

THE PACEMAKER PRESS

Following the 864th Engineer Battalion During Its Time In Afghanistan

864th Engineer Battalion Medics Rise Above the Challenge

Combat Medics Train to Real Life Standards



THE PACEMAKER PRESS:

the official newsletter of the 864th Engineer Battalion while deployed on Operation Enduring Freedom, 2013.

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864TH COMBAT MEDICS TAKE TRAINING TO A WHOLE NEW LEVEL

Multiple casualties are laying on the ground, medics are administering aid to those wounded, reports are being called up to higher command, and Soldiers are laying down suppressive fire.

For the 864th Engineer Battalion Medics, this is the scenario designed to make training as accurate as possible. The medics would ride along in a convoy led by the Convoy Support Team (CST) to a designated area on FOB Sharana. Once given the signal, one vehicle would stop to simulate getting hit by an IED. The CST would stop the convoy and immediately begin evaluating the situation and aiding any Soldiers that were injured. The main test for the medics was to keep the medical situation organized and react as calm as possible while administering the correct aid to multiple Soldiers.

This training scenario was designed and organized by SGT Nathan Hayden, one of the more experienced medics in the battalion.

"The purpose of the training was to emphasize reducing battlefield injuries by performing Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TC3). TC3 is the pre-hospital care rendered to a casualty in a combat environment. The application of TC3 principles during tactical combat environment has proven highly effective and is a major reason for lives being saved on the battlefield. This training provided medics and CST Soldiers a situation to test

their decision making process and technical medical skills," stated CPT Robyn Cushing, 864th Engineer Battalion Physician's Assistant.

When asked how she thought the training had gone, CPT Cushing stated that he thought "the training was a success. By simulating a realistic tactical combat environment, the CST Soldiers and the combat medics

were able to assess casualties, prioritize treatment, and treat wounded Soldiers."

According to CPT Cushing, the training was based off of TC3 and the Combat Life-saver

These vehicles are not readily available in the rear. Getting around and inside these vehicles to help wounded Soldiers is very hard, and teamwork is vital in this situation. Soldiers also wore full combat load, items that are not issued to the Soldiers during the training in the rear."

SPC Maureen Kuria is one of the Pacemaker Combat Medics that was able to take part in the realistic training.

"As a medic, we need to be prepared to react when things happen on a convoy and not just in the aid station. One of the lessons I learned was how to get out of the vehicle with a full kit and an aid bag. Another was how chaotic it can be and how circumstances can change so quickly. A medic has to be quick thinking."



SGT Knight administering aid to a wounded Soldier during the training event.

program that was developed by the US Army Medical Department (AMEDD) Center and School at Fort Sam Houston.

Compared to the training back in the States, the major change was the training environment.



All of the CST Soldiers and Medics are CLS qualified.



LT Bruner administers aid to a wounded Soldier during the training event.

"The TC3 principles remained the same, but the training environment was different," said CPT Cushing. "The CST Soldiers and the medics utilized vehicles

When asked what her favorite part of the training was, SPC Kuria responded with "treating the realistic injuries because we don't see those in sick call. It was a very good refresher."

When asked for a final statement regarding the training, SSG (P) Haas stated that "Soldiers face many threats, and this exercise proved that the 864th Engineer Battalion Medics and CST Soldiers are ready and able to save lives."

that are used on deployment convoys.

Commander's Corner

A Letter From LTC Henderson, Commander, Task Force Pacemaker

"Life has a certain flavor for those who have fought and risked all that the sheltered and protected can never experience." - John Stuart Mill



As we celebrate our Independence, let us not forget all the many patriots who risked losing their lives, fortunes, and families so that we could live in a free Nation. Let us not forget the millions of Veterans who have fought in wars throughout our history to preserve our freedom and give our Nation the necessary strength to deter aggression. The Soldiers of Task Force Pacemaker are privileged to serve our great Nation during this current chapter of our history. Our Families can be proud of the amazing achievements posted by our team of teams in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XIII. To date, our Soldiers have completed dozens of projects on bases and outposts all over eastern Afghanistan which in-turn is enabling the responsible retrograde of U.S. Forces from this country. The work is difficult and dangerous, but I could not be more proud of the exceptional character and selfless service shown by our Soldiers and Families as we continue to SET THE PACE for the successful completion of this historic mission.

Not that any of us are counting, but we have now been on the ground for over 5 months, and we are all missing our Families and our homes. Please know that your continued support, mail, and care packages are greatly appreciated by our deployed team, especially since many of our battlefield "amenities" like shopettes, DFACs, barber shops, and etc. are going away as we transition to a more expeditionary lifestyle prior to departing Afghanistan. Additionally, as our bases close, we will be relocating our companies to various locations throughout eastern Afghanistan to start new projects in support of additional base closures. While this will certainly complicate communications, mail, and family support, it is also very good news for Afghanistan and the continued drawdown of U.S. Forces stationed here. Thanks in advance for your patience and continued service to our Nation as we "rise to the challenge" of following through with our missions here.

SET THE PACE!

LTC John W. Henderson, Pacemaker 6

Command Sergeant Major's Foxhole:

A Letter From Command Sergeant Major Christopher D. Tipton

What a Great Day to be Pacemaker!

Greetings to all Soldiers, Airmen, Pacemaker alums, families and friends of the Pacemaker Family. This month marked our midpoint in our deployment to Afghanistan. I am so proud to be a Pacemaker and serve our country faithfully with the great men and women of Task Force Pacemaker.



June was a great month for promotions and awards. Congratulations to our Noncommissioned Officers who were promoted to Staff Sergeant, Sergeant Cleveland, Sergeant Hoke, and Sergeant Swanson. We also had two outstanding Pacemakers promoted to Sergeant, Specialist Orocho and Specialist Valderrama. Congratulations also goes out to SGT Harrison of the 557th Engineer Company and SPC Wold of the 585th Engineer Company as they represented their companies extremely well by winning the Task Force Noncommissioned Officer and Soldier of the Quarter Competition. Great job Pacemakers!

As we continue to "Set the Pace" as our past Pacemakers did in World War II, Vietnam, Desert Storm, Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, we go through this deployment in support of our country and our freedoms as we try to make the world a better place for all and the opportunity of freedom for all. During my battlefield circulations, I see how the children of Afghanistan lack the freedoms that our children have. I reflect on this, and although most people think that freedom is free but I tend to disagree. Our Army mirrors our nation. *"The spirit of liberty, the freedom of the individual, and the personal dignity of man, are the strongest and toughest and most enduring forces in all the world."* -Harry S. Truman

As we approach our Independence Day, please take the time to celebrate your freedoms and know that your Soldiers and Airmen are doing all they can to ensure that we keep those freedoms. Our young Pacemakers knowingly go through these hardships "Willing and Able" to protect these freedoms every day. Demilitarizing and deconstructing over 1,000 structures, disposing nearly 7,000 truckloads of debris, removing over 30 kilometers of force protection barriers, and developing dozens of acres of useable land for consolidating units' materiel on enduring bases in order to support our mission of retrograding out of Afghanistan.

As we continue to write this chapter in our battalion's history, know that your prayers and blessings continue to safeguard us from harm's way. Enjoy your summer and please be safe. Thank you all for what you do and continue to do for our Pacemaker Family and this great nation!

Pacemakers RISE to the Challenge!

CSM Christopher D. Tipton, Pacemaker 7

Headquarters and Headquarters Company Regulators!

Greetings Regulator friends and family. June marks the half way point in our deployment and has been another active month for HHC. We would like to welcome the newest addition to the regulator family: Jaxon Reynolds, born to PFC and Ashley Reynolds. Congratulations to PFC Mann on his promotion. SGT Hayden and SGT



CPT Bartok reenlists SPC Barrett



CSM Traylor presents SGT Frazier with his certificate during the NCO

Frazier participated in the Battalion NCO induction ceremony this month, officially

sonnel and equipment to outlaying project sites. The battalion staff continues operations here at Sharana, coordinating and tracking the battalion's efforts. As always, thank you to the Regulator Family for your continued love and support. Regulators!



CSM Traylor presents SGT Hayden with his certificate during the

welcoming them to the NCO corps. Also a big congratulations to SPC Barrett on his reenlistment. HHC support efforts continue as deconstruction efforts increase across the battalion. The CST platoon is busy supporting our sister companies, ensuring secure movement of per-

CMRE

AFGHANISTAN 2013

Forward Support Company Providers!!!

June Greetings to Provider Families and Friends!

The month of June has been a scorcher; with temperatures in the high nineties here on FOB Sharana we can't help but admire the unwavering hard work and "bring it on" attitude of our fine FSC Soldiers.

This month has brought a number of new experiences to the company, several long hauls, and more than a few new acquaintances. To start the month, FSC bestowed a warm welcome and ceremony to the incoming Commander, CPT Mohammad Islam, shortly thereafter saying our thanks and farewells to CPT Clint Nold as he departed for his new position on KAF. Of course, with change of command comes pause for recollection. As a Company, FSC spent the first few weeks of June diligently refocusing on property, values, and preparation to continue the fight for logistics.

The Distribution Platoon spent their month of June much in anticipation of looming long range operations. Though edgy, they hardly wasted a second of relaxation while engaging in volleyball events, water fights, flag football, and other high-stakes activities during the Company Org Day. Some down time was appreciated but DISTRO refused to be caught off guard. During the month this platoon continued to support Engineer Units on the FOB, and even conducted its very first Truck Rodeo training event. They capped their achievements with the collection of over 70 milvans for the Battalion's use in upcoming movements, and conducted a nine day mission to deliver equipment to a distant FOB. DISTRO honored the birthday of SPC Mosley, the promotion of PFC Morrison to Specialist, and stood witness to the "high tower" reenlistment of one of its newest members, SPC Brookins. All in all, DISTRO

stands healthy, and ready to move.

For Maintenance, June has been a barrage of inventories and lengthy checklists of repairs. Luckily LT Rainey's platoon has held strong and continues to work at exchanging parts and patching equipment that was battered and bruised from last month's long hauls.

During their down time, maintenance found victory on the flag football field, the volleyball court, and thanks to the ferocious skills of 1SG Wheeler and SSG Spracklin, they also won the horseshoe toss during the company Org Day challenge. This month, this platoon proved to be a serious workhorse, as not only did they



CPT Islam takes command



Walking to pass the guidon



CPT Nold passing the guidon

repair equipment, but they also hauled it along with DISTRO on the challenging road to an outlying FOB. Their accomplishments this month ensured FSC could continue to provide its best, so, hats off to the mechanics!

And last, but most definitely not least, the Field Feeding Platoon once again proved that it knows a thing or two about bringing this company together. The FSC owes thanks to SFC Gilbert and his expert cooks for their planning and execution of a flawless Company Org Day barbeque. The break in stride allowed for much needed rest and relaxation, as well as time for refreshing and training. During the month Field Feeding spearheaded the planning and execution of several days of company SHARP training and even a company movie event. This month also marked an important point in Field Feeding's operations on FOB Sharana. Slowly but surely, civilian contracts have been meeting their deadlines, and the platoon has begun to gear up to feed Sharana as a whole. But fear not, for June and all its summer nostalgia has allowed the Field Feeding Platoon to remind us that fun and good times are a crucial FSC indulgence.

Thanks again everyone for your support, and we look forward to hearing from you soon. With our eyes and minds already adjusting to next month...until then, we wish you the best. GO PROVIDERS!



SPC Brookins reenlists

557th Engineer Company Animals!!

As we cross the projected halfway mark of the deployment, I'm happy to report that your Animals continue to perform well, make good progress on both construction and deconstruction projects, and keep each other safe. This has been a month of several key personnel changes, and all parties have worked to ensure smooth transitions.

1st Platoon recently completed the construction of a combined motorpool and construction materials storage yard. In a project with several changes while construction was ongoing, the Soldiers stayed disciplined under the guidance of the NCOs, to include two new section sergeants, and took the opportunity to get extra experience with the construction equipment. The platoon has since moved back to Sharana to prepare equipment for the next mission. They are currently readying themselves for a deconstruction project as well as training on basic Soldier skills, showcasing the flexibility that all Animal Soldiers demonstrate on a daily basis.



1st Platoon's Range Day

2nd Platoon continues forward progress on the CMRE top priority mission at the retrosort yard. They welcomed a new platoon leader, 1LT Sally Gorham, who will undoubtedly continue to provide the high quality leadership that 2nd Platoon is accustomed to. 2nd Platoon recently completed a significant portion of the retrosort yard



2nd Platoon project OICs show their progress on Retrosort Yard to Major General Stein

and handed it over to the customer for use. The customer is very pleased with the results of the platoon's hard work and attention to detail.

3rd Platoon continues to take down their FOB at a very quick rate. In their precious spare time, they've been training Soldiers and NCOs on technical and doctrinal topics, as evidenced by their recent success in boards. SGT Harrison was selected as the 864th Engineer Battalion NCO of the Quarter, and SPC Valderrama continued his impressive run of accomplishments by



3rd Platoon safely removes a wooden structure.

being selected as ARCENT (Army Central) Soldier of the Year. His next step is to compete for U.S. Army Soldier of the Year—please join me in wishing him and his sponsor, SGT Weaver, the absolute best of luck as they represent the company at Fort Bragg, North Carolina for this competition.

Maintenance has also had several standout performers of late. SPC William Brown recently took over responsibility for the company's maintenance operations, a responsibility he has seized and excelled at. He and his team's ability to coordinate with multiple civilian maintenance agencies on the vast base, as well as turn wrenches themselves, has ensured that the company's equipment has been maintained to the highest standard. In addition, SPC Brown was recently selected as the Battalion Hero of the Battle, a recognition by the Battalion Commander and Command Sergeant Major of a Soldier who has had significant positive impacts to our mission. The maintenance teams' contributions are indeed essential to the line platoons' ability to operate.

The company headquarters welcomes 1LT Tara Middlebrooks, formerly of 2nd Platoon, to the Executive Officer position. I thank the outgoing XO, 1LT Dylan Benfield, for his hard work and outstanding performance in keeping the company running smoothly for the past nine months. We wish him the very best in his next assignment.

In the past month, we've had two new additions to the Animal family. Congratulations to SSG Beach (3rd Platoon) and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Alice, born June 14th, and to SGT Willis (also 3rd Platoon) and his wife on the birth of their daughter, Alyanah, born June 17th!

Having passed the halfway point, we're now on the downward slope of this deployment. Your support is more important than ever. Everyone misses home and family, but rest assured that your Soldiers can be proud of the progress they are making in support of the retrograde effort. Animals lead the way!

CPT Richard A. Mahn, P.E., PMP
Commander, 557th Engineer Company

585th Engineer Company Roughnecks!!

Hello Roughneck Family and Friends,

The Roughnecks are extremely excited to be officially beyond the halfway mark of the deployment. We are tremendously pleased and thankful for how well the first half of this deployment has gone and hope for the next four months to go as smoothly and quickly.

This past month, we have continued to make significant progress on the retrograde of FOB Sharana, our primary mission. In addition, several teams of Soldiers have gone to other locations to aid in vertical construction specific missions, to include assisting with electrical projects and building guard towers to support bases that are downsizing across Regional Command- East. We also had Soldiers construct tents near a main airfield to support materials and equipment retrograding from Afghanistan back to the United States. Our Soldiers continue to make all of us proud as they work hard to support the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element mission.

The Roughneck Soldiers had the opportunity to get a well deserved break this month. Each platoon had a resiliency stand down day, during which they received training in the morning and got the rest of the day off from work to participate in team building exercises such as volleyball, video game tournaments, and card games. All of the Soldiers appreciated the break from the somewhat normal repetitive work day.

On the home front, we are very pleased to welcome Alaina Mae Munoz to the Roughneck family. Congratulations and we wish your family the best during this exciting time!

We would like to sincerely thank all of you for your continuous support during this deployment. We know it is difficult to be away from your loved ones for so long, and we appreciate everything you do back home for us.

Sincerely,

CPT Brandon J. Mackey

Roughneck 6



CPT Mackey reenlists SGT Spray



SGT Cleveland is promoted to SSG Cleveland



SPC Arocho is promoted to SGT Arocho



A few of the many Soldiers from 585 who were awarded for building a memorial deck

617th Engineer Company Trailblazers!!

Greetings Trailblazer Families!

We just reached the halfway point of the deployment and hope the second half goes by just as fast and safely as the first half. All the line platoons have successfully completed their deconstruction projects they have been working on for the past three months, and are now getting ready to start a new mission. We are currently in the process of moving to a new base. If you have not received our new mailing address please contact your Platoon POC or our Company FRG Leader. The move is an extensive process and the Soldiers are adjusting well to the change. First Platoon has already completed the move and has started deconstruction. By the time you read this newsletter, Second and Third Platoon will also be done with the move and working on deconstruction projects. Maintenance has slowly begun moving and has been a vital asset to the Company with maintaining our equipment and transporting critical repair parts. In the process of the move we have had several training events. One highlight has been the ability to send our Soldiers to combatatives class. Additionally, we have sent Soldiers to Combat Life Saving (CLS) class and sent SPC Hendrickson to a maintenance recovery course. We also bid farewell to 1LT Tom Kutnink this month who returned back JBLM to serve as the Rear Detachment Battalion Executive Officer. He did a phenomenal job during the deployment and will excel in his next job. We also welcome a new Trailblazer, 1LT Tjolanda Sullivan, who is the new Company Executive Officer.

We had many Soldiers promoted this past month. SPC Finnerty was promoted to the rank of Sergeant. PFC Pina and PFC Lerman were both promoted to the rank of specialists. The following Soldiers were promoted to the rank of Private First Class: PFC Boerhmer, PFC Bryant, PFC Burchfield, PFC Burgeson, PFC Crider, PFC Dill, PFC Hernandez, PFC Jones, PFC Kennedy, PFC McFarling, PFC Miller, PFC Ramirez, PFC Helm, PFC McCray, PFC Lacosse, and PFC Williams. SGT Finnerty, SGT Mack, SGT Gable, SGT Kean, SGT King, and SGT Williams participated in the Non Commissioned

Officer induction ceremony. SPC Karlberg was a highlight in the ceremony with her outstanding ability to sing the national anthem. Also, SPC Vavra re-enlisted this month and SGT Hoke received an Army Achievement Medal from the Battalion Commander for completing the Advance Leaders Course Common Core within 30 days and maintained a 92% GPA. Overall the Company is doing great. We appreciate all the support from the families and friends of 617th EN CO. We have had multiple BBQs and pancake breakfasts, and a lot of it has been possible due to the care packages you sent us. More importantly, we appreciate all the positive support you give the Soldiers and taking care of the daily challenges of maintaining a family and household while your Soldier is deployed. Continue to stay strong on the home front and never hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

CPT Karoline Hood Trailblazer 6



1st Platoon at the jobsite

After completing their first major deconstruction mission, 1st PLT was sent out ahead of the Company as an advanced party. 1st Platoon was in charge of making contact with the receiving unit, establish a new command post, preparing the equipment, and beginning the initial phases of the mission. Thank you very much to all the Trailblazer friends and family who have supported us so far, your encouragement has gone a long way.



2nd Platoon

Over the last month the Gravediggers have been preparing to move between FOBs. As the platoon closed out deconstruction on FOB Sharana, we immediately began preparing for movement. We have been packing up all of our tools and shipping our equipment to our new base.



3rd Platoon getting ready to work

The third platoon Outcasts have finished their FOB deconstruction project and have spent the majority of the month preparing for movement to a new FOB to begin a new deconstruction project. It was a great sense of accomplishment to finish a multiple month long mission, and it was great to also spend a couple weeks recovering from the mission and preparing for the next movement. The platoon truck crews showed great initiative in identifying and fixing issues before the next movement.

The past month, the Soldiers of the Maintenance Platoon have had the arduous task of keeping the fleet running. The platoon once again supported the company for all four of their movements. We sent over 15 kicker boxes of stock, over 20 tires, and loaded up four storage units to move. This was all in addition to the usual job of supporting the company in multiple locations with maintenance support. At our new FOB, we built a motor pool from scratch by cleaning up the area, making new contacts for support, and setting up a completely new logistical supply chain in order to keep the fleet running.

The past month, Headquarters Platoon's main focus was organizing the logistical move to a new FOB. Officially, the company headquarters made its move in the middle of the month. Each shop within the headquarters performed admirably to make this enormous task go as smoothly as possible.

84th Survey and Design Detachment Trojans!!

This month, the 84th Engineer Detachment continued to conduct operations throughout Afghanistan in support of CMRE's retrograde mission. The Detachment completed a wide range of missions which include reconnaissance surveys, closure surveys, construction support, guard tower design, and ECP design.

In RC-East, Staff Sergeant London led a team of Airmen (SRA Montoya, A1C Ross) to conduct initial assessments of several Combat Outposts in order to begin the base closure process. While the Airmen were conducting initial base assessments, Sergeant Sanchez's team (SPC Lampman, PFC Rivera) performed a final closure survey of a recently transferred FOB. With each closure, CMRE is one step closer to the goal of responsible retrograde of Coalition Forces from Afghanistan. In the Battalion's first mission in RC-North, Staff Sergeant Ingoglia and Sergeant Sanchez led a team (SRA Ruiz, A1C Hatfield) to survey an outlying FOB. With the data from this survey, the Pacemaker Battalion can begin deconstruction in support of base transfer/closure for the first time outside of RC-East.

At one very large FOB, Sergeant Mangiapane and Private First Class Francis continue to provide construction survey support for the Retro-sort Yard. Once complete, the facility will be able to efficiently process hundreds of millions of dollars worth of equipment back to the

United States. Also, Sergeant Swanson and Specialist Myrum led their soldiers, Specialist Lampman and PFC Lao, during several survey missions on the FOB to include the future home of 864th EN BN's headquarters and motor pool area.

This month, Private First Class Burnside completed Army Level One Combatives Course. He and PFC Rivera also graduated from Combat Lifesaver Course which provided them with extensive training on how to react to medical emergencies. As the Battalion Equal Opportunity and SHARP Representative, Staff Sergeant Sogge set the pace by ensuring the 864th EN BN was 100% trained on 3rd quarter training requirements. Finally, on the 1st of July, Sergeant Swanson was promoted to Staff Sergeant. We'd like to con-

gratulate him and also thank his wife, Claire, for all her support throughout his years of service and especially during this deployment.

TROJAN 6



Some days can be long, and other times fun...especially when they can fly in Blackhawks.



1LT Wittman returns for a site visit with CPT Larson.



Working hard, every day.

1220th Engineer Company Muskogeese!!

It has been just over a month's time since we've started missions and there have been several assigned to the 1220th. These missions have ranged from building demolition, to HESCO removal, to the construction of an Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) demo pit, among other things. Missions have primarily been on Sharana, except for one retrograde operation located at an outlying Combat Outpost (COP). Right from the start, the 1220th has made an extraordinary impact on the retrograde operations on FOB Sharana; which has been noticed by several outside of our Company. I have been so proud of the efforts of all our 1220th Soldiers during this time frame. They have been motivated to work long and hard with quality of work and safety in mind. Through their steadfastness and perseverance, the soldiers of the 1220th are changing the landscape, day by day. It is amazing to see what this collection of extraordinary individuals can do when set to purpose. I have learned that the one thing that I can most expect from these fine Soldiers is that they will continue to exceed my expectations. These Soldiers' accomplishments are a testament to their Oklahoma borne fortitude, resiliency and "git r done" attitude. They are representing their communities, the great State of Oklahoma, and the United States of America with honor and dignity, while embodying the 1220th's motto of "Clear the Way"!

CPT Joshua D Lawson,
Commander, 1220th Engineer Company

The past month has been full of tragedies on the home front. The tornado's that destroyed communities in Oklahoma left us with a heavy heart for our brothers and sisters back home. Although none of our Soldiers were directly impacted, we continue to send our thoughts and prayers to those that lost so much to this tragedy. The company is working toward completing their second month of its deployment. We have continued to impress everyone with not only the quality of work, but also our efficiency. The Soldiers working on the equipment, whether operating or maintaining, deserve all recognition for these accolades. The unit held its patch ceremony on the 28th of May. This ceremony formally recognized all Soldiers that deployed with the 1220th Eng Co as eligible to wear the Thunderbird as their Shoulder Sleeve Insignia, or Combat Patch. Pictures of the event can be seen on the 1220th Facebook page. The Soldiers assigned to this unit are an exceptional group. Like with any family, there will be some bickering. However, they are still family and their bond will only strengthen with time. Everyone knows to look out for each other. Still, I would like to ask the families again for information on any issues that they might recognize as detrimental to the mental health of their Soldier. Due to the time change, email is still the best option to contact me. My email is david.b.curtis@afghan.swa.army.mil or david.b.curtis.mil@mail.mil.



Thanks for all you do!, "Clear The Way!"
1SG David B. Curtis

The Bone Crushers of 2nd Platoon have had a busy first month at FOB Sharana, Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Eleven years of war has taken its toll on the heavy equipment that is essential to accomplishing the missions that the 1220th will undertake as a part of CENTCOM Material Recovery Element (CMRE) while being attached to the 864th En Bn "Pacemakers" out of Ft. Lewis, Washington.

The Bone Crushers have spent much of this early part of the deployment performing maintenance and repair in an effort to get this equipment in working order. In addition to these maintenance efforts, the Bone Crushers have had a few small missions on the FOB to include helping 1st and 3rd Platoons on some of the work they have been doing and supporting a few other companies in the Battalion, but the primary focus for that last couple of weeks has been on preparing for a 24 man mission to an outlying outpost. While the details of this mission have been very fluid and may even change again, the Bone Crushers will complete this mission in superb fashion and once again show everyone how they "set the pace" as the best platoon in the 1220th En Co.

2LT Black Stice, 2nd PL SFC Randy Cox, 2nd PSG



Another month is starting here on FOB Sharana, and 3rd platoon is ready for whatever the next project or mission may be. As always, no matter who is setting the pace the Honey Badger platoon will clear the way and accomplish their mission! A few days passed and the first project for 3rd platoon was set in motion. The project was to construct a new pit for EOD to perform controlled detonations within. The

Honey Badger platoon jumped in and began excavation work on the pit. The excavation was done quickly and they set to work on moving in T-walls and Hesco barriers to finish the project a few days ahead of schedule. Working with EOD to test the pit once it was finished was a good way to spend a Saturday morning and the entire platoon was ecstatic to see the explosions and the aftermath of a controlled detonation up close. The EOD techs were more than happy to share the fun with some members of 3rd platoon and allowed them to detonate the charges on one occasion. When 3rd platoon is not out working on a project or having a fun time with EOD blowing things up, they still find ways to occupy

their time around FOB Sharana. The tent area is no exception for a place for fun times, where many members of 3rd platoon work on improving their musical abilities. Guitar jam sessions are very popular among soldiers such as SGT Farr, SPC Thompson, SPC Burns, SPC Moore and SPC Barnes. At the end of the second month at FOB Sharana, 3rd platoon is settling in and becoming comfortable with their equipment, their team, and knocking out every mission handed to them.

1LT Eric Hall, 3rd PL SFC Bryant Demery, 3rd PSG



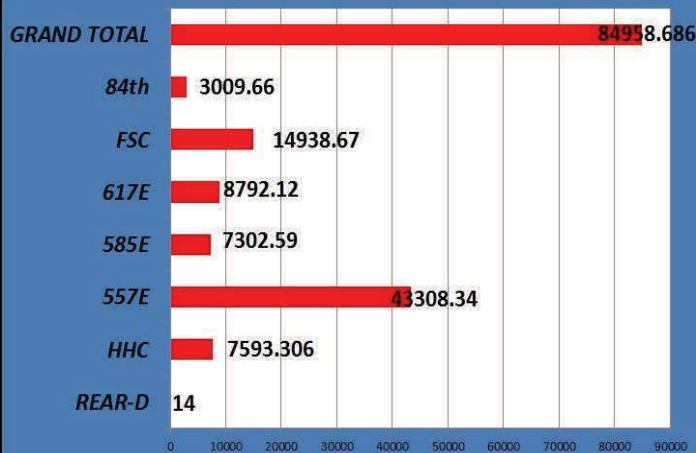


Tips for Spouses and Families coping while a Soldier is Deployed:

- Include breaks in daily routines
- The parent at home needs to have a regular "Mommy's/Daddy's day out"
- Encourage all Family members to share feelings, reassure your partner of your love and commitment, and try to see the deployment as a challenging opportunity for growth.
- Communication is important between the Soldier and Family member. It is important to keep in touch; however, try to end phone conversations and letters on a positive note.
- Give children a method of measuring the passage of time.
- Make sure your spouse's parents are kept informed. The Soldier's parents share your concerns about the health and welfare of their deployed son or daughter.
- Keep children involved with outside activities and maintain constant communication with schools.

For more information access:

<https://www.militaryonesource.com>



The statistics are in! Walk to Afghanistan Update:

84th: 3009.66 miles
 FSC: 14938.67 miles
 617: 8792.12 miles
 585: 7302.59 miles
 557: 43408.34 miles
 HHC: 7593.306 miles
 Rear D: 14 miles
 Grand Total: 84958.686 miles

Have a Question Regarding Your Soldier's Company's FRG?

Family Readiness Support Assistant (FRSA)

Karyn Hubbell KARYN.HUBBELL@us.army.mil or 253-966-7019

864th ENGINEER BATTALION FRG LEADERSHIP

Senior Advisor: Amy Henderson AMYJOHENDERSON@gmail.com

HHC: Robert Kearney HHC864FRG@hotmail.com

FSC: Sandra Robinson FRGFSC864@gmail.com

557: Christy Mahn 557encofrg@gmail.com

585: Stacey Mackey FRGLEADER585@aol.com

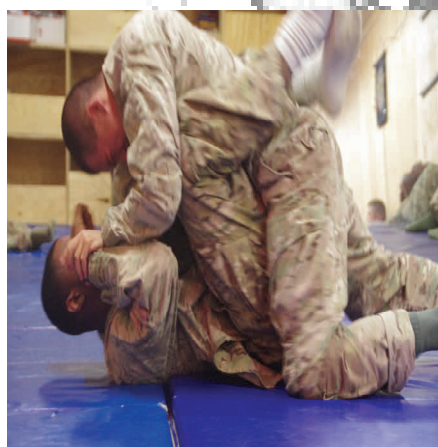
617: Holly Steen FRGLEADER617@yahoo.com

COMBATIVES

The Pacemakers are excited to announce that Combatives Level I classes have continued with ever growing enthusiasm throughout the battalion. The class takes place every few weeks, and is instructed by SGT West and SGT Mestre, 585th Engineer Company. Students learn how to ground fight, basic defensive boxing techniques, and how to close in on the enemy and secure the clinch. The class is a week long. At the end of the week, if a student passes each test and a written test, they will officially be certified in Level I Combatives. Congratulations to the following students who are now certified in Level I Combatives: PFC Avila (585), PFC Barthelemy (FSC), PFC Boatwright (585), PFC Burnside (84), SSG (P) Haas (Medics), PFC Helm (617), PFC Hinojosavega (FSC), PFC Jones (FSC), SPC Karlberg (617), 1LT Lewis (HHC), PFC Mazzeo (Medics), SPC Meece (557), SPC Miller (HHC), PFC Munoz (585), SPC Poli (585), SGT Reilley (617), PFC Revisky (557), SGT Rexroat (1220), SPC Whitson (1220), PFC Veihdeffer (HHC).



Graduates of the Combatives Level I class.





PACEMAKERS NEW PARENT SUPPORT GROUP



Who: All new or expectant parents

What: Education and support program for new parents

When: July 16th 2013
12 – 1:30 p.m.

Where: Clocktower Park in DuPont WA

Why: This is an effort to support our new and expectant mothers while their spouse is deployed.

This month we will be a social event. There are no planned speakers, just an opportunity to socialize, relax and catch up. This event will be a potluck, so please bring a yummy snack or food item to share with the group.

Directions:

- Take Exit 118 off Interstate 5 and head West
- Turn right on Wilmington Drive.
- Turn left on Palisade Drive.
- The park will be on your left past the Post Office.

If you would like more information, please contact your FRG Leader, or contact the 864th Engineer Battalion Family Readiness Support Assistant at 253.966.7019



Pacemaker Volunteer of the Month Corner

The Pacemakers would like to thank Lynn Mueller, pictured in the left photo, for making blankets for the Baby Bundles given out at the Pacemaker Pregnancy Support Groups.

Also pictured are the handmade, Baby Bundle hats on the left.

Thank you to all the volunteers who not only make items to be put into the baby bundles, but to those who put together the bundles to be handled out to all the wonderful new mothers.

Thank you everyone!



COL HEUSSNER'S VISIT TO THE 864TH ENGINEER BATTALION



NCO INDUCTION CEREMONY

Congratulations to the following NCOs for being inducted into the NCO Corps during the 864th Engineer Battalion NCO Induction Ceremony on FOB Sharana: SGT Frazier, (HHC), SGT Hayden (HHC), SGT Garcia (FSC), SGT Huston (FSC), SGT Martinez (FSC), SGT Bland (557), SGT Harrison (557), SGT Giddens (557), SGT St. Laurence (557), SGT Deathrage (557), SGT Lee (557), SGT Yarnot (557), SGT Kang (557), SGT Alita (585), SGT Leura-Segura (585), SGT Baker (585), SGT Camunas (585), SGT Mack (617), SGT Gable (617), SGT Williams (617), SGT Kean (617), SGT Finnerty (617), SGT King (617), and SGT Kearney (84).

