

Sustaining



Freedom

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100 Days of Sustaining the Force

■ BY LTC DAN LONOWSKI

JSC-A Public Affairs Office

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Numbers are staggering: drove enough miles to circle the world nearly 15 times; issued enough fuel for a Honda Civic to the travel to the sun and back 50 times; supported more than 65,000 troops -equivalent to the population of Dothan, Ala.

The 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command took control of sustainment operations in the theater of Afghanistan on December 27th during a ceremony as the 143rd ESC returned to its home base in Florida. Since that time, the 135th ESC and its subordinate units have accomplished astonishing feats. On March 6th, the 135th ESC, a National Guard unit from Birmingham, Ala., marked its 100th day as the logistics leader for Operation Enduring Freedom. The 135th is the headquarters element for the Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan (JSC-A).

“This is the largest logistics maneuver since World War II,” said Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, the commanding general for the Joint Sustainment Command. “What we are doing here is making a difference. We have risen to the challenge in a truly expeditionary environment.”

The environment that Hoover is re-



Sgt. James Burroughs | Sustaining Freedom

Crewmembers prepare their MRAPs for a convoy mission where they will provide security for host nation trucks. Since the beginning of the year, host nation drivers have driven 360,000 miles delivering supplies and equipment under the direction of the JSC-A.

ferring to presents extreme challenges throughout the area of operations. Convoys have very few entrance points into the landlocked country. Almost as large as the State of Texas, Afghanistan is bound by six different countries. Its longest border is the poorly marked Durand Line, accounting for its entire southern and eastern boundary with Pakistan. The border continues eastward from Iran through the Chagai Hills and the southern end of the Registan Desert, then northward through

mountainous country. At a point it rises to the crest of the Hindu Kush, which it follows eastward to the Pamir Mountains. The entire east boundary abuts Iran.

There are few improved roads and not many bridges, which makes delivering supplies across the vast expanses impossible in most areas. Many of the forward operating bases receive their supplies via air delivery.

The access to the forward operating

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A View From The Commander's Chair



Brig. Gen. Reynold N. Hoover
JSC-A
Commanding General

Among other events going on this month, April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. This should remind all of us of our responsibilities as Soldiers, as leaders, as service members and as Americans. Simply stated, there is no place in our Army and our unit for sexual assault, sexual harassment, or disrespect for those with whom we are serving side by side. It is not in keeping with the Army Core Values – Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage – and it is not in keeping with the values of this

Command. I encourage all of you to take this time to reaffirm your commitment to the Army Core Values and to promoting a healthy work environment in the Command.

Safety is another area that is everyone's responsibility. Make Safety A Way Of Life. We have seen far too many accidents in our first 100 days in Command. Many, if not most, seem to me to have been preventable. We have also experienced far too many negligent firearms discharges. These too, were preventable and fortunately have not resulted in injury death. Nevertheless, everyone in this Command is a safety officer and observer. Everyone has the ability to say "stop" when they observe an unsafe act, or what could potentially be an unsafe act. Our op-tempo is very high, people are working long hours in dangerous and stressful

conditions. That is why we all need to be vigilant; we all need to be safety officers and observers. The life you save in preventing an accident could be your own.

Speaking of high op-tempo, I know everyone is fully engaged in support of our sustainment missions and I appreciate your enthusiasm and your dedication to our mission success. There are unintended impacts from everyone's hard work and long hours – stress and friction. Those two outcomes have contributed to some leaders and soldiers forgetting the importance of treating everyone as a professional with dignity and respect. I expect that from everyone and you should expect that from me. We lead by example and we are all in this together. Therefore, in order to succeed I need your support by taking care of your health, getting a break from work every 21 days, and developing a daily routine that ensures you to get the mission done but also allows for some personal time. Finally, it requires all of us to have the moral courage to do the right thing; counsel where appropriate and in an appropriate manner. Mentor, train and coach our junior leaders.

Looking ahead, we still have much to do in the next 100 days. We will be busy coordinating the continued flow of forces into Afghanistan to achieve an end-of-August goal. We will be traveling back to the United States to help train and prepare the 184th ESC for their deployment. And, yes, we will be planning for our redeployment.

With all that we have going on, we still need each of you to stay focused on the mission. Watch out for you battle buddy, and Make Safety A Way of Life.

Thank you for your service and sacrifice.

Command Sgt. Maj. Kinder's Comments

We are fast approaching the halfway mark in the JSC-A deployment cycle. Service members within the JSC-A from all branches of our military continue to perform in an outstanding manner, and I commend you for your efforts. A lot of work has been done to improve our foxhole. However, there is still an enormous job left to be done. I am confident all of you are up to the tasks ahead.

Now I'd like to talk a little about our NCO Corps: authority, duties, and responsibility. We must always be an NCO Corps that leads by example, trains from experience, maintains and enforces standards, takes care of Soldiers (and in our case; Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, and Marines), and adapts to a changing world. Leaders which are disciplined produce disciplined Soldiers. As leaders, we must maintain an outstanding personal appearance as well as effectively counsel and mentor subordinates.

As NCOs you have to know what authority you have, where it comes from, and always use good judgment in exercising that authority. Authority is defined as the right to direct Soldiers to do certain things, or take action within the scope of your position. Military authority begins with the U.S. Constitution. The president, as commander in chief, commands the armed forces. This authority extends down through the chain of command - with the assistance of the NCO support channel - to the squad, section, or team leader who then will direct and supervise the individual actions of Soldiers.

There are two types of authority: command authority and general military authority.

Command authority is the authority leaders have over Soldiers by virtue of their rank or assignment. This authority originates with the president and may be supplemented by law or regulation. Even though it is

called "command" authority, it is not limited to officers. The noncommissioned officers' command authority is inherent by virtue of position to direct or control Soldiers.

General military authority is authority extended to all Soldiers to take action and act in the absence of a unit leader or other designated authority. It originates in the oath of office, law, rank structure, traditions and regulations. This allows leaders to take appropriate corrective actions whenever a member of any of our armed services, anywhere, commits an act involving a breach of good order and discipline. This authority applies even if none of the service members are in your unit.

You may ask yourself, where am I leading with this information? Here on KAF, as well as other installations, there has been a lack of discipline as relates to service members maintaining proper military standards and following regulations. It is your duty, and you have the authority, to enforce standards as outlined in AR 670-1 and the other service regulations. Your authority to enforce those regulations as specified in AR 600-20. If you neglect your duty, you can be held accountable. What do you do if a service member refuses to obey you? You can settle for that members name and unit and contact his/her first sergeant. In most cases, that is enough to ensure the incident doesn't occur again.

I expect all NCOs from corporal through SGM to exercise their inher-



CSM Clark Kinder
JSC-A
Command Sergeant Major

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bases has been the biggest challenge for sustainment according to Col. Jerry Martin, the officer in charge of Support Operations for the JSC-A; for all sustainment in Afghanistan.

Martin is the master logistician for all muscle movements in Afghanistan for U.S. forces, as well as some coalition forces and Afghan forces. In a way, the Alexander City, Ala resident has been preparing for this deployment in logistics for 30 years, his entire military career. Martin, who conducted logistics operations when he deployed to Iraq in 2003-04, said he looks forward to each challenge.

"The sheer magnitude of what we do everyday – its overwhelming. That's what makes it exciting," Martin said. "You can't let it consume you. We are the nucleus of all planning, procurement and delivery in this entire country. We manage every piece of equipment by air and by ground."

Martin has 160 personnel on his staff, including Soldiers, Airmen and civilian employees. This staff drives the train of more than 18,000 employees who deliver materials, food, water, fuel, ammunition, equipment...anything the fighting Soldiers and Marines may need for sustainment during operations.

"We are here to support the men directly in the fight,"



Sgt. James Burroughs | Sustaining Freedom

Maj. Derek Bryan explains a shipment yard expansion plan to Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover as Col. Jerry Martin looks on. The three Alabama National Guardsmen are members of the 135th ESC, the Joint Sustainment Command for logistics in Afghanistan.

he said. "I have commodities managers who are true professionals. They get the job done."

In the first 100 days, Martin and his staff have overseen the delivery of more than seven million pounds of mail. That mail is sorted and delivered by units subordinate to the 135th.

More than 23,000 passengers are moved by contract air each month and the inspiring numbers go on and on.

The JSC-A has delivered roughly 30 million meals to troops. In Kandahar alone, 17,000 personnel have a place to sleep due to the efforts of the 649th Regional Support Group, a down-trace unit.

Yet Martin, who begins his day at 6 a.m. and finishes up

around 10 p.m., said his team continues to hone the tracking devices and analysis tools they use.

"Every day, we try to make improvements," Martin said. "There is very little room for errors in this field. I think we are dead on target."

The flow of logistics will certainly increase as the surge of U.S. troops enters the country by summer's end. Currently, the JSC-A is supporting 67,000 U.S. forces. At the height of the surge, nearly 100,000 forces will be in country. The JSC-A will support them all.

The JSC-A is supported by two support brigades; the 82nd SB out of Fort Bragg, NC and the 43rd SB from Fort Carson, Colo.

"The 82nd hit the ground running hard," Martin said. "And the 43rd SB is already executing at a high rate. Both commanders have top-notch staffs. They make our job a lot easier."

"When we go home, I want to look back and say I did everything I could possibly do to support our troops in this war," Martin continued. "I want my people to say they did everything possible. That's how we will measure our success here."

In the meantime, JSC-A units have airdropped almost 4,000 bundles of needed supplies to remote operating bases. More than 200 million gallons of jet fuel have been issued. All of these numbers; all within the first 100 days.

Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan

Commanding General
Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover

Command Sgt. Maj.
Command Sgt. Maj.
Clark Kinder

Public Affairs Officer
Lt. Col. Dan Lonowski

Editor
Sgt. Jason C. Adolphson

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The Public Affairs office is located next to Bldg 515.

‘EO is the Difference’

JSC-A Equal Opportunity Office

The first 135th JSC-A EOLC (Equal Opportunity Leader’s Course) training held at Kandahar Airfield, on 19-24 March 2010, graduated 25 students into the EO field.

EOLC training will be offered again 10-15 May, 2010. Interested individuals can contact CW3 Ackerson at DSN 318-841-2503 or email: evonne.ackerson@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Also, UVA/DSARC (Unit Victim Advocate/Deployable Sexual Assault Response Coordinator) training will be conducted 3 – 8 May, 2010. Interested individuals can contact MSG Coats @ DSN 318-841-2441 or email: betty.coats@afghan.swa.army.mil.



Sgt. Jason C. Adolphson | Sustaining Freedom

Spc. Jordan Clark, a Galveston, Texas, native, serving in 110th Transportation Company, conducts preventative maintenance checks and services to an incoming load of Caiman Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, March 15. The Caimans came in exchange of Maxx-Pro MRAP vehicles – the first of an exchange between U.S. military bases in the Middle East. Military officials say the ultimate goal is to ensure the right vehicles are placed in terrains best suited for missions within the U.S. Central Command area of operations.

1st TSC Swaps Vehicles in Support of OEF

■ BY CPT ELLIS GALES
1st TSC Public Affairs Office

CAMP ARIFJAN, Kuwait – The 1st Theater Sustainment Command began the process of transitioning from Maxx-Pro Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicles to Caiman MRAP vehicles when brigade representatives arrived at Lot 54 to inspect an initial issue of Caimans, March 15.

The exchange is designed to accommodate the needs of commanders in Afghanistan where the Maxx-Pro variant is in high demand as it is better suited to the road and terrain conditions in Afghanistan.

“Like the Maxx-Pro, Caimans meet all U.S. specifications to protect crew members from the effects of improvised explosive devices and they are effective and well-suited for the driving conditions faced by Soldiers

of the 1st TSC conducting responsible drawdown operations in Iraq,” said Brig. Gen. Nick Tooliatos, deputy commanding general, 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

The 1st TSC will distribute the vehicles to 593rd Sustainment Brigade and 53rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team over the next few months. Soldiers will transport the Caimans to maintenance facilities in their respective areas where they will take equipment from their Maxx-Pros to install into the Caimans.

The process takes approximately one week and when the units return their stripped-down Maxx-Pros, they will receive another issue of Caimans to equip. The cycle will continue until all Caimans and Maxx-Pros are exchanged. The Army Materiel Command in Kuwait will refurbish the Maxx-Pros before they are sent to Afghanistan.

The 593rd SB supports Iraq’s responsible drawdown with 24-hour convoy operations. Some of the equipment they haul from Iraq is dropped off at reception centers throughout the country, but most is brought to Kuwait where it is shipped back to the U.S. or distributed throughout the U.S. Central Command area of responsibility, which spans 20 countries from Africa to Asia.

The 53rd IBCT, from Florida, is currently transitioning with the 115th Fires Brigade from Wyoming. Once the two National Guard units complete their transition, the 53rd IBCT will be responsible for base security throughout Kuwait and convoy security throughout Iraq and Kuwait.

The 1st TSC supports U.S. Central Command’s area of responsibility by tailoring the logistical infrastructure in Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan.



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ent authority to maintain standards across the spectrum. The U.S. Armed Forces are the most respected in the world. We have a professional NCO Corps second to none. Our appearance, dedication, and professionalism translate directly to both coalition partners and the Afghan people in the way in which we are perceived. All service members should take pride in themselves and their unit. Your appearance is a direct reflection on you, your unit, our armed services and our nation.

Last, I would like to thank each and every one of you for your service and your sacrifice. Most of all, I wish you to convey to your families my deep admiration and respect for the sacrifice they are enduring.

NCO and Soldier Go for the Gold



Sgt. Jason C. Adolphson | Sustaining Freedom

'NCO of the Year' and 'Soldier of the Year' competitors form up in front of a crowd at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, April 16 to find out who won the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan competition. (See additional photos on page 16.)

■ BY LTC DAN LONOWSKI

JSC-A Public Affairs Office

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Many Soldiers try to be the best, but few can claim the title. One noncommissioned officer and one junior enlisted Soldier at Kandahar Airfield were selected as the 'NCO of the Year' and 'Soldier of the Year' for the Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan, April 16th.

Sgt. Christopher Mancino, a member of the headquarters company in the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, earned the honor of the 'NCO of the year' for the JSC-A while the 'Soldier of the Year' honors went to Spc. Matthew Hernandez, also with the 82nd SB (a member of 5th Maintenance).

The victors will travel to Kuwait, where they will compete for the same title with 1st Theater Sustainment Command. There, Soldiers serving in Iraq and Kuwait as well as Afghanistan will assemble.

"These Soldiers that competed were all very impressive," said Sgt. Major Donell Pelt, the officer in charge of the event. "Their level of confidence, their knowledge...they were all very competitive. Every Soldier was also highly motivated."

The competition sprang from a four-day process, which required each Soldier to perform a physical fitness test, qualify on the M16 A2 rifle range and assert their abilities in a series of Soldier tasks – medical, land navigation and weapons assembly.

The competing warriors were drilled one-by-one by a panel of sergeants major

who tested the Soldiers overall knowledge and confidence in a formal board.

Mancino said he thought any of the five competitors from across the Afghanistan Theater could have won the NCO award.

"This was tough and challenging," Mancino said. "All these [Soldiers] put forth a lot of effort and training. I think they all would represent the JSC-A well at the TSC level."

Hernandez was the only specialist among the competitors.

"I challenged myself to compete against the NCOs," Hernandez said. "It worked out well. The high-speed training from my section paid off."

Mancino has competed in three NCO competitions to get to this level. He said the level of competition has progressively gotten more challenging. He won the award at the battalion level when he competed in the 82nd Special Troops Battalion. He then won the 82nd SB award before winning at the JSC-A level.

The two winners earned Army Commendation medals as well as a \$100 gift certificate from AAFES and the other competitors received certificates of achievement.

At the next level Mancino and Hernandez will travel with Command Sgt. Maj. Clark Kinder, the JSC-A command sergeant major to Camp Arifjan, Kuwait. The competition will take place May 10-14.

"I will probably take a few days off," Hernandez said after the awards ceremony. "Then I will begin to train again, even harder."

NCO of the Year to Delay Leave

■ BY LTC DAN LONOWSKI

JSC-A Public Affairs Office

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The winner of the Joint Sustainment Command 'NCO of the Year' has already made plans to delay his leave. But Sgt. Christopher Mancino isn't beyond delaying his leave a second time even though he may miss his wedding anniversary.

Mancino, a Soldier with the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, said he had already spoke with his wife, Jamie, about the possibility of winning the JSC-A 'NCO of the Year,' which took place April 12–16. Mancino will now move on to the 1st Theater Sustainment Command level pitted against Soldiers from Kuwait, Iraq and Afghanistan. That competition will take place at Camp Arifjan, Kuwait, May 10–14, which coincides with Mancino's leave.

"I spoke to my wife on the phone," Mancino said. "She supports me all the way."

Mancino said the change in plans means that his parents and in-laws will have to change their plans to visit him while on leave. More importantly for Mancino, however, is that he makes it home shortly after the competition.

On May 19, he and his wife will celebrate their wedding anniversary. "That [wedding anniversary] is important to me," Mancino said. "I have trained hard for this. We will have to see how it plays out."

If Mancino wins the NCO competition at the 1st TSC, it is possible he will have to delay his leave for another few weeks. Mancino would then move to the Army Central Command level, meaning he would possibly not take leave until late May or even in June.

Mancino said he has been studying Warrior Training Tasks, Army regulations and Army field manuals for two hours a day to prepare for the competition. In addition, he is currently taking two college classes. He said it has been difficult to find time to do the work. He said that all his extra time is spent on studying for the military competitions or his college classes.

Transfer of Authority Historic in Afghanistan

■ BY LTC DAN LONOWSKI

JSC-A Public Affairs Office

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – As the 82nd Sustainment Brigade (SB) transferred operational control of the southern and western regions of Afghanistan to the 43rd Sustainment Brigade on March 22, during a transfer of authority ceremony, a historical landmark was reached in the logistics arena.

For the first nine years of Operation Enduring Freedom, logistical support in the theater of operations had never consisted of more than one sustainment brigade. However, with the increase of troops set to surpass 100,000 troops in theater, the need for sustaining the force has also greatly increased. The 82nd SB and the 43rd SB will share the load as the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command oversees both support brigades.

“Adding a second sustainment brigade helps shape the build-up of combat forces,” said Maj. Gen. James E. Rogers, the commanding general of the 1st Theater Support Command, higher command for the 135th ESC. “It ensures we have the right logistical support in place to ensure our forces have everything they need to complete their missions.”

The Commanding General of the 135th, Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, expressed the importance of having two brigades under his command as he addressed Soldiers during the ceremony.

“Nothing in this theater moves without one of you touching it,” Hoover said. “No one goes on R and R (rest and relaxation – or leave) without your involvement; no one receives a letter or a package in the mail. Every truck, every bullet and every other piece of equipment must go through us.”

As Hoover addressed the Soldiers from the incoming brigade as well as the 82nd SB, he stressed the importance of teamwork and experience.

“As you assume this new challenge, know that you are not in this alone,” Hoover said. “You can turn to any of us in this military formation with any problem in any situation. It is our job to make your job easier.”

The 135th ESC, a National Guard unit from Birmingham, Ala., controls logistical operations throughout Afghanistan. The 82nd SB, out of Fort Bragg, N.C., was the only sustainment brigade in theater since Jan. 1 and had been delivering supplies and equipment throughout the theater.

The addition of the Fort Carson-based



Chief Warrant Officer 3 Mike Fliegel | Sustaining Freedom
Col. Gary Sheffer, the Deputy Commanding Officer of the 135th ESC, inspect troops of the Joint Sustainment Command before turning the formation over to Commanding General Reynold N. Hoover during a transfer of authority ceremony in Kandahar, Afghanistan. The 135th is a National Guard unit from Birmingham, Ala. Photo by CW3 Mike Fliegel.

43rd SB allows the 135th ESC (the Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan), to have operational control over both brigades. The 82nd SB is headquartered in Bagram. It will control logistical operations in the north and east of Afghanistan. The 43rd SB, meanwhile, will work from Kandahar Airfield and will provide tactical support in the southern and western regions of the country.

“This is the largest logistical footprint we have seen in Afghanistan since the war started,” Rogers said.

Col. Ed Daly, the commander of the 43rd SB, expressed his confidence in the Soldiers that come under his command.

“We are trained and ready to execute this mission,” Daly said in reference to the logistical challenges that face his brigade elements. “The Rough Riders (the brigade’s nickname) are prepared.”

To execute the sustainment mission, each brigade has a number of combat service support battalions and special troops battalions as subordinate units.

In addition to the two sustainment brigades, the 135th also has the 401st Army Field Support Brigade, the 649th Regional Support Group and the 419th Joint Movement Control Battalion as subordinate units. With the inclusion of civilian employees and contractors who work for the 135th, over 18,000 personnel fall under the command of

the JSC-A. As additional support battalions join the brigades later in the year, the number of personnel will increase.

“We are a large entity with a lot of moving parts,” Hoover said. “With the broad array of challenges we face in delivering the goods, we have to have the assets. The addition of a second brigade is more than just part of a ceremony. I have great confidence in both of these brigades. Each brings experience and expertise to the fight.”

Many of the difficulties of the mission have to do with the geographical makeup of Afghanistan. Mountainous regions, extreme deserts, few improved roads and even fewer bridges, which makes delivering supplies across the vast expanses a difficult feat. Many of the forward operating bases must receive their supplies via air delivery. Another part of the challenge is getting supplies and equipment into Afghanistan, a landlocked country surrounded by several countries including Iran and Pakistan.

The necessity to maintain logistical control and oversight in the entire theater rests on the shoulders of the 135th.

“This is an awesome opportunity to lead Soldiers,” Hoover said in reference to the number of troops and civilians that fall within the JSC-A. “These opportunities don’t come around too often. It gives Soldiers a great chance to step up and lead.”

Faces from the Frontline

1LT Korina Woodall is a Birmingham, Ala., native, serving as a JSC-A Force Management/Plans officer at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



Woodall

What do you do in the Army? I support and coordinate with

US Forces Afghanistan and other higher HQ on all Force Management functions in support of the command force management plan. It is important to track force flow so that we are better prepared to provide for troops when they enter country.

What has your deployment been like? My deployment so far

has been no surprise. It is everything I expected; bright, hot, and dusty.

Has anyone else from your family served?

Many of the males in my family have either served in the Army or the Navy, including my dad. I am the only

female in my family to ever serve in the Armed Services.

Is there anything unique about your Army Story?

The Army is big but yet so small. I have a best friend/sorority sister from college whom I lost touch with when she joined the Army, active duty. But to my surprise we ran into each other in Niagara Dining Facility.

Spc. Christopher Bozeman is a Birmingham, Ala., native, serving as an administrative assistant in 135th ESC at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.



Bozeman

What do you do in the Army? I work in the Plans section

where I gather reports from various locations on a daily basis so when the units come in we can have more support and better assistance.

What has your deployment been like? My deployment has been an experience like no other -- not for the bad -- just different. It's very bright and dark

here at the same time as well as the weather very hot and cold. Everything takes some getting used to. I've been going to the gym 6 days a week. So far I have lost over 40 pounds.

Has anyone else from your family served? My mother is the commanding officer of a unit in TN in the Army Reserve.

Is there anything unique about your Army Story? I joined for the training, experience, action and adventure and my recruiter made me a secretary -- 11 years later and I am still here.

Quirky Budget Cuts Across America

From police horses to fireworks to wrangling stray chickens, these cash-strapped cities are eliminating all kinds of services

CNN.Money.com

■ **Miami** – Chicken buster gets busted – Annual savings: \$20,000. Some cities have dog catchers. Miami has a chicken catcher; or at least it did. Four years ago Miami residents were overrun with chickens so the city added a full time chicken buster. At one time, approximately 15,000 chickens freely ran the streets of Miami.

■ **Chicago** – Chicago will go without fireworks this Independence Day. Fireworkless 4th – Annual savings: \$3.8 million.

■ **Detroit** – School buses stop rolling – Annual savings: \$500,000. Pounded by the auto industry's collapse and facing a deficit of nearly \$300 million, Detroit is so deep in the red that its schools will outsource busing to private companies to save \$49 million over the next five years.

■ **Henderson, Nev.** – Caffeine withdrawal – Annual savings: \$25,000. No more free coffee for Grandpa.

■ **St. Louis** – The trashman cometh – A stinky budget cut with a bill in hand. St. Louis is considering charging residents \$60 a year for once-a-week trash collection.

■ **Colorado Springs** – Street lights go dark – Annual savings: \$1.2 million. Cities around the nation are going green trying new tactics to get their budgets out of the red. Colorado Springs, which is \$25 million short on its 2010 budget, has deactivated the city's least efficient street lights.

■ **Colorado Springs** – Police choppers get grounded – Annual

savings: \$877,500. To cut its soaring expenses, the Colorado Springs Police Department grounded two helicopters.

■ **San Diego** – Police horses sent back to the stables – Annual savings: \$1.2 million. Don't expect to see Trigger patrolling the streets of San Diego. The city's police dept. is getting rid of its mounted patrol unit after 27 years on the urban streets.

■ **Los Angeles** – Outsourcing the giraffes – Annual savings: \$18 million. Running the Los Angeles zoo costs the city \$18 million annually, but animal lovers only bring \$11 million to the attraction. The Zoo will likely stay open but nonprofit groups may have to take over.

■ **North Las Vegas** – No more medical probes – Annual savings: \$35,000. North Las Vegas likes to be sure its city executives are in tip-top health -- but starting next year, they're on their own.

■ **Utah (statewide)** – School's out – Savings: \$102 million statewide. State Sen. Chris Butters, R-Utah, initially proposed that the 12th grade be hacked from the education system statewide. But the senator modified his pitch, instead suggesting that Utah, which is \$750 million in the hole, make senior year of high school optional. One solution Butters hopes to implement is to provide financial incentives for students who opt to graduate early, which could save the state \$102 million annually. He plans to test the idea in a pilot program in his district, which cover West Jordan, South Jordan and Harriman, next fall.

Mullen, USO Performers Thank Troops Overseas

■ BY JIM GARAMONE
DVIDS

The chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff ended a trip to the U.S. Central Command region with a stop to meet logisticians in Kuwait.

Navy Adm. Mike Mullen also brought USO celebrities with him to remind servicemembers that the American people love them and think of them.

Mullen told servicemembers and civilians at a USO event at the airport that he appreciates their hard work, and said they are the unsung heroes of America's wars.

The men and women in Kuwait are responsible for sustaining almost 200,000 U.S. servicemembers fighting in Afghanistan and Iraq. The 3rd U.S. Army also is responsible for planning and executing the drawdown from Iraq and the surge in Afghanistan. They get equipment out of Iraq and ship it either to Afghanistan for further use by troops or to the United States, where the equipment helps to reset the military.

The chairman also met up with USO entertainers he sponsored for a trip through the region. James Gandolfini and Tony Sirico of "The Sopranos" joined with Rose McGowan of the television show "Charmed" and Brian Stinchcomb, a lineman for the Super Bowl champion New Orleans Saints, to bring a taste of home to troops overseas. The visits also give the USO personali-



ties a look at the sacrifices servicemembers face.

The chairman tries to visit the U.S. Central Command area of operations at least once a quarter, and he brings USO entertainers and personalities with him. On this trip, the USO portion of the mission launched separately because of President Barack Obama's trip to Afghanistan. Mullen delayed his trip by a day so as not to interfere with the president's visit.

The USO performers left Joint Base Andrews-Naval Air Facility Washington in Maryland on a C-17 March 27. They arrived at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, the next day and immediately began meeting the troops. They chomped to Forward Operating Base Airborne and held what the USO calls "meet and greets" — they met with soldiers, shook their hands and spoke with them.

Troops saw Gandolfini and Sirico and started yelling "Fuhged-aboutit," a signature line from "The Sopranos," to them. Stinchcomb, at 6-

feet, 6 inches tall, looms over most people. He said he didn't feel too out of place among a group of soldiers, because many of them work out in their free time.

The USO contingent went back to Bagram, where they held another meet and greet at the "clamshell" amphitheater before turning in.

The group toured the Joint Operations Center on March 29 and met members of the air expeditionary wing. The celebrities also visited the hospital and the Pat Tillman USO Center before flying to the NATO base in Kandahar, where they met NATO servicemembers at the base's boardwalk and visited with American troops at JSC-A headquarters.

On March 30, the group met members of the 19th Engineer Battalion and then flew to Kabul International Airport in the afternoon. In Kabul, they toured the new facilities at the base, met with servicemembers, Defense Department civilians and U.S. contractors.

Here's what the stars had to say about their visit with the troops according to online news sources ...



Rose McGowan: *Having the opportunity to travel on a USO tour with Admiral Mullen and visit our nation's troops was the opportunity of a lifetime. My eyes were opened like never before and I walked away with a greater sense of pride, respect and honor. I know countless others have said it before, but I am forever changed.*



James Gandolfini: *Our troops are some of the brightest and bravest men and women I've ever met. Sadly, they don't always get the appreciation and recognition they deserve. The USO allows me the privilege to meet them in person, show them my gratitude and thank them for their service.*



Tony Sirico: *I went into my second USO tour thinking it was going to be the same or similar to my first visit back in '04. But it was different. I could see the progress and just how far we've come. I am proud of each and every one of our men and women in uniform who stepped up to the plate. It's a spiritual thing to me. We play tough guys on TV but me and Jimmy agree, you don't know tough until you see our troops over there.*



Jon Stinchcomb: *So many of my fellow teammates and friends have gone out on entertainment tours and told me about how great their experience was visiting and uplifting troops. Now, I can finally relate to them and tell others how important it is to work with the USO and support our troops. War or no war, our soldiers are remarkable and need our support.*



Rose McGowan poses with Sgt. Maj. Ken Ridgeway and other troops in 135th ESC at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan during a USO tour.

Doc's Advice ...

Here are observations and suggestions for how to minimize or avoid disease and non-battle injuries while deployed.

■ BY LTC MICHAEL FERRIS, M.D.

JSC-A Command Surgeon

I have had boots on the ground here at KAF for about a month. In that time, I have made several observations about the disease and non-battle injury (DNBI) risks that face each Soldier. KAF is a stressful place. The environment we now live in, and the battle rhythm lifestyle we all follow, are not nearly as conducive to maintaining good health as compared to life back home.

Therefore, it is more important than ever to follow some basic principles of healthy living; or, to put it in other words, living healthy in order to stay healthy. In no certain order, here are my observations and suggestions for how to minimize, or avoid, DNBI and to stay healthy while here on KAF.

First, make sure you get enough sleep. Sleep is important to physical and mental health. Try to get eight hours a night (some need more; some need less). Maintain a set schedule of when you go to bed and when you wake up. If your roommates' lifestyles keep you awake at night, talk to them about modifying their behaviors/schedule, so that everyone can get a good night's sleep.

Follow good sleep habits: avoid caffeine late in the day, engage in a restful activity before going to bed (i.e. reading). Avoid working right up to your planned bedtime (this would include exercising also). These activities tend to keep you

from falling asleep.

Second, eat healthy. That means three squares a day with healthy, and occasionally not so healthy, snacks.

Remember the food pyramid. It is just as important here in sustaining a nutritious pattern of eating, as it is at home. Don't overdo your intake of sugars and fats, and try to take in around two cups of fruit and 3 1/2 cups of vegetables each day. Remember to go easy on your portion sizes.

Third, exercise regularly, especially aerobic exercise. This will help you maintain your weight and cardiovascular fitness level, which are crucial to a healthy lifestyle.

Be careful about where and when you exercise, however. If you prefer to run outside, do so during the coolest period of the day and make sure you hydrate before and after your run.

If you are running for more than 20 minutes on a hot day, you'll need to hydrate during your run, as well. Avoid running outdoors on days when it's windy and the sand is blowing. Your lungs will appreciate it. If you run during dusk or dark hours, don't run alone, and make sure you wear your reflective belt.

At all times, while you are running or walking, maintain situational awareness. The terrain on KAF is highly irregular and inconsistent.

Safety hazards are everywhere. They occur in the form of the unexpected rock under foot, the unmarked hole or ditch, or the MRAP or NTV that didn't see you in its path.

SAFETY: Heat Injury Prevention

Proper hydration begins 24-48 hours in advance of long road marches or high humidity environments.

■ BY LTC WILLIAM A. NEPUTE

JSC-A Safety Officer

Commanders at all levels are responsible for the planning and execution of a command sponsored heat injury prevention program. Heat injuries may occur during physical training (PT) or any other hot weather operations or activities when personnel are not properly hydrated or acclimatized, exposed to extreme heat, inside of closed spaces such as army motor vehicles (AMVs), and when wearing body armor.

Contributing factors to heat injuries include use of dietary supplements, fatigue, and skin trauma (sunburn). Three ways to prevent heat injuries are through proper hydration, wet-bulb monitoring to include rest periods, and acclimatization. Acclimatization is "the ability of the body to undergo physiological adaptations to function in a hot environment."

Proper hydration begins 24-48 hours in advance of long road marches or high humidity environments.

Use of dietary or muscle building supplements should be prohibited prior to the activity. Ways to avoid heat injuries include drinking fluids frequently, avoiding salt tablets unless prescribed, and avoiding prescription drugs or dietary supplements prior to training.

Heat stress awareness training should be provided to new personnel prior to deployment into hot, dry, and humid environments.

Training shall include the types, causes, symptoms, treatment, and prevention of heat injuries. The wet-bulb-globe-temperature (WBGT) index is a good indicator of external heat stress on the body. It determines flag conditions and work/rest cycles. The WBGT works by incorporating the effects of air velocity and humidity (wet bulb) and air temperature (dry) and radiant heat (globe temperature).

Flag warning conditions are as follows:

■ **Green Flag** (WBGTI 80 - 84.9 degrees F.) Heavy exercise, for non-acclimated personnel, will be conducted with caution and under supervision.

■ **Yellow Flag** (WBGTI of 85 - 87.9 degrees F.) Strenuous exercise is curtailed for non-acclimated personnel and avoidance of outdoor classes in the sun.

■ **Red Flag** (WBGTI of 88 - 89.9 degrees F.) All PT is curtailed for personnel who are not acclimated in theater by at least 12 weeks. Personnel who are fully acclimated may carry on limited activity not to exceed six hours per day.

■ **Black Flag** (WBGTI 90 degrees and above) All non-essential physical activity will be halted for all units. Proper training and awareness of health risks minimizes heat related injuries and fatalities.

Prevention of heat injuries is accomplished through the continuous use of the Composite Risk Management (CRM) Process. One accident ... one too many!

135th ESC and UK Forces Form CMCC

■ BY LTC DAN LONOWSKI

135th ESC Public Affairs Office

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The commander of the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command wanted greater coordination and visibility of all supplies coming into Afghanistan by ground or air and moving around Afghanistan to support troops and operating bases. In order to establish this control measure, the 135th developed the Coalition Movement Coordination Cell (CMCC) on Feb. 1 with the assistance on the Joint Force Support from the United Kingdom and the Intermediate Joint Command located in Kabul.

The CMCC is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Air Force, members of the 419th Movement Control Battalion, the 383rd Theater Transportation Opening Element (TTOE), and JFS (UK).

On March 31st, the CMCC reached full operating capability and is currently providing U.S. and NATO partners with daily updates of cargo and personnel movement, as well as projections of future movements, on a computer based common operating picture.

Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, the commander for the 135th (Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan), said the need for the CMCC was critical. He said members of the JSC-A staff conducted a 30-day assessment upon arrival into the theater to determine what was needed to keep better track of all logistical pieces and personnel moving into theater.

“The CMCC provides a much needed capability,” Hoover said. “It continues to be a work in progress but it provides a coordinated common picture of movements into Afghanistan by air and ground assets. It basically provides all commanders with a one stop shop for a common distribution management operating picture in Afghanistan.”



Lt. Col. Dan Lonowski | Sustaining Freedom

Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, the commander for the 135th (Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan) and Brigadier General Angus Fay, the Commanding General for the Joint Force Support (U.K.) discuss military operations at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

All five regional commanders now have visibility on all assets. Hoover said his command did not provide that luxury before.

“This capability did not previously exist and has really made a difference as we continue to receive troops and equipment under the President’s directed surge and sustain those forces already in Afghanistan.”

Hoover, along with Brigadier General Angus Fay, the Commanding General for the Joint Force Support (U.K.), jointly developed the CMCC concept to support Afghan forces and Coalition forces. The joint cell is a difference from the way logistics have been run in the past, where each sustainment operation was run individually without having a view of the entire operating picture. This joint operation allows senior leaders to view logistical movement of all assets, land and air throughout Afghanistan.

“This is a game-changing moment in this theater,” Fay said of the creation of the CMCC. “Eventually, we will help build Afghanistan

to become an independent nation.”

Fay said this is the best and deepest cooperation that has occurred in Afghanistan between the U.K. and the U.S. in terms of moving personnel and materiel.

The CMCC is the single point of contact for commanders. It allows leaders to track all sustainment assets that are moving into and around Afghanistan. As the capability of the CMCC improves its power and its contribution to Afghanistan distribution management will be unmatched.

The coordination cell maintains visibility on host nation trucking, all trucks that enter and exit through gates, trucks crossing into Afghanistan from other countries and different types of aircraft and their location as well as destination.

“It is an excellent example of coalition cooperation between the British and American forces,” Fay said. “It gives us all a better understanding of what is coming into theater.”

ABSENTEE VOTER ASSISTANCE!

You came to Afghanistan to serve your country, and your country honors your service. There is another way to serve your country, and it's a right and privilege sacred to all freedom loving people. It is your right to vote. It is a right that you can exercise, as American citizens anywhere, even in Afghanistan.

The US Government created the Federal Voter Assistance program (FVAP) as a clearinghouse for voter assistance information. The Web site www.fvap.gov is the source to access voter registration and absentee ballot requests. When you

complete a Federal Post Card Application (FPCA) your local election official will process it and decide what ballot to send you.

If your Unit has a designated Voter Assistance Officer, he or she will guide you through the process. If you do not have a Voter Assistance Officer, the FVAP website has information which will assist you. If you need additional assistance contact the KAF Legal Center. Please note that if you wish to vote in the November 2010 general election FVAP recommends that you send your FPCA no later than August 15, 2010.

Mission of the 419th MCB



U.S. Army photo | Sustaining Freedom

Soldiers of the 419th MCB board a plane at Fort Bliss, Texas, before embarking on their journey to a yearlong deployment in Afghanistan.

419TH MCB Validates, Says Farewell to the US

■ BY 1LT STEVEN DRUCKENMILLER
419th MCB Adjutant

THE Soldiers of the 419th Movement Control Battalion (MCB) successfully navigated the many challenges presented to it by the Fort Bliss Mobilization and Deployment Brigade (MaD) and received the coveted "validated" status. Validation is a process where a unit is assessed on many different tasks and battle drills. Validation is a crucial piece in ensuring that units slated to go forward to combat zones are actually ready to support the mission, and is not an easy process.

The road, as many Family members are already aware, was a long and difficult one. The 419th started the highest-tempo portion of the process with the Soldiers' Readiness Program, or SRP, at Ft. Snelling, MN.

The purpose of this second SRP (the first occurred in July) is to ensure that each individual

Soldier is prepared to deploy. Categories that are reviewed are as follows: the Soldiers' financial status and a review of the benefits the Soldier should receive while in a combat zone; the Soldiers' medical readiness, to include the always painful process of receiving up-to-date shots and other vaccinations. The SRP helps the unit determine which Soldiers are prepared and which Soldiers may need to wait to deploy, which ensures that there is not a need for last minute replacements.

The second part of the process was the unit's attendance and participation at the Deployment & Distribution Experimentation and Exercise Center (DDEEC). This event was held in Ft. Eustis, VA, and gave the Soldiers an excellent idea of what their part in the unit's mission would be. The 419th received high marks and praise from the Observer Controller/Trainers (OC/Ts), or the administrators, of the exercise.

OC/Ts are experienced personnel specially selected for the review of the unit's mission readiness, and are not easy to please, so the 419th's performance at this event was especially remarkable.

The third, and most physically strenuous, part of the process was the 419th's attendance at the Reserve Training Center (RTC). Here, units are trained in what are commonly thought of as basic Soldier tasks: shooting and qualifying on many different weapons, to include the M16 rifle, the M9 pistol, the M203 grenade launchers and machine guns (the M249 Squad Automatic Weapon and the M240B); basic first aid and other critical "first responder" type tasks; convoy operations and fighting in close-quarters, to include an event called the "shoot house", where the Soldiers cleared a building of "terrorists", room-by-room.

The 419th, it was said by more

Movement Control Battalions can have very diverse missions. Generally speaking, however, Movement Control Battalions are, well, in charge of controlling the movement of just about everything (personnel, water, ammunition), in every conceivable method (via boats, planes, trains, cars, trucks and sometimes even carts!).

The 419th has many of the same responsibilities as the generic description of a movement control battalion, but also has a more specialized aspect to its mission. The United States Government, in an effort to assist and modernize the transportation abilities of the Afghan people, has granted a very large contract for the movement of materiel. The 419th is the administrator of this contract, in that we analyze the performance of the many different companies competing for a slice of this contract and determine which company should be granted more movement responsibilities. These companies employ Afghans, which helps the local economy and brings stability to the region. Basically, a customer comes to the 419th and makes an order ("I would like to move X amount of water on X day"). The 419th then coordinates with a company to get this shipment moved. The 419th will also track these orders and close them when the shipment arrives. At that point, the transaction is closed.

than one instructor, was one of the most motivated units to attend the RTC in many cycles. The Soldiers received instruction on how to recognize and defeat Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs); Electronic Warfare and how to be good ambassadors to the citizens of Afghanistan and Iraq, countries and people the United States are committed to protecting.

Finally, the 419th traveled to Fort Bliss, Texas, for the final steps in the deployment process. The 419th participated in an exercise, called the Mission Readiness Exercise [MRX], that was very similar to what we experienced in Ft. Eustis with D-DECC, and, once again, the 419th MCB received exceptionally high marks.

As LTC Sujet stated, the 419th has finally arrived and is more than ready to rock and roll here at Bagram Air Force Base, Afghanistan!

Chaplains Column

■ BY LTC THERON E. GUNN

JSC-A Command Chaplains

I was running the other day (Yes, I do run) and it dawned on me that I was tired. Not just physically tired. Not the kind of tired that can be alleviated by a good night's rest. I feel a deep down tiredness that affects my morale, spirituality, body and soul. The kind of tiredness that causes me to ask "what am I doing here?"

But worse than that, it adversely affects my relationships with those around me.

People that I love and care about, and those people that I'll have to work with – long after the lovely fragrance of the poo pond delivered to my nostrils by an early evening Afghan breeze – has become just another fond memory.

I am sure that many of you share those very same feelings (and smells). Many have, no doubt asked themselves that same question.

It was after some reflection that I remembered something that Col. Lloyd said once upon a time at the National Training Center in Ft. Irwin, Calif.

Col. Lloyd reminded the 3rd BD of the 5th ID that his active component Soldiers were there because they were paid to be there and because he told them to be there.

The National Guard was there because they wanted to be. Isn't that true of most of us?

After all, we were not drafted. There was no stop gap measures in place to keep us from getting out. We came because it was right to come. I think it is still right.

I think that our young men and women down range (Remember them, you know we

meet them from time to time at ramp ceremonies) are deserving of the very best support available. Guess what, YOU are the VERY BEST there is anywhere.

A high ranking active duty officer told me the other day that he would put the 135th up against any active component Sustainment Brigade any day of the week.

He wasn't talking about the General or Staff, he was talking about you from the lowest rank to the highest. The 135th is not one of us, it is all of us.

This encourages me to focus on what is right with my fellow teammates and not what is wrong. It causes me to become energized by their strengths and not demoralized by their weaknesses. To look at the cup half full and not the cup half empty.

Speaking of half, we are about half-way through this thing. A year from now you'll laugh (alright, so you won't laugh) but you will look back on this time as a time of growing both as an individual and as a unit.

I go down range often and I see first-hand the end result of your hard work. I see that our young men and women on the front lines are well fed, well equipped and their morale is high because of the work you do.

I am reminded of the admonition of another warfighter who said "Be not weary in well doing, for in-so-doing, you shall reap if you faint not."

I believe that some long-term good is going to come out of what we do here if

we stay the course and stay focused and encourage one another.

God Bless you all.

Words of Advice from IG

■ MAJ STEVEN YARNELL

JSC-A Inspector General

Hello from the JSC-A IG desk! I hope each and every Soldier has had a productive tour thus far.

I want to touch on a subject this month that is often misunderstood.

Here in the Inspector General's office, we often receive the question, "Can my commander have me perform other duty besides what the MTO&E states is my duty?" The answer is a resounding Yes!

A commander has the authority to have a Soldier perform duties that the Commander believes will help reach the desired goal, mission success.

Soldiers often ask the Inspector General if this is allowable and or fair. Remember, it's a Commander's call to place you for a job that he/she considers will benefit the unit and the mission.

I would now like to touch on another topic that I'm often asked by Soldiers.

According to AR 600-20, Army Command Policy discusses (Para 4-14) the provisions in regards to relationships between Soldiers of different rank. There are (5) specific prohibitions listed in AR 600-20 to this effect. Soldiers and leaders share responsibility for ensuring these relationships do not interfere with good order and

discipline of the unit. All military members share the responsibility for maintaining professional relationships that help build unit cohesion and a team concept.

Lastly, I would like to remind everyone that a Soldier has the right to present information to the Inspector General without fear of reprisal. DoD 7050.6 states "No person will restrict a member of the Armed Services from making a protected communication with a member of Congress; an Inspector General; a member of a DoD audit, inspection, investigation or law enforcement organization; or any other person or organization (including any person in the chain of command) designated under this regulation or other administrative procedures to receive such communication."

The chain of command will ensure complainants are protected from reprisal or retaliation after filing equal opportunity complaints. Should Soldiers be threatened with such an act, or should an act of reprisal occur, they must report these circumstances to the DoD Inspector General.

I hope each of you continue to have a productive tour:

"DROIT ET AVANT!"

'Getting to Know Poo'

The history of the Poo Pond on KAF

U.S. Army Public Affairs

Once arriving to Kandahar Airfield (KAF) either for the first time or enroute to another location, people will notice that the airfield has its own distinct trademark that sets it apart from other locations in Afghanistan. People are struck by the overwhelming smell, especially during the summer time.

Not knowing where the horrific smell comes from, newcomers learn quickly that KAF has a large body of water that is on the south side of the base. However, this is not your typical body of water that most love and miss when on a deployment. This lagoon is what releases the most atrocious odors that catch the attention of all those on KAF.

This body of water that we love to hate is called the "poo pond." Existing prior to 2002, the poo pond is well known and mentioned when KAF is discussed in any conversation.

HISTORY

In the Spring of 2002, the poo pond was reformed and placed back in service. Its location at the time was remote. The new pond allowed for plumbed toilets and showers to be installed replacing the old fuel filled cans where waste was burned with fuel oil. However, life at KAF suddenly improved for everyone.

The pond was originally built for a camp of 6,000 people. As time went on, more and more troops arrived here in Kandahar, especially during the surge periods. Sewage lagoons are often used successfully in rural U.S. communities, but they typically have provisions to take the entry cells out of service periodically for sludge removal. Due to the press of war, this was never done at KAF.

Over the years, the four chambered pond was expanded, which increased volume and treatment time. Batch treatment plants were then operated by the company Toifur and were placed in service in 2007 to assist in the treatment. Plans were made by NATO to build a state of the art treatment plant in South Park.

By 2008, the increasing U.S. Forces build-up required that South Park be designated to support the increasing number of U.S. Forces. The NATO plant was then slated to



be moved to Deep South. Due to the demining requirement, the timeline for this new treatment facility expanded significantly.

The U.S. Forces then drew up plans for an interim waste water plant to fill the gap. However, the best made plans went awry as the local Afghan company proved unable to build the plant. The project was cancelled in late October 2009.

NATO forces then determined that the sewage lagoon was not going to be removed from service anytime soon and a desludging contract was given to ECOLOG. Work started back in October 2009, but by the end of October, the first of four cells had been cleaned of approximately 1.8 million gallons of sludge. In order to remove the sludge with front end loaders, solid was mixed with the sludge, resulting in a 50-50 mix that looked much like Midwestern topsoil.

The sludge was placed in remote drying pits. Analysis of the sludge showed it to be much cleaner than expected, and after three months of drying in the sun, nearly all microbes were destroyed.

The lagoon cells that are being cleaned do not emit an odor because the anaerobic sludge digesting the bacteria that creates the odor are killed immediately upon exposure to air and sunlight. The second cell was cleaned and placed in service on Thanksgiving day. At that time, the removed sludge-soil

mixture occupied an area the size of three football fields and was four feet high. Beneficial aeration of that cell was resumed for the 1st time in nearly two years.

Currently, preparations to remove the sludge from the entry cell (the most odiferous cell) are being made. The work should be completed by the year's end, followed by work on the final cell.

The removed sludge-soil mixture is dried and, after suitable weathering, can be used to grow grass, as it yields a rich soil. In the U.S., concentrated sludge has been sold as commercial fertilizer since the '20s.

The U.S. has a packaged batch system due for installation in the summer of 2010. The NATO plant will be built in Deep South before 2011 or as fast as construction allows.



More stories of supporting units ...

5th Maintenance Contributions

5th Maintenance Company Leadership

The 5th Maintenance Company (MC) is responsible for repair, replacement and recovery of military automotive, armament, generator, communication and material handling equipment. The team is out of Kaiserslautern, Germany and they bring major contributions to the support of our war fighters. Some of their contributions include:

- Repairing 700 night vision devices; both military and off the shelf. The team was able to repair over 300 of the devices on site and coordinate repairs of the remaining devices with the manufacturer.

- Sent three recovery teams and two M984 wreckers to recover A30B aircraft that was damaged and disrupting flight line operations for three days. Teams were able to successfully clear the aircraft (along with

a 916 truck that also became stuck after a previous failed attempt) from the runway in under six hours.

- Sending training teams to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Gamberi to train the Afghan National Army Soldiers in recovery operations, professional development and maintenance. Teams provide hands on training and mentorship in 2 week blocks.

- Sending recovery team to Ghazni to train the Navy Provincial Reconstruction Team and Polish about the M984 wrecker and recovery operations.

- Communication & Electronics shop successfully took over the 82nd Electronic Maintenance shop, transitioning over 300 work orders and 45 customers.

- Were the first maintenance company to provide organic DS support for MRAPs, cutting the time vehicles are down for maintenance.

510th HRC Takes Over for 38th

■ BY SPC DIANNA AZIZ

82nd SB Public Affairs Office

A transfer of authority ceremony took place between 38th Human Resource Company (HRC) and 510th HRC March 9.

HRCs provide postal operational support throughout Afghanistan. 510th HRC, out of Fort Eustis, Va., is next in line providing postal operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

82nd Special Troops Battalion (STB) Commander, Army Lt Col. David V. Gillum, spoke highly of his Troops. "Over the past 12 months, the 38th Human Resources Company successfully provided human resource, R5 (Operations and Postal Service support), deploying elements to 18 loca-

tions throughout Afghanistan. Troopers of the 38th established R5 accountability processes to include employing the Tactical Personnel System (TPS) and upload to DTAS at Kandahar and Bagram Airfields. Received over 10,000 Marines and Soldiers during largest troop surge to date through Kandahar Airfield and established centralized R&R operations at Bagram and Kandahar Airfields with accountability, transient billeting & transportation support to Kuwait," said Gillum.

The 38th HRC Commander, Army Maj. Dina Wandler, said her farewells, "Thank you to the 239 Soldiers, Sailors and Airmen who are or who have been a part of the 'Pride Team' serving in Afghanistan."

68th, Newly Arrived Reservists

Two companies, now split between countries in the theater of operations are conducting multiple missions in support of the surge.

68th CSSB Public Affairs Office

Reserve Soldiers from the 849th Quartermaster Company (QM) of Rocky Mount, N.C., and the 287th Heavy Equipment Transport (HET) Company of Livingston, Ala., arrived in Afghanistan within days of each other in mid-February.

The new additions to the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) immediately began work in support of ongoing operations in the fight against the Taliban. The Soldiers arrived at the beginning of major offensives being carried out by U.S. Marines and the Afghan National Army in order to push insurgents out of the city of Marjah and to secure the surrounding area.

Soldiers of the 849th Quartermaster Company (QM) have been busy assuming the roles and responsibilities of the 24th QM, who returns home to Fort Lewis, Washington in April. Both units have diligently worked together in order to learn the different roles of each Soldier, and understand the current situation and operational analysis.

"The Soldiers are very motivated to get the job done and they have all been very fluid" explained ISG Henry Bowen. "They are ready to take all that they've learned in training and use it here in country."

The 849th Quartermaster Company has also been identified to assist both the Army and Marines in expanding logistical operations throughout the country specifically Regional Command South

and West. Soldiers have been tasked to move out to various locations within the Helmand Province of Afghanistan as well as Shindand and Herat; in efforts to aid in the process of expanding water, fuel, and supply operations, as more troops arrive as part of President Obama's surge.

The 287th Heavy Equipment Transport Company is a new edition to the Helmand Province and brings the much needed HET vehicle.

The unit's original missions were based out of Kuwait and Iraq where they have conducted HET missions since early January. The unit however, received a change in mission and three quarters of the company was relocated to Forward Operating Base Leatherneck.

The companies, now split between two theaters of operation are conducting multiple missions also in support of the surge and the Regional Command's expansion south. Since being on ground the unit has already conducted two large missions pushing supplies and providing force protection.

The 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion continues to be the largest logistical hub in the Helmand Province; providing assistance, supplies, and force protection to joint services alike. The arrival of the two new units has greatly increased the battalion's capabilities and will allow the battalion to continue to provide much needed assistance in support of the expansion.



Photo Recon



‘Soldier, NCO of the Year’ *It’s more than a competition ...*

