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1ST CAVALRY DIVISION  
RESOLUTE SUPPORT SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE

# Wagonmasters



**Wagonmaster 6**  
**COL Christopher H. Colavita**



**Wagonmaster 9**  
**CSM Jill L. Crosby**

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## S3 Operations

# 1CD RSSB Soldiers provide logistical support at HKIA

By Sgt. 1st Class LaSonya J. Johnson

The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) sent eight Soldiers to Hamid Karzai International Airport (HKIA) on a Train, Advise, Assist (TAA) mission to support Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A). The team advises and provides logistics support to the ANDSF in an effort to mitigate personnel shortages and sustain the force through logistics and maintenance.

"The Resolute Legacy to Afghanistan will not be guns and ammo, but systems and processes that enable fiscal discipline for the future," said President Ashraf Ghani, President of Afghanistan.

The Directorate of National Logistics (DNL) supports fielding and development of the ANDSF logistics organizations through contract transition, leader development, liaison, and support to elements at national level institutions in order to enable accountable Afghan-led logistics. The main effort is to transition national logistics sites to full Afghan National Army (ANA) and Afghan National Police (ANP) control.

The team, Sgt. 1st Class Tracey Brown, Sgt. 1st Class Byron Carter, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Legette, Staff Sgt. Krystal Heard, Staff Sgt. Kevin Long, Staff Sgt. David Miller, Spc. Adam Abdallah, and Spc. Cameron Holliday, 1CD RSSB, works closely with the DNL and provides technical expertise in the Class IX (repair parts) warehouse operations, and provides oversight in the multi-class container yard maintenance operations.

The Class IX operation focuses on warehouse operations, the proper use of the ANA's Core Inventory Management System (CORE-IMS), and removal of all legacy parts, or parts that are no longer used in the Afghan fleets of vehicles. By providing qualified and experienced personnel to oversee and actively manage warehouse operations, productivity will increase for

the ANA and ANP.

"We have built lasting logistics systems at strategic depots within the Ministry of Defense (MoD), Central Supply Depot, Wardak and the Ministry of Interior," said Staff Sgt. Krystal Heard, automated logistics specialist, 1CD RSSB.

According to Heard, since embedding into warehouse operations with the MoD, the container yard's inventory is now at 100% and military control numbers have been created for locally made items which has increased the functionality of operations.

More than 200 items have been identified without national stock numbers. Working with the MoD cataloging officer, the team has found a permanent solution to adding all unidentified items into the CORE-IMS for customer issue.

The 1CD RSSB maintenance team enforced safety and environmental standards within the ANA motor pool operations to ensure preventive maintenance checks and services are complete to identify hazards, associated risk, and implement control measures prior to conducting convoy operations. In addition to enforcing safety measures, the maintenance team assists with vehicle operation over varied terrain in combat operations, transporting cargo, and guidance on preparing personnel and vehicles for movement.

All members on the team are fully trained. Their detail-oriented skills provide a visible presence to prevent hostile actions and ensure the safety of the entire team. The RSSB team has enhanced and improved the combat effectiveness and logistics capabilities within the ANA and increased overall operational effectiveness.

"The stability of the Afghan government and the performance of the ANDSF is essential in the future of Afghanistan. In order to help sustain the force, they will have to continue to efficiently conduct logistics procedures to provide long-term increased capabilities," said Sgt. 1st Class Tracey Brown, noncommissioned officer in charge of the CSTC-A TAA mission at HKIA.





## Chaplain's Corner

### True Spirit of Christmas

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



Christmas Eve night was truly a time that will be remembered at Bagram Airfield. Although the month of November brought tragedy and fear, those gathered at Enduring Faith Chapel appeared to be heeding the words spoken to Joseph, Mary, and the Shepherds, "do not be afraid." The Christmas Eve Candlelight Service was an opportunity for the true spirit of Christmas to shine forth. The chapel was filled to capacity as approximately 260 people gathered to hear the Christmas story, told through reading performed by participants of a variety of worship services. Voices raised in exuberance to celebrate peace, joy



The Dirty Spurs perform with members of the 1st Cavalry Division Band after the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at the Enduring Faith Chapel on Bagram Airfield, Dec. 25.



Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Douglas T. Downs, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade chaplain, lights candles at the Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at Bagram Airfield, Dec. 25.

and goodwill to all, as we sang the familiar carols, lite the candles, and reverently declared, "Silent night! Holy night! All is calm, all is bright." Members of the 1st Cavalry Division Band, provided the musical background for the congregational carols and raised the roof with the Dirty Spurs, performing their Annual Holiday Concert after the service. Even though all those in attendance were thousands of miles away from their families in a distant land, we all felt a keen sense of family as we shared smiles, laughter and warm handshakes with Soldiers, airmen, contractors, civilians, and coalition partners from all over the world. As we left to go back to our separate work and living areas, we felt a renewed understanding of the message and meaning of the Christmas Advent Season, "Immanuel, God with us."





## S4 Supply Operations



This deployment has been a great experience. When I get home, I look forward to spending time with my family and starting a new chapter in my Army career.



What I enjoy most about this deployment:

1- Thursday spades tournaments.

2- Kicking my soldier's butts in the gym!

The deployment has definitely opened my eyes to how the real Army is and how we all have come together as a family. The first thing I'm doing when I get home is eating Whataburger and taking a nap!



I come motivated every day to get the job done, and I am looking forward to getting back to the states with my wife and kids.

I've been deployed to Kosovo once and to Iraq three times. People make each deployment different, and we're a tight-knit group. We constantly look out for one another.

I'm looking forward to hugging my wife and kids as soon as we land.

I didn't expect to deploy right out of AIT, but it's flying by. I can't wait to eat Chick-fil-A and hug my dog.





## NCO Induction Ceremony



Command Sgt. Maj. Jill L. Crosby (far right), 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Clark (far left), Senior Enlisted Leader for NATO's Resolute Support, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, pose with Soldiers inducted in the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

By SFC LaSonya J. Johnson

The 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB) held a Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) Induction Ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 17, 2016.

The NCO Induction Ceremony is a celebration of newly promoted Soldiers joining the ranks of the professional NCO Corps that emphasizes and builds on the pride NCOs share as members of such an elite Corps.

"Becoming a noncommissioned officer is more than being promoted into the NCO Corps. It's about becoming part of the backbone of the Army, setting the example for your Soldiers and taking personal responsibility for your team," said Command Sgt. Maj. Jill L. Crosby, command sergeant major, 1CD RSSB.

Tradition is a big part of an NCO Induction Ceremony, but more than tradition, it's something that allows the NCO to see, besides the rank change, that they have formally been inducted into a group that is very unique to the Army.

"You are an elite team of noncommis-

sioned officers – individuals who want to be part of something bigger than themselves," Crosby said. "This commitment will require you to sacrifice your time for others, but it will be one of the most rewarding things you ever do. You have your leadership and my attention; use that to make a difference in the Corps."

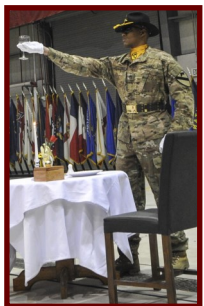
During the Induction Ceremony, the newly promoted sergeant is often sponsored by another seasoned NCO. This sponsor has a critical role to play.

"The NCO induction ceremony, for me, was an experience like none other. It made me feel like I was a part of an elite group of individuals," said Bryan Smith, 1CD RSSB.

Included in the ceremony was a table set for one. The table symbolizes the frailty of each individual Soldier engaged in battle against the enemy.

This table represents SFC Allan Brown and SSG John Perry, 1CD RSSB Soldiers who lost their lives in an attack on Bagram Airfield.

Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Clark, Senior Enlisted Leader for NATO's Resolute Support, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, was the guest speaker for the NCO Induction Cer-



Sgt. 1st Class Marvin Chestnut demonstrates the purpose of the items placed on the table set for one.



Command Sgt. Maj. Jill L. Crosby, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, and Command Sgt. Maj. David M. Clark, Senior Enlisted Leader for NATO's Resolute Support, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, prepare to welcome a Soldier inducted in the Noncommissioned Officer Corps.

mony.

"If you can take a new Soldier, a private, and walk him through the steps through the ranks of the noncommissioned officer, you have not only taken care of that Soldier, but you've already prepared that Soldier to become an NCO," said Clark.

Clark said to the NCOs getting inducted that sometimes they will make mistakes, things won't always go their way, but they will learn about themselves.

"The torch is being passed to you. You have to carry it, so run your race, Clark concluded.



## Security Platoon

Soldiers assigned to security platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC), Special Troops Battalion (STB), 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), took part in a training exercise simulating an enemy attack on the Resolute Support Facility Compound at Bagram Airfield (BAF), Afghanistan, Jan. 17.

The training focused on how quickly and effectively security elements on the compound would react to a simulated enemy attack, secure the area, account for personnel, and locate and evacuate the wounded while providing tactical combat casualty care.

"As a platoon sergeant, you are looking for a certain level of proficiency from the team, be it medical skills, military tactics or just overall battlefield knowledge," said Staff Sgt. Rodniel Valdes, platoon sergeant, security platoon, HHC, STB, 1CD RSSB.

On the day of the exercise, security platoon Soldiers were going about their normal daily activities of manning guard gates, checking identification badges and escorting visitors, unaware of any scheduled training until the alarm sounded on the loudspeakers inside the compound.

Soldiers in body armor scrambled in different directions, ushering people to bunkers while others grabbed extra gear, but they all quickly organized into small groups at various



Spc. Roger Hawkins searches for casualties during a training exercise at Bagram Airfield, Jan. 17.

locations in a way that showed there was disciplined order within the chaos.

"We all assume we know what to do, but through training exercises like this, you realize you may have forgotten something or done something wrong in the heat of the moment, and you realize

what you need to work on," said Spc. Rudy Lie, platoon medic, security platoon, HHC, STB, 1CD RSSB. "We have to know what we're missing and catch the little things."

The next part of the training exercise consisted of an alert communicated to security platoon Soldiers that there was an unknown number of injured personnel who needed treatment and evacuation somewhere in the compound.

Teams of Soldiers leapt into action, tactically and swiftly moving throughout the compound as a unit, while simultaneously sharing the responsibilities of carrying extra medical gear and ensuring there was no threat around the next corner.

"Even though everyone may know their



Security platoon Soldiers perform tactical combat casualty care on Johnny, a mannequin playing the role of a wounded Soldier, during a training exercise at Bagram Airfield, Jan. 17.

own job and responsibilities, it's the working together that's important," said Lie. "The teamwork is what takes the most practice, so we all work smoothly together as one unit."

When the injured Soldier was found, some security platoon Soldiers established defensive positions while others helped Lie assess the extent of the victim's injuries.



Security platoon Soldiers evacuate Johnny, a mannequin playing the role of a wounded Soldier, during a training exercise simulating an enemy attack at Bagram Airfield, Jan. 17.

The role of the injured Soldier in this exercise was played by Johnny the mannequin.

Johnny was on the ground with fake blood leaking through his uniform from fake injuries.

Lie, with assistance from some of the other Soldiers, applied a tourniquet and necessary bandages, placed Johnny on a litter and evacuated the 180-pound victim to a more secure area where transportation to the hospital would be more accessible.

"It's a great refresher for a medic," said Lie. "Even though we perform extensive medical training, you can never practice enough."

Once the victim was reassessed and stabilized, and all personnel involved in the exercise were accounted for, the drill ended and the evaluation process began.

"I am impressed with the level of proficiency I saw today from my guys, but that doesn't mean we will stop training," said Valdes.

"You never take your foot off the gas."

Observers who orchestrated the exercise and participants went through the exercise step by step and discussed the positives and negatives of the training, so next time, the same mistakes will be avoided.

"You train as you fight," said Valdes. "You have to be ready at all times in case the real thing happens."





## Sisters In Arms

*The Sisters in Arms program was developed as an avenue to educate, train, mentor and empower female Soldiers to become future leaders in today's Army.*

By CPL Michael Smith

They may have only had the Army uniform in common when they walked through the door, but regardless of the paths they took to get there, a group of Soldiers on deployment to Afghanistan enjoyed an evening of fun, food and stories, and hopefully left with some new friends and a lot more in common than they thought.

Command Sgt. Maj. Jill L. Crosby, command sergeant major, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade (1CD RSSB), hosted the Sisters in Arms Forum at the Jirga Center on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 24.

More than 40 Soldiers, male and female, attended the forum that was developed for female Soldiers to enhance avenues of mentorship and empowerment in order to reach their full potential.

It was the first forum held by the sergeant major inviting female Soldiers across Bagram Airfield to participate and to build bonds, instill cohesion, and build bridges between senior and junior enlisted females.

As women break down barriers and navigate through their careers in the U.S. Army, it is inevitable that they need to reach out for guidance from an experienced and knowledgeable leader.

"Senior leaders have a wealth of knowledge to share. Soldiers need to understand that we wore the same rank and encountered some of the same issues they face today," said Crosby. "So who better to reach out and help them understand that nothing you seek to enhance your future is impossible."

The forum opened with a panel of senior officers and enlisted personnel introducing themselves to the audience and sharing short stories of their careers and obstacles they faced while maneuvering through the ranks as a female Soldier.

"We thought maybe we could start with a small forum to see what questions younger Soldiers have, and help them get through any issues or challenges they may be facing," said Sergeant 1st Class Tronda Powers, property book officer, 1CD RSSB.



Soldiers take part in group exercises to better get to know each other at the Sisters in Arms Forum at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 24. More than 40 Soldiers, male and female, attended the Sisters in Arms Forum hosted by the 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade.



More than 40 Soldiers, male and female, attended the Sisters in Arms Forum at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 24.

She said it wasn't only to discuss issues, but also to let Soldiers know that no matter what the circumstances are, there is someone out there who has worn the same boots.

"Overcoming obstacles makes you stronger, but sometimes it's good to have someone to talk to and help you through certain situations," said Crosby.

Stories that were shared covered a wide variety of topics, from having family members with disabilities to surviving cancer. The common theme was Soldiers opening up to help other Soldiers.

"If you feel defeated, go and talk to somebody because they may have been through something similar and may know how to help you get past it," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Melissa Brooks, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan Sexual Assault Response Coordinator. "Sometimes a setback is just a setup to bless you in different ways."

For some Soldiers, it was their first time attending a Sisters In Arms Forum.

"Seeing those [Senior Leaders] in this setting made me realize that they are no different than I am," said Staff Sgt. Shannon Williams, battle captain, 1CD RSSB. "They have faced challenges and overcome many obstacles, no different than what many of us face today, not just as a Soldier, but as a female Soldier."

Williams said the Sisters In Arms Forum should be conducted more often across the Army. She said it will give female Soldiers insight and perspective on dealing with everyday stressors of military Soldiers that will help them become a well-rounded individuals.

The evening continued with activities that involved fun ways for all the attendees to get to know one another.

"You really don't get to know people at the office just walking down the hall," said Sgt. 1st Class Crystal Basham, ammunition non-commissioned officer in charge, 1CD RSSB. "When you do things like this, you get to meet real people and get to see what you have in common."

Crosby plans to make the Sisters in Arms Forum a monthly event throughout the deployment, as a way for Soldiers to get better acquainted and help one another in the Army and life in general.



Command Sgt. Major Jill L. Crosby, command sergeant major, 1st Cavalry Division Resolute Support Sustainment Brigade, speaks at the Sisters in Arms Forum at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 24.



## Promotions

# CONGRATULATIONS WAGONMASTERS





## Birthday Parties





## 1st Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade History



The history of the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade can be traced back to the Korean Occupation with the constitution of the Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 1st Cavalry Division Trains on Aug. 22, 1957. Units incorporated into the Division Trains included the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Band, 15<sup>th</sup> Administration Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Aviation Company, 15<sup>th</sup> Medical Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Company, 23<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Company, and the 27<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Battalion. Following their constitution, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Trains was activated on 1 November 1957 in South Korea.

On Sept. 1, 1963, Headquarters, Division Trains was redesignated as Headquarters, Headquarters Company and Band, 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Support Command. The Support Command accompanied the Division to South Vietnam in 1965 in order to provide logistics support during the Vietnam War. Arriving on Sept. 12, the Support Command organization would participate in all of the Division's major campaigns and would also distinguish itself by not only earning both the Presidential Unit Citation and Valorous Unit Award, but also three Meritorious Unit Commendations, three awards of the Republic of Vietnam Cross of Gallantry, and one Republic of Vietnam Civil Action Honor Medal.

On May 5, 1971, the Support Command Headquarters was reorganized and redesignated as Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division Support Command when the Division Band was withdrawn from its command. In October 1984, the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Forward Support Battalions were activated utilizing elements of the



three functional battalions while on 20 June 1985 the Army of Excellence reorganization transformed the elements of the remaining functional battalions, Maintenance, Medical, and Supply/Transport, into the 4<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion.

The same reorganization added the 493<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Aircraft Maintenance Company to the Division Support Command. On May 20, 1987, the 1<sup>st</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 2<sup>nd</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 4<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion, 493<sup>rd</sup> Transportation Aviation Maintenance Company were redesignated the 115<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 15<sup>th</sup> Forward Support Battalion, 27<sup>th</sup> Main Support Battalion, and the 227<sup>th</sup> Transportation Aviation Maintenance Company.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Support Command, on Sept. 28, 1990, deployed to the Middle East in support of Operation Desert Shield. In January and February 1991, the Support Command provided logistics support to the Division for the remainder of Operation Desert Storm which resulted in the liberation of Kuwait. For its actions, the Division Support Command would earn a Meritorious Unit Commendation.

On July 15, 2005, the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Support Command was inactivated as part of the Army's transformation towards a modular force. The function of centralized support was assumed by activation of the 15<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade along with its organic elements that were concurrently constituted and activated. On June 25, 2015, the 4<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade was inactivated at Fort Hood, Texas and the 1<sup>st</sup> Cavalry Division Sustainment Brigade was activated returning once again to the First Team.