

Dynamite Register

Sappers clear the way!



TF Dynamite Issue 6

October 2013 Edition



**370th's Farewell
PG 4**

**JAG - Charitable
Giving PG 8**

**Qualified to Earn
Extra Leave
Days??PG 14**



Dynamite 6 Sends

TF Dynamite bids a fond farewell to JTF 555.



They were a terrific and sup-

portive higher headquarters and we appreciate all of their support. We welcome and look forward to finishing out our deployment under 130th EN BDE, JTF Sapper. We also wish the 370 EN CO the very best as they return to Germany in time for Oktoberfest!

Fall is upon us and TF Dynamite Soldiers con-

tinue to excel. 84 ESC and FSC both conducted their last combat mission in September and are in full turn in mode. Congratulations and great job! I would like to remind everyone, especially leaders, to continue to operate safely. Even though we are off the Afghan roads, there are plenty of hazards on KAF that can injure us, so please continue to stress safe practices in everything we do.

To our National Guard Soldiers, please reach out for assistance through your chain of command if you need assistance in finding employ-

ment upon DEMOB. Our TF JAG is heading up this effort. Please continue to look and take care of each other. A quick reminder with respect to sexual assault and harassment, no means no and alcohol is involved in a very high percentage of assaults, so drink in moderation. You are always accountable for your actions, sober or not.

Lastly, I appreciate your hard work and dedication to this point. Your accomplishments are absolutely amazing! Stay focused, finish strong, and don't go from Hero to Zero.

Clear the Way!
LTC Eduardo Granados



Task Force Dynamite



The emblem that has stood at our compounds entrance welcoming Engineer units for many years is no longer. On September 13, 2013 the Valhalla logo was removed from the entrance transported to FSC's Motor Pool for dismantling. The emblem will be transported to its final resting place in Augusta Georgia where it will be restored to its original design and placed at the 878's Engineer Battalion armory.

(Continued on pg 9)

Command Sergeant Majors Corner



As we look forward, we can see the light at the end of the tunnel and every day it's getting brighter. With that being said, we have to keep the foot on the gas pedal. All the units are now faced with the tough task of turning equipment in before we redeploy back to home station. I know our soldiers have a

lot of



work ahead of them but I have all the confidence in them as they will complete those tasks.

This month we lose another Company as they have completed their mission. CPT Carvelli and 1SG Ottman have done some awesome things while they were deployed. That command team took a lot of soldiers that were new to the Route Clearance mission and trained them into a well organized team that completed many Route

Clearance Patrols with no issues. JOB WELL DONE 84th and it has been honor serving with your Command Group and your entire Company. You have a lot to be proud of.

For our family members back home, the dates that we will be coming are going to change. When I say change, I only mean a few days to the left or right. I just ask you to be patient as we have no control over this. Our rear detachment is working hard and making sure we have an awesome welcome home celebration. The sol-

diers of Task Force Dynamite have done a lot of awesome things while deployed. It has been an honor to be a part of this Command team during this deployment.

If anyone wants to contact me, please feel free to email me @ jeff.logan@afghan.swa.army.mil

"Soldiers Matter"

CSM Logan

TF Dynamite 7



HHC Hosted a 5K run in early September. The turnout was a success as over 300 runners ran. After the race, HHC also hosted a breakfast for

CFC-Overseas Campaign kicks off

Even far from home, you can make a positive impact in the charities and causes that matter to you!

Consider giving through the Combined Federal Campaign-Overseas

Speak with your unit CFC rep, or visit www.cfcoverseas.org

The Representative for HHC is SSG Hughes and the representative for FSC is SGT Bland. SSG Hughes has a goal for HHC of \$2000 and we are half way there. Go to www.cfcoverseas.org and select donate to give. CFC-o Giving is the best method for Guard & Reserve to give. There is a "My Pay" option on the same page for Active Duty only. Watch for a "pie in the face" fundraiser mid-October.

370th's Farewell Barbeque





370th Awards Ceremony

HHC Happenings

S2 Ending Strong!



Section S2 had their "End of Tour" Breakfast meeting at what seems to be their favorite restaurant on Kaf, the All Seasons. I have covered a breakfast meeting of theirs in the past at the same location. There were three focuses in this meeting, the first being to Congratulate the section for

performing a good job during this deployment. The second, each section member was to present to the



group three sustains, three need improvements, and a six month plan of action. The third, the section presented CPT Herbolt, section OIC, with a Plaque of Appreciation. MSG Andrews states, "This was a

back to back de-

ployment for her as she was with 648th BDE last year and 878th this year." He also commented on the section throughout the deployment by

saying, "The section stayed

motivated and worked hard

throughout the deployment which helped make the deployment successful." He continued by saying, "Our

strength was our motivation and dedication to accomplishing the mission, Like any other section, we had our own internal issues, but we put any bickering or selfish thoughts to the side and put the team goal first."



- **Name & Rank:** SGT. Cook, Collin J
- **Hometown?** Knoxville, TN
- **Years of service?** 3 years and 7 months
- **Married?** No
- **Kids?** No
- **Immediate family that has served?** No
- **Why did you join?** I always had a deep respect and interest in the military
- **Deployment job?** 35F, All Source Intelligence Analyst
- **What are your thoughts on the deployment?** I'm glad to serve my country; it's been a great experience.
- **Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of?** Personal development
- **Deployment hobbies?** Lifting weights and watching movies
- **Favorite Movie?** The Dictator
- **What did you do growing up that got you into trouble? (Keep it PG)** Lying
- **Civilian career? (If not A.D.)** N/A
- **Vehicle you own and favorite vehicle you owned if not the same?** 2005 Dodge Ram 1500
- **Plans to do when back home?** College
- **Goals while deployed?** To achieve a score of 300 on my next PT test and to learn Italian.
- **One item on your bucket list?** Sky Diving
- **What is the one thing that should be taught in school that isn't already?** Self Defense

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT



833rd Engineers



Name & Rank: SGT Alexander Hoksbergen

Hometown: Pella, Iowa

Years of service: 8 Years of Service

Married: Yes

Kids: Yes one daughter

Immediate family that has served: My wife, brother, and both grandfathers

Why did you join: Always wanted to serve, especially after 9/11

Deployment job: Team Leader, Recovery Operator, EOCA, Truck Commander

What are your thoughts on the deployment: It has gone by fast

Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: Platoon cohesion

Deployment hobbies: Lifting weights/ going to the gym

Favorite Movie: Pitch Perfect

What did you do growing up that got you into trouble: Theft
(Stealing girls hearts)

Civilian career: DOD Civilian at local Army National Guard Base

Favorite vehicle: 1949 Chevrolet Pick-up Truck

Plans to do when back home: Spend time with my wife and daughter

Goals while deployed: Bench press 315 pounds

One item on your bucket list: Drive on Bonneville Salt Flats

One thing that should be taught in school that isn't: More military history

SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT



The 833 has begun to arrive and start the arduous task of inventories and customs inspections.



If you would like to see more photos and events, check out the

Batalion Facebook page at the link below, Like it and share it with friends and family!

<https://www.facebook.com/pages/878th-Task-Force-Dynamite/583242668371075>



FSC

PROMOTIONS



These Soldiers were promoted within FSC. Photos not Available.

- SGT Altman, Rudy
- SGT Brown, Chris
- SGT Gomolak, Noah
- SGT Blalock, Steven
- SGT Callaway, Jacob
- SSG Horne, Eric
- SGT Leggett, John

Beginning the moment we took over from the 120th Engineers in April of this year. The FSC, 878th has continued the tradition of maintaining the BN operations. The motor pool has not only maintained maintenance support for up to several down trace companies, but has also become the logistics center for providing much needed equipment and supplies distributed throughout RC South. The motor pool has become home for the FSC's Distribution and Maintenance Platoons as well as an overnight rest site for all down trace units sending equipment and personnel to KAF.

FSC has continued the tradition of maintaining motor pool operations that have been ongoing in its current location for over 10 years. After such a long period the time has finally come to prepare to return home. Starting in September, FSC personnel began the process of dismantling this historic site. It is scheduled to be completed in time for the 878th EN BN end of mission and subsequent return to home.

It is with somewhat with mixed feelings that we undertaken this task. Sadness in that it signifies our time together is coming to an end and the excitement

with thoughts of reuniting with family and loved ones. But mostly, a feeling of reverence for all those units before us that called it home. With a feeling of great respect for those that came before, we are honored to be the ones who bring closure to such a storied place.



SOLDIER SPOTLIGHT

- **Name & Rank:** SPC BURTON, MAQUISHA L
- **Hometown?** WADLEY, GA
- **Years of service?** 3 YEARS
- **Married?** NO **Kids?** NO
- **Immediate family that has served?** (prior or current) STEPFATHER(PRIOR)
- **Why did you join?** EDUCATION BENEFITS
- **Deployment job?** 92A DISPATCHER
- **What are your thoughts on the deployment?** THE DEPLOYMENT HAS BEEN A GREAT EXPERIENCE.
- **Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of?** THE DEPLOYMENT HAS TAUGHT ME TO ENTER A SITUATION WITH AN OPEN MIND.
- **Deployment hobbies?** WORKING OUT
- **Favorite Movie?** SPARKLE
- **What did you do growing up that got you into trouble?** I WAS A GREAT KID. I RARELY GOT INTO TROUBLE.
- **Civilian career?** (If not A.D.) TIER 2 TECH SUPPORT
- **Vehicle you own and favorite vehicle you owned if not the same?** MUSTANG
- **Plans to do when back home?** FINISH MY DEGREE
- **Goals while deployed?** SAVE MONEY & IMPROVE PHYSICAL FITNESS
- **One item on your bucket list?** CAP AND GOWN
- **What is the one thing that should be taught in school that isn't already?** SEX EDUCATION & WOMEN WELLNESS.



370th's Customs Inspection



The 370th had their final customs inspection recently. A few items that were turned away by customs inspectors, meaning they could not take or needed justification for taking, were :

- Refrigerators
- Batteries
- Televisions (needs MWR memo)
- Guitars (needs MWR memo)

- Name : Bayani Mercado
- Hometown? Quezon City, Philippines
- Years of service? 6 at KAF
- Married? Yes Kids? 2
- Immediate family that has served? None
- Why did you join? More money
- Deployment job? Servicing port a Jon's
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? It really stinks...literally. But I can't smell it any longer.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of? Thankful of my job in Quezon City
- Deployment hobbies? Soccer & Volleyball
- Favorite Movie? Rush Hour
- Civilian career? Computer Professional
- Vehicle you own and favorite vehicle you owned if not the same? Mercedes Tanker Truck
- Plans to do when back home? Bathe in Lysol
- Goals while deployed? Not to get poop on myself while cleaning the crapper and hopefully don't slip and fall in the poo pond when emptying my truck
- One item on your bucket list? Get this smell out of my clothes & burn off my taste buds
- What is the one thing that should be taught in school? How to find great Happy Hour locations! It's essential being an adult with an active social calendar.

848 Spot Light



Valhalla Compound History Cont....

By SFC Bignardi



(continued from pg 1) and

I want to provide you with a little history of the Valhalla compound, some of its occupants, and when the emblem was created. My research uncovered some interesting facts about our compound.

The earliest occupants of Valhalla I could locate were the 4th Engineer Battalion from Ft Carson. The 4th Engineers were originally deployed to Iraq in February 2009. Within two weeks of arriving in Iraq, they received orders that would move them to KAF. The transition took two months to plan and carry out as over 40 separate aircraft moved the Soldiers of the 4th and their equipment to KAF.

The 105th Engineer Battalion from the North Carolina National Guard moved to Valhalla in December 2009. In January 2010, the 20th Engineer Battalion out of Ft Hood called Valhalla home. In December of 2010, the 8th Engineer Battalion from Ft Hood relieved the 20th Engineers. Army Reservists from the 863rd Engineer Battalion out of Illinois called Valhalla home from October 2010 until August 2011. In the Fall of 2011, the 223rd Engineer Battalion from Mississippi's National Guard was head-

quartered at Valhalla taking relieving the 20th Engineers. The 223rd called Valhalla home until the late Summer of 2012 when the 120th took command. Most of us should know that the 120th National Guard Engineer Battalion

from Oklahoma was the unit the 878th replaced in March of 2013.

Who constructed the "Valhalla" sign? Looking through the few pictures I located on the

web, it appears either the 4th or 20th Engineers forged the emblem in 2009 or 2010.

Herculean path for the Engineers at Ft Hood. The 20th Engineers were in the process of deploying out of FT Hood in November of 2009 when former Army Maj Nidal Hasan murdered 4 of its Soldiers and wounded 11 while they were preparing for their upcoming deployment. The 20th suffered more casualties during this terrorist attack than other units because members of the 20th were at medical receiving immunizations as the shooting began. This past August, Hasan was stripped of all rank and was sentenced to death.

Joint Chiefs of Staff Admiral Mike Mullen visited the 20th at Ft Hood in



ADM. Mullen talks to 20th ENGRS at Valhalla



ADM. Mullen talks to 20th BC in 2010



Chief of Engineers Lt Gen Robert Van Antwerp visits the 4 shop in 2010

November of 2009. He also visited Valhalla in March 2010 as promised after the Hasan incident.

Thousands of Soldiers have called Valhalla their home. Unfortunately 28 of these Soldiers have paid the ultimate sacrifice. The names of these fallen heroes are scattered through the halls and t-walls of Valhalla.



20th Engrs TOA ceremony at Valhalla

Special thanks to CPT Woods for utilizing his contacts on KAF to facilitate the removal of the iconic symbol and to ensure Valhalla will long be remembered at our armory in Augusta.



Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain's Corner



Scripture of the Month **October:**

2 Timothy 4:7-8

English Standard Version (ESV)

⁷ I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. ⁸ Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that Day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved his appearing.

Greetings all, we are coming upon the end of deployment. Remember Finishing well requires tenacity, resolve, and integrity."

My thoughts today are for you all to "finish well." I find this quote to be true, **"After everything is said and done, more has been said than ever was done!"** Life is filled with the best of intentions. Some ambitious intentions we are incapable of accomplishing; others we could have achieved, we did not for one reason or another. People's lives can be like that; people run out of time, or energy, or resources shy of completion. In other words, I hope and pray that we all got something out of this deployment. We all should go back to the United States with a wealth of experience and seeing things from a different perspective. New lessons learned, money saved, college credits,

and a combat veteran who served their Country (America) in time of war in many different capacities. The deployment was a great test of your discipline, patience, leadership, morals, values, morale, and coping skills. Therefore, you brought your skill sets to the table, where as many learned from you and you learned from others, what to do or not to do. However, if you only spent your deployment complaining or getting into trouble, **"Shame on you."** Remember three important sayings: **(1) You only get out what you put in (2) You learn good things from good leaders and great things from bad leaders (3) Remember to always embrace the good in every situation.** Either way we all were put to the test and we all survived. SGT Morris and I (CH Bellamy) have traveled to six different FOBs monthly visiting soldiers and going along side them outside the wire on countless missions. We will never forget the smiles, the tears, the blood and sweat, the lasting friendships and bonds. **"A Band of Brothers and Sisters."** The things that we have seen, talked about, learned, or experience make us realize that we as a Task Force are truly blessed. Most importantly we are taking everyone back home to their loved ones alive and well. God we thank You for shining Your grace and Mercy upon TF Dynamite and the Down Trace Units and for being faithful to us even when we weren't faithful to You. Thank You for covering us with Your shield of protection on and off the battlefield in Afghanistan, we are forever indebted to You. God-Speed, and Amen.

Task Force Dynamite it was indeed an honor to have served as your RST for HHC, FSC, 848th, 370th, 62nd, 84th, 137th, 833rd, and the 693rd; you all are absolutely invaluable! I will depart very content with my relationship with each and every one of you. However, if I ever offended anyone in my words or actions during my time with you, I sincerely ask for your forgiveness. Know that it was never my intention to offend anyone. May God bless you all and please have a safe redeployment as you go home and reunite with your families, loved ones, friends, and colleagues. Please give them a big hug and say thank you to them for their prayers and support which got us all through this deployment. In closing, we thank you all for your service to America. God bless you all and may God bless America. PRO DEO ET PATRIA (For God and Country).

SHOULDER TO SHOULDER NO SOLDIER STANDS ALONE

OEFCRISIS HOTLINE CALL

DSN/NVOIP: 1-1-1 (318) 421-8218

If a fellow soldier is in need, let us be there, shoulder to shoulder. We will never leave a fallen comrade. As always, we are here for you. We need you in the fight.

Or contact the BN Chaplain at (318) 421-6741

Our motto is "Service before Self".

TASK FORCE DYNAMITE RST

(Religious Support Team)

CH Jimmy Bellamy and SGT Tyler Morris



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CH Jimmy Bellamy and SGT Tyler Morris

CHAPLAIN'S AWARD FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER



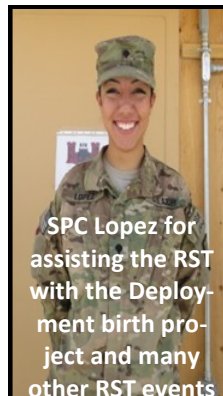
SPC Hampton for always having a positive attitude (always taking initiative and helping others)



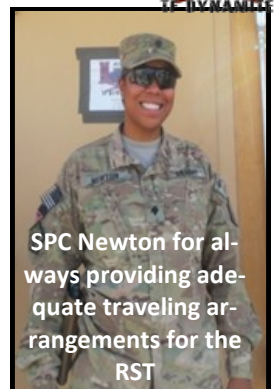
SFC Aldred conducted the 9/11 remembrance (always thinking of others)



SGT Welch for always giving of herself when it comes to the Battalion Cook-outs (selfless service)



SPC Lopez for assisting the RST with the Deployment birth project and many other RST events



SPC Newton for always providing adequate traveling arrangements for the RST



SGT Warnick for always having a positive attitude (always taking initiative and helping others)



SGT Hackle for always giving of his self when it comes to the Battalion Cook-outs (selfless service)



Chief Sebek for giving the shirt off of his back for another. (supporting soldiers)
SFC Lorenz for always supporting and helping the RST



SGT Allen supports the Bible Study and the RST
CPT Herbolt supports the Bible study and the RST
SSG Gantt conducts the Wednesday Bible study



SGT Scott and SGT Bland mentoring soldiers and displays a positive attitude



Major Reeves for orchestrating the makeover for the Chaplain's Room and the Bible Jeopardy

THANKS FOR THE MEMORIES



Task Force Dynamite RST and the RC-SOUTH RST Traveling to PASAB.

Medical Tips

from the inside.....

Nutrition Continued from last edition.....

THE FREE DAY

Forget all that stuff about eating right... Not every day. Just one day a week.

Eat right six days a week. And on the seventh day, eat whatever you want, whenever you want, in whatever amount and combination you so desire. This is called the "free day."

There are two physiological benefits to purposely eating extra once a week: It boosts fat burning and it helps you control your appetite. Psychologically, it also helps you stay on track. Many people find they can live without some of their old favorites like unhealthy desserts, candy bars

and burgers and fries most of the time if they know they can eat them some of the time.

Having a free day helps create openness, honesty and self-respect. No foods are forbidden on the "free day".

There are two types of free days: planned and unplanned. A planned free day is one you think about in advance. Some people set aside every Sunday to eat whatever they want. Your free day doesn't have to be the same day every week. Oftentimes, you might plan it for a special occasion like a birthday, special night out, or Thanksgiving dinner.

An unplanned day is when you have unforeseen circumstances. Maybe you missed all your planned meals because you were working or traveling, and ended up bingeing on unhealthy foods. Maybe you just had a bad eating day. Whatever the case, count this as a "free day" and simply replaces the free day you were planning next.

This helps add flexibility and practicality to your eating plan. Remember, it's what you eat most of the time, not some of the time, that feeds success.

TF Dynamite Clinic Hours

Mon-Sat 1000-1700

Sunday 1400-1700

Emergencies 24hrs Daily

After hours Roshan: 079-641-9080

TF Dynamite Sick Call

Mon-Sat 0800-1000

Sunday Sick Call 1300-1400

Emergencies 24hrs Daily

After hours Roshan: 079-641-9080

The last day that the Role 1 Aid Station, located here on the Valhalla compound, will be accepting patients is 15 October 2013.

Movie Quotes

1. "Bad news, bad news. Even when it's good news, it's bad news. John Wayne in the ground 6 months and this is what is left of America."
2. "Normally I would say "Auf wiedersehen," but since what "auf wiedersehen" actually means is "till I see you again", and since I never wish to see you again, to you, sir, I say goodbye."
3. "It's cool, that you're strong and I respect it, I do. But in the end, everybody breaks, bro. It's biology. It's cool, that you're strong and I respect it, I do. But in the end, everybody breaks, bro. It's biology."

1. Argo 2012 2. Django Unchained 2012 3. Zero Dark Thirty 2012

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER??? DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD??? ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN A LATER ISSUE???

IF SO, CONTACT Michael.Bignardi@afghan.swa.army.mil



Written by SSG Robin Hughes



This past month has seen the start of the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC), which is a program designed to allow certain charitable organizations to so solicit contributions from federal government and military employees. The goal of CFC is to promote philanthropy and charity through giving and provide government employees and military members that opportunity to improve the quality of life of others. CFC is an excellent way to help others through charitable contributions. If you are interested in making a charitable donation through CFC, contact your unit's CFC representative to initiate the process.

One benefit of giving to a CFC approved charitable organization is that all organizations approved by the CFC have been vetted. Donors can rest assured that their donation will be used for a charitable purpose. However, there is no requirement that anyone must make a CFC donation – it is completely voluntary. Moreover, there is also no requirement that you must make a charitable contribution to a CFC approved charitable organization. You are free to make any donation to any organization of your choosing.

But, if you choose to give outside of the CFC, please consider the following - There are many "charities" out there that are scams. Last year alone, the Better Business Bureau fielded more than 343,000 complaints regarding

charity scams. One of the FBI's largest charity scam cases involved a scam that raised over \$100 million through telemarketing – money that otherwise would have gone to actually help people.

Don't let this information dissuade you from giving. Instead, consider the following tips, and ensure that any gift you do make goes to the purpose you intend. Avoid charities that refuse to provide detailed information about their identity, mission, costs, and how exactly the donation will be used. Avoid charities that will not provide proof that the contribution is tax deductible. Many scam charities will use names that closely resemble that of a better-known, reputable organization. For example, one scam played off the "American Cancer Society" name by soliciting funds for the "American Cancer Center." Avoid these similarly named organizations unless you are sure about their legitimacy.

Other tactics used by charity scams include calling you, unsolicited, to thank you for a pledge you never made. Charity scams will also use high-pressure tactics to try to get you to donate immediately and not give you time to do any research on the organization. These scam organizations will also often ask for cash or for money wires, and try to persuade you against paying with a check. Giving donations in cash or money wire is also a bad idea because with cash and money wire gifts, you have no record of the gift being made. Cash and money wire gifts, without records, also make tax deductions very difficult. Check or credit card payment is the preferred method of charitable dona-

tions as it provides the much needed "paper trail."

It is never a bad idea, when asked to donate, to take some time, and run a quick search on the organization to ensure that your gift will be used for a beneficial purpose. Good resources for checking up on a charitable organization include the Better Business Bureau's Wise Giving Alliance, Charity Navigator, Charity Watch, and GuideStar.

Lastly, be wary of donations solicited by telemarketers. A preferred method of charity scams is to solicit donations via telephone shortly after a natural disaster or emergency. For example, following the earthquakes in Haiti, multiple scammers would make unsolicited phone calls under the guise of the Red Cross and take donations from people who believed they were giving to the Haiti Earthquake Relief Fund. Instead, this money went to line the pockets of the scammers. Donating online through a reputable charity's website is one way to avoid the risk of donating over the phone to a scam.

You have the right to report any activity which you believe may be a charity scam. Complaints can be filed online with the Federal Trade Commission and with the Better Business Bureau.

If you have any questions about charitable giving – whether it be information regarding tax deductions, how to report a charity scam, or how to give through the Combined Federal Campaign – contact the TF Dynamite Legal Office.

Earning Extra Leave Days????



By SFC Bignardi

PDMRA or Post Deployment Mobilization Respite Absence is a category of leave intended to compensate Soldiers with additional leave days based upon the frequency in which they have deployed. The program only applies to mobilizations and deployments that occurred on or after January 19th, 2007. This is not an entitlement, but a benefit. So all of you generation "Y" Soldiers who want their participation trophy, need to keep on reading to determine if your eligible or not. I'll provide some pebble level details on the PDMRA benefit however; ensure you refer to the site at the end of this article for further details.

Soldiers will earn their normal 2.5 leave days per month in addition to PDMRA days if eligible. Active duty Soldiers have a window of 36 months in which to earn PDMRA on or after January 19th, 2007. National Guard Soldiers and Reservist have a window of 72 months in which to earn PDMRA days. Eligible Soldiers will begin to earn additional leave at the end of 12 months deployed. For Reservist and Guard Soldiers, mobilization is also included if mobilized for OCONUS deployment.

Earning PDMRA days is accomplished when 12 months of active

duty is completed while deployed or mobilized for deployment. At the end of that 12th month, one PDMRA day is earned. When 18 months is reached, 2 days of PDMRA are earned per month. At 24 months, 4 additional days of PDMRA is earned each month. Deployment months do not have to be consecutive. They only need to fall within a 36 month window if active and a 72 month window if National Guard or Reserve.

Eligible areas of operation include Afghanistan, Iraq and other areas determined by the SECNAV such as other CZTE (combat zone tax exclusion) areas. As mentioned earlier, Guard and Reserve Soldiers also receive PDMRA days for Title 10 mobilization status for the purpose of deploying.

Update; in my research to ensure I'm providing accurate information, I discovered this policy was updated May 2012 & August 2013. The updated policy applies from October 1st, 2011 to present. The update basically states 2 days are earned on the 13th month deployed and continues earning monthly at 2 days until returning home. The window of earning months for active and reserve components while remaining the same; the amount of days that

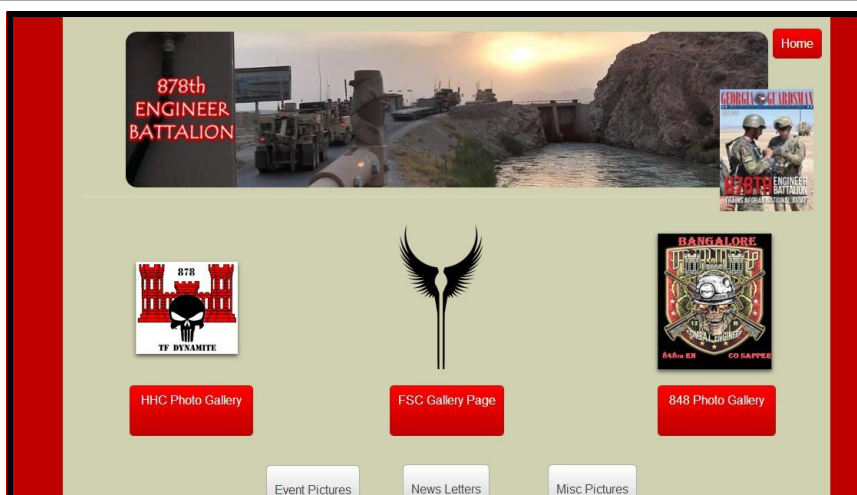
can be earned per month is set at 2 days. Thus doing away with the scale that stated you would earn between 1 to 4 days depending upon how many months you were deployed during your earnings window. Now, with both policies days can be earned in other CZTE (combat zone tax exclusion) areas of operation at a lesser rate. That can be researched below on you're on at the sites below.

If you have any questions or concerns please review the documents at the link below, contact me, and or your Operations NCO for further explanation. This was not created to make more work for S1 but to further educate our Soldiers so they in turn will have the knowledge to guide and mentor their own Soldiers concerning this subject. Do your own calculations just be aware that they will also be computed during our demobilization.

http://www.armyg1.army.mil/MilitaryPersonnel/PPG/Hyperlinks/Adobe%20Files/0512-PPG-Final-PDMRA_POLICY_GUIDANCE-9_Month_Deployments.pdf

OR

<http://www.dtic.mil/whs/directives/corres/pdf/132706p.pdf>



This site contains pictures that can be downloaded by the Soldiers and their families. The site is updated weekly and currently there are about 340 pictures on the site. More than seventy-five percent of these pictures are not on Face Book. You will soon begin to see events that will occur during our reunion in Georgia.

The site cannot be reached from any government PC's overseas. If you experience any issues on the site please email me at **MichaelBignardi@gmail.com**. Enjoy the site and let me know if you would like for me to add something to the site.



TFD New Additions



Above: Congratulations to SGT Stewart (878 HHC) and his wife Lindsey for the birth of their baby boy, Robert Elijah Stewart. He was born on Sept 17 2013, weighing 9lbs 10oz and 20" long.



Above: Congratulations to SSG Timothy Brooks (370th) and Aggie Brooks for the birth of their daughter Ava, 7lbs 3 oz and 22 inches long, born on 21 Feb 2013.

Right: Congratulations to PFC Tyler Simon (370th) and his girlfriend Rosalie Jarabejo for the birth of their twins Ciarra Nicole Simon and Paul Anthony Simon, born on 28 August 2013.



UGA Red Coat Band Introduction

Task Force Dynamite gathered in front of the Georgia wall within the Valhalla compound to record an



introduction of the Star Spangled Banner, being played by the Red Coat Band of UGA. The wall was sketched and painted by SPC Guglielmo and SPC Lopez of 878th HHC. The soldiers participating were able to wear any Georgia paraphernalia they had and bring their Georgia flags as well. Many of the soldiers

are Georgia fans but some are simply supporting the request of the unit's participation from Dvids (Defense video and imagery distribution system). Dvids explains itself as "a

state-of-the-art, 24/7 operation that provides a timely, accurate and reliable connection between the media around the world and the military serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait, Qatar and



Written by PFC Jasmine Solomon

Bahrain."

A few soldiers who participated have strong ties to UGA, 1LT Jones and 1LT Elzea are graduates of the college, and CW2 Durette and MSG Andrews both have son's who attend the college as well. The introduction will be played at the

beginning of every UGA home game and was also aired on CBS.

There will be a total of six recordings in all.



878th HHC:

Richard Stone 10/06
 Roenzer Brunson 10/10
 Roy Woods 10/15
 Christopher Andrews 10/16
 Travis Rapp 10/30

878th FSC:

Catherine Midgett 10/11
 Carlos Huertas 10/16
 Herbert Durden 10/21
 Michael Allen 10/28
 John Leggett 10/28
 Pernell Jones 10/29
 Tracy Rapp 10/30

370th:

Richard Fortner 10/05
 Eric McGillivray 10/08

Jesse Dunn 10/10
 David Mulcahy 10/18
 Edward Suggs 10/18
 Steven Barker 10/21
 Tyler Logan 10/23
 Myron Vanzant 10/23
 Alex Whims 10/23
 Zachariah Balent 10/27
 John Lewis 10/27
 Benjamin Gerloff 10/28
 Steven Lacasse 10/28

84th:

Jason Shepley 10/01
 Andres QuinterosBasantes 10/02
 Ryan Curtis 10/04
 Paul Porrras 10/04
 Jeremy Dillen 10/10

Kenneth Rufkahr 10/12
 Donald Blackburn 10/21
 Adrian Sosa 10/27

833rd:

Ryan Trueblood 10/15
 Tyler Jones 10/17
 Joseph Tolle 10/19
 Erik Hardt 10/27

848th:

Michael Plontke 10/12
 Brian Alvarez 10/17
 Alvin Smiley 10/21
 Charles Suggs 10/27

