

January 2011



Lightning News

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



HERE AT BAGRAM...



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above, Army Capt. Roderick Vinson, project manager; Mr. Patrick Clair, project manager Professional Knowledge Management Engineer with DRS Technologies; and Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles White, noncommissioned officer in charge; all of the Future Operations Shop, take in the current events in the world.



Above, Army Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Hart, plans and operations sergeant, receives a certificate of appreciation from the Task Force Thunder commander, Army Col. Chris Kemp, for his extra efforts during a senior leader visit of the area.



Left, Air Force Senior Airmen Alan Larrimore, NetOps outage manager, and Moises Hernandez, information assurance watch officer, strike a fierce pose outside the Joint NetOps Control Center-Afghanistan.

Right, Army 1st Lt. Vincent Cooper, resource management point of contact, is interviewed by U. S. media via satellite on Jan. 23 at the Combined Joint Task Force-101 public affairs studio. The interviews resulted in coverage on Augusta News 12, The John DeBella Radio Show, the Augusta News Chronicle and a spotlight on KLTT-AM's "Hero of the Week."



Above, Army Spc. James Crooks, brigade maintenance sergeant, helps clean up the supply and logistics yard by prepping all the scrap wood for pickup.

Below, Army Sgt. Shawn Bose, network controller, accepts congratulations from leaders and peers in Task Force Thunder after getting promoted to the rank of staff sergeant in late December at the Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan.



Brigade Highlights:

The Future Operations Shop



Left, Air Force Tech. Sgt. Charles White, noncommissioned officer in charge, Army Maj. Robert NeSmith, officer in charge; Mr. Patrick Clair, project manager for Professional Knowledge Management Engineer with DRS Technologies; and Army Capt. Roderick Vinson, project manager. Army Sgt. 1st Class John Hembree was on leave and pictured separately.

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

The Joint Network Operations Control Center - Afghanistan's Future Operations Shop provides project management to the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan. FUOPS plans for future operations to improve the command, control, communications, computer, intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance infrastructure across the CJOA-A directly supporting the warfighter and Operation Enduring Freedom. Additionally FUOPS acts as a liaison to other project management offices theater-wide and

ensures control measure in place to prevent fraud, waste, abuse and mismanagement.

Army Maj. Robert NeSmith, officer in charge ~ The Kansas City resident has been in the military for 27 years. He was cross leveled from the 84th Command at Fort McCoy, Wis., for his first overseas deployment. When not deployed, NeSmith works for Cubic Applications at Fort Leavenworth by providing support to the U.S. Army's Command and General Staff College. NeSmith

met his wife years ago in the military and married her two years later on the anniversary of their first meeting. They now have four children, the youngest in college and five grandchildren. The self-proclaimed "car nut" has had 56 different cars (unless he can count the Hummer he drove here at Bagram, which his grandchildren nicknamed the Warthog). "I consider myself to be a lifelong student; I keep finding interesting things to study or projects to work on."

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Redeployment Can Bring a Mix of Emotions

Focus on What You Can Control, Have Patience



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Dear 359th TTSB friends and family,

Hello and Happy New Year! This is the year we come back home! YEAH! Reuniting with our wonderful spouses and our children is exhilarating and chalk full of emotions!

The redeployment transition period is the 1 or 2 months just prior to us coming home. Hence, by the time you read this, it should apply. This normally is a time of intense anticipation, similar to the child waiting to open the gifts up on Christmas morning.

This is a time when there can be moments with confusing and conflicting emotions. On the one hand

I can't wait for him/her to come home but on the other hand, what will they say about the furniture I bought or how will they react when they find out I stopped payment on the second car which means it will soon be repossessed.

Another issue that might go on in your mind is how will he or she feel about the changes I've had in my life. You are probably more confident, more in control, more independent and not as caught up 'in love' with him or her as you once were.

All this is very normal when two people are away from each other. You may think to yourself that you won't want to give up some of this independence, it's kind of nice!

Other things that may go through your mind is what about your deployed Soldier, what will they be like considering your intuition tells you that they have changed a bit. You aren't sure how they have changed, but something seems different. You may have doubts about whether you can make this marriage thing work.

Many military spouses will find themselves putting together a to-do list and working hard to get it

all done. If your deployed spouse is even a tad bit controlling (I think a lot of military husbands are.) then, without realizing it, there can be added stress on you simply because you want peace.

Please remind yourself that what you are feeling and going through is very, very normal. You aren't going crazy just because you have all these conflicting emotions and thoughts. Secondly, remember to concentrate on what you can control. When you start wondering about what he/she might think, pinch yourself and say, "I can't control what he/she thinks or says, I can only control my actions and emotions." Then concentrate on what you can control. If it's 2 a.m. and, these thoughts are keeping you up, then actually get up out of bed and go bake a pie for the neighbor or for your children's lunch. Go write a letter to your dad or sis and tell them how much you love them. By doing this, you are thinking of others before yourself and you are taking control rather than letting your thoughts control you.

We can't wait to come home!

Chaplain Gary Williams

"Sgt 1st Class Timmy" Visits the 359th



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Top, Army Sgt. 1st Class "Timmy" is an honorary member of the 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade. Timmy works in the combat stress unit and visits servicemembers to make them smile. Bottom left, Army Spc. Corey Smith, human resources specialist; Army Lt. Col. Orville Jennings, brigade personnel officer, and Army Spc. Christine Awkward, human resources specialist; all take a moment to pose with "Timmy." Bottom right, Air Force Capt. Laura Dalton, NetOps battle captain, enjoys the break from the screens by giving "Timmy" some attention, which he gladly accepts.



Above, Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas Wilkerson, task force command sergeant major, greets “Timmy” in his office, and welcomes him as part of the unit.



Above, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Cynthia Thomas, enterprise system administrator, gets on “Timmy’s” level, offers him a ball and gives him with a lot of smiles and caresses. “Timmy” seemed perfectly content with all the attention the servicemembers and contractors offered him, and they seemed equally content with the interruption in the day, and slightly muddy-paw tracks on the floor.

Above, “Timmy” brings out smiles and laughter from Ms. Danielle Milinski, virtualization engineer, when he visits the Enterprise Shop. Right, “Timmy” proactively ‘shakes’ so he can get another treat from Army Master Sgt. Carolyn Suazo, information assurance/computer assurance network defense noncommissioned officer in charge, while other Joint NetOps Control Center-Afghanistan staff look on.



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Air Force Tech Sgt. Charles White, *noncommissioned officer in charge* ~ “I joined the Air Force to get out and see the world and, at the same time, serve to keep my country safe.” When he signed up he was a Telephone and Data Equipment Specialist, generally known as Outside Plant. White is part of the 355th Communications Squadron out of Davis Monthan Air Force Base in Arizona. He has two “wonderful little girls, Meredith and Isabelle.” White says that working in the JNCC-A Future Operations section “has been an eye opening experience and has made me look at this career field as a possible career path after school.” Upon retiring from the Air Force, he is planning on completing a master’s degree.

Army Capt. Roderick Vinson, *project manager* ~ Vinson has been in the Army since September 1987 and “originally joined to get \$17,000 for college in return for a two year enlistment.” He has served in a number of positions including, infantryman, Bradley driver, supply specialist, transportation platoon leader, company commander, supply services officer, and battalion operations officer. Prior to this deployment, Vinson was a transportation officer in the 812th Transportation Battalion. He has been previously deployed to Egypt, Kuwait and Iraq. “My goals for the deployment are to continuously improve throughout the deployment by developing myself personally and professionally. I have twin boys, Bryce and Tyler who turned four on Halloween and a lovely wife, Keshia, who is my hero, waiting for me to return home shortly. This has definitely been an exciting deployment, and I look forward to more great adventures in the 359th TTSB.”

Army Sgt. 1st Class John

Hembree, *project manager* ~ Hembree says he joined the Army for many reasons: “one because the recruiter was able to fill my ego and it was a great opportunity to gain management and leadership experience and serve this Great Nation we call United States.” “I just crossed the 13-year mark,

and hope to finish out with at least 22 years.” Before the deployment, Hembree was part of Alpha Company 324th Theater Tactical Signal Battalion, a subordinate unit of the 359th TTSB. Outside of the Army, he works with Trendset Inc., where he conducts post-audits for Dell freight. “The team there is missed almost as much as I miss my two nieces and family. I look forward to the day I am back in South Carolina working long days/nights crunching numbers with the Best Team I have every had the pleasure of working with.” Hembree claims his nieces as his own, and says they know “Uncle John-John” will do anything for them. Currently, he is one exam and a final project away from completing my MBA in Project Management, and hoping to complete it prior to finishing this deployment. “I look forward to embracing all that I have learned and experienced and moving forward with the next opportunities that await me.”

Mr. Patrick Clair, *Project Manager Professional Knowledge Management Engineer with DRS Technologies* ~ Before serving with the 359th TTSB, Clair developed an in-depth background in



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Army Sgt. 1st Class John Hembree.

unmanned spaceflight project management, RF telecommunications, power supplies and computers. He has been responsible for telecommunications system development, design, reliability, and implementation for a number of mission critical projects. His current position with the Future Operations Section of the 359th entails engineering and implementation of projects and is closely aligned with his previous work. In addition, Clair teaches a variety of professional development, business analysis, e-commerce, and project management courses at the university level and has provided technical and management presentations concerning the use of telecommunications

value engineering and project management tools to achieve world-class results since 1993. The focus of his work has been to increase the quality and velocity of projects in support of client goals. Clair is from San Antonio, Texas where he lives with his son and awaits his future wife, Ms. Margaret Wood.

Brigade Commander:

We are Making History-Let's Finish Strong



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

With the New Year under way, and our time in country ticking away, now is not the time to ease up. We have accomplished many things this year. We have expanded and helped develop the communications network across all of Af-

ghanistan and simultaneously we have become a team.

Of course, not all of these steps were painless, nor are they all complete. Just like a family, we have had our share of struggles, disagreements and sadness. I ask that you continue to be there for your Soldiers, Airmen, civilians, contractors and families. Be there for your leaders. Be there for your battle buddies. While taking care of each other, we must also continue to press forward with our mission, as there are too many servicemembers and coalition partners at the edge of the battlefield that count desperately on the critical communications links that you provide each and every day. We must not fail them.

We have all come too far and sacrificed too much to not succeed. I ask all of you to review your mission requirements, while also assessing your personal goals for the year. Think about how you are going to achieve or refine them in our last few days of deployment. What are the necessary pre-tasks? What tools and help do you need to make it

happen? Who are the key players? What is the second and third order of effects? Consider all of the options, factors and possible outcomes. Any goal can be achieved if you just take one step after another. We may fall. We may stumble. But, we can dust ourselves off and keep taking steps. Without action, our goals are just dreams. We must persist.

Whether your goal is to read more, start a masters degree, lose weight or just think more positively, there is a path to success. Your path may be different than someone else's, and that is OK. It may take six attempts to complete one step, and that is OK. Or maybe your plan has to be revised, and that too is OK. There is not only one path to success, and that path may not be free of thorns. However, if it was easy to accomplish, would it be as rewarding once it was achieved?

With all that we have planned to do, I need every member of the task force engaged. Without all members of the team playing, we cannot win. And for all your efforts thus far – Thank you very much. I am sure you don't hear it enough, but you are making a difference. Your time, your efforts and your sacrifices are worth it, both here and on the homefront. We must continue to enable coalition forces to achieve success and with less risks. These combined efforts are making a difference in the lives of the Afghan people.

There is hope and history being written here, and you are part of it.

Col. Chris Kemp
359th TTSB Commander

Celebrating February Birthdays



Warrant Officer Wanda Washington
February 21

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Capt. Stan Hashimoto
February 9



Airman 1st Class Zachary Boles
February 9

Happy
Birthday!



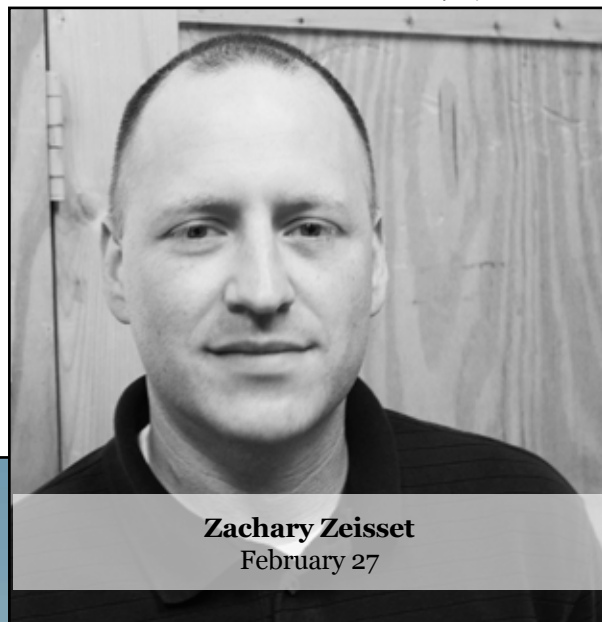
Spc. Ali Al-Srogy
February 14

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Troy Anderson
February 11

Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Zachary Zeisset
February 27

Air Force Staff Sgt. Farrell Dottin

Task Force Thunder Birthdays



Master Sgt. Steve Rumsey
February 1

We are Here to Provide Support to the Warfighters Who are in Danger Everyday



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

By Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

There is no doubt that there are different perceptions and opinions of the on-going war in Afghanistan. Some people support it. Others don't. Some people feel that there may be goals other than a free and independent Afghanistan. But for one Soldier seeing different angles of the war, he sees freedom and hope in almost every action.

Raleigh, N.C. resident Army 1st Lt. Cedric N. Lloyd, deputy officer in charge of the Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4) Shop at the Joint NetOps Control Center – Afghanistan, says his eyes have been now opened to the war efforts. “I understand more of why we are here than when I was back home.” The JNCC-A is part of Task Force Thunder, the signal mission throughout the country, and Lloyd and his comrades work on providing reliable communications to the warfighters

who are engaging on the “front lines.”

Efficient and reliable communications are a requirement of every unit, regardless of mission. Providing and maintaining that communications network is the responsibility of the Task Force Thunder team, which is commanded by Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, an Army Reserve unit stationed at Fort Gordon, Ga. “We are trying to make it as easy as possible to share information,” said Lloyd. The more informed the warfighters are, the safer they can be, and the quicker they can accomplish their missions, explained the 27-year-old Reserve Soldier, who works as a power system operator for Progress Energy in Raleigh.

Lloyd's realization of the weight on the communications mission came after speaking to

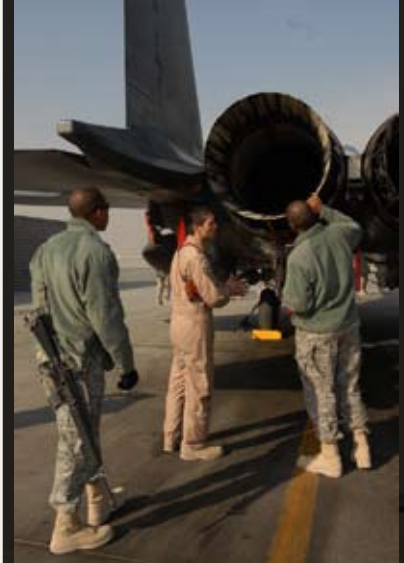
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Signaleers Tour F15s

Soldiers and Airmen assigned to Task Force Thunder spent a couple hours of their down time touring the Air Force's F15 jets.

The tour included:

a briefing on how the aircraft are used on missions, what the pilots endure on a mission, what the aircraft is capable of, and an actual hands-on access to the plane and some of the pilots equipment.



Top, Army Warrant Officer Clarence Toland, a network management technician in the Engineer Shop at the Joint NetOps Control Center-Afghanistan, tries on an F15 pilot's helmet. Middle, One of the F15 pilots explains the F15 to the signaleers. Bottom, Army Warrant Officer Wanda Washington, a network management technician in the Engineer Shop at the Joint NetOps Control Center-Afghanistan, listens to how the F15 works while standing on top of one.

Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

The First Signs of Redeployment

Soldiers Pack Up Gear, One Step Closer to Home

Right, Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Mauriello, Command, Control, Communications and Computer (C4) Support Shop chief, enjoys his coffee while waiting for the customs team to come and inspect his gear that he is shipping home.



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Right, Army Spc. Madriquez Gantt, Enterprise technician, secures his information to his trunk of military gear that he is shipping home.



Below, Army Sgt. Natanisha Hershberger, Joint NetOps Control Center supply sergeant, helps get all the paperwork for the shipment ready.



Above, Army Sgt. Jacob Riffe and Spc. Tyler Dietz, both assigned to the Combined Joint Task Force-101 intelligence team as analysts, chill out and chat while waiting for the customs inspection on their gear.

Right, Army Sgt. Nicholas Lambert, command group driver, awaits the customs team. Middle right, Army Spc. Courtesia Wilson, Headquarters and Headquarters Company supply specialist, does a pre-inspection check on Army Chief Warrant Officer 4 Todd Roy's equipment.



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

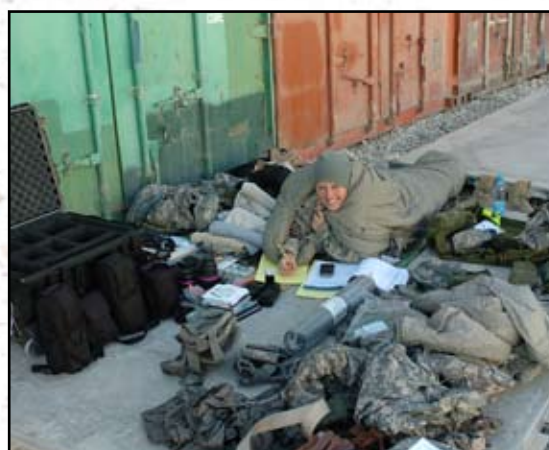


Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Above, Army Spc. Courtney Simmons, Headquarters and Headquarters Company supply specialist, is ready to hitch a ride home.



Army 1st Sgt. Ricardo Pastrana


Left, Army Capt. Michelle Lunato, task force public affairs officer, uses her time waiting for the customs inspections to do some budgeting homework and use her sleeping bag one last time.

SOLDIERS CELEBRATE FREEDOM



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato





By U.S. Army Sgt. Scott Davis
Regional Command-East
Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Spending Dr. Martin Luther King Day deployed to Afghanistan didn't stop Americans from celebrating it. Servicemembers and civilians honored Dr. King with a five-kilometer run on Jan. 15 and a held a series of events on Monday.

U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Richard Williams, a Fort Campbell resident and operations sergeant major for Combined Joint Task Force-101 started Monday's events with a speech giving explanation as to why American citizens give a day a year to one man. "This holiday honors the courage of a man who endured harassment, threats and beatings. We commemorate the man who went to jail 29 times to achieve freedom for others, and who knew he would pay the ultimate price for his leadership but kept on marching."

Williams became teary-eyed in the closing of his speech.

"Whether you are African-American, Hispanic or Native American, whether you're Caucasian or Asian-American, you are part of the great dream Martin Luther King had for America. This is not a black holiday; it's a people's holiday and it is the young people of all races and religions who hold the key to the fulfillment of his dream."

The participants then went on a march around Bagram Airfield in memory of Dr. King's 54-mile march from Selma, Ala. to the state capital in Montgomery, Ala. demanding Congress remove barriers to the right to vote.

"I really appreciate the opportunity to celebrate Dr. Martin Luther

King Jr. Day like this," said U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jake Liao, a San Francisco Bay native and a construction mechanic with the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion Aid Team. "He's such an inspiration to me, I mean look at what he did for Americans. He fought to fix the injustice of his time and I really admire him for that."

After the march, participants shared breakfast and listened to music by the 101st Airborne Division band, a rendition of the Star Spangled Banner by U.S. Army Spc. Daniella Beard, a cook with B Co., 101st Headquarters and Headquarters Battalion, 101st Airborne Division and the Enduring Faith Chapel's choir. They also watched a demonstration by the Enduring Faith Chapel's Mime Team and listened to speeches that memorialized Dr. King.

"Dr. King's vision of America is captured in his message of hope and possibility for a future anchored in dignity, sensitivity and mutual respect," said Lesa Rollins, the event's narrator. "This is a message that challenges each of us to recognize that America's true strength lies in its diversity of talents. "

In a time where Americans are fighting to overcome so many obstacles like a lack of jobs, a stressed economy and two wars, it may replenish hope and strengthen courage to reflect on how far the United States has come as a nation and to remember the words of a man who helped mold the values of today's America.

"Let us not wallow in the valley of despair, I say to you today, my friends. And so even though we face the difficulties of today and tomorrow, I still have a dream. It is a dream deeply rooted in the American dream," said Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Visiting Troops

Chief of Army Reserve Visits Task Force Thunder

**Compiled from an article
by Staff Sgt. Mark Burrell**

Bagram, Afghanistan – The Chief of the Army Reserve (CAR) visited with over 400 deployed Army Reserve troops at six different bases in Afghanistan the last week in January.

“What I always stress whenever I get to talk to a group, whether it’s in public or in front of Congress, is how much our nation needs to appreciate what you do. You are a national treasure,” said U.S. Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz to a group of Army Reserve Soldiers.

Stultz spoke about his early experiences in the military and how much things have changed for the Army, but particularly the Army Reserve.

“This is a totally different Army and a totally different Army Reserve than when I entered back in the 70s. Our Nation, I don’t think really understands or appreciates what you do,” explained Stultz. They don’t always understand that you Soldiers have jobs, have families, have homes, and are willing to leave all of that to go serve your country and risk your lives, he said.

With the upcoming draw-down of forces in Iraq, he answered questions on what the future of Afghanistan holds for men and women in the USAR.

“We’ve been told that



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato

Army Staff Sgt. Eric Pope, supply sergeant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade receives a coin from Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve on Jan. 22.

we’re going to start to draw down this summer,” Stultz said. “Nobody knows what that means. One person leaves or a lot of people leave, we don’t know. So we are uncertain what that looks like, but we have to plan for it.”

He added that it wasn’t a choice anymore whether or not to use Army Reserve Soldiers in Afghanistan or Iraq, but rather it is where the majority of the Army’s support capabilities lie.

Yet, there is a transformation that needs to take place still. Stultz talked about making the Army Reserve leaner and more functional. For those Soldiers who are not living the Army values, “I don’t have room for you in my formation,” said Stultz.

As a brigade commander, hearing hard-line support from above was a good thing, said Task Force Thunder commander, Army Col. Chris Kemp. “I was glad to hear the CAR reinforced his desire that we maintain ethic-based senior leaders while we continue to shape the force.”

The chief elaborated on the needed transformation of the Reserve force, and with great detail, said many Soldiers.

“I was astounded that he went that in-depth about things,” said Army 1st Lt. William Wra-tee, human resources deputy officer in charge, Headquarters and Headquarters Company,

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a customer-Soldier of his. The warfighter narrated his successfully quick and safe encounter on being able to analyze personal data on a potential terrorist in his custody. With the help of biometric equipment and a working communications network, the warfighter's unit was able to determine the detained person's identity within five minutes as opposed to three to five days. That light-speed difference in information results is invaluable, said Lloyd. "I am glad we can provide that kind of support. That is what we are here for."

This ground-level knowledge took some time to gain though as the first half of Lloyd's deployment was spent at a different echelon of the war. At the beginning of his tour in April 2010, Lloyd served as the aide to Army Brig. Gen. Lawrence W. Brock, who was the senior signal leader for Army Central Command at that time. As a general's aide, the first-time deployed Soldier saw an over-arching view that many new lieutenants don't. "I found out how big Army works," said Lloyd. All the communications equipment needs in country go through a process, and there are a number of checks and balances, said Lloyd. I recall many of the same topics being discussed at both the brigade and theater level, and by both the Afghan and U.S. military, he continued. "The decisions being made there [U.S. Forces – Afghanistan] are being executed here [JNCC-A and Bagram]." The two separate vantage points have provided Lloyd with a full-circle experience. "All this stuff we are pushing out here at the 359th TTSB, I saw at USFOR-A."

Lloyd had a viewpoint on a big-picture perspective outside of the signal community as well. "I can see the U.S. military's mentorship in theirs [Afghan military]." Basic military structure, courtesies and processes are similar and recognizable, said Lloyd. And after hearing a number of conversations between the Afghan and Coalition Force leaders, the lieutenant said he knows the goal is to have the Afghan people take charge, free them-

selves from terrorism and re-build their own country within their own cultural framework of success. "I know we are trying to get them to take the lead. I have heard it firsthand."

After meeting a number of locals, Lloyd said he has also realized that the Afghan people are really not that different than Americans. "Most Afghans I have seen are just trying to make a living like anyone else." They want to raise their families in peace and enjoy their lives like we do, he said. "Most of them want to help and want their country to be better."

However, this view point was not at all what Lloyd expected since he had never traveled. "I didn't know what to expect at all. This was my first time out of the country." There was a definite learning curve and culture shock, he explained. And after seeing some of the living conditions in Afghanistan

for both deployed servicemembers and local people, the Soldier has definitely become more appreciative. "Just everyday things Americans have – we take for granted." The basic needs of having reliable water, power and trash service are not the same here, said Lloyd. "The United States is a great country, but our generation has never seen anything like this." And with these challenges, Lloyd said he has found the Afghan people surprisingly hospitable and respectful, and very similar to us. "They just want to be happy, like we do."

Lloyd said he is looking forward to seeking that happiness when he redeploys. Personal goals of learning Spanish and working on his masters did not get a lot of attention in his down time so far on the deployment. "Those things just didn't happen." There is just not a lot of free time when you work for a general and as a communications lead, said Lloyd.

So between his personal goals, returning to work, and creating a life with his new bride Kimberly, the signal Soldier says there are plenty of new missions for him to work on in the near future. And with all of his deployment experience, Lloyd says he knows one thing for sure. "When I get home, I am not complaining about anything."



Photos by Army Capt. Michelle Lunato



Left, Army Col. Chris Kemp, task force commander, brags on his Soldiers to Army Lt. Gen. Jack C. Stultz, chief of the Army Reserve during his visit to Joint NetOps Control Center - Afghanistan. Below, Army 1st Lt. William Wratee, human resources deputy officer in charge, asks the Army Reserve chief a question during the town-hall meeting in Bagram.

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359th Theater Tactical Signal Brigade, which commands Task Force Thunder. Stultz spoke in a lot of detail from the nuts and bolts topics to the Reserve-wide vision, said Wratee. "It was very valuable to see how the highest ranking Reservist sees things."

Army Sgt. Alonzo Cook, human resources sergeant, HHC, 359th TTSB said he was impressed with the connections that Stultz is making with businesses on the behalf of Army Reserve Soldiers.

"There are a lot of Reserve Soldiers who are out of work, so that help is invaluable." From helping the troops connect with seeking employers and coordinating their acceptance into civilian training opportunities, Stultz explained a number of efforts that will help drilling Sol-



diers find and retain civilian jobs. "For a Reserve Soldier, that kind of help is very important," said Cook.

All of the topics the chief discussed provided the deployed troops with the most up-to-date information on "the road ahead" for the Army Reserves, said Army Sgt. Maj. John Schiffli, plans and

operations sergeant major, HHC, 359th TTSB. "He really gave us the bottom line up front."

Not to mention that a visit from a three-star general, who is a great speaker and leader, really adds something a little special to the day, added Schiffli. "It is a great morale boost for the Soldiers."