

JSC-A Makes Impact With New Yard

by Sgt. James Burroughs, Editor

Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan- Joint Sustainment Command- Afghanistan is setting the conditions for future operations in Afghanistan by opening a yard this month near Kandahar Airfield where cargo can be handled in a much more efficient and economical manner.

"By increasing the number of troops, we are increasing the supply of cargo that must be distributed," said Maj. Derek Bryan, Support Operations Mobility Planner for the JSC-A. "We have to prepare for this increase in cargo for a system already under strain."

Kandahar Airfield is one of four major distribution hubs for military cargo in Afghanistan, explained Bryan. Most cargo is shipped by sea to Pakistan and then trucked by road into one of these four hubs. After arriving at a hub, the cargo must be sorted and shipped to where it is needed based upon its importance to the missions being conducted.

Cargo can be delayed up to two weeks before being identified and placed on a truck for delivery to American or Coalition Forces throughout Afghanistan, said Bryan.

"Soldiers can't be sitting around waiting for equipment that is parked in a storage yard somewhere," said Brig. Gen. Max Lobeto, Deputy Commanding General of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command. "They will be burning boots on the ground time."

"This problem is at the forefront of everyone's concern," said Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, Commanding General of the JSC-A. "In planning for the surge and the force flow, our ability to move troops and equipment throughout Afghanistan had to be in a coordinated manner. This yard will improve that. It is one piece of a larger strategic distribution management capability."

"The JSC-A has an 'arrive and deploy' mentality," said Lobeto. "They believe that the troops should arrive into Afghanistan and begin operations without delays waiting for equipment. These Soldiers have implemented a plan very quickly that was a long-term concept put forth by Army Central Command and the 1st TSC."

"We will be helping Soldiers all across Afghanistan by streamlining the process here at Kandahar Airfield," said Bryan. "We will have initial capability to improve in three areas. First we will gain cargo visibility, allowing us to see what the cargo is and who needs it. Second, because of this visibility, we will be able to prioritize cargo distribution.



Cargo trucks like these jingle trucks can park for days waiting to enter Kandahar Airfield. The Kandahar Transshipment Yard will reduce wait times for cargo and allow some cargo to bypass this process entirely.

Third, we will have a larger area to stage and store cargo. KAF is very limited on space and this complicates the process."

"When we are fully operational we will be transloading cargo," said Bryan. "This is the process of forwarding cargo to its final destination without delays waiting at the KAF hub."

The JSC-A will also save money by reducing detainment costs. These costs are fees associated with holding connex boxes longer than necessary. Connex boxes are the steel containers used by shipping companies to move cargo. When the Army isn't able to return these boxes after ten days, they are assessed a fee.

"Our goal is to reduce these costs to zero," said Bryan.

These improved capabilities are important to the sustainment plan for the entire country.

"We will be tracking cargo from the border crossing, through the hub at KAF and across the regional commands in Afghanistan," said Hoover. "We have added a Coalition Movement Coordination Cell in Kabul that has visibility tracking the cargo."

"We are working with the Joint Support Force- United Kingdom," said Hoover. "There has been a great team effort planning and implementing this yard. There will be no delays getting troops ready for operations."

"They have built a solid foundation to cleanly flow cargo in end to end," said Lobeto. "The troops will be getting their equipment in real time, real fast."

A View From The Commander's Chair



With the approach of the Ides of March I can't help but think this is not a time to beware, rather it is a time to reflect upon the fast approaching 100th night in Afghanistan for the Command. I appreciate what each of you has contributed as we lead sustainment in Afghanistan. Each of you makes a difference. Whether we are stationed in the farthest reaches of western Afghanistan, or coordinating

coalition movements in Kabul, establishing logistics capabilities in northern Afghanistan, or preparing for the arrival of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade in Kandahar, each of you is contributing to our mission success.

Let me share with you some highlights of things that we have, together, accomplished:

- Improved theater distribution management and visibility of supplies, personnel, and equipment moving into Afghanistan by air and ground, and moving within Afghanistan across five Regional Commands;
- Processed almost 2 million pounds of mail each month;
- Averaged ten military combat logistics convoys each day across Afghanistan to deliver critical supplies to troopers;
- Issued more than 500 call signs per month to U.S. contract air carriers flying supplies and other critically needed items into Afghanistan from around the world;
- Responded to a series of avalanches near Kabul to deliver food, clothing, tents, blankets, and heaters to disaster victims. We delivered humanitarian assistance to displaced Afghans during Operation Moshtarak;
- Partnered with Afghan National Army logisticians at the

tactical level to build their confidence and develop their own sustainment capabilities;

- Employed Afghan Nationals to provide translation services, skilled labor and humanitarian assistance;

These are just a few of the ways in which the JSC-A, comprised of nearly 12,000 joint service Active Duty, National Guard, Army Reserve, DoD civilians, and government contractors, is making a difference and leading sustainment in Afghanistan. Thank you for your service and for your contribution to the team's effort.

This month we will also welcome the 43rd Sustainment Brigade from Fort Carson, Colo. led by Col. Ed Daly. Their arrival allows us to increase our ability to supply, resupply, receive, and sustain our forces across Afghanistan.

Finally, a "thank you" goes out to the men and women of the 1st TSC who have been providing us excellent transition support, coaching, assistance, and mentoring. Led by Col. Ken Barnett, this team has been a tremendous asset to the command and has helped improve daily operations, staff interaction, and planning coordination. They are also helping us prepare our relief, the 184th ESC, for a successful integration into the Afghanistan Theater of operations. It seems odd to be thinking of an exit strategy already, but October will be here before we know it.

I look forward to seeing you during my travels around the battlefield. In the meantime, stay vigilant, watch out for your battle buddy and make safety a way of life.

"Sustaining Freedom"

BG Reynold N. Hoover
Commanding General
Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

Command Sergeant Major Kinder's Comments

As we complete our third month here in Afghanistan, I want to begin by congratulating each and every one of you for the outstanding contributions you are making each day. Your dedication and steadfast determination are enabling us to guarantee sustainment across the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan.

With that said, I'd like to remind everyone that we still have a way to go before our tour here is over. Conditions within our AO are challenging and will continue to be so. We cannot become comfortable or complacent in our day to day operations. We should always be leaning forward and finding new and better ways to insure we are providing support to our customers. Bottom line, everything we do affects the individual Soldier, Sailor, Airman and Marine on the ground. If we do not do everything in our power to support them, then we have failed and that is unacceptable.

We operate in a fluid, ever changing, stressful environment. It is important to find ways to relieve stress. One of the best ways to relieve the stress of continued operations is to develop a vigorous physical fitness program.

Programs will vary by individual. However, you have the opportunity now to get in the best shape of your life. I encourage all of you to take advantage of that opportunity.

Finally, I would like to remind all of you that you are volunteers. That makes you very special. Less than one percent of the population of the United States volunteers for and serves our nation's military. Very few have answered the call to take up arms in defense of our nation and our way of life. I am humbled by the sacrifice you and your families make every day. Thank you for your service.

"Sustaining Freedom"

Clark R. Kinder
Command Sergeant Major
Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan



135th ESC Soldiers Exceed the Standard

by Lt. Col. Daniel Lonowski, JSC-A PAO

The members of the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command are up to the task of providing logistical oversight within the entire Afghanistan Theater according to members of the Afghanistan Transition Team.

The Alabama National Guard unit will maintain operational control over two sustainment brigades, a historical feat of sorts during Operation Enduring Freedom.

Brig. Gen. Max Lobeto, the Deputy Commanding General of Operations for the 1st Theater Support Command, said the 135th ESC, has been receptive to new concepts and ideas as delivered by the 1st TSC, the higher headquarters for the Birmingham-based Guard unit during the deployment.

"The receptivity of the (135th) ESC to realize the extent of the mission has been excellent. It has been a joining of hands," Lobeto said in reference to the ease with which the 135th and the 1st TSC have built a conducive relationship.

Col. Ken Barnett, the 1st TSC liaison to the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and the Embedded Trainer for the Afghanistan Transition Team, said his team came here to teach, coach, mentor and train the 135th ESC as the unit reaches its full operational capacity. According to Barnett, the unit has excelled.

"The 135th has reached full operational capacity," Barnett said. "The JSC-A has already exceeded expectations."

The 135th ESC serves as the

Joint Sustainment Command in Afghanistan for all sustainment and logistics.

The reason for the 1st TSC team lies with the complexity of the mission itself. With the 135th ESC at the helm, the plan calls for two sustainment brigades as subordinate units to the 135th. One of those brigades, the 82nd SBDE out of Fort Bragg, NC has been in place since Dec. The 82nd is now in Bagram.

The 43rd SB, based in Fort Carson, Colo. will join the JSC-A in late March. It will mark the first time in the nine-year history of the campaign that two sustainment brigades have operated simultaneously in Afghanistan. This significant undertaking will enable the 135th ESC to perform at a higher operational level. The unit is in a transition stage where it will oversee sustainment and will have a better ability to control the flow of logistics within the theater. The 82nd SB will provide tactical support over the eastern and northern sections of the Afghan theater while the 43rd SBDE



Photo By Sgt. James Burroughs

Sgt. 1st Class Tate Twombly, of the Afghanistan Transition Team, provides instruction and technical support for video tele-conferencing equipment. He works with 135th Soldiers like Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hiznay to ensure the command has the ability to communicate with sustainment resources around the globe.

will support the western and southern regions of the country.

The Afghanistan Transition Team consists of 16 Soldiers who perform as a response cell. Members of the ATT are from the 1st Theater Support Command stationed in Camp Arifjan, Kuwait and based out of Fort Bragg,

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NC. The team contains subject matter experts in various areas including munitions, fuel, trans-shipment yards, communications, etc. These Soldiers are assisting their counterparts in the 135th ESC in honing their skills and talents.

Maj. Jason Liggett, the Officer in Charge of the Afghanistan Transition Team, said the 135th ESC has adapted well to the current situation.

"The 135th has been very receptive to change," Liggett said. "That has enabled them (unit members) to adapt."

"This has been a total team effort from the beginning," Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, the 135th commanding general said. "We are very appreciative of the help and support provided by the 1st TSC Afghanistan Transition Team."

The adaptation Liggett is talking about is the ability to sustain the force flow of troops into the Afghanistan Theater. The 135th ESC controls all logistics for the entire combined joint area of operations. The ESC is currently supporting more than 60,000 U.S. and Coalition troops. This task increased in difficulty this year because President Barack Obama announced an additional surge of 30,000 troops on Dec. 2nd. The 135th ESC will be supporting nearly 100,000 U.S. forces in Afghanistan by this summer. Hoover added that the 135th is "making a difference everyday" in leading the sustainment effort.

"We realize the enormity of the mission that lies ahead with the surge," Liggett said. "We want to ensure the 135th is successful and able to do their job."

Liggett said the ATT has been planning since November of last year to align with the 135th ESC to ensure they were capable of handling the increase in troop numbers.

At the height of the surge, the need for an overseeing logistics unit is a must according to Liggett. He said it is vital that the Soldiers become the planners and have total operational control of the logistics in Afghanistan. He and Barnett came to the same assessment.

"The only peg left is the arrival of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade," said Barnett. "The 135th already has everything under control. We will maintain a presence to assist but many sections in this unit are operating at a high level."

Barnett said the 43rd SBDE will take control of much of the load that the 82nd SBDE is now controlling. He said the addition of a second sustainment brigade will greatly enhance the ability to deliver logistics in the entire area of operations.

Barnett said the fact that the majority of the Soldiers are from Alabama has aided in the cohesion process.

"This organization has a big benefit with everyone being from the same state," Barnett said. "Many of these Soldiers have worked together for a long time. It's evident that the leadership here has experience."

Lobeto also holds the 135th in high esteem: "This unit is the salt of the earth. A lot of the Soldiers in this unit are very patriotic people, wanting to do their best."

"This type of logistical analysis is Ph.D.-level work," Lobeto

Safety is A Way of Life

by Lt. Col. William Nepute, JSC-A Safety Officer

Injuries impose a greater ongoing negative impact on the health of readiness of the U.S. Armed Forces than any other category of medical complaint during peacetime and combat. Injuries are the leading health problem impacting on U.S. Military force readiness today – leading in causes of death, disability, decreased readiness, and lost productivity.

Common forms of personal injuries throughout deployed environments includes slips, trips, and falls as well as risks associated with sports and physical activities, personal fitness, equipment, training and technique, and environment.

In order to properly mitigate the risks associated with these types of injuries, it is essential that the Composite Risk Management (CRM) process be utilized continuously. The current goal is to strive for at least 50% reduction in accident rates.

To assist in doing this, it is particularly important to recognize that personal injury accidents typically tend to spike between months four and nine while units are deployed. Accident prevention is everybody's business. In order to maximize being able to keep as many personnel as possible in the fight, it is imperative that "close calls" and "near-miss accidents" are reported promptly to respective command safety offices.

One accident... is one too many.

Marathon and Munitions

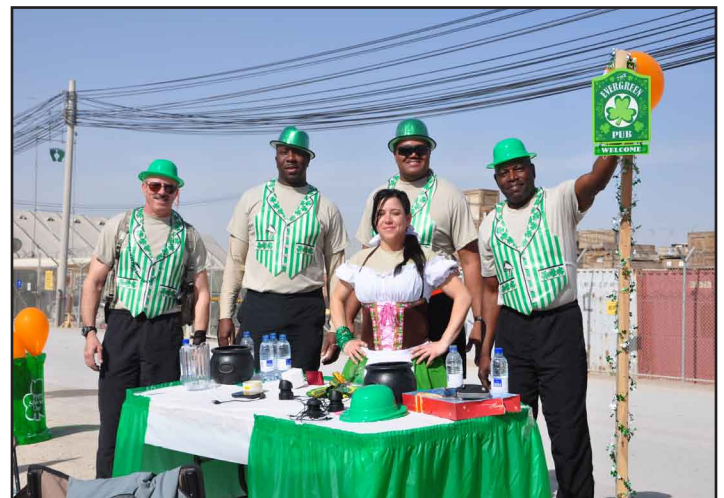


Photo By Master Sgt. Walter Farrow

Members of the 135th's munitions team made a bang supporting the Soldiers running in the marathon on March 7. From left to right: Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wilson, Capt. David Moore, Spc. Dennis Fluker, Staff. Sgt. Theodore Frasier and Sgt. Dawn-noel Dunbar opened up their own "pub" to hand out water and motivate the runners. The organizers of the race named them the "Most Enthusiastic Cheering Section".

See Page 10 for race results.

Bazaar School Plans New School House

by Lt. Col. Daniel Lonowski, JSC-A PAO

After a few minutes bustling around, the boys calm down. They all eventually find a chair.

"SHH! Boys! It is time to begin class." The teacher calmly expresses himself in Pashtu.

By any standard, these words seem typical in any school setting. These boys act like any young children act in school.

There is something unique about this setting at Kandahar Airfield however, as school teacher Abdul Raziq begins his class in Pashtu: these students do not have a school building. Most, if not all of the boys, have not attended school on a daily basis for a long time, if ever. Sitting in a covered patio, they do not know any other school. In most cases, their parents have been afraid to send them to school because of insurgent attacks.

According to an article published Feb. 9 in the Pajhwok Afghan News, 172 schools serving 200,000 students have been closed in the Kandahar province over the past few years due to security concerns.

This alternative, a Saturday school for students, is open to any of the youngsters who want to attend. The



Photo By Sgt. James Burroughs

During time with coalition volunteers the boys of the bazaar school color and interact with the Soldiers. It is surprising how quickly they can pick up on simple English words and build relationships with the volunteers.

thirty boys in the classroom range in age from 5 to 15. All are eager to learn. They enjoy coloring, playing with Play-Doh and writing in both Pashtu and English.

The student body consists of sons and nephews of vendors who come to Kandahar Airfield each Saturday in order to sell their goods at the bazaar.

Andy Craigie, the assistant personnel

services officer for International Security Assistance Forces, has been organizing the school since he came to Afghanistan, about 10 months ago. Craigie said the concept of the school came about when the young boys were scurrying about when their elders were setting up for the weekly event.

"When the boys came with their fathers and uncles, they had absolutely nothing to do," Craigie said. "They would be under their fathers' feet, in the way with nowhere to go."

The lack of a school building will hopefully soon be a thing of the past.

Craigie said a plan is in place that will allow for a school to be built by late summer. He added that a lot of effort and organization have already gone into the project, yet it will take even more to ensure the school gets constructed.

"By doing this, we will not change the world. But the same kids show up week after week. They will make a difference in their communities 10 years from now."



Photo By Sgt. James Burroughs

U.S. Troops and KAF firemen gave the boys of the bazaar school an opportunity to spray a firehose. Just like boys back home, they tried to spray vehicles, their hosts and each other. Moments later the photographer paid the price for being downrange.

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Double Deployments: Lucky Location

by Sgt. James Burroughs, Editor

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan—Uniforms, duffel bags, underwear; if it belongs to a Soldier we write our name on it. That name identifies us to the people around us. It's not unusual to see soldiers with the same last name but if you see two Soldiers with the name Hudson at Kandahar Airfield there's a good chance they share more than their last name.

Those of us who have left a spouse behind will recognize the subtle interaction of a couple. They stand close, sharing knowing glances with a smile as she places both hands on his back to peek over his shoulder in line to see what food is being offered in the chow line.

Capt. Jed Hudson, commander of the 647th Quartermaster Detachment, and 1st Lt. Mary Hudson, RC-South Liaison Officer for the 82nd Sustainment Brigade, are married and serving together here in Afghanistan.

They are not the first married couple to serve here but it is unusual for spouses serving in different units to be so close together in a combat zone.

"I volunteered to go with the 82nd when I learned that Jed was deploying to Afghanistan," said Mary. "Our plan was to try to get our dwell times to line up so that we wouldn't be constantly taking turns deploying and spend all of our time apart. We were lucky that there was a position for me to fill at KAF while he is here."

Mary arrived in Afghanistan in late



Dual Army careers were always in the picture for the Hudsons. They met in ROTC at the University of Virginia and married after his first deployment to Korea in 2007. Even though the couple serves in different units they were lucky enough to spend part of their deployments here.

November after Jed had arrived in June.

"We did spend five months apart," said Jed. "Being here together still means we will be apart eight or nine months during the deployment. I hope to extend my time here so that we return from deployment around the same time. If we are as much as six months off we might never be together."

Mary is serving at KAF but will soon be moving to Bagram Airfield.

"It's impossible to keep us together all the time," said Jed.

"The command has tried to support and accommodate us within the mission," said Mary.

They explained that because of the housing arrangements at KAF they are not able to share living quarters. It is the Army's policy to let married couples live together but there are no

suitable facilities here.

Even though they work at different locations the Hudsons usually meet for lunch and dinner and spend one or two hours together in the evening.

"We might walk or watch a movie and there's always a doughnut and

"The most difficult part of the deployment is knowing he's in danger"

coffee at Tim Horten's," said Mary. "I guess that is kind of like a date. We also go to the (Afghan) bazaar on Saturdays but I think Jed only goes so that I don't spend too much money."

"Seeing and being with him is the best thing about this deployment, but we still have the same problems that other soldiers have," said Mary.

"It is hard taking care of the house and cars back at Ft. Bragg," said Jed. "Our parents have been great but they live four hours away so it's difficult

See Hudsons next page



Sustainment in the SRTV Spotlight

by Sgt. James Burroughs, Editor

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan- The servicemembers of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan had the opportunity to showcase their operations on March 4-5 during a visit by several general officers and a reporter from Soldiers Radio and Television, a unit of the Army's Soldiers Media Center.

The reporter, Gail McCabe, accompanied Maj. Gen. Peter Vangjel, Deputy commanding General of Third Army, Maj. Gen. Don Riley Director of Civil Works U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, Commander of the JSC-A and Brig. Gen. Max Lobeto, Deputy Commander of the 1st Theater Sustainment Command.

McCabe visited units across Regional Command-South and spent her time with the JSC-A reporting on the teamwork and coordination needed to supply coalition forces in Afghanistan. Prior to visiting KAF she had interviewed Gen. David H. Petraeus, Commander United States Central Command, and Gen. Stanley A. McChrystal, Commander of U.S. Forces- Afghanistan.

She toured several operations at Kandahar Airfield, a major distribution hub, to view how cargo is received and prepared for distribution. She also visited the Humanitarian Aid Yard where supplies to help Afghan civilians are stored.

The JSC-A was joined by the 174th Engineers, National Guardsmen from Wellford S.C., who displayed and demonstrated vehicles and equipment used to clear IEDs



Photo By Sgt. James Burroughs

SRTV reporter Gail McCabe asks a question about base operations while interviewing Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, Commander JSC-A, and Air Commodore Malcolm Brecht, Commander Kandahar Airfield, during her tour of sustainment operations.

from routes used to deliver cargo.

"I want to thank everyone," said McCabe during a dinner with Soldiers.

"A person doesn't realize how much it takes to sustain the war fighters," she said.

SRTV produces radio and television programming that keeps both the Soldier and the public informed.

Hudsons from previous page

to get things taken care of at home. Most Soldiers have a spouse back home with a power of attorney to take care of things. We deal with things like everybody else."

"The most difficult part of the deployment is knowing that he is in danger," said Mary. "But I am genuinely a lot happier here than being home alone."

Both agree that having a military spouse helps their marriage because both understand the sacrifices and demands of an Army career.

"It is a nice thing that Mary understands military life," said Jed. "But with both of us serving it means twice the sacrifice."

"A military career definitely limits the time you spend with a spouse," said Mary. "Having two careers mean that whatever training and schools you have to attend is doubled. Even though we serve together it is difficult to deploy together because sustainment units often deploy in pieces instead of as a unit. One of us can be deployed and leave the other behind."

"We have to think as a team," said Jed. "Career choices have to be made together. We plan on staying in the Army

together for at least two more years.

Before marriage each planned on a military career. They met at the University of Virginia while members of Army ROTC and married after graduation and Jed's deployment to Korea. They agree that dual military careers, even with deployments, are good choices for married couples.

"If you are on active duty and without children this is the way to go," said Jed.

"When we have children one of us will get out (of the Army)," said Mary.

Like many young Soldiers, life after the military is a little mysterious for the Hudsons.

"I don't know what we'll do," said Jed.

For now the husband and wife are spending their last days together at KAF and looking forward to adjusting to life back home together when they return to Ft. Bragg, N.C. at the end of their deployments.

Mary confirmed what most Soldiers expect when they meet the married couple here on base.

"Deploying together is awesome," she said.

82nd Aerial Delivery to the Rescue

by MC1 Krishna Jackson, 82nd SBDE Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – Aerial delivery was featured in the most recent issue of Army Sustainment magazine. Often, it is the only method to get needed supplies to troops in the remote regions of Afghanistan. At the forefront of that mission is the 82nd Sustainment Brigade (SBDE) with units at Kandahar and Bagram Airfields.

Daily, the 82nd SBDE riggers palletize and prepare an average of 40,000 pounds of supplies from Class I, food and water to Class V, ammunition. Other supplies include Class III, fuel and Class IV, building materials so that forward operating bases (FOBs) and combat out posts (COPs) can continue operating efficiently.

“The last detachment dropped more than 9-million pounds of supplies by aerial delivery over 15 months. With the troop surge this year, in nine months we have already dropped over 11-million pounds of CDS (containerized delivery system),” said Sgt. Timothy Nast, 82nd SBDE Riggers Air Drop Supervisor.

The process of creating a CDS begins when the riggers lay out a one inch

thick skip board with nylon ties attached that will be used to secure the A-22 container once it is laid over a series of honeycomb-like cardboard used to absorb impact stress. They then load the supplies in a balanced manner, which also contributes to the bundles stability when it lands. Once the bundle is ready, the A-22 container is wrapped around it and securely tied with type one and type four nylon ties. The parachute is secured to the top of the bundle and the whole package is called a CDS bundle.

“It all starts with our supply NCO (non-commissioned officer),” said Nast. “He is responsible for ordering all the supplies including what we need to conduct our mission. We developed a system for each class of supply so that it is delivered with the least amount of damage when the bundles are dropped to the troops. The bundles are inspected at least five times by us and by the Air Force as they are prepped, rigged, and loaded onto the aircraft.”

When the 82nd SBDE riggers arrived in theater in May 2009 they worked 14 to 20 hours a day perfecting the system they now have in place for rigging Class I. This class of supplies is the most difficult to rig due to varying weights and sizes of containers. Each pallet must be balanced so that it lands in such a way to prevent damage to the load when it hits the ground. The largest rigged bundle is approximately 83 inches tall with the parachute and a maximum suspended weight of 2,200 pounds.

The process starts with an organized working environment provided by the



Photo By MC1 Krishna Jackson

82nd SBDE rigger, Army Spec. Mario Palencia lays out an A-22 container as he readies it for Class I supplies as part of a containerized delivery system (CDS) bundle. Class I supplies are food and water. Once the parachute is added and the bundle is inspected it will be staged for an outgoing air drop from a C-130H/J and the C17 Globemaster aircraft.

riggers; a 160' by 80' hangar located on the Bagram Airfield flightline. They stage the supplies outside the building due to the limited work environment inside the hangar. The supplies don't sit very long once they arrive because of the ever present demand throughout Afghanistan.

“We have limited room to store all of our bundles,” said Nast. “We recently gained some additional staging space but with the increase in troops we are already feeling the pressure.”

The 500 to 2,200 pound bundles are moved by forklift to their staging location in preparation for inspection and transport to the aircraft. The most common delivery aircraft is the C-130 Hercules and the C-17 Globemaster.

There are 25-30 Soldiers working between ten and 14 hours a day to make sure the COPs and FOBs have everything they need to carry out their mission.

“We're here for the war fighter, the guys on the ground that need these supplies for their day to day operations,” said Nast. “If we have to come in at 2:30 a.m. to get an emergency load out to them, we don't complain. We are here for them and will do whatever it takes to get them their supplies.”



Photo By MC1 Krishna Jackson

Army Spec. Shane Weinfurter, a rigger with 82nd SBDE's Aerial Delivery prepares the straps on the A22 container for connecting the parachute. Once the bundle is complete it is known as a containerized delivery system (CDS) bundle.

School on page 5



Photo By Sgt. James Burroughs

The new school is now just in the planning stages. With all the construction projects occurring on KAF, it is difficult to determine when the school will actually begin to be built according to Craigie.

"We want to provide a facility similar to the facilities that our children attend," Craigie said, referring to schools in the United States and in Europe. "We will be able to have school and classes regardless of weather conditions."

The indoor facility will include shelves and cabinets for storage and other modern conveniences for the students. In addition, Craigie hopes to have computers in the school so that students will be able to learn basic technology skills.

Money to pay for the school has come from the Kandahar Airfield Command morale, welfare and recreation funds or COMKAF MWR. The Afghan-owned shops on the Boardwalk are required to give 10% of their earnings to COMKAF MWR. COMKAF MWR then donated \$17,000 Euros (about \$23,000) to assist in building a new school.

The school day consists of three hours of lessons. The first hour is led by Coalition Forces: it is rotated among troops from the U.S., Canada, the U.K., the Netherlands and France. These NATO soldiers begin the day with arts and crafts, color in books or play with Play-doh. Older students have constructed family trees or worked on math skills.

During the second hour, a teacher from Kandahar City teaches Pashtunwali, meaning "the way of the Pashtuns" referring to the traditional lifestyle or the ancient code of life. In addition the teacher, Abdul Raziq, instructs the children in math skills, history and English.

"It is such a pleasure to teach young people," Raziq said. "It is about teaching them honor and respect."

Coalition Forces aiding the teacher return for a third hour. Often, the troops play soccer or other sports with the students. On this particular day, the children got to climb on a fire engine provided by KAF.

The firemen pulled out a hose for the highpoint of the hour. Boys grabbed the hose and sprayed water in the air, on the ground and on each other.

"This is great for the military and great for the kids," Craigie said. "This is an opportunity for the military to see a different side of Afghanistan; and for the kids to see a different side of the Soldiers."

From the IG's Desk

by Maj. Steve Yarnell, JSC-A
Inspector General



Hello from the
Inspector General's desk!

I would like to
comment on a topic
I touched on in last
month's newsletter.

Soldiers must give
their Chain of Command an opportunity to resolve any
issue. A Soldier's Chain of Command often has the ability
to understand the Soldier's dilemma, get the Soldier's
immediate commander involved and allow the Chain of
Command to use Army resources to find a resolution.

Often, Soldiers who visit the IG are unable to answer the
first question from an IG: "Have you informed your Chain
of Command about the issue and have you allowed them
an opportunity to resolve it?" Too often, the answer is "no."
Remember, give your Chain of Command an opportunity
and you might be surprised at the outcome.

Many Soldiers have called the IG office asking about
Health & Welfare Inspections. Below is a synopsis of a
Commander's authority in regards to Health & Welfare
inspections.

Commanders have the inherent authority to conduct
health and welfare inspections of their military personnel
and property. The underlying purpose of these inspections
is to ensure that the health, safety, and morale of soldiers are
in proper order.

Inspections can include an examination to locate and
confiscate unlawful weapons and contraband. Contraband
consists of any items that the soldier is prohibited from
possessing, to include those items prohibited by CENTCOM
General Order #1B. Contraband or other evidence seized as
a result of a health and welfare inspection is admissible as
evidence in a Court-Martial if the inspection complies with
the following requirements.

First, only commanders may order the inspection, and
the areas inspected must belong to the commander's
unit. Second, the commander may not use the inspection
as a substitute for a lawful search and seizure based upon
reasonable suspicion when probable cause does not
exist. Administrative inspections are not and will not be
used as tools for criminal investigations. For example, if a
commander suspects that a Soldier possesses illegal drugs
in his or her wall locker but does not have probable cause
to conduct a search, the commander may not use a health
and welfare inspection as a excuse for an improper search
to obtain evidence against an individual Soldier. In other
words, obtaining evidence of misconduct cannot be the
primary purpose for the inspection. If it is, it becomes an
illegal search, and the results cannot be used for UCMJ

JSC-A Helps Displaced Persons in Marjah

by Lt. Col. Daniel Lonowski, JSC-A PAO

Shortly after Sunrise on a cool morning in mid February, an Afghan National Army soldier climbed to the top of a crane to remove the white flag of the Taliban, which had flown over the city of Marjah. The young private handed the flag to his comrades, and then, in place of the white flag, raised the red, green and black national Afghanistan flag.

While the fighting continued during Operation Moshtarak and the national flag was being raised, members of the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command were preparing supplies for relief to the civilians of Marjah. The civil affairs section of the 135th was already conducting an exercise of its own, when Lt. Col. Greg Estes, Civil Affairs Officer, received word that more than 5,000 displaced Afghan people required assistance. Many people left their homes before the fighting began. Many families were forced from their homes by insurgents.

"Time is critical," said Estes, a native of Ragland, Ala. "When we get a call, we know people's lives are at stake. We are going to deliver."

On February 18th, the 135th's Civil Affairs section delivered five pallets of beans, rice, sugar, salt, flour, clothes and blankets to people who evacuated Marjah due to intense combat operations.

Estes said the standard for completing a humanitarian aid mission



Photo By Sgt. James Burroughs

Sgt. Lenn Kailpalauli, of the 737th Transportation Company, tightens the straps on a pallet of supplies that will be airlifted to Marjah by a Marine Corps C-130. The pallets contained food, clothing and blankets to help people displaced by fighting in Marjah.

is 24 hours. The mission to Marjah was executed from start to finish in 16 hours.

"I have conducted missions just like this while serving in support operations during floods, snowstorms and hurricanes in Alabama," said Master Sgt. Charles Pike of Pell City, Ala. in reference to operations that are often carried out by National Guardsmen.

"Our SOP (standard operating procedures) calls for us to have the supplies delivered within 24 hours," said Betty Coats, the non-commissioned officer in charge from Opelika, Ala. "But we deliver as quickly as we can.

"Let's put it this way. If a unit

requests humanitarian assistance in six hours...guess what. We are going to go for it."

This is the second time the 135th ESC Civil Affairs section has been called to conduct a humanitarian aid mission in an emergency situation. The CA team responded to the avalanches in the mountains of the Hindu Kush on February 9th. After the lethal avalanches buried dozens of vehicles in the snow and stranded dozens of others, the Soldiers of the 135th quickly coordinated relief efforts. There, the Soldiers delivered several supplies including food to aid approximately 1,700 people who were stranded.

JSC-A 1/2 Marathon Results

The finish times are as follows:

135th ESC

COL Jerry Martin	1:52:49
SSG Shane Lilly	1:58:12
SSG Chris McCormack	1:58:13
LTC Dan Lonowski	2:02:00
BG Reynold Hoover	2:07:31
MAJ Steve Yarnell	2:09:37
CPT Chris Payne	2:14:21
SPC Adam Rich	2:16:57
SGM Donell Pelt	2:19:00
COL Dennis Butters	2:34:22

SSG Lisa Garrett	2:28:57
SSG Joseph Mendez	3:05:34
MSG Teresa Davis	3:07:51
158 th CSSB	
1LT John Decker	1:38:01
1LT Brooke Wiggins	1:47:29
SPC Guadalupe Heredia	2:09:55
SSG Jaime Sotomayor	1:47:29
CW2 Tina Hale	2:48:38
SFC David Hale	2:48:19
SSG Jose Garza	2:48:32
SGT Thomas Jarboe	2:43:28
SSG Sean Hollandsworth	1:41:07



Photo By Sgt. Candra Armstead

CROSS - TRAINING

by JSC-A Chaplain- Lt. Col. Theron Gunn

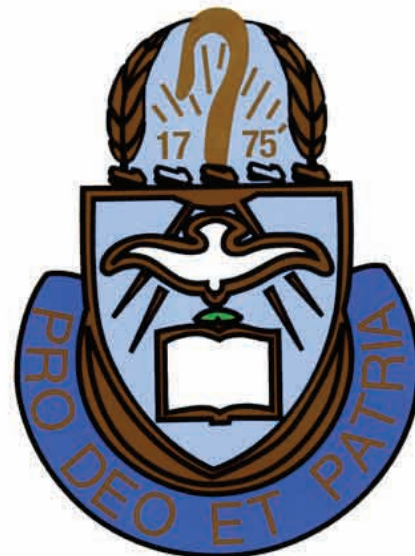
The Commanding General has impressed upon us the importance of rest. He has stated that "we are in a marathon - not a race". That sentiment was echoed just today by the Chief of Staff. I couldn't help but think of the many down range who do not have the luxury of an undisturbed night's sleep: those who must literally watch their every step. I wondered how they learn to deal with their fear.

When we experience deep and sustained fear, we humans have a tendency to resort to prayer. After all, what is there left for us to do? But our Lord has a right to expect that those of us who pray to him to have our words accompanied by a certain amount of confidence in his ability and willingness to help us in our helplessness. God expects his children to have sufficient confidence in him, that we believe him to be reliable in

any given circumstance. Our tendency, however, is to trust God to a certain point and then retreat to elementary prayer fueled by panic. When we come to our wits end we often lack sufficient confidence in God to help us.

"O ye of little faith!" What a pang must have shot through the hearts of his disciples when they heard these words. They had missed it again. And what a pang will go through us when we realize the hurt we cause our Lord when we demonstrate less than absolute confidence in his willingness and ability to help us in our desperation.

There are times in our lives when there is no storm and no crisis is present, when we do our human best; but when the storm does come and our world is turned up-side-down then we reveal who it is that we really rely upon. If we have been learning to lean,



as the old hymn says, learning to trust and to have confidence in God, the crisis will reveal a tremendous faith.

This kind of faith leads us to a place of rest in God which means "oneness with God". This oneness gives us an inner peace and rest that is indescribable and it brings joy to the heart of God.

Stress Relief Available in Base-X

by Sgt. James Burroughs, Editor

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan- Stress is a natural response to the conditions Soldiers face in Afghanistan. Every Soldier's situation is different and each responds individually to their situation. If you are feeling fatigued, disconnected from your surroundings, having difficulty making decisions or prioritizing you may be dealing with the short-term effects of stress.

The 467th Combat Stress Control Detachment, from Madison, Wis., is here to help Soldiers deal with the temporary stress of combat and deployment. The unit offers medical and spiritual guidance to Soldiers who are serving here. The detachment's mission is to provide a full spectrum of combat stress control and behavioral health.

Chaplain Frank Valencia and Sgt. Michael Lechner are the religious support team from the 467th. Their

office is now located in the Base-X Chaplain's tent next to Building 515. Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan offered space to the team so they would have office facilities and a good location for operations. The 467th isn't officially under the command's direction but they are available to help all coalition Soldiers here.

"My job is to talk, counsel and offer directions to soldiers," said Valencia, a native of Tracy, Calif. "We try to help deal with all stress in the combat zone. A Soldier may not need counseling but they might need to know where they can get help with legal, financial, medical, or personal matters. We are a great resource for all assistance the Army offers."

"Just because a Soldier comes to us



for help doesn't mean he needs to see the mental-health professionals," said Lechner, a native of Edgerton, Wis. "We are here for the Soldier as a ministry team."

The team's office is open from 0830 to 1700 except for Sundays.

"Anyone is welcome to stop by to meet us," said Valencia. "We look forward to providing premier religious support and act as liaisons for Soldiers to deal with combat stress."

Soldiers Skype to Stay In Touch

by Spc. Nicholas Hurt, 82nd SBDE

At any time of the night you can open almost any Soldier's B-hut and see the glow of the computer on their face. Is it movies that have grabbed everyone's free time? Perhaps they are all chatting on an instant messenger. This doesn't seem to be the case for the current generation.

"Skype" has grabbed each and everyone by storm. Unanimously, the favored means of keeping in touch with loved ones, "Skype" has given any Soldier with a computer and an internet connection a newly dedicated land line to chat it up with loved ones.

"Skype" offers different packages for different needs built to suit you. It ranges from free, pay-as-you-go or a monthly flat rate package that depends on your specific need to call home and what kind of features you're going to use most often.

With so many already using the system one can see a noticeable increase in troop morale since boots on the ground. Now you can stay in touch with your loved ones and hear their voices on your own time, reassuring them all is well and update them on a daily basis.

"Veterans and new troops agree we have come a long way from waiting in line for a pay phone with a time limit or all the



Photo By Spc. Nicholas Hurt

confused messages from chatting on an instant messenger," said Spc. Joseph Keuter of the 82nd Sustainment Brigade. "Confusion is caused by misspelled words and the inability to hear a joking tone through typed words,"

"Nothing is ever going to beat the real thing," added Pfc. Joshua James of the 82nd Sustainment.

Now if you'll excuse me I need to sign into Skype"

Doc's Advice: Know Your Medicines

by Lt. Col. R.D. Caldrony, JSC-A Surgeon

As I see more and more patients at the 135th ESC Sick Call clinic, I am struck by how many do not know which medications they are on long term, the names of the medications, the doses on the medications, how often they take them and most importantly what the medications are for.

These are all critical pieces of information not only for me as a provider but for you to know since you are on the receiving end of the pills.

There is a natural tendency in this age of computers to assume, especially in the military medical system, that all of this vital information is readily available at the click of a key stroke. As a provider I can assure you this is often not the case; computers often don't work, especially in harsh environments such as this. You as the patient should assume that the information is not retrievable and you should keep a current written record of this information on you, 24/7. You can keep this information on a simple form. Include the name of the medication, the dosage, frequency of dose and method of taking it.

We also need to plan for situations where we cannot communicate. If we are on the road and get "knocked out" then what? It is best to keep this vital information in your billfold or with your ID. In an emergency situation medical personnel may look through your belongings. They will try

to identify you but the list of medications may help them to tell about your prior health and what additional drugs to use or not use.

Just a few more words as to why I consider this information so vital are in order. Amongst the top five reasons for an admission to a hospital back home are reactions to medications. I am not talking about allergic reactions, which are often unpredictable, but interactions or reactions amongst medications, which are often predictable. The problem arises when different providers prescribe different medications and too often one "doc" does not know what the other has done. There is a direct correlation between the number of medications prescribed and the risk of what we call a drug-drug interaction. And when I say drugs I am also referring to not just prescription drugs but supplements, vitamins, herbals and the whole array of things that you can purchase over the counter without a prescription called OTC's. You may not consider these medications but I certainly do. And this same reasoning is not just relevant to you but also to your families. They also need to keep a current list of their medications; again available 24/7. This is particularly important for the elderly since not only is their health more precarious to begin with they have a different metabolism and based on this alone are more susceptible to drug reactions.

Photo Recon





135th ESC Soldier Spotlight



Capt. Angelia R. Conner 14 yrs. Service
York, Alabama
32 years old

Duties: Deputy J1 assisting our HHC and subordinate units with personnel services. These services are important because my actions affect promotions, evaluations, awards and R&R Leave.

"The thing that surprise me most is that any situation you can think of in the personnel world has surfaced."



Spc. Alicia Reynolds 4 yrs. Service
Birmingham, Alabama
32 years old

Duties: I am an awards clerk for the 135th. This job is important because everyone needs to be recognized for the jobs they do over here.

"I really wasn't ready for the smell or the dirt. It isn't as bad over here people make it out to be. It is amazing how most of the people in our unit have come together as a family."



Spc. Sydnee K. Scott 3 yrs. Service
Hueytown, Alabama
20 years old

Duties: I track the volume of mail that travels back and forth to the States. Mail is important because it boosts the morale of the Soldiers.

"This deployment has been an experience. I thought life here was going to be miserable but expecting the worse made it better. I was most surprised that we actually have entertainment here."



Spc. Torrey Simpson 3 yrs. Service
Selma, Alabama
22 years old

Duties: I update the daily rollup of equipment maintainance report. It is important that we know that our equipment is being maintained to accomplish the mission.

"My deployment has been great so far. I was most surprised that it has been a great learning experience for me."