

Duke



Dispatch

Vol. 13



Celebrities visit Soldiers
at FOB Salerno

Operation Tofan I gains
intel, makes inroads

August 2011

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Photos from operations of Task Force Duke taken between July 15- August 15. Top Left: Photo by Sgt. Joseph Watson, Top Right: Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil, Middle Left: Sgt. Joseph Watson, Middle Right: Sgt. Joseph Watson Bottom Left: Sgt. Joseph Watson




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Cover photo- Soldiers of the Afghan National Army and Company D, 1st battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, Task Force Duke, make their way to the first objective after crossing a flowing wadi during Operation Tofan I in Musa Khel Afghanistan. The operation was designed to search and destroy Taliban forces in the area. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Watson, Task Force Duke Public Affairs Office)

Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Toner
TF Duke Commander

Later this month I'll depart Afghanistan on mid-tour leave and spend some time at home with my family. We all look forward to the time we are able to reconnect with loved ones, but my leave plan has also furnished a priceless opportunity to visit with some of our Duke Soldiers who have made extreme physical sacrifices during our time deployed.

You may have noticed that in addition to recognizing our fallen heroes each month in the Dispatch, we also recognize those Soldiers who've earned Purple Heart awards for wounds received from enemy action. Some of these wounded warriors owe their very survival to the superior medical care developed by the military to treat victims of all types of combat-related injuries, from point of injury to final treatment facility. What our military medical professionals are capable of doing to rehabilitate our wounded is truly amazing.

Because of advances in medical technology, soldiers are surviving severe

battlefield injuries more than ever, and thus require more intensive, long-term care. Our nation recognizes this need and provides the best facilities in the world to help these soldiers. At FOB Salerno we have a cutting edge, trauma-centric level III medical facility. Comparable to a small, state-of-the-art emergency care facility back in the States, it has the capacity to handle multiple trauma patients simultaneously and can hold several patients needing ICU care. Soldiers requiring a higher level of care are taken to large bases in Afghanistan, while others are evacuated to medical treatment facilities in Germany and the United States, depending on their injuries. Part of my trip home will be dedicated to visiting wounded Duke Soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington D.C., Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio, Texas, and at our own Ireland Army Community Hospital at Fort Knox.

There is nothing in the world comparable to our military health care system when it comes to treating our combat wounded. I am truly thankful that our na-



tion values the lives of its servicemembers enough to invest in providing superior care and facilities for those who need them.

Before closing I must acknowledge four more TF Duke heroes, all from 1-279th Inf. Bn., Army Oklahoma National Guard, who gave the ultimate sacrifice in defense of our freedom and in defense of the people of Afghanistan. 2nd Lt. Jered Ewey and Spc. James Vicari July 29, Staff Sgt. Kirk Owens Aug. 3, Sgt Anthony Del Mar Peterson Aug. 6. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families of these brave warriors during this difficult period. They sacrificed all to guarantee liberty and the way of life we all cherish.

Duty First! ▀

Voice of the CSM

By CSM Drew Pumarejo
TF Duke Command Sgt. Maj.

I celebrated 30 years of Army service earlier this year, and to say I've seen a lot of changes in that time would be an understatement. The constants that remain, however, would be that we are the best fed, trained, led, and equipped Army in the world. With the speed and importance of battlefield medicine occupying my thoughts this month, add the fact that we have the best medical care to the other benefits I listed earlier.

Using some of the mid-tour leave time I had to visit many wounded Soldiers was certainly an eye-opening experience. It was also an experience I'll never forget. The opportunity to visit with Heroes who put their bodies and lives on the line for comrades and country is something every Soldier should take advantage of. Far too often it's tempting to think that once a

Soldier is seriously wounded and removed from the fight, that he will go on with his life and his unit will proceed with business as usual. What many don't realize, however, is that it's oftentimes an uphill battle for a wounded Hero to ever have a "normal" life again, and not just for the presence of physical injuries. Psychological wounds can be just as difficult to an injury to deal with.

The Army realizes that recovery and rehabilitation from battlefield wounds can take years. Our treatment centers and hospitals are the finest in the world, and wounded Soldiers receive state-of-the-art care from moment he or she is wounded until the time they are determined ready to get back to their military job or transition to a successful civilian occupation. The Combat Support Hospital at Forward Operating Base Salerno is just the start of the superior combat health care facilities



we have access to here in AO Duke. The reality of warfare, even in this modern age, is that a Soldier takes great risks every time he or she steps foot into a combat zone. In light of this, it is comforting to know the Army, and nation, has pledged to ensure that wounded Soldiers receive the best treatment available throughout recovery and convalescence, no matter how long it takes. "No Mission Too Difficult...No Sacrifice Too Great...Duty First" ▀

Chaplain's Word

By Chaplain (Maj.) Mike Nishimura,
TF Duke Chaplain

One of the most difficult challenges you may have to deal with during deployment is the health-related issues of your loved ones at home. Because of the sheer distance and time differences involved, we can feel vulnerable and at times helpless. We have already had a number of Soldiers whose Family members became ill or developed a condition that made it necessary to go through surgeries at home. The issue is magnified when it involves young children. Even if we wanted to be with that loved one in the moment of need, it is difficult if not impossible to accomplish in our deployed situation.

So, what can you do when you face a situation like this? For some people who are affected by illness, discussing faith and religious beliefs can relieve stress, offer a sense of purpose, and help maintain hope. Religious beliefs empower some people and help them to better cope with and

experience emotional growth from their negative health-related experiences rather than be defeated or overcome by them. During times of illness, crisis and loss (of our loved ones and even our own), many people tend to think more deeply about what they believe to be true about the world. A pilot study conducted at Stanford University showed that most individuals in hospice felt that their faith offered significant comfort.

Having a loved one who is ill can be hard for us the deal with. Here are some practical coping ideas to consider: Know that you are not a crummy person if you don't feel sympathetic and compassionate at all times toward the person with illness. Direct your frustration at the illness, not at the sick person. If circumstances are making you feel angry and resentful, you may have a legitimate point. But if those feelings drive your behavior, your point will be lost. Talk about your feelings. You don't have to keep a stiff upper lip. If you don't talk about your feelings or how the illness



is affecting the relationship, problems will only grow and eat away at you. Concerning your children, don't force them to deal with adult issues. Young children shouldn't be expected to go from being a child to the caregiver of a sick adult. If a child has taken on the role of caregiver and now can't go back to being a child again, you need to help him or her relearn how to have fun, be silly, and play again.

You can manage an illness, or it can manage you. I hope no one becomes ill, but if it happens, it is good to know that you have enough emotional resilience to overcome your health-related challenges. ▀

Attention to detail means everything for EOD

Story and photo by Spc. Charelle Kappra
703rd EOD

There are many dangers on today's battlefield, and improvised explosive devices encountered on missions have statistically proven to be one of the most hazardous. U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian Seager of the Fort Knox, Ky. – based 703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, attached to Task Force Duke, has been an EOD technician for nine years. Defusing IEDs isn't for the faint of heart, he said, but Seager notes that like many things in life, "it's all about the details."

Seager, a native of Aliquippa, Pa., explained that once EOD arrives on scene there are numerous procedures to follow, all critical to the mission's ultimate success. Establishing security and verifying the location and type of the device through a robot, which can disarm the IED, are just a few. If the robot is unable to successfully disarm the device, which has been the case in many instances, then Seager or one of his team members will attempt to disarm

the device manually.

What's the most dangerous part of any mission?

"The unknown," Seager responded, especially "if there's a secondary device or if there is a complex attack waiting for you while you're disarming the device."

The array of variables that can be present on any mission only adds to the sense of unknown. Insurgents close enough to use cell phones as a triggering device, command wires sticking out of the ground, pressure plates that could possibly be stepped on, and other devices that may detonate when approaching are just a few of those many unknown hazards to consider.

EOD techs are on-call at all hours, and at times missions can last for days without end. Seager said the most frustrating part of being a tech is returning from a long mission, exhausted and hungry, and receiving another call to go out before getting a chance to sit down to eat.

"Consecutive missions can be stressful; something that's supposed to be simple



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Brian Seager, a member of the Fort Knox, Ky.-based 703rd Explosive Ordnance Disposal Company, currently attached to Task Force Duke, stands next to his truck wearing portions of his protective bomb suit.

but ends up being 20 hours," he said. With the enemy using every trick in the book to cause harm, EOD is always alert to changing dynamics, said Seager. New IEDs and technologies are frequently encountered, requiring the techs to learn and constantly improve their skills. "It's nothing at all like "Hurt Locker" (movie). There's a lot of constant training and improvement since things are always changing on the battlefield," he said. ▀

Right: Air Force Lt. Col. James Forand, Commander of Provincial Reconstruction Team Paktya, from Auburn, Mass., accepts the guidon from U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, Task Force Duke Commander from Topeka, Kan. The passing of the guidon is a time-honored tradition signifying the acceptance of command from the Task Force Commander.

Below: U.S. Navy Commander Brad Brewer, Provincial Reconstruction Team Khowst commander from Fort Recovery, Ohio, addresses, from left to right, Khowst Province Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi, while U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke commander from Topeka, Kan. and U.S. Navy Capt. Steve Deal, outgoing PRT Khowst commander from Chesapeake, Va.; look on during a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno, July 6.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Sandra Welch

PRT Khowst, Paktya change hands

Provincial Reconstruction Teams Khowst and Paktya marked their respective change in command with two transfer of authority ceremonies in July.

U.S. Navy Cmdr. Brad Brewer from Fort Recovery, Ohio, took command of Provincial Reconstruction Team Khowst from U.S. Navy Capt. Steve Deal from Chesapeake, Va., in a transfer of authority ceremony at Forward Operating Base Salerno, July 6.

Paktya's ceremony marked the change of command from U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Marchal Magee of Issaquah, Wash., to U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. James Forand of Auburn, Mass. on July 9.

The mission of the PRTs is to conduct population-centric governance and development counterinsurgency operations in order to build the capacity of the provincial and district governments, develop critical infrastructure, education, and stabilization initiatives, and increase the legitimacy and accountability of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to the populace, ultimately enabling reintegration and transition.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Wesley Farnsworth

Lower Left: From left to right, Khowst Province Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi; U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke commander from Topeka, Kan.; U.S. Navy Capt. Steve Deal, outgoing Provincial Reconstruction Team Khowst commander from Chesapeake, Va.; and U.S. Navy Cmdr. Brad Brewer, incoming PRT Khowst commander from Fort Recovery, Ohio, salute as the Afghanistan and U.S. national anthems are played during a transfer of authority ceremony on Forward Operating Base Salerno, July 6.

Lower Right: U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. James Forand, commander of Provincial Reconstruction Team Paktya, from Auburn, Mass., salutes during the playing of the Afghan and U.S. national anthems, as part of the Transfer of Authority Ceremony, July 9. Lt. Col. Forand assumed command of the PRT from U.S. Air Force Lt. Col. Marchal Magee of Issaquah, Wash.

Below: U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke commander from Topeka, Kan., hands the Provincial Reconstruction Team Khowst guidon to U.S. Navy Commander Brad Brewer from Fort Recovery, Ohio, in a transfer of authority ceremony on Forward Operating Base Salerno, July 6.



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Sandra Welch



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Sandra Welch



Photo by U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Wesley Farnsworth



Jon Stewart, host of Comedy Central's "the Daily Show," makes a brief statement to troops at the Forward Operating Base Salerno dining facility July 31. Stewart was visiting the troops as part of a USO tour, along with NBA all-star Karl Malone and street illusionist David Blaine.

Celebrities visit Forward Operating Base Salerno

Story by Pfc. John Martinez,
TF Centaur, Public Affairs

A funny thing happened on the way to Pakistan," said Jon Stewart, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," referring to his appearance at Forward Operating Base Salerno July 31.

Stewart was part of a USO tour that also featured NBA All-Star Karl Malone and master illusionist David Blaine.

Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, stood in a line snaking several hundred feet in temperatures exceeding 100 degrees for a chance to shake hands and meet the celebrities.

"Like the rest of the troops," said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Anthony Zupan of Indianapolis, Ind., a soldier of 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., "I don't mind waiting in line for hours in this heat to see these guys. They rock!"

U.S. Army Capt. Hollijo Monroe, of Burley, Idaho, and also attached to 1st Bn., 6th FA Regt., added that "this was a great morale booster for the troops and I really admire [Stewart, Malone and Blaine] for coming out here and shaking hands, signing autographs and giving us something to smile about."

"Coming here definitely shows they support us," she added.

The sincerity from all three celebrities was evident as they

discussed their gratitude to the troops and military families.

"To me, I just want to say thanks for everything and want you to know that on behalf of my family and me, we live better because of you and all the soldiers' sacrifices that you and your families have made," Karl Malone.

"You can't imagine what soldiers are going through until you come out here yourself," agreed Blaine. "No movie can depict the truth."

Of all the icons on the tour, it was Stewart that seemed to draw the biggest crowd.

"They say, 'Thank you, Jon, for coming out here,' but it's an honor [for me to be here]," he said. "We're getting so much more out of this than we can ever give back."

Stewart, who made several comments about the August heat in Afghanistan, including one comparing the weather to that of the surface of Venus, did have one suggestion for future conflicts:

"I will say that I wish a country like Bermuda would attack us, because it sure would be more fun to visit there."

A lot of fun was had on the brief stop, but it was Malone that summed up the purpose of the tour best.

"I don't know what people's definition of hero is, but I say, 'Hero is right here,'" he said. 🇺🇸

Celebrity Info



Name:
Jon Stewart

Job:
Hosts "The Daily Show"

Age:
48

Jon Stewart began hosting "The Daily Show" on Comedy Central in 1999. Since becoming its host he has won 14 Emmy's, received a best Comedy Grammy Award for an audio book edition of his show and won two Peabody Awards for his coverage of the Presidential elections in 2004 and 2008.



Name:
Karl Malone

Job:
NBA Hall of famer

Age:
48

Karl Malone is a retired basketball power forward player nicknamed "the mailman." He competed with the U.S. National team in the 1992 and 1996 summer Olympics where he won gold medals twice. He was inducted into the Naismith Memorial basketball hall of fame in 2010.



Name:
David Blaine

Job:
Illusionist and Endurance artist

Age:
38

Known for his feats of endurance such as being buried in a plastic box underneath a three-ton water tank for seven days, David Blaine has broken several world records. He has hosted several television specials where he has demonstrated magic tricks. He is referred to as a modern day Houdini



Photo by Maj. Travis Dettmer



Photo by Sgt. Tobey White



Photo by Maj. Travis Dettmer

Above right: Karl Malone, former NBA all-star, poses with a Soldier of 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, at Forward Operating Base Salerno July 31.

Above left: (From left) Jon Stewart, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show;" Karl Malone, former NBA all-star; and David Blaine, a street illusionist; sign autographs for Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, on Forward Operating Base Salerno July 31.

Left: Jon Stewart, host of Comedy Central's "The Daily Show," is surrounded by Soldiers of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, during a USO tour to Forward Operating Base Salerno July 31.

Operation Tofan I

TF Duke disrupts pre-Ramadan attacks, gains intel, makes inroads

Story by Maj. Travis Dettmer,
TF Duke, PAO

We have known for a while that Musa Khel was a potential support zone for insurgents,” said U.S. Army Maj. Damon Harris, the operations officer for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, when asked about the success of Operation Tofan I, the latest in a series of large-scale operations conducted by the brigade based out of Fort Knox, Ky.

According to Harris, a Leland, Miss., native, the overall mission of Tofan I was to disrupt insurgent safe havens in the Musa Khel region of Khowst province, improve the ability for the government to reach the people there and gather intelligence for planning future operations.

Task Force Duke, which is responsible for coalition forces’ operations in Khowst and Paktya provinces, has conducted several major operations alongside their Afghan National Security Force partners since January designed to shape the battlefield by eliminating insurgent safe havens, targeting insurgent weapons caches, securing key routes and clearing insurgents from populated areas. Tofan I largely confirmed what Duke’s commander, U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, suspected.

“We had to do it. We had to get in there and see,” said the Topeka, Kan. native, referring to the suspected enemy support zones in Musa Khel, a sparsely populated, mountainous area located in the center of the TF Duke operational area. “[What the operation] did was allow us to confirm or deny our enemy template ... where we think these support zones are and what they consist of. Now we’ve narrowed down the hunt, so to speak, and know where we are going to go next.”

The operation, which began on July 27, originally called for all units to pull out before Aug 1, the first full day of Ramadan.

For one unit, however, the operation didn’t end as planned.

“We were directed to stay, search out and engage the indirect fire teams that were engaging us the entire time,” said

U.S. Army Capt. Josh Wiles, from Bradenton, Fla., who commands Company D, 1st Battalion, 26th Inf. Regiment, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke. He was referring to what he described as the consistent and incredibly accurate insurgent mortar and rocket teams that rained down explosive fire against the Musa Khel District Center during the operation.

“Every one of their rounds was effective. They had our location locked in,” said Wiles.

The effectiveness of these indirect fire teams compelled Toner to cancel a pre-planned shura, or meeting, scheduled at the Musa Khel D.C. between Khowst Provincial Governor Abdul Jabbar Naeemi and local elders toward the end of the operation’s original timeline.

“I expected enemy contact, but did not expect a mortar attack, and certainly did not expect mortar attacks in those numbers,” said Toner, adding that the conditions were too dangerous for the governor and local officials to hold the meeting.

He continued, citing the boldness of the insurgents who did not stop firing despite the presence of air weapons teams or teams of attack helicopters.

“I certainly didn’t expect them to continue firing mortars with AWT overhead.”

He went on to say that indirect fire teams as accurate as those in Musa Khel are normally found near coalition bases.

“I would say it’s a good assumption to make that having a mortar team of that quality in that remote of an area indicates to me that they are protecting something,” said Toner.

Wiles and his Company D “Dragoons” took their orders and began an intense search of the area to locate enemy fire teams.

“At times, it was rough,” said Wiles, referring to the intensely steep terrain that his soldiers had to negotiate in the effort to locate the menace at elevations above 8,000 feet.

“This was a different situation than my soldiers are used to,” said Wiles, whose



Photos by Sgt. Joseph Watson



Left: Soldiers from Co. D, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, and their Afghan National Army counterparts make their way to a nearby village to search for insurgents in Musa Khel, July 29.

Top: Soldiers from Co. D, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, approach a house in Musa Khel July 29.

Bottom: Soldiers from Co. D, 1st Bn., 26th Inf. Reg., 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., TF Duke, and Afghan National Army soldiers display illegal material found at a tactical control point in Musa Khel July 29.

primary area of responsibility is in Tani District, a relatively calm area in southern Khowst, where his focus is mostly on supporting good governance and training Afghan security forces. “My soldiers really felt like they were doing an infantry mission [in Musa Khel].”

After a total of 14 days searching the hillsides, the Dragoons ultimately did not locate the mortar and rocket teams and returned to their home base at Combat Outpost Narizah, Aug. 7.

All was not lost during the extended mission, however.

“While patrolling, we visited three villages that reportedly had never seen

Americans before this operation,” said Wiles. “Musa Khel is my responsibility now, and me and my soldiers will be back regularly to promote [good] governance, and extend the reach of the brigade to an area we need and want to influence.”

For Toner, the overall results of Tofan I were extremely positive.

“It’s clear to me, because we got out to these support zones and these areas where [the insurgent leader] stages his attacks, he immediately had to respond to us and it prevented him from doing what he wanted to do. I disrupted his pre-Ramadan attack cycle. No doubt in my mind,” said Toner. “To me that’s success.”

Warrior's spotlight

TF Duke medic heals, develops fellow soldiers

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. John Zumer,
TF Duke, PAO

As a young non-commissioned officer, U.S. Army Sgt. Elizabeth Fortkamp enjoys an enviable position. One of her biggest supporters happens to be her battalion commander, yet as far as Fortkamp is concerned, the feelings of professional respect in her unit have always been a two-way street.

Fortkamp, a senior medic with the Fort Knox, Ky.-based Company C, 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, is a five-year Army veteran presently serving in eastern Afghanistan on her second deployment.

Raised in a large family in Coldwater, Ohio, she is the fifth of seven children. Fortkamp cites that circumstance as one of the most influential reasons for joining the Army.

"Coming from a large family, I wanted to get out and be my own person," she said.

Three years spent as a certified nursing assistant at an Ohio nursing home before joining the Army convinced her she wanted to remain in the medical profession.

"I've always loved medicine and helping people," said Fortkamp, adding that "seeing what's wrong and being able to fix it" from a medical perspective always intrigued her.

As the senior enlisted member for the 201st BSB medical clinic at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Fortkamp supervises a team that fluctuates between three to six soldiers depending on patient numbers and mission assignments. That supervision

consists of sick call duties, organizing training opportunities for the companies of the 201st BSB, and looking for ways to increase the skill sets of the soldiers working under her.

Having also been assigned to the 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., on their last Afghanistan deployment in 2008–2009, she doesn't hesitate to offer up advice to young soldiers preparing for their first deployment.

"Plan for the worst but hope for the best. If you can alleviate stressors affecting your soldiers, do it," said Fortkamp.

That commitment to others hasn't gone unnoticed.

"Absolutely one of the best medics I've ever worked with," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dave Brown, 201st BSB commander and a native of Dover, Del.

"She has a positive attitude, never backs away from a challenge, and is always teaching and making things better," Brown added.

The ability to share her military and medical knowledge, as well as her enthusiasm and encouragement, have loomed large in the professional development of junior soldiers in her unit.

"She definitely lets us get our hands dirty," said U.S. Army Pfc. Brandon Cupp, a combat medic with Company C., and a native of Des Moines, Iowa, serving on his first deployment.

He said Fortkamp encourages her Soldiers to rotate through many of the medical sections at FOB Salerno to supplement their skills.

This can include helping out at the Combat Support Hospital, staging combat lifesaver classes for the benefit of soldiers, conducting medical Preventive Maintenance Checks and Services before going out on missions, and accompanying the flight medics of TF Tiger Shark when they go out on missions.

"My medical knowledge has expanded greatly" under Fortkamp, he said.

Much work remains on this deployment, but Fortkamp does allow herself the luxury of thinking of her mid-tour leave in September and the end of her deployment later this year. Spending time with family and friends, getting married, and being reunited with her dog Zoe are just a few things she looks forward to. Her free time is spent exercising and with her new hobby, crochet.

Her Army enlistment will expire in April 2012, and while the military is losing a committed professional, she's looking to help sick and injured civilians by pursuing a nursing degree, possibly in emergency medicine. She cites the teamwork, unit leadership and quality soldiers that she works with for making it possible to take care of the people her clinic is entrusted with.

But as grateful Fortkamp is for the environment and leadership team she works under, with mutual feelings expressed from above, the more revealing story may be in how she's perceived by her peers and subordinates.

Army non-commissioned officers are entrusted with mentoring, counselling, teaching, leading and inspiring their Soldiers to reach their potential, while also looking out for their Soldiers' daily welfare.

If such factors when fulfilled signify success, then at least one soldier considers Fortkamp's example to be an open and shut case.

"Anything we soldiers need, she's there for us," said Cupp. ▀



U.S. Army Sgt. Elizabeth Fortkamp, a senior medic with the Fort Knox, Ky.-based Company C., 201st Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, and a native of Coldwater, Ohio, examines the ear canal of a Soldier at her unit's medical clinic on Forward Operating Base Salerno, July 19.



Maj. Matthew Gooding, the 3rd Brigade Rear Detachment Commander, presents a certificate of appreciation to Novella Harrison. Harrison hand sewed ten quilts and pillowcases for our 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division wounded warriors. She is one of many people in the local community to go above and beyond to let our Soldiers and Families know they care. We thank all of those who have donated items to our Soldiers here and in Afghanistan!

Getting the groove back

With school back in session, many of our family readiness groups are regrouping after an eventful summer. Our main focus is to plan reintegration and welcome home activities. Through our community partners, we hope to offer new learning opportunities about how reintegration affects both the Soldier and Family.

One of these learning tools is short video clips focusing on different aspects of redeployment. Look for these links in your weekly 3rd Brigade update flash and on your brigade and battalion vFRG and facebook pages.

We also want to thank all of our Spouses who volunteer and participate in their Family Readiness Groups and who keep things rolling along back here, you are truly awesome!

By Ally Reese, Brigade FRG Leader

Combating sexual assault

One of the first values taught to Soldiers in basic training is to respect their fellow Soldier. This includes those of the opposite gender.

By subjecting others to unwanted sexual advances, you can create tension in the work place which leads to a deterioration of efficiency and quality. Sexual harrasment is punishable under UCMJ and the Army has a zero tolerance policy to both sexual harrasment and sexual assualt.

Smacking your battle buddy on the butt is considered a sexual assault, and you can be punished under the provisions of UCMJ for doing just that. Battle buddies need to stand up for one another and keep one another safe and free from sexual assault. Do not be that guy or girl who lets their battle down by sitting on the side lines and letting it happen. Do not be a bystander. Step in, fix the situation and prevent your battle from being assaulted and also prevent someone else from being a offender.

By Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Kretz, TF Duke Equal Opportunity Advisor

Going... Going... Gone!

The Army is close to making their 2011 fiscal year retention mission. What does this mean for you and your Soldiers?

By Staff Sgt. Ronald Williams, Jr., 6-4 Cav, Career Counselor

Glad you asked...this means that right now if you are eligible to reenlist and you want to stay in the Army, then you need to take action now! For a Soldier to be within their reenlistment window, their ETS must be on or before Sept. 30, 2012. Keep in mind that once you come within 90 days of your ETS date, you are ineligible to reenlist without a waiver from HRC.

If you are waiting on the so called "Big Bonus Money" then you will wait yourself out of a job. Downrange bonuses may be going away. Should a bonus be available it will only be available to specific jobs, usually jobs where there's a shortage.

If you like what your options are today, take it, because tomorrow they may be gone. The Army is trying to lower its numbers and right now approximately 50 percent of the Army's skill level one MOS's are over strength. That means they need to re-class into a shortage MOS, transition into Army National Guard, Army Reserves or ETS. There are still school seats available for Soldiers, but they are limited and may require some effort on the Soldiers' part to qualify, i.e. FAST class for GT score improvement, security clearance, etc.

Reenlistments: July 15- August 15

- Sgt. 1st Class Allah Jamal Gary
- Sgt. Jordan Hart
- Spc. Vincent Lehman
- Staff Sgt. Robert McMurray
- Staff Sgt. John Mullins
- Sgt. Michael Neighbours
- Sgt. Roman Orr
- Sgt. Javier pioquinto
- Sgt. Timothy Rowland
- Sgt. Evan Teaster
- Sgt. Brian Waugh

Purpleheart

Recipients: July 15-Aug. 15

- | | | |
|--|---|---|
| Staff Sgt. Lani Abalama
C Co., 1-26 In. | Pfc. Preston Hodge
C Co., 1-279th | Staff Sgt. Kirk Owen
HHC, 1-279th |
| Sgt. Michael Brown
HHC, 1-26 In. | Spc. Zachary Jagers
B Co., 1-26 In. | Spc. Jeremy Parrish
E Co., 2-2 In. |
| Spc. Thomas Castle
C Co, 1-26 In. | Pfc. Jesse Jones
D Co., 2-2 In. | Sgt. Anthony Petersen
B Co., 1-279th |
| Pfc. William Craig
HHC, 2-2 In. | Cpl. Michael Malecki
HHC., 1-26 In. | Sgt. Marshall Philmon
527th MP Co. |
| Spc. Scott Dulian
E Co., 2-2 In | Sgt. 1st Class Randy McCoin
D Co., 2-2 In. | Staff Sgt. Joshua Pless-Mosley
B Co., 1-26 In. |
| 2nd Lt. Jered Ewy
HHC, 1-279th | Sgt. Anthony McQuillen
D Co., 2-2 | Spc. Kevin Summerlin
B Co. 1-279th |
| Pvt. Benjamin Gardner
E Co., 2-2 In. | Sgt. Daniel Moore
D Co., 2-2 In | Pfc. Augustus Vicari
HHC, 1-279th |
| Pfc. Kurt Groves
B Co., 1-26 | Pfc. Stanislav Niehoff
A Co., 1-26 h. | Spc. Nicholas Wingfield
HHC, 2-2 In |
| Pvt. Matthew Hiller
HHC, 1-26 In | | |

Barrackslawyer

Trends in the brigade

There have been two major trends within the Brigade over the past few months. The first has been

By Staff Sgt. Marvin Kauger, paralegal NCOIC

inappropriate relationships while the second trend has been the use of hashish or spice among servicemembers. Most of the individuals accused of having inappropriate relationships have been either commissioned officers or senior noncommissioned officers. Conversely, most of the individuals using either hashish or spice have been junior enlisted or Sergeants.

In the armed forces commissioned and warrant officers do not date, share living quarters (unless operational requirements prohibit separate living quarters) have intimate or sexual relations, or have ongoing business deals with enlisted personnel with the exception of landlord-tenant relationships or one-time deals such as the purchase of a vehicle. The only exception to this are married couples. Once an officer and an enlisted member are married, the above provisions no longer apply to them in regards to each other. Any prior fraternization can still be dealt with appropriately by the command however. In situations where one member of a relationship will be experiencing a change of status, these rules do not apply. For instance, two noncommissioned officers are dating and one gets accepted for OCS. These two noncommissioned officers must either break up permanently or get married within a certain timeframe. It is strongly suggested that these two noncommissioned officers speak to a legal assistance attorney in order to get legal advice on how long before they need to marry before face disciplinary action.

However, it is not just relationships between officers and

enlisted personnel which are prohibited. Paragraph 4-14, Army Regulation 600-20, covers other inappropriate relationships and make the offenders subject to the appropriate punitive and administrative actions such as General Officer Memorandums of Reprimand, Relief for Cause OER/NCOERs and Article 15s. These rules apply to both different and same-gender relationships. Relationships between Soldiers of different rank are prohibited if they do any of the following: (1) compromise, or appear to compromise, the integrity of supervisory authority or the chain of command; (2) cause actual or perceived partiality or unfairness; (3) involve, or appear to involve, the improper use of rank or position for personal gain; (4) are, or are perceived to be, exploitive or coercive in nature; or (5) create an actual or clearly predictable adverse impact on discipline, authority, morale, or the ability of the command to accomplish its mission.

Lastly, we have numerous Soldiers, especially junior Soldiers, undertaking extremely risky behavior which is not only detrimental to their health but also illegal, such as smoking hashish and smoking spice. Spice, as an act of Congress, has been temporarily placed as a Schedule I controlled substance. A number of individuals have had severe and fatal reactions to its inhalation. While the use of hashish in Afghanistan does not have a cultural stigma, as U.S. Soldiers, it is still illegal for you to consume it, even if it is widely available. The wrongful use and possession of these substances is grounds for disciplinary and administrative action by the command and can lead to a court-martial, Article 15s and the mandatory initiation of administrative separation action by the command.

Safety Corner: Ensuring smoke detector safety

Recent site visits have revealed several smoke detectors either absent or not functioning.

By Ken Campbell, Brigade Safety Officer

Many have been disconnected by building occupants due to supposed malfunctions. If your smoke detector goes into alarm on its own and there is no sign of smoke or fire, do not remove the battery to correct the problem!

First, attempt to clean out the detector using compressed or canned air. This should restore the smoke detector to a properly functioning condition.

Do not use any cleaners or submerge the smoke detector in water.

Reset the detector to ensure the alarm is functional after cleaning. If your smoke detector continues making an intermittent beeping sound several times a minute, it is alerting you that the battery is low and needs to be replaced immediately. Do not remove the battery without immediately replacing it! Safety first!

Smoke detector dos and don'ts

- Do check and replace detector batteries regularly
- Don't remove a battery without immediately replacing it with a new one
- Do perform routine maintenance on all detectors
- Do remove unserviceable detectors and replace them with new ones immediately
- Do include detectors as part of Safety Stand Down
- Don't remove detectors from buildings
- Do replace detectors that are missing/unserviceable
- Do ensure outlying FOBs/COPs have sufficient working detectors

World News Highlights

New York

Credit rating

Standard and Poor's downgraded the United States' credit rating from AAA to AA+, the first time in its history the nation's credit was downgraded. The S&P cited the federal government's difficulty in coming to an agreement over the country's budget and debt ceiling limit as major factors in the credit hit. The downgrade severely affected stock markets in the U.S., as Wall St. saw extremely erratic market behavior with near record ups and downs.



Iowa

Straw poll

Minnesota Congresswoman Michele Bachmann narrowly beat out Texas representative Ron Paul in the Iowa Straw Poll Aug. 13. The two finished within one percent of each other in the final tally. The poll is the first test for presidential contenders on the road to a Republican nomination to run for the White House. Former Minnesota governor Tim Pawlenty, who finished third to Bachman and Paul, officially announced he was quitting his run a few days later.

UK

Civil Unrest

Riots sparked by the shooting death by police of a man in Tottenham, a primarily black community, quickly spread across London, with rioters and looters causing massive damage and the deaths of several people. The rioting lasted from Aug 6 to 10, and more than 2,000 people have been arrested due to the incidents.

Afghanistan

Chinook crash

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter was shot down by insurgents in Wardak Province, killing 30 U.S. and 8 Afghan National Army Soldiers, in the deadliest day since the fighting in Afghanistan began in 2001. The helicopter, carrying mostly Special Forces Soldiers, was bringing reinforcements to an objective in the Tangi Valley when it was taken down by a rocket propelled grenade.

IN MEMORIAM





A Soldier with the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke pulls security during a key leader engagement in Musa Khel District Center, July 29. Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil