



the Rough Rider

The official magazine of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade



Rough Riders make history
in Afghanistan (page 6)

CONTENTS

THE ROUGH RIDER | MARCH - APRIL, 2010 | VOLUME 1, NO. 1



IN THIS ISSUE



Casing the brigade colors 2

The 43rd Sustainment Brigade cases its colors on Manhart Field, signifying it is ready to deploy.



Combat training 4

IED, mine identification, MRAP rollover training round out the 43rd's in-country training.

From dirt to TOC 5
43rd Sustainment Brigade's Soldiers team up with Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22 to transform an empty dirt lot into a tactical operations center.

The 43rd SB's transfer of authority 6
The 43rd Sustainment Brigade receives operational authority from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, marking them as fully capable of fulfilling the brigade's mission of tactical sustainment throughout Afghanistan's Regional Command-South and -West.

USO celebs visit KAF 10
Stars of television and football pay a visit to Kandahar Airfield andn stop by the JSC-A for a visit with the Soldiers.

Seabees: Can do! 11
The Navy Seabees assist the Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade in construction of the brigade's tactical operations center.

Life on Kandahar Airfield 12
Kandahar offers many entertainment options and provides many opportunities for Soldiers to sit back and relax after a hard day's work.

Training the ANA 13
Soldiers from the 158th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion take to the classroom to teach machine gun basics to Afghan National Army soldiers.

ROC drill 14
Key leaders from across Afghanistan meet to discuss the overall concept of sustainment operations in the country.

Patch ceremony 15
The battle-tested 43rd Sustainment Brigade Soldiers earn the right to wear the brigade patch on their right shoulder.

Battlefield circulation 18
43rd Sustainment Brigade command team and security platoon-tour FOBs in southern and western Afghanistan during a two-week trek.

SECTIONS:

COMMANDER'S COLUMN	1	THE PRESCRIPTION PAD	23
COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR'S COMMENTS	1	THE REENLISTMENT WINDOW	23
PHOTO SPREAD	8, 16, 20	PROMOTIONS, REENLISTMENTS AND AWARDS	25
WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT	22	THE BACK PAGE	24-25
WHY I SERVE	22		

theRoughRider



43rd Sustainment Brigade Rough Riders

Commander
Col. Edward M. Daly

Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner

Public Affairs NCOIC
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin W. Quill

Public Affairs NCO
Staff Sgt. Ian M. Terry



theRoughRider is authorized for publication by the 43rd Sustainment Brigade for the 43rd SB community.

The contents herein are unofficial and are not to be considered the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, including the Department of Defense or the 43rd SB.

theRoughRider is a command information publication in accordance with Army Regulation 360-1. The 43rd SB Public Affairs office is located in the 43rd SB Tactical Operations Center.

Questions, comments and concerns should be directed toward the 43rd SB Public Affairs staff at:

VOIP / DSN: 318 421 6891
Rochan Cell: 079 443 3085

Commander's Column

The 43rd Sustainment Brigade Headquarters has made the transition from Fort Carson, Colo., to Kandahar, Afghanistan. We've only been here for two months and our hard work and training has paid off — we are making a mark on this country, supporting over 80,000 Soldiers, Marines, Airmen, and Coalition partners, conducting intelligence-driven distribution operations in a counter-insurgency environment.



We are doing great things in the battle space. Lt. Col. Tom Rivard, Command Sgt. Maj. Colvin Bennett and the Soldiers of Task Force Stagecoach continue to provide outstanding support to 1st Marine Expeditionary Force and the UK in Helmand, Nimruz and Farah Provinces; Lt. Col. Bob Moscarello, Command Sgt. Maj. Pamela Higgins and the Soldiers of TF Wildcat, along with Lt. Col. Craig Simonsgaard, Command Sgt. Maj. Robinson and the Soldiers of TF Trailblazer are doing tremendous work in and around Kandahar Airfield and throughout Kandahar, Zabul and Uruzgan Provinces. Out in Shindand, Lt. Col. Caryn Yost and her team in the 43rd Tactical Command Post continue to set the conditions for success in Regional Command-West by laying the ground work for the arrival of the 529th CSSB.

Now that we've settled into our battle rhythm, we will face many more challenges. Our ability to meet these challenges will depend on the relationships we form with our higher, flank and subordinate units as well as our coalition partners. Soldiers and leaders, get out into the battle space to cement these relationships so that we can achieve situational understanding of

our area of operation. If we can do this effectively, there is no challenge too great for the Soldiers of the Rough Rider Brigade.

I've always believed that we are the best sustainment brigade in the Army; we now have a chance to demonstrate this. I know we have the Soldiers, systems, equipment and knowledge to set the standard, deliver world-class sustainment to Regional Commands South and West and make this a successful deployment. I know that you will continue to excel and meet the challenges placed before you. I also know that when we safely redeploy, we will stand a little taller and prouder, as brothers and sisters, fighting in this great profession of arms.

I would also like to personally thank each one of you and your Families for your sacrifices; I also want to thank the Ft. Carson community for its untiring support. This deployment would be much more difficult without the commitment and assistance of those back home.

Keep up the great work! Remember that leadership is action, not position, and that excellence is a habit, not an act.

Rough Riders! Army Strong!
Rough Rider 6

Command Sergeant Major's Comments

The first stages of deployment are always the most tumultuous. Many moving pieces must be set, synchronized and put into motion. These pieces have fast fallen into place due to your unending effort.



Through your hard work and dedication, our Tactical Operations Center began functioning at full capacity 10 days before it was expected to be so. I have seen our Soldiers do some truly amazing work in transforming this site from an empty lot to a fully operational TOC in only five days' time. This is a tremendous accomplishment, and it has only been met because of contributions from each and every one of you.

We have hit the ground running, and we must maintain this same pace if we are to succeed and live up to our reputation as the best sustainment brigade in the Army.

In addition to being the most tactically and technically proficient sustainers around, part of being the best means keeping ourselves physically fit. As Soldiers, we are professional athletes. I know we all have busy schedules, but there is always time for a little PT; physical fitness is the hallmark of a great Soldier.

As American Soldiers deployed in a multinational environment, we are under

the microscope. We have the eyes of more than 12 nations on us. In order to reflect the strength and professionalism we as Soldiers possess, we must maintain our standards and discipline, always.

The operating environment here on Kandahar is completely unlike that of garrison life. We must keep this in mind as we work day to day. Travel with a battle buddy -- always. Carry your weapon safely and securely -- always. Wear the proper protective equipment -- always. This is not a rank thing, this is a Soldier thing.

Finally, NCOs, remember you are leaders. You must mentor your Soldiers and set the ultimate example for them. Your Soldiers will be leaders too, one day, and it is up to you to help them succeed. Do the right thing.

Our mission is tough. Our battlefield is irregular. Our Soldiers are the best in the Army. Remember that. Keep your head up, your head down, and Godspeed the success of our mission.

Rough Rider 7



Col. Edward M. Daly and Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner, 43rd Sustainment Brigade commander and command sergeant major, encase the unit's colors, signifying the unit's readiness for deployment, during a ceremony on Fort Carson's Manhart Field March 2.

43rd Sustainment Brigade Cases Colors

Rough Riders roll up flag, sleeves and head to war

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ian M. Terry
43rd SB Public Affairs

The 43rd Sustainment Brigade and 43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion cased their colors on Manhart Field March 2, signifying its 300 Soldiers are trained and ready for deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Soldiers from 43rd SB are slated to deploy this month to provide logistical support to war fighters southern Afghanistan.

"This isn't typically the sexiest job in the Army," said Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard, com-

mander of the 43rd BSTB. "But even though our Soldiers are not the ones kicking in doors, if our war fighters

don't have fuel, ammunition or adequate rations, the mission will undoubtedly suffer.

The 43rd SB will be the second sustainment brigade in Afghanistan, along with the 82nd SB, based in Fort Bragg, N.C., currently supporting Soldiers in northern Afghanistan.

The 43rd SB will direct logistical operations for 23 subordinate units from 21 nations while in Afghanistan, and will be of vital importance in determining the success of the surge in the nation, said Col. Edward M. Daly, the 43rd SB commander.

"There is no place I'd rather be than right here, right now,"

said Daly. "Our Soldiers standing here before you represent our fight for freedom. Ladies and gentlemen, they are trained and ready."

Ensuring the success of an operation this intense and with this many moving pieces is no easy task, he said.

Daly has full confidence in the abilities of his Soldiers, he said, and expects the brigade's presence to be a game changer in the fight against terror.

"Their mission is clear," said

Daly. "There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that they will perform with distinction as they execute their mission in Afghanistan."

Maj. Gen. David Perkins, commanding general, 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson, echoed Daly's sentiments, and expressed his confidence in the abilities of the 43rd SB Soldiers. Perkins stated his regard for the high quality of leadership and special capabilities the 43rd SB will bring to Afghanistan.





Maj Gen. David Perkins addresses the command and Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade as they case the brigade colors in preparation for departure to Afghanistan.

Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner, 43rd Sustainment Brigade command sergeant major, and Col. Edward M. Daly, the brigade's commander, encase the unit colors, signifying the unit's readiness for deployment.



Command Sgt. Maj. Wendy Robinson, 43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion command sergeant major, and Lt. Col. Craig Simonsgaard, the battalion's commander, encase the unit colors, signifying the unit's readiness for deployment.



The Fort Carson Mounted Color Guard render honors to the nation during the 43rd Sustainment Brigade's casing ceremony.



The command teams of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade and 43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion present themselves to Maj. Gen. David G. Perkins, Fort Carson commanding general, concluding the 43rd Sustainment Brigade's casing ceremony.





Welcome to war; now go train

Rough Riders learn how to stay safe, succeed in Afghanistan

Story and photos by
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin W. Quill
 43rd SB Public Affairs

The Soldiers of 43rd Sustainment Brigade arrived in Afghanistan ready to hit the ground running, but before they could begin their wartime mission they had some training to do.

On March 13, the Rough Riders attended briefings on the do's and don'ts of Kandahar Airfield. Later that night, they confirmed the zeroes on their personal weapons at a range on KAF.

The next day they attended vehicle rollover and improvised explosive device training, both of which were designed to give the Soldiers practical knowledge and hands-on experience.

During the IED training, Soldiers examined examples of more than 50 types of IEDs that have been used by insurgents throughout Operation Enduring Freedom.

"That was awesome," said Sgt. 1st Class Suzette D. Duncan-Burton, NCOIC of the

43rd SB human resource section. "They had so many types of IEDs, and they went through each and every one. Now my younger Soldiers will be more aware of what to look for."

"I didn't know there were that many," said Pfc. Robert Ousley, a Soldier in the brigade's support operations section. "If you look at how far they've evolved and all the different kinds, it's pretty amazing."

Besides observing the IED examples, Soldiers walked a dusty, desert lane where they learned what to look for when it comes to spotting an IED.

Vehicle rollover training gave Soldiers a chance to experience what it is like to be inside a combat vehicle when it rolls over.

Rough Riders were put inside a mine resistant ambush protected vehicle, which was then turned upside down. They then had to free themselves from their restraints and exit the MRAP, ensur-

ing no Soldier was left behind.

"A lot of Soldiers have never had the opportunity to be in a vehicle that's rolled over before," said Duncan-Burton. "They really learned something. Now they know how to get out of the seatbelt and how to escape and make sure everyone comes out alive."

"It really was an experience for me," agreed Ousley. "When we started to roll over and you had to hold each other, you realized how much your weight was actually against you when you're turned all the way around."

By the end of a long day, the Rough Riders headed off to chow knowing that tomorrow would be the official start of their deployment mission, and also knowing they were ready for it.

"It was training that I'm going to hold on to," said Ousley. "Because that training may save my life or somebody else's life."



TOC about hard work!

Rough Riders and Seabees work together to get tactical operations center up and running

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ian M. Terry
43rd SB Public Affairs

hit the network. In total, more than six miles of network cable connect the TOC's computer systems to the world.

every day. Walking through the area, one would be hard pressed not to hear the buzz of a skill saw, the whack of hammer or the shouted communication of Soldiers

Soldiers and Sailors worked together to get the 43rd Sustainment Brigade tactical operations center fully operational on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, within one week of touching ground just before midnight on 12 March, 2010.

Between March 15 to 19, Navy Seabees laid more than 10,000 square feet of foundational flooring for the TOC. Soldiers from the 43rd SB build on top of that flooring as quickly as it was laid down, covering the area with a network of more than 20 tents.

After each tent had been erected and placed, the 43rd SB went straight to work setting up chairs, tables, computers and phones. Some Soldiers rolled large generators into place while others set up radio antennas. Several sections became operational within just hours of the initial tent placement.

While most Soldiers were busy with the heavy lifting, the brigade's information systems technicians were hard at work running a seemingly endless length of network cable. Almost as soon as mission-essential computers hit the table, they also

By the end of the week, the 43rd SB and



Soldiers from 43rd Sustainment Brigade and Sailors from Naval Mobile Construction Team 22 work together to transform an empty dirt lot into a fully functioning tactical operations center. The project was completed from the ground up in less than seven days.



the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion 22 had transformed an empty dirt lot into a fully functioning tactical operations center.

This incredible timeline allowed the 43rd SB to become combat operational nearly

positioning wood-framed TOC enhancements.

The brigade motor pool, which itself began as an empty dirt lot, now houses more than 50 vehicles, including MRAPs, fork lifts, expando vans and container haulers. Future plans for the motor pool include laying concrete flooring and providing overhead cover for the brigade's mechanics to more efficiently accomplish their mission.

Improvements

to living and working conditions will continue to be made throughout the duration of the brigade's deployment, said Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner, the brigade's command sergeant major.

one full week before it was expected to be so, said Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner, the brigade's command sergeant major.

Despite how quickly the TOC was set up, work continues on its expansion nearly





Col. Edward M. Daly and Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner, 43rd Sustainment Brigade commander and command sergeant major, uncash the brigade's colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, March 22.

Rough Riders receive battle space

43rd SB takes over operational control in Southern Afghanistan

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ian M. Terry
 43rd SB Public Affairs

The Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade assumed the mission to provide logistical support and tactical sustainment to warfighters in southern Afghanistan during a transfer of authority ceremony at Kandahar Airfield, March 22.

The 43rd SB relieved the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division, to supervise 25 subordinate units responsible for coordinating logistical support to Afghanistan Regional Command South

and Regional Command West.

"The arrival of the 43rd SB marks a historic moment in Operation Enduring Freedom," said Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, commanding general of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan.

Hoover said this is the first time two sustainment brigades are operating simultaneously throughout Afghanistan.

Col. Ken Barnett, 1st Theater Sustainment Command liaison to 43rd SB's higher headquarters, 135th Expeditionary

Sustainment Command, said this tandem operation greatly enhances the functional ability in the entire area of operations.

The 135th ESC hails from the Alabama National Guard and is the operational controller of both 43rd SB and 82nd SB, as well as the 419th and 401st Field Support brigades. Together, the four brigades and the 135th constitute the JSC-A.

The 43rd SB's area of responsibility spans 10 Afghanistan provinces and encompasses a land mass larger than Colorado, supporting brigades comprised of joint and coalition forces.

An operation of this magnitude may seem overwhelming, but 43rd SB commander, Col. Edward M. Daly, said he welcomes the challenge.

"There is absolutely no doubt in my mind that our Soldiers are trained and

ready to execute this mission of tactical sustainment support," said Daly.

Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard, commander, Special Troops Battalion, 43rd SB, defined logistical support as the lifeblood of operational success, from the theater level to the individual Soldier.

"The logisticians are like the linemen and women on a football field," said Simonsgaard. "They never make the cover of the Wheaties box, but without the effort and hard work of your line- men, your team is never going to make it to the Super Bowl."

Simonsgaard further stressed the importance of logisticians by saying every piece of mail, every gallon of fuel and every mechanic's tool is received, allocated and delivered through their hands.

The 43rd SB command group thanked the 82nd SB for setting the stage for the "Rough Riders" success and thanked the 135th ESC for providing the guidance and resources to help the brigade become fully operational in less than 14 days after arrival in Afghanistan.

Daly expressed the brigade's gratitude to all involved in preparing the 43rd SB for deployment.

Daly said the Fort Carson community, the people of Colorado Springs, and Soldiers' friends and Families all over the world had a hand in the brigade's preparation.

"Our brigade would not be operational on the ground had it not been for such tremendous support from Fort Carson, the 4th Infantry Division and the local Colorado Springs community," said Daly. "I cannot thank them enough for their great contributions to the Rough Rider Brigade."



The command group of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade and 43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion salute their units after uncasing their colors during a Transfer of Authority ceremony.



The outgoing 82nd Sustainment Brigade and incoming 43rd Sustainment Brigade command groups join together to cut a ceremonial cake following a Transfer of Authority ceremony.





From
to





Tom Carson Kandahar



Stars of television and NFL stop by Kandahar for a visit with the troops

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ian M. Terry
43rd SB Public Affairs

TV star James Gandolfini and others signed autographs and visited with troops as part of a USO tour traveling through Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, March 29 to 30.

Gandolfini is best known for his role as Tony Soprano, a troubled Mafia crime boss on the HBO TV series The Sopranos. He was joined by fellow Sopranos actor Tony Sirico, who plays henchman Paulie, whose full character name is the tongue-twisting Peter Paul "Paulie Walnuts" Gualtieri.

The actors were joined by Jon Stinchcomb, offensive tackle for the New Orleans Saints in the NFL, and by Rose McGowan, an actress best known for her role as Paige Matthews on the WB Network series Charmed.

The four stars made their initial appearance on March 29, on KAF's social hub, The Boardwalk, and signed autographs and posed for pictures for more than three hours. The seemingly endless line of Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians from several different nations wrapped around the boardwalk's stage, down the landing, and disappeared from view.

The following day, the stars visited a number of individual units around KAF. Just before lunchtime, they arrived at the headquarters of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade's higher headquarters, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, where they again shook hands, signed autographs and posed for pictures with the Soldiers and Sailors in attendance.

The USO is a nonprofit organization that has provided MWR services to military members since 1941 and now serves more than 130 locations worldwide.

USO

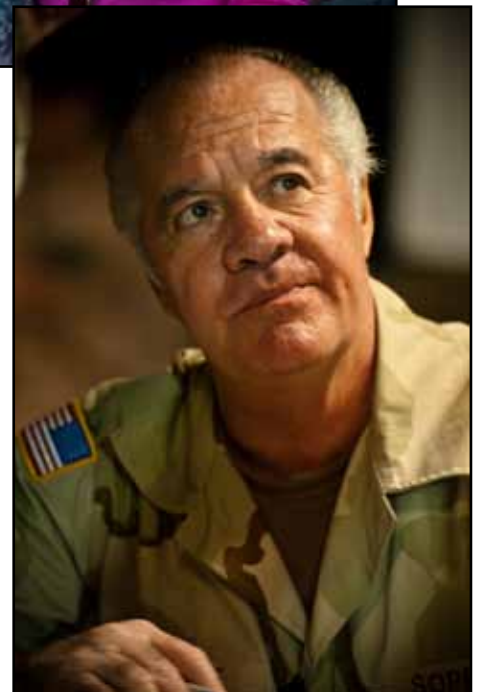
ROSE MCGOWAN

TONY SIRICO

JON STINCHCOMB

JAMES GANDOLFINI

U
R





Texas Seabees instrumental in Rough Rider combat readiness

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ian M. Terry
43rd SB Public Affairs

When it absolutely, positively has to be destroyed overnight, you call the Marines. When, on the other hand, it absolutely, positively has to be built by tomorrow, you call the Seabees.

The Seabees are the Navy's construction battalions, and are among the finest craftsmen the military has to offer. Their unofficial motto "Can do!" states in no uncertain terms their motivation and determination to mission accomplishment.

With seven different job sets, there is virtually nothing a team of Seabees can't build -- and fast. So when the 43rd Sustainment Brigade landed on Kandahar Airfield in March and needed a tactical operations center built to spec in only five days, making the call was obvious.

The Naval Mobile Construc-

tion Battalion 22 is comprised of Naval Reserve forces based at the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base in Fort Worth, Texas. The Lone Star Battalion, as it is known, currently has more than 600 Sailors deployed at bases throughout the Middle East.

While the majority of the team hails from Texas, several Naval Reserve Sailors from across the country volunteered to deploy with NMCB-22. One such individual, Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael A. Dibiagio, a builder, makes his home in Colorado Springs.

"For a lot of people, it's hard to measure job success," said Dibiagio. "But in our line of work, having to prove what you've pulled off is never an issue -- it's right there in front of you."

Becoming a Seabee is hard work, and the pride the title carries is well deserved. Seabees are specialized in one or

more of seven different specialties: engineering aide, steel worker, builder, construction electrician, utilities man, equipment operator and construction mechanic.

"The best part of being a Seabee," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Michael A. Wright, a native of Killeen, Texas and a steel worker for NMCB-22, "is you get to learn a little bit of everything. The worst part? There is no worst part."

The 43rd SB command group personally thanked every Seabee on the job and awarded each a certificate of appreciation for their contributions to the brigade. Three Seabees were further recog-

nized for their outstanding efforts. Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean M. McAfee, from Prosper, Texas; Seaman Joe Tovar, from El Paso; and Seaman Manuel M. Renteria, from Dallas received a 43rd SB coin from Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner, the brigade's command sergeant major.

The long hours and hard work NMCB-22 put into getting the 43rd SB up and running perfectly embodies the battalion's motto: "The difficult we do at once; the impossible takes a little longer."

NMCB-22 re-deployed to Fort Worth two weeks after completing construction of the 43rd SB TOC.



Petty Officer 2nd Class Sean M. McAfee received a 43rd SB coin for outstanding efforts in building the foundation of the brigade's TOC.



Life on Kandahar Airfield

43rd enjoys good food, new digs and fresh laundry

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ian M. Terry
 43rd SB Public Affairs

With midday temperatures already in the high 90s, Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, sports a winter climate entirely unlike



that of Colorado Springs. Yet despite the heat and the dust of their new desert home, the Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade have made it just that: their home away from home.

KAF is a NATO installation and houses not only U.S. servicemembers, but warfighters, civilians and third-country nationals from more than 20 nations. KAF's population currently stands at more than 25,000 people, roughly twice the size of Fort Carson.

KAF is the largest military installation in Afghanistan, slightly

outnumbering the population of Bagram Airfield, near the nation's capital city of Kabul.

Just as one might expect from a city of commensurate size, KAF has an impressive array of amenities available to its residents: seven dining facilities featuring cuisine from five nations; a shopping plaza replete with eateries, electronics shops, and Afghan arts and crafts stores; gymnasiums, Post Exchanges, basketball courts, volleyball courts, a roller-hockey rink, and even a T.G.I. Friday's.

Soldiers can even drop off laundry, which is cleaned, neatly folded, placed in a dust-resistant plastic bag and returned within 72 hours. In short, KAF offers nearly all of the amenities available at home, and more.

In addition to the city-like comfort of KAF, living conditions for the 43rd are among the most amenable on the installation. The 43rd command group pushed hard for several weeks to ensure a high quality of living upon arrival on KAF.

Rough Riders live in relocatable buildings, or RLBs, with two Soldiers per room. The rooms offer just enough space to comfortably house those two Soldiers, and they come ready-to-live-in with a bunk, wall locker, three-drawer chest and reading lamp. The units are stacked double high, maximizing use of floorspace.

Latrines and showers are located at the end of each row of RLBs. This is a great relief say Soldiers who have deployed before with less accommodating facilities.

Living conditions are continually improving as Soldiers spend time building their own shelves, entertainment centers and benches, and the supply and communications shops worked together to have network lines run to each RLB, allowing Soldiers the option of purchasing personal



internet access.

Aside from life in the RLBs, one of the trademark features of deployment is the near constant sound of aircraft overhead. With the troop surge approaching full force, the KAF airstrip now launches 5,000 flights a week, making KAF the busiest single-runway airport in the world.

The only deployment sound more prevalent than aircraft noise is the sound of generators at every corner. Virtually nothing in a deployment area runs on transmitted power. Everything from lighting to air conditioning to computer systems are powered by diesel generators.

Outside the living areas, vehicle traffic on KAF is heavy. Night time traffic is often heavier than during the day. Individual safety is among the primary concerns on KAF, and all people are required to wear



reflective belts during times of limited visibility. Enforcement of this standard has dramatically reduced the number of accidents on KAF.

In all, many Soldiers from the 43rd who have previous deployments under their belts say life on KAF is good. Living conditions down range will never compare with life back home, but for spending a year in Afghanistan, there are certainly worse ways of doing it.

Armed and ready to protect 158th teaches machine gun basics to ANA

Story and photos by
Sgt. Ian M. Terry
43rd SB Public Affairs

A select group of Soldiers from the 158th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Arizona National Guard, conducted M249 Squad Automatic Weapon training to a group of Afghan National Army soldiers at Camp Hero, outside Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, March 28.

Capt. Timothy J. Wall, commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 158th CSSB, and his training team have conducted more than a dozen hours of classroom training to the ANA over the last several weeks.

Staff Sgt. Todd W. Larkins and Spc. Josiah O. Smith from the 158th CSSB both volunteered for the training assignment and say they find great satisfaction in educating the Afghan soldiers.

The ANA are definitely serious about learning the M249 weapon system, said Wall. They have asked some excellent technical questions, and it's clear they really want to know how to be combat effective with this gun.

Recently, the Afghan soldiers had the opportunity to get their hands dirty and take the machine guns to a firing range to appreciate the full combat power of the SAW.

Smith echoed Wall's sentiments and had a few words of advice for the Afghan sol-

diers while on the range.

"This is your weapon," said Smith. "You need to own it. Don't be afraid of it, and don't let the weapon take charge of you. You are the one in charge."

The M249 instruction has been a very positive operation and will likely continue throughout the remainder of the 158th CSSB's tour in Afghanistan, said Wall.

The 158th CSSB has been on the ground in Kandahar since December 19, 2009, and is slated to return to Arizona this winter.



Staff Sgt. Todd W. Larkins (bottom right), Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 158th CSSB, Arizona National Guard, teaches a group of Afghan National Army soldiers the basics of M249 machine gun operation on Camp Hero, Afghanistan.

ROC the casbah

Sustainment rehearsal of concept drill helps guarantee success

Story by

Sgt. 1st Class Kevin W. Quill
43rd SB Public Affairs

The 43rd Sustainment Brigade set the conditions for a successful deployment in Afghanistan by conducting a Rehearsal of Concept drill at the Kandahar Airfield MWR Festivities Tent, April 8.

Because the brigade is responsible for tactical sustainment in Regional Commands South and West, the purpose of the ROC drill was to provide the key logistics players in those regions a common operating logistics picture.

The ROC drill effort was headed up by the support operations section but there were key contributions from the intelligence, operations and communications sections.

According to Sgt. Maj. Percy Deering, future operations sergeant major, gathering everything needed for the setup took about two weeks. A "rug map" of Afghanistan measuring approximately 25 by 50 feet laid out the entire operational scene. Tape on the map indicated routes, blocks indicated unit positions and miniature flags marked locations of forward and contingency operating bases. Four large screens displayed information related to the subject then being briefed.

The ROC drill lasted most of the day

as units, agencies and sections from throughout RCs South and West briefed their pieces of the logistics pie. This effort was all aligned toward the goal of gaining situational understanding of



Col. Edward M. Daly (bottom left), Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard and Maj. Robyn R. Deatherage, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, participated in a sustainment rehearsal of concept drill on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, April 8.

Photos by Sgt. Ian M. Terry.

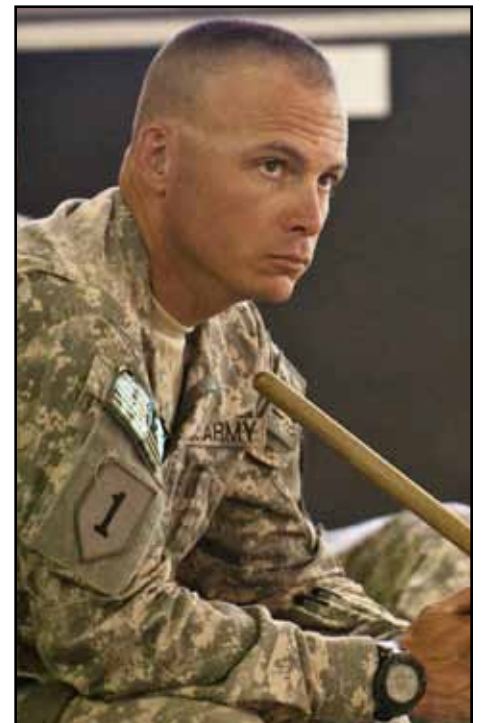
how logistics would work with the 43rd on the case.

"I think the big piece is RCs South and West now have a sustainment brigade," said Capt. Erik Corcoran, an officer in charge of future operations. "They've had one in the north and east because that's where most of the American units had been. We had every section of the SPO shop brief what they bring to the fight to help units in RCs South and West execute their missions."

According to Corcoran, the 43rd wanted to make sure that not only was the ROC drill a success, but that it set the attending units and agencies up for success in the future.

"We took all the slides and a few other documents and we put them into a take-home binder which provided all the units a snapshot in time of everything logistics," said Corcoran. "This gave the attendees all the units and agencies, what they do and their capabilities."

"If they had no clue what was going on," said Deering, "by the time they left there it was totally understood what our purpose was, what our mission is, and what we can and cannot accomplish."



PATCHED

Rough Riders earn deployment pride

Story by
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin W. Quill
43rd SB Public Affairs

There are many milestones a unit hits while deployed, and one of them is its combat patch ceremony.

Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade were officially given authorization to wear the brigade's patch on their right shoulder during a ceremony at Kandahar Air Field, April 16. The combat patch is an Army tradition indicating a wearer's wartime service.

The 43rd's commander, Col. Edward M. Daly, spoke to his troops about all they've accomplished in recent months. From their Mission Readiness Exercise at Fort Stewart in January, to assuming their mission in Afghanistan only two weeks after the main body of troops hit the ground, Daly is clearly proud of the Soldiers of the Rough Rider Brigade.

"This is a great day," said Daly. "You all standing here in formation have done everything the Army has asked you to do and more on an accelerated timeline. All of our hard work has paid off now we're here making a positive mark on operations in Afghanistan. Wear your patch with pride, tell the Rough Rider story and remember you're part of the lineage and history of this great unit."

"I want to personally thank you for your sacrifices; not only you, but your families back at home station that support the 43rd in this mission," Daly continued. "I would also be remiss if I didn't mention the great

support we got from the Colorado Springs community, the 4th Infantry Division and Fort Carson as a whole."

Daly concluded his speech by paraphrasing William Shakespeare's St. Crispian Day speech from Henry V, saying the 43rd SB Soldiers would stand "a little bit taller, a little bit prouder" for having served with the brigade during this deployment.

The 43rd's commander then marched to the brigade's ranking enlisted Soldier,

Command Sgt. Maj. Randy S. Varner, slapped a 43rd patch on his right shoulder and was patched in return. Daly and Varner then patched the command group of the 43rd Special Troops Battalion, Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard, and Command Sgt.

Maj. Wendy A. Robinson, and the command group of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 43rd SB, Capt. Patrick A. Brassil, and 1st Sgt. Jeffrey L. Campbell. The six 43rd leaders then marched down the ranks of Soldiers, patching each one.

This was not the first deployment for many of the gathered 43rd Soldiers. For others, this day was a long time coming.

"It definitely feels like I earned it, it's made me a lot more proud about how hard I've been working," said Spc. Kenneth L. Thomas, a Signal Systems Specialist working in the BD s6 shop. "It's something no one in my family has ever gotten. I can go back to my friends at home and this is something they'll never have."

The combat patch, or shoulder sleeve insignia indicating former wartime ser-

vice, is a tradition started by the Army during World War II. Today, Army regulations authorize the wearing of the combat patch for all Soldiers assigned to U.S. Army units that actively participate in or support ground combat operations against hostile forces. To qualify for the combat patch, Soldiers must be assigned to a unit serving in a declared hostile environment and receive the approval of the Army Chief of Staff.



The 43rd Sustainment Brigade shoulder sleeve insignia depicts a compass rose and a sketch of the Colorado Rockies. The patch ceremony held on Kandahar Airfield authorized Soldiers deployed with the 43rd SB to wear the insignia on the right sleeve of the Army Combat Uniform, signifying their participation in deployment operations with the brigade. Photos by Sgt. Ian M. Terry.



43rd Sustainment Brig



43rd Sustainment B



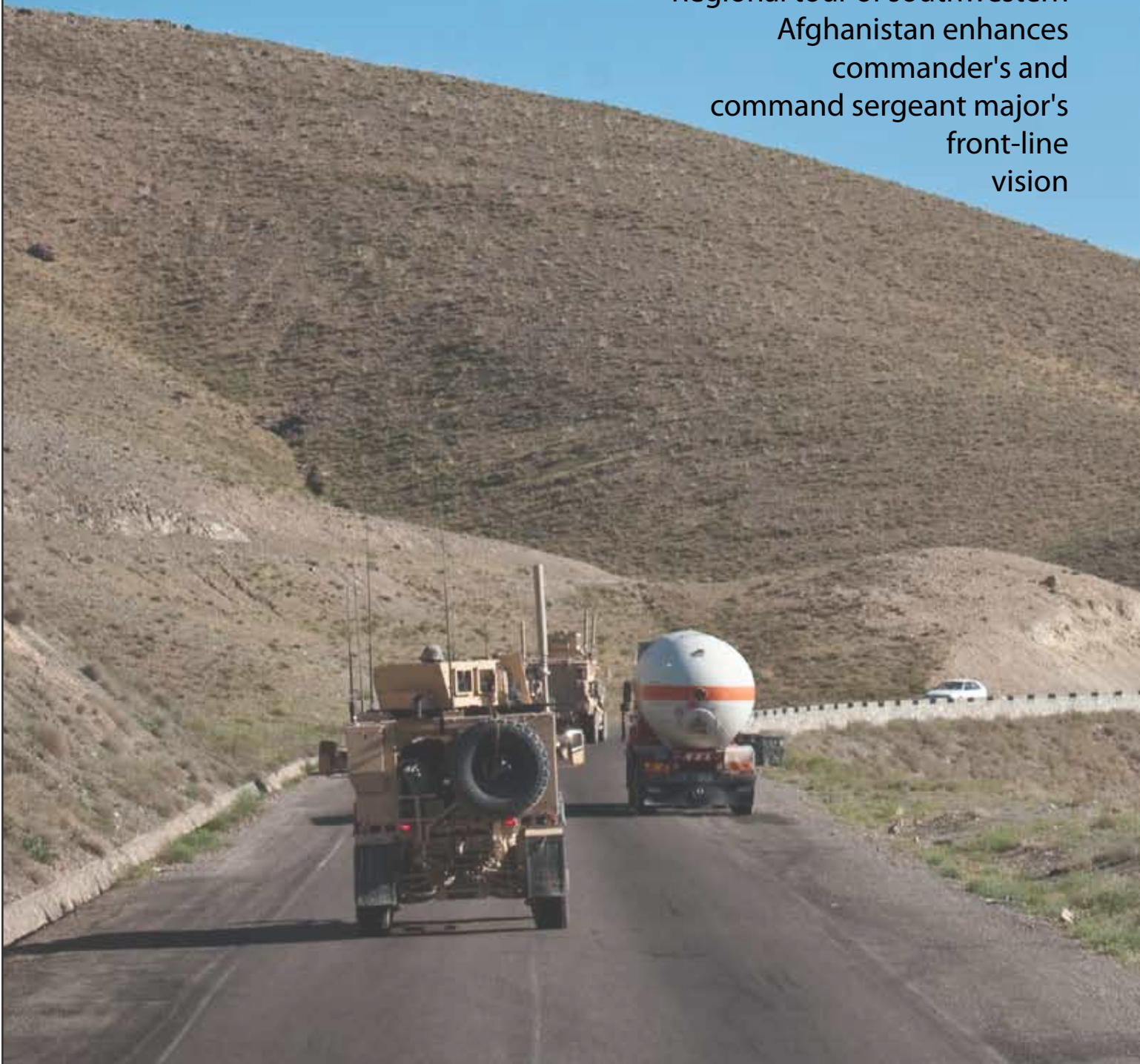
Brigade Soldiers in action



brigade

BATTLEFIELD CIRCULATION

Regional tour of southwestern
Afghanistan enhances
commander's and
command sergeant major's
front-line
vision



Story and photos by
Staff Sgt. Ian M. Terry
43rd SB Public Affairs

Col. Edward M. Daly, commander, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, recently visited with key leaders of several units during nearly two weeks of battlefield circulation throughout southern and western Afghanistan, concluding April 23, 2010.

Battlefield circulation is a term given for moving throughout a commander's area of responsibility and is intended to enhance the situational understanding between the commander and his leaders. Such movement is an important part of Daly's mission as brigade commander.

The 43rd SB maintains responsibility for tactical sustainment operations throughout Afghanistan's Regional Command-South and -West, an area of land larger than the state of Colorado.

When well planned and executed, battlefield circulation places the commander directly in the line of influence within the battle space.

Daly traveled from the brigade's base of operations in Kandahar Airfield to

Cont. on next page



The Afghan national flag flies atop a National Police observation post at a traffic control point near Shindand, Afghanistan, April 19.



Col. Edward M. Daly, commander, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, Fort Carson, Colo., walks with an Afghan National Policeman while conducting battlefield circulation throughout southern and western Afghanistan, April 19.



Cont. from previous page

Camp Leatherneck, a U.S. Marine Corps compound, and base of operations for Fort Carson's 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Daly discussed current operations with Lt. Col. Thomas A. Rivard, commander of the 68th CSSB.

From Camp Leatherneck, Daly and the security platoon continued westward. He met with Afghan National Army soldiers, Afghan National Police, and leaders from both U.S. and European military commands under the International Security Assistance Force.

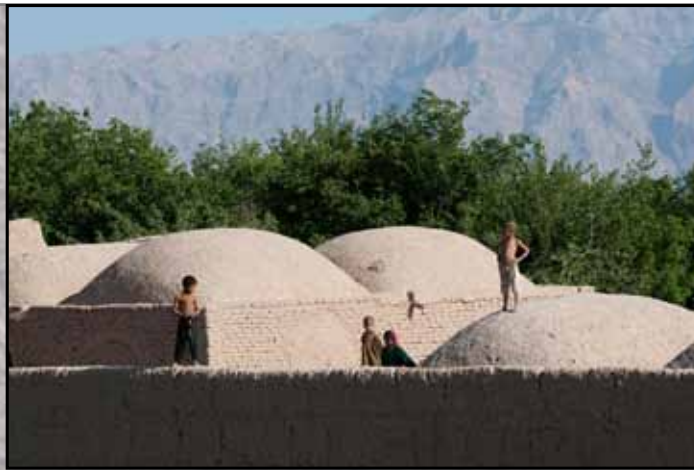
First-hand information and face-to-face communication are the best ways to truly understand what's happening in your battle space, said Daly. Nothing compares to looking a leader or Soldier in the eye and really getting a feel for what their concerns are and what difficulties they may be having accomplishing their mission.

In all, Daly's circulation with the brigade security platoon totaled 13 days and covered more than 1,000 miles between outposts across western Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Jacob E. Lester, the security platoon sergeant, is proud of the effort put forth by the Soldiers in his platoon.

The team's mission in no uncertain terms is to get the commander from here to there without getting blown up, said Lester. The security platoon succeeded on all counts.

The true importance of battlefield circulation is embedded in Army leadership doctrine. "[T]he leader goes where he can best influence the battle, where his moral and physical presence can be felt, and where his will to achieve victory can best be expressed, understood and acted upon."



The Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade security platoon take a photo on Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan, marking completion of the first leg of their two-week long battlefield circulation with Col. Edward M. Daly, the brigade's commander.







Warrior spotlight *Spc. Thomas* *43rd SB S-6*

Spc. Kenny L. Thomas
25U Signal Support Systems Specialist
2 1/2 years in the Army
2 years as a Rough Rider
Hometown: Castle Rock, Colo.

In the early stages of overseas deployment, it is often difficult to single out any one, particular Soldier for outstanding service. In such times, most Soldiers perform with great effort and admiration, and all have earned the title of Warrior.

Spc. Kenny L. Thomas, however, did stand out among his peers for exceptional performance in bringing the 43rd Sustainment Brigade's tactical operations center online and fully operational.

Thomas is 21 years old and a native of Castle Rock, Colo. He currently serves as a 25U, signal support systems specialist, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 43rd SB. He has served with the brigade since graduation from advanced individual training more than two years ago.

Thomas and his team did a tremendous job in getting both the brigade and the battalion up running so quickly, said Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard, commander, 43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.

see THOMAS on page 25



Why I serve *Sgt. 1st Class Banks* *43rd BSTB S-4*

Sgt. 1st Class Nicole D. Banks was born in Baltimore Md., and was first turned on to Army service through a youthful admiration of G.I. Joe and Lady Jane.

More than 16 1/2 years after enlisting as a 92Y, unit supply specialist, in 1993, Banks continues to serve because, quite simply, it's what she loves to do.

Banks observes a life philosophy originally derived from a simple lesson her grandmother once taught her: what is small to you may be big to others.

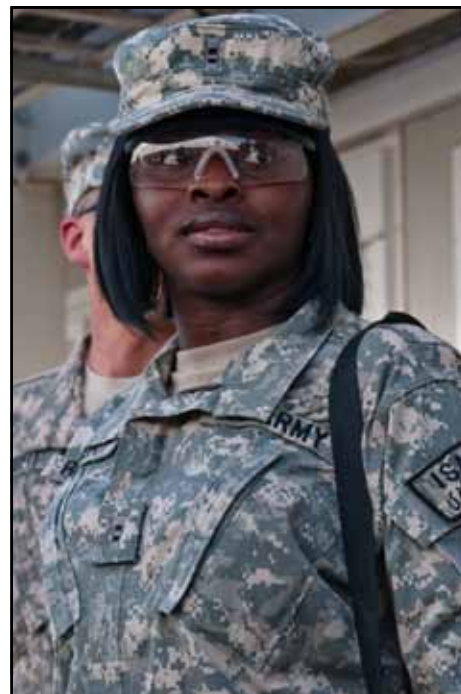
Living such a philosophy has made adversity easier to deal with, said Banks. Keeping the needs of others in mind often reminds you of how fortunate you are and tends to result in the good outweighing the bad.

As a supply specialist, Banks takes seriously the responsibility of providing each and every Soldier in her care with every tool they need to succeed.

"I enjoy giving people what they need," said Banks. "People who don't even know you appreciate who you are and what you do."

Though Banks has only been with the 43rd Sustainment Brigade since October, 2009, her service with other Army units has taken her all across the globe.

see BANKS on page 25



Ms. Rudder pins *on CW2* *43rd SB SASMO*

Warrant Officer Adanna Rudder, originally from Brooklyn, N.Y., now a Supply Systems Technician chief in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, was promoted to the rank of chief warrant officer 2 in a ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, March 15, 2010.

Rudder has served more than ten years in the Army and has been with the 43rd SB since August, 2009.

Lt. Col. Caryn L. Yost, the 43rd SB's deputy support officer, and Rudder's supervisor, praised Rudder for her technical expertise and steadfast performance as the brigade's systems automation management chief.

Though nearly 20 other Soldiers in the brigade have been promoted in recent months, Rudder holds the exclusive position of being the very first 43rd SB Soldier promoted in Afghanistan since the brigade arrived here in early March.

Following the ceremony, Rudder thanked God, her supervisors and her Soldiers for each playing a vital role in helping her succeed.



Commo shop awarded Army Achievement Medal given for meritorious service by the 43rd SB S-6 Soldiers

Lt. Col. Craig L. Simonsgaard, commander, 43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, presents an Army Achievement Medal to the Soldiers of the brigade communication section, for their efforts in bringing the brigade and battalion tactical operations centers online within one week of arrival in Afghanistan. Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. March 31.



The Reenlistment Window

Effective April 28th, 2010 Department of the Army and Human Resources Command through the Reenlistment Management Division, has set forth changes to the current Fiscal Year reenlistment eligibility criteria. These changes affect the 43rd SB Soldiers with ETS dates within the FY 10 period and the FY 12 period.

FY 10 Soldiers with ETS dates from 1 October 2009 through 30 September 2010 need to reenlist prior to 30 June 2010 in order to remain within our ranks. As a caveat, they are only eligible to reenlist for Option E-1 (Regular Army) otherwise known as "needs of the Army".

FY 12 Soldiers with ETS dates from 1 October 2011 through 31 March 2012 can reenlist at any time, however; they are limited to Option E-1 as well.

All Soldiers that have ETS dates from 1 October 2010 through 30 September 2011 will remain eligible for ALL reenlistment options until the current policy changes.

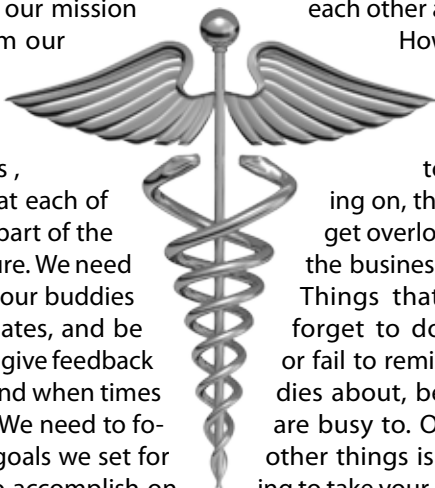
NOTE: Any

Soldier that is in an over strength MOS and decides to reenlist will be mandated to change their MOS, and must select an MOS listed as under strength per the current HRC In and Out call MILPER message number 09-244.



The Prescription Pad

In Afghanistan, there are a lot of things to focus on. We need to focus on our mission and perform our duties to the best of our abilities, knowing that each of our roles is part of the bigger picture. We need to focus on our buddies and teammates, and be prepared to give feedback or lend a hand when times get tough. We need to focus on the goals we set for ourselves to accomplish on this deployment, like hitting the gym, eating right or completing those classes. These



are all things that we seem to know, and routinely remind each other about.

However, there are other things we need to be focusing on, that can easily get overlooked during the business of our day. Things that we might forget to do ourselves, or fail to remind our buddies about, because they are busy to. One of these other things is remembering to take your doxycycline. No one said it was going to be easy remembering to take a pill every day (and for 28 days after

we get home). It's even easier to skip, if the risks of forgetting were not clearly explained. So, I thought we could just review the reasons why we want to remember, and why we want our buddies to remember, to take our doxycycline every day.

Malaria is caused by a parasite carried by mosquitoes that are commonly found in Afghanistan. You can get infected by these parasites when mosquitoes bite you. Soldiers who become sick with malaria often experience fever, chills, loss of appetite and body aches. The reason docs are concerned about malaria is because of the horrible complications it can cause. These include swelling

of the brain, seizures, kidney failure, and fluid collecting in the lungs. You don't want this.

We can't stop all of the mosquitoes, so the main tool we have to prevent malaria is taking doxycycline. Many soldiers are concerned about taking this medicine because they, or a buddy, had a bad experience in the past with other anti-malaria medications, especially chloroquine. Unlike chloroquine, doxycycline does not have the same severity of stomach/gastrointestinal problems and nightmares. Side effects with doxycycline are unusual. But, doxycycline can cause an increased sensitivity to the sun,

see **SURGEON** on page 25

The emblems of the 43rd SB

Shoulder Sleeve Insignia

The 43rd SB shoulder sleeve insignia, or patch, depicts a compass rose and a representation of the Colorado Rockies. This patch was designed at a time when the 43rd SB was an Area Support Group. As is the custom with ASGs, the imagery on the patches is intended to identify key features of the area the groups support.



The SSI is used to denote major formations in the U.S. Army. Each patch distinguishes each unit from one another, and all Soldiers are required to wear the patch of their head-

quarters element as part of their uniform.

The first Army unit to wear a patch was the 81st Infantry Division "Wildcats". In 1918, the Wildcats sailed to France to engage the enemy during World War I. The 81st ID concluded their pre-deployment training in Fort Jackson, S.C., in a location near Wildcat Creek.

The Soldiers created their own felt patch in the shape of a wildcat, and in a true case of life imitating art, General John J. Pershing ruled the 81st could not only keep their patch, he also suggested other units develop their own patch, as well. The shoulder sleeve insignia was officially adopted by the Army on October 19, 1918.



Distinctive Unit Insignia

The 43rd BSTB distinctive unit insignia, or unit crest, depicts a large column in front of a star. Leaves lay at the bottom of the column, and the words "Provide with pride" are written in an arch from left to right.

A distinctive unit insignia is a heraldic device, the design of which is derived from the unit's coat of arms. The U.S. Army Institute of Heraldry is responsible for the development and authorization of all DUIs and coats of arms. The DUI has been worn by Army units since March 18, 1922 when the Institute of Heraldry first authorized its wear by the 51st Artillery Regiment, stationed in Fort Adams, Rhode Island.



Liberty the white buffalo

The white buffalo that serves as the 43rd Sustainment Brigade's official mascot is named Liberty. Liberty has been with the brigade since October 1, 2001. The white buffalo has a long tradition of being revered as a sacred sign by several Native American religions. The buffalo portends victory and is often the object of prayer and ceremony by these religions. Liberty has deployed with the brigade to Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.



THOMAS continued from page 22

"There is no more thankless a job than an S-6 at the beginning of a deployment," said Simonsgaard.

In less than four days, Thomas and his team accomplished the Herculean task of laying more than six miles of network cable, bringing all network systems on-line in that time.

Thomas plans to complete his four-year term of enlistment and seek civilian employment as a network technician, though he says he is still open to the option of reenlistment.

BANKS continued from page 22

"I have been blessed to step foot on almost every continent," said Banks.

In addition to a NATO mission that brought Banks to the Netherlands, she has also deployed to Bosnia, Kosovo and Kuwait.

Banks is currently serving her first tour in Afghanistan. Her initial impression of the country? Warm, dusty and crowded.

SURGEON continued from page 23

especially for people who are fair skinned. Make sure you protect yourself with sun block containing SPF 30 or greater, and remind your buddy to do the same. It is also advised that you take the medication after a meal, because taking it on an empty stomach can make you feel nauseated.

We are coming into the season where mosquitoes will become more and more common. Do not become, or let your buddy become, one of those soldiers who come down with malaria! It will take you out of the fight and could lead to serious complications. Remember to take your medication daily. If you do experience any side effects with your doxycycline or have any questions about it, feel free to stop by the Aid Station. We will be happy to answer any of your questions.

The Doc.

Reenlistments



Staff Sgt. Paul A. Glasgow
6 years, Fort Carson stabilization



Spc. Garlandia D. Coleman
6 years, Fort Carson stabilization

The following 43rd SB Soldiers have reenlisted or voluntarily extended their terms of service

SSG Glasgow, SASMO
6 years, Fort Carson stabilization

SPC Coleman, SASMO
6 years, Fort Carson stabilization

SPC Braddock, Medics / BSP
6 years, Fort Carson stabilization

SPC Oliver, Supply
6 years, Fort Riley

SPC Zeiler, BSP
Deployment Extension Incentive Program

SPC Phillips, BSP
Deployment Extension Incentive Program

SSG Ball, TID
Deployment Extension Incentive Program

SGT Washington, CMC
Deployment Extension Incentive Program

SGT Williams, Class V
Deployment Extension Incentive Program

SFC Lester, BSP
Indefinite

Promotions



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adanna Rudder



Capt. Jordan A. Lester

The following 43rd SB Soldiers earned promotion to the next higher rank between March 12 and May 1, 2010

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Adanna Rudder
Capt. John T. Huckabay
Capt. Jordan A. Lester
Capt. Crystal A. Rorebeck
Capt. Matthew A. Rorebeck
Spc. Kyle R. Nehring
Pfc. Nathaniel W. Nofsinger
Pfc. Cody D. Warren
Spc. Winona E. Wilson
Spc. Terry J. Zeiler
1st Lt. Richard A. Burd
Pfc. Patricia V. Bayne
Spc. Justin B. Carbaugh
Spc. Gregory R. Church
Staff Sgt. Kirsten E. Fogelberg
Pfc. Roger S. Taylor Jr.
Staff Sgt. Ian M. Terry
Spc. Timothy D. Wagner





M GROSS 5,080 KGS
11,200
816 KGS
1,800 LBS

43rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs
VOIP / DSN: 318 421 6891
Roshan Cell: 079 449 3085