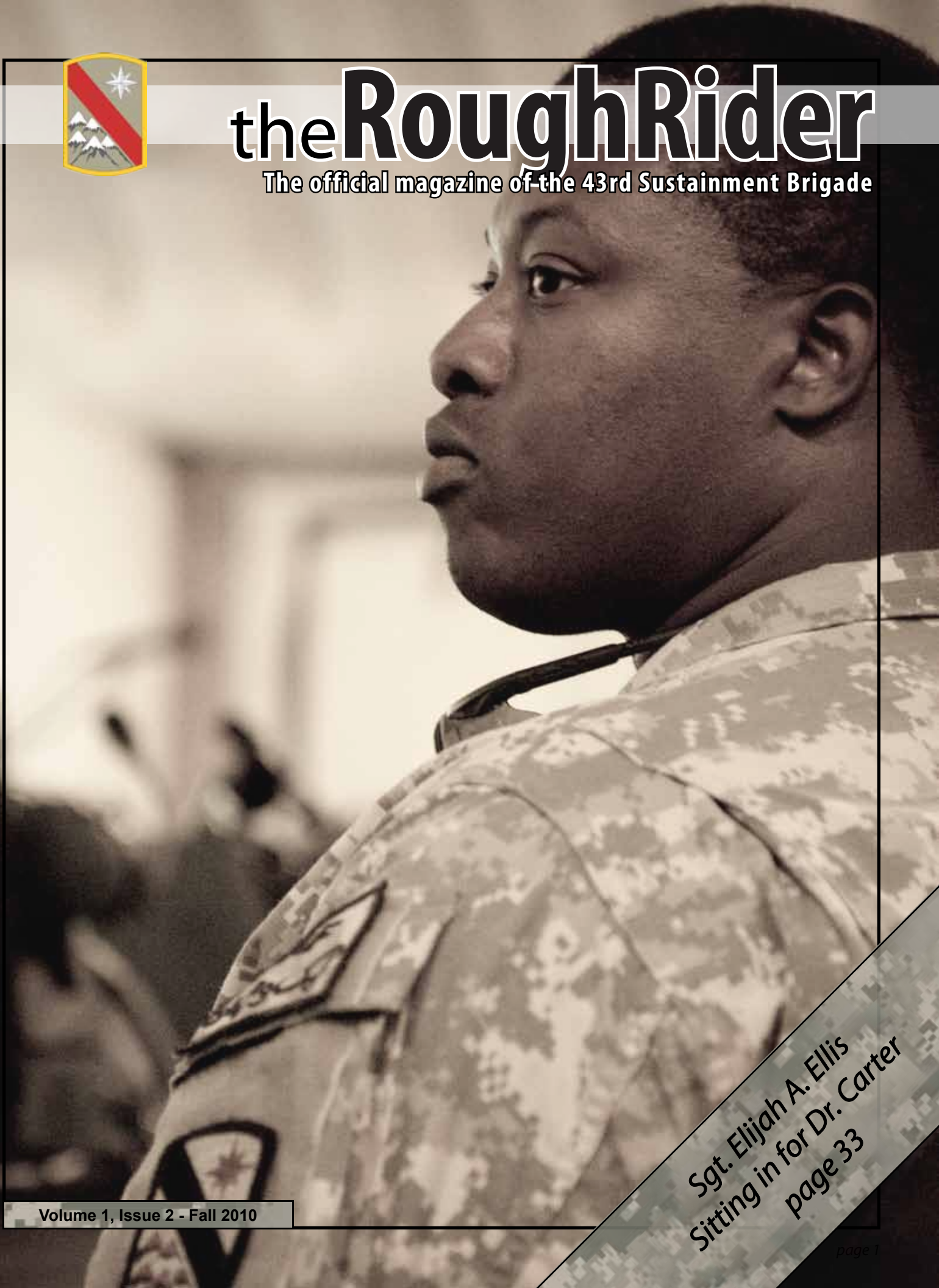




# the Rough Rider

The official magazine of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade



Sgt. Elijah A. Ellis  
Sitting in for Dr. Carter  
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43rd Sustainment Brigade .: Rough Riders

Commander  
Col. Edward M. Daly

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

43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion .: Trailblazers

Commander  
Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard

Command Sergeant Major  
Command Sgt. Maj. Wendy A. Robinson

Headquarters and Headquarters Company .: Ghost Riders

Commander  
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FALL, 2010

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## 43RD SPECIAL TROOPS BATTALION TRAILBLAZERS



**Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard**

I just wanted to take this opportunity to tell you why I am extremely proud of all of you.

Many of you have heard me talk about or seen the quote below from Teddy Roosevelt. He made these comments on 23 April, 1910, as part of a speech he was giving in Paris about one year after leaving the Presidency and about four years before World War I.

“It is not the critic who counts; not the man who points out how the strong man stumbles, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the man who is actually in the arena, whose face is marred by dust and sweat and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs, who comes short again and again, because there is no effort without error and shortcoming; but who does actually strive to do the deeds; who knows great enthusiasms, the great devotions; who spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph

of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who neither know victory nor defeat.”

All of you stepped into “The Arena.” Approximately 70% of 17- to 24-year-olds are not even qualified to enlist in the United States Army. They can’t pass the test, the physical or the moral standards. You are in approximately the top third of the U.S. population. That puts you in a small percentage of the United States.

---

***You joined the only  
profession in America  
that assures the  
existence of America.  
You stepped into  
‘The Arena.’***

---

Only a tiny fraction of those who are eligible actually step up to the plate and join the military. You could have gone to college. You could have started your own business. You could have gone to work at a Fortune 500 company. There were hundreds of other opportunities for you, but you joined, or stayed in, the only profession in America that assures the existence of America. Only about 1% of the nation serves in the military. You stepped into The Arena.

You joined the Army, or stayed in the Army, after years and years of war in Iraq and Afghanistan. You stepped into The Arena. You could have chosen another branch of service -- one that doesn’t deploy as often or put boots on the ground in the numbers that the

Army does.

You could have tried to find some way to avoid the deployment, but you chose the only honorable course of action; you answered your nation’s call when she needed you. You stepped into The Arena to compete.

We all make mistakes. We fail. We err. We come up short again and again. But we continue to strive valiantly, learn from our mistakes and drive on. I am extremely proud of you for getting into The Arena.

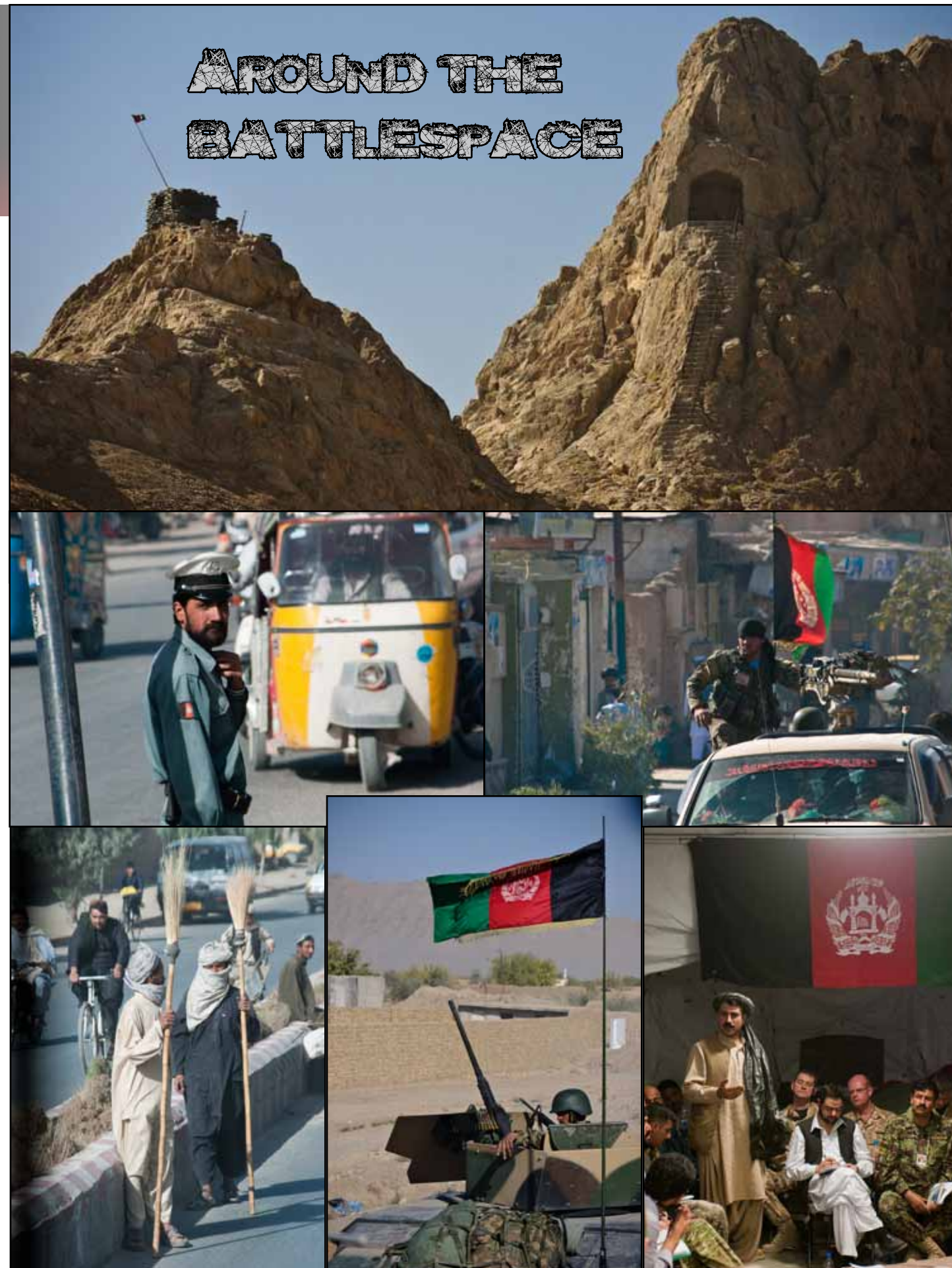
Regardless of your rank or position, job title, how big or small your daily duties may seem to you, your job in providing logistical support to the warfighter is huge. Your contributions to your nation and to the Afghan people is directly linked to the great job you perform each day. Sometimes our Soldiers think that because they are not out there kicking in doors or patrolling the provinces, their role as support Soldiers is insignificant. Nothing could be further from the truth. Your importance is not measured by your proximity to the objective.

I am continually amazed that we find men and women who continue to serve voluntarily after so many years of war, and I am continually in awe of how well you do it. You stepped into The Arena to compete, and you are America’s greatest treasure. It is my honor to be able to serve with you.

T6



## AROUND THE BATTLESPACE







43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo.

## Who we are

The 43rd Sustainment Brigade is comprised of six support battalions: five combat sustainment support battalions, and one special troops battalion.

These battalions hail from five states and encompass Army Reserve augmentees, active duty and National Guard units.

Arizona, Michigan and Virginia provide National Guard units from the 158th, 1225th and 529th CSSBs.

Colorado provides the 43rd STB and 68th CSSB, both active duty units, and Kentucky provides the 129th CSSB, also active duty.

While overlapping timelines have not placed all of these units in country at the same time, the brigade typically commands upwards of 3,000 troops on the ground.

The Soldiers who make up the 43rd SB come from every walk of life. Each has a unique skill set to contribute to the brigade's mission. The diversity and professionalism of these Soldiers directly contributes to the brigade's game-changing success in Afghanistan.



68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Fort Carson, Colo.



129th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Fort Campbell, Ky.



529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Virginia National Guard



158th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Arizona National Guard.



1225th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Michigan National Guard



## Where we come from

The experience the Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade bring to the table is truly impressive. From ammunition specialists to quartermaster officers, from the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion to the United States Army Special Operations Command, our Soldiers have served just about everywhere a Soldier can.

Soldiers of the 43rd SB have served on Army posts across the United States, Europe and Asia. They have deployed in support of both domestic and foreign operations from Honduras to Helmand, Baton Rouge to Baghdad, and Kuwait to Kirkuk. There is virtually nowhere the Army has been where a 43rd SB Soldier hasn't.

It is this overwhelming body of experience from its collective past that has directly resulted in the superior level of professionalism and success the 43rd SB displays across southern and western Afghanistan.



# Award-winning photographer tells ‘The Other Soldiers’ story

Canadian soldier and professional photographer Philip Cheung takes a break from army life to capture Army life

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

Award-winning, Canadian photographer Philip Cheung recently spent some time with Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade to better understand logistics operations and tell the support Soldier’s story.

During Cheung’s May 19-22 visit with the 43rd SB, he spent time getting to know the Soldiers of 647th Quartermaster Company, 912th Postal Company, 126th Financial Management Company and 24th Transportation Company.

Cheung, originally from Toronto, now lives in Beirut, Lebanon. He photographs for United Arab Emirates newspaper, *The National*, where his piece “The Other Heroes” will appear this year.

“The other heroes are those Soldiers you never hear about,



Canadian soldier and professional photographer Philip Cheung sets up lights and other equipment to capture photos of “The Other Heroes” of the U.S. Army support and sustainment commands on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

but who are essential to the fight,” said Cheung. “The guys kicking in doors and capturing bad guys couldn’t do their jobs without the help of support soldiers.”

In addition to his work as a photographer, Cheung serves as an infantryman in the Canadian Forces Land Force Command (Canadian Army). He has served more than 10 years with the army and is currently on a two-year sabbatical to further his professional photography career.

This is Cheung’s second visit to Kandahar. During his previous stay, he was deployed with the Canadian Army in a warfighter capacity.

Cheung has won several awards for his documentary and portrait photography in recent years.



Canadian soldier and professional photographer Philip Cheung sets up lights and other equipment inside the 912th Human Resources Company headquarters on Kandahar Airfield to capture photos of “The Other Heroes” of the U.S. Army support and sustainment commands.



Canadian soldier and professional photographer Philip Cheung photographs two Soldiers from the 912th Human Resources Company in front of the Kandahar Airfield Post Office. Cheung’s latest project is collecting photos of “The Other Heroes” of the U.S. Army support and sustainment commands.

View Philip Cheung’s photographs on the web at  
<http://www.philipcheungphoto.com>







## 43rd SB Soldiers awarded Purple Heart

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

Six Soldiers from the 43rd Sustainment Brigade received Purple Heart medals in a ceremony held at the brigade's tactical operations center in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, May 6.

The awards were presented by Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey, Director for Logistics, J4, The Joint Staff.

Awarded Purple Heart medals were Sgt 1st. Class Danillo Ramos, Staff Sgt. Travis E. Bergland, Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Kneeskern, Sgt. Nohemi K. Monroy, Pfc. Jesse N. Lopez-Rosa and Pfc. Marcelino Torres Jr.

Each of the six Soldiers sustained injuries from roadside bombs during four separate incidents in 2009 and 2010, during convoy operations in southern Afghanistan.

The Soldiers' senior non-commissioned officers spoke in high regard of each of their Soldier's accomplishments and dedication to the mission in Afghanistan.

Gainey also shared a few words of respect for the Soldiers.

Six Soldiers from the 43rd Sustainment Brigade meet with country music singer Toby Keith following a ceremony wherein the Soldiers were awarded Purple Heart medals for injuries sustained during ongoing operations.

"Yours is a difficult mission," said Gainey. "Each of you has shown the strength and courage required for success in Afghanistan, and each of you has given a piece of yourself in defense of that mission. Your service is unquestionable, and no one can ever take that away from you."

Following the award presentation by Gainey, the 43rd SB Soldiers met with country music singer Toby Keith, who performed a music concert on KAF earlier that evening.

Keith spoke personally with each Soldier and presented them with a "Big Throw Down Tour" coin, minted for Keith's 2010 tour across Iraq and Afghanistan.

The Purple Heart is awarded under authority of the President of the United States, as it has been since the award was first established by General George Washington, August 7, 1782. It is awarded to any member of the U.S. armed forces wounded or killed in action while serving in a conflict against an enemy of the United States.



Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey awards Spc. Jesse N. Lopez-Rosa a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during ongoing operations in southern and western Afghanistan, May 6.



Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey awards Sgt. Nohemi K. Monroy a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during ongoing operations in southern and western Afghanistan, May 6.



Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey awards Staff Sgt. Ashley M. Kneeskern a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during ongoing operations in southern and western Afghanistan, May 6.



Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey awards Sgt 1st. Class Danillo Ramos a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during ongoing operations in southern and western Afghanistan, May 6.



Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey awards Spc. Marcelino Torres Jr a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during ongoing operations in southern and western Afghanistan, May 6.



Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey awards Staff Sgt. Travis E. Bergland a Purple Heart for injuries sustained during ongoing operations in southern and western Afghanistan, May 6.



# Brigadier awarded St. Christopher medal

**U.K. leader earns coveted place among transporters for joint sustainment efforts with the 43rd SB in Afghanistan**

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

A Military Order of St. Christopher medal was awarded to Brigadier Angus S. J. Fay of the British Army by the 43rd Sustainment Brigade at an informal ceremony in the brigade's tactical operations center on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, May 18.

Fay currently serves as Deputy National Contingency Commander of British Forces on KAF, and has partnered with the 43rd SB in the mission of providing tactical sustainment to the warfighters of southern and western Afghanistan.

"It has been an absolute honor and pleasure to work with you," said Fay.



"In my 27 years of service, this is the toughest mission I have ever had to do."

Despite the difficulty of the tactical logistics mission in Afghanistan, Fay attributes much of his success to the support and partnership of the 43rd SB.

"The 43rd is one of the most forward-leaning organizations I've ever worked with," said Fay. "You should all be very proud of yourselves."

The medal was presented on behalf of the 43rd SB by Col. Gary Sheffer, deputy commander, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan. The JSC-A is the higher headquarters of the 43rd SB.

"Whoever shall behold the image of Saint Christopher shall not faint or fall on that day," reads The Legend of Saint

Christopher.

Christopher is the patron saint of the Transportation Corps Regiment, and, as the legend tells, found company among the most popular saints during antiquity.

The saint devoted his life to carrying people across an otherwise unfordable stream. The legend culminates in a most auspicious event wherein Christopher is said to have carried Jesus Christ, along with the weight of the sins of the world, across the stream to safety.

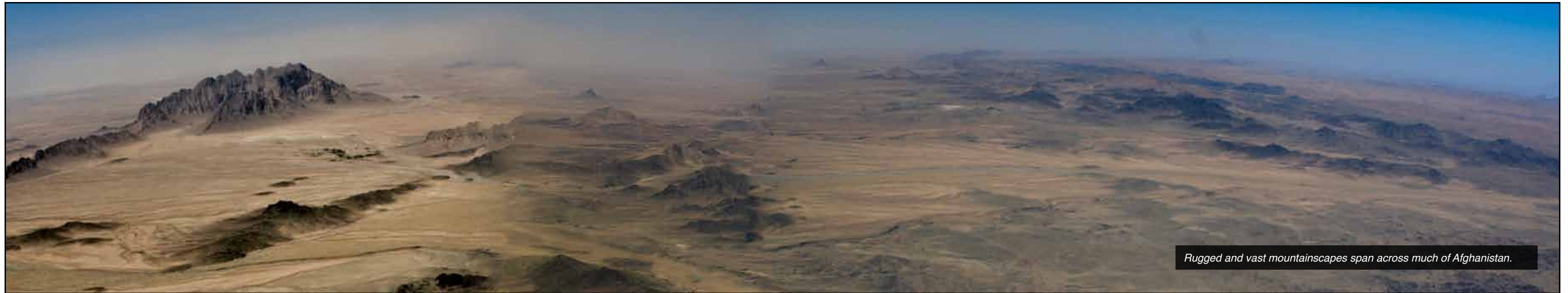
The legend concludes, "The image of Saint Christopher offers a fitting symbol of strength, loyalty and safety for Transporters charged with moving the force now and for all time."



*Brigadier Angus S. J. Fay, Deputy National Contingency Commander of British Forces on KAF, walks with 43rd SB commander Col. Edward M. Daly, following receipt of a Military Order of St. Christopher Medal during an informal ceremony at the brigade's tactical operations center, May 18.*







*Rugged and vast mountainscapes span across much of Afghanistan.*



*The Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade stand in formation during the brigade's combat patch ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, April 16. The combat patch, officially called the shoulder sleeve insignia - former wartime service patch, signifies the Soldier who wears it has been deployed in support of overseas operations with that unit.*



*Sgt. 1st Class Toprane C. Coatney guides Sgt. Ruthie E. Huddleston, both members of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade logistics and supply team as Huddleston moves a load of lumber across the lot of the brigade's tactical operations center in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.*



# Giving some time to the bazaar kids

43rd SB Soldiers volunteer their time to teach and play with Afghan children whose fathers set up shop at the KAF bazaar each week

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

A handful of 43rd Sustainment Brigade Soldiers volunteered their time to serve as teachers at the “Bazaar School” on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, May 29.

Anywhere between 15 and 30 Afghan boys between the ages of 4 and 12 years old attend the school each week while their fathers sell goods at the KAF bazaar just around the corner from the school.

While the Soldier / teachers didn’t know quite what to expect from the experience, each enthusiastically volunteered their time.

Staff Sgt. Tamara M. O’Toole-Flim, senior intelligence analyst in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 43rd SB, was the first to respond to the request for volunteers.

“I didn’t really have any expectations going into this,” said O’Toole. “The kids were used to interacting with American Soldiers, so they knew how to communicate what they wanted to play or do.”

The school has been in operation nearly as long as the KAF bazaar has: just under 8 years. Given the longevity and regularity of the school’s tenure, Afghan teachers now conduct formal educational instruction to the youths. This instruction takes place after the Soldiers spend some time in a more relaxed environment with the kids.

The two-hour block of time the American Soldiers spend with the children is simply a warming-up period,

both intellectually and emotionally, and is a time for the kids and Soldiers to get to know each other and their culture.

Sgt. Ruthie E. Huddleston, a unit supply specialist, was another Soldier who quickly answered the request for volunteers.



*Sgt. Ruthie E. Huddleston, a unit supply specialist in the 43rd Sustainment Brigade, spends time teaching and playing with Afghan children attending the bazaar school on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.*

“I had a lot of fun,” said Huddleston. “The kids were friendly and very loving. I am a mother of two girls, and it was great being able to show the kids some love.”

“I would love the opportunity to  
**“I am a mother of two girls, and it was great being able to show the kids some love.”**

--Sgt. Ruthie Huddleston

meet and work with little girls,” said Sgt. 1st Class Suzette Duncan-Burton, non-commissioned officer in charge of human resources in the brigade.

O’Toole echoed Duncan’s sentiment.

“I would like to see girls going to the school,” said O’Toole. “I know it is difficult for their culture, but I think it would be nice for them to experience.”

While some of the younger boys have not had much exposure to American Soldiers, several of the older boys have been attending the school for quite some time and have developed a solid English vocabulary.

“In my group we played card games and Connect Four,” said Duncan. “Some of the boy seven read me a story; I was impressed with their English.”

Spc. Kristina L. White, a human resource specialist, enjoyed her experience.

“I played games with the kids,” said White. “They taught me some things in their language ... it was great.”

White, along with all those who gave their time that day, said they would absolutely volunteer again for future teaching adventures.





# RACIN' THE REAPER

When the bloodhounds come a-knockin',  
you'd better answer the door

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

Occasionally, Soldiers from the Kandahar Airfield Blood Support Detachment will pay a visit to Soldiers around the base. Their mission? To draw blood.

The simplicity of this mission belies the complexity of the underlying intent.

When a casualty requires a blood transfusion, a number of factors must be considered: what is the casualty's blood type? What type of blood can he / she receive? How much blood does the casualty need to become stable? How much of that blood type is available on-hand? Can additional donors be located, and if so, how quickly?

While many of these questions must be addressed on an ad-hoc basis,

this last question can be answered by conducting blood screening operations. During a screening, a medic asks a potential donor a series of health-related questions and then draws blood from that donor.

Once the donor's blood is received by a lab, a phlebotomist runs a type-and-screen test to determine its usability for transfusion. If the blood is good to go, the donor's name and contact information are added to an emergency contact roster and stored until needed.

Such operations are often conducted in garrison, as well, but decidedly less urgency than on the battlefield.

When in garrison, donating blood is a great way to get out of work for an

*Spc. Chelsea M. Webb, a healthcare specialist in Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, takes her job very seriously.*





hour, meet some nice people and even chow down on a brownie or two. Soldiers leave the bloodmobile with a heart-shaped “I Donated!” sticker, and generally feel great about themselves for the rest of the day.

But on the battlefield in Afghanistan, donating blood is hardly so quaint a matter. As



summer ends and the surge enters full swing, the number of casualties on the battlefield is growing. If ever there was a time to step up to the plate, the time is now.

The average adult human body contains between eight and 12 pints of blood. Loss of around 30% of that blood requires rapid replacement and transfusion. Loss of 40% is



often fatal.

Nearly 80% of combat casualties that are otherwise treatable result in death from loss of blood.

Medical facilities on KAF do not have the capacity to store large quantities of blood for future use. A periodic blood drive would do little good, as much of this blood would not

be able to be stored and must be discarded. This means when an injured warrior comes under KAF Role 3 medical care and needs blood, that Soldier needs a donor, “fast.”

This is why the facility stores an emergency contact roster. When a call is made and a Soldier on the roster is contacted, it is an emergency. It is not an at-your-leisure, whenever-you-get-a-chance message; it is a wounded-warrior-needs-your-help-right-now message.

The 43rd SB’s mission of providing tactical sustainment to warfighters on the ground speaks directly to the urgency of this mission. What could be more tactically necessary to sustain a warfighter than a few pints of type A-positive?

So when you get the call, do what you have to do to get to the KAF Role 3 aid station -- a Soldier’s life could depend on you.





# M/E/C/H/A/N/I/C/S

**There when you need them  
-- even if you didn't know it**

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

While most of the Soldiers of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade are accustomed to fulfilling the role of unsung hero, the Soldiers of the brigade's maintenance section often live even further behind the scenes.

The maintenance team of the 43rd SB on Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, comprises 28 Soldiers who perform three main tasks: generator repair, power generation maintenance, and both scheduled and unscheduled vehicle maintenance.

The maintenance platoon is responsible for the maintenance and repair of more than 45 power generators and 80 trucks, forklifts and trailers, belonging to half a dozen companies across the brigade.

"Power generation is key," said Col. Edward M. Daly, commander, 43rd SB. "These guys are out there in the heat, every single day, making a difference. Nobody in the Army works as hard as a dedicated and skilled maintenance Soldier."

Lt. Col. Craig A. Simonsgaard, commander, 43rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 43rd SB, is fond of using the Wheaties analogy to describe the role of a sustainment Soldier. While it is true the logistics Soldier won't ever grace the cover of a Wheaties box, said Simonsgaard, it is unlikely a mechanic in a sustainment brigade could even be found as an extra, in a group photo, on the back of a Wheaties box.

"Their participation in our mission is critical," said Simonsgaard. "Without them, we simply fail."

As temperatures on KAF consistently reached triple digits over the summer, air conditioning was and is an essential com-

ponent of mission productivity. Functional generators are the only way such air conditioning systems can operate under the brigade's deployment conditions.

In the brigade's tactical operations center, air conditioning is more than a mere creature comfort. Attached at myriad locations along the nearly 10 miles of network cable passing through the TOC, are pieces of hardware essential to keeping the Soldiers of the brigade up and running. Hardware that is not properly cooled quickly shuts down.

Projectors and screens display the location and movement of troops in the battle space. Radios throughout the TOC enable the battle captain and his staff to communicate with those same troops. Computers allow the intel team to access up-to-the-minute intelligence reports.

A downed generator can mean the difference between success and failure on the battlefield.

The 43rd SB maintenance section employs several generator mechanics, either by trade or by necessity. These Soldiers spend countless hours, often in the hottest parts of the day, leaning over blazing hot engine parts, ensuring the generators run smoothly and occasionally coaxing a few generators back to life.

Pfc. Devin M. Pass, of Brea, Calif., originally trained as a tank mechanic, now works primarily on power generators.

Pass spent a considerable amount of time over the summer repairing generators ravaged by excessive heat. Pass says he looks forward to winter's lower temperatures.

Though Pass is a trained tank mechanic,



*(Above) The 43rd Sustainment Brigade maintenance team poses for a group photo following the promotion of team member Spc. Thomas E. Chase. The team is made up of 28 Soldiers with diverse backgrounds and job skill sets.*

*(Right) Sgt. Donald F. Davidson, a power-generation mechanic in the 43rd Sustainment Brigade maintenance team, mans a radio in the brigade's tactical operations center on Kandahar Airfield. Davidson was named the 2009 Army Enlisted Power Generation Technician of the year.*



*(Right) Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott D. Jurista, 43rd Sustainment Brigade maintenance chief, stands next to Pfc. Roger S. Taylor Jr., during Taylor's promotion ceremony from private to private first class on Kandahar Airfield, May 1.*







he welcomes the opportunity this deployment provides him to expand his mechanical skills.

“The best part of being in this platoon,” said Pass, “is I get to learn how to fix everything.”

In addition to the maintenance of TOC generators, the 43rd SB mechanics spend much of their time maintaining the brigade’s fleet of MRAPs.

While routine maintenance of the vehicles is expected and scheduled, it is the unanticipated and unscheduled maintenance where the mechanics really prove their mettle.

Sgt. Toby R. Glaze, a native of Fall River Mills, Calif., is the platoon’s non-commissioned officer in charge of vehicle services.

“Most people can change the oil or swap a tire out,” said Glaze. “But when you look at the jobs that come in unexpected, when a truck has actually broken down, that’s where these guys’ specialized skill set really comes into play.”

While Glaze describes most of the platoon’s work as routine, he stressed this does not mean there is little to do. MRAPs are made of 14 tons of truck and armor, and even under normal operation, their engines are constantly under heavy stress.

“Every day there is at least one truck broken,” said Glaze. “So in addition to our scheduled maintenance, you can count on at least a bit of unscheduled maintenance pretty much every day.”

Glaze feels the 43rd SB’s biggest success can be measured in the level of the platoon’s operational readiness. He says no missions have been canceled due to nonfunctional equipment, and he believes the personnel are better trained and the

equipment is better maintained than the Army standard.

If the trucks aren’t on the road, people don’t get the supplies they need, and that means a failed mission, said



(Top) Spc. Thomas E. Chase, a power-generation mechanic and carpenter in the 43rd Sustainment Brigade maintenance team, guides a forklift as it moves a power generator into place on Kandahar Airfield.

(Bottom) Pvt. Craig J. Laliberte, a petroleum supply specialist, speaks with Spc. Samuel Z. Weintraub, a power-generation mechanic. Both are members of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade maintenance team.

Sgt. Nicholas K. Schultz, a native of Port Huron, Mich., now a squad leader in the brigade’s security platoon.

“But these guys really know their

stuff,” Schultz. “I don’t think we’ve ever had a problem they couldn’t fix, and usually pretty fast.”

Spc. Thomas E. Chase, of Damariscotta, Maine, originally trained as a power-generation equipment repairer, has demonstrated considerable skill in carpentry. He now spends much of his time constructing the trappings of a more ergonomic maintenance bay.

One of the team’s power-generation mechanics, Sgt. Donald F. Davidson, from Pontiac, Mich., was named the 2009 Army Enlisted Power Generation Technician of the year.

Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Perry, originally from Hartselle, Ala., is a section leader in the maintenance platoon. Perry is proud of the work each of his Soldiers accomplishes every day, and he singled out two Soldiers he finds of notable mention.

“Sgt. Ringold and Spc. Weintraub work above and beyond to maintain and sustain the brigade TOC,” said Perry. “Everyone in the brigade owes them a pat on the back.”

Sgt. Kelvin P. Ringold Jr., from Hampton, Va., and Spc. Samuel Z. Weintraub, of Johnson City, N.Y., are both power-generation equipment repairers by trade. Each has a reputation for being able to fix just about anything.

“One of the great benefits of being a mechanic is the ability to really see the effects of your work,” said Ringold. “For some people, their level of job success is really hard to measure. But for these guys, success and failure are both right in your face. Every time a convoy leaves the motor pool and heads outside the wire, you know they’ve done their jobs.”





(Top) Pfc. Jerry W. Lackey works on a power generator providing electricity and air conditioning to the 43rd Sustainment Brigade tactical operations center on Kandahar Airfield.

(Bottom) Soldiers from the 43rd Sustainment Brigade maintenance team work on various vehicles in the brigade maintence bay on Kandahar Airfield.



(Top) Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Perry, battalion motor sergeant for 43rd Special Troops Battalion, works underneath a vehicle in the brigade maintenance bay on Kandahar Airfield.

(Bottom) Spc. Jason L. Lider, a wheeled vehicle mechanic in the 43rd Sustainment Brigade maintenance team, works on an MRAP in the brigade maintenance bay on Kandahar Airfield.

**43rd Sustainment Brigade Maintenance Team**

**Spc. Charles Cha** - Seoul, South Korea  
A/C generation mechanic

**Spc. Michael F. Mahoney** - Boston  
A/C generation mechanic

**Sgt. Samuel Z. Weintraub** - Johnson City, N.Y.  
A/C generation mechanic

**Pfc. Thomas E. Chase** - Damariscotta, Maine  
A/C generation mechanic

**Pfc. Devin M. Pass** - Brea, Calif.  
A/C generation mechanic

**Sgt. 1st Class John W. Snell** - Anaconda, Mont.  
Brigade motor sergeant

**Sgt. Andrew K. Mellendorf** - Effingham, Ill.  
Brigade unscheduled maintenance NCO

**Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Perry** - Hartselle, Ala.  
Battalion motor sergeant

**Sgt. Fredyshernan Contreras-Ramos** - Sanmiguel, El Salvador  
Battalion unscheduled maintenance NCO

**Spc. Bryan Martinez** - Orange, Calif.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Sgt. Kelvin P. Ringold Jr.** - Hampton, Va.  
General support equipment NCO

**Pvt. Craig J. Laliberte** - Jamaica, N.Y.  
Petroleum supply specialist

**Spc. Cory A. Carlton** - Springfield, Ore.  
Standard Army Maintenance System specialist

**Sgt. Jonathan D. Augustine** - Iowa City, Iowa  
Standard Army Maintenance System specialist

**Sgt. David L. Bravo** - Miami  
Senior mechanics shop foreman

**Staff Sgt. Kevin J. Nilsen** - Great Falls, Mont.  
Senior mechanics shop foreman

**Sgt. Toby R. Glaze** - Fall River Mills, Calif.  
Services NCO

**Spc. Ai W. Cline** - Salt Lake City  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Pfc. Charles W. Patterson** - Burlington, N.C.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Pfc. Jeffrey C. Putzi** - Tuscon, Ariz.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Pfc. Jerry W. Lackey** - Fort Sill, Okla.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Spc. Justin B. Carbaugh** - York, Pa.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Spc. Jason L. Lider** - Spokane, Wash.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Spc. Daniel E. Sheffield** - Palacios, Texas  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Spc. Michael A. Torgerson Jr.** - Mission Hills, Calif.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Pfc. Juston B. Hamric** - Del City, Okla.  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Pfc. Roger S. Taylor Jr.** - Michigan  
Wheeled vehicle mechanic

**Chief Warrant Officer 2 Scott D. Jurista** - Kingston, Pa.  
Maintenance chief





Renegade Soldiers of the 230th FMCO pose at the finish line after completing the Army 10-miler foot race on Camp Buehring, Kuwait.

## Renegades hit the ground running in Camp Buehring

### 230th Financial Management Company arrives in Kuwait

Story and photos courtesy of  
**230th Financial Management Company**

One week after arriving on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, the Renegades of Detachment F, 230th Financial Management Company, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, hit the ground running, and this is not metaphorically speaking either.

Fourteen Soldiers from the 230th chose to run the Army 10 Miler held at Camp Buehring, and 12 completed the course. Led by their commander, Capt. Justin Priestman, and detachment sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Damien Russell, the Soldiers completed the

course with exhaustion but in high spirit.

For each of them it was the longest distance they had run at one time, and to do it with no train-up in 80-degree heat was a major feat for them.

Sgt. Head later posted on Facebook, "Next mark is a half marathon. It's only another 3 miles, how bad could it be?"

Both Priestman and Russell took pride in their Soldiers' ability to finish the run, and they look forward to seeing what challenge the Soldiers will tackle next.



Sgt. Head and her Soldiers Spc. Uhl and Pfc. St. Pierre after the run.



Capt. Justin Priestman and Sgt. 1st Class Damien Russell stand tall after completing the Army 10-miler run.

## 104th Transportation Company relocates Marine Corps FOB



Story and photos courtesy of  
**104th Transportation Company**

In late September, Soldiers from 2nd Platoon, 1st Platoon and the maintenance section of the 104th Transportation Company, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, carried out a challenging mission of relocating a U.S. Marine Corps forward operating base across Afghanistan from Qal'a-i-Naw to Camp Stone.

The team also transported fuel hoses to Qal'a-i-Naw, ensuring the Spanish Army Garrison, which will continue to occupy the base, can maintain fueling capabilities for the duration of the winter season.

While conducting the mission risk mitigation assessments, it was determined that the hazardous, narrow roadways selected to travel across the Hari Rud (Hari River) and over the Selsela Koh-i-Band-i-Baba Mountains would prevent the transporters from utilizing trailers to haul the Marine's equipment. This meant the Marine's cargo relocation would have to be completed

during two separate trips from Qal'a-i-Naw back to Camp Stone.

2nd Lt. Michael R. Pavley and Sgt. 1st Class James Davis were placed in command of the convoy and entrusted with supervision of mission procedures. With the aid of Staff Sgt. Eric Martin, 1st Platoon squad leader, and Sgt. Sean Nolen of the maintenance section, the convoy departed FOB Shindand.

Initially, the journey to Herat was an easy trip along the paved Ring Road that encircles Afghanistan. The road quickly becomes rugged north of Herat City where it transforms into a rocky, narrow dirt path carved through the mountainous landscape. The majority of the pathway consists of sharp turns and precipitous descents. These traveling conditions remained for the duration of the route to Qal'a-i-Naw.

After navigating through Herat City, close control of vehicle speed mitigated roll-over risks and kept the cargo secure. The local populous and civilian traffic posed additional risks for transportation on the one-lane route.

Despite the tough conditions, Sgt.

Corey Duck and his team successfully pushed forward and diverted all local traffic that had potential to impede travel.

Ample tow bars were positioned within the convoy to ensure successful recovery operations. During the entire mission, these recovery assets were utilized only twice. The 104th maintenance team performed quickly and efficiently, guaranteeing the mission could continue successfully.

In the early afternoon hours of Oct. 5, the mission was complete. An entire Marine Corps forward operating base had been relocated more than 700 miles from Qal'a-i-Naw to Camp Stone. The Spanish Army Garrison at Qal'a-i-Naw now has refueling capabilities for an entire winter season to come.

This successful transportation operation was made possible by the hard work and diligent attention to mission procedures by the Soldiers of the 104th Transportation Company, 529th CSSB.



# Finance mission drives on

The Soldiers of 4th Financial Management Company provide cash, service to warfighters in all environments

*Spc. Jamie Green of Detachment B, 4th Financial Management Company, distributes money for Soldiers at FOB Gorgan in southern Afghanistan.*

Photo by Cpl. Alicia Davis

Story by  
**Sgt. James Burroughs**  
JSC-A Public Affairs

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 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 service members 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 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 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 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 count and verify. 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 travelling 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. Contractors who provide latrines, vehicles and construction services are paid this way. The Commanders Emergency Relief Program (CERP) is handled by CVS. 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 processes \$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. First 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.



*Pfc. Noel Bryant*  
*849th Quartermaster Co.*  
*Water Purification Specialist*

Since arriving in Afghanistan in February, Pfc. Bryant has become an integral part of the 849th Quartermaster Company’s ability to accomplish a variety of missions. Originally trained as a water purification specialist, Bryant has sought out chances to train on different material handling and motor transport equipment, in order to contribute to convoy missions the company has been tasked with. Bryant has served as both driver and truck commander on logistics convoys to several differ-

# WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT



ent forward operating bases and has performed at a high level.

Sgt. 1st Class Curtis Jones, 849th truck master, has characterized Bryant as an enthusiastic team member who frequently volunteers her services as a vehicle operator and convoy team member. Bryant has been commended by Jones, as well as the company commander and other noncommissioned officers, for her hard work and professional attitude during the deployment, which has resulted in higher a higher physical fitness score and a recent promotion to private first class.

In her civilian life, Bryant is employed as a day care worker and assists at a group home for troubled teenagers. Her aspirations include work in science and laboratory science which has been strengthened by her military training.

# WHY I SERVE

*478th Transportation Company*

*Spc. Fernando Castro*  
*Food Service Specialist*

At 39 years old, Spc. Fernando Castro, from Corona, Calif., joined the army knowing it was “the right thing to do.” Shortly after losing his mother and feeling as though he owed it to her, he enlisted in memory and honor of her while benefiting himself at the same time.

Castro works as a cook back home in the civilian world. “I wanted to ... see what it is like to cook in the Army,” said Castro.

# Top-level logistics leaders visit 43rd SB

Senior members of Acquisition, Technology and Logistics agency take time to talk big-picture logistics with the 43rd Sustainment Brigade command team



(Top) Senior leaders from the Acquisition, Technology and Logistics agency arrive at the 43rd Sustainment Brigade tactical operations center in Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, July 10.

(Left) Lt. Gen. John M. Paxton Jr., Director, Strategic Plans and Policy, J5, The Joint Staff, visits with the 43rd Sustainment Brigade command team on Kandahar Airfield, July 10.



(Right) Honorable Ashton B. Carter, Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, visits with the 43rd Sustainment Brigade command team on Kandahar Airfield, July 10.



# Pump up the water pump

Story and photos by  
**SpC. William Vaughn**  
43rd SB Public Affairs

## 43rd SB Soldiers help provide equipment, training and water to Afghan people

A group of Soldiers from the 43rd Sustainment Brigade conducted a survey mission of the Kandahar Central Authority for Water Sanitation and Sewage facility in Kandahar, Afghanistan, Sept. 9.

The mission, led by Capt. Lisa M. Chabot, Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 43rd SB, was part of the Kandahar City Water Plant Project.

Chabot said her objectives were to get a clear picture of the Afghans' levels of expertise and technical knowledge of their water system, the type of generator they are using and the tools and supplies needed for maintenance.

"The equipment is a little more advanced compared to what they are used to," said Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Perry, the senior mechanic on the mission. "They need a little help adjusting to an American piece of equipment, whereas they are used to having Japanese, Iranian or German equipment."

Based on the team's findings, the structures housing the water system could present safety and maintenance concerns. This may warrant future missions for structural remodeling to provide a safe facility.

The future goals of the project are to translate technical equipment manuals to Pashto or Dari and to offer a class on the basics of power generation to students and

employees, according to Chabot.

The goal is for students to enroll as part of an internship

program that will equip the next generation of Afghans with the educational tools to become experts in a high-demand occupation.

This will contribute to the growth of Afghanistan's economy and infrastructure.

The Commander's Emergency Response Program funds the water plant project. This program enables commanders to respond to urgent aid and reconstruction requirements. According to Chabot, CERP's goal is to allow the Afghan people to become self-sufficient.

The 43rd SB plans to spend more than \$1.7 million on CERP projects during the remainder of their deployment in Afghanistan.

"In teaching them how to work on their own equipment, we will provide them with the knowledge to be successful," said Chabot. "This will be passed on to future generations and over time, decrease their reliance on foreign aid and less-than-desirable avenues of assistance."

The visit to the water plant was the first step in the CERP process. Chabot and the Rough Rider Soldiers will conduct training and mentoring during future visits over the next two to three months.



Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Perry, Battalion Motor Sergeant (left), and SpC. Samuel Z. Weintraub, Power Generation Repairer (right), both 43rd Sustainment Brigade mechanics, work with an Afghan national on a pump at the Kandahar Water Plant. The water plant mission was part of The Commander's Emergency Response Program, a U.S. system of empowering commanders to deliver timely and effective aid to the local Afghan population.



Capt. Lisa M. Chabot, Commander, Headquarters and Headquarters Company (far left), Staff Sgt. Matthew C. Perry, Battalion Motor Sergeant (center), SpC. Jerry L. Lackey, Water Purification Specialist (background), and an Afghan national (right) inspect equipment at the Kandahar Water Plant. The water plant mission was part of The Commander's Emergency Response Program, a U.S. system of empowering commanders to deliver timely and effective aid to the local Afghan population.



### Pfc. Vivian Huerta HHC, 158th CSSB

#### Automated Logistical Specialist

How many years have you been in the Army National Guard? 3 years

How old were you when you joined the National Guard? 17 years old

When and why did you decide to join the National Guard? I joined the National Guard during my junior year in High School because I wanted to take advantage of the GI Bill and further my education. I aspire to become a criminal lawyer and plan to go to college and earn my degree.

What is your job in the military? I am a 92A (Automated Logistical Specialist). My job entails keeping track of incoming and outgoing items from the warehouse through some very important systems.

What have you learned about your first deployment? I have to say that this deployment has given me an abundance of knowledge of what my job entails. Also the importance of accountability, receiving, distributing and customer service that comes with the job. Lastly, I have learned to become more patient, because I have to be deal with a versatile group of people.

What are the biggest changes you have seen on Kandahar Airfield since

you arrived? The SSA (Supply Support Activity) warehouse has changed, dramatically since our arrival here on KAF, because it is now very organized. It has also been cleaned up, which makes it easier to process the incoming and outgoing items. It has helped with the inventory and customer service. I also feel that the Soldiers here have changed, too. I see more maturity and focused service members who take pride and know the importance of what they have to do to make things run smoothly.

What short term goals do you hope to accomplish while you are deployed? I would like to finish two or three correspondence courses and possibly begin my college education by taking a couple of classes. Lastly, to further my knowledge as a 92A.

What has been the most difficult thing about this deployment and why? I would have to say the people that come to CIF (Clothing and Issue Facility) because some of them are very impatient. They want us to drop what we are doing and get them what they want, right there and then. They need to be more patient, and we will take care of them as soon as we can.

What do you plan to do when you return home? Firstly, I would like to begin by fulfilling my lifelong dream

and start my education to become a criminal lawyer. Secondly, I want to be a self-sustaining young adult by getting my own place.

How hard has this deployment been on your family? I am the youngest of four siblings; I have two older sisters and one older brother and am the first immediate family member to be deployed. We are a very close family and being away from home has been difficult. I miss my nephew and nieces very much, because I usually babysat them to help out my sisters. My mom lost her sister, and I couldn't be there, but I know the family was there for her.

What has been your fondest memory since joining the National Guard and why? It was when I was at AIT (Advanced Individual Training), because a platoon of us went to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and we put a wreath on behalf of our brigade. This made me feel proud to have been chosen for such a distinguished honor.

Do you plan to make a career of the National Guard? Right now, I would have to say I'm uncertain, because I want to focus on my education, but I wouldn't mind becoming an officer in the National Guard.

Anything that you would like to say to everyone back home? To my family, I miss you and I'm almost Home!

## WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT







**First ever naturalization ceremony  
held on Kandahar Airfield**

## American dream in Afghanistan

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

For most of the people on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, it was just another hot, dusty Friday. But for three 43rd Sustainment Brigade Soldiers, it was a day like no other.

Three Soldiers from the 478th Transportation Company, 43rd SB, became citizens of the United States during a naturalization ceremony held on KAF, October 1.

Naturalization is the process by which someone who is not a U.S. citizen by birth becomes so through residency and promise of loyalty and allegiance to the United States.

The 478th TC transporters were three in a group of 88 service-members from 37 countries to receive U.S. citizenship. This group included Soldiers, Sailors, Marines and one Airman.

Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, deputy commanding general, United States Forces-Afghanistan, the ceremony's keynote speaker, shared words of gratitude and encouragement for those being naturalized.

"It is a great day to be an American," said McHale. "Soon we'll have about 87 more Americans coming into our ranks, and that is something to celebrate."

McHale briefly recounted the early history of American immigration.

"In 1892, Annie Moore walked through the doors of Ellis Island," said McHale. "The 15-year-old Irish immigrant was the first to become a naturalized citizen at the new port of entry. Today, on 1 October, 2010, your port of entry is Kandahar, Afghanistan."

In addition to recounting the history of American immigration, McHale challenged the new citizens to do three things.

"Every year, read review and reflect on the oath of citizenship," said McHale. "And before the day is over, write down what you

*Brig. Gen. Reynold Hoover, commander, 135th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), congratulates three Soldiers from the 478th Transportation Company, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, now fellow U.S. citizens, following a naturalization ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Oct. 1.*





*Maj. Gen. Timothy P. McHale, Deputy Commanding General, United States Forces-Afghanistan, presents Spc. Maria R. Hernandez-Sanchez, a Tijuana, Mexico, native, now a truck driver in the 478th Transportation Company, 43rd Sustainment Brigade, with a certificate of naturalization following a ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Oct. 1.*



*Steve Bucher, deputy associate director of Refugee, Asylum and International Operations of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, administers the Oath of Allegiance to 88 servicemembers during a naturalization ceremony on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Oct. 1.*

*Nearly 90 servicemembers from the Army, Marine Corps, Navy and Air Force became naturalized citizens of the United States during a ceremony held on Kandahar Airfield, Oct. 1. This was the first ceremony of its kind held on the airbase in Afghanistan.*

need to do to serve and continue to contribute to America. Live the oath, act on what you have written down, and inspire generations behind you.”

Steve Bucher, deputy associate director of Refugee, Asylum and International Operations of the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services, then shared his own thoughts with the crowd and administered the Oath of Allegiance.

“It is my sincere honor and privilege to be here with you today,” said Bucher. “We have all come a long way to be here. You, in particular, have come a very long way. It is important to keep in mind that citizenship is not the end of your journey, it is the beginning.”

The Oath of Allegiance states, in part, those who swear upon it will support and defend the Constitution and laws of the United States of America. They will bear true faith and allegiance to the same and will do so freely, without any reservations or purpose of evasion.

Following recitation of the oath and the awarding of certificates of citizenship, President Barack Obama delivered a video address to all in attendance.

“It is an honor and a privilege to call you a fellow citizen of the United States of America,” said Obama. “Always remember that in America, no dream is impossible, and together, we can keep the beacon that is America burning bright for all the world to see.”

Sgt. 1st Class Francisco J. Ramirez-Lopez, a native of Tijuana, Mexico, is a platoon sergeant in the 478th TC, a position commonly known as truck master.

Ramirez-Lopez has served 18 1/2 years in the Army and says his quest for citizenship was a long time coming. He succinctly stated his feelings following the ceremony.

“It feels good,” said Ramirez-Lopez. “It really does.”

Spc. Maria R. Hernandez-Sanchez, also a native of Tijuana, is now a truck driver in the 478th TC. She said the only thing that would have made the day better is if her parents had been there with her.

Together with Ramirez-Lopez and Hernandez-Sanchez, Pfc. Nhan H. Pham, of Saigon, Vietnam, said it felt great to

be counted as an American citizen.

These 88 servicemembers have joined the ranks of distinguished nationalized citizens from every walk of life. They now stand alongside those as varied as former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (Czechoslovakia), California Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger (Austria), journalist and news anchor Peter Jennings (Canada), physicist, philosopher and author Albert Einstein (German-Swiss) and “Father of the Nuclear Navy” Admiral Hyman Rickover (Poland).

Each of the newly naturalized citizens received a small American flag and a copy of The Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States and The Citizen’s Almanac.







# Afghan-Coalition forces subdue insurgent attacks

Story and photo courtesy of  
**U.S. Air Force**  
**Senior Airman Tania Reid**  
ISAF Public Affairs Office

KABUL, Afghanistan (Oct. 3, 2010) -- Spokesmen from the International Security Assistance Force and Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense gave a weekly operational overview on Afghan and coalition security forces operations and efforts to combat insurgent attacks at a press conference at the Government Media and Information Center here today.

German Army Brig. Gen. Josef Blotz, ISAF spokesman and Afghanistan Army Brig. Gen. Mohammad Azimi, MOD spokesperson, reported that Afghan-coalition security forces have put pressure on insurgents which led to the capturing and killing of more than 105 insurgent leaders.

"These include shadow governors, leaders, sub-leaders and weapons facilitators from the Taliban, Al Qaeda, and Haqqani networks," said Blotz.

He said that ISAF confirmed the death of Abdallah Umar al-Qurayshi, a senior Al Qaeda leader who led a group of Arab fighters in Kunar and Nuristan provinces.

According to recent reports, the coalition forces tracked al-Qurayshi to a remote compound in the Korengal Valley. Upon verifying his location and careful planning to help reduce the collateral damage, coalition forces destroyed the compound with a precision air strike.

"Al-Qurayshi's death will significantly degrade regional Al Qaeda activity," added Blotz.

He went on to discuss Operation

Dragon Strike, one of the missions tied to Hamkari.

"On Tuesday, Afghan commandos and coalition forces defeated an insurgent attack while clearing an area of Zharay district," Blotz said. "The combined force called in close air support on the insurgent firing position, killing the combatants with no reported collateral damage."

Furthermore, a coalition patrol discovered more than 1,100 kilograms of ammonium nitrate in the Arghandab



Afghanistan Army Brig. Gen. Mohammad Azimi, Ministry of Defense spokesman, and German Army Brig. Gen. Josef Blotz, ISAF spokesman, take questions from the media Oct. 3 at Afghanistan's Government Media and Information Center.

district of Kandahar province.

The general noted that more than 50 improvised devices could have been made from the ammonium nitrate material.

Blotz also discussed the development projects which the partnered operations are undertaking to improve the quality of life and economic activity.

"The first of two 10 megawatt power plants is scheduled to be operational by December, and is expected to provide power to up to 15,000 homes," he said.

"Governor Wesa stated that he intends to use the power to expand essential services and create jobs. The governor is planning a business expo later this year to attract commercial ventures."

Additionally he mentioned that the Afghan forces have continued to develop and exceed their recruitment goals.

"The Afghan National Army has more than 134,000 soldiers and the Afghan National Police have more than 109,000 police officers," Blotz added.

"We know the challenge is not building the size of Afghan forces; our focus is on building the capability of those forces as well."

In concluding his message, the ISAF spokesman explained the need for the growth in the Afghan forces.

"As Afghan forces continue to grow, they partner with coalition forces to defend Afghan civilians and put increasing pressure on insurgent networks," Blotz said, "who continually find themselves further driven from territory they once considered safe."



# Money Dude gives Soldiers \$ education

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

Perhaps the most overlooked skill begin taught young men and women today is that of good financial management. Very few high schools in the U.S. offer any sort of financial education other than standard economics, which teaches little, if anything, about personal financial responsibility.

One 43rd Sustainment Brigade Soldier has given himself the additional duty of filling in that gap by providing the education and tools necessary for Soldiers to stay afloat in today's credit culture.

Maj. Toby A. Austin, 43rd SB comptroller, conducted financial training to a group of nearly 20 Soldiers, teaching them the basics of budgeting and money management, as well as informing them of the potential pitfalls so commonly encountered by Soldiers, both young and old.

Austin has served 20 years in the Army and says he has seen first-hand the devastating effects poor financial management can have on a Soldier. A desire to rid the Army of these negative effects inspired Austin to provide instruction to his fellow servicemembers.

The curriculum Austin used to teach his group comes from acclaimed author and radio host Dave Ramsey, through his course entitled Financial Peace University. FPU is a comprehensive 13-week program outlining the steps necessary to get out of debt and start saving for the future, regardless of current financial condition.

Such courses are often, ironically, out of the financial grasp of those so desperately in need of their instruction. But Austin took advantage of a special program, created specifically for members of the U.S. armed forces, which makes the content available at no charge to the servicemember.

According to DaveRamsey.com, "Financial Peace Military Edition" is an intense personal finance training course that helps servicemembers strategically removed debt and build wealth.

Statistics indicate 56% of enlisted military personnel report difficulty with family finances. Experienced servicemembers put that figure just a bit higher.

Whatever the statistics, good financial education can prove invaluable to those who adhere to its precepts and make a dedicated effort to "Live like no one else, so tomorrow, they can live like no one else."

# Injured Soldier home in Tallahassee

Story and photo courtesy of  
**Alyssa Orange**  
WCTV, Tallahassee, Fla.

One Tallahassee woman is currently back at home with her family, and they say her presence alone is more than a blessing.

Signs, smiling faces and anxious family members greeted Spc. Wileen Footman, 31-year-old Tallahassee, Tenn., native, as she got off the plane at the Tallahassee Airport, June 16.

Footman returned home for her routine mid-tour, rest and recuperation leave. When asked how it felt to be back among family she quickly responded with a few simple words.



Spc. Wileen Footman of Tallahassee, Fla., holds her daughter upon returning home for rest and recuperation leave from her deployment to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, with the 912th Human Resources Company, attached to the 43rd Sustainment Brigade.

"Great," said Footman. "Totally unexplainable."

Just two weeks before coming home, Footman's unit was attacked in Afghanistan by enemy rocket fire. She and several others were injured in the attack.

Footman is recovering now, and her loved ones say they feel blessed to see her alive.

"She's my twin sister, so it's like a part of the puzzle has been pieced back together," said Footman's sister Willette. "The not knowing is what's devastating."

Footman's focus now is on spending time with family and celebrating her daughter's second birthday on June 22.

"We'll probably take her to Chuck-E-Cheese's," said Footman. "But we really don't want to go anywhere or do anything else -- just be homebodies."

With family as Footman's number one priority, she has no planned schedule and no expectations, except one.

"We just expect to have fun," she said.



# The Reenlistment Window



Hey Roughriders, the new fiscal year is among us, and with that brings many great opportunities to Stay 43D and to Stay Army Strong! Although bonus amounts are much lower than previous years, you still get the chance to remain within our outstanding organization of excellence or to broaden your horizons and do great things elsewhere in the U.S. Army.

Not even two full weeks into the new fiscal year, the Army has retained more than 5,754 of America's finest men and women. These are the Soldiers serving

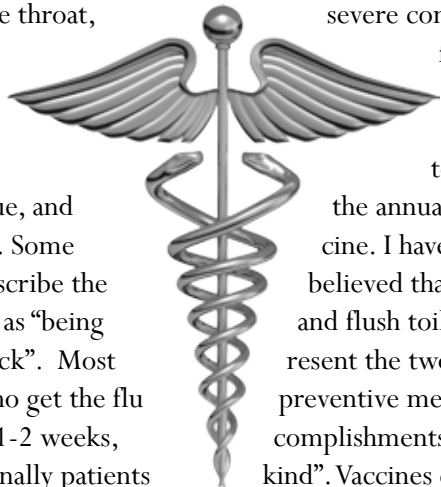
to your right and left, front and back. If you decide you want to join this small, elite percentage of American Soldiers, please give me a call or stop by my office to explore your future.

The brigade is slated to hold a mass reenlistment ceremony Dec. 7, so if you're thinking about reenlisting, there would be no better time or place!

43D BSTB Retention office  
Building 514A, Room 3  
DSN 841-3307  
Stay 43rd  
Soldier Hard, Duty First!

## The Prescription Pad

The flu is a viral respiratory infection that affects up to 20% and kills up to 36,000 Americans each year. Flu symptoms are more severe than those of other respiratory diseases and include sore throat, head ache, cough, congestion, high fever, fatigue, and body aches. Some patients describe the body aches as "being hit by a truck". Most of those who get the flu recover in 1-2 weeks, but occasionally patients develop serious complications like pneumonia and may require hospitalization. The flu is spread from person to person via nasal secretions (sneezing) or via contaminated surfaces. One



of the ways to prevent the transmission of any respiratory infection is to cover your nose when you sneeze and wash your hands as often as possible. The best way to prevent infection and severe complications from the influenza virus is to receive the annual flu vaccine. I have always believed that "Vaccines and flush toilets represent the two greatest preventive medicine accomplishments of mankind". Vaccines cause the body to produce antibodies (disease fighting proteins) to an illness without experiencing the illness itself.

The CDC recommends the flu vaccine for all persons over 6 months of

age. For the Department of Defense, preventing the flu is a force protection issue and the annual flu vaccine is required for all military personnel. The alternative: having 20% of our fighting force "on quarters" for 1-2 weeks each winter, is unacceptable. In addition, of all the required U.S. Military vaccinations, the flu is the disease most likely to be infecting a Soldier each year. The only flu vaccine available in CENTCOM this year will be the injectable "flu shot"; it is an inactivated (dead) virus and therefore cannot cause one to get the flu. Complications from the flu shot are infrequent but can include soreness, redness or swelling at the injection site, as well as a low-grade fever (from the increased immune response) and mild body aches.

The components of the flu vaccine change each year and contain a protein mixture of the 3 most likely strains to cause influenza. The mixture is based on worldwide surveillance. Last year's vaccine did not contain the H1N1 strain, thus an additional vaccine was required. The 2010-2011 flu vaccine contains the H1N1 strains as well as two strains most likely to cause influenza this year in our population. The flu vaccine takes about 2 weeks to provide immunity to influenza and is historically about 75% effective in preventing infection or, if contracted, severe complications from influenza. Overall, the flu vaccine is safe, effective and will help keep you well this winter.

-Doc

# WARRIOR SPOTLIGHT



*Spc. Antonio Darby*  
*849th Quartermaster Co.*  
*Automated Logistics Specialist*

Ask anyone at the Forward Operating Base Leatherneck Supply Support Activity who the hardest working man in the yard is, and you'll only get one name: Spc. Antonio Darby. The 27-year-old Suffolk, Va., native, now an automated logistics specialist in the 849th Quartermaster Company, has made a difference at one of the busiest supply points in Afghanistan, cleaning up the yard, getting supplies out to customers and just making a difference.

"He's been the guy down at the SSA," said Capt. Jeffrey Miller, 849th company commander. "We support more than 17,000 Marines in Helmand Province, and the work of Spc. Darby has allowed us to make it happen. From driving forklifts and container handling equipment to taking charge of the other Soldiers in the yard, he has been a workhorse."



*Sgt. Wagner*  
*348th TC*  
*Armorer and Supply Sgt.*

Sgt. Wagner is the armorer and supply sergeant for the 348th Transportation Co. He has been with the 348th TC since 2006.

Wagner joined the active Army in 1999, soon after high school graduation. He went on active duty as a small arms repairman with the 15th Forward Support Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, out of Ft. Hood, Texas. Wagner deployed to Kuwait with the 15th and was on active duty from 1999 until 2002.

When asked why he joined the Army, Wagner said he wanted to do his part in helping to protect our country.

Some of that gusto may come from being a former active duty Marine and helping out his former battle buddies, but whatever the origin, it has paid dividends. Darby has led the effort in one of the largest retrograde cleanup projects in Afghanistan. He was responsible for palletizing, cataloging and shipping of more than \$20 million in retrograde material to supply depots in Kuwait. He has honed the automated logistics skills he learned after joining the Army Reserve, and is ready to take the next step into the realm of the noncommissioned officer.

Darby will soon take that step, as he has been selected for promotion to sergeant. He looks forward to taking on the challenges of the NCO and overseeing the welfare of the Soldiers under his command. In the meantime, Darby will continue to lead by example and use this deployment as a greater opportunity to gain perspective on the soldiering profession and to strengthen the aspect of his spiritual fitness in his own life.

He joined the Army Reserve because he missed the camaraderie of the Army, and he enjoyed working with weapons. With the 348th TC, Wagner has gone on 11 missions, all employed as a gunner.

When Wagner is home in Buckeye, AZ, he is employed as a home remodeler. He lives with his wife Alicia and one year old son Jesse James.



# WHY I SERVE

43rd warriors speak up about what it means to Soldier



*Sgt. Caleb Kennan  
811th Ord. Co.*

*Ammunition Stock Control NCOIC*

I am Sgt. Caleb W. Kennan of the 811th Ordnance Company out of Dublin, Virginia. I am an Army Reservist from Christianburg, Va., and a college student working toward a degree in education. In my spare time, I love to work out, watch football and spend time with my friends.

I serve for several reasons. The Army allows me to continue my education by financing my tuition and living expenses. It offers such benefits as the Montgomery G.I. Bill and tuition assistance for my college education. The Army also offers me a variety of benefits toward my retirement and healthcare.

I have wanted to serve since I graduated high school, and the Army is a fulfilling career. The rewards of being in the military are far beyond a normal job, and it instills a sense of pride in my career. Along with promoting a sense of health and physical fitness, the military is my career of choice, and I love doing my job.



*Spc. Victor Narvaez  
126th FMCo*

*Human Resource Specialist*

When I got out of high school in Kissimmee, Fla., I enrolled in classes at Valencia Community College and began studying general education courses. I was trying to find out what to do as a career, but after two semesters, I was still undecided. I got a job, but decided that it wouldn't lead me where I wanted to go. The economy started to fall, and this moved me to consider the military.

I looked at my sister, who has been in the Army Reserves for 14 years. Her life really lined up when she got into the Army; she made friends and was part of a team. I decided to follow in her footsteps to help me find my own path. In doing so, I found that the Army is my path. Since joining, I have succeeded in my company and won a Soldier of the Month board. When I return home, I intend to go to college and enroll into a four-year university, join ROTC and become a commissioned officer.



*Spc. Zanone Tate  
HHC 43rd STB  
Orderly Room Clerk*

After attending a local community college near Mount Clair, Calif., for one year, it was obvious that it was not for me at that time. My grandpa had served in the United States Army for 22 years and is a Vietnam War veteran. While growing up, my grandpa always tried to persuade me to join the Army and told me how much better of a man he became because of the Army. I was always totally against it until I became a father, and realized I needed a good career field to support my children.

The Army made me the man I am today. It instilled in me skills and discipline that I don't feel I would have gotten as a civilian. My children look up to me as their hero and a great dad. My family could not be more proud, and my friends respect me. I show much pride in what I do and love the country that I serve and would not change it for the world. After my first year of serving my five year enlistment, I realized that I am in a field I can continuously grow in and excel in life.



*Pfc. Johnathan Winchester  
541st TC*

*Heavy Equipment Transport Operator*

I never thought that I would be in the Army. I was the student who avoided the recruiter when he came around at school. As life would have it, I had to become a man earlier than I expected.

I am from Monroe, N.C., and by the age of 19, my first child was born. College was no longer an option for me. Also around this time, I lost my mother, and keeping a job was not an easy task. At the age of 21, I decided that in order to support my family, it was necessary for me to join the Army. I wanted stabilization for my growing family as well as a chance to make my mother proud.

As of now, this will be my career. In the future, I would like to change my job so I that can have the opportunity to learn a new trade. The Army has taught me a lot about myself; I'm blessed to have the opportunity to work with a strong squad and excellent leadership that keep me on track. Knowledge is power and I'm pushing myself to the limit and giving it my all.



*Spc. Taquay Myles  
849th QM Co*

*Petroleum Supply Specialist*

I enlisted on August 23, 2001 in Stockbridge, Ga., two weeks before September 11th and was actually at the Military Entrance Processing Station watching it happen. I originally enlisted because all of my uncles had been in the military, and since I was the only female of my generation in my family, I wanted to follow their example and do something that would look great on my resume and help with school.

When I first signed up, I never thought I would be deployed, but I've been to Iraq once, and now I've been to Afghanistan, too.

This deployment I've been working in the admin section of the 849th Quartermaster Company Tactical Operations Center. I have learned a lot more about Army regulations and the legal and paperwork side of our job. I used to think it was more like secret work to be in that area, but have been able to learn a lot.



*Staff Sgt. David C. Marty Jr.  
158th CSSB*

*Combat Service Support  
Network Manager*

Basically, my decision to join the Army was a spontaneous one while viewing an Army recruiting commercial. I signed my Army contract in Nov., 2001, graduated high school in Tuscon, Ariz., in Dec., and then shipped out to basic training in February.

At the time, I was not considering more than one enlistment, but after experiencing the Army as an organization like no other -- formed by history, traditions, values and standards -- I decided to make it my career. I am proud to serve as a noncommissioned officer because I believe that the NCO Corps is the backbone of the Army. As an NCO I am able to teach, train, mentor and lead Soldiers, which is why I continue to serve. For me, the Army is not just a job, but a way of life.





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