



# THE ROUND UP



Feb. 2015 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade Issue 2

## Wranglers host logistics conference on BAF



Wranglers...Just get it done!

Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

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# WRANGLER 6

## Colonel Timothy D. Luedecking



Wranglers, Families and friends, with the Festive Season safely behind us and another milestone passed by reaching our 180-day mark in Afghanistan, I want each and every one of you and your Families to know how proud CSM Haney and I are of your contributions, hard work, and overall dedication to the Wrangler Brigade and our mission here in Afghanistan.

The Wrangler Soldiers uphold the highest traditions and standards of the 4th Sustainment Brigade, by executing countless missions flawlessly every day in support of our sustainment and retrograde support mission. By working alongside our coalition partners we continue to have a positive and effective influence on the overall mission across the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan.

There isn't a corner of Afghanistan that doesn't have one of our Soldiers providing critical sustainment support consisting of food, water, clothing, tools, weapons, fuel, construction material, ammunition and repair parts just to name a few. Wranglers also provide services such as human resources, finance, postal, aerial delivery operations, maintenance and mortuary affairs support.

Since our last newsletter, Task Force Wrangler has been busy de-scoping military bases, retrograding equipment, and moving intricate puzzle pieces in and out of Afghanistan in support of other military theaters of operation. Task Force Wrangler has processed extraordinary amounts of mail, issued over 23 million gallons of fuel, moved or demilitarized countless tons of ammunition, and retrograded 400 vehicles ensuring that the drawdown in Afghanistan remains on a successful timeline.

Finally, the Wrangler Brigade is committed with ensuring that safety and the welfare of all our Soldiers is the number one focus. We do this by enforcing good discipline and standards across the formation. Living the Wrangler Way instills a sense of pride and reinforces our commitment to all who serve under Task Force Wrangler. I can tell you without hesitation that your Soldier is contributing at a very high level to this mission. We are very proud of unit and individual accomplishments since our deployment.

Thank you for what you do and allowing us to serve side by side with the best our nation has to offer. We are in the home stretch of our deployment and look forward to joining our families. Until then, thank you for supporting your Soldier the Wrangler Way- with trust, discipline and commitment. See you soon!

“Just Get It Done”

Wrangler 6

# Wranglers...Just get it done!



# WRANGLER 7

## Command Sergeant Major Alton Haney

Well we have made it past our 6 month point and this Brigade has proven itself in arguably the most difficult environment the Wrangler Nation has ever faced. Colonel Luedeking and I are extremely proud of the Soldier leaders at every level. You have displayed unparalleled ingenuity, flexibility, and adaptability. Having passed the midpoint, this level of trust becomes that much more important, the battle to overcome complacency takes everyone. Trust is the bedrock of our honored Profession - trust between each other, trust between Soldiers and Leaders, trust between Soldiers and their families, and the Army, ending with the trust with the American People. For those of you who have walked thru an Airport during R&R, you understand how the American people feel about you and what you are doing. You all have been doing the right thing and performing your assigned missions with the understanding that Wrangler 6 and I trust each and every one of you to do your very best. Today is like no other time in the WRANGLER Nation; we must remain vigilant, agile and focused on our top priority of providing world class sustainment support to Afghanistan. Don't let up is my challenge to you! Soon we will be bringing all the Brigade's Soldiers and equipment back to BAF and pushing them all back to Ft. Hood. You are all doing outstanding, remain focused, take care of each other and most importantly have fun doing what you do-the time will fly by. We look forward to seeing all of you in a few months. Thank you for your steadfast dedication to the mission and loyal service to the Wrangler Nation.

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“Just Get It Done”

**Wranglers...Just get it done!**

# Wranglers support DEMIL operations



Photo by SFC Chris Bridson

By Sergeant 1st Class Chris Bridson  
4RSSB Public Affairs

**F**or the past 13 years, U.S. and Coalition Forces have been moving military equipment and supplies in and out of Afghanistan to sustain combat operations across the country.

As the drawdown continues in Afghanistan, the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade finds itself as the only sustainment brigade left in country and have been tasked with the responsibility of ensuring that all equipment, ranging from vehicles to food and water to ammunition finds its way safely out of Afghanistan.

Recently at Bagram Airfield, Soldiers from the 4RSSB joined forces with a Convoy Escort Team from the 950th Engineer Clearance Company, Wisconsin National Guard and civilian explosive ordnance disposal and ammunition technicians from the Joint Munitions Destruct-Afghanistan Team to safely disburse of approximately 6,000 pounds of out of date explosives.

“We are here to demilitarize approximately 6,000 pounds of code H (out of date or unserviceable) ammunition,” said Staff Sgt. Richard Perc, a Rome, New York native from the New York National Guard. “It’s safer to blow the ammunition up, than to let it fall into the hands of the enemy or try to ship it home and risk it detonating in transit,” he added.

In order to carry out the DEMIL mission, Perc who is attached to the 4RSSB had to train Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters

Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion on how to drive and operate the various military vehicles in order to safely transport explosive ordnance from the Ammunition Supply Point on BAF to the detonation site located outside of the bases perimeter.

“They have me training the guys on the various vehicles because I’m an 88M (Motor Transport Operator) and I’m probably the most qualified person for the job,” said Perc. “I’ve trained 10-12 Soldiers on the M1088 w/M871 trailer and the M1075 Palletized Load System, in order to safely transport all munitions,” he said.

The Wrangler Soldiers picked up their preloaded vehicles from the ASP in the early hours and drove to the entry control point where they waited for the 950th ECC and the EOD techs before heading out to the detonation site.



Photo by SFC Chris Bridson

Staff Sgt. Richard Perc, a motor transport operator, with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade from the New York National Guard monitors the download of munitions during a recent DEMIL operation at an undisclosed location near BAF.

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Once at the site, a perimeter security was quickly set up and the Wrangler Soldiers assisted the JMD-A techs unload the munitions ready for demolition.

Ken Barnett, a disposal safety specialist with JMD-A was responsible for overseeing the demolishing operations to ensure that everything went smoothly, all safety guidelines were followed, and that nobody U.S. Military, civilian contractor, or local national were injured in the process.

“In order to destroy these excess or unsafe munitions, our guys spend about eight to ten days to build these boxes and then schedule with the security teams to come out here and safely destruct them,” said Barnett. “We have everything here from .50 cal small arms that can’t be burned in an incinerator, artillery rounds, mortars, and even rockets,” he added.

Barnett said that one of the main reason his team conduct DEMIL operations is to ensure that munitions like these don’t fall into enemy hands, which stops them from potentially being used against coalition forces in the future.

“We usually come out about every two weeks to blow munitions like these,” said Barnett. “That gives us enough time to build these boxes and then arrange for the security teams and transportation.”

As the ordnance was set in place and prepared for

demolition, the 950th ECC continued to provide perimeter security to not only keep the Soldiers and EOD techs safe, but to also ensure the safety of the ever growing group of spectators that had gathered from the local village, ready to come in and police up all the scrap metal.

“The villagers here come out and collect the scrap metal of the shots which in turn is their income,” said Barnett. “They collect the scrap and use it for things like engine parts because it is still good quality metal and can be melted down.”

As the U.S. footprint in Afghanistan continues to shrink and the current bases are prepared to potentially be handed over to the Afghan Army, safely downsizing and retrograding equipment, Soldiers, and munitions out of the country will continue to be a key element of Operation Resolute Support.



Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bridson

Sgt. 1st Class Ray Heilman, a Combat Engineer with the 950th Engineer Clearance Company, Wisconsin National Guard, pulls perimeter security for a recent DEMIL operation near BAF Jan. 10, 2015. The 950th ECC were providing security for the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade and the Joint Munitions Destruct-Afghanistan Team so that they could safely destruct approximately 6,000 lbs of expired munitions at an undisclosed location near BAF.

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# Wranglers host logistics conference on BAF

By Sgt. Adam A. Erlewein  
4RSSB Public Affairs

**G**unslingers from the 553rd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade hosted a Forward Logistics Base Conference at the Jirga Center on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan Jan. 10.

The conference was intended for officers and noncommissioned officers-in-charge stationed at outlying Forward Operating Bases in Afghanistan to discuss logistical and sustainment operations and capabilities.

The OICs and NCOICs were able to discuss problems, solutions and successes that they have had during their mission operations and share their experience with the incoming officers and sergeants. The meeting was also beneficial for all units to understand how their missions impacted other FOBs as well as the overall retrograde mission of the 4RSSB.

Lt. Col. Kenneth W. Letcher an Albany, Georgia native and commander of the 553rd CSSB, 4RSSB hosted this briefing so all OICs and NCOICs could meet with one another to share their ideas and additional resources that could potentially assist other retrograde missions.

“Our battalion FLB officers-in-charge are the face for the sustainment brigade on any given base. It’s good for all of the elements of the sustainment brigade to know who they are working with when they get out to another Forward Operating Base,” said Letcher.

This conference enabled Soldiers to gain a better understanding of the logistical and retrograde capabilities that are available on outlying FOBs. Knowing what capabilities other commanders have allows all FLBs to assist one another giving commanders a better overview of the assets available which will save unit funds and tax payer dollars.

Sgt. 1st Class Scott D. Smith, a native of Zanesville, Ohio and the NCOIC for Tactical Base Gamberi, explained that it is important for OICs and NCOICs to come together and see how they can assist other units.

“I think being on a smaller installation we have the ability to gain a better insight of what the overall mission is. Being so small we (TB Gamberi) have to reach out to other FLBs, battalions, and brigades more often for assistance,” said Scott. “As we shrink down we have to have that overall perspective.”

Command Sgt. Maj. Jill Crosby, the 553rd CSSB command sergeant major, said that this meeting was extremely beneficial for all service members and contractors who attended.

“This meeting gives situational awareness with what is going on in the area of operations now. They (FLB Commanders) know what their counterparts are doing so everyone gets a better idea for what the 4th RSSB is doing,” said Crosby.



Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

Lt. Col. Kenneth W. Letcher, commander of the 553rd CSSB, 4RSSB held a Logistical Conference with FLB leadership teams, about logistic and sustainment operations so they could share the successes and difficulties they have encountered at the Jirga Center on BAF.

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# Father promotes daughter in Afghanistan

By Sgt. Adam A. Erlewein  
4RSSB Public Affairs



Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

For every military service member, promotions are a time of great pride which is shared with their Families, friends, and peers. But sometimes these moments are made extra special, particularly when a father with 26 years of military service has the chance to promote his daughter overseas.

Master Sgt. Ronald E. Hoover a Lima, Ohio native, with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade had the unique opportunity to promote his daughter Jessica J. Boughan, also a Lima, Ohio native assigned to Echo Company, 3rd Aviation Regiment, 3rd Infantry Division to the rank of sergeant first class at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan Jan. 4, 2015.

Boughan, an aviation operations specialist on her third deployment, said she was very excited to have her father there for her promotion, something he has been unable to do so far in her 12 years of service.

“This is the first big event that he has actually been able to be at so it’s pretty great,” said Boughan. “For me to be able to share something, and progress in my career like this and have him still serve in the Army and share this with me is very important.”

Boughan said she was inspired to join the military because of the guidance she received when she was growing up watching her father mentor, lead, and take care of Soldiers. These qualities were things that Boughan said were what encouraged her to be the kind of leader her father was and carry on his leadership styles to future Soldiers.

When the command was given to publish the orders, Hoover ripped off his daughter’s old rank then with a face full of pride promoted her to the rank of sergeant first class.

“I am really proud of her; you don’t get too many opportunities to promote your own child,” said Hoover. “She is going to be a great noncommissioned officer because she loves taking care of Soldiers, putting the Soldier before herself, and she is exactly what the Army really needs at this point. I am an old Soldier close to retirement and she is the new breed of Soldiers.”

Boughan said she enjoys mentoring, leading, and helping Soldiers and with her new rank and responsibility hopes that she can give back to the Army the same way her father had.

“He is the reason I joined the Army. He is a great leader, an awesome NCO, and it makes me feel good to show him that he plays a big role in what I do and why I do it.” said Boughan.



Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

**Master Sgt. Ronald E. Hoover, with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, hugs his daughter, newly promoted, Sgt. 1st Class Jessica J. Boughan at BAF.**

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# Wrangler medic teaches CLS classes; Demonstrates techniques to contractors

By Sgt. 1st Class Chris Bridson  
4RSSB Public Affairs

As the United States military's role in Afghanistan transitioned from Operation Enduring Freedom to the Operation Resolute Support mission, the number of U.S. Forces dwindled with the Afghan National Security Forces taking the lead to secure the Afghan people.

The U.S. Forces will now focus on a train, advise, and assist role meaning that the need for so many troops in country is far less. But what does that mean for the thousands of civilian contractors that are working on the military bases across Afghanistan.

Combat Life Saver training is basic first responder medical assistance that is taught to Soldiers of all levels throughout their military careers, and with fewer Soldiers on bases in Afghanistan there is a greater need for civilian contractors to learn more about CLS.

Staff Sgt. Adam Small, a health care specialist and native of San Bernardino, California, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade has spent the last few weeks providing training to civilian contractors and Soldiers from the Army Field Support Battalion – Afghanistan.

“With less military and more contractors on Bagram Airfield, today's training can give civilians the confidence to not need the military to take care of everything,” said Small. “Instead of waiting for a medic or CLS certified Soldier to take the lead in an event that has casualties, the civilians can have the confidence to act on their own.”

With the warmer than usual climate in Afghanistan this winter, the fighting season has been extended which has seen an increased threat of Indirect Fire attacks on bases such as BAF.

“The training today was to ensure that civilians felt confident enough to render first aid treatment to the two most common types of injuries associated with IDF, extremity hemorrhaging and open chest wounds,” said Small. “We also covered a couple of types of emergencies that might occur in which clearing and opening an airway would be needed as well as a brief refresher on CPR.”

As a medic in the military with multiple deployments under his belt, Small has welcomed a change of pace during this recent deployment working in numerous jobs throughout the 4RSSB footprint, but is always ready when called on for his medical expertise.

“Working as everything EXCEPT a medic has been fun and interesting at times, but at the end of the day, being a medic is what I love to do. And the fact that my medic skills are being used to teach rather than to save a life or treat a friend, is even better.”



Photo by Summer Barkley

Staff Sgt. Adam Small, a health care specialist and native of San Bernardino, California, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, demonstrates how to apply a 'hasty' tourniquet on Susan K. Repon's upper arm during a buddy aid point of injury class Dec. 30, 2014. Repon, is a quality assurance specialist with the Army Field Support Battalion-Afghanistan.

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Susan K. Repon, is a civilian contractor working as a quality assurance specialist with the AFSBn-A, and has had prior training as a State of Washington Health Care Assistant, holds a CPR certification, and while in Kabul, Afghanistan took the extended Combat Life Saver training course but was still very appreciative of the class.

“I feel confident I have the skills to aid someone as a first responder if necessary. The training received at the 401st (AFSBn-A) was a wonderful opportunity to practice my skills, learn new skills and terminology, and to open the conversation of first responder techniques with my fellow co-workers,” said Repon.

Small said that the best thing about being a medic is when, as a noncommissioned officer, he gets the chance to train Soldiers and civilians alike by sharing his military experiences and expertise with them.

“Knowing that I have helped train and instill confidence in these civilians makes me feel proud. Part of what I love about being a medic, and an NCO for that matter, is the training of soldiers. Instilling something that I have learned, either by classroom, or by real life experiences, is always a good thing,” said Small. “Having people to assist me would allow me to treat more than if I was by myself.”



Photo by SFC Chris Bridson

A civilian contractor checks the pulse of his training partner to see if he has applied his tourniquet correctly during a Combat Life Saver Class on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 27. Combat Life Saver training is basic first responder medical assistance that is taught to Soldiers of all levels throughout their military careers, and with fewer Soldiers on bases in Afghanistan there is a greater need for civilian contractors to learn more about CLS.



Photo by SFC Chris Bridson

Staff Sgt. Adam Small, a health care specialist and native of San Bernardino, California, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, demonstrates how to correctly apply a tourniquet to a Soldier’s leg during a buddy aid point of injury class on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 27.

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# Two man engineer team de-scope BAF

By Sgt. Adam A. Erlewein  
4RSSB Public Affairs

Engineers normally work in platoon or company size elements but for the hard working Wranglers from the 4th Special Troops Battalion, 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, they have assisted in de-scoping Bagram Airfield and parts of Afghanistan as a two man shop.

Capt. Rachel M. Hardesty a Neoga, Illinois native and Staff Sgt. Jeremy J. Hodson a Flint, Michigan native are in charge of de-scoping operations for the Wrangler brigade here on BAF.

The Wranglers are in charge of maintaining multiple land parcels on BAF ranging in various sizes from 1 acre to 150 acres.

They are responsible for ensuring these parcels are properly maintained which includes the cleanliness, sanitation of unwanted structures, and ensuring proper security for equipment stored on certain parcels or the tenants that live there.

“They (BAF) have given us 110 parcels, and our job is to manage those whether it is our tenants or other units on that land and ensure that they keep the area clean, free of debris, and remove any unused or unwanted equipment, buildings, or containers. Any assistance they need we will provide that for them,” said Hodson. “We manage about 60 percent of BAF with just two people.”

Hardesty and Hodson have to inspect all the parcels routinely to prepare for de-scope missions, maintenance or inventory of barriers, housing units and other structures to be utilized in other areas around BAF. This ensures that all of the assets are being properly utilized or removed inadvertently saving the tax payer’s dollars and preventing waste.



Capt. Rachel M. Hardesty an engineer with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade and Neoga, Illinois native, works to remove a door from a shed that needed to be torn down Jan. 1, 2015. Hardesty is part of a two man crew who maintain more than 110 land parcels at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan that range in size from 1 to 150 acres.

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“Managing the parcels is a giant part of our mission here in Afghanistan,” said Hardesty.

Hardesty and Hodson have completed more than 170 projects on BAF de-scoping many of those projects by coordinating with contractors to execute the mission or they take it upon themselves to de-scope smaller structures. By de-scoping certain projects themselves they speed up the downsizing of BAF and also save man hours and resources that can be utilized for larger projects.

The wooden structures on BAF are being de-scoped to make way for more efficient structures or they sanitize the grounds the structures were on to reduce the footprint left by them.

Hardesty said that the wooden structures on BAF require a large amount of cost to maintain due to the time it takes to heat and cool those buildings, and the buildings longevity is also shorter. By replacing those buildings with more permanent structures they reduce the cost of maintenance and also provide better protection against indirect fire.

“One of the projects we completed ourselves took a full day to tear down and then we had to get a dumpster to dump the wood in,” said Hardesty. “The second part of the project only took half a day and that was tearing down a stairwell, a shed, and a big water blivet.”

The Wrangler engineer team said that their mission is very challenging but they feel like they have accomplished a lot of work since they have been here and it helps that they can see a finished product.

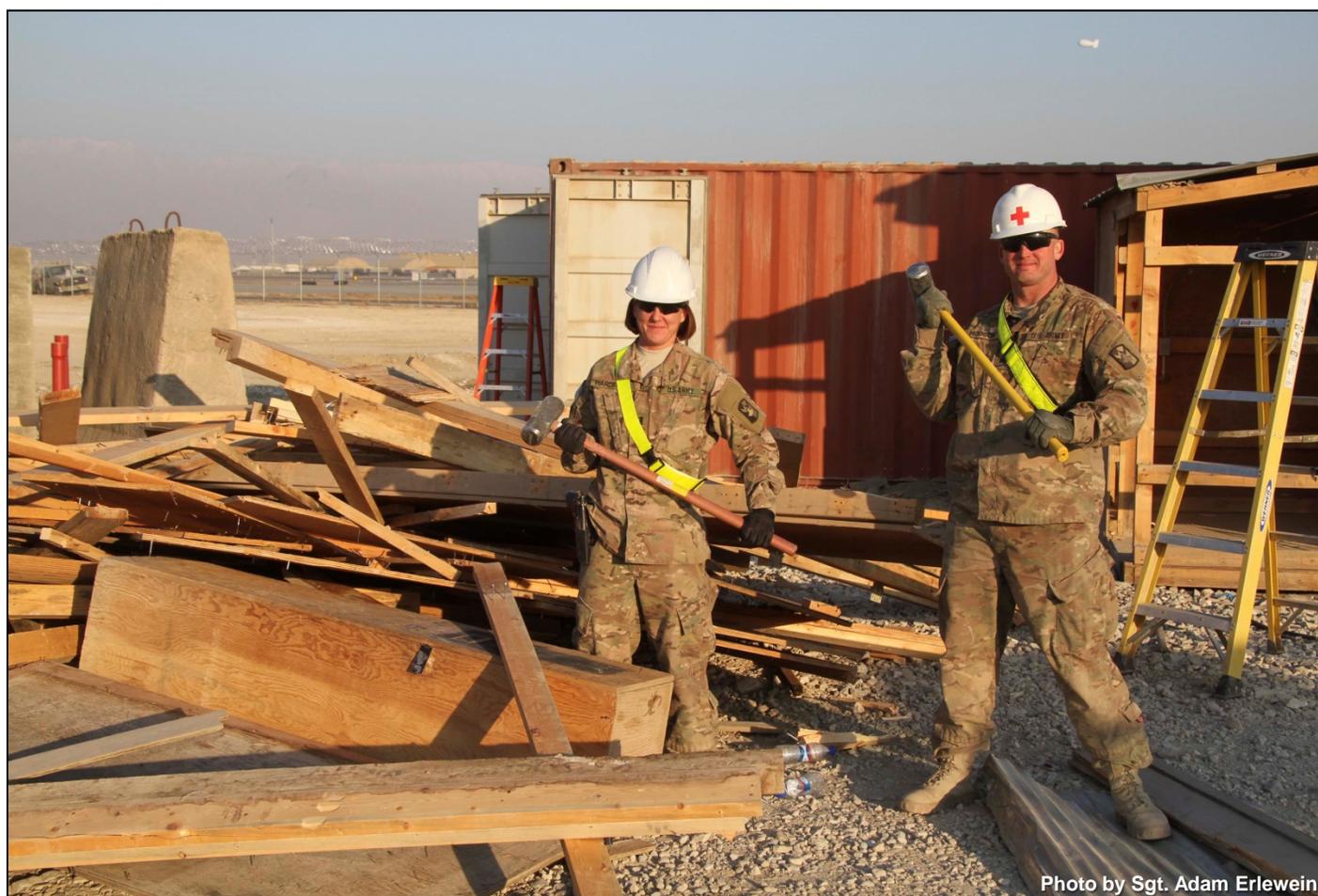


Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

**Capt. Rachel M. Hardesty and Jeremy J. Hodson a two man engineer crew with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade pose for a photo after they completed the teardown of a shed at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan Jan. 1, 2015. By removing the shed themselves they were able to save time and money to allow resources to be used for larger de-scoping operations.**

# Collaborative approach to safety

Article and photos by Summer Barkley  
AFSBn-A Public Affairs, 4RSSB

The monthly Task Force Wrangler Safety Council meeting, held Jan. 15, 2015 at Army Field Support Battalion Afghanistan, provides a venue for unit representatives to report on safety programs, initiatives, training, successes and challenges. The forum facilitates cross-talk and mutual problem solving. Council members and Chairman Lt. Col. Keith J. McVeigh, the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 4th Resolute Sustainment Support Brigade, were interested in an initiative reported by AFSBn-A's contracting partner AC First. The program called 'Near Miss' is a no-fault, no-blame, way for employees to self-report on their own 'near misses' or the 'near misses' that they observe.

Patrick LeBlanc, a safety specialist with AFSBn-A, pointed out that many of the contractors come from places where making such reports could lead to the employee being fired and lauded the battalion contract partner for overcoming language and cultural background barriers.

"It was my pleasure to bring our contracting partner to the safety council to highlight their 'Near Miss' program and have it considered for inclusion into the overall CJOA-A (Combined Joint Operations Area – Afghanistan) safety programs," said LeBlanc after the meeting. "It could prevent hundreds of accidents."

McVeigh was impressed and said the idea was 'awesome' and talked about ways it could be implemented by some of the units represented at the meeting.



Army Field Support Battalion -Afghanistan hosted the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, Task Force Wrangler, monthly safety council Jan 15. The meeting provides a forum for unit safety officers to share successes and concerns; discuss trends, and explore ways ahead. During the January meeting AFSBn-A briefed a 'Near Miss' program instituted by contractor AC 1st that encourages workers to self-report their own 'near misses' and also report their observations of 'near miss' safety issues. Council chairman, LTC McVeigh expressed interest in the idea and encouraged units to look into creating something similar. During the meeting a non UL or CE rated adaptor that caught fire while being used was highlighted.

# Wranglers earn Schützenschnur Badge



Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

By Sgt. Adam Erlewein  
4RSSB Public Affairs

To be considered a proficient marksman, all

Soldiers are required to know how to operate and utilize their assigned weapons such as the M-16, M4 carbine and the M240B machine gun. Recently several Wrangler Soldiers currently deployed to Afghanistan, had the opportunity to earn the prestigious German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship, known as the Schützenschnur at Camp Marmal Jan. 18.

Wrangler Soldiers from the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade traveled to Camp Marmal to compete in the Schützenschnur which consisted of three separate shooting events designed to test a Soldiers proficiency in a variety of German military weapons and determine which qualification badge they could receive and wear on the Army Service Uniform.

Throughout the day they were introduced to the three weapons they would attempt to qualify on, the Heckler and Koch P8 9mm pistol, the H&K G36 assault rifle, the challenging German MG3 machine gun and in addition a few Belgian army weapons.

Soldiers were able to compete for three different badges, the bronze, silver, and gold marksmanship badges which are awarded based on your lowest qualifying score. Meaning that in order for Soldiers to earn the bronze badge they had to complete at least three events, two with the P8 pistol and one event with the G36 assault rifle. However, if Soldiers wanted to earn a silver or gold badge they had to also fire the MG3 machine gun and score a minimum of silver or gold with all three weapons.

German Lieutenant Karsten Kerkloh, a Berlin native was the officer-in-charge of the Schützenschnur range at Camp Marmal and said he was impressed with the way U.S. Soldiers competed in the event.

“The event went really well and even though we didn’t have the best weather we did have the best shooters,” said Kerkloh.

Lt. Col. Michelle K. Ervin, a San Antonio native was one of the Soldiers who participated in the event. Ervin said that she originally went to the event to support other Soldiers competing but was encouraged by Wrangler and German Soldiers to participate.



Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

Lt. Col. Michelle Ervin with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade fires the G36 German assault rifle to earn her gold German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship, known as the Schützenschnur Jan. 18, 2015 at Camp Marmal, Afghanistan.

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“It was the Wrangler team that encouraged me to give it a try,” said Ervin. “To my surprise I scored high enough to achieve the gold badge.”

Ervin was the top shooter with the G36 assault rifle, shooting an amazing 15 out of 16 targets in various firing positions ranging from 200 meters to 50 meters.

Soldiers had to fire the G36 unsupported while standing, kneeling and in the prone position without having any familiarization rounds to fire, and all of the Wranglers qualified for gold with the G36.

Spc. Edgar M. Nelson, a native of Toledo, Ohio was selected to participate in the event after winning the Soldier of the Month Board, and fired gold in the pistol and the rifle events. Nelson said that this experience was amazing and that he enjoyed working with the German Soldiers.

“All of them (German Soldiers) were very cooperative and were more than willing to help us with their weapons systems,” said Nelson. “I felt we were unified working together as a team to accomplish an objective, we all road out together, left together, and we all just operated really well together.”

Six Wranglers participated in the Schützenschnur with four of them earning the gold Schützenschnur badge and two earning the bronze badge.

“We had pretty good results here and with half of them shooting gold (it) is really good and the best thing is that everyone at least got the bronze,” said Kerkloh. “It’s nice working with multi-nationals and it’s great for our guys as well.”



Photo by Sgt. Adam Erlewein

Spc. Jordan Buchanan with the 4th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade fires the German MG3 machine gun at Camp Marmal. Buchanan and other Wrangler Soldiers were attempting to earn the German Armed Forces Badge of Marksmanship, known as the Schützenschnur Jan. 18, 2015.