



Combined Task Force Chesapeake

AUGUST 2013

From Community Policing to Counterinsurgency

By SPC Kenith Walker



(Back Row LT to RT) SFC Toomey (Dagsboro, DE Police Chief), CPT Renehan (Montgomery County Police Department), SFC Metzger (Maryland State Police), SGT Rantz (Wicomico County Sheriff's Office), SGM Bragg (Berlin Police Department) (Front Row LT to RT) SFC Land (DoD Police), SSG Dancho (Maryland State Police), SFC Crockett (Salisbury Police Department), and SGT Middleton (Maryland State Police).

Within the last 12 years, National Guard Soldiers have brought a number of diverse skills and experiences to the combat theater of operations, and the Soldiers of HHD, 115th MP BN are no exception. Among other things, CTFC's mission has been to advise and partner with the Afghan Uniformed Police Officers operating within Kandahar City, and a critical component to our success has been the contributions of our civilian police officers. They work in a variety of different capacities to include; the protective services detail (PSD), operations, communications, and the unit first sergeant. Their contributions are unique not only because of their work with the Afghan Police, but because of their relationship outside of the military.

These Soldiers represent what's good about our community (values, safety, professionalism), and they regularly work together during the course of protecting our property and citizens. Their admiration for one another is evident during the perpetual onslaught of cop jokes that have become a big source of enjoyment for all of us. There is no question these Soldiers have contributed to the positive climate within HHD.

Before our deployment to Kandahar City, our unit was faced with many challenges; however, our law enforcement experience made the difference in bridging information gaps for many of our Soldiers. Moreover, the junior members (or Rookies) of our police community merged their civilian and military skills and excelled in leadership positions on the PSD. A key component to their collective success has been their ability to learn from one another despite age, rank, or position and they continuously assessed the operating environment and lessons learned for the benefit of the team.

Like many of our Soldiers, our civilian police officers have been through many life changing events during our deployment to include the birth of a child. Many have experienced a wide range of emotions, and remain humbled and grateful to serve their country. Our police officers value the lives and welfare of the citizens whom they protect and have heart for public service both at home and abroad. These dynamic Soldiers represent the essence of Maryland's Finest, and their contributions to Kandahar City and our community should never be taken for granted.



CHESAPEAKE 6

LTC ANDREW W. COLLINS, 115th MP BN
BATTALION COMMANDER



Soldiers, Families, and Friends,

Congratulations to the 320th and 603rd MP Companies for a job well done. Mission Complete! I am truly proud of your accomplishments and cannot speak highly enough about your professionalism and dedicated efforts to nothing short of excellence in the security of Kandahar City. Safe travels home and God Speed! Additionally, I want to personally congratulate SGM Brenton Heald of the Dark Knights for his promotion. As a new SGM, he represents the top 1% of enlisted ranks in our Armed Forces.



As one wave leaves, another ushers in a new unit, so welcome C Battery 2-3 Field Artillery! Welcome to the team and we look forward to continuing our mission with you, as your reputation as a successful and aggressive unit precedes you.

I am extremely proud of the hard work from every company, Security Force Assistance Team, and our Bosnian partners. I will share with our Families and friends that as this last chapter begins, your Soldiers are putting in more effort than ever before. Not only are our leaders and Soldiers focused on their primary mission of security, they have increased their operational tempo by "re-bluing" individual tasks to thwart complacency, and are working harder to set conditions to transition our mission to the incoming unit from 2nd Cavalry Regiment.

As many Families may have questions on the fast-approaching homecoming, I would like to highlight a few points to assist in the transition. The first is mail - to ensure your Soldier receives the last letter or package, I recommend you do not send anything past 10 August. The next item is demobilization at Ft Bliss - I know the anticipation of seeing your Soldier is immense, but the purpose of demobilization is just that - demob. Demobilization is part of the deployment, so I ask you to please save your money for when your Soldier returns to the state as they will be consumed with redeployment tasks at Ft Bliss and no individual passes will be granted. The last item is homecoming for HHD - further details regarding the homecoming will be released at the FRG meeting at the Salisbury Armory on 17 August. Topics will include what to expect and what we have planned for the reunion of Soldiers and Families. Thank you in advance for your patience and support.

As always, Combined Task Force Chesapeake Soldiers continue to stay focused and relentless in their efforts to complete the mission and come home safely. Strength and Respect!

Maryland's Finest! Chesapeake 6 Out!



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CSM KIMBERLY MENDEZ, 115th MP BN
BATTALION COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



CPT Romic and MAJ Taylor interact with some local children during the deconstruction of ACS-4

This month we say good-bye to the 320th Military Police Company. It has been a pleasure to serve with these fine individuals. They have done everything from providing training and mentorship to the Afghan Uniformed Police to the first complete deconstruction of tactical infrastructure in Regional Command-South. The Soldiers and NCOs of the 320th Military Police Company have played a huge part in the success of CTF Chesapeake. The impact of their hard work will have long lasting effects in Kandahar City. They can leave proud knowing they have made a differ-

ence in the lives of Afghans. I want to thank each and every one of them for their service and contributions to this Task Force. Safe travels and enjoy your well deserved time with your families.

Heroes of the Week

SGT Wassman 139th MP Co.

For superior performance during PSD duties for six Department of State officials.

SGT Abbs 139th MP Co.

For superior performance of a team leader providing security force for SFATs throughout the Brigade AO.

SPC Yazzie 139th MP Co.

For superior performance as a medic while providing treatment to local nationals injured in a vehicle accident

CPL Fischer 139th MP Co.

For superior performance while helping the Lithuanians stand up their Task Force



Capitol 6

CPT MATTHEW R. STUHR, HHD115th MP BN
COMPANY COMMANDER



CPT Tillman and CPT Booth playing cornhole at the CTFC Independence Day BBQ.

Family, Friends, and Soldiers:

I hope this message finds all of you well as the days of summer continue to fall from the calendar. As we enter the month of August, our Soldiers will be hard at work and focused on our transition from theater to home station. To give everyone a sense for the chronology of events from now until block leave, I'll provide a few critical benchmarks for everyone to plan against;

(1) Our final redeployment teleconference with Fort Bliss will be conducted on 08AUG, where key leaders will discuss the status of everything from personnel files, equipment, and travel arrangements. *****Once the unit arrives at Fort Bliss, our travel arrangements back home will be finalized, and our arrival**

date will be disseminated through the Battalion Commander and Family Readiness Group (FRG)***

- (2) In the middle of August, most of the unit's remaining equipment will be shipped back to Fort Bliss to minimize our load when we fly from Kandahar Airfield to Manas. Please note: some of your Soldiers have accumulated personal items that will need to be shipped back home before we depart, so thank you in advance for your support and flexibility. Each Soldier is only authorized to carry 1x duffle bag, 1x ruck sack, and 1x carry on bag.
- (3) Towards the end of the month, our transition with the 2nd Cavalry Regiment will begin. Transition is a busy time for many of us as we'll be engaged with members of the new unit exchanging best practices and providing an overview of what we've accomplished the past 8 months. This is one of the most critical tasks the unit will accomplish during our time here, and will set the conditions for the inbound unit to build on our success. Simultaneously, we will be saying farewell to our partners from Bosnia and Herzegovina, who will be flying back home to their loved ones for some much deserved time off.
- (4) Upon completion of our transition, the unit will move from FOB Walton to Kandahar Airfield, and prepare to fly to Manas. Once the unit lands in Manas, our stay will last approximately 24-48 hours, then onto Fort Bliss for demobilization.
- (5) Demobilization at Fort Bliss will last anywhere from 10-14 days.



SGT Dowtin at the CTFC Independence Day BBQ.

Not much longer now. If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out to the chain of command.

CPT Stuhr



Capitol 7

SFC PATRICK METZGER, HHD115th MP BN
DETACHMENT FIRST SERGEANT



SFC Metzger and SPC Fletcher hook up a vehicle during a recovery operation outside the wire.

Soldiers and Family Members of the 115th:

Time is flying by. July is almost over and we are another month closer to coming home. Work is starting to pick-up and the Soldiers are performing at an amazing level. There are numerous tasks which we have to accomplish before we depart Afghanistan and there is no doubt we will accomplish everything in a timely fashion. I ask that you help me remind your Soldier to stay focused on the mission until everyone returns home.

Last month I welcomed my daughter Sydney to the world on June

17th. On July 1st we welcomed another new member to our Family. CPT Jason Booth and his wife Danielle welcomed their son Joey to the world. I can truly say I know how CPT Booth is feeling. Becoming a father has been one of the best feelings in the world. I'm sure just like me, he cannot wait to step of the bus and hold his son for the first time. On another note about CPT Booth, it was a big couple days for him. On July 3rd he was promoted to his current rank of Captain. Congratulations!

To all the family, friends and loved ones please continue to support your deployed Soldier. I know that this is a hard experience for everyone, but the end is near and your Soldier will be home soon. If there is anything I can do to assist anyone please don't hesitate to ask.



Newly promoted CPT Booth and LTC Collins at his promotion ceremony.

Until next month,
SFC Patrick Metzger
Capitol 7



603rd MP Company 'Dark Knights'

End of an Era



In accord with the time honored, and much anticipated, ritual of RIP/TOA the Dark Knights of the 603rd MP Company are getting ready to go home.

The mission has varied, beginning with Police Mentorship Training in District 1, then expanding to incorporate District 2. PMT ended in May and the Company took on responsibility of Battle Space Owners. It has been our privilege to work with leaders at the sub-district and garrison level of the Afghan Uniformed Police, our sister companies, and the 115th MP Battalion.

In the coming month our duty in Afghanistan will end, and a final chapter of COP Shurandam will be written as the lights turn out and all Soldiers leave it for the last time. A piece of our hearts will ever remain in Kandahar.





139th MP Company 'Warlords'



Hello from Afghanistan!

This unit has been away from home and deployed for the past 6 months. Ramadan has started and will be a key indicator of the company's success in Kandahar City. Ramadan is a month long period of fasting during the ninth month of the Islamic year, which is one of the five pillars of Islam. During this

period, Muslims do not eat food, drink, use tobacco, or engage in intimate relations each day from dawn to sunset. Activity during day-light hours decreases and activity at night increases. This time period has historically marks a period that insurgents attempt to take advantage of, conducting complex attacks and targeting Afghan Security Forces. Your Soldiers have made a significant difference, positively influencing a secure environment in Kandahar City with a population of over 1 million people.

As days continue to drop from the calendar, it's only natural for our minds to shift to homecoming and getting a sense for the timeline. I can assure you that planning and execution for our movement is well underway, and I remain confident that it will be a smooth transition not only for our Soldiers, but loved ones as well. One critical aspect of managing the redeployment process is carefully managing information and limiting speculation. It's a safe assumption that we're all eager to circle a date on the calendar; however, until it's officially released through the chain of command, please do not rely on information obtained through unofficial channels.

Thank you to our Family Readiness Group for their enthusiastic support to the Company; reaching out to spouses, children, parents, and loved ones across the country. Your support and encouragement from home gives strength to our Soldiers, even from half a world away. Packages, letters, and emails make a difference in the lives of our Soldiers.

Thanks to all for your support! Your encouragement makes a difference to our Soldiers everyday!

CPT Eric Ortiz
Commander
Warlord 6

COMMANDER'S UPDATE





153rd MP Company 'Griffin'



From Right to Left: SPC Schavelin, SGT Temple, and SPC Green pickup pieces of a tent frame to load onto an LMTV.

The 153rd MP CO is now into its 6th month out here beneath the shadow of the tallest structure in all of RC South – the Russian Silo. Key Leader Engagements and advising the Afghan Police has let up a bit due to the holy Muslim month of Ramadan, but the unit continues to stay busy by having changed our focus to retrograde and right-sizing of the base for the unit that will be taking our place. They will be ultimately responsible for closing the base and

we want to set them up for success! To accomplish this, the 153rd Soldiers have been hard at work taking down tents and getting rid of all excess equipment and materiel we can find.

All Soldiers at the Silo are working hard as the base shrinks its footprint. The contractors that used to live on post with us left last month and the support sections have really stepped up, putting in extra hours to pick up the slack – everything from generator maintenance to filling hand washing stations to washing the towels in the gym.



SSG Hufford, our chief Medic, busy refilling a hand washing station to ensure Soldiers keep good hygiene in order to stay healthy.



SPC Suber making friends while out on mission.

Although it is Ramadan and we are focusing more on base operations now, we are still making sure to run presence patrol missions and the always important SEEK missions, in order to enroll Afghans into the biometric database.

As always, the 153rd would also like to thank everyone at home, both friends and families, for their support – we couldn't do it without you and look forward to seeing everyone soon! One team, one mission!

Chaplain's Corner



Combined Task Force Chesapeake Religious Support Team has continued to remain focused in our efforts to provide Religious worship opportunities, pastoral care, personal counseling, advice, confidentiality, and sacred confidence. The health and morale of all Soldiers assigned to the 115th Military Police Battalion has remained good, and presently everyone is excited about coming home to our families and love ones.

CTF Chesapeake RST has worked with over 50 Soldiers who will be seeking employment after returning from deployment. The RST was able to share a slide presentation on Veterans Preference in Hiring, and provided information on interviewing techniques, resume writing, and skills employers are currently seeking in job applicants. It has been rewarding to have had an opportunity to share this information. If you will be seeking employment, start preparing by updating your resumes.

The RST would like to take this opportunity to thank our Family Readiness Group, and all organizations that supported our troops by sending letters, care packages, and we have seen first-hand the difference it makes to a soldier so far from home, friends, and family.

The battalion worship service is every Sunday @ 1030. The RST team will continue to keep each soldier and family member lifted up in prayer. If you have any concerns or new ideas to share please present your request to SGT Cooper (Chaplain Assistant) or Chaplain (CPT) Baron Hopkins.

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A group of enlisted Soldiers prepare to square off in a game of dodge ball against the officers during the CTFC BBQ.