



# Victory Sustained

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

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## New weapon system boosts Soldiers' safety



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

**Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division's 5th Brigade, Stryker Brigade Combat Team review their Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station II with an M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun during their training. The CROWS II can be remotely operated within the safety of their armored vehicle. Soldier will receive a five-day course on the weapon system, including training on day and night operations.**

■ BY STAFF SGT MARCOS ALICES  
*Victory Sustained Editor*

As U.S. forces fight insurgents in the southern and eastern regions of Afghanistan, officials are working to protect them with new technology, equipment and vehicles.

One of the newest tools in their arsenal is the Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station II, which enables Soldiers to acquire and engage targets from the safety of their armored vehicle.

"It will save lives with the Soldier being able to operate the weapon while staying in the vehicle. Second, it helps with positive identification of a target using the improved optics," said Master Sgt. David Fyock, the Joint Sustainment Command-

Afghanistan electronic warfare officer and counter-improvised explosive device noncommissioned officer from Kennerdell, Pa. "Also by using the optics on the weapon system it provides another method of looking for [IED]."

The CROWS II effectively, efficiently and safely allows fighting crews to carry out missions. They are able to do this because of the CROWS' three-axis stabilized mount that contains a sensor suite and fire control software, which allows Soldiers to engage targets while on-the move. The sensor suite makes it possible to identify, engage and defeat targets under any condition with its daytime video camera, thermal camera and laser rangefinders.

**See *Weapon*, page 11**

## Traveling Afghanistan's lawless roads

### *The 286th CSSB Soldiers convoy needed supplies*

■ BY SPC ELISEBET FREEBURG  
*Victory Sustained Staff Writer*

Forced by unforeseen construction to find an alternate route, gun trucks escorting the Afghan "jingle trucks" and military cargo trucks maneuvered through the narrow city streets of Qalat, Afghanistan. Gun truck two radioed the news back. The lengthy Afghan flat-bed trucks cannot make the turn ahead. The convoy halted, radio chatter quieted and gunners warily surveyed the curious local populace as the lead gun truck found another route.

Riding in Mine Resistant Am-

bush Protected vehicles they call "gun trucks," Soldiers of the 286<sup>th</sup> Combat Support Sustainment Battalion escorted "jingle trucks" and military Palletized Load System trucks all loaded down with U.S. military cargo, to Forward Operating Bases Lagman and Wolverine June 25.

As military focus turns to Operation Enduring Freedom, the number of U.S. troops moving into Afghanistan will grow to more than 60,000 by the end of the year. With increased numbers of troops comes an increased demand for supplies.

**See *Convoy*, page 10**



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

**Sgt. 1st Class Byron T. Mills, a 286th CSSB transportation platoon sergeant from Temple, Texas, prays with Soldiers before leaving on a two day convoy to forward operating bases Lagman and Wolverine June 25.**

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# The Commander's Corner



**Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz**  
*Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan Commanding General*

As everyone within the JSC-A headquarters knows, the 143d Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) recently reached the half way point of the deployment to Afghanistan. For some deployed here and Families, the time is going very slow while for others it is go-

ing very fast; either way our up hill climb in establishing a new level of sustainment support has gone very well.

As the first ESC in Afghanistan, learning, understanding and establishing the ESC mission and then implementing that mission, has been challenging, effective, as well as very rewarding. I am proud of each and every member of this command here and pleased with your accomplishments.

Though difficult for all (Active Duty, Guard, Reserve or Civilians), deployments are often more difficult for the Family than they're for those who are deployed. There are many ways available through the private sector for Families and friends to communicate in real-time with deployed Soldiers. For example, services such as Skype or MSN Messenger allow for both audio and video communications.

There are both advantages and disadvantages to such immediate communication. We can call home when we want or need to and as a result, don't miss out on as much as in previous deployments when these services were not available. However, there is always the potential for the delivery of inappropriate or even false information to Family or friends back home. Therefore, though I encourage everyone to communicate with Family and friends with packages like Skype, use good judgment about what is said so that only appropriate and accurate information is passed.

Deployment-related anxiety is common and the mid-point of deployment is a common time of anxiety for both those deployed as well as their Families. This anxiety is normal, and comes with having little knowledge or control over your surroundings

or the future. What will make us successful is how we handle this anxiety. An excellent article that explains the typical impact of deployments on Families is located at the Army website Hooah 4 Health. The article titled *The Emotional Cycle of Deployment* is located at: <http://www.hooah4health.com/deployment/familymatters/emotionalcycle.htm#ch5>. I strongly suggest that both military and civilian personnel deployed here, and Families read this article so all can get a perspective that what they are experiencing is probably very common to what others are experiencing.

This deployment will soon end, and we will reunite with Family and friends. Please know that this Command and the Army will continue to do all we can to ensure it is a safe and successful deployment.

Sustaining Victory!

## The CSM Message to the Troops

As I sit here and write this letter, we are finally on the downhill side of this deployment.

We continue to face challenges and difficult moments on a daily basis, but our Soldiers continue to push through it all.

Recently, our Headquarters has seen some new personnel from the 1<sup>st</sup> Theater Sustainment Command come in to support our mission. I look for these Soldiers to bring their own unique experiences and abilities, enhancing our effectiveness as a unit.

Conversely, every outstanding NCO and Soldier that has already departed our ranks will take with them the "Army Strong" ethos.

This past month, I sent a letter to our family members back home to thank them for their continued sacrifices.

I wanted to share my heartfelt appreciation to all our families on the home-front. We could not have accomplished all we have done without their support. I would also like to again, thank you...our Soldiers for all YOU have done to enable us to execute Sustainment operations.

More than ever, the strength of our unit, IS our Soldiers and your ability to operate as a team will carry US over any challenges we will face in the final upcoming months!



**Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz**  
*Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan Command Sergeant Major*



**Hours before runners in Atlanta started heading to participate in the 40th running of the Atlanta Journal-Constitution Peachtree Road Race, servicemembers at Kandahar Airfield lined up to participate in the overseas edition of the famous run. Col. Kathryn Hall-Boyer, the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan Surgeon, coordinated the event, which took place as part of the 4th of July Celebration here at KAF.**

Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices | Victory Sustained

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## A Soldier's Last Farewell

Marine Sgt. Ashleigh A. Bryant | AFN Afghanistan

Troops bow their heads during a chaplain's prayer at a ramp ceremony.

## Mortuary NCO ensures dignified transfer of fallen heros

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG  
*Victory Sustained Staff Writer*

The aircraft engines hummed as U.S. and coalition forces stood in two formations, shaping a path in between. The fallen hero lay in a flag-draped case at the walkway's beginning. Paying their last respects to the one who gave all, troops saluted this hero. Faces somber, the pallbearers, his former comrades, shouldered their heavy burden and slowly marched past the long rows of servicemembers to the waiting plane.

"The purpose of a ramp ceremony is to give a final farewell to our comrades, especially for the unit who's suffering the loss," said Staff Sgt. John A. Rosado, a U.S. Army reservist from Clermont, Fla. "It's to pay respect to the person who paid the ultimate sacrifice."

A Soldier since 1993 and a civilian Corrections Officer for the Federal Bureau of Prisons, Rosado has worked in mortuary affairs since 2000 and now fulfills his mission at Kandahar Airfield as the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan mortuary affairs noncommissioned officer in charge.

"Our job is to make sure to expedite our fallen comrades back to loved ones in a timely manner," said Rosado.

There are only two mortuary affairs collection points for U.S. troops in Afghanistan. The KAF point, managed by the NATO Maintenance and Supply Association, serves Regional Commands South and West, while

the collection point at Bagram Airfield serves Regional Commands North and East.

Rosado became a mortuary affairs specialist after a six to seven week course at Fort Lee, Va. During that course, Rosado worked at a morgue, took fingerprints of remains and assisted technicians in autopsies.

In Afghanistan, Rosado's duties relate to preparing the fallen hero for transfer to Dover Air Force Base, Del. At Dover AFB, the hero receives a dignified transfer of remains to family.

When Rosado receives notification of a fallen comrade, he first alerts personnel to standby while he collects information about the arrival of the remains.

"In a respectful manner, with the unit escorts, we'll unload the remains from the plane," said Rosado.

The mortuary affairs personnel and the unit escorts will proceed to the MACP.

At the MACP, the personnel first screen the remains for unexploded ordnances, ammunition and sensitive weapons, said Rosado.

"Once they're screened, they enter a holding area," said Rosado. "A chaplain will do a small, informal prayer over the remains with the unit representatives."

After the fallen troop's comrades leave, the MACP personnel remove personal effects from the remains. Dover AFB personnel will later cleanse the remains and conduct an autopsy. Once the belongings have been inventoried and paperwork completed, the remains will be stored in ice inside transfer

cases placed in refrigerated vans.

Rosado then contacts the movement control team at the airfield to receive a transportation control number for the fallen. Upon receiving the TCNs, he scans the documents and sends them to the mobility section of JSC-A to book a flight.

"Coordination is made with the Theater Mortuary Affairs Collection Point and [Air Mobility Division/Tanker Airlift Control Center] to coordinate the flight for human remains to Dover AFB," said SFC Manuel Garces, a JSC-A Mobility NCO.

Rosado's final duty is the ramp ceremony, organized through the U.S. 649th Regional Support Group (Provisional).

Rosado and MACP personnel prepare by tying a U.S. flag over the transfer case.

"It's so when the pallbearers load the case on the plane, the flag is already folded properly," said Rosado.

They transport the flag-draped case to the flight line. After American and coalition servicemembers line up into formations, the mortuary affairs specialists bring the van forward to send the servicemember home.

"Not many people can [handle seeing] a deceased person, or the cause of death, in this state," said Rosado. "It's a privilege and an honor. It helps give the family closure."

Through his hard work and dedication as a mortuary affairs specialist, Rosado provides an important service for fallen heroes by facilitating their quick return back to the States and on to their families.



## 1st Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment

Forward Operating Base Baylough

### Infantry foot patrols disrupt insurgents, aid remote Afghan villages

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG  
Victory Sustained Staff Writer

*Soldiers of Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment at Forward Operating Base Baylough have one mission, disrupt the enemy. Austere FOB Baylough lies 7,500 feet above sea level in a valley below the Hindu Kush mountains. Because of rocky terrain, most patrols to the remote, local villages in the Deh Chopan district, Zabul province, are dismounted, or foot patrols.*

Although they conduct offensive operations based on specific intelligence reports, the 1-4 Inf. Regt. Soldiers accomplish most of their counterinsurgency through daily, key leader engagement patrols. The Soldiers rotate, so each squad patrols every three days.

“We’re trying to build trust with [local leaders],” said Sergeant 1st Class Stephen Carney, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. platoon sergeant from Norwood, Mass. “Give us information where the bad guys are, and we’ll go fix them for you, so they won’t be a problem.”

During a KLE patrol, the patrol leader speaks with village elders, seeking information about insurgents hiding in surrounding mountains or recent insurgent activity. With Afghanistan’s presidential election scheduled for August, Soldiers commonly ask villagers if they plan on voting or if they are registered to vote.

“The Taliban is as much as a danger to them as they are to us,” said Pfc. Wesley R. Gatewood, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. infantryman from Oak

Hills, Calif.

Local leaders often tell Soldiers the village’s needs, and the troops assist when possible. The 1-4 Inf. Regt. have built bridges and are planning a community center and a school.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

**Cpt. Jason V. Basilides, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment platoon leader from Virginia Beach, Va., speaks to local leaders through interpreter Najeeb Ghafouri during a foot patrol July 27 in Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.**

Soldiers often provide medical care on KLE patrols. A medic accompanies each patrol, and evaluates and treats locals who are ill or injured.

Troops also update their biometric database by collecting fingerprint and retinal scans from locals, using the Hand-held Interagency Identity Detection Equipment.

“We look for something that doesn’t look right,” said Sgt. Chris-

tian Cisenero, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. team leader from San Diego, Calif. “If they are nervous, trying to walk away from us, or trying not to make eye contact, usually that is a big clue.”

Soldiers on a KLE patrol July 26 also collected fragments from a suspected insurgent-fired rocket. The 1-4 Inf. Regt. sends evidence they find on patrols to a counter-improvised explosive device team at Kandahar Airfield for analysis.

Foreign insurgent fighters from China, Chechnya and Uzbekistan use horses to travel the Hindu Kush mountains, said Staff Sgt. Azhar M. Sher, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. squad leader from Baltimore, Md. The

FOB Baylough Soldiers investigate horses and riders they encounter while on patrol. They also examine motorcycles, which are also commonly used by insurgents for travel.

“Nine out of 10 times our gut feeling is right,” said Sher. “We’ve been to these towns so many times, we are able to tell when someone or something isn’t right.”

**See Patrols, page 6**



Staff Sgt. Marcos Alices | Victory Sustained

**Cpt. Daniel McKone, the Forward Operating Base Baylough embed training team officer in charge from Arcata Calif., surveying the area during a foot patrol July 31 in Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.**





**1st Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment**  
Foward Operating Base Baylough

Sgt. Edward E. Westfield, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment team leader from Grand Rapids, Mich., and Spc. Gregory Martinez from Houston, Texas carefully observe the area on a patrol to speak with village elders July 27 in Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.

## **Patrols** Continued from page 4

As part of establishing trust and communication with the Afghan populace, Afghan National Army soldiers and Afghan National Police officers often patrol with 1-4 Inf. Regt. Soldiers. Although ANA soldiers are relatively new to the area, ANP officers have been present for five years and are very knowledgeable about the area and operations, said Carney.

“[ANA soldiers and ANP officers] will do any mission we ask them to do,” said Carney. “And we will do it side by side.”

There are many dangers on patrols, such as injuries due to the terrain or illness from the heat. Soldiers also face enemy attacks in the form of ambushes, snipers and IEDs. Medics are trained to assess and assist casualties, and call for a medical evacuation back to FOB Lagman or KAF if needed.

Patrols can extend as far as seven kilometers,

and each Soldier carries about 60 pounds of equipment through orchards, fields, mountainous terrain and waterways. Soldiers pack enough gear and supplies to last 48 hours, in case they are delayed by enemy contact. If Soldiers discover an IED while on patrol, they must wait at that location until an explosive ordnance disposal team, a military bomb squad, arrives to safely destroy or disable the device. As a result, patrols may take as long as three hours to two days, said Gatewood.

“I think [patrols] help Operation Enduring Freedom, because it’s all about stabilization for Afghanistan, and that’s what we try to bring,” said Gatewood.

The 1-4 Inf. Regt. has assisted the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan since 2004 and has worked and trained with the Romanian Royal Army at FOBs Baylough, Mizan and Lane since 2006. When Bravo Company Soldiers finish their six month rotation and return to their home station in Hohenfels, Germany, they will train coalition forces in counterinsurgency operations.



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**Sgt. Edward E. Westfield, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment team leader from Grand Rapids, Mich., collects rocket fragments to send for fingerprint detection by forensic experts at Kandahar Airfield.**



**Sergeant 1st Class Earl D. Watts of the 286th Combat Support Sustainment Battalion blows a disposable glove up like a balloon for an Afghan child July 18 during a game. Soldiers of the 286th CSSB volunteered to interact with children whose family works at the KAF bazaar and facilitated educational games.**

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**1st Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment**  
Foward Operating Base Baylough

Spc. Chad E. Brown, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. combat medic from Red Oak, Texas, examines a boy's infected wound during a foot patrol to a village in the Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.

Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

# Combat medics treat Afghan locals, provide healthcare to remote villages

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG  
*Victory Sustained Staff Writer*

In a garrison environment, medics operate sick-call clinics for ill or injured Soldiers. On the frontlines, medics stabilize severely-wounded troops long enough for a medical evacuation to a field hospital. At Forward Operating Base Baylough, two medics of the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment use their medical skills for not only their fellow Soldiers but also local Afghans.

Although a medic's chief mission is to care for Soldiers, Afghanistan has one of the highest infant and maternal mortality rates in the world with an average life expectancy of only 44 years. Because of this lack of medical care, Spc. Chad E. Brown from Red Oak, Texas, and Spc. Rodrigus I. Purdiman from Cairo, Ill., treat ill or injured locals.

“The impression we try to leave is that America is here to help them in their lives and not to hurt them in any kind of way,” said Purdiman.

Assigned to austere FOB Baylough, Purdiman and Brown



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained  
**Spc. Chad E. Brown, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. combat medic from Red Oak, Texas, examines an infant girl during a foot patrol to a local village in the Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.**

rotate their duties. One medic operates the FOB aid station where Soldiers report when feeling ill or when injured, while the other medic accompanies Soldiers on daily patrols. Most of the patrols trek through mountainous terrain to local villages within the Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.

“When we’re on patrol we provide aid -- humanitarian aid or first aid for citizens,” said

Brown.

On occasion, villagers approach Soldiers for medical care. Usually, the 1-4 Inf. Regt. patrol leader will ask village leaders if anyone is ill or injured. Some patients cannot be treated with supplies from the medic's aid bag.

“The hard part is they don’t like to come in, for whatever reason, on their own,” said Brown. “But I’ll urge them to

come into the aid station and let me take care of them a lot better than in the field.”

The FOB Baylough aid station contains basic wound-cleansing equipment and bandages, as well as pain medication. The most high-tech equipment in the station is an oxygen tank, said Brown.

Even though helicopter flights to FOB Baylough are often sporadic due to enemy fire, the aid station has never exhausted its medical supplies. Brown monitors supply levels, keeping roughly four weeks ahead.

“We’re able to do what we’re trained to, with what we have, but there’s a lot of improvisation,” said Brown.

Burns, especially among children, are the most common injuries that the medics see in the remote villages around FOB Baylough. Since there is no electricity, villagers use fire for everything from cooking to a light source. The medics have treated burn victims ranging in age from an infant to 10 years old.

**See Medics, page 9**





# The Simple Life

## 1st Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment Forward Operating Base Baylough

1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment Soldiers lay concertina wire to improve Forward Operating Base Baylough security in the Deh Chopan district, Zabul Province.

## Infantrymen maintain austere Afghanistan FOB

■ BY STAFF SGT. MARCOS ALICES

*Victory Sustained Editor*

In Afghanistan, troops are spread throughout the desert, countryside and mountainous terrain in small, forward operating bases. The number of servicemembers at any location can be as small as 30 to 60 or reach in the thousands.

At FOB Baylough, a platoon of infantrymen from the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment shoulders the responsibility to patrol the Hindu Kush mountains in the Deh Chopan district, Zabul province. That is their mission, but their jobs extend much more as they must maintain and operate a FOB on their own.

"We are pretty self-sustaining, so we have to do everything ourselves," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Carney, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. platoon sergeant from Norwood, Mass. "We got to make sure our own showers work. We got to make sure our toilets work. We pretty much got to do everything on our own."

Spreading the work and mission over a three-day cycle among the squads, the 1-4 Inf. Regt. has been able to maintain Baylough since 2006. No time is ever wasted as each squad rotates daily duties and patrol missions. Daily duties would include anything from cleaning common areas, burning the trash and filling the generators with fuel. In Baylough, a Soldier is more than an infantryman; he has to be a carpenter, mechanic and handyman.

Baylough could be its own village in these mountains, as they have their own supply of water, food and electricity to support the

compound. They get most of their supplies, such as rations and ammunitions, via the Container Delivery System. The CDS is the most commonly used method for the aerial insertion of supplies quickly to FOBs such as Baylough.

"[Life is] Simple," said Staff Sgt. Jason Gaulke, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. indirect fire infantryman from Buffalo Lake, Minn. "You wake up and do your missions or chores"

Each squad has its chance to go out on patrols and talk to local villagers. As every squad goes out, there is always a squad on stand-by as the quick reaction force. As the QRF, it will be their job to come to the aid of the patrolling squad if needed. The Soldiers who are on the sidelines are responsible for being ready at a moment's notice. They will make sure all tactical vehicles and equipment are operational.

"The living conditions here are actually pretty nice considering the locations," said Private 1st Class Bryan E. Delashmit, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. infantryman from Lebanon, Indiana. "They definitely have improved [the FOB]," "You hear stories from what other people have said when they have been here before, and they have been like four or five dudes in a small room, a clay room at that."

The FOB grew from meager beginnings as nothing more than a mud hut to a perimeter extending out about 400 meters. Though Baylough is no bigger than the size of a small elementary school, it has barracks, a gym, dining facility, plus a morale, welfare and recreation facility. Many of these facilities, such as the barracks, are new additions to the FOB. The barracks

were added in February.

"You are generally at the frontlines [when on guard duty]," said Delashmit. "Upon an attack, you are the first responder for the FOB."

With any FOB, security is top priority and this is no different for Baylough. Unlike other FOBs, which are setup with a circular or triangular perimeter, Baylough is set up with a square perimeter. U.S. Soldiers guard the most likely way of attack. The Soldiers call this post "Rock Guard" because of the large rocks around the area. Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police man all other posts. Security is provided for the base 24 hours. The Soldiers look for anything suspicious within the orchards and mountains around the area.

"It's like being at Summer camp," said Spc. Christopher Sposito, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. indirect fire infantryman from Plano, Texas. "You have a bunch of guys in a small, confined area to do a job."

Confined in small areas and a stressful environment, Soldiers build close bonds. These bonds cannot be compared to any other relationship. It is unique in how it was created. Six-hour shootouts with insurgents created these bonds. Long patrols in the mountainous Deh Chopan district created these bonds. Two hour "Rock Guard," card games and watching movies created these bonds. The 1-4 Inf. Regt., Bravo Company, 2nd Platoon Soldiers all have a story about the day they came close to a bullet. Yet, they shrug their shoulders and move on as they prepare to return back to Hohenfels, Germany in the coming months.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained

An Afghan man comforts his injured daughter as Spc. Chad E. Brown, a 1-4 Inf. Regt. combat medic from Red Oak, Texas, treats the girl's burned leg in Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.

## Medics Continued from page 7

The medics have also treated Afghans suffering wounds from exploded ordnances. If the wound is minor, the medics clean it and sew stitches. For more serious injuries, they request a medevac for transportation to the forward surgical team at FOB Lagman or to the Kandahar Airfield hospital. Since Brown was trained to insert chest tubes and sew sutures at a NATO-sponsored medical patrol course in Germany, he should be able to stabilize wounded Soldiers and civilians up to 72 hours, while waiting for evacuation.

Both medics believe the language barrier makes treating civilians difficult. Both try to read the body language of their patients, as well as demonstrate

through their own body language their purpose to help. They always work with an interpreter, but there is no guarantee of an exact translation, explained Purdiman.

"It's hard to work on the kids, especially the young ones," said Brown. "I try to do the best that I can and not look like the big, bad American Soldier. I try to look like the good guy."

Soldiers at FOB Baylough occasionally receive care packages, sometimes with toys in them. The medics hand out these toys to comfort an ill or hurting child being treated at the aid station.

As Soldiers of the 1-4 Inf. Regt. continue to disrupt insurgent operations in the isolated areas below the surrounding Hindu Kush mountains, Brown and Purdiman carry on their own part by reaching out and helping the local populace through free medical care.

## New regional support group open doors for business

■ BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG

*Victory Sustained Staff Writer*

The 649th Regional Support Group (Provisional) officially assumed responsibility of U.S. base operations here from Task Force Anzio in a ceremony July 6.

"Our biggest mission right now is to build-up to support the troops coming over," said Col. Leigh A. Coulter, the 649th RSG(P) base operations commander.

As the number of U.S. servicemembers on KAF grows to more than 10,000, the 649th RSG(P) orchestrates billets and life support for troops, sometimes even through coalition forces, said Coulter.

Additional duties here include

providing force protection personnel and arranging ramp ceremonies to transport fallen heroes home.

The 649th RSG(P) also provides administrative control for some U.S. troops stationed under coalition forces in Afghanistan.

"That's the oddity of this command," said Sgt. Major Richard R. Anderson, 649th RSG(P) senior enlisted. "This isn't stuff [base operations] would normally do."

Units supported include Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Farah and Zabul, as well as the 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment in Zabul province.

The 649th RSG(P) is considered provisional until the actual 649th RSG arrives in September.

## 1st Battalion 4th Infantry Regiment

### Forward Operating Base Baylough



## In the Kitchen

When Spc. John C. Aldrich, a 50th Signal Battalion food service specialist from Fremont, Ohio, learned that 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment Soldiers at Forward Operating Base Baylough live, work and eat with Afghans, he volunteered his services to live at the FOB and cook-up some American food for Soldiers.

"I try to do everything I can do to put a smile on their faces when they come in from a long patrol," said Aldrich.

Located at the foot of the austere Hindu Kush mountains in Zabul province, aerial delivery drops can be sporadic, due to enemy fire on incoming helicopters. Aldrich plans two weeks ahead because of supply availability. Recently however, a Container Delivery System bundle broke open during a drop when its parachute did not deploy, losing food items on the mountainside.

When he lacks certain supplies, Aldrich improvises. One of Aldrich's most popular items is hot wings covered in his own homegrown sauce. He calls his creation "Bayflough Wings."

"A lot of cooking is experimental," said Aldrich. "Finding out what the guys like and what they don't like, and then improving upon that."

Most military dining facilities have commercial equipment. Aldrich and the three Afghan cooks he trains work in a Kitchen Company Level Field Feeding-Enhanced. With its three modern burner units, sanitation sink and cooking range, the kitchen meets regulations for a field environment.

Aldrich has cooked in garrison DFACs on Fort Drum and Fort Bragg. He also previously cooked in a patrol base containerized kitchen in Iraq.

Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained



## Biometrics technology helps servicemembers

■ **BY STAFF SGT. MARCOS ALICES**  
*Victory Sustained Editor*

In Afghanistan, insurgents have the ability to drift into the mist without a trace. U.S. forces are clearing out the mist with the Hand-held Interagency Identity Detection Equipment and Biometrics Automated Toolset.

The HIDE and BAT allows servicemembers the capability to keep track of the local populace by using biometric technology to keep records that include fingerprints and irises.

"It helps [Operation Enduring Freedom] by allowing Soldiers to be able to identify who they're actually dealing with," said Andre T. Cole, a BAT and HIDE field service engineer from Mason, Ariz. "It is very difficult to look at a person and know if they are combatant or if they're friends of the [U.S.] and coalition forces."

Through the use of a growing database created in 2001 here in

Afghanistan, servicemembers can be warned of locals who may have been denied access to bases due to committing petty crimes or disrespectful behavior. The HIDE and BAT database is updated weekly with new data that is collected throughout the country. The data includes background information about the locals such as name, age, birthplace, ethnicity and language spoken. A full facial photo along with fingerprints and irises are also kept in the database.

"[The systems] help us track everybody," said Sgt. Christian M. Cisneros, a 1<sup>st</sup> Infantry 4<sup>th</sup> Regiment team leader from San Diego, Calif. "It allows us to keep track of locals' movements in the area."

A watch list is also included in the updates. It is a compiled list of people who have been detained by coalition forces. The list also contains fingerprints that were discovered on improvised explosive devices. People



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained  
**Sgt. Edward E. Westfield, a 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment team leader from Grand Rapids, Mich., collects fingerprint scans July 27 from a local Afghan, using Hand-held Interagency Identity Detection Equipment during a foot patrol July 27 to speak with village elders in Deh Chopan district, Zabul province.**

who have been identified on the watch list as combatants are the ones we are looking for, according to Cole.

"When we go to towns we just try to look for anyone who ei-

ther avoid eye contact [or] try to hide their faces," said Sgt. Edward Westfield, a 1-4 Inf. Regt team leader from Grand Rapids, Mich.

**See *Biometrics*, page 12**



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained  
**Cpl. Robert Lewis, a 286th CSSB Soldier, unloads ammunition from a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle after a two day convoy to forward operating bases Lagman and Wolverine June 25.**

## Convoy

Continued from page 1

Because of austere and often mountainous terrain, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, the U.S. logistics command here, often moves large cargo to FOBs through logistics convoy missions, called combat logistics patrols.

"There is a war-fighting effort going on in this theater, and someone has to get supplies and things a front-line Soldier needs to him," said Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Byron T. Mills, a 286<sup>th</sup> CSSB transportation platoon sergeant from Temple, Texas.

The 286<sup>th</sup> CSSB, a JSC-A element and National Guard battalion, runs convoys to many locations in Southern Afghanistan, such as FOBs Lagman, Ramrod, Wolverine and Ghazni.

Cargo sent includes building materials, mail, ammunition, vehicles and food supplies.

"Anything to sustain the maneuver units up front," said Mills.

Once a unit's supply level diminishes to a certain point, the JSC-A plans a convoy. Due to the increase of U.S. Marines in Helmand province, lately numerous convoys have delivered essential supplies and equipment there.

Recently, Soldiers of 286<sup>th</sup> CSSB conducted a four-phase convoy to deliver needed equipment to Marines at FOBs Dwyer and Leatherneck. During the first phase, troops delivered power generation equipment to FOB Leatherneck, where they rested overnight. The next day, they drove to FOB Dwyer, delivered fuel system supply point equipment and slept for the night. The third day, the convoy returned to FOB Leatherneck, loaded special operations equipment and departed to KAF as their final phase.

The JSC-A also met a critical need by two separate missions the 286<sup>th</sup> CSSB took to move approximately 60 MRAPs to Marines stationed in Helmand Province. Improvised Explosive Devices are responsible for the majority of U.S. and coalition forces deaths in this war. Because of their resistance to IEDs, the MRAPs are critical to troop safety.

Soldiers of the 286<sup>th</sup> CSSB generally convey one to three times a week. Some convoys may last as long as four days, said Mills.

Besides MRAPs and cargo trucks, convoys contain at least one wrecker. A wrecker's usefulness was evident by recent missions in Helmand, when JSC-A troops found and employed alternate routes through the desert, using a wrecker when necessary to pull cargo trucks out of loose sand. Wreckers are also used if cargo trucks have difficulty ascending a steep hill.

Before a convoy, Soldiers must prepare their vehicles, individual and crew-served weapons, and personal equipment by completing pre-combat checks.

Troops also ensure that cargo trucks have adequate fuel and that the freight is strapped down securely.

Usually, on a convoy each gun truck carries at least a driver, truck commander, gunner and assistant gunner.

"We have a defensive posture," said Mills. "But if someone were to have hostile intent against our movement, we are equipped to eliminate or reduce the threat."

Even with precautions, convoys are necessary but dangerous because of IEDs, snipers or ambushes.

"Someone's got to do it," said Spc. Robert Mitchell, a 286<sup>th</sup> CSSB assistant gunner from Treeport, La. "I don't mind coming out here and doing my duty, because I signed my name on the line voluntarily."

Besides the danger of enemy attacks, troops often face looming obstacles, such as mechanical breakdowns and flat tires.

As more American troops arrive in country and move out to permanent locations, convoys remain crucial to transporting necessary supplies to them.

## IG inspects FOBs, ensures troop welfare

■ **BY SPC. ELISEBET FREEBURG**  
*Victory Sustained Staff Writer*

In 1777, Congress created the first Inspector General of the Army. His responsibilities during the Revolutionary War involved ensuring that Soldiers were treated humanely and reviewing training and policies. In 2009, IG sections still continue their duties to Soldiers during the Global War on Terrorism.

As military focus turns to Operation Enduring Freedom, the number of troops moving into Afghanistan will grow to more than 60,000 by the end of the year. With increased numbers of troops, forward operating bases, fire bases and combat outposts must expand and develop to meet the needs of arriving servicemembers. Through IG teams, military leaders make sure that conditions at these locations are conducive to the health, morale and welfare of U.S. forces.

"We're the eyes and ears of the commander," said Maj. Mark E. Green, inspector general for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan from St. Louis, Mo.

Since there are only four inspectors general in Southern Afghanistan, the JSC-A section completes missions for both JSC-A and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, said Green.

They have inspected many FOBs and COPs in Southern Afghanistan, including Mizan, Lane, Wolverine, Spin Boldak, Lag-

man, Leatherneck and Frontenac.

"We ensure compliance with the regulations," said Master Sgt. Hollis J. Ensley, the inspector general noncommissioned officer in charge for JSC-A from Orange, Texas. "We pass something off that is criminal to the proper authorities."

While there, the team looks for systemic problems. They inspect and collect information on numerous areas including force protection, combat readiness, housing, rations and safety.

**If a Soldier is unhappy, he's not going to perform well on the battlefield**

*Sgt. Maj. William R. Shafer*

"If a Soldier is unhappy, he's not going to perform well on the battlefield," said Sgt. Maj. William R. Shafer, assistant inspector general for JSC-A from Port Orange, Fla.

The team gathers three to five issues at the location to give to the JSC-A commander, Brig. Gen. Daniel I. Schultz.

"The important thing is that we talk to Soldiers on the ground," said Green.

Each FOB has different requests, since they are all in diverse stages of development, said Green.

Some FOBs face maintenance problems,

because the mountainous terrain causes deterioration of their vehicles.

Troops at FOB Baylough recently had a definite concern. Soldiers requested mine-rollers, a mine detection system, for their vehicles. The IG department noted the appeal and contacted the appropriate personnel on Baylough's behalf to request the equipment.

"Where they are located and what they are dealing with is tied to their morale," said Green.

The IG team reviews such Soldier welfare areas as computers, phones, mail delivery, movie rooms and gyms. Numerous FOBs have requested cardio equipment, since many FOBs and outposts are too small for servicemembers to run around inside the perimeter.

While on KAF, Soldiers may see the IG team with complaints or difficulties.

"Sometimes Soldiers are afraid to use their chain of command," said Green. "We listen to the issue, and look at the rules."

At times, the IG section has given advice to a Soldier on how to deal with a specific situation. Other instances, they intervene on the troop's behalf.

"We won't turn away a Soldier here in Afghanistan," said Green.

As more troops arrive in country, the IG section remains essential to the welfare of Soldiers.

## Weapon

Continued from page 1

"The controls of the CROWS II are a little bit easier for Soldiers to learn," said Samuel Cottrell, a CROWS II training specialist from Rosedale, Ind. "It has a few more bells and whistles that CROWS I didn't have."

Fairly new to Afghanistan region, Soldiers will receive a five-day course on the weapon system. They will understand the inner workings and capability of the system as well as its proper use with a weapon upon the completion of the course. Soldiers can use the MK19 Grenade Machine Gun, M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun, M240B Machine Gun and M249 Squad Automatic Weapon with the CROWS II. Soldiers will also have the opportunity to do day and night operations with the weapon system. All the training comes together on the fifth day as Soldiers will fire ammunition.

"I'm six days from rolling outside the wire. I feel pretty confident with this system as opposed to having to be in the gunner hatch. I think it is definitely going to make a vast difference," said Bobby H. Thomas, a 317<sup>th</sup> Field Artillery cannon crew member from Spring Lake, N.C.



Spc. Elisebet Freeburg | Victory Sustained  
**Soldiers of the 2nd Infantry Division's 5th Brigade, Stryker Brigade Combat Team equip their Common Remotely Operated Weapon Station II with an M2 .50 Caliber Machine Gun as they familiarize themselves with the new weapon system during their training.**

As the numbers of Soldiers in the southern region who plan to drive on the Afghan roadways increases, the CROWS II is quickly being supplied to units. The JSC-A is taking responsibility to ensure the smooth distribution of CROWS II within Afghanistan,

according to Chief Warrant Officer 5 David N. Conrad, the JSC-A ground maintenance manager from Madison, Wis. They will supply units with the weapon system based on their mission.

"It is another tool for [Soldiers], said Cottrell "It is not the answer

for everything. It is a good system and gives the war fighter a little more capability."

Another tool is added to the war fighter belt as the U.S. continues to look for new equipment, technology and vehicles to protect our Soldiers on the frontlines.



# Reflections by the Chaplain

## ■ The City and Country FOB

**MASTER SGT WARD GROS**

*Chaplain Assistant NCOIC*

Recently, Chap. (CPT) Dmitri Kostyunin and I had the opportunity to visit several of the forward operating bases in Regional Command-South. Most of these bases are small outposts with only one or two units. There all the soldiers at each FOB know one another; you could say that they are nearly as close as family. These small communities provided me with an insight to what most of us struggle with daily at Kandahar and Bagram, the dystopia of city living.

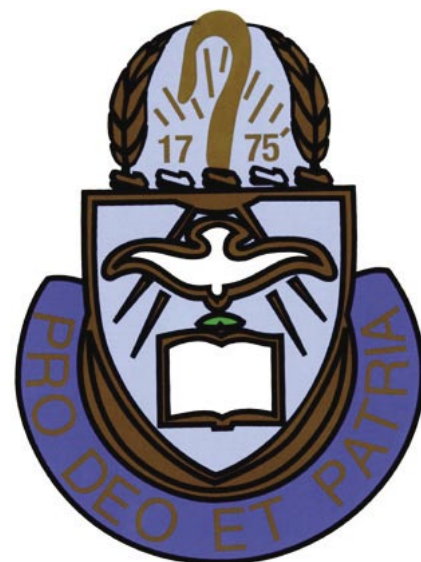
Comparing the plusses and minuses between country and city living has been going on since the earliest days in history. One of Aesop's most famous stories is that of The City and The Country Mouse. When the Country Mouse invited his cousin The City Mouse to come spend a few days with him, the City Mouse was disappointed that they only had corn and a few berries to eat. When the City Mouse returned the favor with a sumptuous feast threatened by cats and unwelcome visitors which resulted in both mice scurrying away. The moral of the story is basically to stick with the simple things in life, instead of going without altogether. Now you may ask, what does this have to do with life in Afghanistan as we know it?

After all, the Soldiers at those outposts deal with their daily threats of direct fire, rocket attacks, and improvised explosive devices. They may have two hot meals a day, a third if

they are lucky. One of the lunches we shared included chicken, chicken, and chicken – barbecued hot wings, fried wings, and nuggets – nothing else. This third meal was a luxury and a much appreciated break in the day. Sure the infantry soldiers hassled the new cook much like seniors hassling freshman at high school, but it was all in fun, the kind of good natured ribbing that brings teams closer together. They also ate every bit of chicken served. At KAF we have our variety of food – Asian, British, Canadian, Luxembourgian, and American – plus the fast food options at the boardwalk – even so many of us swear that we just can't find something good to eat here.

The food at the FOBs wasn't significantly better than what we had at KAF, but the fact that the guys know their cooks and eat with one another morning, breakfast, and night like a family may have added something to it. Another thing I noticed about the FOBs was that they are little more quiet, a little greener, and a little closer to creation than our environs here. Sparrows, swallows, and doves nest in the rafter and eaves of the buildings creating an echo of whistles and coos lulling visitors into a peaceful state of mind. One FOB even had a dazzling garden of sunflowers reigning over a varied bouquet of blooms in the middle of the compound. Whether intentional or not, this closeness to nature helps reduce stress. Indeed, the smaller FOBs provide rugged down to earth, country living that leaves little room for the pretenses of self imposed stress.

The implication is that KAF does not, and



yes I will concede that there are some inherent factors to our stress including: too many people being crammed into too few spaces, leading to inadequate housing and insufficient privacy, compounded by the eternal stench of the pooh pond, non stop take off and landings of the world's finest military aircraft drowning out the rumblings of our air conditioners as they battle against the interminable heat. Given these unique stressors to what I call our Kandahar City Lives, there are a few things to be learned from our Country Cousins outside the wire.

We could rely on each other a little more, and keep our problems to ourselves a little less. We can find time to talk with one another, letting one another know how we feel about whatever situation we find ourselves in – both good and bad, and we should find ways to reduce the small conflicts that we encounter in our days before they become bigger struggles in our weeks.

## **SAFETY** *net*

### What is Safety Net?

Safety Net is the new Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan monthly information brief.

Our goal is to publish a safety related information brief and send it to the various CMD newsletters. This gives commands visibility to all JSC-A safety issues and projects. Commands can disseminate and publish all or only the issues concerning their Soldiers.

**Please be proactive in identifying mission hazards and implementing measures to mitigate all risks. Assume no unnecessary risk rehearse, rehearse and rehearse your tactics, techniques and procedures (TTP).**

#### *Commanders must:*

Ensure commanders, safety officers and safety noncommissioned officers must complete the following on-line courses: Commanders Safety Course, Additional Duty Safety Course and Composite Risk Management (posted in training records and safety continuity book.). Encourage all Soldiers to document unsafe and unhealthy hazards and violations on DA Form 4755 and submit form to their safety officer and/or additional duty safety officer.

#### *First Line Leaders must:*

Ensure all Soldiers complete the following mandatory on-line courses: Composite Risk Management (one time requirement) and Accident Avoidance Course (fiscal year requirement). Train Soldiers on how to complete the risk assessment form, DA Form 7566. Encourage soldiers to make on-the-spot safety corrections.

#### *Everyone must:*

Make "An Accident Free Deployment" their ultimate goal.

Please feel free to contact the JSC-A at DSN: 841-2438

### **Safety issues on KAF**

- Speed-Speed-Speed: Obey posted speed and traffic signs (20 kph/12 mph MAX)
- Seatbelts-Seatbelts-Seatbelts: Mandatory on KAF (if vehicle equipped) Wear them, they save lives
- Walk no more than two abreast
- Do not walk between vehicles
- Wear your protective belt (dusk to dawn for ACUs; always for PT uniforms)
- Tactical vehicles: Park in designated areas. Watch your lane and speed. Park only where designated

*Safety is the responsibility of everyone and everyone is a safety officer*

## >>> **Biometrics** Continued from page 10

During a patrol in the Deh Chopan district, Zabul province, the HIDE proved its worth as the 1<sup>st</sup> Inf. 4<sup>th</sup> Regt. was able to identify a person on the watch list.

"It was immediate as soon

as we took the first picture of the eyes," said Cisneros. "The [HIDE] picked it up right away giving us a 97 percent [positive identification]. The fingerprints also gave us a 97 percent [positive identification]."

The HIDE was not only able to identify the person but informed the Soldiers of his last location

near Forward Operating Base Lane. The FOB is located near Arghandab district. A person is entered into the system with the grid coordinate of the location where servicemembers encountered the person.

"The BAT system is growing," said Cole "I think it's a wonderful thing that we are actually us-

ing out here in theater."

The BAT and HIDE systems are being implemented almost throughout the world, according to Cole. It is currently being used in both Iraq and Afghanistan. Servicemembers are being prepared in the U.S. as more BAT and HIDE classes are coming available.