

# T O M A H A W K

## T I M E S

SEPTEMBER 2011



# ESTABLISHED

*BUILDING FROM  
THE GROUND UP*

ON THE COVER:

CPT Michael Scanlon, Headquarters Company Commander, speaks to his soldiers following the September 11th combat patch ceremony.

**TOMAHAWK TIMES** is an interactive monthly newsletter produced by the 1-179 Battalion public affairs office. The views and opinions expressed herein are not necessarily the views of the DoD, Army, Air Force or U.S. State Department. All published information has been reviewed and cleared for public release.

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**DISTRIBUTION**

This newsletter will be disseminated through several means. For this edition, we will send it out through several email channels and posted on the DVIDS web-page.

We look forward to hearing from you!

## ***FROM THE EDITOR***

First and foremost, this edition of the Tomahawk Times honors the memory of those who perished on September 11, 2001. LTC Matthew Harsha has posted his Commander's message that was delivered to his soldiers on the 10th anniversary.

September has been a very busy month for the 179 as they continue to develop, shape, and mentor Afghan National Security Forces around the province. The upcoming weeks will continue to focus on capacity building for the Afghans and increasing their ability the plan and lead missions.

The 179 crossed the halfway mark this month for time spent on the deployment. The family atmosphere amongst the troops is more than ever present as we continue to strive for Spring of 2012.

Until then, we will continue to pass along news and pictures through the Tomahawk Times. All the best,

David Taliaferro  
Editor  
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# COMMANDER'S CORNER

SEPTEMBER 2011



## Commander's Message on September 11, 2011.

Today, 10 years ago, we as Americans were shocked by the terrorist attacks against our fellow citizens. The victims of those attacks were business professionals in the World Trade Center towers, military members walking the corridors of the Pentagon, passengers on flight 93, policemen, firefighters, and emergency response personnel. Forever remembered are the images of burning buildings, collapsed structures, feelings of sadness, and an unrelenting commitment to defend the country. Our way of life was forever changed that day.

We reflect now on the sacrifices of so many since that fateful day. In our own military

community, we have witnessed the sacrifice of thousands of service members in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, including several from our own state of Oklahoma.

It is important to remember this day and we do so in many ways. We resolve ourselves to the task of helping the Afghans strengthen their communities so that terrorism has no haven within their borders. We honor the fallen soldiers of our country, state, towns and cities. Most importantly, we express our love and commitment to our families and friends back home.

I impart the final message of saluting you for your service to the Nation and the state of Oklahoma.

God Bless,  
LTC Matthew Harsha

Moving Counter-clockwise LTC Matthew Harsha at the FOB Mehter Lam small arms range; CPT Brent Weece and LTC Harsha at combat outpost Bad Pakh; SPC Ferguson receives a battalion coin from LTC Harsh for outstanding service; LTC Harsh enjoys a local meal with his interpreters and his Afghan National Army counterpart; LTC Harsha survey's the river running through the east side of the province.





# INTELLIGENCE REPORT

## Shaping the Battlefield

By SPC Charles Searock  
Intelligence Analyst

On any given day in the intelligence office at FOB Mehter Lam, several hundred emails pass through the miles of different colored wires crawling along the walls. Those emails are read, analyzed, prioritized, and actioned constantly to help direct the efforts of hundreds of soldiers in the field. Behind the desk in that wire-infested office sits one man tasked with managing not only the flow of information but the additional members of the intelligence shop. His name, Captain Matthew Stacy.

"He definitely sets the tone for the office and makes all of us push ourselves to get the best information out to the



field," comments 1st Lieutenant Anthony Shipman.

There are several districts within the province and each one has its own dynamics. CPT Stacy, while he knows his way around the office, is also very committed to getting out to the units and getting a hands-on look at the battle space.

With the situation on the ground changing quickly, CPT Stacy believes that it is important to generate reports, but it is just



as important to get out in the field and confirm that analysis. *...continued on page 5.*

Top Left: CPT Matt Stacy works behind his desk

Top Right: CPT Matt Stacy poses with an Afghan National Army sniper rifle.

Below: SFC David Gregoy focuses during a mission planning meeting.



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*continued from page 4.*

"I'm supposed to be an expert on the terrain and enemy in our area of operations. The only way I can attain credibility with the troops is to be out with them walking the terrain and fighting the enemy" comments CPT Stacy. He goes on to say, "With such a complex operating environment we are in; the enemy is often intermixed among the populace. Focused questioning and good science is the only to separate friend from foe. My intel soldiers are experts on tactical questioning, sensitive site exploitation, and biometrics collection."

CPT Stacy also has the benefit of company intelligence support teams (CoIST). These teams are comprised of primarily infantry soldiers trained in intelligence skills. CPT Stacy states, "The CoIST teams are the essential element of our intelligence efforts here. They provide the ground truth that just isn't always visible when reading a report."

The 1-179 is in good hands with CPT Stacy's intelligence shop watching the enemy's every move.

## Home on the Range

By SPC Mallory Malone  
*Echo Company - Forward Support Company*

There are few places at FOB Mehter Lam that are more close to home than the shooting range. As most Oklahomans believe strongly in exercising their second amendment rights, range time is almost as common as going to the grocery store.

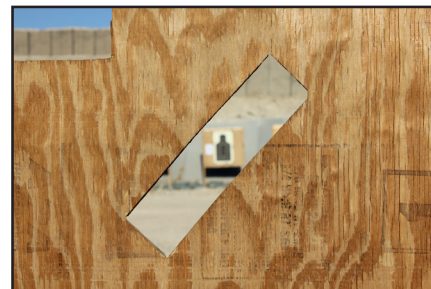
"The range is one of the most relaxing places we have here," comments SPC Charles Searock.

One might questions Searock's idea of relaxing when the ear-shattering noise of small arms fire erupts from the firing line. However, there is an undeniable element of feeling less tense after pumping several bullets through your weapon and into the paper targets.

While several soliders use the range to relax, it is of course one of the most used areas for training.

"Each week I like to come

out here and make sure all my equipment and accessories are funcitoning properly," says SPC Jonathan Roth. Roth goes on to comment, "The guys will come out here and practice their shooting drills, get some exercise in, and come away feeling more



confident in their abilities."

Whether it is coming out to sharpen their skills or just shooting for recreational purposes, soldiers constantly visit their home away from home.

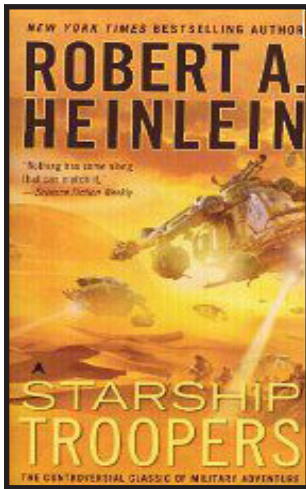
Top Right: 1LT Eric Halls takes a photo through one of the range barriers used for focused targeting.

Below: Several medical soldiers and human terrain team scientist train on the 9mm pistol.

Do you have pictures or stories from home for the Tomahawk Times?

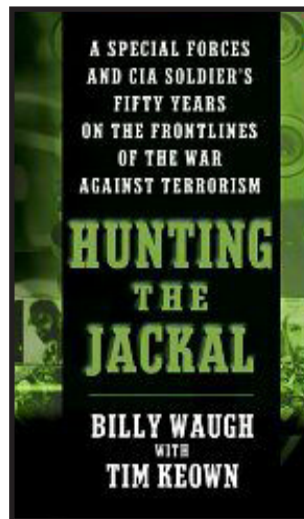
Send them to thetomahawktimes@gmail.com



**RECOMMENDED  
READS FROM THE  
FIELD** by CPT Michael Scanlon

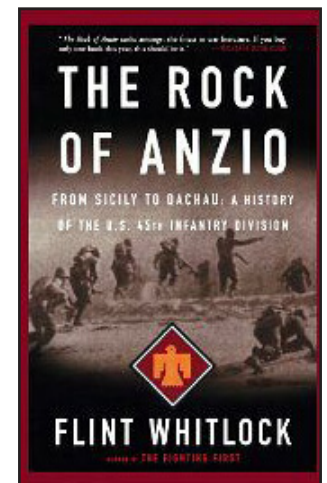
**STARSHIP TROOPERS** - Unique to the infantry, *Starship Troopers* is one of the only science-fiction books ever adopted to the Fort Benning reading list. The book is centered around the character Juan Rico, an infantryman of the future, that participates in an intergalactic war with an alien race. However, much of the book depicts a society that revolves around service to one's country. The book was the first read on the 1-179 list and was followed by spirited discussion from several different viewpoints. Overall rating 8 out of 10.

**HUNTING THE JACKAL** - The incredible story of Billy Waugh, "the perennial special forces soldier" who takes us back in time to the wars of Korea, Vietnam, and the many conflicts up to the current war on terror. Outlining the path of a special forces soldier, and the strange variations of that community, Billy Waugh recalls



several first hand accounts of defending against the enemies of the United States and capture of the notorious terrorist, Carlos "The Jackal." The second installment on the reading list, several members of the 1-179 gave the book two thumbs up. Overall rating 8 out of 10

**THE ROCK OF ANZIO** - Flint Whitlock's account of the 45th Infantry Division in World War II describes the successes, limitations, courage, and sacrifice of one of the most critical units in the European theatre. A book that clearly hits close to home and the servicemembers of the Oklahoma community whose history lives with us today in Afghanistan. A must read for all those who serve. Overall rating 10 out of 10.





# PHOTO OF THE MONTH



The photo of the month is brought to you by CPL Natasha Mackenzie for her amazing capture of soldiers conducting a presence patrol in eastern Laghman Province. Not only is a great capture of the mission at hand, but the stunning background scenery.

## **TOMAHAWK TIMES 1-179 INFANTRY BATTALION NEWSLETTER - PICTURES SECTION**





Top: Sergeant First Class Salazar takes a short halt and overlooks an area of western Laghman Province.



Left: 2nd Lieutenant Darren Vargas enjoys some time at the FOB Mehter Lam small arms firing range.





Top: 1st Lieutenant Daniel Grachanin speaks with a village elder on eastern Laghman Province

Below: Sergeant Elbert listens in on a mission planning session as the Female Engagement Team leader.





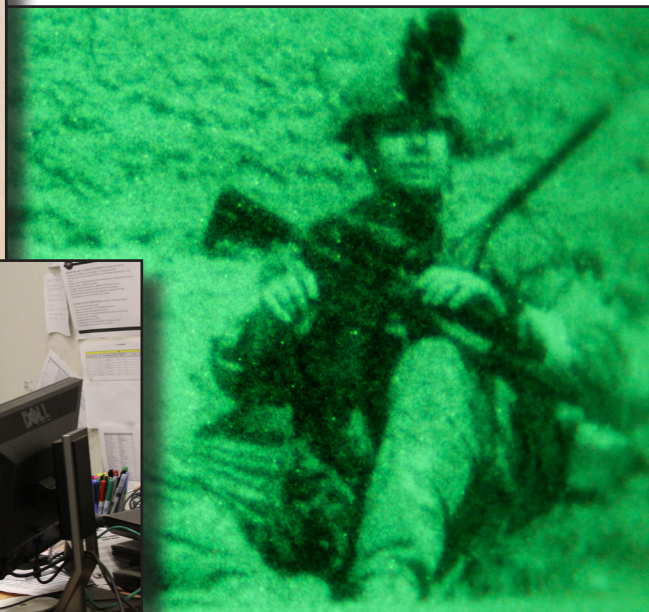


Top: Specialist Jonathan Roth poses with a local Afghan civilian during a presence patrol in east Laghman Province.



Top: Sergeant Mendoza signals to the Afghan police forces on a presence patrol in Laghman Province.





Top Left: CPT David Taliaferri, 1LT Eric Hall, and SSG Zack Lewis pose for the camera at the small arms range  
Top: Sergeant First Class Ty Burns takes a quick halt during a night overwatch in western Laghman Province  
Center: Major Gene Mastin offers the use of his pocket knife to a fellow staff member  
Below: Specialist Mallory Malone of the Female Engagement Team speaks to a group of locals in eastern Laghman Province









