

DRAGOON Magazine

June 2013



Vol. 1, Issue 7



CTF 4-2

Commander
Col. Michael Getchell

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Oscar Vinson

Public Affairs Officer
Maj. Edzel Butac

Public Affairs NCOIC
Staff Sgt. Tiffany Monnett

Photojournalist
Sgt. Kimberly Hackbarth

Broadcast Journalist
Sgt. Kyle Burns



For more on the brigade please visit:



<http://www.dvidshub.net/unit/4SBCT-2ID>



<http://www.facebook.com/4SBCT2ID>



<http://www.lewis-mcchord.army.mil/4SBCT2ID>

Any story suggestions or questions can be sent to the PAO at edzel.l.butac@afghan.swa.army.mil or the PAO NCOIC at tiffany.m.monnett@afghan.saw.army.mil

This publication is an authorized publication for members of the Department of Defense. Contents of this publication are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, the Department of the Army, 2nd Infantry Division, or the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team. Editorial content is prepared, edited, and provided by the 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office.



Inside this issue:

Commander comments	4
Command Sergeant Major comments	5
1/205 Security Force Assistance Team	6
Manchu	8
Rosser	10
Deployed Soldiers inducted into SAMC	12
Intel Soldiers stay fit with CrossFit	13
Tomahawk	14
Viking	16
Blackhawk	18
Forge	20
Welcome Home Raiders photo spread	23
Memorial Page	

On the cover:



Casing the Colors **ZABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan**

U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Kimberly Hackbarth

Lt. Col. Charles Lombardo, commander, and Command Sgt. Maj. Donald Waterhouse, command sergeant major, both of 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, case the unit's regimental colors during a ceremony June 13 on Forward Operating Base Apache in the Zabul province of Afghanistan.



DRAGOON 6

Col. Michael Getchell



Family, friends, and Soldiers of the “Dragon” Raider Stryker Brigade Combat Team,

After eight long, successful months, this marks the Raider Brigade’s final deployment message and newsletter from Afghanistan. Portions of the unit have already received a tremendous reception at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., and soon we will all be safely home, dust free, and back with our families and friends! We are also welcoming troopers of the 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment this month and initiating the process of conveying our understanding of the people, partners, and places of southern Afghanistan.

I would like to take this time to highlight a few of the staggering accomplishments achieved through

commitment from Afghan villagers to fight to keep control of their homeland.

After hundreds of joint patrols, classes, and training academies, our Afghan partners in the police and army are significantly more competent and confident than when we arrived last October. They successfully chased the Taliban from their traditional stronghold in the Horn of Panjwa’i and enabled the people to finally connect with the Afghan government. In Dand, Daman, and Spin Boldak, the Afghan Police effectively demonstrated their ability to assume the security lead and independently secure these critical districts. Your Soldiers are true experts and their mentorship of the Afghan Nation Security Forces leaves me confident that our efforts and



Our families, the Raider Ready Reserve, the 7th Infantry Division, and extended Raider team that includes the city of Lakewood truly kept up the morale and motivation of the brigade forward. You remain a pil-

“I know our Soldiers, despite their extreme excitement to return home to their families, will finish strong as we transition to the final phase of this deployment.”

the combined efforts of our Soldiers. Through countless meetings, shuras, and conversations with farmers, businessmen, and elders, our disciplined formation fostered confidence in Afghan local governance. The example and alternative provided by the Raiders set the stage for local uprisings against the wrath of the Taliban and a renewed

sacrifices changed our portion of Afghanistan and will endure.

In this last and final month, I know our Soldiers, despite their extreme excitement to return home to their families, will finish strong as we transition to the final phase of this deployment. The support from home remains overwhelming and humbling after 12 years of war.

lar of strength and we are extremely grateful for all that you have done to support us through our mission. You certainly are the Tip of the Bayonet and Second to None and we look forward to seeing you soon. Stay safe and have a great summer!

**To The Objective!
Dragon 6**



DRAGON 7

Command Sgt. Maj. Oscar Vinson



Soldiers, families and friends of the Raider Brigade,

Combined Task Force 4-2 has officially reached July, our last month in Afghanistan and also our last monthly magazine. I would like to take the time to talk about the Soldiers of the Raider Brigade, who have pushed themselves week after week, month after month.

The Raiders provided the opportunity to our Afghan partners to learn and grow, to gain the knowledge and the tactical expertise they need to better secure their country and protect their people.

Each and every Soldier of the Raider Brigade should be proud of the accomplishments this team of teams has made throughout these last nine months. It has taken the hard work, strength and pure dedication of the Raiders to have come this far and the rewards are in knowing that every day we have been here has been a step closer to achieving security for the people of Kandahar Province.

Throughout this deployment, CTF 4-2 has made notable achievements and changes for the better in Kandahar Province.

With the help of our Afghan partners, we have opened new roads throughout the area, giving the people better access to goods and services. Multiple schools have opened as a direct result of security, giving the children of the villages better access to a brighter future and creating jobs in the process. We

closed many of our combat outposts and transferred others to our Afghan partners.

CTF 4-2 participated in multiple government and security shuras and continued to train the Afghan soldiers in many critical tasks to include route security, improvised explosive device detection and responding to medical emergencies on the battlefield.

Every unit assigned to CTF 4-2 throughout this deployment has performed exceptionally well. I am proud of our Soldiers and the leaders who took them through these nine months along with the civilians who have worked beside them the entire way. It took a team to make it through and we are stronger for it.

July will be a very hectic time for the Raider Brigade. Throughout the course of these next several weeks, we will transition our area of operations over to our replacing unit, the 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

I am proud to say that because of the work our Soldiers have completed during this deployment, 2nd Cav. Regt. is walking into a well functioning area of operations. They will learn from the best and I am confident they will take over with the knowledge necessary to continue with the mission during such a critical time in Afghanistan's history.

As many of you are already aware, the announcement of the deactiva-



tion of 4-2 SBCT came very unexpectedly. Though we don't know exactly when this event will occur, we do know that it will be sometime in the next few years. Keep in mind, this announcement does not mean that we stop training; Raiders stay ready at all times. We will continue with our missions and ensure that Raiders remain the best the Army has to offer.

Stays strong over this next month; keep our Soldiers in your thoughts and prayers, we all will be home soon.

**To the Objective-
Dragon 7**



1/205 Security Force Assistance Team



On May 27, Security Force Assistance Team (SFAT) 42 bid a big farewell to its team leader, Col. James Brown. He left command of the team to take a brigade command at Ft. Polk, La. The executive officer, Lt. Col. William Wyles, stepped up to fill the position as the new SFAT commander. Prior to Col.

full, but we are beginning to take time off to prepare for our relief.

We are excited that our time here is drawing to an end and will always remember our Afghan counterparts and the progress we have made. We continue to strengthen the relationships we have built thus far.

SFATs from the Texas Army Na-

best of luck as they transition back into civilian lives and hope to serve with them again in the future.

When we redeploy, Combined Task Force 4-2 (4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division)'s SFATs will be disbanded. However, we will remain proud of the work that we have accom-

“ The teams’ priority remains the betterment of our Afghan partners through constant mentorship.”

Brown’s departure, the entire team participated in a 5K Memorial Day run. That evening, a farewell dinner was held in Col. Brown’s honor as well as an awards ceremony for all SFAT personnel.

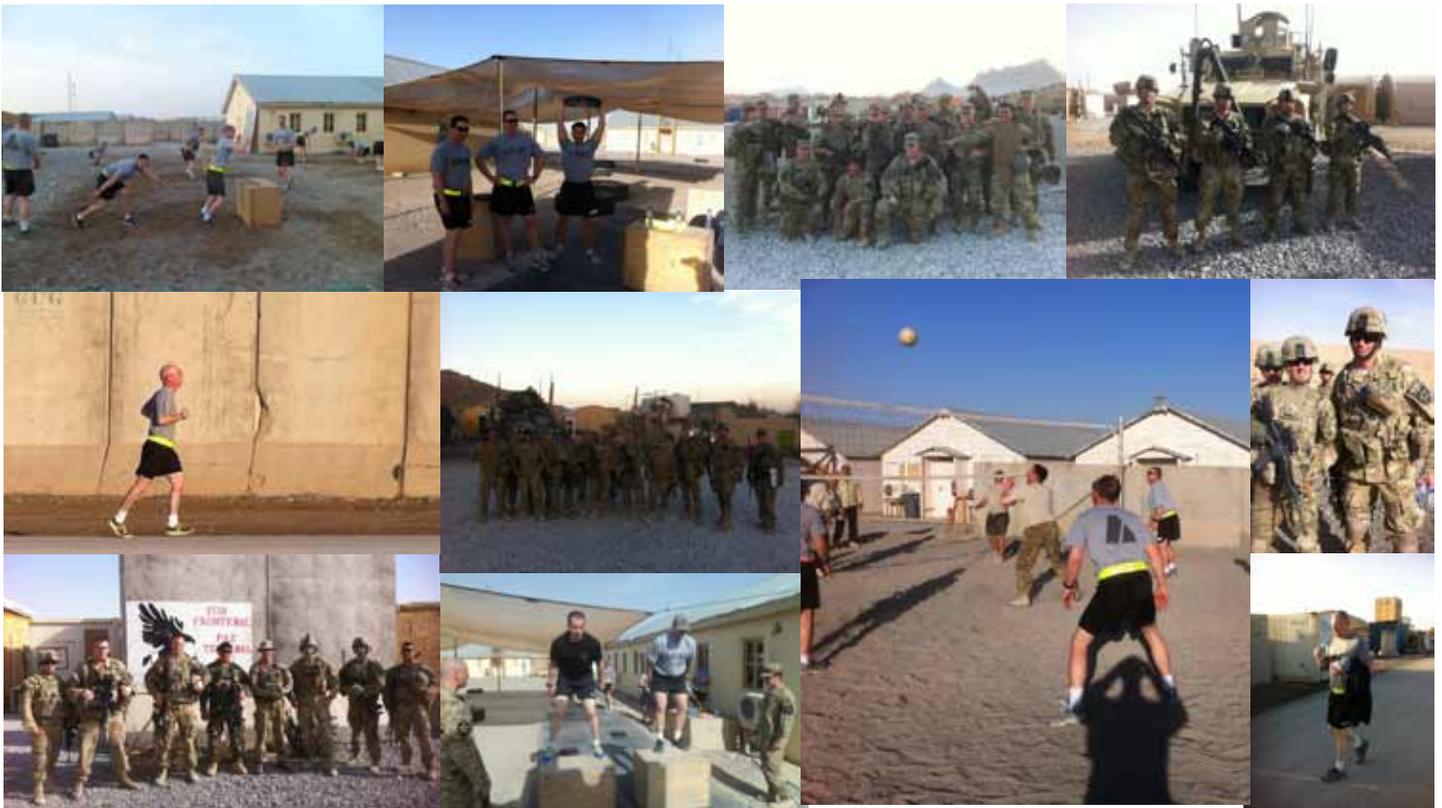
The teams’ priority remains the betterment of our Afghan partners through constant mentorship. The teams advising schedule remains

tional Guard (SFATs 46, 47, and 60) are also preparing for their redeployment. Throughout our time in Afghanistan, we have worked beside and built friendships with the Texas National Guardsmen. We have learned a lot from each other and have become better Soldiers as a result of our professional relationship. We wish them nothing but the

plished. Under our tutelage, 1st Brigade, 205th Afghan National Army Corps made great strides toward independence. They are now able to conduct independent operations in defense of their nation and independently train their own Soldiers. We leave them a significantly stronger organization than they were when we arrived.

<http://www.facebook.com/#!/4SBCT2IDSFAAT>





**LIONS OF THE SOUTH
CTF 4-2 DRAGOON**

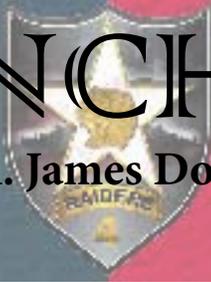


**شیرها از جنوب
1-205TH ANA CORPS**



MANCHU 6

Lt. Col. James Dooghan



Our Manchu Family,

Your deployed Manchus can note from peering across the Horn of Panjwa'i that summer is glaringly upon us. The once fertile valley and landscape is yet again changing with grapes ripe for the picking. Afghan farming families have quickly cleared wheat fields and anticipate the grape harvest against the relentless heat. The most visible indicator of the growing season is the lush trees, giving away the position of the canals branched throughout the area, typically adjacent to the roads and various trails. The reported temperature rarely rises above 110°F, the thermostat at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) Zangabad Aid Station staggers above 124°F during peak hours of the day!

In the last month, Combined Task Force 4-9 (Manchus) welcomed Company B "Bayonet," 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment and Company F "Fierce," 52nd Infantry Company as the battalion assumed responsibility of Panjwa'i District in its entirety. We continue to focus our advisory efforts with the Peacemakers (SFAAT) on our Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) partners; operations within the last two months confirm that our combined efforts over the past eight months have prepared them for their independence. We have captured every last detail of best practices from the mundane tasks to tactical opera-

tions and prepared a first class Relief in Place (RIP) program for our replacement unit. Our primary focus is to prepare them for a successful Security Force Assistance (SFA) mission throughout Panjwa'i. We have all learned that the small details protect the lives of every Soldier, and the Manchus have maintained a strict adherence to the principle of always improving one's "fighting position."

With the end of June 2013, I can contently state that Company A "Able," B Co. "Blowtorch," and elements from Headquarters and Headquarters Company "Havoc," completed their mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) 12-13 with the utmost distinction. For the remainder of C Co. "Comanche," Havoc Company, Battalion Staff, and Manchu enablers, the last hurdle is the "left seat, right seat" process as required of the RIP. Initially, we will match individuals covering the same duties together, instruct them on those duties, and eventually step back, allowing the new unit to be the primary actor. Although it can be a tedious phase, it is critical that we enable our successors to continue the success in Panjwa'i as built by not only the Manchus, but by all those before who served honorably and sacrificed so much for this mission.

Without a doubt, your Soldiers performed their duties, becoming one of the best the United States

Army has to offer. However, like any plant found in nature, the ability of a Soldier - the plant - to flourish relies heavily upon its roots, in this case the families of Manchu Soldiers. Without the sacrifice and continued dedication and support that you provide, they would not be able to do what they do best, focus on the care of each other. Even in the thickest of combat, most Soldiers do not fight out of fear of death or injury; they fight because they either do not want to let their fellow Soldiers down, they want to protect their brother and sisters in arms, or they want to honor the reputations of their families and Nation. It has been a great honor to have served with every Soldier under my command in Panjwa'i, Afghanistan. Even though my time as Manchu 6 is coming to an end shortly after re-deployment, I will always reflect on this tour with pride.

This is the final newsletter for the deployment of CTF 4-9 (Manchus). I sincerely look forward to greeting the Manchu Family back at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. Of course, I request that you continue to...Keep Up The Support, Keep Up The Prayers, Keep Up The Fire!

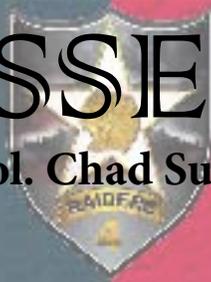
Lt. Col. James K. Dooghan
Manchu 6
Combined Task Force 4-9





ROSSIER (6)

Lt. Col. Chad Sundem



To all the Rock Family and Friends,

June is finally here. As our families in Washington welcome the much-anticipated summer months, they are also beginning to welcome home our Rock family. As most of us are back at Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., we still have the majority of two of our companies still in Afghanistan continuing the fight under our fellow battalion, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment. It has been a very productive month for Company B “Bayonet,” 1st Battalion, 38th Infantry Regiment and Company F “Fierce,” 52nd Infantry Company as they are continuing to transition Forward Operating Base (FOB) Shoja and FOB Masum Ghar for 2nd Cavalry Regiment’s arrival. Both companies are working diligently to support and train our Afghan National Security Force partners to continue to operate on their own. The transition has already begun and they are fighting to stand on their feet. They have begun establishing CPs in areas they see fit with little to no International Security Assistance Force assistance. It has been amazing to watch them take the initiative. As we have units returning to JBLM, we see all the hard work our rear-detachment has completed- receiving Soldiers into the battalion and continuing the mission here at home. Thank you to all their hard work to keep things running at home. Finally, to our families- Thank you for the unconditional support you have provided throughout this deployment. This is the fuel that keeps our Soldiers running and keeps us all level-headed when we get home. We are in the red zone!

**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bartlett
and Lt. Col. Chad Sundem**





Deployed Soldiers inducted into SAMC

Story by 2nd Lt. Jennifer Frazer
102nd MPAD

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Sgt. Mitchell Barrett, a senior mechanic with Company B, 501st Brigade Support Battalion, 1st Brigade, 1st Armor Division, Staff Sgt. Adrian Urrutia, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, Combined Task Force 4-2 (4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division), and Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Preyer, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 702nd Brigade Support Battalion, CTF 4-2, were inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club here, June 22.

“Induction to the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is prestigious to me,” said Urrutia. “I heard about it as a young private and now that I’ve been

inducted, it’s a real honor to be part of the great noncommissioned officers that are in it.”

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (S.A.M.C) is a prestigious private Army organization specifically for enlisted noncommissioned officers whose leadership achievements and performance merit a special acknowledgment. All members of the S.A.M.C show exceptional care and concern for their soldiers in all aspects. Unless they supervise two or more soldiers, when a soldier is deemed worthy of the S.A.M.C members, their senior noncommissioned officer will recommend them for the review process where the soldier will begin a rigorous board examination process.

“The process of the Sergeant Aud-



Maj. Gen. Robert “Abe” Abrams, 3rd Infantry Division and Regional Command (South) commander, presents the Sgt. Audie Murphy Club medal, certificate and membership card to Staff Sgt. Adrian Urrutia, a platoon sergeant with Company C, 4th Battalion, 9th Infantry Regiment, Combined Task Force 4-2 (4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division) June 22.

ie Murphy Club is strenuous,” said Urrutia. “We did company mock boards followed by a battalion mock board followed by a brigade and then division level.”

Each S.A.M.C candidate goes through a series of boards where they will be tested in a variety of areas that include but are not limited to: Audie Murphy history, Army training, leader development, drill and ceremonies, policies and procedures for property accountability, Army command policy, family/Soldier support programs, first aid, military justice, military customs and courtesies, etc. The physical fitness test - which includes two minutes of pushups, two minutes of sit-ups and a two-mile run - is also critical to the acceptance into the

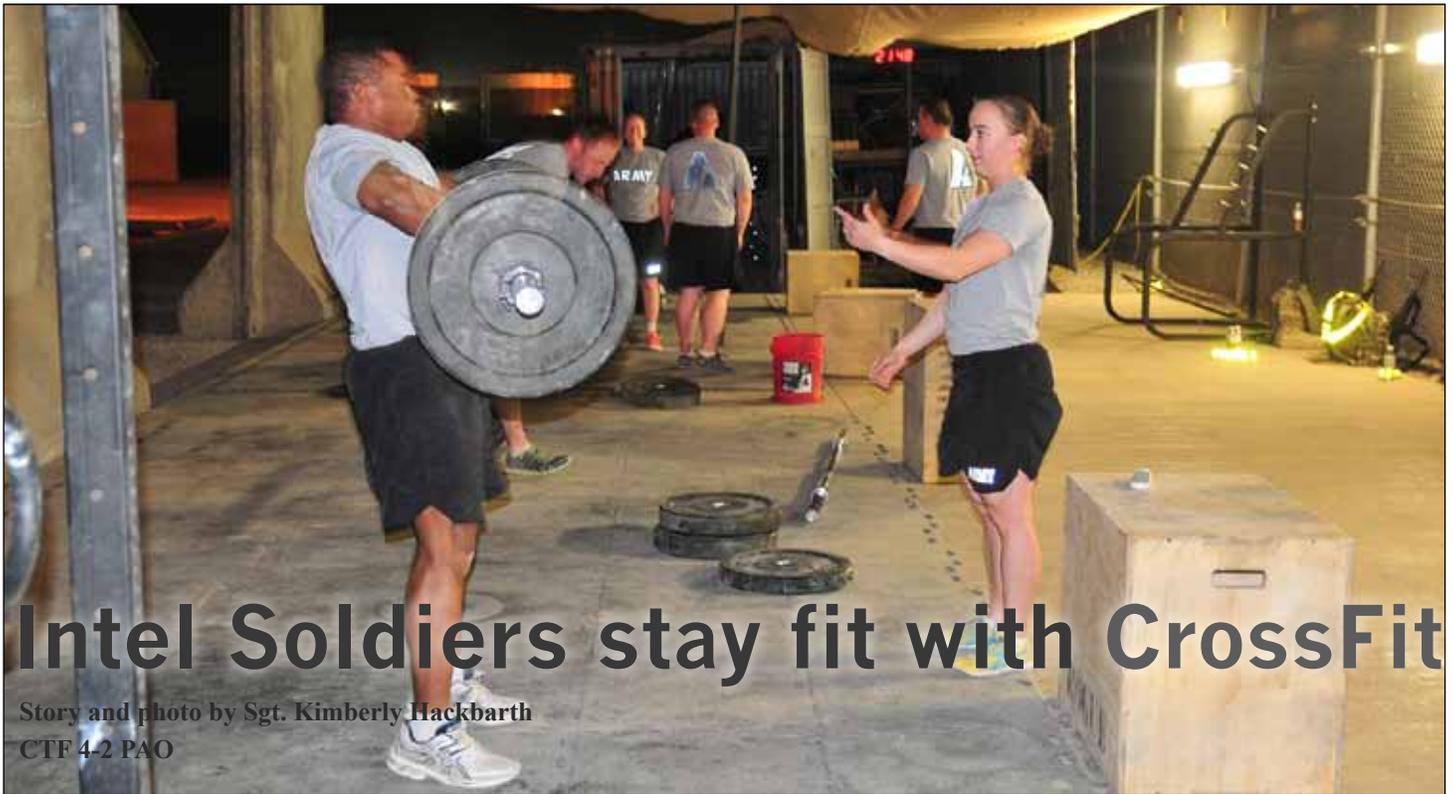
S.A.M.C. A score of 270 or above must be achieved to be accepted into the club.

Each of the three inducted into the club today were introduced by one of their soldiers whose lives they have affected.

Spc. Louis Martinez, a Stryker system maintainer in Barrett’s platoon said Barrett, motivates with words of encouragement and makes everyone strive to do better. Sgt. Scott Smith, a gunner who works with Urrutia, said Urrutia is the one to go to because he always has a true answer.

“I just want to encourage other individuals out there, if they want something, just go ahead and go for it,” said Urrutia. “It’s attainable, just set goals and don’t quit.”





Intel Soldiers stay fit with CrossFit

Story and photo by Sgt. Kimberly Hackbarth
CTF 4-2 PAO

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – When the duty day ends in Afghanistan, soldiers of Combined Task Force 4-2 (4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division)’s intelligence section jump for joy. Actually, they jump on boxes.

Capt. Ashley Nicolas, the brigade’s assistant intelligence officer, is a CrossFit level one trainer and leads the group’s nightly workout sessions.

A small group used to work out when the brigade’s headquarters was based out of Forward Operating Base Masum Ghar, said Nicolas.

“When we got out here [to Kandahar Airfield] and had access to this facility, the group probably started out like four or five people and kind of grew from there.”

After two and half months, the group has grown to between 10 and 14 people, said Nicolas.

“CrossFit’s based off of a couple basic things,” Nicolas explained.

“There’s your bodyweight exercises, which are like air squats, sit-ups, pushups, stuff like that. Then you’ve got your gymnastics exercises.”

The group tries to keep the workouts interesting by mixing up the routines, said Nicolas.

“We’re sedentary 13 hours of the day sitting at our desks, so you’ve got to have something that gets you up and gets you moving,” Nicolas said.

“We are soldiers, so we need to make sure we’re maintaining [physical fitness],” said Nicolas.

Most workouts are between 10 and 25 minutes, she said.

One of the people who has worked out with Nicolas since Masum Ghar is Warrant Officer Chad Campbell, the human intelligence operations chief of CTF 4-2.

“This has been a really, really good experience and everyone out here has made huge gains,” said Campbell. “We’ve seen a lot of progression from a lot of individuals.”

Campbell himself has made improvements.

Before one workout in June, Nicolas watched as Campbell successfully completed a move that he had been working at for months.

“To be able to come out here and share that passion and see people fall in love with it and see people getting stronger and more confident and set goals for themselves like that, it’s the best part of my day.”

The nightly workout sessions have improved the sections overall fitness and helped strengthen bonds, said Campbell.

“It’s had a huge positive effect on our office ... as a whole,” Campbell said.

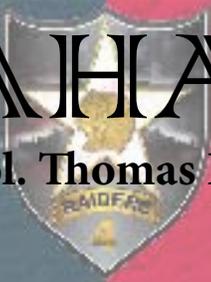
After the workouts, the group spends about 30 minutes decompressing and talking, which is good for the moral of everyone, he added.

“It’s just an awesome opportunity for everybody to gather and it’s stress relief, it’s fun, [and] everyone gets a good workout,” Nicolas said.



TOMAHAWK 6

Lt. Col. Thomas Feltey



Greetings Tomahawk families and friends!

Since I last wrote you an update a month ago, we have been very busy with the arrival of the first group of 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment Soldiers from Fort Knox, Ky. We have begun our relief-in-place, although we intend to make it a very thorough process to ensure they are fully informed and prepared to take responsibility of our area at the transfer of authority (TOA). The energy they have brought with them and demonstrated enthusiasm to begin their mission here has greatly impressed me. We are also finalizing preparations for our return home to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash., particularly reintegration with our families, the Raider Ready Reserve and the 7th Infantry Division. While we are all extremely excited to return home to our families, we also feel pride in seeing the results of all our hard work throughout our deployment. Our Afghan National Security Force partners continue to execute independent operations, constantly demonstrating the initiative and proficiency they have developed since we began our partnership. As ANSF progresses through its first fighting season, this is truly what winning looks like. At a time when tested by the enemy, our ANSF partners prove to be resilient and demonstrate a strong desire to keep up the fight to further secure the gains we have made.

On the homefront, the Tomahawk Ready Reserve and the Family Readiness Group have continued to work hard as our Soldiers have steadily begun to arrive home, receiving them and easing the reintegration process. We look forward to getting all our Soldiers home, and especially look forward to our hard-earned block leave.

Your Soldiers continue to impress me every day, and you should be very proud of them. I know we are!

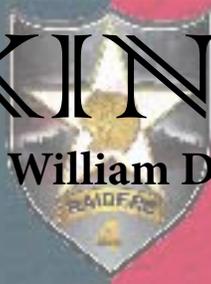
**Tomahawks Win!!
Tomahawk 6 and 7**





VIKING (6)

Lt. Col. William Downing



To the Soldiers, families, and friends of Task Force Viking,

Prior to our deployment to Afghanistan, we conducted a town hall meeting and I had the opportunity to discuss the vision for our Task Force with Soldiers and families. I reminded everyone in the room that our primary purpose for existence was to deploy and defeat the enemies of our country in combat and that combat was a TEAM sport that required EVERY PLAYER, EVERY PLAY. We reviewed the attributes of a good team that are captured in our vision:

Good TEAMS...

- Trust one another unconditionally
- Are fiercely loyal to each other
- Possess strong unit pride
- Are good in the fourth quarter
- Have strong leaders who motivate & overcome adversity

I stand before you today able to say, without hesitation, that this TEAM of Angry Vikings has played every play of the deployment as a cohesive, disciplined, well-oiled machine. It has been a pleasure for Command Sgt. Maj. Kerns and I to serve alongside the Soldiers and troopers of this task force and watch them demonstrate, on a daily basis, the attributes that make a truly unbeatable TEAM.

Batteries, companies, and troops that started out as a newly task organized formation unfamiliar with each other have come to trust one another unconditionally and are fiercely loyal to their new found band of brothers. The unit pride, the pride in being an Angry Viking, has grown to an overwhelming level that leaves other units in awe and wonder at how a combined arms task force could become such a strong and formidable TEAM. Not just good, but good in the fourth quarter when it matters most and when times are toughest, the leaders of this TEAM, here and at home, have motivated us and led us through the adversity that would break a lesser formation.

And now, as we enter the “red zone” and execute our final drive into the end zone, we will remain focused on the inches that got us where we are today: The tactics, techniques, and procedures we use daily to accomplish our mission in combat, the “anger” that keeps us focused on the tasks at hand, and the upcoming reunion and reintegration with our family and friends at home that will make us whole again.

For all the Soldiers, troopers, and families in Task Force Viking, be proud of your accomplishments this deployment and be proud of the fact that you are now one of the select few, the less than 1% of our nation’s

population that volunteered to serve your country during a time of war and fought in combat for the freedom of the United States of America. I leave you with the words of a favorite poem of mine...

I was that which others did not want to be.

I went where others feared to go, and did what others failed to do.

I asked nothing from those who gave nothing, and reluctantly accepted the thought of eternal loneliness ... should I fail.

I have seen the face of terror; felt the stinging cold of fear; and enjoyed the sweet taste of a moment’s love.

I have cried, pained, and hoped ... but most of all, I have lived times others would say were best forgotten.

At least someday I will be able to say that I was proud of what I was ... a Soldier.

May God bless Task Force Viking, its families, and the United States of America.

Stay Angry,

Lt.Col. Will Downing
Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Kerns
(the original Angry Viking)





'Blackhawks' of 4th SBCT case colors

Story and photo by Sgt. Kimberly Hackbarth
CTF 4-2 PAO



FORWARD OPERATING BASE APACHE, Afghanistan – The first subordinate unit of 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, cased its colors in preparation for redeployment during a ceremony June 13 on Forward Operating Base Apache in the Zabul province of Afghanistan.

Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment “Blackhawks” were attached to 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, during their deployment and operated out of Zabul province instead of the Kandahar province like most of the brigade.

In his farewell speech to his attached unit, the 1st Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division commander, Col. James Crider, noted his first impression of the cavalry unit.

“I was impressed the first time I was introduced to this unit back at [Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.] and they’ve never failed to produce positive results even under the demanding conditions of combat,” said Crider. “Blackhawks are the example of how to conduct successful security force assistance.”

Soldiers of the squadron partnered with 2nd Brigade, 205th Afghan National Army Corps and were the original partner for the 2nd Mobile Strike Force, which is now Regional Command-East’s only mobile strike force that is combat

ready, said Lt. Col. Charles Lombardo, the 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment commander.

“Our major mission was to partner with them, to train and advise and give them the repetitions to take over basically our mission in Zabul, or if they get directed in southern Kandahar,” Lombardo explained.

Training back at the brigade’s

“It’s been a great deployment and I just think that the training strategy that [Col. Michael Getchell, brigade commander] and the [brigade] put together has enabled us to be as successful as we have been,” said Lombardo.

As the first subordinate unit in the brigade to case its regimental colors and head home to Washington state,

Lombardo said he has expectations for his cavalrymen.

“We’re the cavalry squadron, so hopefully we’re the first one to be able to go back and reset the footprint for the rest of the [brigade] as we open up a new chapter,” Lombardo said. “It is a good feeling.”

Lombardo said there are still some preparations for the next chapter.

“We want to make sure we set the new command teams up to have the success and be able to walk in to all the great leaders and formations that we were able to fall in on in 2010,” said Lombardo.

In his closing remarks, Crider lauded the squadron for its performance since it arrived in Afghanistan in November 2012.

“You can return home with your heads held high and with

the confidence that you did all you could to make Afghanistan a better place,” Crider said.

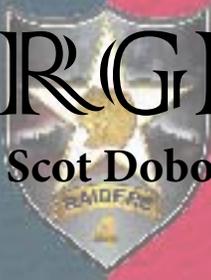


Soldiers of 2nd Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 4th Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Infantry Division, stand in formation before the unit’s color casing ceremony June 13 on Forward Operating Base Apache in the Zabul province of Afghanistan.

home station of JBLM, Wash., played a big part in the unit’s success, said Lombardo.

FORGE 6

Lt. Col. Scot Doboszenski



To the Soldiers, Families, and Friends of the Forge Battalion,

The 702nd Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) has less than a month until we return to our family and friends in Washington. During the past month, 702nd BSB redeployed 106 Soldiers to Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash. By the end of July, the entire Forge Battalion will be redeployed and preparing for block leave in August. At the end of June we welcomed the Torch and advanced echelon (ADVON) flights from the 2nd Calvary Regiment, Regimental Support Squadron (RSS). We are currently conducting relief in place (RIP) tasks which will conclude with a Transfer of Authority Ceremony in July.

Forge staff and command teams are working with the RSS in order to smoothly and effectively transition into the mission in our brigade area of operations. During RIP, 702nd BSB Soldiers will train and mentor RSS Soldiers on key tasks and operational procedures. The RSS Soldiers will then conduct operations with oversight from 702nd Soldiers. Throughout the RIP process, Company A "Arsenal" continues to provide critical sustainment support. B Co. "Bruiser" continues to complete maintenance work orders daily. C Co. "Cold Steel" continues to distribute lines of medical supplies a month and see patients on a daily basis. Our behavior health and preventative medicine personnel are conducting their final visits

to bases ensuring the health and welfare of our Soldiers before they redeploy and to familiarize their RIP partners with outlying locations. HHC "Honor" Soldiers continue to manage and cook at seven forward operating bases, down from 19. Although the feeding mission locations decreased, Honor Soldiers continue to perform a diverse mission set to facilitate redeployment and reintegration.

This month, we recognized Sgt. Timothy Dodge who was awarded second place in the Rocky's cooking competition. Sgt. Dodge competed against several cooks from across the Regional Command – (South) RC-(S) and displayed technical competence and proper food preparation. All of the cooks' efforts have a very positive impact on morale of Soldiers each day. Their dedication to their mission is seen on the faces of Soldiers every day. As well, Bruiser Company completed reset of the brigade's weapons systems, optics, lasers, and night vision devices, which saved the United States Army millions of dollars. The Forge Battalion hosted Brig. Gen. Robert White, Deputy Commanding General for Sustainment. Soldiers of 702nd BSB discussed with Brig. Gen White our progress in equipment turn-in, area reduction, and our redeployment/reception plan as we transition with the RSS. Brig. Gen. White awarded

five command general coins to Sgt. 1st Class Brandon Peters, Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Rice, Staff Sgt. Tyrone Foster, Sgt. Stephen Scott, and Sgt. Veronica Denison, who were an important part of theater retrograde for Combined Task Force 4-2. Their efforts not only contributed to the success of CTF 4-2, but the entire RC-(S).

This month, Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Preyer, was one of two Dragoon Raiders inducted into the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club hosted by Maj. Gen. Robert Abrams and Command Sgt. Maj. Edd Watson. The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club is a highly prestigious group of non-commissioned officers who demonstrate and represent the ideals of the Army, devotion to duty, and excellence. Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Parcels from HHC, 702nd BSB will compete at the 3rd Division Sergeant Audie Murphy Board in July.

Throughout the month of June, the battalion conducted Sexual Harassment Assault Prevention training. All Soldiers watched the "Invisible War" film and discussed the responsibilities of leaders and Soldiers in preventing and responding to accusations. This training made our team stronger and more vigilant against sexual harassment and assault.

We continue to build our team each month. We reenlisted three Soldiers and promoted five Soldiers since the last newsletter bringing our total to



111 and 122 respectively, during the deployment. As our team continues to work together and transition with our counterparts, we look forward to our reunion with friends and family at the end of July. Thank you for your unwavering support of the last nine months; our team is stronger because of it.

**“Mend the Broken Sword”
Forge 6 and Forge 7**



OEF CRISIS HOTLINE



For Service Members
By Service Members



IT'S YOUR CALL

Confidential **peer** support for
Service Members
In Afghanistan

Call **DSN/NVOIP: 1-1-1**

(318) 421-8218

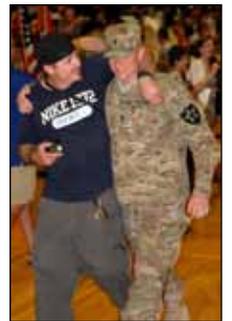
Afghan Cell: 070-113-2000, wait for tone, 1-1-1

Email OEFcrisisHotline@afghan.swa.army.mil

Confidential chat at MilitaryCrisisLine.net



WELCOME HOME RAIDERS!



OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM 2012-2013

IN LOVING MEMORY



*Staff Sgt. Rayvon Battle, Jr.
Nov. 13, 2012
38th Eng. Co.*



*Staff Sgt. Wesley Williams
Dec. 10, 2012
B Co., 1-38 IN*



*Pfc. Markie Sims
Dec. 29, 2012
38th Eng. Co.*



*Sgt. David Chambers
Jan. 16, 2013
B Co., 1-38 IN*