

# Sustaining

Volume 1, Issue 9

# Freedom

September 2010

**JSC-A Remembers  
9-11**



**Inside >>**

***The Guard is Family***

# Sustaining Freedom September 2010



## Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan

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## FEATURES



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**On the Cover:** Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover (right) and Soldiers of the JSC-A salute the American flag as Sgt. Candra Armstead (center) and Sgt. Carlos Mitchell raise the flag up the flagpole September 11, 2010. (Photo by MC2 Steven Hoskins)

# From The Commander...



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

It is hard to believe that we have already begun redeploying our first group of Soldiers home to Alabama after a very successful combat sustainment tour in Afghanistan. Following closely on the heels of their departure will be the arrival of an advance party from the 184th ESC, Mississippi Army National Guard. The transfer of authority, then, is right around the corner.

As I have traveled around the Command, whether

in Regional Command (North), Regional Command (Southwest), or right here at Kandahar, I continue to be amazed at the incredible progress made by our teammates, and the tenacity of our servicemembers who are determined to get the job done under the most difficult conditions. These accomplishments, our accomplishments, will have a lasting impact on U.S. and coalition efforts in Afghanistan for years to come.

The legacy that we leave is not confined to military sustainment operations. Thanks to your efforts we have helped in the building of the Bazaar school on Kandahar Air Field and some of you have taught classes on Saturday morning to Afghan children who attend that school.

These important contributions, combined with the more than \$7,600 we raised for Afghan school supplies during the "Beat The General" 5K Charity Run on Labor Day, will make yet another lasting difference. The time spent and the money raised are investments in the children of

Afghanistan, they represent the future of Afghanistan.

When you go home I urge all of you to share what you have learned here, what you have done here, and what we have accomplished here. Never underestimate the scope and magnitude of what collectively the Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan has done over the last 10 months to ensure every servicemember has a full canteen, a hot

meal, a place to sleep, and the supplies they need to get the job done. Through your hard work, each time the maneuver force commanders reached back for the sustainment baton you were there to place it in their hands. Be proud of what you have done.

As you pack and prepare to redeploy, take a moment to reflect upon your own personal accomplishments and your own legacy. These are the memories you will cherish for the rest of time. They are the memories that will sometimes make you cry, and sometimes

make you smile.

They are the memories that will sometimes make you grimace and sometimes stand a little taller. But most important, they are all memories of the role that you have played in forging America's history in Afghanistan in defense of freedom and democracy.

On September 11, 2010, we reflected on the last nine years since our nation was drawn into a war not of our making. We renewed our commitment to fighting extremists. We will pledge to never forget the more than 3,000 Americans who lost their lives that day and the more than 1,200 U.S. service members who have died in Afghanistan since the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom.

When you get home, tell your story of our accomplishments and be proud of what you have done. In the meantime, stay focused. Stay safe. And stay Army strong!

***"We pledge to never forget the more than 3,000 Americans who lost their lives that day..."***

**- Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover**

## CSM Kinder's Corner

As I contemplate the significance of this month to all Americans, I remember the vicious attacks of 9-11 and the lives lost that day. Four aircraft were hijacked by terrorists. Three struck their targets, two bringing down the World Trade Center buildings, and one striking the Pentagon.

The fourth crashed in Pennsylvania as passengers fought to regain control of the aircraft from terrorists. Thousands of innocent citizens died that day in the worst terrorist attacks ever on American soil.

Since then, we in the Armed Services of the United States have been combating terrorism all around the world. Our Servicemembers and their families have sacrificed much and continue to make sacrifices daily to insure such a heinous attack never takes place again.

To that end, we are making steady progress here in Afghanistan. We are building the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police so they will have the ability to provide safety and security to the Afghan people. Servicemembers have volunteered time and resources to educate the children of Afghanistan.

Initiatives by the Department of State and nongovernment

organizations are working to build an infrastructure to aid the Afghan government to provide essential government services to the people. NATO and our coalition partners are

working hand in hand with US Forces to seek out and destroy the Taliban and Al Qaeda.

The Joint Sustainment Command's contribution to Operation Enduring Freedom has been massive.

Your accomplishments are astounding. You have much to be proud of and you have made history here. From the bottom of my heart, thank you for your service and sacrifice.

As we remember the events of 9-11, let us always remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in order to preserve freedom, liberty and security for the citizens of the United States.

As always, you are "Sustaining Freedom."



**CSM Clark Kinder**  
JSC-A  
Command Sergeant Major

***"We are making steady progress here in Afghanistan... we are building the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police."***

**- CSM Clark Kinder**





# JSC-A Headlines

## JSC-A to host Naturalization Service

■ BY LT. COL. DAN LONOWSKI  
*JSC-A Chief of Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD - The Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan will host a naturalization ceremony here Oct. 1. The ceremony was originally scheduled for Sept. 17.

More than 40 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines will become U.S. citizens when they take the Oath of Citizenship next month. Citizenship will be granted to Servicemembers from countries including Bosnia, Afghanistan, Mexico and Lithuania.

The JSC-A was alerted to the possibility of hosting the ceremony in July, which was confirmed in August.



Courtesy Photo

**Servicemembers, like these at Bagram in May 2009, will become legal U.S. citizens in a Naturalization ceremony at KAF October 1.**

The Staff Judge Advocate's section was tasked with making it all happen, as Capt. Tim

Wasyuka of the KAF Legal Center was appointed as the officer-in-charge.

"We're excited about the opportunity to naturalize anywhere from 50-100 new U.S. citizens," said Wasyuka.

"Many of them have been out there as warfighters, engaging in combat and fighting for this country as non-citizens," he added. "We are happy we can play a part in this event."

The ceremony will allow Servicemembers to join more than 58,000 others who have become U.S. citizens since 2001.

Wasyuka mentioned that it has been a daunting task to put everything together in order to make it happen.

"It's been a lot of work coordinating with everyone involved," Wasyuka said.

## Commanding General visits 184th ESC during their training at Fort Hood

■ BY SGT. KENNY HATTEN  
*184th ESC Public Affairs*

NORTH FORT HOOD, Texas - Brig Gen. Reynold N. Hoover, commander of the Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan, spoke to the Soldiers and leaders of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 184th ESC during the unit's Culminating Training Event (CTE) here.

The 184th has since completed its assigned mobilization training and is making final preparations to replace the 135th in Afghanistan in the next several weeks.



Sgt. Kenny Hatten | Sustaining Freedom

**Brig. Gen. Reynold N. Hoover (center), commander of the 135th ESC, speaks with 184th ESC commander, Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher (left) and his staff during the CTE at North Fort Hood, Texas. The 184th ESC will assume the sustainment mission in October. (more on page 15)**



# JSC-A Headlines

## 3rd NCR assumes engineering duties of Southern, Western Afghanistan

■ BY SGT JAMES BURROUGHS  
*JSC-A Public Affairs Staff Writer*

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD** - The Third Naval Construction Regiment (3rd NCR) assumed command of the coalition engineering resources in the Southern and Western provinces of Afghanistan during a ceremony held here August 14. They assumed responsibility of the mission from the 22nd NCR.

The guest of honor at the ceremony was Brig. Gen. William M. Buckler, Jr. Buckler is Director of Engineering for U.S. Forces Afghanistan.

In his remarks to the 22nd NCR, Buckler praised the servicemembers for their attitude and performance during their six months in Afghanistan. "You epitomized the spirit



MC2 Steven Hoskins | Sustaining Freedom  
**Brig. Gen. William Buckler (left) salutes 3rd NCR Commander Captain Donald Hendrick (right) during a ceremony August 14 as the 3rd NCR assumed command of coalition engineering resources in southern and western Afghanistan.**

of never backing down," said Buckler. "You focused on getting the job done despite the challenges and problems faced in Afghanistan."

Buckler added, "You did all the work for half of Afghanistan. This area would usually need two NCR's."

He read a letter of praise addressed to the Chairman of

the Joint Chiefs of Staff from Lt. Gen. David M. Rodriguez, commander of International Security Assistance Force Joint Command.

The letter recognized the extent of the work accomplished by the 22nd NCR.

For starters, they constructed six miles of extended base perimeters.

The 22nd NCR also built 23 buildings for battalion and brigade-sized elements as well as two rotary wing airfields.

Additionally, they dug 28 deep aquifer wells that provide 1.6 million gallons of clean water each day. They constructed facilities capable of housing 24,000 Servicemembers.

"I am tremendously proud and tremendously blessed to contribute to the mission here in Afghanistan," said Capt. Louis V. Cariello, commander of the 22nd NCR. "Engineers can be sure that they contributed directly to the cause."

During his remarks, Cariello stressed the logistics difficulties that Afghanistan has caused for armies dating back to Alexander the Great.

The coalition's logistics abilities allow them to overcome Afghanistan's lack of infrastructure.

"The 22nd NCR is leaving a plan in place that will insure success for the 3rd NCR," said Capt. Donald E. Hendrick, the commander of 3rd NCR.

"This is definitely a great time to be an engineer and a SeaBee."

## 135th ESC Soldiers Re-enlist on September 11

**KANDAHAR AIRFIELD** - A total of 14 Soldiers from the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command took the oath of re-enlistment here September 11 during the unit's ceremony remembering the terrorist attacks on the United States.

Pictured (right) front row from left-to-right are Sgt. Christopher Mackall, Sgt. Joi Dawson, Sgt. 1st Class Charles



MC2 Steven Hoskins | Sustaining Freedom  
**Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan Soldiers re-enlisted during JSC-A's remembrance of the 9-11 attacks on the United States. Each re-enlisting Soldier received a coin from JSC-A Command Sergeant Major, CSM Clark Kinder, as well as a certificate of re-enlistment.**

Moore, Master Sgt. Lynn Robinson, Sgt. Lena Mills and Master Sgt. Bobby England. In the back row left-to-right are Sgt. Travis Barnett, Sgt. 1st Class Percy Clements, Sgt. Heath Fant, Sgt. 1st Class Alan Silvers and Sgt. 1st Class John Burdette.

Those who reenlisted but are not pictured are Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wilson, Sgt. 1st Class Marilyn Hoyett and Sgt. Daniel Thomason.

The JSC-A held 9-11 ceremonies at the JSC-A Joint Operations Center and at the 643rd RSG.



# ***KAF Celebrates Women's Equality Day***



Photos and Caption by Sgt. James Burroughs | Sustaining Freedom

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD – Servicemembers here marked the 90th anniversary of the passage of the 19th Amendment, which granted U.S. women the right to vote, August 26 at Fraise Chapel. The featured speaker for the event was Lt. Col. Michaelae M. McCulley (above left), commander of the Regimental Support Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment. She reminded the audience to learn from history while focusing on the future. "Not all men have had the right to vote since the dawn of time," she said. "To all those before us that brought us to the point we are today I say 'thank you.'" McCulley also pointed out that military pay is the same regardless of gender. "The U.S. military leads the way," she said. "With hard work I achieved the honor of standing before you, a lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army commanding a squadron of talented troopers." Pictured below are the featured speakers from the event.



# ON PATROL...WITH THE MISSION SUPPORT PLATOON

■ BY SPC. DIANNA AZIZ

82nd SB Public Affairs

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - During the first week of August, I personally experienced what the Mission Support Platoon (MSP) has been experiencing since the beginning of this deployment, which began in December 2009.

On the morning of August 2, an MSP team from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade (SBDE) and the 109th Transportation Company (TC) from the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), were in charge of escorting nine Host National Trucks from Bagram Airfield to FOB Killaguy.

Six of the trucks were carrying loads of MaxxPros, a mine-resistant ambush protected vehicle (MRAP), High Mobility Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicles (HMMWV), and Joint Network Node (JNN) Equipment from Bagram Airfield to Camp Killaguy.

The 109th TC escorted vehicles with ammunition and had a total of 11 palletized load system (PLS) trucks. With aerial support, we left the gate at approximately 10:20 a.m. All 48 personnel were ready; convoy commander Sgt. Patrick Moody from the 82nd Special Troops Battalion (STB) gave the command "all set."

Since their arrival in Afghanistan, the MSP for the 82nd SBDE has been on 54 missions throughout Afghanistan. Among the many locations they have convoyed to includes Camp Marmal,



SPC Dianna Aziz | Sustaining Freedom

**The Mission Support Platoon from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade and the 109th Transportation Company escort military vehicles and host national trucks on a convoy to various FOBs August 2-4.**

Spann, Dehdadi one and two, Killaguy, Gamberi, Gardez, Phoenix, Sharana, Ghazni, and FOB Lightning.

Additionally, from March 8-30, they were stationed at Camp Marmal to help support 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain division by moving equipment in support of operation in RC-N.

On our way back from Killaguy, it took the team 12 hours to return safely to Bagram. There were numerous vehicle breakdowns

along the 115-mile route. During the stops, the team maintained vigilance by pulling security and directing traffic while gunners and drivers stayed alert.

First Lt. Patrick Zanelotti, 82nd Special Troops Battalion platoon leader, summed up the overall success of the convoy mission.

"This convoy was a great reflection on how preparation and teamwork can lead to mission accomplishment through adverse situations and through dangerous terrain."

**Master Sgt. John Womack works in the ACSA office for the Joint Sustainment Command at Kandahar, Airfield. His hometown is Opp, Alabama.**

## Why I Serve



Womack

When I finished high school, I got a job working at the local mill and started junior college. After doing both for a while, I decided to join the Army.

Upon completing my three years in the Army, I got out and joined the Guard. I signed up for one year and it has been a part of my life ever since. I have enjoyed it.

Back home, I am a full-time Guardsman, working

at FMS #24 in Andalusia, Alabama. I work as a production controller.

My two brothers and I have served in military, with one being in the Marines and two in the Army. My brothers served in Desert Storm and Operation Iraqi Freedom while I am serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

In addition, my father and two of my uncles also served.



# Meeting Payroll: Kandahar Finance detachment keeps money moving

## Financial Management Company answers the call for Servicemembers, DoD civilians

■ STORY BY SGT. JAMES BURROUGHS  
*JSC-A Public Affairs Writer*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD - Afghanistan is a rugged country that lacks even basic infrastructure like paved roads and reliable electricity.

Despite this austere environment, a Soldier on even the most remote base can say, "Show me the money," and get his or her hands on cash and take advantage of the military's payroll benefits.

In Southern Afghanistan, this is due to the hard work of the 27 Soldiers and five Sailors that work here as part of Detachment B, 4th Financial Management Company out of Fort Bliss, Texas.

The finance company is a central hub for the finances of Soldiers and civilians at KAF, explained Capt. Mary Johnson, the detachment commander.

The cashiers can make disbursements to

instead of cash, and process deposits for the Thrift Savings Plan.

"We also take cash to the warfighter," said Johnson. "The Soldiers and commanders appreciate this. We keep them off of

agent officer-in-charge.

"All of the financial systems are electronic. Our connection slows down our work. If we lose connectivity it creates more work. We can provide service manually but we have to go back and input all transactions into the computers."

"Our cashiers work long hours," said Jimenez. "We are in the office long past the posted hours of operation. We set our battle rhythm and we work at getting more proficient."

Each cashier is responsible for their own work and the unit has never had a major loss of funds.

"We don't accept less than 100% accountability for funds," said Jimenez.

Jimenez added, "Our Soldiers are great. They take responsibility for their work and we wouldn't be 100% accountable without them."

Jimenez explained that there are three areas that his detachment is responsible for. The first are the cashiers.

These Soldiers are responsible for savings, Eagle Cash cards, and traveling to Soldiers on remote bases. These are the faces that most Soldiers see when they visit the Finance Office.

The second group is commercial vendor services. These funds are entirely electronic and they pay for life support services for the Soldiers.

The Commanders Emergency Relief Program (CERP) is handled by CVS.



**Spc. Jamie Green of Detachment B, 4th Financial Management Company, distributes money for Soldiers at FOB Gorgan. (Photo provided by Cpl. Alicia Davis)**

Servicemembers and cash checks for DOD civilians. They also manage the military's Eagle Cash Card program, a debit card that the Soldier can use on base

dangerous convoys by going ourselves."

The company sends teams of cashiers out to Soldiers on remote bases at least once each month. The team can provide cash to Soldiers and has the ability to gather information to answer any pay questions from the Soldiers.

Most questions cannot be answered immediately because the payroll system is electronic and the finance team will not be directly connected in remote locations. The team works to answer questions and solve problems back in their office while a Soldier is in the field.

"Bandwidth is a real challenge," said 1st Lt. Jose Jimenez, the dispersing



**Sgt. James Burroughs | Sustaining Freedom**

**1st Lt. Jose Jimenez (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Dennis McCleod count the stacks of money Detachment B, 4th Financial Management Company manages on a daily basis. They often work long hours to meet the needs of Servicemembers and DoD civilians on KAF.**

**See FINANCE page 18**



KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - When we think about deployments we usually think about Servicemembers being away from their families for long periods of time, especially during times of war.

However, several Soldiers from the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command from Birmingham, Ala., are



Medley Twins

exceptions to this rule, as they deployed to Afghanistan with their siblings.

Chief Warrant Officer 4 Ricky Medley, the 135th ESC maintenance assistance officer and identical twin brother, Lt. Col. Nicky Medley, Mobility Officer in charge for the 135th ESC, are two out of eight brother and sister pairs that had the opportunity to serve together here.

"I just came off a deployment before this one," said CW4 Medley.

"This is my second back-to-back tour with no breaks in between deployments," CW4 Medley added, "I came directly here from my last deployment. Kuwait was my only stop before arriving in Afghanistan. I wanted to serve with my brother; that's the only reason I did it."

"This is our first deployment together," said Lt. Col. Medley. "Now I get to see what my brother does. Being on this deployment we

both have shared some first time experiences here as far as sustainment operations here in Afghanistan. We are in the forefront of servicing our combat Soldiers and making sure they get what they need."

When the twins are not managing air, sea and ground movements, contractors deliveries or maintenance projects, they get to ease their minds through conversation back at the living area.

They also watch movies or visit the Boardwalk.

The brothers both say that they get a kick out of all of the confused faces after Soldiers working in their unit mix up the two.

"I might walk out of the office and my brother will walk in and people will get that confused look from someone that has just met us for the first time," said



Gardner and Harris

CW4 Medley.

"We like to play around with them a little bit. Their reaction usually is I thought you were the 'chief.' Those are moments we enjoy."

Spc. Tyrone Gardner and his sister, Sgt. Davinna Harris are from Birmingham, Ala. They are also among

the group of brothers and sisters that had an opportunity to serve together.

"We didn't find out on the same day we would be deploying together," said Gardner. "So when we did find out we kind of got excited."

Gardner says he and his sister had a minor debate on the reason each was here.

"My sister seems to think she was here to watch me, but really I was here to watch her," Gardner said, laughing to himself.

Gardner and Harris are both ammunitions specialists. They work side-by-side in the same office doing essentially the same job.

"Working with a sibling is great," Gardner added. "You get that mixture of both work force and family training. Plus you have someone coaching, giving you advice and lifting you up the whole time."

After serving a few months together, Harris had to redeploy back to Alabama to get treatment for a non-combat related injury.

"The time we shared being deploying together made us grow to love each other even more," said Gardner. "We actually got to see what our faults and strengths were and we were able to help each other out."

Like the Medleys, identical



Harris and Brooks

twin sisters Sgt. Shaderia Harris, a Human Resources specialist and Sgt. Chandra Brooks, Admin specialist in the SPO

contracting section, say they enjoy being deployed together, though this isn't the first time for the pair.

The first time was a deployment to Germany and this time, it's Afghanistan.

"Serving and being deployed with my sister has made life a lot easier," Harris said. "When we go through training and deployments, we always seems to amuse each other."

The sisters both say they really enjoy working together and having the



Estes Brothers

opportunity to spend their free time together working out, watching movies or sharing their daily issues.

"I'm comfortable and wouldn't want it any other way than being deployed with my sister," said Harris. "She makes me not miss home as much."

**See FAMILY page 21**

# House call: Doc's Advice



■ BY MAJ. IAN FAWKS  
*JSC-A Command Surgeon*

The tour is almost over and soon you will be going home. You have thought about home from the minute you left for the mobilization station. You dreamed about it and longed to be back with your family and friends. And soon these dreams will be a reality.

However, just like most things in the military, it will be a process for returning home. This is true for the actual physical process of flying home and clearing at Camp Shelby.

Likewise, it is also true for the psychological process of moving from being a Soldier to being a citizen, a dad, a mom, a son, a daughter, or just a person.

In this article, I would like to share with you some thoughts on this process. In the Army we are used to the concept of "the mission". Everything is

directed toward the fulfillment of the mission. It is hard to get out of this mindset at home. It also is hard to not be in command. My wife says all the time to me that "you are not an officer in this house."

That wisdom rings true with this topic. You will not be in charge when you get home. You will not have a specific mission. There will be no FRAGOs.

You will not be tasked by your chain of command. As you prepare for redeployment use the time to think about how you will deal with this change in your command status at home. It can be nice to know that you do not have to make the decisions all the time once you return.

You will eventually return to your role in your household but do not expect to move from the battlefield to the home front with the same command structure. This will be different for each person in the

135th but the concept applies to the whole company.

Here in Afghanistan we have dealt with various aspects of war. We have dodged rockets, carried our weapons daily, worn our IOTV and been prepared for the worst. At home we will not have these same risks.

However, you can expect that your mind will still be prepared for these events. I recall that after my tour in Iraq in 2008 that once home, I was always looking for my weapon and felt anxious that I had misplaced it.

Other Soldiers have told me that they have had similar experiences. You can expect that you will initially feel the same when you return home. When the alarm goes off you may feel that you need to get on the floor. You may react to things as you have done here on KAF.

If you think about this situation now then you will not be surprised when you get home and feel this way. These responses often are short lived and will fade with time.

However, sometimes they can be prolonged and linger. This is not necessarily problematic. I still flinch at times when I hear a sound that reminds me of a rocket.

If you return home and these symptoms are troubling to you or last over a few weeks then you may need to see a doctor. As you prepare for your eventual return home, think about these situations.

By preparing for your response to your return home then you can lessen any adverse effects. You will return home and be safe. You will be proud of your service here in Afghanistan.

The 135th did a fantastic job and accomplished a great mission. You are following in the proud footsteps of many veterans who came before you. I am honored that I could serve with you for a short time as your command surgeon.

When you get home be sure to follow up with your personal healthcare provider or contact your unit for direction if you have any lingering or troubling symptoms.

## 135th ESC Promotes Two Soldiers



Photos and Caption by MC2 Steven Hoskins | Sustaining Freedom

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD - The Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan held a promotion ceremony for two Soldiers August 16. Those promoted, shown in the pictures above, are (left) Sgt. 1st Class William S. Brannon and (right) Staff Sgt. Patrick J. Dakins. The JSC-A Chief of Staff, Col. Dennis Butters, is shown promoting the Soldiers to their new ranks. Congratulations to both Sgt. 1st Class Brannon and Staff Sgt. Dakins!



# GOING HOME:

## Tips for Redeployment

■ BY REAL WARRIORS CAMPAIGN

*Special to Sustaining Freedom*

You will be home in a few weeks, then the joyful reunion will be over and the rush of excitement will begin to fade. The flags will be put away and the welcoming ceremonies and celebrations with friends will be over. Your life will suddenly become private again, giving you the chance to get back to a “normal” life at home.

Where do you start? How do you begin making life normal again, when “normal” now means something different than before you were deployed? Although returning home after deployment is often a time of incredible happiness, the transition back to your life at home can be difficult and stressful.

This stress is a common reaction to situations faced by members of the military. Here are some tips to help you reintegrate into family life:

### **Don't Forget To Take Time for Yourself**

- Be patient. The process of reintegration and stabilization can take several months as you rebuild your relationships.
- Take care of yourself. Manage your stress as much as possible. Eat a healthy diet and exercise.
- Make time to rest. Negotiate the number of social events you and your family attend.
- Limit your use of alcohol. If you choose to drink, ease back into a responsible pattern that doesn't interfere with the process of renewing important relationships.
- Go slowly in getting back into the swing of things. Depend on family, your unit and friends for support.
- Watch your spending. It's tempting to celebrate your return with dinners out or special gifts, but it's important to stay within your budget and continue to save for the future.
- Know when to seek help. If you, your spouse or other family members are feeling signs of stress, physical or

emotional, it's important to seek expert help, the earlier the better. Your military service Family Support Center on the installation offers groups, classes and counseling for a variety of issues.

### **Reconnecting with your Spouse/Significant Other**

- Understand that it's normal to feel out of sync with your spouse at first. Both of you have grown and changed during the separation. It takes time to reconnect. Be patient and be flexible.
- Spend time talking with each other. Make your partner your priority. Time spent with your partner is an investment in your future.
- Ease back into intimacy. It's not easy to regain physical and emotional closeness after stressful situations.
- Listen to your partner's experience. Learn how he or she has been living while you were gone. Let go of your expectations of how your partner should have behaved while you were away and accept reality.



- Rebuild a routine. Your partner has developed a way of life while you were gone. Learn his or her routine and build a new routine together.
- Celebrate! Your partner ran a tough marathon of stress, anxiety and loneliness while you were gone, and managed and succeeded with a lot of responsibilities. Celebrate these victories and let your

partner know you are proud of him or her.

- Work to resolve conflict. Yes, you will have disagreements. That is normal. Work the conflicts through to a healthy resolution.
- Get help if you need it. Attend a Prevention and Relationship Enhancement Program marriage enrichment weekend if you are married. The program teaches couples effective communication skills and successful problem resolution strategies, and reveals how to discover the hidden issues in a relationship.

### **Reconnecting with your Children**

- Learn all you can about your children's lives while you were gone. Let them share pictures, crafts, stories and memories.
- Be patient with your children and yourself. You can't make up the time missed overnight. It will take time for your children to reconnect with you, trust you and bond again with you.
- Expect your children to test the rules now that both parents are home. Set aside time with your spouse to come up with an approach you both agree on.
- Make time in your schedule for family activities. Include one-on-one time with each of your children.
- Negotiate your role as a parent. While you were gone, your spouse or your child's guardian set the pace as a parent. You can't take over all at once. Work your way back into the parent role one step at a time. Respect what was done while you were gone.
- Remember this is your child, not a member of the military. Learn the developmental stage your child is in and use age-appropriate parenting techniques. One size doesn't fit all.
- Accept guidance from your spouse or your child's guardian. Your most recent job has been as a member of the military.

### **Reconnecting with Your Parents**

**See HOME page 12**

# Soldier Spotlight

*Petty Officer Second Class Michelle Smith is a native of Columbia, S.C., and currently serves at the J-6 Communications Help Desk with the 135th ESC at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. She is a Navy information systems technician assigned during this tour to the U.S. Army.*



**Smith**

**What do you do for the Army/Navy?** I work solving most computer issues for the approximately 250 people in this unit.

**What has your deployment**

**been like?** It has been a learning experience both professionally and personally. Through all of the adversity, tough times and hardships, people stick together with great positive attitudes.

**What is your family situation?** I am married with two girls, one is four years old and the other is one

year old.

**Has anyone else from your family served?** Other members have served in the Army but I am the first in my family to join the Navy.

*Maj. Elbert Davis is a native of Abbeville, Ala. and currently serves the 135th ESC as a liaison officer at USFOR-A in Kabul Afghanistan. Davis has been in the service for a total of 21 years.*



**Davis**

**What do you do for the Army?**

I gather all information that flows through our liaison section at USFOR-A to use in the JSC-A.

**What has your deployment been like?** This is my

third tour in eight years and the hardest part is being away from my family. My family would like for me to retire after this one. This deployment is totally different from what it was in Iraq but as a Soldier you must adapt to your situation. **What is your family situation?** My mother had two sons on different tours and she wants us to retire but I have to continue to support my family and their needs.

**Has anyone else from your family served?** Yes, I have three brothers who have served and continue to serve as well as a sister who served four years in the Reserves.

## From the desk of the Inspector General



■ BY MAJ. STEVEN YARNELL  
JSC-A Inspector General

Hello from the 135th ESC Command Inspector General's desk! As of the publication of this newsletter, we have less than 40 days left until redeployment. Redeployment brings about excitement and the joy of knowing the tour is almost over.

This month I will address two separate topics. AR 600-20, Army Command Policy and AR 600-8-22, Military Awards. AR 600-20 was addressed in an earlier publication, but I believe it's an important aspect that intertwines with redeployment.

Common courtesy and respect are the backbone of teamwork. With the redeployment process that includes the hustle and bustle of different actions and events that must take place,

it's imperative that common courtesy and teamwork are integrated.

Soldiers must stay focused when these events call for the proverbial "hurry up and wait" scenario. Proper respect and courtesy will help other unit members make it through the rigors of redeployment.

Senior Officers and NCOs should lead the way for others to follow. Courtesy and respect should always run up and down the Chain of Command.

Secondly, I would like to touch on the topic of awards. Awards are something Soldiers enjoy receiving. As your tour closes, every Soldier hopes to receive an award. For those of you who are fortunate enough to receive an award, please remember that numerous sets of eyes have looked at each and

every DA Form 638.

A DA Form 638 is only a recommendation, and awards board are comprised of Senior NCO's and Officers who scour DA Form 638's to ensure the award is sufficient for the recommendation. AR 600-8-22 addresses the order of precedence and other important information in regards to awards.

Remember, awards are a fantastic way to reward Soldiers who shine during deployment. With the 135th ESC tour winding down, I would like to say "thank you" to each and every Soldier for their service.

It's been a pleasure serving the Soldiers of the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan.

Until next month!!  
DROIT ET AVANT!

**>> HOME**  
Continued from page 11

- Share with them what is appropriate. Try not to shut your parents out of your life. Share what you can with them about your combat duty.

- If you have younger siblings, be respectful of your parents' rules for them and be aware that you are a role model for your siblings.

- Celebrate! Realize your parents sacrificed a lot while you were gone. They worried about you and supported you. Thank them for their support.

- Anticipate that your parents may want to celebrate your return and reconnect you with your relatives and their friends. This may be overwhelming for you.

Make your parents aware of what you are comfortable with and negotiate with them regarding their intentions for you.



## *JSC-A Remembers...*



## *9-11-2001*



# Avoiding Complacency at Mission's End

■ BY ARMANDO ALFARO  
82nd SB Safety Officer

The most dangerous time period during any combat deployment is the last 90 days. During this time period it is very common for Soldiers to be injured while conducting normal day-to-day operations. The single most common cause for injury during this time period is complacency - an attitude that "it won't happen to me."

This attitude is basically caused by the short time remaining in theater, causing Soldiers to distract themselves from the daily mission requirements.

Soldiers get so focused on the idea of going home, that they begin to take shortcuts, deviate from the standard and in some

cases completely disregard the standard which in turn causes accidents. Too often during this time period Soldiers become complacent when it comes to safety.

Leaders are also affected by allowing and accepting mediocre safety performance and do not work to improve the environment by raising safety awareness.

Because of this Soldiers are content and are not attentive to their work environments. They become convinced that the leadership is not concerned about safety. The result is that Soldiers begin to get in a hurry and take shortcuts on the job.

They are more focused on getting the job done than getting it done safely. When leaders do not make safety a top priority in the organization, it is easy for Soldiers to make safety a

low priority. Then incidents and injuries occur with increasing frequency.

To avoid complacency there are two things that must happen.

1. Leaders must renew their commitment to the safety process.

2. Soldiers must get involved in meaningful safety activities.

• Leaders - Get Engaged!

It takes more than just saying you are committed to safety - you have to put actions behind your words. Leaders can demonstrate their commitment to safety in a number of ways.

First and foremost, leaders must follow the Company's Safety Standard Operating Procedures. Take time to walk around and talk to the Soldiers.

Visit Soldiers in their workplaces whether in the Motor Pool, or in the office. Talk about your personal concern for safety, and then listen to their concerns. Take time to know your Soldiers. You can learn many things about them by just taking the time to talk them.

Leaders at all levels can have a profound effect on the safety culture of an organization by following these suggestions. Once Soldiers see their leaders taking safety seriously, Soldiers in turn will be more committed than ever.

And, nothing energizes an organization's safety improvement efforts more than leader involvement.

Always Remember...

~~SAFETY IS A WAY  
OF LIFE~~

## Soldier Spotlight

*Specialist Jordan Holbrook is a native of Mobile, Ala., and currently serves on the Joint Battle Staff of the 135th ESC at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.*

**What do you do for the Army?** I assist the Battle Major and the Battle NCO in running the Joint Operations Center. I help generate daily reports of sustainment operations. I am proud of my role in helping coordinate and synchronize efforts of U.S. and coalition forces.



**Holbrook**

**What has your deployment been like?** I definitely have a different lifestyle for sure. This deployment has changed

me in different ways. I have had to learn patience and I have become more professional. I have had to perform tasks under a great deal of pressure.

**Has anyone else in your family served?**

Yes. Both my grandfathers served in the Air Corps in World War II. My brother and my cousins have served in the Air Force.

*Sgt. 1st Class Al Washington, a native of Corner, Ala., currently serves with the 135th ESC at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Washington works in the Material Readiness Branch.*

**What do you do for the Army?** I am a maintenance

NCO, but I try to help all of my fellow Soldiers.

**What has your deployment been like?** The command unit is much different



**Washington**

from the Group Support mission I was part of in Iraq. Once again, the National Guard proved they were very capable of doing what it took to

get the job done.

**What is your family situation?**

I have a very supportive wife. I also have a son and two daughters. My son is currently attending the officer basic course at Fort Sill,

Okla. I could not have raised or educated my children as

well if I had not served. **Is there anything unique about your story?** I am a farm boy who has had a good life. I live for God, family and my country.



***Specialist Tomeca Cook is the Human Resources Specialist in the IG's office for the Joint Sustainment Command at Kandahar, Airfield. Her hometown is Montgomery, Ala.***

## **Why I Serve**



**Cook**

Working in the IG section as a HR specialist is important to me because I see firsthand where Soldiers come in with real-life issues and complaints.

Our section is about ensuring that the regulations are followed correctly. It has been a great experience for me working in this section - I have loved it!

As far as the deployment is concerned it has really been interesting and someday

when I have children, I would like to share my deployment experience with them.

When I joined the military it was definitely not on my list of things to do. I didn't know what to expect and now as I look back on everything, joining was the best thing that has happened to me.

My fiancé is prior Navy and I have aunts and uncles who served in the Army.

# **184th ESC continues preparations for Afghanistan Sustainment Mission**

■ **BY CAPT. MARVIN BAKER**

*120th Inf. Bde., Div West Public Affairs*

NORTH FORT HOOD, Texas - Trainers and planners with First Army Division West's 120th Infantry Brigade helped prepare the Mississippi Army National Guard's 184th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) for its logistics mission in Afghanistan.

Afghanistan National Security Forces and the 184th will provide essential supplies and support to the U.S. military stationed in Afghanistan.

Imagine the state of Texas, shrink it a little, remove all the improved roads, add a few mountain ranges and about 30 different languages and dialects, and you might start to gain an understanding of the environment in which the 184th ESC will operate when they deploy later this month.

The 184th ESC, headquartered in Jackson, Miss., has been preparing for this mission for nearly a year. It has two sustainment brigades and several other transportation

and support units that manage its supply chains.

In Afghanistan, the unit is expecting to handle more than 12,000 supply requests per day, disburse more than

culminated with an eight-day, 24-hour-per-day training event.

Senior leaders from the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command were also on hand



**Pfc. Carl Havlik - Div. West Public Affairs**

**Afghan role players interact in a training event with Soldiers of the 184th and its subordinate units during a culminating training event Aug. 23.**

\$300,000,000 a month and provide enough food to feed nearly half of Jackson's population three meals a day.

The 120th Inf. Bde. tested the unit with nearly a month of realistic training for the commander's staff and subordinate units, which

to lend their expertise and experience from managing sustainment operations in Afghanistan, which began in December 2009.

A battle simulation center replicated the combat environment and challenges the unit may face in Afghanistan,

including natural disasters and battlefield casualties.

The Soldiers of the 184th used the center to communicate with the unit's partner organizations over the vast area of "Afghanistan" while they were actually only a couple of miles apart.

"The 120th has pushed all the right stimuli toward the 184th to get them ready for their mission," said Col. Gary Brito, 120th Inf. Bde. commander, who also served as deputy exercise director of the culminating training event.

During the CTE, in addition to those from the 135th ESC, the 184th's senior leaders received coaching and mentoring from Division West deputy commanding general, Brig. Gen. Dominic Cariello as well as two retired general officers.

"We had a 2.5-to-1 trainer-to-trainee ratio for this exercise," Cariello said. "This type of training sets a precedent in Division West for training."

Soldiers with the 184th ESC will probably not face every situation they faced during their training, but they will use the same principles and decision-making process for nearly every challenge.

The 184th ESC will remain on North Fort Hood throughout September to complete tactical and field training. They are set to assume the mission in October.



# KANDAHAR SHOWS UP TO BEAT THE GENERAL

■ BY SGT JAMES BURROUGHS  
*JSC-A Public Affairs Staff Writer*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD,  
– Over 500 runners were crowded together on a dusty two-lane road early on Labor Day at the start of the “Beat the General” 5k run at the largest Coalition base in Afghanistan.

The man standing in the center of the starting crowd was Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, commander of the Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan.

The competitive runners had their eyes on him as they waited for the general to begin the race. He was, as his t-shirt read, “The Man to Beat.”

Staff Sgt. Lisa Garrett, administrative specialist for the JSC-A, came up with the idea for the run.

“I originally wanted to do a two-mile fun run,”

said Garrett. “As we began planning, it turned into something more important. We will redeploy soon and we began thinking about our legacy.”

“We wanted to encourage people to come out and run, especially first timers,” explained Hoover.

“We also wanted to support a cause that supports the future of Afghanistan.”

“In my mind, children are the future leaders of Afghanistan,” said Hoover.

“A small donation now goes a long way toward touching the lives and education of this country’s future.”

The proceeds from the \$10 entry fee and private donations will be distributed through NATO organizations to local schools around Kandahar City.

Medical staff from Moberly Regional Medical Center in Moberly, Mo., donated

\$1,000. The USO donated 500 t-shirts for participants and USAA donated \$500.

In order to encourage more people to participate, Hoover agreed to contribute \$5 for every first-time runner. He contributed \$605 for 121 new runners.

“We raised over \$7,600 to purchase supplies for Afghan schools,” beamed Garrett. “Every dime we collected goes to the schools.”

“I was overwhelmed by the attendance and positive attitude of the people who ran and the people who worked behind the scenes,” said Garrett.

“It was fun. Everybody got behind the idea and it felt like a unit party. I am proud of the work we did,” Garrett added.

“I wasn’t sure about issuing a challenge for everyone to beat me,” said Hoover.

“The buzz around KAF

was inspiring. Everyone was wondering about my run times, my weight. The serious runners wanted to know how fast I really am.”

At the start, Hoover surprised the crowd with a starting pace that was a sprint and a yell that could only be a West Point war cry.

After a few hundred yards, he began to fall behind the startled runners and slowed to a pace that allowed everyone to pass him.

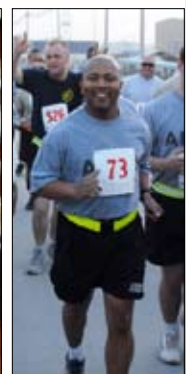
In fact, Hoover, who is currently in training for the New York City Marathon in November, was the last man to cross the finish line.

“I wanted to inspire others to succeed,” said Hoover.

“This operation is a team effort. Being there with the last man is symbolic of a team spirit.”









## **>> FINANCE** Continued from page 8

This money enables commanders to respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction projects in their area of responsibility.

The third group is the paying agents who work with units across the area of operations. These agents make cash payments for supplies on the local Afghan economy.

They also pay small rewards to local nationals who help coalition forces with intelligence. These payments are all cash payments, usually in Afghan currency.

The cashiers of Det. B process about \$60,000 every day in savings plans for

Soldiers and process \$1 million to \$1.5 million every day, said Jimenez. On the days the Army pays for contracts the total can reach \$8 million.

"I am proud of the effect our work has on the total mission for Afghanistan," said Sgt 1st Class Dennis McCleod, the non-commissioned officer-in-charge.

"Our job affects everyone in theater. Every vendor and each Soldier on every FOB needs pay support. The amount of money we are responsible for is unbelievably important."

"We are all proud to be able to help the warfighters with financial issues," added McCleod.

"I love this job and I put my whole heart into it," said Jimenez.



Photo by Lt. Col. Robert Ramspeck

Shown above are members of the Alabama Military Academy Class 43 - "Last Class of the Millenium" - currently stationed at KAF. From left are Maj. Jeff Grantham (JSC-A, AL-ARNG), Maj. Adam Vonbartheld (JSC-A, AL-ARNG), Maj. Randall Hawkins (335th Signal Command, USAR), Maj. Kesler Weaver Jr. (JSC-A, AL-ARNG), Maj. Reuben Taylor (335th Sig. Com., USAR)

# Chaplain's Message - Going Home

■ BY CAPT. (CH) ANTHONY HOLLOWAY

*JSC-A Family Life Chaplain*

A few months ago Lt. Col. Lonowsky (name spelling changed to protect his identity) introduced me to a visiting reporter. "This is Chaplain Holloway," he said, "He's one of the biggest losers in the 135th."

I choose to believe he was referring to my weight loss. In fact, many people have noticed my weight loss over the past months. My slimming down has been completely intentional. In my efforts to shed the extra pounds, I have spent many hours in the gym. I also give much credit to the dining facilities on KAF (you can choose how to take that).

When I arrived home for R&R, friends and family immediately recognized a slimmer me. I likewise noticed changes in them. My wife, for instance, had also

lost weight and grown her hair longer. There were also changes in my surroundings. The tree on the corner of my patio had grown noticeably. One of my neighbors had painted his house a different color. Perhaps the only constants were my cats: Simon and Katie. They were as indifferent to me on the day of my return in June as they were on the day of my departure last October.

These experiences brought to mind some simple life lessons. First, I recalled that things are always changing. Secondly, I understood that it was largely my absence that made those changes seem so large. Had I been there while they were happening, I may not have even noticed.

A long-ago philosopher asked, "Can a person cross the same river twice?" In a very real sense, he cannot. The river's water makes its relentless flow to the sea.

Over time the very course of the river is altered as its banks meander. So it is with our lives.

Experiences continually wash over us and, over time, change our course. Sometimes the changes can be drastic, but most often they go unnoticed. Our loved ones change as well.

While we have been away, their lives have continued. Children have grown up, parents have grown older. Perhaps the spouse who once could not even boil water has become adept not only at managing the kitchen but the rest of the household as well.

The same philosopher could have conceivably asked, "Can a person go home to the same family twice?" In a very real sense, he cannot.

The second life lesson reminds us that our lives would have been different even without the 12-month separation. What the

separation did was provide different sets of experiences: one for us and one for our loved ones.

Without the separation, those changes would have been the result of shared experiences and may have gone largely unnoticed. We cannot, however, allow ourselves to believe they would not have occurred.

If you have not done so, begin today thinking about your return home. Just as you are required to be flexible in this environment, prepare to be flexible at home.

Understand that for the past year, changes have been driven by difference sets of experiences.

Try to view this situation as temporary. In time, shared experiences will once again set the course.

Indeed, change seems to be the only constant in life – unless, of course, you count Simon and Katie.



# TOP 10 Changes



## ***in Basic Training***

■ BY KELLY SCHLOSSER  
*Army News Service*

This year, Basic Combat Training has gone through a transformation. Here are some of the changes you'll see in new Basic and OSUT courses, as of 1 July 2010:

1. BCT has become more challenging...not "softer." BCT has been extended from nine weeks to 10. The Warrior Tasks and Battle Drills (WTBD) have been refined, and are now geared toward training fewer and more relevant tasks well. These tasks and battle drills correspond with the current operating environment, and we are using training that is geared toward the generation of Soldiers entering our Army during this time of war...and those must be adapted to all the Occupational Specialties. (Find the WTBD on the, Army Training Network)

2. Rifle Marksmanship is more extensive, with more hours on the range, more bullets fired, and Soldiers using both Basic and Advanced techniques. Soldiers now fire 500 rounds (750 for infantry) during basic, and also have to "certify" as part of the Combat Field Fire phase based on the new Rifle Marksmanship Strategy. While all BCT Soldiers fire "slick" (no equipment) through qualification tables (BRM) to allow for familiarity with the weapon, equipment is worn during the difficult and combat-related Advanced Rifle Marksmanship (ARM) period.

3. Combatives are more relevant...and tougher! New instruction has been added which teaches Soldiers to fight from their feet, not wrestle and grip on the ground. Soldiers now attend 22 hours of instruction, which is double the previous requirement at BCT. Additional techniques - wearing full kit - have been added that is more relevant to what Soldiers might be asked to do in a combat situation.

4. Most up-to-date medical training in Tactical Combat Casualty Care (TCCC) and Combat Lifesaver (CLS). Medical experts have taken combat lessons and updated the first aid training Soldiers receive. There's no longer an IV "stick. Why? Because doctors say it's counterproductive on the battlefield, and useless for treating heat injuries. New techniques for preventing heat injuries before they happen are now taught.

5. Physical Training is standardized, with scientifically proven techniques that improve conditioning and help prevent injuries. Those returning from combat say "drop the long runs,

the repetitive sets of pushups and sit-ups, and volleyball games; instead focus on training the right muscles and energy systems needed in the fight! Prepare your body for walking patrol with SAPI and equipment or hauling your injured buddy out of harm's way!" FM 22-20 has been replaced with TC 3.22-20, and that applies to Soldiers in Basic Combat Training and the entire Army (and, you can get this Training Circular starting in August)!

6. No more bayonet assault course against rubber tires...but lots more pugil and combatives against a thinking opponent. The bayonet assault course has been a staple of bayonet training since WWI. But that's when bayonets were prevalent on the battlefield! The last time the US had a bayonet assault was in 1951, and the rifle we now use in combat isn't meant for bayonet charges. Now, Soldiers will see more pugil drills in pits and on obstacle courses. This, combined with additional hours in combatives, will "warriorize" our Soldiers.

7. Expanded Values and Culture Training. Soldiers will still receive instruction in the Seven Army Values, but that instruction will focus on applying those values in combat, in garrison, and during off-duty time. That's to build a better Soldier...and a better citizen! And all Soldiers will now be issued a The Army Soldier's "Blue Book" (also available as an iPhone or Droid app) that links our present-day Soldier to his predecessors, and describes our professional requirements.

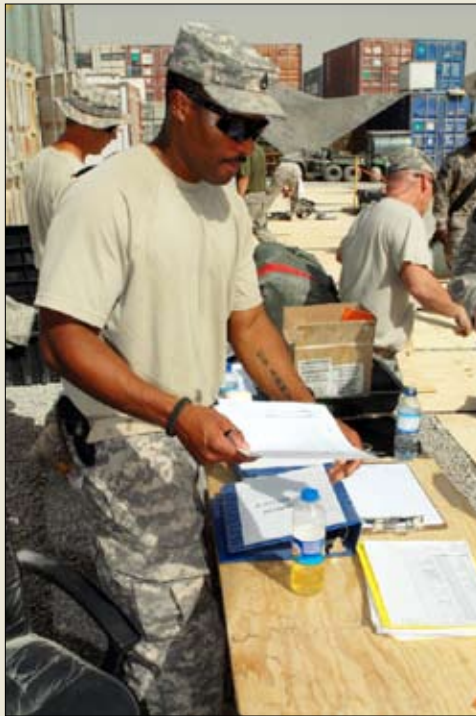
8. We're treating the Soldier as a "Tactical Athlete". The Surgeon General of the Army will begin supplementing initial training units with physical therapists and athletic trainers to prevent injuries and ensure better conditioning. Additionally, we're instituting the "Soldier Fueling" initiative, to teach and enable Soldiers to develop a nutritional lifestyle to counter our societal challenges.

9. We've instituted Comprehensive Soldier Fitness (CSF). Every Drill Sergeant has received Resiliency Training, and all new Soldiers take the Global Assessment Tool upon entering Basic. Additionally, all AIT Platoon Sergeants receive 10 days of resiliency training.

10. We're connected to Social Media, and on web pages. IMT does fall under TRADOC, but no decision is made without Soldiers input. Visit our social media sites and tell us what you think. We'll listen!



# ***Time to start Packing up...***





## **FAMILY** Continued from page 9

"I know one day we will go our separate ways and she will not always be with me," Harris said. "But until that day she's my comedian that keeps me in high spirits."

For the Estes brothers, it was one phone call that brought Lt. Col. Greg Estes, Civil affairs officer and his brother Capt. Floyd Estes, Ground mobility officer together to serve in Afghanistan.

"When I was providing support for them, I heard that 135th had some open slots to deploy to Afghanistan," said Lt. Col. Estes.

"So I informed them that my brother and I would go. Then I called my brother and told him I just

volunteered him to deploy to Afghanistan. And he said 'O.K.' when do we leave?"

"It makes it better with him here," said Lt. Col. Estes. "You have someone with common blood you can talk to."

The Estes brothers say that their family members support them and are very proud of what they are doing.

"They know this mission is bigger than anything at home and it has to be done. There are only a selective few that will do it," says Capt. Estes.

"I think it should be every one's civic duty to step up for our freedom," Capt. Estes concluded.

"It should be in our nature as Americans to live up to the expectations of our forefathers."



MC2 Steven Hoskins | Sustaining Freedom  
JSC-A Commander Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover pins the Combat Action Badge on Sgt. 1st Class Monica Davenport for her actions of bravery on June 3 at Kandahar Airfield.



Photos by Sgt. James Burroughs | Sustaining Freedom

## ***New USO facility opens at Kandahar Airfield***

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The USO proudly announces the opening of its 11th center in Southwest Asia.

This 8,200 square-foot facility will serve thousands of service members each month stationed on Kandahar and those traveling to and from forward operating bases in the region.

Details:

- Programs and services offered at USO Kandahar are free to troops. Eighteen free Segovia satellite phones and 20 computer stations will allow troops to check e-mail and stay connected to their loved ones.

- Two 52" TVs, books, and a music room will entertain troops when they are looking for something to do on base.

- One of the most popular programs troops will be able to take advantage of is the United Through Reading program, which will be available in three recording rooms.

- The center is expected to serve 35,000 Servicemembers traveling through Kandahar each year.

- USO Kandahar is located in the RSOI compound near South Park.

For more information on the USO, visit <http://www.uso.org>