



LOGFIRE LEDGER

298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

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The Last Mile

“Road Dawgs...it’s time,” were the final words given to the 104th Transportation Company (TC), from CPT Max Donaldson, the company commander during their RIP/TOA ceremony with the 548th Transportation Company. This ceremony was symbolic of the official release of the 104th TC from their mission in Afghanistan and passed the torch to the 548th TC on June 6, 2011. The 104th TC has since headed back to Fort Benning, GA leaving behind some very large shoes to fill. Some of the impressive accomplishments by the 104th include logging well over 800,000 miles on over 1,300 missions and delivering over 3,456 pieces of equipment throughout the Regional Command West and South. During their tour, the 104th delivered 200,000 short tons of supplies valued in excess of 208 million dollars, and established the first Transportation Company in RC West. The 104th also played a huge role in the development of the first Standard Operating Procedures used during Combat Logistics Patrols, and providing superior transportation sustainment support to over 35 units. These units included the Central Intelligence Agency, Italian Army, Dutch Army, Slovenian Army, U.S. Air Force, Marines, Special Forces, five Brigade Combat Teams, four Combat Sustainment Support Battalions, and Afghan National Army Soldiers.

As CPT Donaldson looked over his troops after the ceremony, he said, “The most rewarding experiences of this deployment were the humanitarian missions...they showed the soldiers, as well as the people of Afghanistan, why we were here.” He went on to say, “What I’m looking forward to the most is reuniting soldiers with their families.” CPT Douglas Adams, the company commander of the 548th Transportation Company expressed how his soldiers were eager to start performing their missions, and apply the new tactics and procedures they have learned from the 104th TC. “We are warriors and aren’t afraid of work,” he stated. CPT Adams and the soldiers of the Missouri National Guard 548th TC, intend to set the bar high for the next company.

So as the 104th are bid a farewell, the 548th is being welcomed to the 298th CSSB Log Fire team. The 104th will be sorely missed. It is with great anticipation that the 548th take the reins and lead the way in providing transportation and support for movement of ammunition and other cargo in the western part of Afghanistan.



Lines from "LOGFIRE 06"



LOGFIRE----The first 100 days

As anyone embarks on a journey, the first thing they must do is figure out exactly where they are going. The journey may involve a venture to a physical locale, or perhaps a venture to a goal; or series of goals. Our journey here is multi-faceted, in that the journey includes physical relocation, multiple goals, personal security; ultimately culminating into a vision of greatness.

Although our journey is unique to us, it is not unique across the pages of history. Many have valiantly embarked on similar journeys to greatness. We find multiple accounts of people embarking on exceptional journeys in the Bible led by their faith; and commitment to a vision given to them by their faith. Our American history reveals multiple accounts of leaders establishing visions for their people resulting in greatness for the good of their country; and inherent commitment to patriotism. Volumes of historic endeavors are recorded showing us the importance of a vision; loyalty to values, and strong character.

As we observe accounts of greatness through the archives, I believe that a common trait for all historic leaders has been the disciplined practice of reviewing progress while the journey continues. This trend is no different in the LOGFIRE team. Though we all much prefer to be

with our loved ones at home; we all know that while we are here we shall do nothing short of excellence.

As we pause to review our progress over the journey, I thought it fitting to share the first 100 days with our "LOGFIRE Ledger" readers. The journey began with what seems like a lifetime ago in the receipt of an alert order. We have met many challenges, and breached many obstacles since the journey began. However, my focus today will be specifically on our first 100 days here in Afghanistan.

The journey here began with an eagerness to excel and make a difference. We arrived in this country committed to a united vision. Our vision statement is: **"A customer focused distribution network established in our area of operations; well founded coalition synergy, and an increased level of Afghan National Army sustainment capabilities."**

In order to fulfill this vision, we worked very hard at setting specific goals and priorities; all of which will result in nothing less than greatness. So, how are we doing? As a humble man, I must give full credit to the men and women of the LOGFIRE team, who I believe are not only meeting all of our goals, but exceeding them. It is my absolute belief that we have shaped the operations here to leave a lasting "mark" on this country through the compassionate, but firm, leadership qualities of our team.

There is no one on this team ever satisfied with anything less than their "best effort", every time. The attitude of our team continues to impress me more with each day. We have documented pages of measured progress in the way of thousands of dollars in fiscal savings, economized resources, and increased efficiency in logistical processes. We have helped shape the lives of Afghan soldiers by teaching them new skills in master driving, maintenance, and supply accountability. We have reinforced these skills by developing programs of instruction translated into their own language, and supported with pictographic representation. We have developed multiple projects, directly proportional to providing Afghan workers with jobs that help them provide for their

families. We have distributed truck loads of supplies to local schools; donated by generous citizens of our communities at home.

However proud that I am of all of the "measured accomplishments" we have made, that is not what I'm proudest of. The thing I'm proudest of is our team's innate ability to work with others. This team is a very special group of people with the burning desire to help others succeed. Our team is selfless in nature; consumed with the desire to see others improve. This unique quality of the organization has resulted in establishing relationships that will leave a lasting mark; not only in Afghanistan, but passed forward throughout the world by the people they have impacted. We can account for new relationships with Americans, Italians, Slovenians, Spaniards, and Afghans. Each relationship my team has made results in a "pay it forward" concept of sharing greatness.

There is no doubt that when this tour ends, we will have tangible accomplishments recorded that we can reflect on. However, I believe that we may never know the true depth of the mark we have made here. The results of greatness will continue to pass on, and on, and on. The day we focus our attention only on tangible achievements is the same day that we shall cease to pass greatness to an infinite depth. Stay true to the vision of greatness LOGFIRE, and let's never allow our progress to be limited to self-imposed measurements. We shall always "dream big", and seek the dream of sheer greatness that cannot be measured by any form of statistical analysis.

As I close, let me remind the families, friends, and loved ones; all of who are part of the LOGFIRE team, that we could not have achieved any of our progress without your continued support. We are all in this together. Be proud of what you have done, and look forward in anticipation of the greatness yet to come. I salute you LOGFIRE, and we shall "get better with each sunrise"!

Words from Command Sergeant Major



Hello to all:

It is really heating up here in Shin-dand, Afghanistan. All of my soldiers and your loved ones are adapting well

to our temporary home and the temperatures. The soldiers of the 298th CSSB have stepped up to the plate and are doing an awesome job! You, the families are doing an awesome job as well, holding down the home front in their absence. I'd like to thank each of you for a job well done. As we continue to count down the days in our deployment, soldiers have begun taking R&R leave. I'd ask that you enjoy them while their home, take plenty

of time to relax and catch up. My goal is to send each of my soldiers, your loved ones, home to you healthy and well. I ask that you send them back to me the same way. ENJOY! Happy belated Father's Day to all fathers.

Leaders must be proactive and engaged as supervisors. Be mindful of heat stress and dehydration. Watch your soldiers!

Remember to PMCS all equipment, to include: vehicles, gas masks and weapons. Remember to chock and lock your vehicles and place drip pans under them. Wear your seat belts and utilize ground guides when necessary. Remember SAFETY FIRST! Make sure you and your soldiers stay mission focused. Thank you for all your hard work!



Congratulations to:



NCO of the Month
SGT Michael Medina
183rd Maintenance CO



Soldier of the Month
SPC Tislam Gary
183rd Maintenance CO



Command Sergeant Major of the Army, SMA Chandler and MSG Gardner 26 May 2011

The 183rd Maintenance Company

Greetings from the 183rd Maintenance Company. A lot has been going on with the Mighty Workhorse. The company has been busy packing out containers and having them inspected. It has also been sending equipment to reset, and closing up all the loose ends of the deployment. The 183rd Maintenance Company was graced with the presence of Command Sergeant Major Marvin Hill, the ISAF Command Sergeant Major who works directly with General David Petraeus. CSM Hill

took some time out from his busy schedule to sit down with a few of the soldiers of the 183rd Workhorse to get some input on how he could improve life here in Shin-dand. Along with the suggestions made, CSM Hill presented SGT Medina, SGT Ortiz-Diaz, SGT Smith, SPC Gary, and SPC Shultz of the 183rd with coins for appreciation of the great service and dedication to the mission here in Afghanistan and to the United States of America.



Some of Our Junior Soldiers . . .

will be leaving their mark in Afghanistan





377th QM DET/ 298th CSSB
377th Quartermaster Detachment
"Movement Brings Victory"



The 377th QM Platoon provides personnel to help support the Fuel Supply System Point (FSSP) here in Shindand. SGT Williams and SGT Omotosho are the NCOIC/Contracting Officer Representative for the FSSP. They supervise the storage, receipt, issue of MOGAS, AVGAS, and JP8.



SGT Williams



SGT Williams and SPC Ruiz filling 55 gallon drums to provide support UAV (Predators) mission.



A Smile

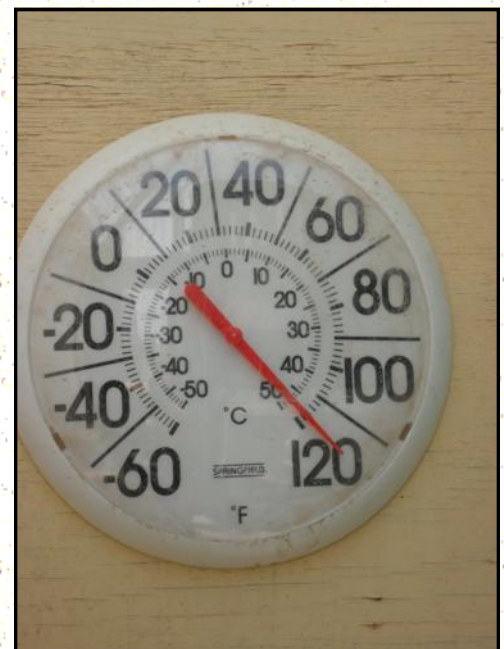


There are over 18 different types of smiles that are used in a variety of social situations. For instance, people can use a smile to say a hello and they can also use a different type of smile to show their understanding of a particular situation. In this situation this smile on their faces shows something more about a person. As SPC Amanda Smith hands out supplies to the local nationals you can see that her smile shows just how big her heart is. When someone smiles it is universally known as an expression of happiness which is recognized by almost all cultures.



MSG Gardner and MSG Carter trying to figure out the new VSAT (Very Small Aperture Satellite Terminal) system

Temperature's Rising Here in Afghanistan



548th Transportation Company

The 548th Transportation Company is a Missouri National Guard Unit with the main Company based out of Trenton and the Detachment based out of Centertown. Upon mobilization, 548th Transportation accepted Soldiers from A CO, 311th Brigade Support Battalion, 1221st Transportation Company, 35th Special Troops Battalion, 1128th Forward Support Company, and the Missouri Recruiting and Retention Battalion. The 548th Transportation Company is a Palletized Load System (PLS) company. The oldest member of the deploying unit, SGT Curtis Ward who is 51 years old was presented an American Flag during our departure ceremony, and the youngest member of the unit, PFC Lee Hatt was presented a Missouri flag during our departure ceremony. These Soldiers were asked to fly these flags with pride during their deployment to represent the Missouri National Guard.

Upon arrival in country the 548th Transportation Company conducted a RIP/TOA with the 104th Transportation Company out of Ft Benning, GA. The 548th Transportation Company has 3

truck platoons, 1 maintenance platoon and the Headquarters section. One of their truck platoons was split out to different locations for duties previously provided by the 104th Transportation Company. 2nd Platoon and the other two platoons did left seat/right seat rides with both the 104th Transportation and the 183rd Maintenance Company learning the routes around RC West; while the Maintenance and Headquarters sections learned their positions from their counterparts. After weeks of working side by side, the 548th took the reins and began missions on their own.

The 548th Transportation Company has already begun to leave its footprint on Afghanistan. We currently have run 23 missions logging 44,732 miles hauling over 1,205,039 tons of cargo in a little over a month. We are planning on doing a lot in this year; as we like to keep busy on the road. "ROAD WARRIORS"



Chaplain's Corner

God Unifies Believers in Holy Communion Here on FOB Shindand



Father (1LT) Grant D. Gaskin was born and raised in England. Just last year, he applied for the Army Chaplain Candidacy Program. Although he had met the academic credentials to become an Army Chaplain a decade ago, he was not an American citizen. Therefore, he applied for citizenship of our great country the same time that he began the application process to become an Army Chaplain. No one was more surprised than Father Gaskin when he received a phone call from the Chief of Chaplains' one night informing him that he had met the qualifications of Army Chaplaincy. In addition, he had also received his American citizenship. The Chief of Chaplains then asked Grant Gaskin to accept the mission of providing religious support throughout Afghanistan. Father Gaskin responded, "Roger that, sir!" Father Gaskin arrived in Shindand on the 26th of June, ready to enjoy the soldiers and provide them the opportunity to partake of the Holy Communion. American and Italian soldiers, Airmen and civilians join together to make this Mass Service a positive religious support success. The Italians interpreted the Lord's Prayer as everyone else was saying the English version. Father Gaskin also recited a special prayer for two Italian Soldiers, Vincenzo Nizza and Angelo Mazzola. A total of 55 personnel attended, of which 32 were Italian.



MWR Rodeo

Shindand Airbase, in Regional Command West (RC-W), was honored to have the members of the Wrangler National Patriot Tour stop by for a visit and host a rodeo for the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) troops stationed there. The tour headlined several superstars on the professional rodeo scene. Annie Bianco Ellett, Cowboy Mounted Shooting Association (CMSA) World Champion Cowgirl and Single Action Shooting Society (SASS) Overall World Champion was one of the celebrities on tour. She is the first and only woman in mounted shooting to win a world title overall. Annie's shooting and riding skills have been featured on ESPN, Outdoor Life Network, TNN and Fox Sports Television, and she is the official shooting instructor in CMT's hit reality show "Cowboy U." She is also starring as one of the three judges in the New CMT show "Americas Top Cowboy". Annie was the front-woman for the PRCA Team Colt Rodeo program. She is currently the National spokesperson for CMSA and was inducted into their Hall of Fame in 2007. Jeff Chadwick, who heads up Wranglers professional rodeo management team, was also on tour. Jeff is in charge of all of Wranglers sponsored riders, events and western promotions. Kaycee Feild, the winner of the San Antonio Stock Show & Rodeo with an arena-record 93-point ride on JK Rodeo's Multi-Chem Brother was another crowd pleaser of the night. He is also the winner of the Buc Days Pro Rodeo (Corpus Christi, Texas), the Clovis (Calif.) Rodeo, the Okeechobee (Fla.)

Cattlemen's Spring Rodeo, and the Co-champion at the Marshall (Texas) ProRodeo. Lucas Hoge, country artist, songwriter, and Animal Planet star of *Last Chance Highway* paid special tribute to all the soldiers serving through a very special song. The beautiful Maegan Ridley, Miss Rodeo America 2009, rounded out the night of rodeo stars for the evening.

The Wrangler National Patriot Program was founded in 2009 and is a year round program developed to help raise funds to support American military veterans and their families and to serve as inspiration for all Americans to rally around each other in patriotism. The visit to Shindand was one of several stops during the rodeo's second annual tour. The soldiers enjoyed a night of roping exhibitions and autograph signing. Lucas Hoge entertained the crowd with his hit song, "Medal of Honor" that was written to honor the brave soldiers of the armed forces and their families that go above and beyond each and every day. One of the highlights of the tour was the Medal of Honor guitar that was hand painted and donated to Lucas specifically for this tour. The signatures that are displayed on the front of the guitar are all from recipients of the Medal of Honor. Soldiers were given the opportunity to autograph the back of the Medal of Honor guitar which has traveled half way across the world bringing its message of thanks, appreciation and love.





Unsung Heroes

Soldiers are often revered for their bravery and selfless acts of heroism. They receive medals and scores of accolades for their courage and the endless personal sacrifices that they make for their country. However, there are some warriors that make their mark silently but diligently and no one knows or ever hears about the impact they made while they were on their mission. The 298th is proud to be in the presence of such greatness.

Five brave soldiers have taken on the daunting task of accepting a mission ordinary soldiers couldn't accomplish...making children smile.

CW2 Samuel "Jeff" Revette is being accompanied on this deployment with a "Storm Trooper" action figure from the movie *Star Wars*. He says that it brings lightheartedness to his daily routine and that his boys like the pictures he sends home. CW2 Revette also went on to say that he had a Storm Trooper when he was a child and that they had something in common with the Storm Trooper being a soldier too, and that who wouldn't want to travel with a Storm Trooper; he looks cool!



1LT Sean Maily has a son that is a big fan of the movie *Cars*. 1LT Maily had a little blue car from the movie and his son had a matching one that he's had for a year or two. When 1LT Maily came to Afghanistan, he decided it was time to upgrade so he got a red car from the movie that he takes pictures with. Since his son has expressed that he wants the new car upon Maily's return, he tries to keep Lightning McQueen's (the red car) "adventures" in tune with his daily missions.



CPT William "Bill" Lowry has been seen palling around with SpongeBob Square Pants. CPT Lowry stated that he's been in the company of SpongeBob to show his kids what he's doing, but to not show them, and as any parent who's deployed before can relate. He says he likes to create scenes that they look forward to seeing. For example, if he sent them a picture of a tank, it's just a picture of a tank, but if he sends a picture of a tank with SpongeBob in it, that's cool and something his children can relate to. CPT Lowry finished up by saying that the most important reason behind his actions, is to remind him that he's a dad.

MSG Clyde Gardner received his special character in a care package which he curiously decided to name Scooter. MSG Gardner said that when he gets home, he is going to tell the children at his church about all of the adventures that he and Scooter have had here in Afghanistan. Scooter has a very difficult job on his hand as he has been appointed as MSG Gardner's guardian and watches over him at night when he sleeps. On his own account, MSG Gardner has some pretty shady characters in his tent, so God's Speed to Scooter.



Finally, and certainly the most recognizable of them all, is LTC Clifton "Lynn" Pippen's traveling companion, Mickey. If you ever walk into his office, in Afghanistan or in the US, the myriad of pictures of a certain beautiful little 3 year old girl will explain the company he keeps. LTC Pippen said that using Mickey, who is his daughter's favorite character, is a non-threatening way to show life in Afghanistan and it's fun for him also. It's also one of many small ways to connect with a child that has been left behind when a parent who is in the military has to deploy.



Safety Message

**ARMY SAFE
IS ARMY STRONG**

MRAP Safety Alert

Mine Resistant, Ambush Protected (MRAP)

The MRAP is a very unique vehicle in that it helps protect our soldiers while traveling on the highways and byways of Afghanistan. Training on how this operates, its capabilities, and its limits are of key value to the soldiers and crew. Beware that we must continue a high level of safety while entering, driving, riding, and maintaining this vehicle. Here are lists of controls that will ensure a safe level of operation in the MRAP.

Controls for MRAP operations:

- Rehearse and execute rollover drills in accordance with MRAP GTA 07-09-001.
- Conduct crew coordination training.
- Route reconns to ensure weight, height, and width clearance (power lines, trees, obstacles, waterways, etc.).
- Alert entire crew when operating near canals and waterways.
- Conduct Driver's training; ensure operators and crews are well trained.
- Use ground guides when necessary and feasible.

- Plan for alternate lighting in the event of loss of power during night or limited visibility.
- Maintain speed appropriate for road condition.
- Enforce seatbelt use. Not only do they prevent injuries but they also aide in maintaining situational awareness in the first seconds after the accident or IED attack.
- Use caution when opening and closing doors, ramps, and hoods.
- Maintain three-points of contacts when maneuvering in or on the vehicle.

These measures along with the guidance of command will ensure that our soldiers return safely back from traveling.

CW2 James Ballard
"Army Safe is Army Strong"



Thought For The Day

After the game, the king and the pawn go into the same box.



Promotions:

SSG Paqutia Jackson (298th)



On The Funny Side

Dad to son: When I beat you how do you control your anger?
Son: I start cleaning the toilet.
Dad: How does that satisfy you?
Son: I clean it with your toothbrush.

