

OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF TASK FORCE BASTOGNE

BASTOGNE

MAGAZINE

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DECEMBER 2010



AIRBORNE



BASTOGNE

Happy Holidays

I want to take this opportunity to wish all of the members of Task Force Bastogne Happy Holidays. Over the past six months we have proven to be a determined, disciplined and professional fighting force. Together you and our Afghan National Security Force partners have continuously demonstrated your commitment to bringing the security and stability that the Afghan people deserve. We still face a tough and resourceful insurgency, but we have taken the initiative with a tenacity and courage that are proving overwhelming to the enemy.

A Word From The Commander

You have continued to take the fight to the enemy, foiling their efforts to bring back the terror and tyranny they inflicted on the Afghan people in the past. The numerous combined operations and patrols have denied the enemy the ability to conduct their terroristic activities, allowing stability and democracy to take root where previously only fear and tyranny ruled.

You have continued to take the fight to the enemy, foiling their efforts to bring back the terror and tyranny they inflicted on the Afghan people in the



Col. Andrew P. Poppas
Task Force Bastogne Commander

We have lost thirteen more Bastogne Heroes. Their sacrifices will not be forgotten. We will honor that sacrifice, continuing the mission of making Afghanistan a more secure place for its people.

As 2010 ends and the New Year begins, I continue to be inspired by the dedication, professionalism and selfless service of the entire team: Soldiers, PRTs, ADTs and civilians. You continue to make progress in setting the conditions for economic development, good local governance, justice and the rule of law for all citizens. Through your efforts local Afghan government capabilities continue to grow. Projects designed to improve agriculture and foster essential services in N2KL are taking root. Signs of positive change are all around; you can take great pride in that.

You can look back with satisfaction on what you've accomplished in 2010 and how you met the challenges you faced head on with courage and honor. This coming year will also be challenging, but one thing is certain: we will be successful. We will build on our successes and create a new future for Afghanistan.

I want to thank our Bastogne families and friends for your unwavering support. It is never easy to be separated, especially during the Holidays. You have borne this burden with a grace and courage that inspires the members of Task Force Bastogne every day. Know that your love and support contributes immeasurably to our success here in Afghanistan!

Continue to take care of each other and stay focused on the mission!

Bastogne!



Keep the pressure on the enemy

As a Task Force, we have reached the midway point in our combat rotation and are experiencing many changes. These changes are not unforeseeable and we have known that many would come. We continue to rotate leaders into key positions as we mature and develop the force, rotate our provincial reconstruction teams, and switch out our great National Guard Infantry BN (1-102 Iron Grays) with another great unit from the great state of Iowa (1-33 Iron Man). We will also rotate our Triple 7 Artillery in Dec.

A WORD FROM THE COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR

One, if not the biggest, change that I have observed is that our enemy, the Taliban, have been severely weakened in AO Bastogne. This is in large part due to

the constant and consistent pressure that has been placed upon them by our Warriors at every level. You have truly brought the fight to the enemy! Our units have projected the force and this has resulted in protection of our static positions and the population centers in our Key Terrain Districts.

As we move into the second half of our deployment I ask that all keep the focus that got us to this point of extreme success! It will always be the disciplined individuals and units that conduct the basic blocking and tackling that will defeat their opponents. The largest measure of individual safety and efficiency will be the continued use of the Battle Buddy System. The physical and mental health of each Soldier, Sailor, Marine, and Airmen as well as our State Department and Civilian work force is paramount. Without that Shoulder to lean upon we cannot get through a year long deployment.

I was honored to be able to spend time recently with some of our wounded Warriors at Fort Campbell as well as at Walter Reed Army Hospital. The resilience and spirit they all showed is the most inspiring thing I have ever experienced. Their number one thought should, by all accounts, be upon themselves and their families as they struggle through the uphill recovery battle. What I saw instead was Warriors who were concerned more about those still in the fight here in Afghanistan. I ask that we remain in contact with our Wounded Warriors and their Families through the tough times they have ahead.

As we begin our transition into the winter months here in N2KL we must all be aware of how the weather will affect our operations. We must all be diligent and aware of situations that may result in undo injuries to our Warriors and mitigate these hazards. Listen to your internal senses and take appropriate steps to reduce injuries and accidents in all areas. Do not rush to failure!

It is my continued Honor to be the Senior Enlisted Soldier of such an outstanding Task Force and I pledge my continued support to every member of our Organization.

“Honor and Country”

CSM Kevin R. Benson



Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin R. Benson
Task Force Bastogne Command Sergeant Major

A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY

HONOR AND COUNTRY

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Taskmasters maintain weapons proficiency

By U.S. Army Spc. Richard Daniels Jr.
Task Force Bastogne Public Affairs



U.S. Army Spc. Jeremy R. Lawson of Kokomo, Ind., a driver with Headquarters Platoon, Company A, 426th Brigade Support Battalion fires his M4 rifle at a heavy weapons range in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 11.



U.S. Army Pfc. Rodney C. Wall of Hutchinson, Kan., a Fire Support Specialist with Fire Support Element, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Bastogne, fires a M240B machine gun at a heavy weapons range in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 11.



U.S. Army Spc. Jeremy R. Lawson of Kokomo, Ind., a driver with Headquarters Platoon, Company A, 426th Brigade Support Battalion fires his M4 rifle at a heavy weapons range in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 11.



(Right) U.S. Army Sgt. Kevin M. Monroe of Salt Lake City, Utah, a Combat Observation Lasing Team member from the Fire Support Element, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Bastogne observes as (center) U.S. Army 1st Lt. Jonathan M. Downes of Granville, Ohio, platoon leader with Transportation Platoon, A Company, 426th Brigade Support Battalion fires a M240B machine gun at a heavy weapons range in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 11.



U.S. Army Tara M. Morrow of Erie, Penn., Corps of Engineers, Alpha Company, 1st Detachment, 128th Brigade Support Battalion, fires a M240B machine gun at a heavy weapons range in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 11. Task Force Taskmaster Soldiers understand weapons familiarization and proficiency could make the difference in the fiercest of battles.



U.S. Army Sgt. Brandon R. Mendez of Clarksville, Tenn., an Administrative and Logistics Operations Center Soldier with 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Bandit, inventories ammo before shipping it off to his unit in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province Oct. 24.

Soldiers supply task force to complete mission

**Story by Spc. Richard Daniels Jr.
Task Force Bastogne Public Affairs**

Food, ammunition, equipment and supplies are required to successfully fight the war in Afghanistan especially for the 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Bandit.

When the battalion requires specific materials, TF Bandit's Administrative and Logistics Operations Center gets the request and gathers the desired product.

"The role of the ALOC is to support Area of Operations Bandit with supplies and material," said U.S. Army Capt. Johnathan M. Wagner of Lawton, Okla., officer in charge of the ALOC with 1st Squadron, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Bandit. "We have a supply representative from each troop here at the ALOC. We have an ammo noncommissioned officer in charge and we have a maintenance guy."

The ammunition noncommissioned officer in charge, U.S. Army Sgt. Brandon R. Mendez of Clarksville, Tenn., orders all essential ammunition for his unit.

"My mission is key to mission success because without ammo, there is no way to win this war on terror," he said.

Not every Soldier in the ALOC has a background in the supply field thus creating personal challenges amongst some personnel.

"The most challenging part is learning the supply world," said U.S. Army Sgt. Charles H. Johnson Jr. of Kansas City, Mo., supply liaison. "I'm not supply, I've never done it, but learning the supply world and working with the [Afghans] here in Afghanistan versus Iraq is a lot different. There is nothing here really conflicting or hard. It's just making it happen."

After receiving a request and viewing a log status, Wagner and his Soldiers gather and package the required materials then coordinate transportation.

"Everything TF Bandit receives, whether it's batteries, parts, or any type of material they need to sustain combat operations, an ALOC Soldier either signs for it or touches it somehow to either get it on a bird or get it on a convoy," said Wagner.

Though small in number, the ALOC has made a major impact on TF Bandit's mission by providing the necessary supplies and materials.

"We have seven people -- seven individuals taking care of 400 to 600 Soldiers. Their efforts combined with my efforts. We form like 'Voltron' and make it happen," said Mendez.

Nuristan PRT views progress in Villages

By U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen

Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team



U.S. Army Spc. Mark Wortman, member of the mortar team of the Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team from La Plata, Md., observes the mountain range around Forward Operating Base Kalagush on Oct. 30. Situational awareness ensures the safety and security of the PRT. PRTs operating in Afghanistan focus on improving the government's ability to provide security and improve the nation's capacity.



U.S. Navy Cmdr. Bill Mallory (right), commanding officer of the Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team from Chesapeake, Va., listens to a leader from the village of Kautiak on Oct. 30. The PRT pays visits to villagers to determine the sources of instability in Afghanistan after more than 30 years of war. PRTs work to mitigate these sources of instability to enhance support for the government and improve everyday life for Afghan citizens.



U.S. Army Spc. Udo Gonzalez-Collado, mortar team lead for the Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team security force from South Barre, Mass., watches activities with his binoculars near Forward Operating Base Kalagush on Oct. 30. Getting positive identification of potential targets minimizes collateral damage. PRTs work with the government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to improve the lives of Afghan citizens.



U.S. Army Spc. Udo Gonzalez-Collado, mortar team lead for the Nuristan Provincial Reconstruction Team security force from South Barre, Mass., positions himself and his gear near Forward Operating Base Kalagush on Oct. 30. Maintaining security is a major focus of the PRT. The PRT's mission is to improve governance, security and infrastructure in the country after more than three decades of war.

Unique Challenges Patrolling Border AO's

**By U.S. Army Sgt. Albert L. Kelley
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment**

Soldiers with Company D, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Spartan endured rough terrain and long distances to patrol and secure their area of operation.

Recently, Soldiers from 1st platoon, journeyed to Afghan Border Police Outpost Salala with Hesco barriers, pick axes and shovels to help the ABP fortify their position.

The short 20-kilometer distance took approximately two hours due to lack of roads and unforgiving rocky terrain. Seatbelts were the only thing preventing Soldiers from bouncing off vehicle roofs and each other as they as they bounced along the landscape.

"There are no good routes to get to the population," said U.S. Army Capt. Steven M. Carmichael, of Columbus, Ga., company commander with Company D, 2nd Batt., 327th Inf. Regt. "The districts are spread out. Often, this requires longer patrols and more overnight stays."



After driving as far as they could with the vehicles, the platoon dismounted and trekked the remaining distance on foot, humping all their equipment, including mortar tubes, rounds, food and water up a steep mountain trail.

At the outpost, the Soldiers relentlessly attacked the hard ground with pick axes and shovels in order to fill the HESCO barriers with dirt and rocks.

As they worked, they remained vigilant as they were within eyesight of the Pakistan border and two villages thought to be under heavy Taliban influence.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Dave Konopa, of Kokomo, Ind., the platoon leader with 1st Platoon, Company D, 2nd Batt., 327th Inf. Regt., led the men on this patrol and many others like it.

“We are sure [insurgents] come into Afghanistan here and flood into Kunar,” said Konopa. “With additional security, [the ABP] will be able to increase their patrols while feeling safer as well. Also, we will be able to perform larger and longer patrols in the area.”

When dusk approached, the men grabbed a bit of chow, and then prepared for the cool windy night atop the mountain. Soldiers not on guard duty wrapped themselves in poncho liners, sleeping bags and anything else that could

be used to shield themselves from the wind.

At the crack of dawn, they ate meals ready to eat in shifts before continuing on with their outpost fortification.

After a few hours of side-by-side work with the ABP, the men packed their gear and headed back down the mountain and began their trip towards home base.

Twice on the return trip, the large mine resistant ambush protected vehicles were stuck. The Soldiers took action quickly by dismounting, hooking up tow bars and pulling or pushing the vehicles free.

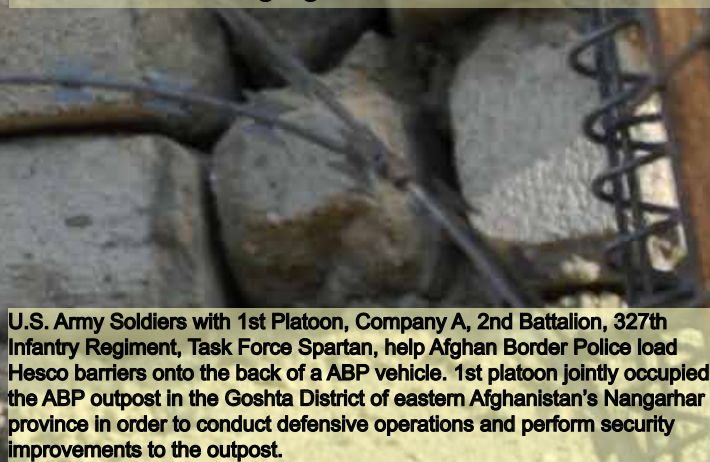
After finally arriving home, tired from the journey and limited sleep, the Soldiers still managed to get in physical training and a hot meal before finally getting some much-needed rest.

The missions may be long, bumpy and dangerous but each time the Soldiers went out, they remind themselves of the importance of what they were doing and why they were doing it.

“[We] are trying to ensure that the Government Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is represented up there,” said Carmichael. “And that the people see us, the Afghan National Army, the Afghan Border Police and the Afghan Nation Police working together.”



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Dan J. Konopa, of Kokomo, Ind., a platoon leader, directs his Soldiers while U.S. Army Spc. Jeremy R. Tetrick, of Glennville, Ga., a forward observer provides security, September 27. Both men are with 1st Platoon, Company D, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Spartan. 1st platoon jointly occupied an Afghan border police outpost in the Goshta District of eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province in order to conduct defensive operations and perform security improvements to the outpost.



U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Platoon, Company A, 2nd Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Spartan, help Afghan Border Police load Hesco barriers onto the back of a ABP vehicle. 1st platoon jointly occupied the ABP outpost in the Goshta District of eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar province in order to conduct defensive operations and perform security improvements to the outpost.



Hook Up! Fire!

By U.S. Army Sgt. Albert L. Kelley
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



U.S. Army Soldiers with 1st Section, 1st platoon, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls hurl a 155mm round from Combat Outpost Garcia in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 2.



U.S. Army Sgt. Khoi M. Pham of Baltimore, Md., a gunner with 3rd Section, 1st Platoon, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls elevates a M777 Howitzer moments before it is fired from Combat Outpost Garcia in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 2.



U.S. Army Spc. Justin A. Brown, of Houston, Texas, an assistant gunner with 1st section, 1st Platoon, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls elevates a M777 Howitzer moments before it is fired from Combat Outpost Garcia in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 2.



U.S. Army Pfc. Paul M. Gatto, from Bethlehem, Pa., the cannoneer with 3rd Section, 1st Platoon, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls elevates a M777 Howitzer hooks up his firing lanyard seconds before he discharges a 155mm round from a M777 Howitzer from Combat Outpost Garcia in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 2.



U.S. Army Pfc. Anthony W. Garrett, from Paducah, Ky., an assistant gunner with 3rd Section, 1st Platoon, Battery A, 2nd Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment, Task Force Balls elevates a M777 Howitzer moments before it is fired from Combat Outpost Garcia in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, Oct. 2.

We're half way there, don't lose your footing

Bastogne! Heroes! You have been away from home and loved ones for a long time, but we are now on the downhill slope. Remember though, that sometimes running down hill can be more difficult than running uphill.

This deployment is more of a marathon than a sprint. The first three or four months here were busy and we had to push hard physically, mentally and spiritually in order to overcome the initial pain of running this distance.

Now, after reaching the mid-tour mark, going downhill can give us false sense of security that can mislead us. In other words, because of the downhill slope, we may think that we can just coast. However, we need to be careful with the "weights" we carry when we run down hill, for it will be hard on the knee, ankle, hip and foot etc. You have been in a combat zone for more than six months and have been exposed to stressful situations that can be heavy on you physically, mentally and spiritually. Those are the weights you now carry whether you like it or not.

You may wonder, "Hey Chappy, what else can we do to help ourselves?" Here is a suggestion or recommendation from a chaplain who admires and loves you all very much—Let us stay focused on the basics. What I mean is that we need to do what we have been trained or taught from Basic training and beyond. PT, prayer, eating right, doing the right thing and maintaining good contact with family, are some of the "basics" that come to mind. When we do this on a daily basis, it helps us build up the resiliency that we need to finish this race strong.

Bastogne warriors, the bottom line is that you should be proud of yourself for being here and assisting the people of Afghanistan to make their country safer and better, and creating more opportunities for it's future. At the same time, you are serving our nation and God as well. God's Word says "those who hope in the LORD will renew their strength and soar on wings like eagles"

May God continue to bless you!

CH Kim



Chaplain (Maj.) Moon Kim
Task Force Bastogne Chaplain

History of the Club

In May, 1944 (in anticipation of the D-Day invasion), the 101st Airborne Division decided to develop/implement a helmet marking system unique to the 101st.

The system was based on suits of playing cards---clubs, hearts, diamonds, and spades. Each major infantry unit of the Division was assigned a "suit" as their specific symbol. The club was given to the 327th Glider Infantry. The 327th used this as its symbol during the rest of World War II.

The symbols (the Club in your case) were painted directly onto both sides of the helmet above the wearer's ear using white paint. A small tick mark around the edge of the Club denotes the 327th's subordinate battalions.

After WW2 ended and the 101st was inactivated, our helmet marking system fell into disuse and has been revived from time to time.

In Vietnam, 327th Infantry Soldiers drew the Club directly onto their helmet covers using a black sharpie and a 50 cent piece as an outline for the lobes of the Club.

In Summer 2002, I was assigned to the 327th Infantry. I purchased several sample Club patches from a local embroidery shop. I presented them to COL Thomas Schoenbeck (then 1 BCT's commander) and asked him if we could wear them sewn to our helmet covers. He got approval and we began wearing them on our helmet covers. This started the most recent use of helmet patches/symbols in the 101st. The rest of the Brigades, and later the Division HQ, followed and designed patches of their own.

Air Assault!

U.S. Army Capt. James A. Page

Team focused on Afghan-driven solutions

**By U.S. Air Force Capt. Peter Shinn
734th Agri-Business Development Team**

Members of the Iowa National Guard's 734th Agribusiness Development Team heard a sobering assessment of conditions in Kunar province when they went on a fact-finding mission to the Sarkani District Center on Sept. 29. During the mission, personnel from the ADT's Agricultural Section met with Sarkani district agricultural officials and visited two potential sites for demonstration farms in the district.

The ADT, which began its mission in Kunar province about two months ago, has consistently queried Afghan officials about their needs and how the ADT can address them. They did so again during the mission to the Sarkani district, asking the district land reform manager, who goes only by Zargul, what he sees as the district's most urgent needs.

"We need reconstruction assistance of everything equally in Afghanistan," Zargul said. "After the revolution and during the war, basic things like agriculture, education, military and culture were destroyed. We need help with all of them, and will be happy to get whatever help the ADT is willing to give."

Zargul requested assistance, not just from the ADT, but from international nongovernmental agencies as well. He also noted the relatively short duration, by Afghan standards, of ADT deployments.

"A previous ADT came and shared their opinions with us and started various projects, but because their time here was short, they did not complete them and they left," Zargul said. "We were pleased that they sent some people to train us how to store the hay and alfalfa for our animals. However, that was the only project they completed - no others."

U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Don Kuehl of Jackson, Minn., commanded the Iowa ADT's mission to the Sarkani district. He acknowledged Zargul's



Afghanistan - U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Don Kuehl of Jackson, Minn., Soils Specialist for the Iowa National Guard's 734th Agri-Business Development Team, meets with agricultural officials and farmers from the Sarkani District of Kunar province, Afghanistan, at a potential demonstration farm site near the Sarkani District Center on Sept. 28.

concerns and pointed out the ADT is developing an internship program modeled on one pioneered by the Kansas ADT II, which is stationed in Laghman province.

"We want to train interns who will, in turn, train Afghan locals," Kuehl said. "Ultimately, our goal is that the Afghan people or the village elders can

operate these demonstration farms by themselves so that they, in turn, will continue to train the local farmers."

Kuehl emphasized the importance implementing agricultural projects that future ADTs in Kunar province could easily carry forward. According to Kuehl, however, the Iowa ADT plans to launch initiatives that will be implemented by Afghan agricultural officials.

"What we are going to do is try and put an Afghan face on these projects so that it is not a United States government or Coalition Forces-type project, Kuehl said, "that it's rather an Afghan project to help the local populace."

Kuehl did not dispute Zargul's overall needs assessment for Sarkani district. He explained, however, that many of the needs Zargul described are beyond the scope of the ADT's mission.

"We're here to help the Afghan government provide better ag services to their people," Kuehl said. "That's our area of expertise, and that's where our focus has got to be."



Zargul, Land Reform Director for the Sarkani District of Kunar Province, Afghanistan, listens during a meeting with members of the Iowa National Guard's 734th Agri-Business Development Team at the Sarkani District Center on Sept. 29.

Coalition forces ready mountaintop post

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte

**300th Mobile Public Affairs
Detachment**

U.S. Army Pfc. Dustin Wade of Mulberry, Fla., and U.S. Army Pfc. Michael J. Slaughter of San Diego, Calif., with 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Bulldog, clear brush at a mountaintop observation post in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province Sept. 21. The unit visited Observation Post Rocky to help prepare for transferring the base from the Afghan National Police to the Afghan National Army by the end of Oct.



An Afghan National Army Soldier climbs a mountain in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province Sept. 21. His unit and International Security Assistance Forces visited Observation Post Rocky to help prepare for transferring the base from the Afghan National Police to the ANA by the end of Oct.

An Afghan National Army Soldier climbs a mountain in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province Sept. 21. His unit and International Security Assistance Forces visited Observation Post Rocky to help prepare for transferring the base from the Afghan National Police to the ANA by the end of Oct.



An Afghan National Army Soldier burns trash at a mountaintop observation post in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province Sept. 21. His unit and International Security Assistance Forces visited Observation Post Rocky to help prepare for transferring the base from the Afghan National Police to the ANA by the end of Oct.



U.S. Army Pfc. Duane A. Cheyne of Hopkins, Mich., a gunner with 1st Platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 327th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Bulldog, climbs a mountain in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province Sept. 21. The unit and Afghan National Army troops visited Observation Post Rocky to help prepare for transferring the base from the Afghan National Police to the ANA by the end of Oct.

TF Bastogne conducts retention training

By Sgt. Maj. Willene Orr
CJTF-101 Command Career Counselor

One may not conceive that retention training can occur while in a combat zone and in forward operating area like Afghanistan. Retention does not stop just because Soldiers deploy. All aspects of retention continue whether the unit is in the forward area of operations or back in the rear at home station.

U.S. Army Col. Andrew P. Poppas, 1st Brigade Combat Team Commander, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Kevin Benson, 1st Brigade Combat Team Command Sergeant Major, aggressively support retention throughout their command and ensure training conferences are conducted by the 1st Brigade Combat Team Senior Career Counselor, U.S. Army Master Sgt. Christopher Gish. These conferences are used to instruct commanders, career counselors, and other key personnel in their duties and responsibilities to the Army Retention Program.

On 30-31 Aug., I had the opportunity to take part in the 1st Brigade Combat Team - TF Bastogne Retention Training Conference. Gish, 1st BCT – TF Bastogne senior career counselor recently conducted quarterly retention training for all the command's subordinate career counselors at Forward Operating Base Fenty. They came in from various forward operating bases: FOB Blessing, FOB Bostick, FOB Findley-Shields, FOB Hughie and FOB Joyce. The 1st Brigade Combat Team, TF Bastogne Retention personnel

consist of U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Dennis Dumont, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Henderson, U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Efrain Vega, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Villardine Goode, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Reynolds, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Robert Stull, and U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michelle Vereen.

The training was realistic and relative to what the career counselors do on a daily, weekly, monthly and yearly basis. Gish began the training with team building and had all attendees take part in an "Esprit de Corps" run around FOB Fenty totaling about 3.55 miles. It was a challenge for some; but for most, it was all about the camaraderie and building the "Team of Teams" as Soldiers, noncommissioned officers and then Army career counselors. The first day of training focused on the following topics: retention philosophy, retention promotional items, retention eligibility, options and incentives, counseling techniques, and reclassification processing.

The second day of the conference began with a "surprise" team building event. Staff Sgt. Sabrina Lindahl, 230th Military Police Company, Combined Joint Task Force-101 K-9 Dog Handler and her team presented confidence training with the EOD dogs and their handlers. Most were okay with this "surprise" training except for Goode, who poignantly noted that she did not do dogs and was afraid of them. She was the first to suit up in the bite suit to be challenged by the EOD dogs. She overcame her fear and built up confidence! Lindahl has been with the K-9 Dog

Handler's program for eight years and takes a lot of pride and honor in being a dog handler. It has been tradition that the canine is one rank higher than the handler and Lindahl noted that she has a great admiration and appreciation for her dog Sgt. 1st Class Berji who has been with her for five years. During the confidence training and challenge; Berji took down two of the larger built NCOs who participated in the training. They did not expect that they could be leveled by a dog. All in all the training session with Lindahl and all the dog handlers with their K-9s



proved more than beneficial in building up confidence and trust in the handler and their dogs.

The remaining session of training focused on career counselors' day-to-day functions, the ARM Database and mission parameters. All that attended highlighted that the training proved to be realistic and relative. Gish saw the importance of the training conference since it would lay the foundation for the command's success in retention for fiscal year 2011. Gish also noted, "This training opportunity may be the last time we are all together for the duration of the deployment. Let's make it a fun and memorable event!"

Without a doubt, Gish ensures his team of career counselors is engaged and that all leaders are educated on all aspects of retention to ensure it remains a focal point in the command and is on the

forefront whether in deployed theater or back at home location. I attribute the success that the 1st Brigade Combat Team – TF Bastogne has had in retention to its senior leadership by Poppas and Benson. To be truly effective, efforts to retain high quality Soldiers, our future NCO Corps requires the enthusiastic involvement of all leaders. Their total involvement is essential to strengthen and sustain retention programs at all organizational levels. COL Poppas and CSM Benson provide that and much more.

I extend a special thanks to Lindahl, EOD K-9 Dog Handlers NCOIC and SPC Daniels, 1st BCT – TF Bastogne Public Affairs Office for making this a memorable and significant training event. 1st BCT – TF Bastogne, thanks for leading the way with realistic and relative retention training!

Soldiers on the hunt for a hidden enemy

By U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte
300th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



U.S. Army Spc. Robbie D. Nuttle II of Galena, Kan., who works as a "sweeper" for Route Clearance Package 36, Task Force Bastogne, checks the crater of an improvised explosive device blast for secondary IEDs Oct. 7 in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province.



U.S. Army Pfc. Patrick F. Governale of Mastic, N.Y., a "sweeper" with Route Clearance Package 36, Task Force Bastogne, walks ahead of his unit's convoy to search the road for hidden improvised explosive devices near Bati Kot village in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province Oct. 7. The RCP's parent unit, the 161st Engineer Company, has a 90 percent success rate when you compare the number of IEDs discovered to those that detonate.



U.S. Army Pvt. Jamie L. Gack of Brainerd, Minn., a "sweeper" with Route Clearance Package 36, Task Force Bastogne, checks a field for hidden improvised explosive devices near Jalalabad in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province Oct. 23.

U.S. Army Sgt. Austin Brooks of Phoenix, Ariz., the acting platoon sergeant for Route Clearance Package 36, Task Force Bastogne, radios other members of the search team during a hunt for hidden improvised explosive devices in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province Oct. 23.



Mohmand Tribe Recovers Downed UAS

By U.S. Army Capt. Natalie L. Meng
1st STB, Task Force Spartan

On 27 Sept., Soldiers from the 3rd Platoon, 630th Military Police Company and the Provincial Reconstruction Team-Nangarhar met with Mohmand Tribe members to thank the tribal members for their support of GIRoA and Coalition Forces.

Six members of the Mohmand Tribe in the Kuz Konar District in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province made an important discovery on 23 Aug. The men thought they saw an aircraft crash to the ground so they went to investigate what happened.

They climbed up the mountainous terrain from where they reside to the crash site, discovering a downed Shadow unmanned aerial vehicle valued at \$1.2 million U.S. dollars. The men took the initiative, secured the aircraft, and immediately called Dr. Ayoub, the Line Director of Tribal Affairs in Nangarhar Province. Dr. Ayoub reported the situation to the Civil Affairs Team PRT Nangarhar. The villagers secured the aircraft until Coalition Forces retrieved it, preventing the secure data in the aircraft from reaching enemy hands.

The Mohmand Tribal Shura, formed in March, was the third Shura formed in Nangarhar Province under the Shura system. Coalition Forces assisted the selection of tribal leaders and appointed them with the mission of forming the tribe via a free election system. The nascent tribe held District Shuras and elections in the 11 out of 22 Nangarhar Districts where the Mohmand live.

The culminating event of forming the tribe was the Grand Shura held in July 2010. There the Mohmand Tribe agreed to follow five tenants: support the Afghan Constitution, oppose negative, foreign, external influences, oppose government corruption, empower elders to provide village security, and support free elections for all men and women. Returning the UAV exemplifies the Mohmand Tribe's dedication to upholding these beliefs.

The tribal members that found the UAV were rewarded with a small token of appreciation. "These



The members of the Mohmand Tribe of Kuz Konar District, in eastern Afghanistan's Nangarhar Province, that found the lost Unmanned Aerial Vehicle listen closely to 2nd Lt. Norman Wenrick, platoon leader with 3rd Platoon, 630th Military Police Company, Task Force Spartan of Aaronsburg, Penn., as he addresses the group to show his appreciation for the successful recovery of the sensitive item Sept. 28.

actions by ordinary Mohmand villagers is indicative of the empowerment of tribal leaders to support GIRoA and provide village security," U.S. Army Capt. Glenn T. Battschinger, Civil Affairs team leader of Mays Landing, N.J., said as he expressed his appreciation for their act.

In addition to the reward for those who recovered the UAV, the children of the village received a small gift of school supplies. The tribal elder received enough school supplies for 200 children to help replace items lost in the 28 July flood. The flood devastated the area and destroyed the village's only school. The school supplies, donated by children in the United States, are a step towards a brighter future, even without a school.

"Learning comes from the spirit of a child and the spirits of teachers," said Battschinger on the hope of continuing the children's education now, even without a building.

Closing the meeting, U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Norman Wenrick of Aaronsburg, Penn., platoon leader of 3rd Platoon, 630th Military Police Company, Task Force Spartan expressed his gratitude for the good relationship between the Mohmand Tribe and Coalition Forces with hope it will continue.

"We should continue to work together to provide security and peace to this community in order to create a beautiful Afghanistan for the future," Wenrick said.

TF Bastogne welcomes:



Photo by U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Ryan T. Ernst, Nangarhar PRT

Nangarhar PRT

During the Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Finley-Shields Nov. 5, U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Billy Smith receives the guidon from U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Michael Anderson of Dallas, Texas, after assuming command of Provincial Reconstruction Team Nangarhar.

Nuristan PRT

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Bill Mallory, commanding officer of the Nuristan Reconstruction Team, from Chesapeake, Va., passes the PRT flag back to Sgt. Maj. Jason Roark, senior enlisted advisor from Hinesville, Ga., at Forward Operating Base Kalagush on Nov. 4. The incoming PRT will continue to support and help the Afghan people build their government and improve security. PRTs operating in Afghanistan focus on improving the government's ability to provide security and improve the nation's capacity.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Airman 1st Class Chanise Epps, Nuristan PRT



Photo by U.S. Air Force 2nd Lt. Chase P. McFarland, Kunar PRT

Kunar PRT

U.S. Navy Cmdr. William B. Goss of Edgewater, Md., commanding officer, Provincial Reconstruction Team Kunar, passes the PRT Kunar guidon to U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Viriato Ferrera, El Paso, Texas, Nov. 3, symbolizing his assumption of authority. For the next nine months Goss and the members of PRT Kunar will assist the Afghan leaders of the Kunar Provincial government in their efforts to build further capacity for governance, improve provincial infrastructure and bolster overall security and stability in the region.

Laghman PRT

U.S. Army Col. Andrew Poppas, Task Force Bastogne commander, and U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Christopher Possehl, outgoing Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, observe U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. John Walker, incoming Laghman PRT commander, as he hands the guidon to U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Robin Bolmer, PRT Laghman sergeant major, during the change of command ceremony where special guests - Provincial Governor Iqbal Azizi, Afghan National Army members, Afghan National Police members, and U.S. Army Col. Andrew Poppas, Task Force Bastogne commander - witnessed the change of command Nov. 5.



U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Nicholas Mercurio, Laghman PRT

FOB Connolly aid station

By Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson
210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment



101114-A-2911M-002

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Army Sgt. John Giasullo, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, one of the medical platoon's trauma team leaders from Billerica, Mass., checks the ears of Army Pfc. John Mathis, an automations specialist from Fort Campbell, Ky., also with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron 61st Cavalry Regiment, during a medical evaluation drill Nov. 14 at Forward Operating Base Connolly in Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

101114-A-2911M-012

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - The Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment medical platoon aid station at Forward Operating Base Connolly, Afghanistan. The station treats U.S. Army and Afghan National Army patients, and the Cavalry Soldiers regard it as the best aid station in theatre. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



101115-A-2911M-008

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - Army Spc. Chelo Zaduro, of Chicago, Ill., Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, a medic with the medical platoon, right, administers a second-day Military Acute Concussion Examination (MACE) to Army Spc. Michael Shanks, an infantryman with C Troop, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, Fort Campbell, Ky., Nov. 15 at Forward Operating Base Connolly, Afghanistan. One of the leading injuries the medics at the station say they see are Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBIs), and Soldiers exposed to improvised explosive devices are screened for concussions and other injuries. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)

101114-A-2911M-008

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan - From left, Army Spc. Chelo Zaduro, of Chicago, Ill., Army Staff Sgt. Cody Sloat, of Farmer City, Ill., Army Sgt. John Giasullo, of Billerica, Mass., and Army Spc. John Jackson of Moravia, N.Y., all combat medics with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 61st Cavalry Regiment, examine a casualty for injuries to his back and legs during a medical evaluation drill Nov. 14 at Forward Operating Base Connolly, Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Matson, 210th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment)



FOB Wright crossfits for the wounded

By U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Nathan Lipscomb
Kunar PRT Public Affairs

A mix of civilians and military members deployed to Forward Operation Base Wright, next to the town of Asadabad in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province, came together to help raise more than \$6,000 for wounded warriors and cancer survivors Sept. 25.

Mike Osburn, an engineer with the Army Corps of Engineers attached to the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team, headed the group of ten through the workout known in the CrossFit world as Fight Gone Bad. In order to participate, they each raised money for the charities.

"I saw it advertised on one of the CrossFit web sites and thought it would be good idea to do it here," said Osburn, a Franklin, Tenn., native. "So I went around and looked for at least five people but managed to get 10, which is more than I expected. I just thought it was really cool that the money was going to benefit the wounded soldiers and cancer survivors and I wanted to be a part of that."

According to CrossFit's website, www.fgb5.org, the first four editions of the Fight Gone Bad fundraising event raised more than \$2 million. This year's event took place Sept. 25 at more than 500 locations throughout the United States and around the world. Not only was Osburn's expectation exceeded by the local turnout, but also the amount of funds raised by the group.

"It was surprising to us that we were able to raise almost as much as the International Region," said Osburn. "We ended up about \$3,000 shy of what all the CrossFit gyms outside the U.S. were able to raise. I thought that was cool considering there are only ten of us."

This is the fifth Fight Gone Bad hosted by the CrossFit foundation, but the first time many of these soldiers, sailors and civilians have been a part of it. The foundation also boasts that it is the most brutal workout in their CrossFit menu.

"That 17 minute workout is the worse pain I've ever felt," said Lilbourn, Mo., native U.S. Navy Petty



U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class, Rahkeem Daniels, Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team administrative assistant, performs the 20 inch box jump during Fight Gone Bad 5, Sept. 25, in eastern Afghanistan's Kunar Province. The group of ten was able to raise more than \$6,000 for wounded warriors and cancer survivors during the event.

Officer 2nd Class Rahkeem Daniels, Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team administrative assistant, after completing the Fight Gone Bad event. "I was hurting from my neck down afterwards. If someone told me you couldn't get a workout in less than 20 minutes, I would tell them to try this."

The event was comprised of five exercise stations where members rotate every minute, taking only a 60 second break after completing all five, then continuing for three rounds.

Stations included throwing a 20 pound medicine ball up 10 feet against a wall, a Sumo deadlift high-pull of 75 pounds, a 20 inch box jump or in this case sandbag jump, a push press of 75 pounds and the row machine.

Members from the FOB congregated around the outdoor setup to cheer the athletes on. But according to the participants it wasn't about doing better than everyone else, it was about personal improvement and helping out the wounded warriors and cancer survivors, even when they themselves are so far from home.

WELCOME TO THE CLUB






BASTOGNE'S FALLEN HEROES



 **SPC GERALD R. JENKINS**
A Co. 1 STB
TF SPARTAN
23 NOVEMBER 1990 - 20 OCTOBER 2010 



 **PFC SHANE M. REIFERT**
B/1-327 IN BN
TF BULLDOG
27 OCTOBER 1987 - 6 NOVEMBER 2010 



 **SPC AARON CRUTTENDEN**
161 ENGINEERS
TF HAMMER
26 SEPTEMBER 1985 - 7 NOVEMBER 2010 



 **SPC DALE KRIDILLO**
161 ENGINEERS
TF HAMMER
27 MARCH 2010 - 7 NOVEMBER 2010 



 **SPC ANTHONY VARGAS**
C/1-61 CAV
TF PANTHER
28 APRIL 1983 - 8 NOV 2010 



 **SPC DAVID C. LUTES**
C/1-61 CAV
TF PANTHER
15 FEBRUARY 1992 - 11 NOVEMBER 2010 



 **SRA ANDREW S. BUBACZ**
PRT NURISTAN
15 SEPTEMBER 1987 - 12 NOVEMBER 2010 



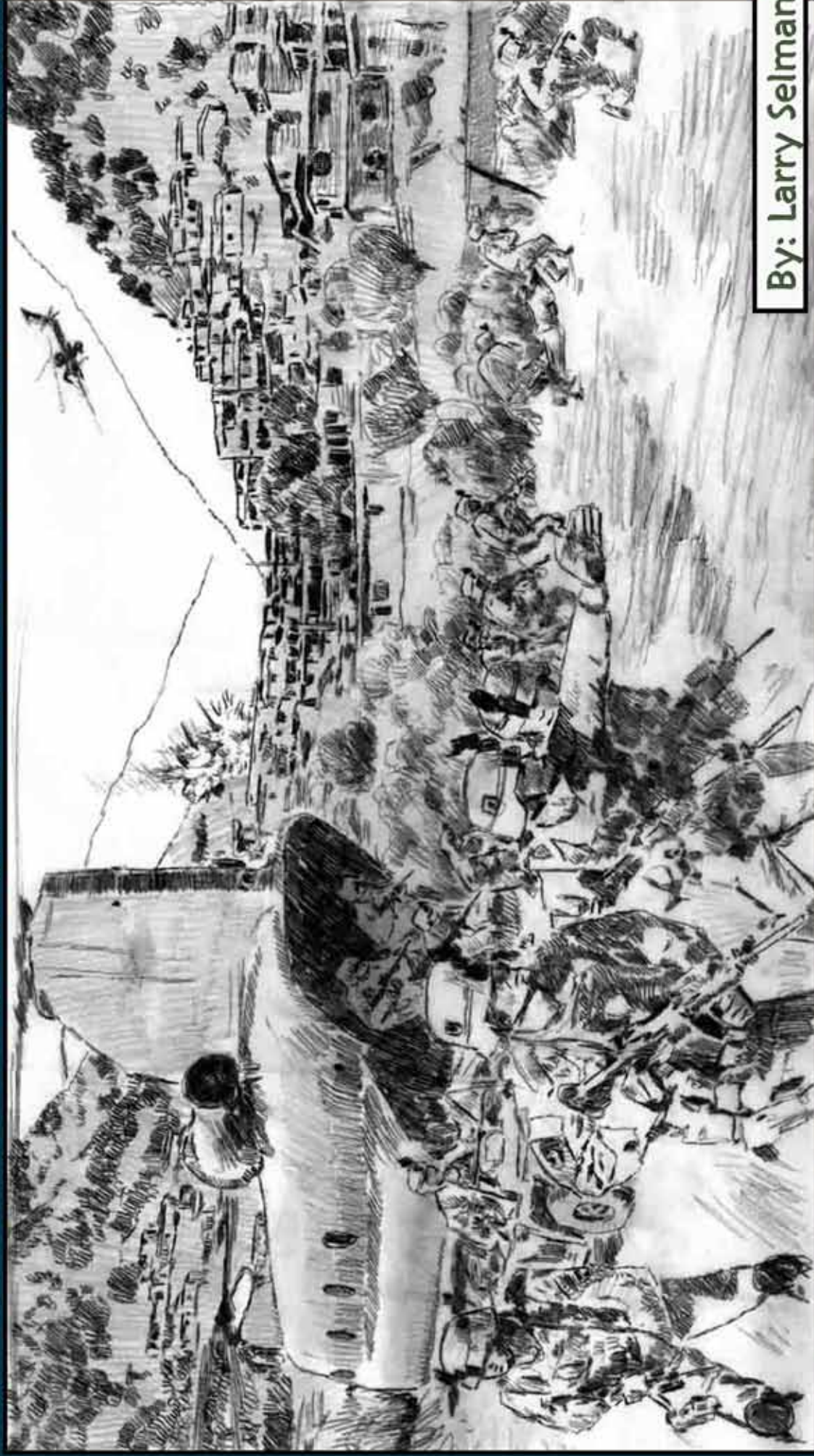
 **SPC SNANNON CHIHUAHUA**
B CO. 1 - 327th IN
TF BULLDOG
10 MAY 1985 - 12 NOV 2010 

BASTOGNE'S FALLEN HEROES



**IT DOESN'T TAKE A HERO TO ORDER MEN INTO BATTLE.
IT TAKES A HERO TO BE ONE OF THOSE MEN
WHO GOES INTO BATTLE.
- NORMAN SCHWARZKOPF**

1st BCT OFFICIAL DEPLOYMENT PRINT



By: Larry Selman

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