

Volume 1, Issue 1

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1ST CAVALRY DIVISION  
RESOLUTE SUPPORT SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

# Wagonmasters



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# 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade



## **Wagonmaster 6**

### **Greetings from Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan!**

I hope you enjoy this issue of the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade Quarterly Newsletter. Through this quarterly newsletter you will be able to stay abreast with the great things our Soldiers are accomplishing.

We are all deeply saddened by the loss of our three comrades, SSG John Perry, PFC Tyler Iubelt and SFC Allan Brown. My hope is that with time, the families of our fallen heroes will find peace and comfort knowing their Soldiers gave the ultimate sacrifice for their country.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our Families and home station mission command element for supporting our Soldiers during this difficult time.

All of our Soldiers who sustained injuries from the attack on November 12 are back stateside and receiving world-class medical care for their injuries. I continue to be amazed by the resiliency and positive outlook of our wounded Soldiers. We wish them a speedy recovery and look forward to seeing them soon.

Despite the recent tragedy, the Wagonmasters are doing well and are in good spirits. We have settled into our mission and continue to provide sustainment support across the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan.

I hope everyone had a great Thanksgiving Holiday and didn't eat too much.

As the Christmas season approaches, take some time out of your busy life to enjoy the magic of the holidays this season. From all of us here at Bagram Airfield, we wish you a very Happy Holiday season and a peaceful and prosperous New Year.

### **Just Get It Done!**

**COL Christopher Colavita**  
**Commander,**  
**1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade**

## **Wagonmaster 9**

### **Season's Greetings from Afghanistan!**

The Wagonmasters are doing well and are in good spirits. We have nearly doubled in size since we arrived and assumed the role as the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, as we have incorporated 185th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 204th Construction Management Team (Engineer Battalion), Logistics Civil Augmentation Program (LOGCAP), Army Field Support Battalion (AFSBn), DoD civilians, and contractors from across all the services.

By now, everyone has established a routine, and grown accustomed to the battle rhythm within the brigade. We are continuously developing our Soldiers in all aspects; physically, mentally, emotionally and spiritually to ensure they are well prepared for any situation.

Our Soldiers continue to amaze us daily. Their flexibility, coupled with their professionalism, has earned my utmost respect, as well as the commanders. We look forward to seeing the amazing things the team will accomplish during our time here!

We would like to take the opportunity to thank our Families and home station mission command element for supporting our Soldiers during the deployment. Our success here is a direct reflection of the outstanding support we receive from our friends, family and fellow Soldiers back home.

As the holidays are fast approaching, continue to look after each other this season. We are an Army Family! A Wagonmaster Family! Stay safe and stay connected to your battle buddies, your Family and your Friends.

Thank you for what you do for the Army, Fort Hood and the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade.

### **Have a Joyous Holiday Season!**

**CSM Jill L. Crosby**  
**Command Sergeant Major,**  
**1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade**

# Special Troops Battalion



## Commander's Corner

Greetings Wrangler family and friends! First, I would like to say thank you for the continuous support you provide our hard-working Soldiers. They are truly the lifeblood of the mission here in Afghanistan, and I could not be prouder to be the forward deployed commander of Task Force Wrangler!

The TF Wrangler mission here in Afghanistan is very different from the traditional mission at Fort Hood. The STB is comprised of our headquarters company, two financial management support detachments, one military police detachment responsible for customs operations, one human resources company responsible for postal operations, and another human resources company responsible for casualty liaison operations. Quite the diverse portfolio for the STB. Our Soldiers interact with every service member, Department of Defense Civilian and contractor in Afghanistan.

As we celebrate the holidays this year, I hope you stay connected to your loved ones, and I hope you think of those families that have lost theirs. The Wrangler team lost two of our brave Soldiers in November and one in December when SFC Allan Brown succumbed to the injuries he received on the 12th of November. Additionally, eight more of our Soldiers were wounded on that day, but we will remain resilient. We will never forget their sacrifice. From the entire Wrangler Family, our gratitude and condolences are with the Families of our Fallen heroes.

### **Wranglers!**

**MAJ Chris Acosta,  
Commander,  
Special Troops Battalion,  
1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade**



## CSM's Huddle

Happy Holidays Wranglers, Families and friends! I hope you all are enjoying this holiday season. I am honored to be serving with the best group of leaders and Soldiers in the United States Army! First, I would like to thank my comrades in arms for volunteering to serve our country in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, and the families and friends that support us all from afar, making our mission that much easier. Thank you!!

Thanksgiving was a wonderful way to come together as a family, as well as keep us connected with home. Some of us were missing the pecan, sweet potato and pumpkin pies, but it was great to see everyone's smiling faces and all the selfies that were sent to loved ones.

As we progress through this holiday season and winter begins, we all need to look forward to what is ahead, while still staying focused and vigilant on our current campaign. Some upcoming major events for the special troops battalion are the holiday gift exchange, the brigade New Year's Eve masquerade event, December birthday celebrations and the promotions of our Soldiers and leaders. As we move into the colder months I caution all to remember to dress in layers and to be safe! We all need to ensure that we remain vigilant of our surroundings and take care of our battle buddies, ensuring that our activities reflect our character. Accountability, Respect, and Military Customs and Courtesy ...ALWAYS!!!

I hope that through this holiday season you all remember the families and celebrate the bravery, heroism and lives of those Soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifice for us and our country, as well as those who were injured on the battlefield.

Team, we must keep the lines of communication and support open, and we must stay resilient. I appreciate everything you do, and I see it every day. Thank you all! Keep up the great work.

### **Wranglers!**

**MSG Darrell Arnold  
Command Sergeant Major,  
Special Troops Battalion,  
1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade**

# Special Troops Battalion



## Army Ten Miler

Despite being on the ground for only two weeks, the special troops battalion successfully hosted the Army Ten-Mile Shadow Run. More than 300 people participated, including the staff and command teams of USFOR-A, 1 CD RSSB and strategic partners. SPC Bor from the A/230th Finance Detachment, Special Troops Battalion, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, was the first runner to cross the finish line at 52 minutes!



## Wagonmaster Corral

Even though our committed Soldiers work hard, we found the time to ensure some much needed balance by developing and executing several morale-lifting events. During the first month,

HHC Soldiers, led by Capt. Garee and 1st Sgt. Mejia, built a new MWR facility – The Wagonmaster Corral. Complete with dart boards, pool tables, gaming systems, ping-pong and foosball tables, our Soldiers put together a world-class facility to relax and build camaraderie after duty hours.



## Thanksgiving Dinner

Although Soldiers of the STB could not be home for Thanksgiving, the command team, MAJ Chris Acosta, (Battalion Commander) and MSG Darrell Arnold, (Battalion CSM), showed their gratitude for their sacrifice by carving and serving some delicious steamship round of beef.



# 185th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 1CD RSSB

## Battalion Commander's Update

LTC Donald J. Mosinski

Family, Friends and Employers,

The Soldiers of the 185th CSSB have successfully completed sixth months of deployment. The deployment started on May 5th and we are now knocking on the door to November. Many of you would agree that this deployment actually started back in January 2015 when we received the notification of sourcing. It is amazing how time changes our perspective on a situation and this is evident as we continue to get closer to our redeployment back to Iowa.

During the month of October, CSM Newton and I were able to visit our Soldiers in Kandahar. They are doing great things and setting the standard for others to follow. Our Soldiers stationed at Kandahar Airfield continue to provide outstanding personnel, supply, communications and maintenance support to the 3678th CSSB Detachment and other units.

The month of October has been considerably different

than the previous months. There have been changes to our formation here, with three of our subordinate units conducting their Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority (RIP/TOA) ceremonies. These units include the 352nd CSSB Detachment, 804th Movement Control Team (MCT) and the 142nd MCT.

The 352nd CSSB Detachment, is an Army Reserve unit based out of Macon, Georgia. The 352nd consisted of a sustainment footprint responsible for five separate locations throughout Afghanistan. The detachment conducted Contracting Officer Representative (COR) duties for multiple logistics supplies throughout areas of Afghanistan. The supplies included food, water, fuel, construction materials, maintenance and retrograde. The 352nd CSSB completed a very successful nine month rotation and was replaced by a second team of Soldiers from their unit.

The 804th MCT is an Army Reserve unit located out of Tacoma, Washington, under the 382nd CSSB. While deployed, the

804th MCT had Soldiers tasked at four Forward Logistic Bases (FLB). They deployed in January 2016 and served a nine month rotation under both the 373rd CSSB (Task Force Stingray) and the 185th CSSB. While deployed, the unit performed COR duties for the rotary and fixed wing terminal operations as

well as ground movement of trucks on and off of various Forward Operating Bases (FOB). During their deployment the 804th MCT processed thousands of personnel and truck movements, and millions of pounds of air cargo. The 804th was replaced by the 823rd MCT based out of Missoula, Montana.

The 142nd MCT is an Army Reserve unit located at Fort Totten, New York. The unit was deployed to Kandahar, Afghanistan for a nine month rotation starting in January 2016 and conducted their Transfer of Authority to the 940th MCT based out of Fort Sheridan, Illinois. The 142nd provided COR duties to three locations in southern Afghanistan. The team had very similar duties as the 804th MCT, conducting rotary and fixed wing operation along with ground movement of trucks to Kandahar and other outlying locations. The Movement Control teams were valuable assets to the TF Warhawk team. We will keep these units in our thoughts as they return to their families and homes.

Currently, we are conducting a RIP/TOA for the 111th Mortuary Affairs (MA) Detachment, part of the 111th Quartermaster Company located at Fort Lee, Virginia. The Soldiers of the 111th MA Detachment managed the highly visible and solemn mortuary affairs mission in Afghanistan. These



Soldiers ensured all US service members, DOD Civilians, NATO forces, and other authorized personnel were treated with the utmost dignity, reverence and respect during any repatriation processes. It was an honor for TF Warhawk to have them as part of our team.

The 111th Quartermaster Company is being replaced by the 246th Quartermaster Company, an Army Reserve unit from Puerto Rico. There is one additional significance to completing the 111th transfer as the next and final Relief in Place and Transfer of Authority that the 185th CSSB will conduct will be our own!

As we just celebrated Thanksgiving, and look forward to Christmas, the 185th CSSB has much to be thankful for. The unit remains focused and engaged in the mission and with the outstanding support from home we continue to work hard to reach the finish line.

Lastly, I would like to extend a big congratulations to SSG Tony Niswander and his wife Susan. They are the proud parents of Lillian Marie Niswander who joined their family at 10:56am on October 30th. The pictures on Facebook are precious and sweet. Often as Soldiers do, SSG Niswander watched the birth of his third daughter by video technology from Afghanistan.

# ALWAYS READY!

## 22nd Human Resource Company, HHC, STB, 1CD RSSB

### AN UNCOMMON CALLING AND A COMMON BOND:

#### How the Army connected two Florida natives

Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan – Sandy beaches, deep blue waters, impeccable seafood and sunshine that rarely seems to fade. Florida is a personal paradise for many, but to two young Soldiers, it is also home.

Cpl. Chase Liput and Spc. Evan Duffell are sons of Florida, raised in Orlando and Tampa, respectively, about an hour and a half drive apart. It baffles some that the first time the two met was not in their native home, but more than 1,800 miles west at Fort Carson, Colorado.

“I reported to the company in June of 2014, and when I got there, Liput asked me if he could refer to me as Larry Bird,” said Duffell, describing the day they met. “Our personalities just matched. We were both jokesters and maybe almost too much alike.”

The friendship quickly grew as the two began their daily duties in the 22nd Human Resources Company. Not only did they work side by side, but a twist of fate and a shake up by the company first sergeant insured that the two would become roommates as well. Liput confessed that it was not solely fate that led to them becoming roommates.

“First sergeant did ask who I wanted to room with,” chuckled Liput. “I pointed directly at Duffell, and that was it.”

It only takes a minute to gather how close these

two have grown the past couple years. Their quiet banter and easy going attitudes are contagious.

Although the Soldiers joined the military for different reasons— Liput for the experience and educational opportunities, and Duffell after witnessing a family member’s infantry graduation ceremony at seven years old—they agree it has been a rewarding experience.

When asked if their recent deployment had changed anything they stated that it has only made their bond stronger.

“I can’t even think what this experience would be like without him,” Liput remarked. “We’re brothers for life. We tell each other things we’d never tell anyone else.”

“We’ve experienced a lot of different life events, from nights out, to relationships and sports, we’re there for each other. A deployment doesn’t change that.”

And though the future will bring many changes as Cpl. Liput looks on to pursuing his education and Spc. Duffell to a possible infantry re-class, they are adamant they wouldn’t want to experience their first deployment with anyone else.

As Liput reflected, “It’s nice to know you’re sharing a room with someone you’d die for.”



**“WE WERE BOTH  
JOKESTERS AND  
MAYBE ALMOST  
TOO MUCH  
ALIKE.”**

**– SPC. DUFELL**

## 204th Engineering Battalion, Construction Management Team, 1CD RSSB



**MAJ Eric Holtzapfle**



**SGM Kenneth White**

The 204th Engineering Detachment (EN DET) arrived at Bagram Airfield (BAF), Afghanistan, May 4, 2016, to manage the Environmental Footprint Reduction contract. The 204th EN DET supports the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade with Retrograde, Redistribution, Redeployment, Recovery and Disposal (R4D).

From the Ohio Army National Guard out of Columbus, Ohio, the 204<sup>th</sup> EN DET is an eight Soldier construction management team. Serving overseas for the second time in only six years, the 204th EN DET previously deployed to Afghanistan in 2009-2010 in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The primary mission of the 204th EN DET is to de-scope inoperative structures, harden force protection (i.e. HESCOs to T-walls), provide technical engineer expertise and engineer contract oversight. The 204th is comprised of Maj. Eric Holtzapfle (Commander), Sgt. Maj. Kenneth

White (Operations Sergeant Major), Capt. Sulaiman Bah (TAAC-S Project Manager), Sgt. 1st Class Benjamin Jerles (TAAC-E Project Manager), Staff Sgt. Bryan Franz (BAF and Kabul Cluster LNO), Staff Sgt. Daniel Henle (KAF LNO), Sgt. Christopher Snyder (RLB Manager, Dwyer, and Shorab LNO), and Spc. Tudor (Lightning, Fenty, and Dahlke LNO).

During the 204th EN DET's time in Afghanistan, we have identified over 70 de-scope projects and have completed nearly 40 of those in just seven months. Some of the pivotal projects include the design and planning of the Coyote Creek Project and the MEDEVAC Hangar de-scope and asbestos remediation.



These projects are completed by Multiple Award Task Order Contract (MATOC) teams comprised of expatriates, other country nationals (OCNs), and local nationals (LNs). In the future, the teams will be solely made up of expatriates and OCNs.

The 204th EN DET deployment is coming to an end. We will be returning home soon, and we look forward to reintegrating with Family and friends.

Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Clark, Senior Enlisted Leader for NATO's Resolute Support (RS), U.S. Forces-Afghanistan (USFOR-A) visit, 204th Engineer Detachment (EN. DET.), Construction Management Team (CMT). He also presented Sgt. Christopher Snyder with a coin during his visit, Nov. 5.



## 204th EN. BN. CMT, 1CD RSSB

### Sierra Leone native becomes US Soldier

by SFC LaSonya Johnson

Young people wind up in the military for a variety of reasons ranging from economic pressure to the desire to travel the world, or a dead-end situation at a job to the promise of citizenship.

Capt. Sulaiman Bah is originally from Sierra Leone. He is a project engineer for the 204<sup>th</sup> Engineering Detachment (EN DET), Construction Management Team (CMT), an Army National Guard unit out of Columbus, Ohio. His unit is attached to the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) while deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Bah is responsible for the deconstruction operations across three bases in TAAC-S (Train, Advise and Assist Command-South) in support of Operation Freedom Sentinel.

During the 90's Sierra Leone was the victim of a 10-year-long civil war.

During the height of the war, the US military sent naval forces to evacuate American citizens and some other citizens of western nations from the city of Freetown due to the severity of the fighting, Bah recalls.

"My aunt sent my cousin and I to check and see if the U.S. military was evacuating British citizens," Bah said. "What I saw was unbelievable!"

"I was used to seeing people being beaten and treated badly, but I was very surprised as I watched Army personnel helping people and treating them with dignity and respect."

In the midst of what Bah said he thought would be total chaos, he witnessed the exact opposite.

"All of my experience with the Sierra Leonean Army was not

good. Being a victim of military brutality, I could not have imagined the scene before my eyes," said Bah.

"I saw the U.S. security forces ushering people in and checking their documents, and it was in such a professional manner," said Bah, a 23-year-old undergraduate student at the time. "Everyone was treated well, and that impression stuck with me for a very long time."

That day Bah said he told his cousin if he ever decided to join the military, it was going to be

"I was used to seeing people being beaten and treated badly, but I was very surprised as I watched US Army personnel helping people and treating them with dignity and respect."

the U.S. military.

Bah went on to continue his undergraduate studies at the University of Sierra Leone where his professor was using U.S. Army Corps of Engineers doctrine to instruct the course.

"That is when I found out the U.S. Army had a large engineering organization," said the six-year veteran.

He said that aspect of the Army fascinated him and gave him yet another reason to join the U.S. Army. Eventually, Bah got the opportunity to go to the U.S. to attend school on an academic scholarship.

Bah attended the University of Toledo where he received his master's degree in Civil Engineering. Toward the end of his

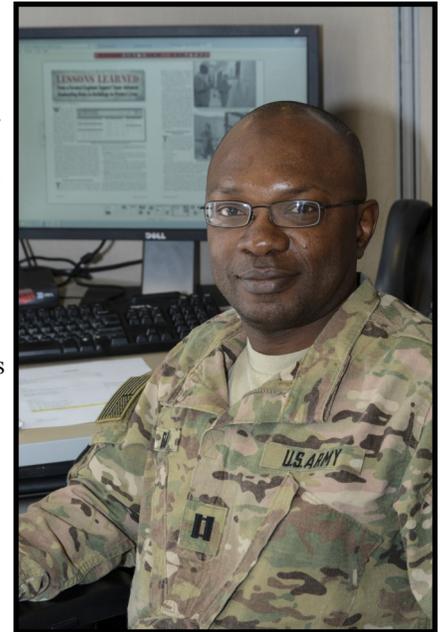
studies he had the opportunity to immigrate permanently to the U.S., and he returned to Sierra Leone to begin studying the immigration process.

Bah received his security visa, and he was able to move back to the U.S., where he began working as a structural engineer. Five years later he joined the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

"I was very happy," said Bah. "I was now doing what I enjoyed, and I was doing it as a U.S. citizen and a soldier."

"National Guard units pride themselves in having the ability to take citizen soldiers and utilize their civilian expertise to better themselves as Soldiers," said Maj. Eric Holtzapple, commander, 204<sup>th</sup> EN DET. "Capt. Bah is a perfect example of this ability to utilize his civilian engineering skills to exceed the standard in all he does while serving as an engineer project manager," said Holtzapple.

Most of Capt. Bah's family is still in Sierra Leone, with the exception of two brothers and a few cousins.



People who knew Sulaiman were unsure of why he was joining the U.S. military. He said it took a while for people to understand his reasons, but in time, they came to agree with his decision.

"Most people dream of coming to the U.S.," said Bah. "Everyone back home was proud of my decision."

Today, Bah lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife and children and works as the Statewide Facilities Engineer when he's not fighting for his country, the United States of America, which he calls home.



# 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade

## 1st CD RSSB Aerial Delivery Team is small in size, big part of mission

By Cpl. Michael C. Smith

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan** – The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) is currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom’s Sentinel (OFS), a training and advisory mission for which the brigade provides logistical expertise and support throughout the country.

The eight soldiers assigned to the 1CD RSSB Aerial Delivery Team at Bagram Airfield (BAF), Afghanistan, are responsible for supporting all units throughout Train Advise Assist Command-East (TAAC-East), a 46,000 square mile section of the country roughly the size of Virginia and consisting of 14 provinces, by providing essential supplies ranging from food and water to ammunition and repair equipment.

“We support all of TAAC-East, and we make sure that everyone gets their commodities in an expedient manner, so they can continue the mission,” said Cpl. Marcel Woods, sling load noncommissioned officer for 1CD RSSB. “We sling and rig commodities of all classes of supply.”

Having the ability to sling-load supplies and deliver them by helicopter is vital to the success of the Army’s mission in Afghanistan because in most cases, it is the fastest and most efficient method of delivery.

“Sling-loading is the most expedient way we can get the customer their commodities,” said Staff Sgt. Carlo Sablan, 1CD RSSB Aerial Delivery Sling Load Team noncommissioned officer in charge. “Being transported by air is a lot quicker.”

Also, some units are located in places where

it is not possible to deliver those necessary supplies any other way.

“Some Soldiers are located on smaller combat outposts (COP) with no airfield, and they need ammo or parts to fix their equipment,” said Sablan. “Our role is vital to the personnel we support in those places where fixed-wing aircraft can’t get to, and we play a big part in that picture.”

Sablan said the average window after supplies have arrived to the aerial delivery team

“We support all of TAAC-East, and we make sure that everyone gets their commodities in an expedient manner, so they can continue the mission.”

at BAF is 72 hours to be delivered to its final destination anywhere in TAAC-East.

Woods said the sling load team packages and ships approximately ten loads each day.

On their busiest day of the deployment thus far, they have packed 21 loads totaling more than 60,000 pounds of supplies vital to the mission in TAAC-East.

Sablan said although physically hooking a load up to the aircraft typically takes between 15 and 20 minutes, the sling-load process as a whole is very precise and requires training.

“The hook-up process is the easy part,” said Sablan. “The hardest part is making sure the load is set right, and it takes a lot of attention to detail.”

In order to be a sling-load inspector, like Sablan and Woods, one must be a graduate of Air Assault School, the sling load inspector certification course or Pathfinder School.

Aside from the detailed technical aspects of sling-loading that one must master, there are hazards to the job that have to be taken into



account on every mission.

As a helicopter reduces altitude and nears the ground, it creates a dangerous amount of static electricity, and the sling-load crew must use a static discharge wand to ground the cargo hook on the aircraft so the hookup soldier does not receive a shock when connecting the load.

“Obviously dealing with helicopters period, is dangerous,” Sablan said. “Being under one is pretty dangerous, and static electricity is one danger we definitely have to deal with here on a daily basis.”

Another potential hazard is debris on the landing zone that could potentially get caught in the aircraft’s jet wash and strike someone, so the area is policed multiple times each day to remove items that could become a dangerous projectile.

Regardless of the dangers involved with having an aircraft hover above them producing static electricity while two engines blow more than 4,000 horsepower each at them, regardless of the time spent on deployment away from their Families, the Soldiers of the sling-load team have not lost sight of the importance of what they do to support OFS and the brigade’s mission.

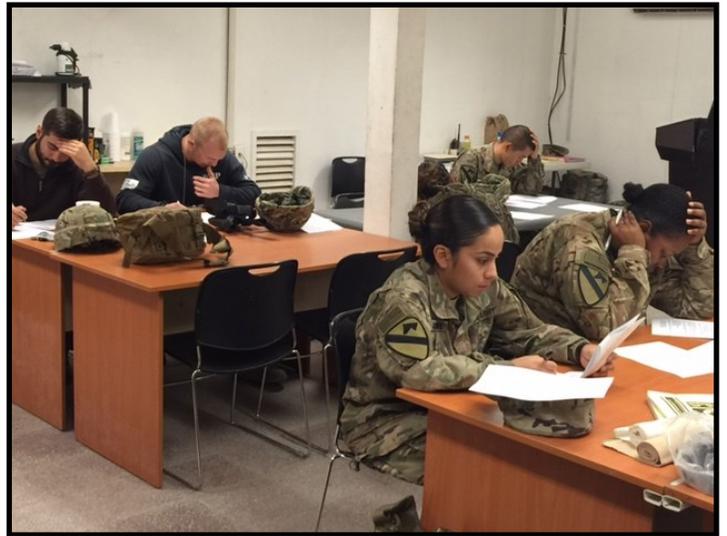
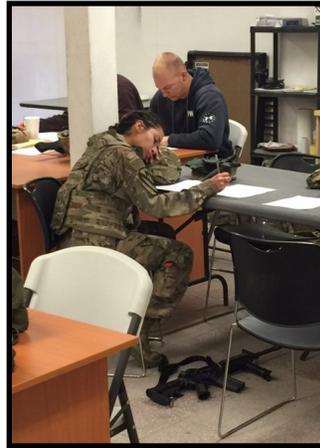
“We are the link that gets that equipment from point A to point B in an expedient manner,” Sablan said. “My team is very relevant to the brigade’s mission. I understand we are just a small piece of that, but we are a very important piece.”

“If we weren’t out here, troops in TAAC-East would be waiting for their supplies, and we don’t want them to worry about whether they will eat, have enough ammo or have the parts to fix their equipment,” said Woods. “Myself and the rest of the Soldiers out here take a lot of pride in our job, [supporting the mission], and we are the force behind the fight.”



## Pegasus First Responder Training

Over the last 90 days the brigade has worked weekly with the Bosnian forces to evaluate and validate their medical training and skills. The training is designed to ensure preparedness for mass casualty situations. In November the Surgeons Cell also conducted the Pegasus First Responder Course to certify personnel as Combat Lifesavers.



## S6 Supports Aviation Ops



**Staff Sgt. Michael Harmon**—“I’m glad I deployed for the third time because it is a blessing to see my younger Soldiers coming together and getting more proficient at their craft.”

“I take pride in teaching my troops new things and bringing them home when we complete our mission.”

**Cpl. Ashley Parker**—

“My first deployment seemed less stressful. This deployment I have a family I have to take care of and constantly worry about.”

“I look forward to making a difference in someone’s life, whether it be helping get a Soldier promoted or maintaining financial documentations.”



**Pfc. Shundrea Hunter**—“I was excited and nervous at the same time. I didn’t know what to expect since this was my first deployment.”

“My parents were a little worried because they didn’t want me to go to Afghanistan, but I assured them everything would be fine.”

“The scariest part was boarding the military plane in Kuwait, because I’m scared of flying.”



**Pfc. Kenneth Couch**—

“It was difficult to explain to my family, especially my son, why I was leaving. He was sad the day I left, but I had to be strong for him. It was a very different experience for me.”



ICD RSSB human resources Soldiers, known in military circles as S1, may not get much glory or fanfare, but they all made sacrifices to support this deployment, and their unheralded job is vital to the unit’s success. The S1 shop is responsible for all manpower, personnel and administrative requirements, whether they are at the brigade or battalion level. They provide recommendations and assistance to the command group in the management of current manpower requirements and future organizational structure, and they are responsible for processing all the paperwork involved with evaluation reports, awards and other personnel issues.

**Spc. Karshia McQueen**—“We created a family-oriented environment prior to the deployment, and we showed our dedication and work ethic to get the mission done by any means necessary.”

“I’ll cherish this deployment because I volunteered to go with the hopes of it being my last one before leaving the Army.”

“One of my main goals is to make each day productive, and the next thing you know, it will be time to go home.”

**Pfc. Tierra Hartley**—“The day we left, all I could think was ‘This is actually happening. I’m actually leaving the United States to go to a foreign country for the first time.’”

“The best part of deployment is getting to know Soldiers I see on a daily basis and having them as part of my family.”



**Spc. Shaquann Johnson**—“The day I officially hit boots on the ground in Afghanistan, was one of the most exhilarating experiences of my life.”

“I see how much of a brotherhood the Army actually is. I’ve learned what it means to be a piece of something bigger than yourself.”

“The simplest things mean a lot more. I like taking pride in what I do right, and taking ownership of what I do wrong.”



**Spc. Jamal Rodman**—“Volunteering gave me a positive outlook. I made the choice to be here, so when I get a negative outlook on things, I tell myself, ‘You made the choice to be here, so get it together.’”

“Every event comes with a new story that I can tell my grandkids. Sometimes it’s surreal waking up in the mountains of Afghanistan, with me just being a kid from Florida.”



**Spc. Ninostka Amaro**—“The hardest thing I had to do was give my dog to my friend. I knew I would be able to talk to my husband, but it was going to be hard to keep in touch with my dog. That made me sad.”



**Spc. Ashley Joyner**—“There is more face to face with Soldiers you wouldn’t normally interact with. I like the fact that I’m helping a Soldier with every transaction I do.”

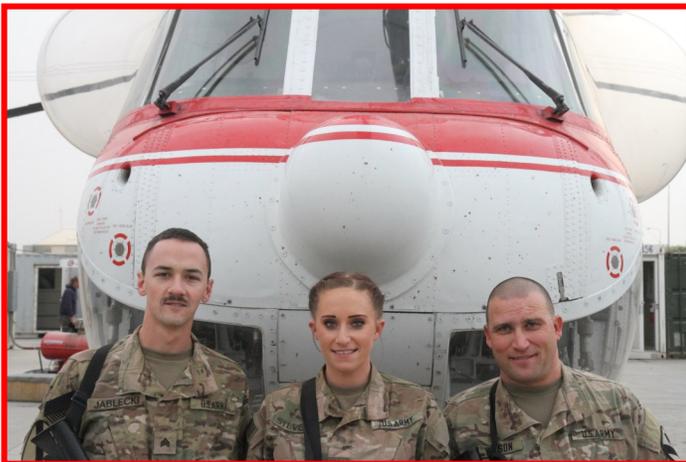


## S6-Information Technology Honey Badgers

### Colombia Air Install

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade S6 Tactical Operations and Special Projects Team consists of Staff Sgt. Paul B. Wilson, noncommissioned officer in charge, and Network Operations NCO, Sgt. Derek J. Jablecki, satellite communications systems operator/maintainer and communications security NCO, and Spc. Roxanne M. Stevens, signal support systems specialist. From Sept. 26 to Oct. 5, this team initiated and completed a comprehensive network installation for Columbia Helicopters, Inc., located at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. This project included assembling cables, configuring switches and taclanes, and loading proper communications security for both unclassified and classified domains. The new network infrastructure provided by the Tactical Ops and Special Projects Team enables fast and reliable communications of updated intelligence reports from the ground to Columbia's pilots, vastly improving mission timeliness and safety.

**SIGNAL CORPS**



Sgt. Derek J. Jablecki, satellite communications systems operator/maintainer and communications security NCO; Spc. Roxanne M. Stevens, signal support systems specialist; Staff Sgt. Paul B. Wilson, NCOIC and network



Sgt. Derek J. Jablecki, satellite communications systems operator/maintainer and communications security NCO.



Spc. Roxanne M. Stevens, signal support systems specialist.



Sgt. Derek J. Jablecki, satellite communications systems operator/maintainer and communications security NCO; Spc. Roxanne M. Stevens, signal support systems specialist; Staff Sgt. Paul B. Wilson, NCOIC and network operations NCO.

## Chaplain's Corner

### It is Well

By Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Douglas T. Downs

1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade. Public Affairs



There were few empty seats the first Sunday since being able to hold chapel services after the tragic events of 12 November. Each service in their own special way gave heart felt recognition and uplifted prayers for our Fallen Heroes, those wounded, for families, and for all who are feeling an unexplainable emptiness deep within.

The Contemporary Protestant service began with a hymn familiar to many; "It is Well with My Soul." The story behind

the hymn, is one that I think we in the Wagonmaster family can relate to and find strength in. The hymn was penned in 1873 by a grief stricken businessman named Horatio Spafford, who found himself and wife Anna, reaching out and finding the peace of God as they suffered the loss of their four daughters.

Anna Spafford, and their four daughters, were on an ocean liner bound for Europe when their ship collided with another. Anna knelt and prayed that God would spare them, or if that was not his will, to give them the grace to endure what lie before them. Within twelve minutes, the vessel that carried them slipped into the cold waters of the Atlantic. Miraculously, Anna was found clinging to a piece of wreckage; the Spafford children, along with 226 others, found their rest in a watery grave at sea.

Upon hearing the heart-rending news, via a wire that began, "saved

alone, what shall I do?" Horatio Spafford immediately boarded the next available ship to join his grieving wife. When the ship was four days out into the ocean, the captain informed him they were over the area where his four daughters went down. While on his journey of the 'dark night of the soul,' Spafford penned the words of the hymn "It is Well with my Soul."

*When peace like a river attends all my way,*

*When sorrows like sea billows roll,*

*Whatever my lot, you have taught me to say:*

*"It is well, it is well, with my soul."*

*And Lord haste the day when our faith shall be sight,*

*The clouds be rolled back like a scroll,*

*The trumpet shall sound, and the Lord shall descend*

*Even so – it is well with my soul.*

While indeed we may find ourselves "walking through the valley of the shadow of death," or in sorrows that seem to engulf us as the raging waters of a vast ocean. We can find an unmistakable peace that resides deep within our soul, as we rest in the Lord who is our Shepherd. Strength is found as we look to the Lord who one day will make sight, what we hold to now by faith. I find peace, strength, and comfort as I imagine SSG John Perry, PFC Tyler Iubelt, Jerry Reeves and Peter Provost, joining with the heavenly choir declaring, "It is Well with my Soul."

#### Chaplain conducts Wise Choice/Wise Living resiliency training at BAF

Physical fitness is not the only hallmark of the U.S. Army—resilience ranks high in developing strong Soldiers and families.

Resiliency is the ability to overcome challenges—trauma, tragedy, personal crises, plain 'ole' life problems—and bounce back stronger, wiser and more mentally powerful.

More than 50 soldiers participated in the Wise Choice/Wise Living Seminar led by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Douglas T. Downs, chaplain, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (ICD RSSB), and members of the ICD RSSB's resiliency team.

Wise Choices/Wise Living is both a resiliency class and a moral leadership class with an objective to train and enable soldiers to make decisions and choices concerning their ac-

tions based on a simple criteria: Is this wise based on my past experience, my current situation, or my future hopes, dreams and goals?

"Wise Choices/Wise Living is designed to challenge Soldiers to cast a vision for the direction they wish their life to go and the legacy they wish to leave behind," said Downs. "It challenges participants to take responsibility for their lives both professionally and personally."

Soldiers realize that they must make both short-term and long-term decisions. Sometimes, they must resist short-term gratifications in order to move towards their ultimate goals and the visions they have for themselves.

"The seminar reminded me of how relevant it is to keep focus on my goals," said Spc. Marisleidy Olazabal, Alpha Company, 230<sup>th</sup>

Financial Management Support Detachment, Special Troops Battalion, ICD RSSB. "It puts a perspective on the tools we need to utilize to reach our goals."

Olazabal is currently deployed to Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, but will be returning to Colorado Springs, CO., in a few weeks. She said the training helped her understand that making certain sacrifices now can help her reach her goals as a Soldier and civilian.

The topics of discussion during the Wise Choice/Wise Living Seminar were No pain No gain, Taking responsibility and Thinking straight, Threat to your vision and The Nature of your goals.

"I would like to see Soldiers walk away from this class with a sense of ownership and responsibility for their lives and to rise above the crowd and become full adult human beings who are capable of having vision, control and discipline," concluded the Downs.

## Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Douglas T. Downs, chaplain, led the Wise Choices Wise Living Seminar at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Oct. 28. "Wise Choices Wise Living is designed to challenge soldiers to intentionally cast a vision for the direction they wish their life to go and the legacy they wish to leave behind," said Downs. "It gives them the opportunity to take responsibility for their lives both professionally and personally." Downs said.

### Young Soldiers benefit from master resiliency training at BAF



Soldiers will encounter many stressful situations through the course of a military career. Perhaps the most mentally taxing time for a Soldier is the time spent on deployment in a combat zone, especially for the first time.

Soldiers assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), several of whom are first-time deployers, have found effective ways to deal with stress and remain in a positive state of mind through the skills taught in Master Resiliency Training (MRT).

"MRT works to change Soldiers' thought processes in order to deal with negative situations, so they can accomplish any mission," said Sgt. 1st Class Tracey Brown, Master

Resiliency Trainer, 1CD RSSB. "It is a guide to positive thinking."

MRT teaches Soldiers how to handle situations in an effective manner, to build optimism, positive emotion and mental toughness. This results in more optimal performance, sustained motivation and increased effort. It also helps counteract the tendency to focus more attention on negative events than positive ones.

Brown said she enjoys helping soldiers find something good to get them through their day because it puts a smile on their face and helps them

keep a positive mindset.

Spc. Jamal Rodman, brigade promotions clerk, 1CD RSSB, has been in the Army for nearly one year, and this is his first deployment.

"MRT teaches you to find your own way to stay positive, and find the good in every situation," said Rodman. "I stay positive by volunteering and participating in every program I can."

There are a number of problems that Soldiers, especially younger Soldiers, deal with on a deployment, the most common being relationship issues and loneliness, said Brown.

She said that is why we teach soldiers how and why they should "Hunt the Good Stuff."

"MRT teaches you to find your own way to stay positive, and find the good in every situation."

"MRT helps you look at the positive side of things, especially on deployment, because you are away from family and friends," said Spc. Roxanne Stevens, signal supply systems specialist, 1CD RSSB. "It gives me a certain level of comfort knowing we are all dealing with the same issues, and we have each other to help us in being resilient."



## September Happenings



The main body of the 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade left for Afghanistan, Sept. 7. The brigade Family readiness group was, as always, on hand to give out snacks and drinks. The local news station, KCEN, was on hand to interview Soldiers and family members. Soldiers were able to spend some time with their Families and friends and say some last-minute goodbyes before they departed for Killeen-Fort Hood Regional Airport.



As one unit rolls up their colors, another unit unrolls theirs to take its place. The 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade, now the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, held a ceremony in recognition of the transfer of authority from 518th Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade at Bagram Airfield, Sept. 17. The 1CD RSSB assumed responsibilities of the sustainment mission to oversee the retrograde, material reduction and footprint adjustment for coalition forces, from 518th RSSB, who will head home after a nine-month deployment.



## October Happenings



Soldiers assigned to the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) enjoyed treats, scary movies and a haunted house at the Halloween Celebration hosted by the Special Troops Battalion, 1CD RSSB, at the Wagonmasters Corral on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Oct. 31.

More than 40 volunteers contributed to the event which helped troops break away from the daily routine of the deployment. The evening was a great morale booster for the Soldiers, some of whom were spending their first holiday away from their families.

The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) is currently deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Freedom's Sentinel, a training and advisory mission for which the brigade provides logistical expertise and support throughout the country. The eight Soldiers assigned to the 1CD RSSB Aerial Delivery Team at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan conduct sling-load operations throughout Train Advise Assist Command-East, a 46,000 square mile section of the country roughly the size of Virginia and consisting of 14 provinces, by providing essential supplies ranging from food and water to ammunition and repair equipment. Having the ability to sling load supplies and deliver them by or helicopter is vital to the success of the Army's mission in Afghanistan because in most cases, it is the fastest and most efficient method of delivery.



# October Happenings



The strength of the U.S. Army is the diversity within its ranks, which is comprised of more than 64,000 Hispanic-Americans. The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) hosted a festive Hispanic Heritage Observance at Bagram Airfield, Oct. 15, in recognition of Hispanic Heritage Month. Soldiers from 1CD RSSB, the U.S. Airforce, and Bosnian Soldiers assigned to 1CD RSSB, performed a myriad of traditional Hispanic dances to the music of 1st Cavalry Division's band, The Dirty Spurs. After the formal portion of the observance, Soldiers explored Hispanic culture through their taste buds. Sgt. 1st Class Lissette Smith, Equal Opportunity Advisor, 1CD RSSB, who organized the event, said during the month of October, we celebrate the historic cultures and contributions of American citizens with ancestors from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central and South America.



Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, opened the Wagonmasters Corral on the RSF compound October 8. The Wagonmasters Corral MWR gives Soldiers a place to go and relax, watch movies, and play games after a long day's work.



## November Happenings



Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Clark, Senior Enlisted Leader for NATO's Resolute Support (RS), U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, visited the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), at Bagram Airfield, Nov. 5. It was Clark's first opportunity to visit 1CD RSSB since becoming the senior enlisted leader for RS. He took the time to indulge in conversations with Soldiers, inquiring about their successes and challenges during the deployment. Before leaving, Clark presented five Wagonmaster Soldiers with a coin and thanked them for all they contribute to the RS mission.



Every Soldier deals with deployment stress in a different way, and sometimes a smiling face and a little companionship goes a long way towards boosting one's spirits. That's when the Army sends in Jed. The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade received a special treat at Bagram Airfield



(BAF), Afghanistan, Nov. 17, when Jed visited the office. Jed, a morale dog stationed at BAF, took the time out of his busy schedule to meet Soldiers and pose for pictures. Although he had to reluctantly turn down snacks, he definitely seemed to enjoy spending some time with the Wagonmaster family.



## November Happenings



The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade hosted Mrs. Ricki Selva, wife of Gen. Paul Selva, Vice Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Nov. 24. Mrs. Selva was one of the first 157 young women who reported to the U.S. Air Force Academy in 1976, when women were first allowed to enter into military academies. There were more than 50 female Army and Air Force personnel in attendance to hear Mrs. Selva speak about the significance of female service members and the challenges they face.



Six service members previously wounded in the line of duty, enjoyed an evening of food, music and games with Soldiers of the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, at Bagram Airfield (BAF) Nov. 19. Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Raina Hockenberry, Army Master Sgt. Neal Benson, Army Staff Sgt. Earl Granville (Ret.), Army Staff Sgt. James Fitzgerald (Ret.), Army Master Sgt. Raymond Castillo and Army Master Sgt. Leroy Petry (Ret.), a Medal of Honor recipient, came to BAF as part of Operation Proper Exit. The program returns Wounded Warriors to theater to provide some measure of closure. It also provides meet-and-greet opportunities with currently deployed troops.



# Promotions



**Congratulations Wagonmasters!**