.

— SFC Michael Bignardi



*SGT Terry Hatchell (middle) attempts to score on PFC Britton Williams while PFC William Hunter blocks out another 848 player.*



## Words from the “TOC”

Good Morning to everyone, from our FOB. As I sit here at my desk this morning, just coming in from doing a little retrograde project in the motor pool, I am reflecting on this deployment. To me, this deployment has gone by very quick. I don't know who all set goals for themselves before heading over here, but a couple of my goals were to lose 40 lbs and to try and instill in my soldiers that this deployment isn't just about themselves, but everyone working together to achieve the final goal... which is to take everyone back home safely and a feeling of accomplishment. I have around 5 pounds to go to meet my first objective. The second goal was almost reached as soon as we hit the ground here.

Now I know if you are reading this, you are asking how in the world is that possible. I will answer that. I have been blessed to have been surrounded by a lot of very knowledgeable and experienced soldiers. Almost from day one, my Communications Section has worked on and gave advice to every other Unit here. Whether Australian or American, Navy, Air Force or Army, SGT Curtis and his Section have stepped up and fixed or installed communication hardware, programs or whatever the need was to help the other units out.

My Supply Section is ran by a NCO that does not know what

the word “NO” means. There is seldom a time that I have walked by his office and someone from another unit isn't standing there asking for advice or needing to know what form to use for a specific job. His job was made even more difficult due to the fact that we are trying to retrograde out of here at the same time, resulting in a tremendous amount of additional paperwork.

My Maintenance Section has worked on almost every piece and type of equipment on the FOB. They have constantly helped out other units, utilizing their expertise and tools to help keep our equipment mission capable, but also other units as well. The terrain up here is brutal on vehicles and there is usually not too many days go by that they are not lying underneath a vehicle repairing a Bell Crank, air line, or something else. Many times I have been down there and seen Contractors or other units pulling up asking for help in some form or fashion.

My Operation Section has led the way in pushing out information to the platoons, the Battle Space Owners and the 120<sup>th</sup> Engineer Battalion (OUTLAWS!!! HELL YEAH!!!). Along with the normal duties that have to be performed, other Units are constantly asking for our help in clearing routes for them, assisting in recovery for them, retro-

grading equipment, or looking for a ride from point A to point B. The utilization of ISR assets takes a lot of planning and coordination which they handle on a daily basis. If you don't know the answer to something, they are the “GO TO” section to get the answer.

The ANA platoon landed here with a major job ahead of them. Their job was to train the ANA Route Clearance Company (RCC). They accomplished that and also built some lasting friendships and trust between themselves and the ANA RCC Soldiers. Hopefully with the lessons that were taught to the ANA RCC Soldiers, they will be able to lead the fight against the Insurgents and continue to push their Country forward.

Where would we be without my Electronic Counter Measures (ECM) soldiers? Well I will answer that. They would be in a world of hurt. SGT Peek and SGT Jones have handled the majority of the ECM responsibility for the company. In addition, they are constantly being asked to go to the Main Entry Control Point (ECP) and do maintenance and up keep on the ECM positioned at the ECP. These soldiers are going to be truly missed soon when we TOA.

As I look and reflect over my 2 line platoons, a smile crosses my face. Starting off, it was a

## Words from the “TOC” (Cont...)



more of what will break down today type attitude. They inherited some pretty poor maintained equipment when they took over the missions. As I stated before the terrain is very unforgiving up here. If you don't maintain your equipment, then you are going to be sitting on the side of the road, waiting on my MRV operators to recover you. Now days towards the end of this deployment, it's a "are you serious that broke down" attitude. They have done a tremendous job in pushing EOF and ROE practices out to their soldiers. The soldiers have become very proficient in maneuvering the RGs, 916's, MaxxPro's and Husky's through the narrow passes and rocky terrain. The line platoons do more than just Route Clearance. They are the Route experts. Other Units, constantly ask for their assistance in hauling Dozers, Forklifts, Bucket loaders, and Cranes. One unit tried everything they could to get them to haul an 118,000 pound forklift for them to another FOB. They have cleared for Special Forces, Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), Security Forces Advisory Team (SFAT), CENTCOM Material Recovery Element (CMRE), and the Forward Logistic Element (FLE) elements up here. If someone is going to move outside the wire, then the 1039<sup>th</sup> Route Clearance Platoons will be receiving the call to clear. The 2 platoons kind of remind me of myself and my

two brothers. Yes they fuss and fight like brothers among themselves, but they always have each other's back when it comes to crunch time. I have seen some inexperienced soldiers, step up and become Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) in many different areas.

That brings me to my last 2 subjects: Commander and XO. I really didn't know either one of these soldiers when I started this deployment. The time that we have spent together since the start of this deployment has helped me in many different ways. The XO truly cares about the welfare of the company. He works long and hard trying to get parts ordered and in here in a timely manner to keep the vehicles up and running. One of his major jobs is trying to keep Field Sustainment Representatives (FSRs) up here to work on the equipment and facilitate parts in to the maintenance area. He is constantly evaluating himself to look for areas to improve in.

The Commander has become more than just my boss. He is my Battle Buddy. He takes time out and listens to me rant and rave and gives advice and ask for advice on situations. He is open and honest with his assessments. He has taken this deployment on with a "can do" attitude and has proven to me that I made the right decision in coming on this deployment.

## **Customs and** **Courtesies**

**During the playing of the Army Song, how will individuals stand?**

**They will stand at attention and sing the lyrics of the Army Song when played.**

***Although there is no Department of the Army directive in this regard, commanders, other officers, and other personnel can encourage the tribute to the Army by standing at attention when the band plays "The Army Goes Rolling Along."***

## Words from the "TOC" (Cont...)

So in wrapping up, YES we all should have a feeling of accomplishment in the 1039<sup>th</sup> Engineer Company. I know that when I get off that bus back in Jonesboro, Arkansas, I can hold my head up and say I am proud of each and

every one of the Soldiers in the 1039<sup>th</sup>. We have accomplished what less than 1% of all Americans have done. ESSAYONS and GOD BLESS.

— 1SG Frederick Siebert

## First Sergeant (1SG) Comedy

"Private, you ever fight a bear?"

No, 1SG.

"I have."

Hooah, 1SG.

"Now give me some chaw and get away from me."

(He did actually fight a bear, saw him in the showers and he has huge scars across his back.)

"Corporal, you look like you're about ready to beat someone to death."

Maybe, TOP.

"Good sh\*t. Mind if I tag along?"

"WHY AM I THE ONLY PERSON IN THIS BUILDING THAT KNOWS HOW TO FIX THE FREAKIN' COPY MACHINE?!"

\*minute or two later..the sound of boots hitting plastic thunders through the building\*

"I OWN YOU! I AM THE COPY MASTER! YOU PRINT WHAT I TELL YOU TO PRINT! WHAT!? LOAD TRAY 3?! SCREW TRAY 3!!! USE TRAY 2!!! HELL YEAH! I WIN!"

\*while at the grenade range in basic training we were trying to watch the explosions through a small ballistic glass window\*

"You Privates think that's cool? Wait 'til you throw one into a crowd of people!"

"Shooting someone with a .50 Cal. is exactly as cool as you think it is."

\*New LT arrives to the company\*

1SG: "Sir how are you? Welcome to the unit"

LT: Thank you Sergeant.

1SG: "WHAT?!"

LT: Sorry, Sergeant.

1SG: "Sir, two words that will never be used in the same sentence when you talk to me: 'sorry,' and 'Sergeant.'"

LT: Why's that?

CDR: LT, I would run, quickly

1SG: "'Cause I'm going to shove this diamond so far up your a\*\*, the point will hit your brain."

Disclaimer: The information in this article is purely for entertainment purposes only. None of the Non-Commissioned Officers in the 120th EN BN (including 1st Sergeants), speak/act in this fashion. No Privates and/or Lieutenants were harmed in the making of this article.

- CPT Wyckoff

## Reminder:

To vote in Federal and local elections while deployed, use the voting assistant guide at [www.FVAP.gov](http://www.FVAP.gov)

or find more information at

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/)

[ArmyVoting](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyVoting)

## 1LT Duncan's

### Griffin Lore:

Griffins are usually heroic symbols. They are well known for their speed, ability to fly, and having eyes like an eagle, as well as the strength and courage of a lion. In hieroglyphics, represent heat and summer. In Assyria both the griffin and the dragon were symbols of wisdom. In Roman art, griffins are often pulling the chariot of the Goddess Nemesis (justice and revenge).



# 40 Years Rockin' the Green

Master Sergeant John Wallace, from Welling, Okla. Recently celebrated his anniversary of 40 years of service in the United States Army. Master Sgt. Wallace is married and has celebrated his 37th Anniversary this month, as well. He now has three children and six grandchildren.

Master Sgt. Wallace's father served on Active Duty and as a 'military brat', they traveled all over.

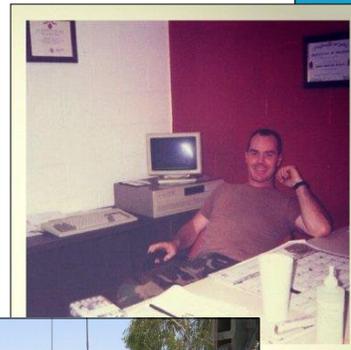
Master Sgt. Wallace joined the Army in April of 1973 after a hunting buddy talked him into joining; this was six months after the Vietnam War had ended.

He currently serves as the 120th Engineer Battalion's Operation NCOIC. He stated his thoughts on the current deployment by saying, "It has been a good deployment... just 180 degrees from the last time where we were a Combat Construction battalion in Iraq.

Master Sgt. Wallace continued by reflecting on his career. "In the 40 years I've been in, this is the 7th different uniform I've worn for the Army." He also said, "The years have been extensive. Especially the Op(erations) as compared to the Active Duty components. In 1973, we year! Even technology has evolved so much: from when we writers to mimeograph machines to pro-  
tectors, to the modern computers we use

Master Sgt. Wallace hobbies include gravitate more now towards spending his family.

Master Sgt. Wallace has been an Active September of 1985.



changes over the Tempo of the Guard got paid 4 times a used manual type-  
duce our newslet-  
today."



hunting and fishing, but time with his grandkids and

Guard Reserve Soldier since

Once home, the seasoned Master Sergeant plans to take a couple weeks of leave to spend time with his family.

As far as the rest of his time in service, Master Sgt. Wallace stated, "I'll stay until next May, then I'll retire with 30 years of Active Duty service."



## Soldier Spotlight: 370th Engineer Company



### SGT Christopher Noseworthy

- Hometown: Peoria, AZ
- Years of service: 5 years
- Married? No
- Kids? No
- Immediate family service: (prior or current) Brother in the Marines, Father – retired Air Force
- Why did you join? Benefits! Going back to school, for career opportunities
- Deployment job: Battalion LNO
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? Very relaxed in comparison to my previous deployment
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I have learned good networking skills that have been very beneficial to being an LNO
- Dogs, or cats? Dogs!
- How does this deployment compare to others? Last time, there was a much higher Operational Tempo and were outside the wire on a daily basis.
- Favorite food? Lazagna
- Hobbies: Soccer
- Favorite Sports team: Arizona Cardinals
- Vehicle you own: Honda Civic, but looking at a Camaro
- College? Pierce County Community College, majoring in Business
- Plans to do when back home? Vacation to England, followed by my next PCS



### 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

Isaiah 40:31—

“But those who hope in the Lord will renew their strength. They will soar on wings like eagles; they will run and not grow weary, they will walk and not be faint.”



SPC Jacob Few; 120th EN BN Chaplain Assistant



## 62nd Engineer Company Re-Enlistments



Right is 1Lt. Matthew Ryan who led three of his Soldiers through the Re-enlistment Oath on March 17, 2013 at a FOB in (RC) South, Afghanistan. Included amongst 2nd Platoon's Soldiers were Sgt. Kilfrank Sigrah, Spc. Joseph Taylor, and Spc. Jesse Johnson. These three Soldiers had returned from mission only minutes before their ceremony in front of the company.



Left is 1LT Brandon Lawrence who conducted the re-enlistment of four of his Soldiers on March 17, 2013 at Fob Pasab, Afghanistan. Included were Sgt. Oscar Olivo, Spc. Nicolas Martin, Sgt. Ian Polito and Ssg. David Alsup of 1st PLT/62nd EN CO/120th EN BN. The Soldiers chose to re-enlist on St. Patrick's Day as part of their commitment to an Irish Pub Running Club they participate in back at Fort Carson, Colorado. – 62nd Eng. Co.

## Iowa's 833rd Engineers Ready to Roll

Soldiers from the 833<sup>rd</sup> Combat Engineer Company out of Ottumwa, Iowa began their mission in early February when they arrived at Bliss. Now that training is over, they've begun the arduous task of replacing one of our forward units in performing route clearance missions in RC South. Recently they arrived at KAF in preparation for their movement to their place of duty for the next 9 months.

For some of these Soldiers, this tour will be the third deployment of their careers. "A third deployment seems to be a rarity, but it's special," Capt. Kiel Archer said. "It shows their dedication and service"

— SFC Michael Bignardi (taken in part from Ottumwa Courier article by Chelsea Davis and Mark Newman).



## FSC 120th Fueling Mission



don't get the opportunity to do at home, a lot of the helicopters that we fuel are Med-Evac Black-hawks, these are the guys that will fly through anything to pickup wounded, so yeah we like helping them out, cause if we needed their help while out on a Com-

bat Logistics Patrol (CLP) they would be there for us."

A Co. fuel handlers work 1 twelve hour shift per week, at the aviation facility, which allows the Aviation Unit to give their soldiers some much needed time off. The fuel handlers daily duties include, fueling Blackhawk and Chinook helicopters, circulating the fuel in fuel bladders, testing the fuel for contaminants and checking the fuel level to insure that they have plenty of fuel on hand for the mission. "The best day we have had so far was getting to fuel 16 Black-hawks, but some days we don't get to fuel anything if the air is red." said SPC. LeFlore.

When asked if tasking Co. A soldiers out to help the Aviation unit has had any negative impacts on the Companies mission, Lt. Bell answered "no it hasn't, A Co. has had Soldiers tasked out to help other Companies within the Bn. since day one. We have had as many as 10 mechanics and recovery operators tasked out to support Route Clearance Companies (RCP). The Maintenance Platoon has trained Active duty and National Guard soldiers

on the SAMS-E computer, and the welders have taught several of our own Soldiers as well as Soldiers outside our Bn, how to weld. CPL Ramsey and SPC Wilson were tasked out on a Directed Operation, sleeping on the side of a mountain for a month, to fuel RCP vehicles. This is all in addition to our daily work schedule which is always hectic" "It ain't easy working as hard as a FSC works!"

The Forward Support Company's mission is to provide habitual and direct combat sustainment support to all Task Force Outlaw units, no matter the time or place, in order to allow all Combat Units the maximum opportunity to accomplish their mission. Their motto "You call, we haul" is a direct reflection of the units leadership and the attitude all of the Company's Soldiers.

— 1Lt. Robert Schollenbarger  
FSC 120th Executive Officer



In Dec 2012 When Lt. Dave Bell, Company Commander of A Co. (FSC) 120<sup>th</sup> Eng Bn. was approached with helping out 603<sup>rd</sup> Aviation Group, 3<sup>rd</sup> ID by tasking out some of his Soldiers to fuel Helicopter's his answer was "let me see what I can do." A Co. has 3 fuel handlers who have been cross trained to be truck drivers and gunners to support the Company's Mission.

After hashing it out between the Distribution Platoon leadership and Bn. the answer was yes and the A Co. fuel handlers were eager to get the opportunity to fuel helicopters. "That's the way our company is, everyone wants to work and to help out whoever or wherever they can, if you need any kind of help on KAF, everyone knows, you go to the Snake pit Motor Pool" said Lt. Bell.

The fuel handlers are CPL. Ramsey the NCOIC, SPC. Leflore and SPC. Wilson. They work in three man teams, the Dead-man operator, a fire guard and the Soldier who actually fuels the helicopter. When asked about the mission CPL Ramsey said "It's great getting the opportunity to do something that we

## 120th Engineer Battalion: “Biggest Loser” Contest



“Biggest Loser” weight loss race. The contest gave Soldiers the ability to compete as individuals or teams to lose weight, exercise and practice good nutrition. Eight soldiers, both Officer and Enlisted took part in the 14 week trial that began in January and

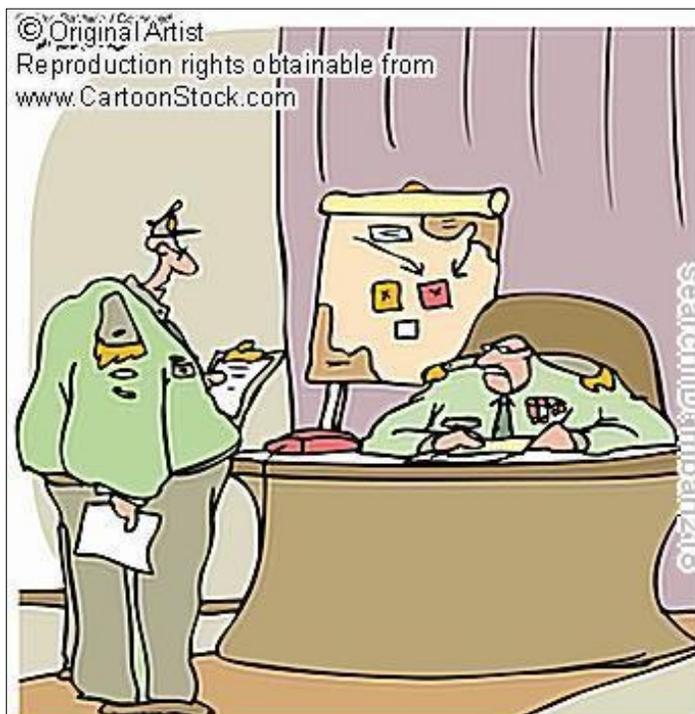
One of the most challenging aspects of losing weight is the motivation to start and continue a healthy diet and exercise program. Add in a deployment to the challenge and it proves to be even more difficult. Recently members of TF Outlaw voluntarily participated in their own

concluded in April. Soldiers voluntarily paid an upfront fee as an incentive for losing healthy amounts of weight over the duration of the contest. Throughout the event TF Outlaw Soldiers offered each other support, motivation and friendly competitiveness. Soldiers took part in

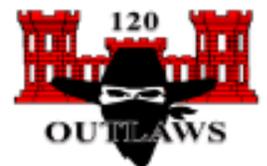
weekly weigh-ins, and were subject to monetary penalties for missing weigh-in, gaining weight and/or staying at their current weight. The winner of the TF Outlaw Biggest Loser competition was the person who lost the largest percentage of body weight, with the Teams’ percentages combined to determine the winner. The 1<sup>st</sup> Place Team in the Outlaw Biggest Loser competition consisted of SPC Melissa Osterloh, CPT Paul Wyckoff, SPC Rosanne Diaz, and SSG Joseph Cirgenski. Together the team lost over 31% of their combined body weight and over 59 pounds. There were three participants in the individual portion of the contest. Taking 1<sup>st</sup> Place and claiming the cash prize with a total weight loss of 31 pounds and 12 ounces and 13.72% loss in body weight was CPT Paul Wyckoff. 1LT Schollenbarger came in second with 12.62% body percentage loss and 29 pounds and 4 ounces. Losing 19 pounds and 5 ounces and 12.11% body weight percentage, SSG Eddy took the third place spot. Collectively, Soldiers from TF Outlaw lost over 100 pounds during the Biggest Loser Competition.

—Staff Sgt. T’Lisa Eddy  
Task Force Outlaw S-3 Shop

## Military Humor: Downrange



“Possible security breach, sir. It’s the smart bombs. They know too much.”



## 693rd Receives “Letters from the Ladies”



Although letters from home aren't as common as they once were in the pre-digital age, some of the single Soldiers in the 693<sup>rd</sup> are discovering for themselves just how nice a handwritten note from the U.S. can be. Over the past few months, the 693<sup>rd</sup> single Soldiers have been receiving letters – some nice, most naughty – from a bunch of single women from New York City. Although a bit random, the demographics behind this trend make sense. Like most small FOBs, FOB Azizullah is full of twenty-something men with not a whole lot of women (maybe two or three) to speak of. On the flipside, New York City has anywhere from 200,000 to 300,000 more single women than it does men. Once you account for men-who-like-men, artists, hipsters, fashion designers, and liberal arts degree holders, the number of real men in the city is even lower. Not surprising then, the women behind these letters to the 693<sup>rd</sup> wrote with strikingly seductive prose.

Company Supply Clerk, PFC Tony Mai, was one of the first to receive a letter. “I was a little surprised to get such a sexually provocative letter from a woman I'd never met,” said Mai, “but then I figured she must have gotten wind of my nickname, Tony the Tiger, and it all made sense.” While Mai did not get any photos from his pen pal, she did draw him a raunchy caricature of a woman, affixed with

lipstick kisses. “If this girl looks half as good as she does in the drawing,” said Mai, “I'm going all in with her when I get back to Ft. Drum.” It's only an eight hour bus ride from Watertown to NYC, so get after it, Tony.

1<sup>st</sup> Platoon's PFC Steven Young got a nice note from a New York City girl, Alexandra, who is studying abroad in France. “Alexandra wrote about all sorts of



crazy liberal stuff I'd never heard of,” said Young. “She said that she'd never met a Soldier before, but she'd really like to meet me when she got back from France as long as I was a vegan, because she could never be with a guy who did things that were bad for the environment. The way I see it, I eat bacon, and pigs eat vegetables, so I told her, yeah, I'm a vegan. I've never met a girl who speaks French before, so I'm hoping she can explain to me all of the ins and outs of a *ménage à trois*.”

2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon's SPC Scott Hyland about had a heart attack when he read his letter. \*\*\*\*Editor's Note: While the 693<sup>rd</sup> embellishes nearly every detail of every newsletter article it has written, the following quote is, in fact, true. \*\*\*\*Said Hyland of the letter, “She sent me a Polaroid picture, and she looked pretty good. What got me was when she wrote, ‘The thought of a Soldier stripping me down, and taking me apart like a gun makes me really \$&%\$.’ What kind of a girl writes something like that?” asked Hyland. SPC Shane Black was standing next to Hyland when he asked that question, and he quickly reminded Hyland what kind of a girl says something like that, spurring Hyland's interest even more.

With redeployment just a few months away, it's never too early for a single man to start lining up the ladies. While finding romance through a pen pal program may require a little wishful thinking, the single Soldiers of the 693<sup>rd</sup> are keeping their fingers crossed that their redeployment will involve big things in the Big Apple.

By SPC Deven McHenry (SPC McHenry is filling in for PFC Brett Mack, who got sent back to the line).

## HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



### 120th HHC:

SPC Joshua Robinson 04/27  
SFC Ricardo Pineda 04/30

### 120th FSC:

SGT Jerry Nichols 04/22

### 370th:

SPC Jeffrey Bounmivilay 04/16  
SPC Deshawne Pitts 04/17  
SGT Edward D., Jr., Wooden 04/28  
SPC Justin Opperman 04/29

### 1039th:

SPC Cory Fountain 04/22

### 1138th:

SGT Dustin McDowell 04/15  
SGT Alan Caruso 04/21  
SGT Timothy Barker 04/21

### 62nd:

PFC Tyler Stryffeler 04/15  
SFC Kristian Yochum 04/15  
SPC Nico James Layog 04/17  
SSG Dantony Lewis 04/25  
SSG Darwin Hilliard 04/25  
SPC Darryn Britton 04/29

### 84th:

SSG Reed  
Vukelic 04/15  
1SG Willard Ottman 04/15  
SPC Zachary Tabor 04/18  
PVT Charlie Reyesvargas 04/22  
PFC Eric Winkler 04/22

### 693rd:

PFC Jemon West 04/16  
2LT Brian Weber 04/18  
PFC Jonathan Kasper 04/26

## 1138th Sapper Company—Old Tricks are the best tricks



Old tricks are the best tricks, and dogs in battle is a concept nearly as old as warfare itself. Dogs have accompanied Soldiers on front lines since the ancient Cimmerians in 700 B.C. For SPC Heath Garcia, an engineer from Missouri, his dog Lucy is more than another weapon. Lucy, a goofy labradoodle, is trained to find IEDs by the scent of explosives. Although not trained to attack, Lucy provides a valuable asset in the counter-IED fight. Garcia and Lucy can clear large areas of explosives much faster than conventional detectors. “Lucy’s nose doesn’t need to scan every inch. She can pick up on the scent and go straight to a jug of HME.” says Garcia. Together, the team has found four IEDs in RC-South. For Route Clearance Patrols lucky enough to have a dog team on board, Military Working Dog (MWD) teams provide more than just another detection asset. Soldiers feel better around

dogs. Their hyper-vigilance puts minds at ease and moreover, the guys just miss playing with their dogs back home. SPC Garcia and Lucy have augmented the 1138<sup>th</sup> EN CO platoons during multiple route clearance missions helping to further enable their successes within Regional Command South- Afghanistan.

– 1LT Josh Trenkel (Outlaw 1-4/ RCP 56)

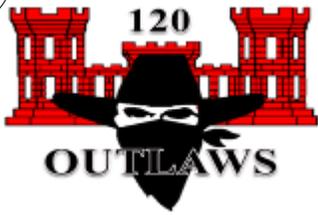
# ...The Last Word: Facts about Oklahoma



- The bread twist ties were invented in Maysville, OK.
- The nation's first parking meter was installed in Oklahoma City in 1935.
- The first Girl Scout cookie was sold in Muskogee, OK in 1917
- Cimarron County is the only county in the US bordered by four other states: Texas, New Mexico, Colorado, and Kansas.
- The OK State Capitol is the only one with working oil wells on its grounds.
- WKY Radio in Oklahoma City was the first radio station transmitting west of the Mississippi River.
- The nation's first Tornado Warning was issued on 25 Mar 1948 in Oklahoma City.
- Oklahoma has the largest Native American population of any other state to include 234 different tribes.
- The name Oklahoma comes from two Choctaw words: okla meaning "people" and humma meaning "red". It was approved in 1890.
- Oklahoma has produced more astronauts than any other state.
- Oklahoma has more manmade lakes than any other state.
- During the land rush Oklahoma City went from an open prairie to a city of over 10,000 people in one day.
- Pensacola Dam is the longest multi-arched dam in the world at 6,565 feet.
- The "Port of Catoosa" is the largest inland port in America.
- The aerosol can was invented in Bartlesville, OK.
- Per square mile, OK has more tornadoes than any other place in the world.
- The highest wind speed ever recorded was in Moore, OK on 3 May 1999 during an F-5 tornado.
- Cushing, OK is the "Pipeline Crossroads of the World" and has the largest oil storage in the world.
- The nation's first traffic "YIELD" sign was erected in Tulsa on a trial basis. It was invented by a Tulsa City police officer named Clinton Riggs. He had a law degree and later became Tulsa's Police Chief and taught at the Police Academy at Oklahoma University. He was posthumously honored last year at a law officer's memorial ceremony.
- Boise City, OK was the only city in the US to be bombed during WW II. On 5 Jul 1943 a B-17 bomber based at Dalhart Army Air Base, TX dropped six practice bombs, mistaking the city lights as target lights. The bombs were sacks of flour.
- **The shopping cart was invented in Oklahoma in 1936 by Sylvan Goldman, a man that was a member of A Co, 120<sup>th</sup> ENG and fought in France during WW I.**

— CSM Richard Raby & CPT David Goetzinger





**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!!!**

