

Ryder Dispatch

The Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Beswick

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan -- U.S. Army Spc. Emily Keating, of Iowa City, Iowa and Pfc. Leslie Cheney, of Burlington, Iowa receive Christmas stockings from a care package distributed by the Chaplain at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James Wilton

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Sgt. Jemarie Alcorido, a Cedar Rapids, Iowa resident and a paralegal with the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Red Bulls, hangs a wreath on the door of her office at the Base Operations Building, here Dec. 23. Iowa National Guard Soldiers decorated their offices and living quarters for the holiday season with items sent by friends, family and FRG.

FRG spreads Christmas cheer

By 1st Lt. Laura K. Walker
C Co. 2-34th BSTB

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan --

The weather in Iowa is getting colder, trees have lost their leaves, the icy drizzle has come and the snow is not far away. In Afghanistan the weather may be getting colder but the snow will most likely not make its way here. It will stay high in the mountains as a reminder that December and Christmas are right around the corner.

For many of the Company C, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division Soldiers, this will be the first Christmas season spent away from friends and family. The Company C, Family Readiness Group (FRG) knows this, so they hopped into action. In early November, the FRG held a stocking stuffing party at the Cedar Rapids Armory. Friends and family gathered with craft pens, glitter, stockings, candy, and other goodies to decorate stockings for their deployed family members. Children decorated stockings with special messages and holiday designs. Steph Olson helped her son Braden, 1 1/2 years old, decorate a stocking for husband and father Staff Sgt. Cody Olson of Company C.

"My stocking has a lot of flair," said Cody after seeing his stocking back in Afghanistan.

Along with the candy filled stockings the FRG also sent



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Laura K. Walker

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Pfc. Raymond Goynes, Spc. Brett Mauseth, Sgt. Ryan Pierce and Spc. Joshua Klinzman pose with their stocking.

out four fiber optic Christmas trees with decorations and other office decorations. The day after Thanksgiving the stockings, trees and decorations made it to Bagram. No time was wasted in handing out stockings and hanging-up decorations. As a result, Company C's offices were the first to be decorated in the building.

Soldiers like Spc. Chad Barthel of Company C, who has received three stockings including the one from the FRG, were quick to hang their stockings.

"I have two hanging in my living quarters and one hanging in my work area," said Barthel.

For several Company C Soldiers this Christmas will be the first Christmas away from their wives, like Barthel who

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New Soldiers, old weapons

From the Editor

Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus
Editor-in-Chief
Public Affairs NCOIC



Busy. Busy. Busy. Holiday time always seems so busy! The same holds true when you are in a combat zone, but that should be no surprise. Everyone in the 2-34th Brigade Combat Team has hopefully settled into the jobs that they will be working for the next few months.

There are many stories out there that can be told, and we are more than happy to feature them in the Ryder Dispatch, which we try to produce on a monthly basis. One challenge to the upkeep of the publication is writers' support. You will notice that the majority of the stories and photos are written by the Soldiers themselves! Who better to tell their story, we figure.

In this issue you will read

about Soldier living conditions, holiday celebrations, recreation time, and missions. Some mission stories even describe the partnership that 2-34th BCT Soldiers are building with their Afghan counterparts. I am very proud of all our writers for telling their story; when I know they would rather be relaxing than write. For that, I am very appreciative.

Thanks for reading this issue of the Ryder Dispatch. We hope to have another one out to you in a month, 'In'sha Allah'.

To the families back home, thank you so much for the continued support through all of this.

Red Bulls! ATTACK! 🐮

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Ryder Dispatch

The Official Newsletter of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team of the 34th Infantry Division

2-34th Brigade Combat Team

Commanding Officer

Col. Benjamin Corell

Command Sergeant Major

Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Arnold

Mission:

The **Ryder Dispatch** is a monthly publication created to celebrate and support the Soldiers and families of the 2-34th BCT by providing brigade members with information on what is happening around the brigade, and to keep Soldiers and families updated on current events and policies set forth by the command.

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**By Brigade Commander
Col. Benjamin J. Corell**



Red Bulls - We are now more than five months into our deployment and it's been almost a month since our TOA. TF Red Bulls has assumed responsibility for Laghman province and parts of western Nuristan. TF Ironman (1-133rd IN), is now back under Red Bulls command and control and doing great work in a demanding environment. TF Red Horse (1-113th CAV) is expanding its presence in the Bagram Security Zone and the rest of Parwan. TF Archer (BSB and BSTB) is fully immersed in the challenges of supporting this BCT and in the management of the huge city we call BAF, which hosts a diverse population of over 35,000 people. In Panjshir, our OCC-P and SFA Team are partnered and working closely with ANSF every day. We are leveraging security gains across our AO to allow for economic development, improvements in quality of life, and building local government capacity. TF Lethal (1-168 IN) continues to set the standard in counter insurgency operations in a tough fight in Paktia, and TF Fury (1-134 CAV) is building ANSF capability in Kabul.

Red Bull Soldiers have used overwhelming combat power to defeat insurgents when attacked and also demonstrated compassion and courageous restraint at every opportunity.

We have been tested by fire and challenged by the complexities of bringing peace and stability to the region. Through determination, dedication and discipline, we have created a strong, formidable and capable BCT. This didn't happen by accident. It is the result of goal oriented training and the hard work of Soldiers, NCOs and leaders at every level. As a team, we have demonstrated what we are capable of accomplishing and I couldn't be more proud of where we are at today as an organization.

In the next seven months, I want to challenge you in another way. This time, not so much as a member of a team, rather as an individual. If you haven't already, I urge you to set personal and/or professional goals. Though we must remain focused on our mission and prepared to respond at a moment's notice, we all have the opportunity to focus on self-improvement while we are deployed.

Without the distractions of home, we can focus our down time on improving personal goals and developing healthy habits. Enroll in an online college course, or take a class offered at the university outlet. Set a goal of increasing your overall APFT score to enhance your promotion points or your level of physical fitness. Learn a new language, which is made easier in this environment where you can work with native speakers. Develop a deployment reading list to improve your understanding of Afghan culture and politics, or simply read books for pleasure and to expand your knowledge.

These are just a few suggestions – the possibilities are only limited by your imagination, OPTEMPO and access to certain resources. However, no matter your mission or where you're located, if there is a will, there is always a way to make yourself better. And that is my challenge to you for the remainder of the deployment. I am proud of each of you and of your efforts in support of this mission. ♥



**By Brigade Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Joel Arnold**



Id like to start off by saying how pleased I am with the way all of you are performing on this mission. We've been at it for several weeks now and I see great things happening on all fronts. The cooperation we are getting from the locals and the number of reports I see involving Afghan National Security Forces testify to the fact that we are doing this mission in the way we have been asked to do it.

As we continue to push forward, I want to re-iterate one of the goals I set out when we started this mobilization. I do not want anyone seriously injured due to something we could have prevented with proper leadership. As I said in my first note, leaders at all levels need to see potential issues, communicate corrections, and then enforce the correction through inspection, direction, and example... "See it, Say it, Be it."

I am glad to say that, thus far, we have been fairly successful here. I am tracking only a very few injuries due to accident, several of which were reduced in severity due to proper wear of personal protective equipment. Good work.

Still, despite our best efforts, there have been some incidents that might have been prevented. As expected, slips, trips, and falls are our number one cause of injury. These may happen due to failure to use handrails, jumping from vehicles, failure to maintain three points of contact, or just being in a hurry. No amount of leadership is going to prevent these from happening 100%. However, as individuals, we can impact the outcome by slowing down, keeping our eyes on the path, and making sure we are not trying to handle too much with one load.

Another area of concern is impingements of hands and feet. Again, individual attention to where we step and where we place our hands is a critical factor here. Slow down, look around for potential hazards and avoid them where possible. If it can't be avoided, make sure everyone around you knows what you are doing.

Finally, we have experienced a number of incidents involving soldiers at home on leave. These incidents have come from a wide range of causes, from innocent childhood play activities to hanging out alone in rough establishments. As with military operations, risk assessment should be a part of every activity. You don't need to complete a formal document. Sometimes it is just a simple matter of thinking things through. Remember, danger does not take leave.

Nobody starts out the day with the intention of getting hurt. Often times, things just happen. But experience tells us that many issues can be avoided with a couple seconds of additional thought. Impetuous actions and lack of paying attention both play a major role in creating injuries. Think about it.

As always, I thank you all for answering the call to serve. Whether you are out in an austere COP or here on BAF with access to all the modern conveniences, you have volunteered to put yourself in harm's way to serve the cause of liberty and freedom for all people of the world. Let's make sure we do those things necessary to return safely and enjoy those same blessings back home. ♥

Life on COP Najil



COP NAJIL, Afghanistan-- (Top Left) The US Flag at COP Najil's highest point, with the mountains as a backdrop. (Top Right) The MWR Building, smoking area and TOC on COP Najil. (Bottom) MRAPs parked next to sleeping tents at COP Najil. (Back ground) COP Najil and the nearby Afghan village as seen halfway to the Death Star, lookout tower.

By Spc. Anthony Beadle
A Co. 1-133 Infantry

Remote is one of the words that come to mind when thinking about combat outpost Najil. The COP itself was built on the side of a mountain. Since we are from Iowa, where the land is full of hills and gentle slopes; it was culture shock when we first got here. Everywhere you look, no matter what direction, you see a mountain.

Living conditions are different by civilian standards. We have running water, although that depends on the guy supplying the water, and the equipment itself. We have four showers and two sinks for all soldiers to share. We have a chow hall; which we also use as a conference room, alternate MWR and chapel. The official MWR has five computers, and three phones to call home on. It has a collection of books donated by people in the states. Small for a company of soldiers, but we all make sure everyone gets a chance to contact home. Some guys have their own rooms, but others share lodging with eight or more soldiers.

Working out is a huge part of COP Najil life. During the course of the day there is obnoxious music being played, and the clinking of weights in the background. Our gym isn't huge by any means, but there is enough equipment to stay in shape. Since we live on the side of a mountain, running up to the tower nicknamed "Death Star," is what the guys do to get their

cardio in. Roughly five thousand feet in the air, Death Star is one of the more memorable parts about this COP. Guys will spend days to weeks guarding it, which between dismounted and mounted patrols this is one of the easier assignments.

Chow is served from a Mobile Kitchen Tent, with actual Army cooks. Chow is always hit or miss; it's hard to satisfy everybody when we only have certain meals that the Army provides us to eat. Now we can't complain that much, as the Army did provide us with an ice sculpture for Thanksgiving. We get regular shipments of snacks, which helps if the meal that day wasn't to our liking.

Mail is the main morale booster, since we only get mail as often as once every other week; the guys appreciate getting it that much more. Getting mail via helicopters is the main means of conveyance; but when it's been a while, they often plan convoys to the headquarters to get mail and other much needed supplies. Dangerous yes, but worth it to keep this place running.

Everyday seems to melt into the next; so depending on the particular Soldier, we all have our routines; our things to keep the stress of leaving home for so long down. Some of us watch movies on our personal computers. Other guys prefer to get together to play cards or video games. With patrols going out on a regular basis and every Soldier doing his job; time here will hopefully go by fast so we can go home. 🇺🇸

832nd Engineers train for new but familiar mission

By 1st Lt. Ryan Lett
832nd Engineer Company

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan--

Three months of mobilization training prepared the 832nd Engineer Company for key leader engagements and presence patrols in the Bagram security zone. But as soon as they arrived, one platoon's mission changed to one very familiar to its veterans.

Each war in America's history, its military has embraced new combat tactics and skill-sets unknown prior to the conflict. In World War I the U.S. Army introduced mechanization and large scale warfare, with armies numbering in the millions. World War II forged the U.S. Marine Corps into the world's premier amphibious combat force and the Global War on Terror introduced Engineers to route clearance patrols (RCP).

Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) are the most dangerous tactic employed by the enemy since the start of the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq. IEDs are either conventional munitions or homemade explosives that have been modified and then planted to cause massive damage or casualties. Two prime pieces of equipment have been developed to give U.S. forces the capability to detect and then defeat IEDs. Third platoon received training on this equipment here from Assured Mobility Systems.

The detection vehicle, which looks like a giant armored roller skate, is known as the Husky. The Husky has a reinforced cab where the single operator uses mine detection ra-

dar to find IEDs buried in the ground. Upon finding an IED, the Husky operator sprays dye on the ground to mark its position.

The Husky is designed with survivability in mind, because its mission requires it to drive over dangerous explosives. Its four wheels are attached to the main body by clamps, which are designed to take the impact of an IED and distribute it through the frame and chassis. The chassis is then designed to break off from the cab, without completely destroying the vehicle. If the front or rear chassis is blown off, it can be repaired to full operational status on site removing the need to tow it back to a maintenance depot.

Once a suspected IED area is marked, the Buffalo goes into action and inspects the area. The Buffalo is a heavily armored, six-wheeled vehicle featuring a hydraulic arm designed to dig up and defeat IED devices. Fans of the 2007 Transformer movie will recognize the Buffalo from the freeway fight scene between Optimus Prime and a Decepticon. Once the Buffalo defeats the device, it is considered unexploded ordnance and can be safely disposed of.

The Buffalo's thick v-shaped hull can withstand massive

IED strikes. One IED strike can utterly destroy an up-armored Humvee, but Buffaloes have been reported to take multiple direct IED blasts before the vehicle is rendered non-mission capable. During training last week, instructors pointed out a Buffalo that took a massive blast from an IED, comprised of homemade explosives, and all the Soldiers inside survived.

These two vehicles make RCPs a unique and invaluable asset to the brigade's mission in Afghanistan. RCPs improve the maneuverability of infantry and cavalry units by expanding the number of routes they can travel safely. Detection and removal of IEDs also makes Afghanistan a safer place for its citizens.

"Every time we dispose of an IED, I have tangible proof right in front of my face that we are making this place safer," said Staff Sgt. Donni Rooks, a veteran of RCPs in Iraq and a member of the 832nd. 🐻



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Lett



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Ryan Lett

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan--

The Husky is ground guided by a Soldier with the 832nd Engineers here in November. (Top)

BAGRAM AIRFIELD Afghanistan--

The Buffalo operator practices using the articulate arm by digging in a hill of dirt during a training exercise the 832nd Engineers conducted here in November. (Left)

Welcome to...the Ark

By Spc. Nathan Eason
C Co. 1-168 Infantry

COP RHAMAN KHEYL, Afghanistan –

To the Infantrymen, of Company C, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, 2nd Brigade, 34th Infantry Division, who live, work, and defend combat outpost Rhaman Kheyl, Afghanistan, everyday it is home. The Ark, as it is sometimes affectionately referred to, may seem like hundreds of other outposts spread throughout Afghanistan, but to the men of Company C it is different. It is upon this outpost that the fighting men of the Iowa National Guard will make their contribution to the coalition effort in Afghanistan.

When Company C first arrived at the Ark in early November there was little more than a small collection of HESCO barriers or steel mesh baskets lined with felt and filled with dirt. It was lightly defended by a small group of Vermont infantrymen on what felt like the edge of the known world. These committed Soldiers didn't have the manpower to build, defend and conduct the full spectrum operations. This is necessary to have a positive effect on this highly volatile area of Southern Paktya Province, known as the Mamuzi Triangle. As a result, this responsibility fell on the shoulders of their replacements, the men of Iowa. These Iowans set about their task with the diligence and work ethic they're known to possess.

A proper defensive perimeter was the first project to be constructed due, in



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nathan Eason

COP RAHMEN KHEYL, Afghanistan – Soldiers of Team Titan work diligently, night and day, to fill sandbags by hand in order to fortify Afghan COP Rahmen Kheyl in Paktya province. When Titan Soldiers aren't on duty, they are constantly working to better their living conditions.

part, to the influx of Soldiers. To put it simply the Ark was too small. The perimeter had to be expanded which meant more sandbags, more guard towers and more razor wire had to be emplaced. These tasks had to be completed quickly and with whatever tools were on hand. Back home these obstacles would be almost insurmountable, but these are not ordinary men and these are not ordinary circumstances. Every morning, each Soldier of Company C awoke to a cold, dry Afghan day and set about their duties, knowing that their task was as important to their own survival as it was to their fellow Soldiers.

Despite the obstacles, these tasks were completed to U.S. Army specification, but more importantly to their own personal standards.

While maintaining perimeter defense might have seemed Herculean on its own, these fight-

ing men from Iowa had to build their own dwellings as well. There were a few

places to sleep left by the vacating Vermont soldiers, but there was not enough to house all the Soldiers of Company C and more importantly, it was not nearly safe enough for all the personnel now stationed here.

Occupied with the tasks of perimeter defense during the day, down time at the Ark was spent making it as comfortable as can be in this far flung corner of the world. With a handful of hammers, a few nails and some salvaged wood these infantrymen thousands of miles from their homes in Iowa, turned an indefensible outpost into a habitable, defensible home they affectionately call...The Ark.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Nathan Eason

COP RAHMEN KHEYL, Afghanistan – Soldiers of Team Titan (C Co, TF Lethal) work to build flooring for one of the tents at Afghan COP Rahmen Kheyl (ARK). Living conditions are meek at best but Titan Soldiers work hard to make the best of their situation.

Recreation on the Front Lines

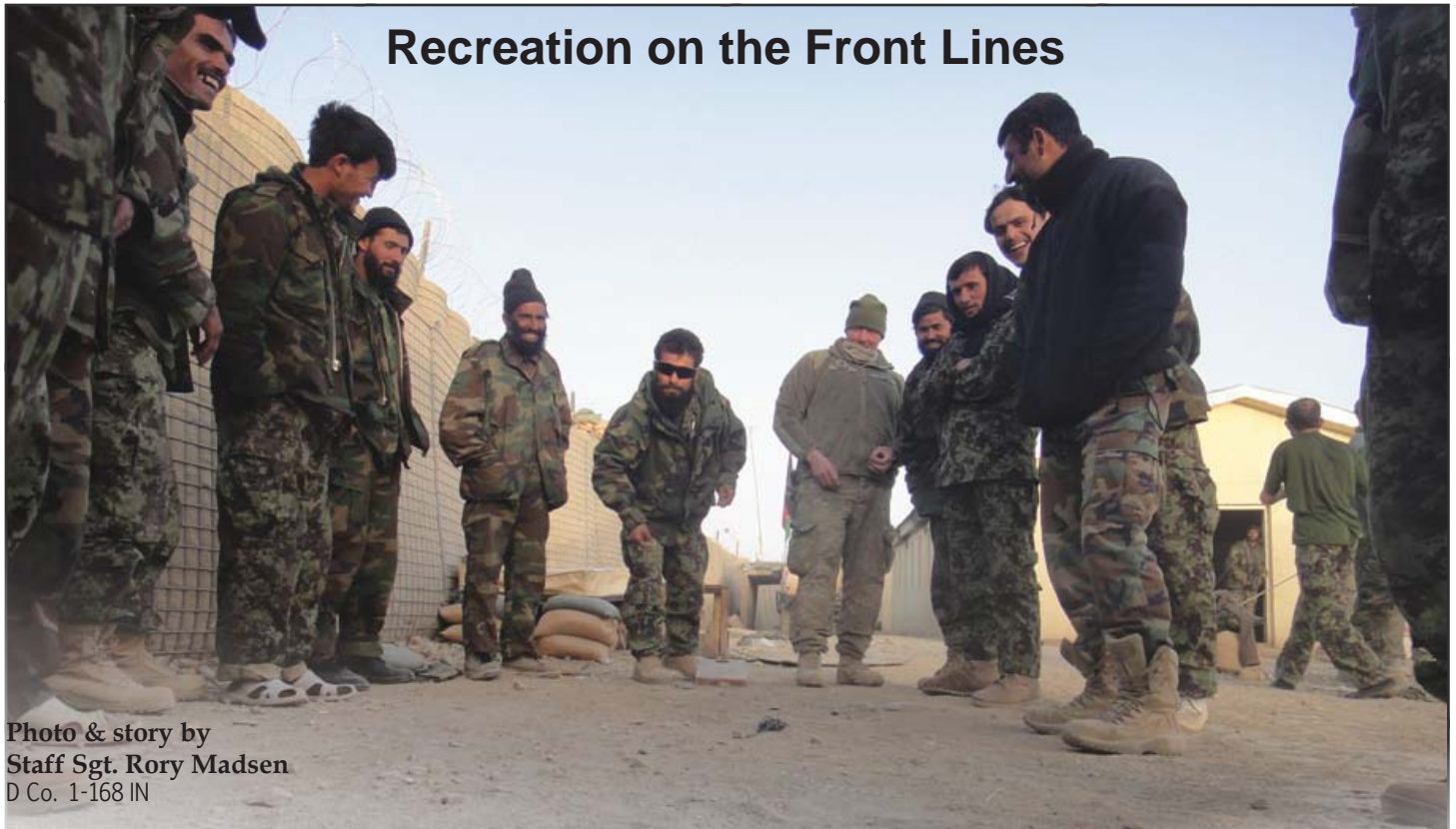


Photo & story by
Staff Sgt. Rory Madsen
D Co. 1-168 IN

FOB KALAGU, Afghanistan --

The sun reached its peak, midday Dec. 7 in the mountainous town of Kalagu. The markets full of Afghan locals buying and selling supplies for the upcoming winter months. Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, Company D, 1st Battalion, 168 Infantry Regiment, return from a patrol thru the city and start to prep for the afternoon plans.

The night prior, 2nd Platoon leadership made plans with the Afghan National Army commander to have an afternoon full of volleyball competitions and a few matches of bags. The U.S. Soldiers came into the match with high hopes but quickly found that the ANA were much better at volleyball than originally anticipated.

After losing the first four matches, the U.S. Soldiers were able to pull out a win, which was the final match of the day. While the final match was being played, Sgt. 1st Class Nick Esser, of Riverton, Iowa, was showing the remaining ANA soldiers how to play bags. They took to it quickly, and although their volleyball

skills much exceeded that of their bag throwing ability, they had a lot of fun.

A cool breeze was blowing out of the north throughout the matches, but as the final volley was pointed out by the Americans, sweat was forming on their faces. Hands were shaken and "good games" were said to each player. This was the first time the ANA soldiers and U.S. Soldiers in Kalagu got to hang out and get to know each other.

"I never expected them to be so good at volleyball," said Spc. Curt Moreno, of Crescent, Iowa, and 2nd squad member. "They were spiking all over us. I think that this was a good event to build some trust with our new counterparts, though, and look forward to working with them over the next few months."

Everyone came out to enjoy the afternoon, to include the ANA commander, executive officer, and first sergeant, along with the entirety of 2nd platoon. It was the beginning of a good working relationship and built a strong trust between the ANA and American Soldiers.



Turkey Trot: It's all about the t-shirt



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Laura Walker

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Lt. Col. Troy Weiland and Sgt. 1st Class Cara Blair proudly show-off their new t-shirts earned by running in the Turkey Trot 10k, here Nov. 25.

By 1st Lt. Laura K Walker
C Co. 2-34th BSTB

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan --

Back home it's a Thanksgiving tradition to chow down on turkey, stuffing, mash potatoes and pumpkin pie with no thought to a workout. Here for about 150 Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians, what they were about to do at 5 a.m., Nov. 25 was going to be their excuse to indulge in the traditional Thanksgiving

ing meal, later that day.

This was the beginning of the Bagram 10K, Turkey Trot. A race organized by Morale, Welfare and Recreation (MWR). MWR hosts many similar events throughout the year here and on other military installations in Afghanistan.

As the word spread, more and more deployed servicemembers and civilians signed up for the trot around Bagram. The day before the race the sign up roster closed out at 650 participants according to the race director. At the start of the race around 150 people dragged themselves out of their warm beds to brave the cold and darkness. Race sign-in started at 4:30 a.m. and the race began at 5 a.m.

For some the preparation started several weeks prior, for others there was little to no preparation. For Sgt 1st Class Heidi Lansing from the 2-34th Brigade Special Troops Battalion and Staff Sgt. Mark Lansing from the 334th Brigade Support Battalion, both residents of Ely, Iowa, the Bagram 10K Turkey Trot was their first organized race. When asked why Staff Sgt. Lansing signed up for the race he said his wife made him. This husband and wife duo crossed the finish line together.

At 5 a.m. the race was on, runners took

off shouting words of encouragement to their colleagues. The course took the runners down Disney Boulevard, the main road on Bagram. The road is lined with streetlights that gave runners a way to see, but many runners ran with caution due to the road conditions. The road is very uneven with potholes and patches of gravel but this did not dampen the spirits of runners.

There was not a fancy finisher's shoot or balloon arch to greet the runners as they finished the race as there would be at many Turkey Trots back home. There were no timing chips or timing clocks at the finish line, but there was a brave volunteer who stood freezing, calling off times as the runners crossed the finish line.

Many would wonder why someone would want to get up so early and fight the cold just to run 6.2 miles. The answer is simple, it's all about the free t-shirt.

Some people have time goals; others have distance goals. However, Lt. Col. Troy Weiland of Task Force Red Bulls has a different goal.

"My goal is to see how many t-shirts I can accumulate before redeploying back home," said Weiland.

Other soldiers have their eyes set on goals when they return back to the United States. Sgt 1st Class Heidi Lansing wants to run in the Bix Road Race in Davenport, Iowa, and Staff Sgt. Ester Pihl has her eyes set on running a full marathon.

"During this deployment, I want as many memories as possible. I like the atmosphere of a running event (and T-Shirt). It is a great way to connect with others and build relationships" said 1st Lt. Chad Mackie, Chaplain for the. ♥



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Jessica Beswick

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan -- Santa Clause and a Christmas tree stand outside a chapel on a base in Afghanistan. Soldiers stationed here have decorated for the holidays in order to make it feel more like home.

Stockings cont. pg 1

was married in May and Spc. Sean Starr a Waterloo, Iowa native with C Co. who married his wife Amanda Starr July 17, 2010. For some it will be the first, for others like Spc. James Ranney a Springville, Iowa native who has been married for 20 years, this will be just another Christmas away from home. Over Ranney's last 20 years of marriage he's spent ten holidays away from his wife

and children on deployments with the Navy and Army.

This Christmas will be harder on the family, because his son is also deployed serving with Company B, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment, said Ranney.

"We are thankful for the support we are receiving from our FRG, it is making the holidays brighter considering where we are located," said Capt. Brian J. Davis, the C Co. commander. ♥

Barrack's Lawyer



By Maj. Bill Kelly
2-34 BCT, Brigade Judge Advocate

Afghanistan is a troubled country. Red Bulls Soldiers are dealing with insurgents, IEDs, corruption, and dangerous criminal networks. The barrack's lawyer proclaims that since Soldiers are working so hard in such a dangerous place nothing will happen to them either in Afghanistan or at home on leave if they do not follow the rules. Some of these Soldiers in Afghanistan followed the Barrack's lawyer's advice and got the result that followed.

Examples: A specialist (E-4) received a field grade article 15 for stealing alcohol and for violating General Order # 1, paragraph 5(c) by drinking. The Soldier received a reduction in grade to private first class (E-3), forfeitures of \$861.05 for one month and extra duty for 30 days. A private (E-2) received a company grade article 15 for failing to report for duty. The Soldier got a reduction in grade to private (E-1), forfeiture of \$337.00 pay and extra duty for 14 days. A specialist (E-4) was convicted of the possession of child pornography by a general court-martial. The Soldier was sentenced to a reduction in grade to private (E-1), 12 months confinement, and a bad conduct discharge. A specialist (E-4) received a field grade article 15 for violating General Order # 1, paragraph 5(m)(3) for driving an all terrain vehicle without the required personal protective equipment and for making a false official statement by lying about the incident to an officer. He was reduced to private first class (E-3), forfeitures of \$852.00 for two months and extra duty for 30 days.

Advice: The Brigade Judge Advocate knows that soldiers are working hard in a dangerous place. It does not mean that Soldiers can break the law or refuse to follow safety rules. Commanders look at every case to insure fair punishment but the results show that money and rank can be taken. It is not worth it to come to Afghanistan and lose money and rank. The same goes for Soldiers on leave. It is not worth it to go home and do something stupid that ends up in an arrest. Police officers are not going to let you go just because you are on leave or fighting for the U.S. honorably. During this New Year, we should all resolve to silence the Barrack's Lawyers and do what is right both legally and morally. ♥

Let me know if you have received any other "good advice" from your Barrack's Lawyer and we will discuss it in the next edition of the Ryder Dispatch.

(Email: 2ndBCT34thID.PublicAffairsOffice@us.army.mil)



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rory Madsen

FOB KALAGU, Afghanistan -- ANA soldiers learn the fundamentals of a .50 cal machine gun from U.S. Soldiers with D Co. 1-168th Infantry here Dec 4.

New Age Soldiers Learn Old School Weapon

By Staff Sgt. Rory Madsen
D Co. 1-168 IN

Soldiers from 2nd Plt, D Co, 1-168 INF moved out to FOB Kalagu for their first stay in the area on the 4th of December. This was their first experience working with the 1st Kandak, ANA soldiers in the area. Training with the ANA started almost immediately. First came introductions, and closely following that came the war stories that all infantrymen seem to tell fellow combat soldiers. Friendships were developed quickly.

The first bit of training that was taught was the fundamentals of disassembling, reassembling, loading and unloading the .50 cal machine gun. The ANA soldiers seemed really interested in the weapon system. They were all very attentive during Staff Sgt. Auffarts class. After the basic fundamentals were taught the weapon was mounted on top of one of the trucks and taken out to the range. Each of the ANA soldiers got the chance to load and

fire the weapon system at varying targets on the range. The reaction from their soldiers was similar to that which you would see from our own young soldiers. The excitement in their eyes as they took charge of one of the Army's most powerful machine guns was intense. They were all smiles after the training exercise and asked when they could do it again.

It seems the ANA are most interested in the history and inventors of each of our weapons systems. When asked about their reasons for that, the ANA Plt. Sgt. said, "If you know where the weapon came from, and who the inventor was, you can build a bigger respect for it. Respect the weapon and it will respect you."

Sgt. Hanson, of 2nd Plt, whom assisted with the training says, "It's nice to work with people that are so willing to learn. Too often you have people not dedicated to their job, but these guys really want to improve their knowledge and be better soldiers." ♥

The .50 cal Machine Gun was developed by John M Browning at the request of the U.S. Army. During World War II nearly 2 million machine guns were produced and utilized by various U.S. services.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kritsina Gupton



Photos taken from around the Red Bulls area of operations over the past few months.



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Rory Madsen



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kritsina Gupton



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James Wilton



**Red Bulls,
ATTACK!!!**

Thanks to all of the support from our fellow Red Bulls the Public Affairs team has been hard at work telling the soldiers story. Check out our websites and leave us a comment on our wall.

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