

# Ryder Dispatch

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

**Special Edition:** All stories, no columns to get in the way of your reading pleasure

## Company B 1-133rd Infantry delivers aid to Afghan villagers

By Staff Sgt. Justin Niichel,  
Company B, 1-133rd Infantry

As you drive along the roadway between Jalalabad and Torkham Gate in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, you see villages and towns along the sides of mountains and wadies. Most of these villages have well-developed trade networks and the people have access to things such as water, clothing, and blankets. It's not until you get beyond the first set of mountains that you see the people that are still struggling to find even the bare necessities of life.

This is especially true as more refugees pour across the border from Pakistan into Afghanistan as a result of political problems in the border area of Pakistan. The influx of people coming back to the villages that their ancestors left, sometimes decades before, causes many challenges for tribal leaders and village elders. Land disputes, and tribal borders, have been known points of unrest for a long time. Now, with more people settling around the vil-



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Justin Niichel

NANGARHAR PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Afghan interpreters, Afghan Border Police, Afghan National Army and Soldiers from Company B, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment hand out assorted goods to the villagers of Tizah Nangarhar, here, Dec. 27.

lages, it is getting harder for the poorer people of the area to even find blankets to cover up with at night, and clean water to drink.

This being said, the coalition forces are working with Afghan officials to bring relief to the area. Examples of projects for

the area are the wells dug in the village of Tizah and a roadway in construction to make trade easier in the village of Goloco. Because this takes time, members of Company B, 1st Battalion, 133rd Infantry Regiment Task Force Ironman, stationed

at FOB Torkham, along with members of the Afghan Border Police and the Afghan National Army try to bring some relief from the cold weather by supplying blankets, coats, and shoes. Even this seemingly simple act of handing out necessities to the needy has to be done correctly though.

Information between villages travels fast, and there is a tendency to cause friction between neighboring villages if one village is receiving more aid than another. Another set of problems is not only ensuring that the people most in need receive the aid, but that the people of the area see the Afghan government as the source for their support. Co. B has solved a couple of these problems with a series of key leader engagements to come up with a plan to have Afghan elders and officials as the people who ensure not only that there is an Afghan face on the program, but that the people who are most in need of assistance are the ones who get it.



## Engineers learn there's more than 1 way to a Soldier's Heart

By 1st Lt. Ryan Lett  
832nd Engineer Company

The holiday season can be especially stressful for families when a loved one is deployed overseas. Care packages are sent and Christmas cards are delivered in an attempt to warm the Soldier's heart and let him know that his family keeps

him in theirs. Combat lifesaver qualified Soldiers of the 832nd Engineer Company soon learned that there is a more direct way of getting to a Soldier's heart.

The technique of Intra-osseous Infusion, or IO, is a secondary means of intravascular fluid delivery. The technique was first discovered in 1922 by Dr. C.K. Drinker of

Harvard University when he confirmed that fluids injected into the bone marrow were quickly absorbed into central circulation, providing a secondary opportunity to administer fluids to patients when normal methods fail. The practice got its first use on the

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## From the Editor

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



It seems like only yesterday it was 2010, but it came and went and we've welcomed in 2011. In this issue, we are bringing you stories from around the brigade, stories from the Soldiers.

We've decided to let our columnists take a break this month and have made room for extra stories. We had quite a few submissions!

If you have a story to tell or are interested in submitting to the Ryder Dispatch, let us know! Our public affairs office tries to engage all the units out there, but due to travel constraints, and the fact that not all the battalions and squadrons fall under Task Force Red Bulls control, we can't

make it to all of you.

If you have a story to send us or have a news tip for something we can cover, please email me at [ashlee.lolkus@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:ashlee.lolkus@afghan.swa.army.mil).

In our upcoming March issue, we will be running our columns like usual and will be focusing on relationships. Articles due to our office no later than Feb. 20.

I hope you enjoy the stories this month, and thanks to all the writers who submitted stories!

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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## Deployed father, son make Afghanistan home away from home



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Ramussen

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Spc. Steve Starkey of Council Bluffs, Iowa, works on a mine-resistant, ambush protected vehicle's engine. Starkey is a wheeled vehicle mechanic for Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment and is currently deployed in eastern Afghanistan.

**By 1st Lt.  
Nicholas Rasmussen**  
HHC, 1-168th Infantry

Most Soldiers who are deployed miss their homes, families, and friends. For U.S. Army Spc. Steven Starkey and Pvt. 1st Class Andrew Starkey, a large part of what the word "home" represents is just a five minute walk up the hill.

Starkey Senior, a 40 year old mechanic by trade in Council Bluffs, Iowa, works as a wheeled vehicle mechanic attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry, which is currently deployed in Paktya Province. His son, Starkey Junior, a 19 year old student from Council Bluffs, Iowa, works in Company A's kitchen preparing breakfast, lunch, and dinner seven days a week. Their parent unit is Company F, 334th Support Battalion out of Red Oak, Iowa.

For both Starkeys, joining the Iowa Army National Guard was a choice they made to serve their country and fulfil some personal goals.

In 1989 Starkey Sr. enlisted in the active duty Army as a heavy wheeled mechanic. He was slated to serve during Operation Desert Storm when some personal issues at home precluded his involvement.

Starkey Sr. was young and dealing with a troubled marriage when his chain of command made the determination to let him remain in the rear as his unit prepared to support Desert Storm.

"Looking back, I don't feel I was mature enough to handle the task at hand," Starkey Sr. said.

This event helped Starkey Sr.'s adult mentality develop. "Your personal life definitely affects your professional life," admitted Starkey Sr, a life lesson he will later help his son understand.

The events of 9/11 re-ignited a simmering ambition for Starkey Sr.

"I felt like I had left something on the table, an obligation I had left incomplete," Starkey Sr. said of when he first left the Army.

Starkey Sr. had remarried

and had three additional children, two daughters, Ashley and Rachel, and a step-son, Jon, when he decided to re-enlist for active duty. Despite trying three times, the active duty Army would not accept his application since he had more than two dependants.

Starkey Sr. gave up trying for active duty after the third attempt. Then, in spring of 2007, he met his daughter's soccer coach, a staff sergeant in the Iowa National Guard. The coach informed Starkey Sr. that the Iowa National Guard had waivers and programs to allow people in situations such as Starkey Sr.'s to join.

"A month after speaking with (the soccer coach), I was at MEPS swearing in for service," Starkey Sr. said.

A year later, Starkey Jr. raised his right hand and made the oath to serve his country, but he had a different reason: his daughter, Kyra.

Being in the Iowa Army National Guard has given Starkey Jr. a means to provide health-care and child support to his only daughter.

"I plan to start a savings account with the money I'm making (on deployment) to help pay for (Kyra's) college," Starkey Jr. said.

Joining the Guard came with some unanticipated benefits for Starkey Jr.

"I see myself grow every day, whether or not I enjoy it all the time," Starkey Jr. said.

Before making his commitment to serve in the Iowa Guard, Starkey Jr. had a loose-cannon mentality, as his father put it. He was an unruly youth who often did not think before he acted. Now, six months into deployment, Starkey Jr. is a much different person.

"He's levelheaded and can take criticism constructively,

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U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Ramussen

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Pvt. 1st Class Andrew Starkey of Council Bluffs, Iowa, works around the clock to keep food fresh and hot for Soldiers of Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment. "My worst enemy is time," says Starkey. "I have to beat the clock to get meals out in time."

# Cavalry troops go for German Schützenschnur

Soldiers of Troop B, Task Force Redhorse earn the coveted cord while putting good use to spare time

**Sgt. 1st Class Leonard L. Rader III**  
Troop B 1-113th Cavalry

Capitalizing on a lull in their combat operations Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, Soldiers conducted a joint training exercise with German soldiers stationed on Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan Jan. 14.

The purpose of the day was to familiarize the U.S. and German Soldiers with each other's weapon systems, shoot a qualification table at the end of the day, build relationships, and increase morale.

For Troop B that meant some of them walked away with the coveted German Schützenschnur in gold, silver, or bronze, depending on how well they shot in each event with the German weapons.

The German service rifle is the G36 with an integrated, over-under style sight system. The top sight unit is the reflex red dot sight, used for close quarters combat, and the bottom sight provides 3.5x magnification for targets ranging out to 600 meters. Troop B also shot the P8 pistol during the qualification. The Germans shot the M4 carbine, M240B machine gun, M500 shotgun, and the M9 pistol.

"It is an easy transition between the G36 and M4, it just feels right," said U.S. Army Sgt. Cullen Wurzer of Des Moines, Iowa, and 2nd Platoon, Troop B. He also had the same feeling for the P8 compared to the M9 pistol. "Operationally they are very similar," he said.

Overall, Troop B had 18 soldiers qualify for the Schützenschnur, a task that was not easily attained for a very windy and cold January night on Bagram Airfield. U.S. Army Lt. Rodney Brock of Ocean Springs, Miss., and Troop B executive officer, said he looks forward to further events with the German soldiers and that coordination already has started for their next event.

Some of the Troop B Soldiers were not able to attend the shooting event due to prior mission requirements, but U.S. Army Cpt. Randall Stanford of Des Moines, Iowa, and Troop B commander, said they will work to ensure that everyone in the troop has an opportunity to qualify for the German Schützenschnur.



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Leonard L. Rader III

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- A German soldier instructs Army Pvt. First Class Scott Greene of Des Moines, Iowa, with Troop B, 1 Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment on the G36 rifle during the live fire portion of the Schützenschnur at Bagram Airfield Jan. 14.



U.S. Army photo by Spc. James Wilton

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Sgt. Cullen Wurzer of Des Moines, Iowa, 2nd Platoon, with Troop B, 1 Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, talks about the capabilities and use of the M4 rifle with a German soldier Jan. 14, 2011, during the weapons familiarization portion of the Schützenschnur at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, an award for marksmanship with German weapons.



## FAMILY Cont. from Page 3

like an adult,” Starkey Sr. said, who went on to say witnessing this change has been one of the most rewarding benefits to come out of being on this deployment together.

Deploying in a unit with a relative is not a common theme for the Army. Even less common is a parent and child being deployed together in the same company.

“The one thing that everyone else wants ... we have: a family member on deployment,” Starkey Jr. said.

Being on deployment with a relative, especially a close family member, comes with its ups and downs.

“It’s hard to keep the fatherly instinct at bay when I see my son getting in trouble by his boss,” Starkey Sr. admitted. “I often have to swallow my pride and know my place.” Though, he did add that sometimes a father has to be a father, regardless of

rank, and stick up for his son.

The Starkeys act more like brothers or best friends when talking with one another, calling each other by their last name and making fun of just about anything the other says. Despite being located at the same company, the Starkeys still feel as though they could spend more time together.

“Sometimes the days get busy and there are things that have to be done,” Starkey Jr. said.

As trying as some days may get, the Starkeys usually find some time throughout the week to hang out and unwind together, giving them a chance to solidify, in a unique way, a bond that can only be made between a father and son deployed together.



U.S. Army photo by 1st Lt. Nicholas Ramussen

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Spc. Steve Starkey and his son, Pvt. 1st Class Andrew Starkey, both of Council Bluffs, Iowa, attached to Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, which is currently deployed to Afghanistan, pose for a photo Jan. 7.

## The Pit

By Pfc. Courtney Greif  
HHC 2-34th BSTB

On a brisk morning in Afghanistan the quiet murmurs consume the area known as the “Pit.” Before long the innocent, quiet chattering turns to robust clanging reverberating in the ears of Staff Sgt. Adam Herman, the non-commissioned officer in charge of the day labor operations.

Every day, the pit fills up with hundreds of Afghans anxiously awaiting a possible five dollar gig for four hours of labor. These local nationals go through the same procedures in hopeful anticipation of bringing home some extra cash to provide for their families. In the winter cold, they trek differing distances in hopes of getting a job. Disheartened, many leave disappointed and without the five dollars.

The intensity of this holding area is like watching children

ravage through a candy shop. Every Thursday offers a more chaotic environment as the locals anticipate a slot on the hiring list. People will travel great distances to ensure a spot on the list. Most of these locals already have their name on the list, yet their culture inspires

them to continuously monitor their status. One day they were being particularly boisterous and an interpreter, usually calm and mild, shouted, “Allah will curse their house and family!”

“The pit is an animal, and it is like a box of chocolates; you never know what you are go-

ing to get. The people and the atmosphere are different every day. These are desperate men who need to provide for their families” says Herman.

Herman is just the man to help these desperate individuals. He says he is respected while in the pit, however the locals try different tactics which have worked in the past. He said they will try to befriend you.

“These are their tactics: they want to bring you stuff, do things for you, and talk to you,” he commented.

Herman said he enjoys working in the pit because it offers something different daily. The pit gets chaotic at times, and depending upon the issue, if you just put your thumb down they will abide. You have to be firm, yet fair he said.

Herman has a good working relationship with the locals and acts as a liaison between larger contractors and the local populace. He has the privilege of working with local translators who assist him in his duties. The translators are extremely

**See PIT, Pg. 7**



U.S. Army photo by Pfc. Courtney Greif

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Staff Sgt Adam Herman talks with the locals in the day labor pit Jan. 4.

# 1-134th Cavalry shares CERP funds with ANP



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Polson

KABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Staff Sgt. Steve Cerny of Zone 2 Headquarters Police Mentor Team with Troop B, 1-134th Cavalry, Fremont, Neb., load bags of flour into an ANP five ton.

**By 2nd Lt. Sean Polson**  
HHT, 1-134th Cavalry

As the winter months set in and the weather gets colder, the Afghan National Police and Army, stop most non-

mission focused training. The Police maintain their checkpoints and their Criminal Investigation Division remain very active with tracking insurgent and criminal activities, however most other training slows drastically. In order to keep busy and to help the community, the 1st Squadron of the 134th Cavalry has changed their focus to the Commander's Emergency Response Program and Humanitarian Aid efforts in order to provide emergency relief to the local population in Kabul Province, Afghanistan.

Since Dec. 23, the squadron completed seven medical supply drops to various hospitals throughout the entire province of Kabul totaling \$58,800. The squadron also delivered roughly 1,000 winterization kits purchased from Bagram Airfield. These provide the poorest communities supplies to help com-

bat the harsh winter months.

One winterization kit includes three bags of rice, two bags of beans, two bottles of cooking oil, five bags of flour, one bag of sugar, four small boxes of tea, a blanket, winter jacket, sweater, hat, pair of gloves, scarf, and a pair of socks for men, woman and children. The Police Mentor Teams and Embedded Training Teams will receive a request from the

village elders or police chief commander and then send the requests to the squadron's civil affairs section. The civil affairs section finds the best local bidder and purchase the items to provide to the PMTs and ETTs. Once the items arrive at Camp Phoenix, the teams bring the supplies to the Police Stations or Afghan Army Bases and let the Afghan National Security Forces hand out the supplies. ♡



U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Sean Polson

KABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan – 1st Sgt. John Wills and Sgt. Nathaniel Chitwood of Zone 2, Headquarters Police Mentor Team, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 134th Cavalry Regiment, out of Fremont, Neb., load bags of flour into an ANP five ton for a humanitarian aid drop, here on Jan. 19.

## Are you being treated unfairly?

Are fellow Soldiers mistreating you?

Do you have a problem with your boss?

Do you need help?

The Inspector General  
may be able to help

### Task Force Red Bulls IG

Maj. Jennifer Mlocek: (DSN) 318-481-8995  
jennifer.mlocek@afghan.swa.army.mil

If you think you need the IG, here are some things to keep in mind:

Give your chain of command a chance to solve the problem

Contact your local IG first

Be honest, don't provide misleading information

Remember, the IG can only suggest, not order a solution

Be prepared to take "No" for an answer

You can contact the IG, without fear of reprisal

## A Co. 1-168 Inf. visits Jaji school

By **Spc. Dustin King**  
Co. A, 1-168 Inf.

**T**he men of 1st platoon, Company A, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, with the support of the Afghan Uniformed Police, headed to Jaji district Dec. 4 to visit the local school. They checked on the condition of the school, conducted a key leader engagement with the principal and teachers and asked what assistance could be provided by coalition forces.

The school was in good condition with the exception of the small rooms, which were not very practical with the large class sizes the school enrolls. The students were in finals week, working to finish up the semester before winter break. The school curriculum consisted of mathematics, science, language arts to include Pashtu, Dari, Arabic and English, religion and government classes.

"Education is very important in our society and the only way of progress for our people," said AUP Sgt. Abdullah Silab in regard to the education given at the school. "The more we support and teach the children, the

better future they can have and improve our community as a whole. If (the students) can get their education and go into professions as doctors, engineers, and so on. They can become the leaders of our community."

Staff Sgt. Steve Schneider, of Manning, Iowa, of 1st platoon was able to speak with one of the teachers who has taught English for 15 years. Schneider said the English teacher was very knowledgeable in the subject.

"The teacher had some questions in regard to the tense and usage of certain words. So, I helped explain to him the meaning of past, present and future tense and gave him some examples of each," said Schneider.

After speaking with the principal and teachers, A Co decided in order to support this school in Jaji, the Soldiers and AUP will need to continue providing security for the school, allowing the teachers to provide the students with a good educa-

tion and further their academic careers.

It was also discovered during the KLE that the school is low on school supplies. This prompted the CF in the Jaji district to work on gathering up basic school supplies such as pens, pencils, notepads, rulers, etc. These supplies will be donated to the school before the start of the next school semester, improving the quality of life in Afghanistan. 🇺🇸

## Troop B, ANP prevent rocket attacks

By **Sgt. 1st Class Leonard L. Rader III**  
Troop B, 1-113th Cavalry

**S**hortly after dark Dec. 9, Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Redhorse came under direct enemy fire at vehicle patrol base Dandarh, Parwan Province, Afghanistan. The enemy fire was quickly quelled by the sound of Troop B's own 120 mm mortar team firing back at the identified enemy positions.

Later the next day, while conducting a dismounted patrol high up in the mountains looking for the possible location of where the insurgents had launched the rocket attack against them the night before, Troop B, along with their Afghan National Police counterparts, found another 107 mm rocket that was set up in preparation to be launched.

Capt. Randall Stanford of West Des Moines, Iowa, and Troop B commander, carried the rocket down the mountain himself.

"I won't ask anything of my men that I won't do myself," said Stanford.

Treacherous mountain terrain that took Troop B two hours to ascend was even more rigorous to descend for Stanford



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Leonard L. Rader III

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan -- Soldiers with Troop B, 1-113th Cavalry, (Left to right) Sgt. Patrick Flattery, Sgt. Drew Russell, Capt. Randall Stanford (Pictured with the 107MM Rocket), Spc. Jeremy Henrich, Spc. Thomas Oertli (Back), Sgt. Sgt. 1st Class Taylor Green, pose with the rocket they found during a patrol.

with a 42 pound 107 mm rocket on his back.

With darkness rapidly approaching, the Task Force Redhorse Soldiers tirelessly began their descent with a few hours of sunlight at their back. When finally reaching their vehicle patrol base with the rocket, Troop B secured the rocket until the next morning when EOD would be called on scene to dispose of the ordnance.

The remainder of that night was spent waiting for a second attack which never came, and the Task Force Redhorse Soldiers returned the following day. 🇺🇸

### PIT Cont. from Pg. 5

knowledgeable, and they have been doing it so long that they know how to respond before translating.

In the states, Herman works in law enforcement, which has given him tremendous skills and expertise while working for force protection. The larger civilian presence on base gives him the opportunity to work more with locals and other country nationals much like at home. 🇺🇸



## Troop B provides overwatch security for Dandarh KLE



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristina Gupton

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan- U.S. Army Spc. John Marks of Dubuque, Iowa, a cannon crewmember with Troop B, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Red Horse, part of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 34th Infantry Division, Task Force Red Bulls, utilizes a M240-B machine gun to provide security over watch for fellow soldiers conducting a key-leader engagement in the village of Dandarh, Afghanistan Jan. 2.

### INFUSION Cont. from Pg. 1

battlefields of World War II, treating over 4,000 seriously wounded combat troops.

"You would only use IO in situations where the patient was seriously wounded, such as missing a limb or had such low blood pressure that IV solution wouldn't move fast enough through the blood stream to save a Soldier's life," said Staff Sgt. Peter Moeller, company medic for the 832nd Eng. Co.

IO is in common use in hospitals around the United States, being used on patients who are suffering airway compromise, major burns, cardiac arrest, diabetics, IV drug users, poor vasculature, obesity, dehydration and traumatic shock. The intra-osseous space that exists in all bones is a vein that can't collapse making it more reliable and able to absorb more saline solution. To administer fluid, the hard bone cortex must be broken to push the IV pen-point into the soft bone marrow tissue. Early tests with harmless dye showed that once it was introduced by IO, the dye was able to reach the human heart within 10 seconds.

Moeller coordinated extra training for CLS qualified engineers the week-nights before Christmas to allow the company patrols more flexibility in case first aid had to be administered.

"We didn't have enough medics on

hand to be everywhere, so it benefits the company to teach our CLS's more of our skills to save lives." He put the CLS's through a rigorous process before allowing them to practice on a real patient.

"I had them take a book test and also practice injection several times on a wooden table top before we brought in a volunteer," he said.

That volunteer was Pfc. Cody Farr. Farr joked that he volunteered so he could get a day off from working in the company tactical operations center.

"I really wasn't worried about the pain," Farr said. "Plus, I was looking forward to a day off. After it happened I decided to go out on patrol the next day instead."

When Sgt. Jason Lawrence was told that he initially had to volunteer, he replied to 1st Sgt. Doug Bolton, "You have a better chance of seeing God."

The night of Dec. 22 was when it was practiced for real. Spc. Dustin Svedja was the one chosen to administer the IO. Farr laid on the floor, his uniform blouse off with Moeller assisting Svedja in sterilizing and prep of his chest. Once that was done, Svedja leaned forward and injected the IV pen.

Farr let out a slow, "Owwwww," then smiled and laughed. Onlookers gasped. The practice tube was installed then covered by the clear plastic dome: procedure complete.

The next couple of days, Farr said his chest was a little sore.

"The whole thing wasn't too bad. My plate carrier rubbed up against my sternum the next day on mission. A little annoying, but not too bad," he commented. Asked if he would do it again, Farr replied, "Sure... but I think next time I'll take the day off." 🍀

### Six Steps to reach a Soldier's heart

- 1) Sterilize the area.
- 2) Find the sternal-notch (it's the U-shaped bone at the top of your sternum where your collarbones join your rib cage) and apply the mounting patch.
- 3) Prepare the F.A.S.T-1 pen and inject the IO pen-point into the bone. It takes 60 pounds of pressure to puncture the sternum. The pen is roughly the size of a fat marker. It has six needles that are used to mount and "aim" the main injector pen that enters the bone.
- 4) Once the pen clicks and injects the IO line, carefully remove the pen.
- 5) Connect any IV solution tubing that you plan on administering.
- 6) Apply the dome over the IO infusion point to protect it and to visually check that the fluids are entering the patient.





U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Ryan Pierce

FORT IRWIN, Calif. -- Soldiers with Company C, 2-34th Brigade Special Troops Battalion show off their developing mustaches during training at the National Training Center.

## Company C, BSTB gets Moustache Manic

By Sgt. Ryan Pierce  
Company C, 2-34th BSTB

Moustache mania has hit Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan for Company C, 2/34th Brigade Special Troops Battalion. Following in the famous footsteps of such pop culture icons as Albert Einstein, Hulk Hogan and Ned Flanders, many of the men of Co. C have started to grow moustaches, including the entire morning shift of the Task Force Red Bulls help desk.

The first documented moustache came from a portrait of an ancient Iranian horseman dated 300 B.C. Since then, many of societies' great minds have worn the moustache look, including Groucho Marx,

Charlie Chaplin, and Magnum P.I.

"It's something to do," said Spc. Brett Mauseth. "It's funny. Boredom can be a terrible thing and if growing a moustache helps get a few laughs, then that's what we'll do."

Army Regulation 670-1 states, "Males will keep their face clean-shaven when in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty. Mustaches are permitted; if worn, males will keep mustaches neatly trimmed, tapered, and tidy. Mustaches will not present a chopped off or bushy appearance, and no portion of the mustache will cover the upper lip line or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from the corners of the mouth. Handlebar mustaches, goatees, and beards are not authorized."

In the spirit of good fun and to ensure that soldiers are following AR 670-1, random moustache checks have been performed on soldiers by various members of the Co. C chain of command.

At Fort Irwin, California, many of the members of Co. C were involved in an "ugly moustache contest" which was won by Spc. Jacob Lloyd, judged by 1st Lt. Laura Walker. 🐻



Figure 1-1.  
Wear of mustache

1-8. Hair and fingernail standards and grooming policies

a. Hair.

(c) Males will keep their face clean-shaven when in uniform or in civilian clothes on duty. Mustaches are permitted; if worn, males will keep mustaches neatly trimmed, tapered, and tidy. Mustaches will not present a chopped off or bushy appearance, and no portion of the mustache will cover the upper lip line or extend sideways beyond a vertical line drawn upward from the corners of the mouth (see figure 1-1). Handlebar mustaches, goatees, and beards are not authorized.

Taken from: AR 670-1



## The USO United Through Reading® Military Program

Here's how it works: The parent reads a children's book aloud while being recorded on a DVD at a USO center or other site. The DVD, the book and simple instructions are sent back home, at no cost to the troops or their families.

And here's what happens next: Kids watch the DVD again. And again.

USO centers have a supply of books that kids love. Many deal with issues that they are facing - missing a parent, starting a new school, being afraid - while others are just fun. United Through Reading® links parent with child, helping both deal with separation through the simple power of a story.

The United Through Reading Program is available at the USO on Bagram Airfield. Stop by and make one for your child or the USO members will come to your FOB/COB if 20-30 Soldiers participate in the program.

Contact Scott Wilhite @ [SWilhite@uso.org](mailto:SWilhite@uso.org) for more details

## Son travels to present mother's promotion to staff sergeant



Courtesy Photo

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Maj. Martin Roerman (left), an Iowa City, Iowa, resident and 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, executive officer, shakes the hand of Staff Sgt. Renae Myhre (right), a Sioux City, Iowa, native and a member of the female engagement team for Troop A, 1st Sdrn. 113th Cav. Regt., after she was promoted, Jan. 6.

**By Capt. Tim Creasman**  
HHT, 1-113th Cavalry

Staff Sgt. Renae Myhre, a Sioux City, Iowa, native and a member of the female engagement team for Troop A, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Redhorse, was promoted from sergeant to staff sergeant at Bagram Airfield, Parwan province, Afghanistan, Jan. 6. Myhre's son, Pfc. Eric Fluharty, a Sioux City, Iowa, resident and a crew served weapons

gunner for Company B, 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment, Task Force Lethal, was able to attend the ceremony.

Myhre was offered a position with the Iowa National Guard's Recruit Sustainment Program, based out of LeMars, Iowa, as a member of the cadre, which also offered a promotion to staff sergeant. Once she accepted the position, Myhre asked that her son be able to pin on her new rank. So, Command Sgt. Maj. Stephen Wayman, a Platte City, Missouri, resident, and the TF Redhorse's command sergeant major, went to work to see if they could coordinate it.

"We knew her son was coming back from leave, so the idea was to hold the promotion while he was still here on Bagram," Wayman said.

Fluharty, who is stationed with Co. B at combat outpost Dand Patan in Paktya Province which is about 90 miles away from Bagram Airfield, came back from the United States where he was on his two-week leave. Once he arrived, TF Redhorse held the promotion ceremony for Myhre.

The ceremony was pre-

sided over by Maj. Martin Roerman, an Iowa City, Iowa, resident and TF Redhorse executive officer, and Fluharty was able to "pin" staff sergeant rank, signifying the promotion, on his mother's uniform.

"I'm so grateful for my command, Capt. Langman, 1st Sgt. Swietzburger, Lt. Col. Updegraff, Command Sgt. Maj. Wayman, and everyone who helped make this happen," Myhre said.

While at Bagram Airfield, the two were able to spend the whole day together which she was grateful for, but at end of the day, Fluharty had to return to his COP.

"Missions go on, so I had to let him go, but I will see him again in six months," Myhre said with a motherly



Courtesy Photo

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Pfc. Eric Fluharty (left) stands with his mother, Staff Sgt. Renae Myhre (right), after she was promoted, here Jan. 6.

## Task Force Lethal Soldiers, Team Paktya make Fires work New Year's

**By 1st Lt. Nicholas Rasmussen**  
HHC, 1-168 Infantry

While most celebrations for the New Year involve extravagant fireworks shows, black ties, cocktail dresses, and merrymaking, the 1st Battalion, 168th Infantry Regiment fires team and Team Paktya celebrated in a slightly unorthodox way.

"We didn't have fireworks, but we did have illumination rounds," said U.S. Army Sgt. Timothy Flug of Carroll, Iowa, a squad leader for the mortar team.

TF Lethal's mortars on Forward Operating Base Gardez in Paktya Province conducted a late night fire mission that both helped sharpen their skills and brought

in the new year by acting as a makeshift firework show. The mission involved shooting over 10 illumination rounds into the sky just after the strike of midnight, lighting up the surrounding area for the first few minutes of the new year.

Afterwards, the mortar team celebrated back at their control post with a warm cup of hot cocoa and discussed the fire mission.

Mortar team members were not the only Soldiers in Paktya who were ushering in the New Year in other than ordinary ways. Soldiers of 2nd Platoon, 615th Military Police Company had a miniature parade through FOB Gardez. The MP platoon decorated an armoured personnel

carrier with the only substitute for tissue paper and streamers they had available: blown up latex gloves and a blowhorn.

The MP platoon then drove around the FOB playing festive music through their loudspeaker and wishing passers-by a happy new year. In doing this they stirred up a good deal of holiday spirit amongst the FOB tenants and visitors.

The holidays are often overlooked in a less than accommodating environment such as a FOB in eastern Afghanistan. This is not the case with the efforts of TF Lethal to help remind everyone on FOB Gardez to keep the holiday spirit alive despite being in a combat zone.



# Troop C went over the mountain

By 1st Lt. Derek Kinnison  
Troop C, 1-113 Cavalry

In early November, Troop C, 1st Squadron, 113th Cavalry Regiment, arrived to their new home at Joint Combat Outpost Red Hill in Pushtaysark, Afghanistan. In the days to follow, Troop C Soldiers would have many priorities of work, base security being one of them. An aerial reconnaissance followed by dismounted patrol would be necessary to analyze the potential enemy threat in the outlying mountains.

"Upon arrival to Red Hill, we used an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle to observe the draws and valleys which were obscured by the surrounding mountains," stated Capt. Richard Rush, of Altoona, Iowa, and Troop C commander. The UAV feed revealed a curious walled-in compound with other unidentifiable structures inside. The find prompted a dismounted reconnaissance mission to confirm what was on the ground.

The ground mission was led by 1st Lt. Gerry Holloway, the 2nd Platoon Leader, of Des Moines, Iowa, along with a team of Afghan National Army soldiers. The foot patrol began at the mouth of a narrowing valley where Holloway gathered his Soldiers and the ANA soldiers, then briefed them on routes, security, and actions on contact. The temperature was cool and the sun was shining. The valley hardly seemed like the kind of place where danger lurked around every corner, but as the Soldiers set out

they stepped carefully and purposefully, carried rifles, wore protective armor, and had their senses on overdrive to react to any situation.

It seemed impossible that anything could live or grow in a desolate valley like this one, but there were signs of life everywhere. Chiseled in the steep slopes overheard were terraces built for growing crops, and farther up the valley a small spring dribbled into a man-made collecting pool. Irrigation trenches connected one terrace to another. The landscape spoke volumes about the Afghan culture, their character, determination, and passion for survival.

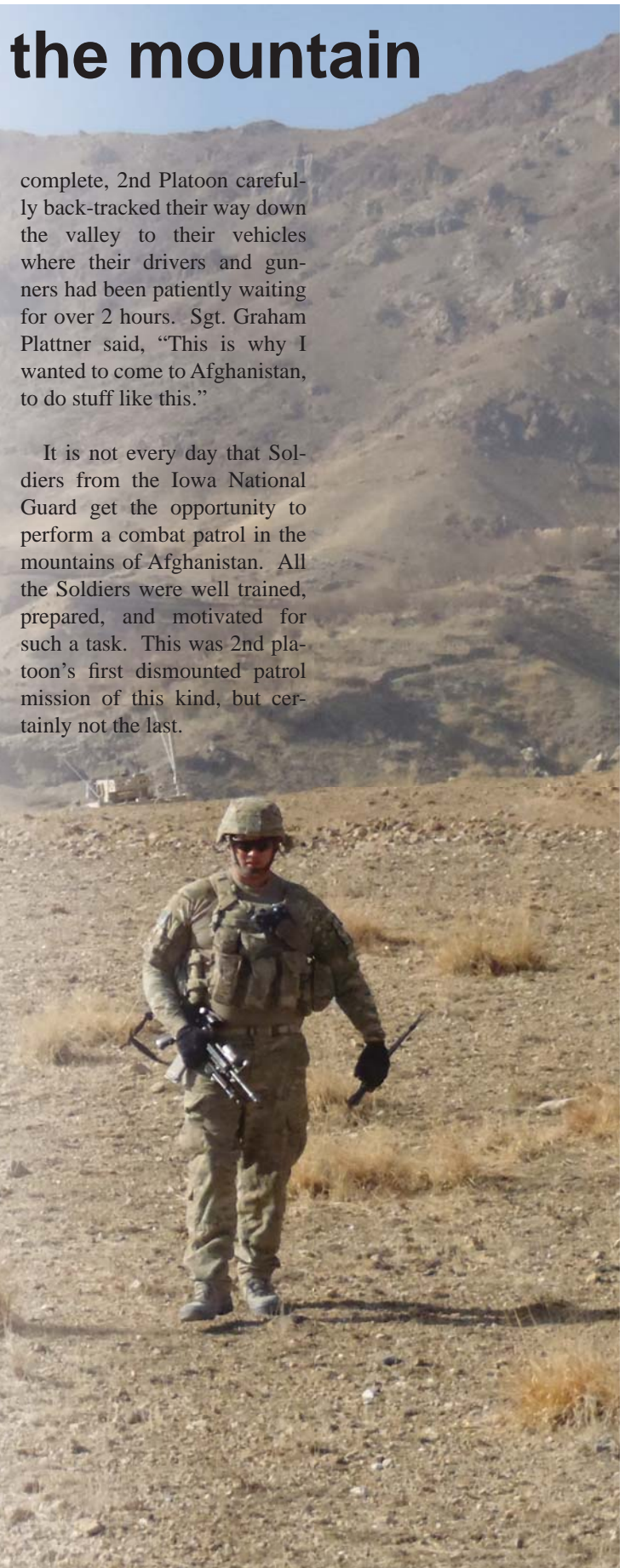
As the valley split in two directions, so did 2nd platoon. The lead squad spotted what they had been looking for. The compound from the UAV feed lay just above them on top of a ridge. The trail squad climbed to a rocky hilltop nearby to provide security while the lead squad advanced.

The lead squad maneuvered along a trail that meandered up the ridge to the entrance of the compound. It looked to be abandoned, but once inside, the Soldiers were surprised to discover a boy sitting by himself. With the aid of an interpreter, the boy explained that he was dropped off for the day to tend his family's crops. The squad providing security on the hilltop reported seeing a donkey walking around the outside of the compound, obviously the boy's mode of transportation. The compound was searched, but the squad found no evidence of an enemy threat.

After the reconnaissance was

complete, 2nd Platoon carefully back-tracked their way down the valley to their vehicles where their drivers and gunners had been patiently waiting for over 2 hours. Sgt. Graham Plattner said, "This is why I wanted to come to Afghanistan, to do stuff like this."

It is not every day that Soldiers from the Iowa National Guard get the opportunity to perform a combat patrol in the mountains of Afghanistan. All the Soldiers were well trained, prepared, and motivated for such a task. This was 2nd platoon's first dismounted patrol mission of this kind, but certainly not the last.







U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristina Gupton



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus



U.S. Army photo by Spc. Kristina Gupton



U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Ashlee Lolkus



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