

October 2010

The Lightning News

News from the front for Soldiers, families and friends of HHC, 359th Signal Brigade



Faces of Afghanistan



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato





Faces of Afghanistan

A group of Afghan men are seated in a row, looking towards the left. The man in the foreground on the right wears a striped turban and has his hand to his chin in a thoughtful pose. The man next to him on the left is looking forward with a serious expression. The background is slightly blurred, showing more people and a warm, indoor setting.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



359th Soldiers compete in Army Ten-Miler “Shadow Run”



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Army Sgt. 1st Class Carl Turner, battle noncommissioned officer, Joint NetOps Control Center-Afghanistan, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, keeps his focus during Bagram’s Shadow Run of the Army Ten-Miler Oct 17.

By Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Over 500 deployed servicemembers and civilians participated in a Shadow Run of the Army Ten-Miler here October 17.

The event, hosted by the Vermont National Guard’s 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team here, was one of six official shadow runs held in Afghanistan.

The official Army Ten-Miler is the largest annual 10-mile race, and held along the scenic streets of Washington, D.C. Runners in Bagram’s Shadow Run had to trade in views of the Pentagon and the Washington Monument

for tactical vehicles and perimeter fences. However, the change in scenery did not change the motivation for running, said many participants.

“I love competition...not necessarily against everyone else, but I suppose it’s the challenge of training and working hard to set personal records and then being able to look back and see how I’ve improved,” said Atlanta resident Army 1st Lt. Emile Hawkins, JR., fusion cell project officer, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade.

Outside of supporting fitness goals, the Army Ten-Miler has another mission: to build esprit de corps. In the Coalition environment of Bagram, unified teamwork is critical, and the Shadow Run is one way to show the true meaning of teamwork, said Columbia, S.C. resident Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cynthia Thomas, enterprise system administrator, Joint NetOps Control Center –Afghanistan, 359th TTSB. “Teamwork is the fuel that allows common people to attain uncommon results, and without teamwork, we cannot succeed here.”

Being able to run with people you work with rather than random strangers was definitely a bonus, said the Shadow Run’s first place male runner, Auburn, Calif. resident Army Spc. Michael Burham, military intelligence system maintainer, 1st Military Intelligence Battalion. “It helps immensely with the morale. It also helps break the monotony here.”

As the Ten-Miler was a way to break up the repetitiveness of deployment for some, it was a way to bring a sense of home to others. “Despite being in a combat zone, we still go out and do what we have to do, just like we are at home,” said Greenville, S.C. resident Army Sgt. 1st Class John Hembree, battle noncommis-



Above, Army Lt. Col. Teri Hassell, deputy commander, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, sets a good pace during the first half of the Army Ten-Miler's Shadow Run in Bagram, Afghanistan.

sioned officer in charge, JNCC-A, 359th TTSB.

The Army Ten-Miler has become a staple event for many people throughout the years. The inaugural run featured 1600 registered runners (including 105 teams) in 1985. By 2009, the Ten-Miler had grown to 21,524 race finishers (including 759 teams). The race has traditionally included people from several nations as well. Some of the top winners over the years have been from Brazil, Ethiopia, and Africa.

The multi-national nature of the event was not lost at the Bagram Shadow Run either. Runners from Bosnia, Pakistan, Russia, and Korea could be seen along-side of the deployed Soldiers, Marines, Coast Guardsmen, Sailors, Airmen, Department of Defense civilians, and contractors.

And for being deployed for your country, the Coalition presence was meaningful said Jacksonville, Fla. resident Army Sgt. 1st Class Joshua Friedbauer, parachute rigger, Combined Joint Special Forces Operation Task Force – Afghanistan. “In the states you are running for yourself. Here, you are running for your country.”

For more pictures of the run, go to the 359th Facebook or Flickr sites.

Below, Army Lt. Col. John H. Phillips, director, Joint NetOps Control Center, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, participates in Bagram's Army Ten-Miler.



Brigade Highlights:

The Enterprise Section



Back row: Army Maj. David Schmitt, Army Capt. David Jacobs, Mr. James Ward, Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Steve Campbell, Army Spc. Mardriquez Jamaal Gantt, Army Spc. Charles Smith, Army Sgt. Ben Dusenbury, Ms. Manetia Smith, Mr. Long Dao. Front row: Air Force Airman 1st Class Alan Larrimore, Army Spc. Michael J. Bush, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cynthia P. Thomas, Army Sgt. Melissa Gray and Mr. Darin Fritz.

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

The Enterprise section manages information technology projects and specialized systems (Microsoft Exchange, System Center Configuration Manager, Server 2008 deployment, Server Virtualization, etc.) across all five regions in Afghanistan.

Army Maj. David Schmitt, officer in charge – Schmitt has worked in information technology in the civilian sector for 17+ years and has been in the Army for four years. He is currently employed by Southern Company Services, Inc., the parent company to a large utility company based in Atlanta. He is married to Tawnya, and lives in Birmingham, Ala., with their two beautiful children; 2 year-old William and 13-year-old Courtney.

Air Force 1st Lt. Matthew Takanen, projects officer – Takanen is stationed at Hurlburt Field, Fla. at the 39th Information Operations Squadron. At home station, he teaches network warfare for the Air force. Takanen is single with no kids, and says he is enjoying his

time in Florida. This is his first deployment, and experience in a joint environment. "I'm having a great time working with the Army and learning how they run their mission networks."

Army Capt. David Jacobs, deputy officer in charge – Jacobs hails from Frisco, Texas and was cross leveled from 820th Tactical Installation Network, which is located in Seagoville, Texas. One of Jacob's goals is to win his fantasy football league.

Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cynthia P. Thomas, system administrator – Thomas assists in fostering customer service relationships throughout the Combined/Joint Operations Area- Afghanistan to ensure the warfighter is being serviced with the highest level of service in order to carry out their missions. Thomas has been a member of the Army Reserves for the past 22 years. She resides in Columbia, S.C. and is a single mother of three, Santonio Parker, Sherrise Thomas and Steven Thomas.

Air Force Senior Master Sgt. Steve Campbell, *noncommissioned officer in charge* – Campbell leads a joint team of 19 professional information technology personnel who process an average of 800 computer-based trouble tickets a month. He is married with two daughters and will be returning to Peterson Air Force Base, Colorado Springs Colo., as the superintendent, Cyberspace Expeditionary Management. “I enjoyed my first true joint deployment and will remember my Soldiers and Airmen with the 359th TTSB.”

Mr. Long Dao, *Blackberry engineer* – has been tasked with planning, designing, and implementing a BlackBerry Enterprise (BES) solution. This will be a scalable architecture utilizing BlackBerry smartphones with Microsoft Exchange and a BES backend. “Outside of work, I enjoy running, going to the gym, and playing No-Limit Texas Hold’em poker.”

Ms. Manetia Smith, *SharePoint administrator* – “I’ve been working for the JNCC-A for about three weeks now and I found them to be most pleasant. The shop is very professional and proficient in what they do. I’m proud to be part of such a great

kick A?!. team. Help, they paid me to say this!!!”

Mr. Darin Fritz, *storage area network engineer* – Fritz hails from Nebraska and is a giant Cornhusker fan. He spent time in the U.S. Navy and his wife is in the Air Force Reserve. He enjoys comedy and does a pretty good Jeff Dunham impersonation.

Army Sgt. Todd Tinker, *team chief* – Tinker was born in Savannah, and lives in Statesboro, Ga. He is employed at Georgia Southern University in Statesboro (Go Eagles!). Tinker attended Mars Hill College near Asheville N.C. on a soccer scholarship and earned a Bachelor of Science in Computer Science. He has been in Army for eight years, and deployed with 324th TTSB in 06-07 to Iraq. “My deployment goals are to brush up on my Spanish, learn a few chords on the guitar and continue my education toward a Masters in Technology. I’ve completed two marathons and have a lifetime goal of qualifying for the Boston marathon. I also enjoy competing in triathlons and completed a half-ironman in Sept. 09.”

See ENTERPRISE, page 26



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Fusion Cell Team enjoys cigars from a care package- Task Force Thunder’s fusion cell Airmen and Soldiers take a break on their brand new deck and enjoy a variety of cigars sent to them by David Bonnette and military supporters at cigarasyllum.com and www.botly.org.

228th Signal Brigade comes to Bagram

Leaders recon with 359th to prep for deployment



Leaders from the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade meet with the staff of the 359th TTSB while visiting Bagram during their leaders reconnaissance. As the unit that will replace the 359th TTSB, the 228th came to Afghanistan to get the lay of the land, tips for success and information that will help them train accordingly.

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

By Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Bagram, Afghanistan - Leaders from 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade visited Bagram Airfield in mid October to perform a mission and area reconnaissance in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

The South Carolina National Guard unit's staff met with the various sections of the 359th TTSB to gather information on: specific mission tasks; challenges to improve; successes to sustain; organization of personnel; movement around the theater and needed supplies and equipment.

Upon returning home, the key leaders will be able to adjust training plans, section staffing or equipment packing based on

what they learned while in Afghanistan.

Each section of the 359th TTSB really went above and beyond the expectations for this visit, and gave us a lot of insight on what to prepare for, said Army Brig. Gen. Greg Batts, commanding general, 228th TTSB. "The 359th has prepared us an open book test."

Knowing what to prepare for is a huge part of success for a unit, said Army Col. Chris Kemp, commander, 359th TTSB, as he explained why so much coordination was put into the 228th's visit. "We did not go out of our way. We just did what we should to set the conditions for their success."

Even though many of the 228th leaders had a number of

years of service, they still found the visit to be extremely helpful, said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jose Aragon, brigade command sergeant major, 422nd Expeditionary Signal Brigade (who will be replacing the 359th's subordinate unit, the 86th ESB in Kandahar). "Nothing surprised me here, but I couldn't have imagined it either."

After traveling around the area, meeting key leaders and gathering information, the 228th general said his team has a lot to prepare for. "I'm impressed at the extent of knowledge of the mission the 359th has, and I need to figure out how we are going to get to that level."

The 228th TTSB will replace the 359th TTSB in early spring of 2011.

Brigade Commander:

Challenges can help you discover who you are



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Dear 359th TTSB and friends,

As each day passes with us away from our friends and families, we continue to yearn to be home, while meeting a variety of daily challenges. Some are challenged by facing tomorrow without their loved ones nearby, but understand we will be home very soon. Some are challenged to put on a cheery face when they may not feel like it. Some are challenged to complete the myriad of difficult tasks under usually short deadlines. All of us are challenged with meeting critical mission requirements, while we really want to be at home with our families and friends.

Dealing with all these challenges can weigh on us, but they can also help us understand our strengths. By learning to deal with complex problems, important demands, and short time lines, all while being away from the comforts of home, we can learn better communications skills, more patience, or improved time management. For our loved ones at home, the same thing applies as you struggle with all of the tasks your Soldier left behind.

I found an interesting quote on dealing with challenges that puts it into perspective more poetically than I ever could. "Life's challenges are not supposed to paralyze you, they're supposed to help you discover who you are," Bernice Johnson Reagon.

Now, read that again. You have the power to control, how you react, how you blow off stress, how you meet your deadlines. Look at how you have done so far. Think about what you have accomplished in the time we have been separated. Reflect on how you have reacted.

What has the past few months taught you about yourself? My sensing is, you became more independent, learned how to argue a point without fighting, managed to prioritize and limit your distractions, and found you can deal with far more than you ever thought you could.

None of us are perfect. Stress has gotten the better of us all from time to time. What matters is that we learn from our mistakes and not repeat them over and over again.

Many people believe it is the challenges in life that help us develop our character. Helen Keller said it elegantly. "Character cannot be developed in ease and quiet. Only through experience of trial and suffering can the soul be strengthened, ambition inspired, and success achieved."

I ask each of you to embrace life's challenges as moments of self discovery and perhaps lessons in patience. Before you react to what may seem a difficult situation, ask yourself, "Does it align with my goals, my morals, my core beliefs?"

Proud to have the opportunity to serve each and every one of you,

Col. Chris Kemp
359th TTSB Commander

Soldiers & Airmen celebrating



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Larry Wood
November 27



Maj. Michael Lewis
November 1

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Lt. Col. Teri Hassell
November 19



Staff Sgt. Lyle Sloan
November 9

November Birthdays!

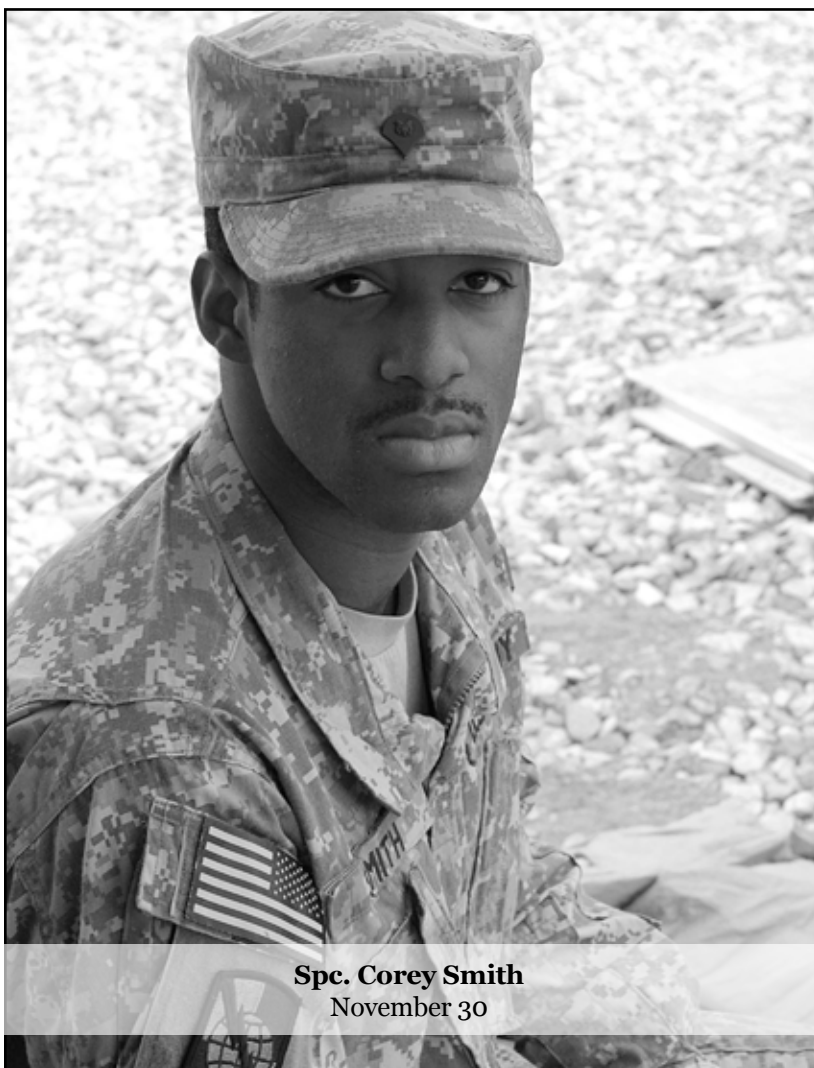


Sgt. 1st Class John Hembree
November 19



Maj. Trevor Johnson
November 13

Birthdays



Spc. Corey Smith
November 30



Capt. David Jacobs
November 19

to Celebrate!

HERE AT BAGRAM...



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above, Army Staff Sgt. Chelsea Helsley, security and intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge, finds a local friend to feed outside the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade headquarters. Below right, Army Capt. Anthony Hillmon, Network Operations battle captain, is hard at work on the NetOps floor.

Below, Army Lt. Col. Robert Drummer, brigade judge advocate, waits outside of the Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan, for a meeting with the 228th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade to begin.



Army Spcs. Mardriquez Jamaal Gantt and Michael J. Bush, both enterprise technicians, work together at the enterprise office. The enterprise office is one of the "huts" located at the Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan compound. The different sections of the JNCC-A are: enterprise; engineering; supply; network operations; future operations; information assurance/computer network defense; command, control, communications and computer support; and joint network operations security center.



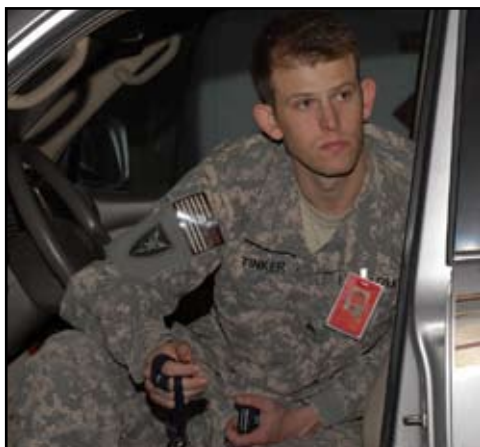
Above, Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 William Wood, supply and logistics maintenance officer, not only builds porches, but delivers them too. (And, he can hold them up with one hand too!)



Above, Army Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Hart, training non-commissioned officer, discusses the time line for the VIP visit with Army Col. Chris Kemp, task force/brigade commander. Below, Army Sgt. Todd Tinker, enterprise team chief, waits patiently for the meeting to end as he serves as the VIP driver for the day.



Above, Army Brig. Gen. Wayne Brock, commanding general, 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional), takes a moment to meet and grab a snap shot with Mr. Tal Talamoni, Defense Research Solutions program manager, while at the Joint NetOps Control Center.



Above, Army Master Sgt. Denis Lugo, Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4) non-commissioned officer in charge, takes a break at the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade's head-quarter area.

Maj. Gen. McHale visits Bagram



Left, Army Col. Chris Kemp, commander, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, and Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, commanding general, U.S. Forces - Afghanistan support, listen to the Task Force Thunder staff give their 180-day briefs. Topic: What has been done the first 180 days and what are the plans for the next.

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Above, Army Maj. Robert Nesmith, officer in charge, future operations, explains what his section has accomplished in the first 180 days of deployment.

October 2010

Below, Army Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Howard, command sergeant major, U.S. Forces - Afghanistan support, speaks with enlisted Soldiers and Airmen assigned to the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade at a noncommissioned officer development session while visiting Bagram Airfield. Howard spoke about making good decisions for subordinates, and leading by example. Regardless of rank or service, a good leader will always consider safety, what is best for subordinates and follow the Army values, said Howard.



Lightning News



Above, Air Force Maj. Vincent Smits, NetOps officer in charge, discusses his sections top projects and challenges during the 180-day briefing to the U.S. Forces - Afghanistan support commanding general, Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale.

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Below, Army Lt. Col. George Brady, the task force/brigade supply and logistics officer, enjoys some of the briefing humor.



Top right, task force staff members await their turn to brief Army Maj. Gen. McHale on what their sections have accomplished the last 180 days and plan to accomplish in the next. Below, Army Lt. Col. Robert Drummer, brigade judge advocate, listens carefully to the 180-day presenters. As the legal representative, Drummer puts eyes on every contract that is drawn up and reviews every Uniform Code of Military Justice action in the brigade.



Above, Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, commanding general, U.S. Forces - Afghanistan support, speaks with officers, warrant officers and Department of Defense civilians assigned to the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade in an officer development session. McHale spoke about how a good leader will lead by example, which includes everything from their effort on fitness, their language with people, and their work ethic. True leaders will seize the initiative, said McHale. "You can see things as a problem or an opportunity." Good leaders are always trying to improve, continued McHale. "Ask yourself. What am I NOT doing to be the best team player?" Every part of the team is important, and part of a honeycomb. And "in a place like this, we are constantly evolving our mission," said McHale. So, don't get stuck, evolve your skills - your team, as needed. "We are all here to get a mission done."

Promotion & congratulations



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above, retired Army Lt. Col. Scott Wisnieski, safety officer, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, observes the “redecorating” of his office, a surprise honoring the 11th anniversary of his 39th birthday. Right, Army Spc. Darcelyn Kimbro, promotes her battle buddy and fellow human resources specialist, Army Pv2. Jermint-hia Smith to private first class.



Above, Army Col. Chris Kemp, commander, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, gives his Soldier Army Spc. Courtney Simmons, supply specialist, a coin on behalf of Army Brig. Gen. Wayne Brock, commanding general, 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional) for her constant hard work in Afghanistan.



Far left, Army Spcs. Jessica Jones and James Crooks, both mechanics, stand before a Delta company, 172nd Cavalry formation before receiving Army Achievement Medals and coins for their work in cavalry motor-pool. Left, Army Spc. Michael Bush, enterprise technician, receives a coin from Army Brig. Gen. Wayne Brock, commanding general, 335th Signal Command (Theater) (Provisional).



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above left, Army Spc. Darcelyn Kimbro, human resources specialist, receives a coin for her continual hard work from Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, commanding general, U.S. Forces - Afghanistan support. Above right, Air Force Staff Sgt. Farrell Dottin, outage manager, Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan, receives a coin from Army Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, commanding general, U.S. Forces - Afghanistan support. A general's coin is not only a bragging piece among servicemembers, but McHale's coin also functions as a bottle opener.



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above, Army Spc. Tristan Hughel, cook, gets promoted to sergeant by Army Master Sgt. Carolyn Suazo, information assurance/computer assurance network defense noncommissioned officer in charge. Suazo and Hughel were both cross-leveled to the 359th TTSB from the 820th Tactical Installation Network, where Suazo was his first sergeant.



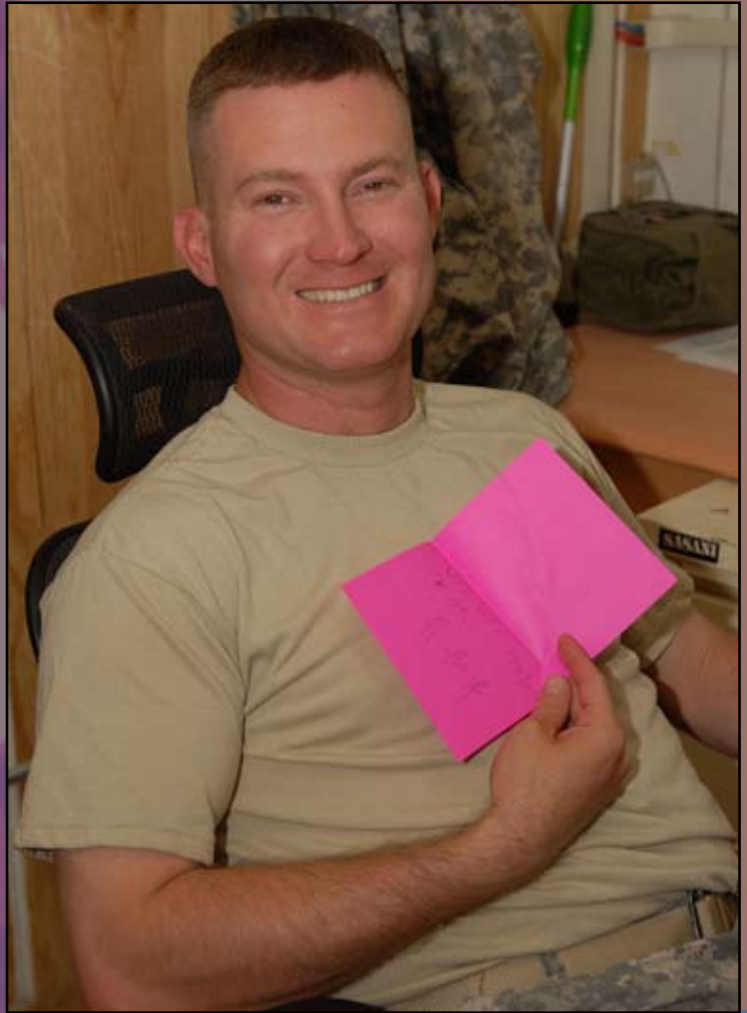
Courtesy Photo

Above, Air Force Airman 1st Class Moises A. Hernandez, information assurance technician, is "congratulated" by Air Force Senior Master Sgts. Carl A. Thompson, noncommissioned officer in charge of engineering, and Steve Campbell, noncommissioned officer in charge of enterprise, after getting promoted to senior airmen. Left, Marine Capt. Steven Mays, regional command - southwest liaison officer, gets promoted to major by Marine Col. John D. Adams, deputy NCR Afghanistan, NSA.



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Soldiers, Airmen get cards of support & thanks from kids



Army Staff Sgt. Jeff Bates

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Air Force Capt. Stan Hashimoto

October 2010



Army Capt. Hampton Culp



Army Maj. Robert Nesmith

...With love from Iron City Baptist Church



Air Force Staff Sgt. Julio Vargas



Army Spc. Courtesia Wilson



Army Spc. Candid Surry



Army Spc. Tyler Dietz



Army 1st Lt. Aaron Brunck



Army Spc. Kimika Blakely

AFTER MONTHS OF WAITING...

On September 29, Soldiers of the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade finally received the tough boxes and bags of gear that were packed up and shipped from Fort Lewis, Wash. in April.

After months of waiting for their remaining gear, it was like an early Christmas for some. For others, it was just more stuff to find room for as they had already replaced the things that were packed or learned to live without.

Regardless of how they felt there was one unanimous thought when the long-awaited connex was opened. "Thank God that the equipment was all still there," said nearly all the Soldiers, since there were worries and rumors about the connex arriving empty from pilferage.



Army Sgt. Shawn Bose, network controller, waits patiently while bags are removed from the connex and sorted through. Bottom left, Army Master Sgt. Ricardo Pastrana, brigade senior maintenance supervisor, cuts the connex security cables.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Marcus Fife, network engineer, and Army Spc. Michael Bush, enterprise technician, were the muscle moving all the bags and boxes out of the connex.

Right, Spc. Mardriquez Jamaal Gantt, enterprise technician, and (now) Spc. Jerminthia Smith, human resources specialist, are all smiles in anticipation waiting for the long-awaited bags they put in the connex. Below, Army 1st Lt. Damion Pipkin, supply and logistics officer, looks like a kid at Christmas as he awaits the opening of the connex. Below right, Army Sgts. Melissa Gray, mid-shift team lead, and Shauna Phillips, human resources sergeant, enjoy the opportunity to see each other.



Below, It takes some heavy equipment to move the connex off the truck and into place.



Mid-tour celebration honors Air Force



As the Soldiers from the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade hit their half-way point of the year-long deployment, they celebrated with a little party. The party also featured awarding the new Air Force crew the 359th TTSB combat patch.

Left, Army Staff Sgt. Cassandra, human resources sergeant, practices her DJ skills and dance moves at the party. Right, Air Force Staff Sgt. Farrell Dottin, outage manager, breaks out his computer during the party while Army Sgt. Todd Tinker, enterprise team chief, chills out.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Right, Airmen and Soldiers enjoy the party with a game of cards and some good conversation. The party was a good opportunity to see team members who work on different teams of the task force.



Below, Air Force Airman 1st Class Alan Larimore, technician, shows off his combat patch certificate that was awarded to him by the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade commander and command sergeant major.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Left, Army 1st Sgt. Andree Lipscomb, Headquarters and Headquarters Company first sergeant, and Army Capt. Roderick Vinson, supply officer, enjoy a game of intense foosball during the mid-tour/Air Force combat patch ceremony that was held at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation 8-Ball room.



Above, Army Spc. Thomas Robinson, human resources specialist, utilizes his additional skills as a disc jockey at the mid-tour party. Below, Army Sgt. Ben Dusenbury, enterprise team chief, and Army 1st Lt. Vincent Cooper, task force resource management officer, use their down time to play some cards. Right, Air Force Maj. Vincent Smits, NetOps officer in charge, receives his 359th TTSB combat patch from Army Col. Chris Kemp, task force commander, during the mid-tour celebration at the 8-Ball room.



Above, Army 1st Lt. William Wratee, personnel management officer, uses the mid-tour party to sit back and relax at the Morale, Welfare, and Recreation 8-ball room. Wratee and his fellow personnel Soldiers were in charge of preparing all the combat-patch certificates for the Air Force team.

ENTERPRISE, continued from page 9

Air Force Staff Sgt. Heriberto Rosario, *team chief* – was born in Vicenza Italy. He's been in the Air Force for eight years. He is currently stationed at Gunter Annex, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala. "I love long walks on the beach and of course a good book."

Army Sgt. Melissa Gray, *mid-shift team lead* – was born and raised in Brooklyn, N.Y. Gray is assigned to the 324th TTSB in East Point, Ga, and was crossed leveled to 359th for the purpose of deployment. She is currently taking information technology related college courses in hopes of becoming Microsoft certified upon redeployment.

Army Sgt. Ben Dusenbury, *team chief* – Dusenbury was born in Houston, Texas, but lived in Augusta, Ga. for most of his life. "When I'm not at drill or volunteering for more orders, you can find me at Teresa's Mexican Restaurant or at Salsa's on Bobby Jones." Dusenbury said he strives to be like Chief Warrant Officer 2 Fife when he grows up.

Army Spc. Mardriquez Jamaal Gantt, *technician* – Gantt is from Anderson, S.C., born and raised. He is an information technology analyst who specializes in base lining computers and working trouble tickets in the Remedy system. "Since this job is new to me, my tour goal is to go home with a new skill set that I can apply to the civilian world."

Air Force Airman 1st Class Zachary Boles, *technician* – Boles is from Little Rock, Ark., and lives in



Courtesy Photo

Air Force Airman 1st Class Zachary Boles

Las Vegas, Nev. He is married with no kids, and is stationed at Nellis Air Force Base. As an enterprise technician, Boles also deals with SharePoint. "Some of my tour goals include: saving as much money as possible, paying off bills, and getting into better physical shape. I enjoy playing basketball, baseball, football, and video games!"

Army Spc. Michael J. Bush, *technician* – Bush joined the

359th TTSB in 2009. He was born in Augusta, Ga., and raised in Beech Island, S.C. Currently, Bush lives in North Augusta, S.C. When not working as a Soldier, he works as a part-time mechanic. "I grew up going to Carolina Dragway in Jackson, S.C. where I found my love for racing cars and motorcycles. After I redeploy, I plan to link with my brother and attempt to open our automotive customization shop."

Army Spc. Charles A. Smith, *technician* – Smith was born in Augusta, Ga. "I enjoy playing and listening to music. My tour goals are just to save up enough money from this deployment to get a nice car and an apartment if I can't afford a foreclosed house."

Air Force Airman 1st Class Alan Larrimore, *technician* – Larrimore is stationed in Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. The 20-year-old Airmen is married to "a wonderful dental technician named Alison" and considers himself the office clown because "he loves to make people laugh."

Mr. James Ward, *active directory subject matter expert* – Ward grew up 15 minutes from Joint Base Lewis-McChord in Puyallup, Wash. "I spent the first five years of my career as a contractor at large technology firms like Microsoft, Intel and HP." In 2005, he came overseas to support the U.S. military.

Mr. Tony Ricciotti, *virtualization engineer in support of Task Force 236 and Task Force Thunder* – "I joined the civilian force here as a way to serve my country and to support the troops that are in harms way every day." Ricciotti's home is Leominster, Maine where his wife and two sons (18 and 17) await his return. "While I am here, I will be completing my master's degree in information security, and industry certifications that I have put on hold while I complete my degree. It makes me very proud to come here and see how hard everyone is working to ensure the mission is successful and that we all return home safe."



Courtesy Photo

Air Force 1st Lt. Matthew Takanen

Celebrating the holidays with your deployed Soldier

What: Christmas Party with your Soldier (via video teleconferencing) and friends

Who: Hosted by the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade' rear detachment

When: 8 a.m. to 2 p.m. December 4, 2010

Where: Fort Gordon (Augusta), Ga. Reserve Center
(or VTCs can be set up at your nearest military installation)

Contact: Mrs. Lisa Cooper at lisa.cooper3@us.army.mil.

VTC with Soldier

Arts & Crafts

Pictures with Santa

HHC Commander's Message

Dear family, friends and Soldiers,

I would like to start off by saying thank you to all the family member support we have thus far. It has truly been a blessing for all of us deployed away from home.

Without your support, we would not be able to focus on the mission at hand. I would also like to give a big congratulations on all the Soldiers and family members for making it this far. We have just passed the halfway mark before heading back home. I am really looking forward to it!

I'm also sure that many families are looking forward to their Soldiers that are coming home for R&R especially for the holiday season. I wished that we could all have the opportunity to be at home for Thanksgiving but, some of us have to stay here and "fight the fight."

Even though I know we have had some struggles as a deployed unit, I want to encourage everyone to hang in there for just a little

while longer. We'll be home before you know it.

I would like to also to send my regrets to Mrs. Scheuermann for having to leave us as the Family Group Coordinator and give a special thanks for all the hard work she has done.

As the days start to get cold for us here please keep us in your thoughts and prayers!



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Sincerely,

Capt. Gervis Carlisle
HHC Commander

Task Force Thunder gives to community



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Task Force Thunder provided humanitarian donations of food, clothing, and toys to locals visiting and living near Bagram Airfield.

Airmen from the fusion cell received a number of donations from the 219th Engineering Installation Squadron and the 138th Fighter Wing in Tulsa, Okla.

Servicemembers who volunteer with Operation Care have handed out numerous donations at the base hospital, the entrance gate, a local school and a local village.



Left, Air Force Master Sgt. Shane Sweeney, engineering and installation team, hands out candy to local Afghan children.



Stories on the fusion cell donation and Operation Care in an upcoming issue.



Left, Sgt. Nantinisha Hershberger, Joint NetOps Control Center supply sergeant, is greeted by a local elder while in a village handing out donations.





Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Teaching English to Afghan men ~ Army Spc. Michael Cannon, chaplain's assistant, looks over a homework assignment of an Afghan young man who is learning English so he can qualify for a job on Bagram Airfield. Cannon is one of the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade Soldiers who volunteers weekly to help the local men in the class offered at the Korean Vocational School. (Story in upcoming issue.)



Helping with Afghan boys ~ Army Sgt. Alonzo Cook, human resources sergeant, helps the Korean Vocational School with a group of Afghan boys by escorting them to their next location and telling them to keep quiet as they pass through the halls not to disturb the other children who are still in classes.

Postal Service Sets *Holiday Mail Deadline*

**By Cheryl Pellerin
American Forces
Press Service**

WASHINGTON - The recommended mailing deadline for sending economy-priced holiday packages to service-members in Afghanistan, Iraq and other places around the world is Nov. 12, officials at the U.S. Postal Service say.

"Shipping holiday packages early helps ensure that they arrive in time for the holidays," Pranab Shah, vice president and managing director of global business at the Postal Service, said in a press release this week. "They are a great morale boost for those men and women serving their country in places far from home."

Other deadlines for arrival by Dec. 25 are Nov. 26 for space-available mail; Dec. 3 for parcel airlift mail; Dec. 10 for priority mail and first-class mail, letters and cards; and Dec. 18 for express mail military service.

Holiday packages and mail headed for Iraq and Afghanistan must be sent a week earlier than the deadlines above, Postal officials

say. Express mail military service is not available to those destinations.

The Postal Service offers a discount on its largest priority-mail flat-rate box -- a 12-inch by 12-inch by 5.5-inch carton that can accommodate laptop computers, small conventional ovens, and military care packages.

Mail sent to overseas military addresses costs the same as domestic mail and the usual price for the large flat-rate box is \$14.50. But for packages heading to APO/FPO addresses, the Postal Service charges \$12.50 or \$11.95 for those who print the priority-mail postage label online.

Priority-mail flat-rate boxes are free at any Post Office and can be ordered online at shop.usps.com. Postage, labels and customs forms can be printed online at the Postal Service website.

APO/FPO addresses usually require customs forms, Postal officials say, and each country has customs regulations that apply to all mail, including U.S. military mail, coming into the country.

Mail addressed to military and diplomatic post offices overseas is subject to restric-

tions in content, preparation and handling.

Each five-digit military and post office ZIP code [APO/FPO] has specific restrictions but the following are prohibited in the regions of Operation New Dawn in Iraq and Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan:

- Horror comics and obscene articles like prints, paintings, cards, films and videotapes;

- Anything depicting nude or semi-nude persons, pornographic or sexual items, or unauthorized political materials;

- Bulk quantities of religious materials contrary to the Islamic faith, though items for personal use are permitted, and,

- Pork or pork by-products.

For specific restrictions and mailing prices to an APO/FPO address, visit the Postal Service's online price calculator or a local post office or call 1-800-ASK-USPS.

Chaplain's Corner:

Love covers a multitude of sins

I want to send a big thank you to everyone in the rear for your continued support to those of us here. I know there are many sacrifices of love that you continue to reveal to your Soldier down range here. Again, many thanks!

There is a cool scripture verse that says: "Love covers a multitude of sins!" That is sometimes easy to communicate and show with our actions and sometimes it's like trying to put a round peg in a square hole.

For example, you have just tried to discipline your child for the 31.5th time and having absolutely zero cooperation from your lovely child. You have screamed, you have begged, you have threatened to put peanut butter behind his/her ears and all to no avail. You close their door and sure enough your 'honey' over here in Afghan calls.

You want to just vent, I mean the kind of broken dryer like venting where the steam just makes us sweat like a pig in hot mud b/c the vent isn't going out the vent hole but into the cotton pick'n room! You are frustrated and you just want to get it all out!

Your loved one listens for about 1.6 minutes (if he's a guy) and then he makes the terrible mistake of saying something like, "Why don't you just do such and such; you know I don't have that problem when I'm at home. (We knucklehead men have all done this irrevocable, stupid, and absolute maddening mistake!)"

At this point you want to get out the monster fanny pallet and smack him good across his behind for saying such an insensitive and idiotic statement!

Why doesn't my spouse down range just listen! You are thinking (Like I've heard from my wife before!): I don't need you to fix my problems, I just need you to listen! This is the time when *love covers a multitude of sins* comes in.

You have to tell your husband that you have to put the phone down for the moment, then you go to the garage and get the biggest pair of pliers in his stupid toolbox, apply pressure to your tongue and count to 37. Then, you let go of your gargantuan grip and say, thank you honey for that advice, I will try and do my best.

Now mind you, you are steaming mad like that broken dryer vent steam, but you are going to allow your patient love to cover over his ridiculous sin!

This love that covers mitigates the 1.4 hour argument that would have ensued. It keeps you from lashing out with 42 expletives that might have caused him to hang up the phone (even though we probably deserve it b/c you have told us 13 times in the last month.) and cry himself to sleep with guilt.

Anyway, I can assure you it works! It's not easy, but it does work. It takes practice too! As you model it, then your spouse may also begin to do it and pretty soon, you have many less fights.

BLUF: Thank you for your support and patience and kindness and love!

Sincerely,
Chaplain Gary Williams
nutsforicecream@yahoo.com



"Everything has beauty, but not everyone sees it." ~ Confucius