



LOGFIRE LEDGER



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9/11 10th Anniversary Special Edition

September 30, 2011

Shindand Remembers....

On September 11, 2011, the occupants of Shindand Airbase, Afghanistan took time out to remember the day that forever changed America. A reverent ceremony was held to pay respects and reflect back on the 102 minutes that passed as the world watched in horror, the fatal attacks that occurred on American soil and took the lives of nearly 3,000 victims. Suspicion quickly fell on al-Qaeda, and in 2004, the group's leader Osama bin Laden, who had initially denied involvement, claimed responsibility for the attacks. Shindand was honored to have LtCol Michael Kinslow, of the 838th Air Expeditionary Advisory Group, give an account of his experience during the attacks. LtCol Kinslow was in the Pentagon during the attacks, on the 4th floor of the A ring to be exact. While sitting at his desk, he says he remembered hearing a big boom and then being able to look out into the courtyard and see large plumes of smoke. The military went back to work the very next day. "The streets were very quiet, and there was water everywhere," LtCol Kinslow recalled about his first day back at work. The weeks thereafter got better as the days went by. A month after the attacks, smoke and soot could still be smelled around the Pentagon. In a year's time, the damage at the Pentagon was repaired and although there was a heightened sense of security, the atmosphere at work was positive.



LtCol Kinslow has been back to the Pentagon several times since the attacks. Ten years after the attacks, al-Qaeda's group leader, Osama Bin Laden, has been brought to justice. LtCol Kinslow was asked what he thought about Bin Laden finally being brought to justice and soldiers still being in Afghanistan. The following is what he stated, "The threat is still there, and we are being proactive versus reactive, which is good for our country and good for the world. We serve to protect those that can't be protected from others."



More photos on page 10

Lines from “LOGFIRE 6”



Our nation reflects on the past ten years, and greatly remembers the day we were devastated by the attacks of terrorists on our soil. Most have seen volumes of testimonials answering the question, “Where were you?” We’ve seen video footage of the devastation over and over reminding us of the carnage. Though the video accounts reveal unspeakable horror, the images also capture moments of great heroism.

While I typically script articles that are “upbeat”, I write this article with a spirit of great reverence for those who were directly and indirectly impacted by the events of September 11, 2001. I’d like to humbly thank all of the firefighters, policemen, first responders, civil servants, and military servicemen who responded amidst national crisis.

As noted earlier, we have all reflected, mourned, and honored the sacrifices made on the 10th anniversary of the tragedy. Therefore, my focus for this paper is to answer the second question of the title; “where have we been since?”

Perhaps one of the most beautiful things about being American is that, short of allowing utter chaos, our democracy allows us to have a “choice” in everything we do. Our government, our citizens, and our nation’s leadership had; and continues to have multiple choices in the response taken as reaction to the 9/11 attacks. Quite frankly, we could have reacted in a multitude of ways.

How difficult decisions must have been, and continue to be for our nation’s leadership team. What course of actions must have been considered? My limited speculation offers thoughts ofretaliation with unbridled rage?.....diplomatic pursuit of unity?.....solicitation of united friendship across the globe for retaliation?.....allow the people to crawl under a rock and hide?.....or, a steadfast pursuit of justice only rendered once those responsible are found?

Events with the magnitude of the 9/11 attacks offer no simple answers. All of us, as Americans, can develop countless ideas of what could have, should have, did not, or does not work as a means to end terrorism. Diversity and the freedom to offer diverse thoughts is one of the strongest qualities we have as Americans.

Each one of us has distinct memories of 9/11, and the events surrounding it. As I comment on diversity, that too, is one of my most distinct memories of the days surrounding the attacks. Although solution sets were diverse in nature, I saw for the first time in my adult life, a united front of Americans. Solution sets varied, but efforts were united across the country. I personally saw a sense of kindness like never seen before. It seemed that no one cared about diversity we may have in thought, race, creed, or otherwise. Kindness, concern, and friendship were united on the principle that we were all American.

Where were you....and where have we been since? -----

So then, “where have we been since?” Though 9/11/2001 will forever be a date of unmatched significance in American history, we have achieved significant historic marks since this most tragic event. We have re-shaped many of the ways that we go about our daily lives. Many of the conveniences we once had are gone, simply for sake of improved security. Our travel techniques require more thoughts of security; and heightened awareness. Our thoughts are sometimes consumed with the assessing risks. I see great complexity in the lives that we live in post-9/11, as compared to pre-9/11.

Yet still, through all of the measures we undergo in the name of security, let us never forget that we remain “FREE”! We enjoy the freedoms of the very constitution that we have defended since its inception. These are freedoms we must never lose sight of just because “it’s hard”. A phrase often used across our country is “Freedom isn’t free”. Oh, what truth lies in this simple phrase.

Perhaps one of our nation’s greatest strengths is that we do in fact realize the costs of freedom. Our nation has stood strong against great adversity since the day we declared our independence. We have shown great strength, and steadfast perseverance since the 9/11 attacks. I shall forever be the “optimist” when considering the strength of the American people.

I’m often asked by friends, and other acquaintances, “are we doing any good in Afghanistan?...are we doing any good in Iraq?” While these types of questions are sometimes frustrating, a non-objective viewpoint allows me to understand the basis of such questions. Simply put, I am blessed to have an opportunity to see some of America’s finest men and women at work in these countries for the sake of freedom. I am blessed to recognize the fact that these brilliant warriors are great American’s who exercised their own “choice”. They chose to “stand up” for something they believe very strongly in. They made a great sacrificial choice to take an oath committing themselves to the defense of the constitution and the orders of the President.

So once again, “where have we been since?” I submit that we have been around the globe and at home for the sake of our beloved freedom. We made these strides because of the commitment of mighty individuals willing to take a stand, and make the sacrifices necessary to protect freedom.

Finally, let me reinforce this point with a perspective on continuity across generations. Quite literally, there are a number of soldiers serving on the “Logfire team” who were nine years old on the day of the 9/11 attacks. These young warriors have grown up in a nation at war, yet they had the personal courage to stand up and defend freedom. I applaud the character of these great warriors.

I am so proud of all the soldiers in this command, not only for the job they do here in Afghanistan, but for the proven courage they have to volunteer their service to our great nation. It is truly my honor to serve with this team of mighty Americans. It is truly my honor, and with personal gratitude, that I am associated with their friends and loved ones. My sincerest thanks to the warriors, families, friends, and loved ones of the “Logfire team”! May God Bless our great nation!

Words from Command Sergeant Major



Hello Logfire Team,

When I say Logfire Team that is to include soldiers, families, and the Family Readiness Group that support us back home. Families you should be very proud of the commitment and dedication of each and every one of our soldiers here in Afghanistan. I am thoroughly convinced that there is nothing this team cannot accomplish. Soldiers we are over half way through this deployment so let's stay focused and not get complacent with our mission. Also, stay in touch with your family back home. We know where we are and that we are safe, so give them the same comfort by making that regular call or sending a letter home.

As we remember the events of 9-11, let us always remember those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in order to preserve freedom, liberty and security for the citizens of the United States.

I have had the privilege of standing in for CSM Ward while he's on R&R and ready for his return. Thank you Logfire Team for everything. God Bless.

MSG Gardner, acting Command Sergeant Major

Congratulations to:



Soldier of the Month
SPC Scott Dudley
602nd Maint Co



NCO of the Month
SGT Kevin Brown
602nd Maint Co



At left: MG McHale shakes hands with SSG Matos during his visit with the 298th Logfire team.



At right: MG Rapp talks with SGT Johnson during a recent visit with soldiers from the Logfire team.

602nd Support Maintenance Company

Greetings from the 602d Command Team!

First off this month, I would like to take this time to honor and recognize the families and friends that were lost on September 11th. This month means many things to many Americans for various reasons however; one thing that remains is that this day changed the American way of life for the remainder of our history. We have been at war for about 10 years now, the generations being born post 9/11 will not experience our Great Country any other way. I am consistently amazed by the drive and determination of our Great Nation, September 11th marked two months on the dot that the 602nd Support Maintenance Company has been in theater! Here on Shindand we marked the day with both a ceremony in memoriam and with a 24hr ruck march, both events were equally somber and acted as a reminder why we make the sacrifices we continue to make.

This has definitely been a September to remember for the 602nd, and on a lighter note: In the past month we have had a Soldier (1LT Jeff Hansen) get married by proxy from Shindand AB all the way back through Killeen, TX! So congratulations to the newlyweds 1LT Jeff and Jacqueline Hansen! As for the remaining crew of the 602nd, well we drive on and are pursuing a new level as we strive to make every day better than the last. We had our "Combat Patch" Ceremony this past Monday (19 SEP) as each Soldier of the 602nd was presented with their (4th Sustainment Brigade) Combat Patch by LTC Phippen himself! The Soldiers of the 602nd have definitely been proud to place a patch on some of their bare right sleeves! The Combat Patch identifies them as Soldiers that have been in combat and the ceremony couldn't come any sooner for many of the Soldiers of the 602nd. All else aside, we are looking forward to passing the 90-100 day mark as this window represents and sets the tone for the duration of our tenure while we are deployed.



Well until next time.

Thank you for your support and god bless.

CPT David Moreno Jr.
"Hammer 6"

Pictured from top right; Gun Truck Team 1; top left CPL Gorman & SPC Fuchs; bottom left, SPC Virden; bottom right, SGT Saenz



548th Transportation Company

Another month has passed by for the 548th Transportation Company; we have passed our four month mark in Afghanistan. The days are speeding by as we keep ourselves busy with missions. It seems that some days may seem slow but the weeks are flying by. To make the time fly we have been busy with several different things; some of our highlights this month include a mission to Qal'ahyeNaw, Mineroller training with the Italians, PLS training with DynaCorp, the Deh Ali Beg Well project, the 9/11 Memorial Walk, and a 5k Run.

Qal'ahyeNaw is a Spanish controlled base to the north of Heret. The mountainous terrain leading to this base is only part of the appeal. Although some will say that the terrain has no appeal whatsoever after they have bumped and bounced on miles of unimproved road. But looking out off the mountain to the valley below you get to see the faces of the children in the villages as you pass by. These children are all sweet smiles and genuine happiness; these are the smiles of pure country folk that are happy to see people helping them. As the convoy passes through the villages, you see the women tending to the cows while cooking in the fields.

SGT Gregory, SGT Farmer and SGT Duncan assisted in training the Italians on their new SPARKS minerollers attached to their MAXXPRO's. They gave the

Italians a class then went out into the expansion area and assisted with working the minerollers in a hands-on application until the Italians were comfortable with the operation of the minerollers. The group really enjoyed working together, as they have worked on several other applications as well in the past. This helps both the Italians and ourselves out when we meet out on the road in real life situations as the Italians assist our convoys.

SSG Thomas and SGT Camden trained 10 individuals from DynaCorp on the PLS operation this month; their origins ranged from Kosovo, Africa, and India. These individuals learned how to back a PLS with trailer, load and unload a Flatrack, trans-load a flatrack, hook up to a trailer, back up with a

trailer and drive with a trailer. It all sounds pretty simple until you actually try it; but after a few days and some practice these 10 individuals all graduated with flying colors. DynaCorp was very happy with the 548th training results again!

The 548th Transportation Company provided the security for the Deh Ali Beg Well project. This was a very fulfilling project as we were able to see some definite good that came to the local people in our area of operation. Two clean water wells were dug and made operational for the local village so that they had good drinking water. Villagers were very appreciative of the wells as they have over 10,000 people who can now have good fresh clean cold drinking water that can be used for bathing, drinking, irrigation, and livestock. The villagers showed us how they now can use this for their gardens and for their livestock to better their lives.

Now on to the fun things that the 548th got to participate in; we had 21 Soldiers participate in the 9/11 Remembrance Ruck March walking a total of 181 laps around the track. We had two Soldiers, CW3 Freeman and SGT Villegas, that went above and beyond to do 33 laps a piece!!! We feel that they did an exceptional job of remembering and putting forth a lot of effort on 9/11!! Great job to everyone who came out and participated! We also had 6 Soldiers participate in the CGOC Challenge 5K Race. They enjoyed the nice cool morning run that ended with a beautiful sunrise.





CPT Lee and SSG Stewart holds the 10th Anniversary “Flag of Honor” that was created from the names of those who perished in the terrorist attacks of 9/11. Now and forever it represents their immortality. We shall never forget them.



SPC Murray (377th) raises the 9/11 Flag of Honor

"The attacks of September 11th were intended to break our spirit. Instead we have emerged stronger and more unified. We feel renewed devotion to the principles of political, economic, and religious freedom, the rule of law and respect for human life. We are more determined than ever to live our lives in freedom." -Rudolph Giuliani, former mayor of NYC

We Shall Never Forget (9-11 Tribute)

*Let the world always remember,
That fateful day in September,
And the ones who answered duties call,
Should be remembered by us all.*

*Who left the comfort of their home,
To face perils as yet unknown,
An embodiment of goodness on a day,
When men's hearts had gone astray.*

*Sons and daughters like me and you,
Who never questioned what they had to
do,
Who by example, were a source of hope,
And strength to others who could not cope.*

*Heroes that would not turn their back,
With determination that would not crack,
Who bound together in their ranks,
And asking not a word of thanks.*

*Men who bravely gave their lives,
Whose orphaned kids and widowed wives,
Can proudly look back on their dad,
Who gave this country all they had.*

*Actions taken without regret,
Heroisms we shall never forget,
The ones who paid the ultimate price,
Let's never forget their sacrifice.*

*And never forget the ones no longer here,
Who fought for the freedoms we all hold
dear,
And may their memory never wane,
Lest their sacrifices be in vain.*

- Alan W. Jankowski

Chaplain's Corner by Chaplain Heather Duff



A Time for Courage

2 Timothy 1:7

“For God did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.”

On September 11, 2001, there were a series of coordinated attacks upon the United States. These attacks were in New York City and the Washington, D.C. area. American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into Tower One. United Airlines Flight 175 crashed into Tower Two of the World Trade Center in New York, resulting in the collapse of both towers within two hours of the attack. Hijackers crashed American Airlines Flight 77 into the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia. The fourth jet, United Airlines Flight 93, crashed into a field near Shanksville, Pennsylvania. As a result, Nearly 3000 people died. None of us will forget the horror of that day.

When the apostle Paul talks about a spirit of power in 2 Timothy, he refers to the inalienable right to defend ourselves against an unfair and aggressive foe. As a nation, we felt powerless in the face of the September 11th suicide attacks. We were unarmed, we were unsuspecting and we were vulnerable. But time has been a mentor to us. We have healed. We have honored those who died. And we have decided to stand together, one nation, under God and fight back.

A decade later, we are still fighting for those who are unarmed, unsuspecting and vulnerable. We have expanded this fight to include not only the citizens of the United States of America, but Afghan citizens as well. This Scripture in 2 Timothy reminds us to be a people of courage, by exhibiting love as well as self discipline. In this fight, during this time, we remember that we need to remain determined and confident.

Whether in the spiritual sphere or the physical sphere, we have to be armed and ready for battle. Every day, it is my honor and privilege to work with soldiers in the United States Armed Forces. May we continue to honor those who died for our freedom.

Where Were You When You Heard?

My Memory of 9/11



I will never forget September 11, 2001 as long as I live. I was 13 years old, going to school in small town Windsor, MO. I was sitting in my 8th grade keyboarding class, just minding my own business. I was probably passing a note to a cute girl or talking to my friends. One of the students, my friend Ryan, came in late.

As he walked into the classroom, he said to the teacher, loud enough for the whole class to hear, "So I was watching the news this morning, and I guess a plane just crashed into one of the twin towers in New York. It was crazy!"

The teacher wheeled a TV into the classroom, turned on the news, and we watched the first tower burn, and watched replays of the crash. We all thought it was a terrible accident. How did a pilot lose control so bad that he would crash into a skyscraper?

As we were watching, we saw; live on television, the second plane crash into the other tower. The entire class gasped, some people were crying, but we were all completely shocked. We then heard about the Pentagon later that day.

9/11 changed us as citizens, as a nation. We watched helplessly on our television sets as our country was attacked in the most horrific, cowardly manner in which it has ever seen. The unnecessary loss of human lives made an impact on us, whether we personally knew any of the victims or not. That is a day that will be burned into my memory forever, and it's the entire reason I'm here in this country.

- SGT Aaron L. Vandergriff



I remember well. Tuesday morning, September 11, 2001 started out as a normal day for me at the Army National Guard R&R NCO course at PEC. We were sitting in class when a runner came to tell us what had just happened. Our instructor wheeled a television into our classroom, hooked the cable up and we turned on the news. None of us could believe what was happening. We watched

in horror as the buildings burned and I remember a reporter standing on the street below saying, as one of the towers collapsed, "Here it comes, I hope I don't die." A huge cloud of dust came rolling by him and his cameraman. We were locked down at Camp Joseph T. Robinson for the rest of that day and all the next day. Neighboring Little Rock AFB cancelled all flights and the Air Force Security Police set up machine guns on Humvee's at the gates. That was just the beginning of all the heightened security measures across the country. We couldn't believe anyone could be so evil as to attack innocent civilians, and we also knew we were at war.

- SSG James Shows



There I was sitting in my fourth grade class, not a care in the world. We hadn't been at school long, must've been right after breakfast. My teacher walked in the class crying and turned on the TV. It was all over the news (9/11). I didn't understand the importance of it back then. My

classmates and I were coloring and continued to do so while our teacher's assistant tried to explain to us what was going on. After hearing the severity of what had happened I felt sad for all of those people and their families. My teacher's cousin was killed in 9/11. The words "twin towers" still meant nothing to me but I knew how it felt to lose a family member. As a nine year old kid I never thought that event would land me where I am today.

- PFC Amani Kincaid



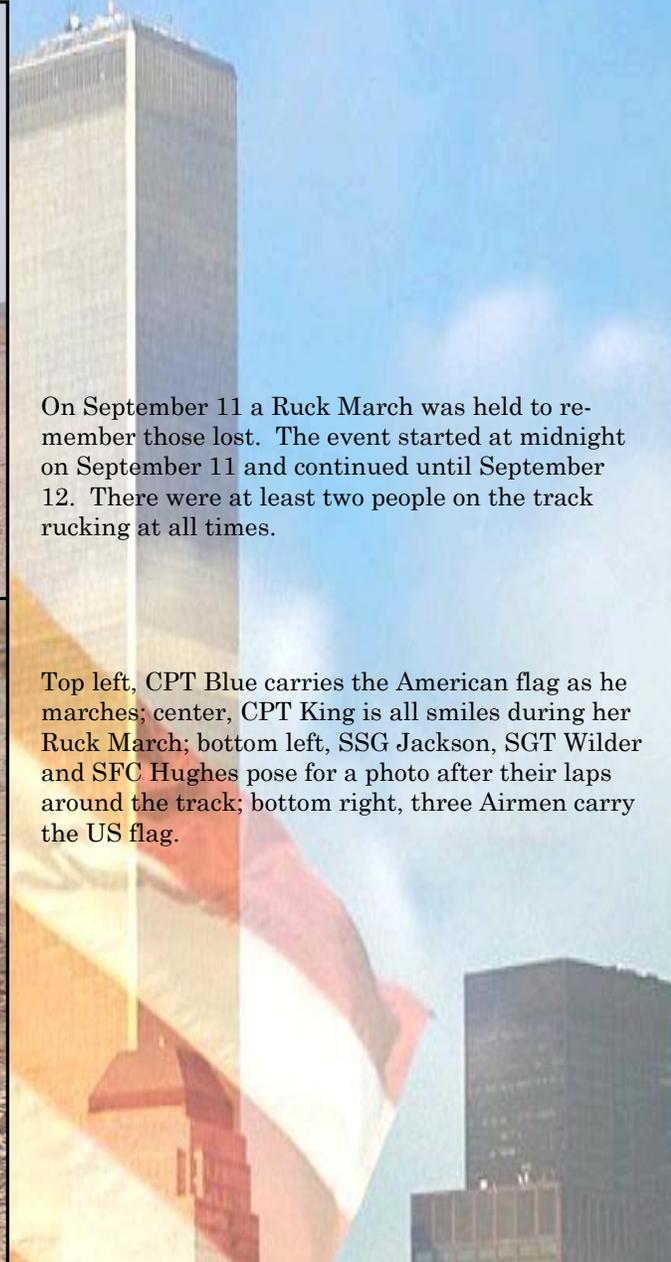
On Sep 11, 2001 I was like most other inpatient 6th graders waiting for another boring History class to come to a conclusion when the news of the attacks first started coming out. I can very clearly remember my teacher Mark Hailey turning on the news and as a group of young kids watched what we all thought to be disbelief occur, you could have heard a pen drop in

the room. Throughout the entire day and the many following days even as kids, you could feel the emotions throughout the entire school. We, along with the entire population of the United States were in shock, turmoil and mourning over the attacks that had occurred on that day.

Since then, I still go back to that day very often in my mind especially as I sit in a foreign country and often think to myself that if it weren't for that day, where would I be in my life? And where would my life had led me had that day not occurred? Unfortunately, we will never know where all of our lives would be today had that not occurred but because of that day, we are a stronger nation and the lives of the lost will never be forgotten. I along with my fellow troops stand on foreign soil, and I can honestly say that my decision to join the military was based highly off of my despire for the tragedy of 9/11.

There are many things that a person can forget throughout time but without a doubt, I will never forget the date of September the 11th, 2001. The sights and the sounds throughout the world on that day will forever be etched in my mind a long with millions of other people and I stand firmly on my decision to be part of the forces that defend the great Nation we all call home.

- SPC Ryan Bostick



On September 11 a Ruck March was held to remember those lost. The event started at midnight on September 11 and continued until September 12. There were at least two people on the track rucking at all times.

Top left, CPT Blue carries the American flag as he marches; center, CPT King is all smiles during her Ruck March; bottom left, SSG Jackson, SGT Wilder and SFC Hughes pose for a photo after their laps around the track; bottom right, three Airmen carry the US flag.



We'll Remember The Eleventh Of September



Photos by SFC Bonnie Hughes, 298th CSSB





LTC Phippen awards the 811th ORD and 602nd SMC with their combat patches



WALL OF FAME

Cup Of Joe For A Joe

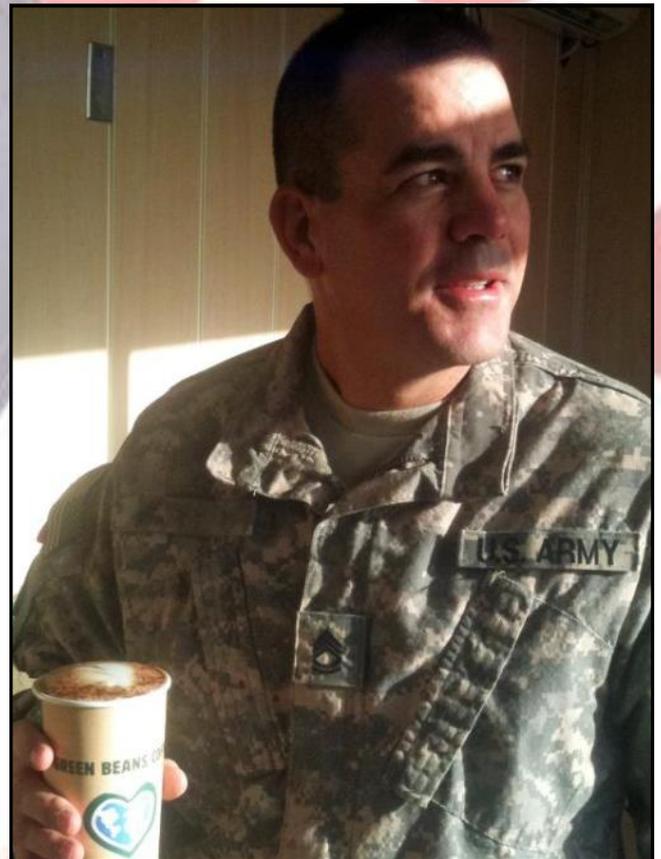


Cup Of Joe For A Joe has been a wonderful way for Americans everywhere to say thanks to our Troops and let them know they're appreciated by the simple act of buying a cup of freshly brewed coffee (through Green Beans Coffee Café), writing a personal letter of encouragement to go with it and having both delivered into the hands of a Soldier, Sailor, Airman, Marine or Coast Guardsman who is serving far from home. Some soldiers from the Logfire team had their pictures posted on the *Cup Of Joe For A Joe* facebook page.

Top left; MAJ Ronald Michael had a coffee with a shot of espresso and a shot of Irish cream.

Bottom left; ILT Sean Maily's cup of choice was a Café latte, no foam, no cocoa. He also had the pleasure of listening to some New Orleans Jazz while they made it.

Bottom right; SFC Carlton Sledge chose White Chocolate Mocha to get his day started.





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



The 377th QM Platoon provides Combat Logistical Patrols to and from Camp Stone and Arena. SGT Ellis is the NCOIC who manages the CLP operations from Camp Stone. His team is responsible for the logistical support in the transport and movement of personnel, mail, supplies, food, and equipment.



Personnel off-loading.



A civilian truck being lifted onto a PLS for transport



SPC Pantoja arranging personnel's gear on back of a PLS for transport.

Italian TOA

On September 28, 2011, COL Salvatore D. Patane', of Task Force Centre relinquished command to COL Francesco Randacio. Under the leadership of COL Patane' the enormous challenge of turning over Herat City to the Afghan people was met during his six month tenure. Task Force Centre is the battle space owner for the Herat Province in Afghanistan. COL Patane' and Task Force Centre developed a strong relationship with LTC Phippen and the LogFire team. COL Patane' expressed warm feelings about his work relationship and friendship with the 298th, describing it as "wonderful"! He said that the strong ties that were developed between the 298th and Task Force Centre went beyond deliveries and operation, but with all things. COL Patane' said that in the future he would like to see the Afghan people take their country back, and have more trust with the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) soldiers. He also wishes that the Taliban will not come back and destroy everything that has been built. COL Randacio, the incoming Task Force Centre commander stated that his new role will be quite challenging. This is not his first tour of duty in Afghanistan. He was on assignment in Afghanistan 3 years ago. He said that even though the mission is challenging, that he is comforted by starting out at the right pace and with the right people (as he refers to the 298th LogFire team). "This is great for me personally and for my soldiers."



Farewell, to COL Patane' and his brave warriors as they head home to their loved ones and friends. They will be sorely missed. We wish them safe travels and God's Speed. The 298th wishes the best of luck to COL Randacio and his troops as they embark upon their new mission. The Log-Fire Team looks forward to developing new friendships with the new Task Force Centre.



Army Safe Is Army Strong

Fire Safety Tips to Save Lives

Fire safety begins with everyone in your house being prepared and knowing what to do in the case of a fire. But, while there are more than 70 million two- and three-story homes in the United States (U.S. Census Bureau), Home Safety Council (HSC) re-search shows that only six percent of U.S. homes have a fire escape ladder. Developing a fire escape plan together and making sure second- and third- story exits have fire escape ladders are first steps every family should take to prepare for a fire at home.

Make Your Home Fire Safe

- Smoke detectors save lives. Install a battery-powered smoke detector outside each sleeping area and on each level of your home.
- Use the test button to check each smoke detector once a month. When necessary, replace batteries immediately.
- Replace batteries at least once a year.
- Have a working fire extinguisher in the kitchen. Get training from the fire department in how to use it.

Plan Your Escape Routes

- Determine at least two ways to escape from every room of your home.

- When an upstairs window is one of the escape options, make sure that room has a fire escape ladder that is long enough to reach the ground. Families may consider an innovative built-in ladder as an option. Then, make sure every adult member of the family knows how to use the ladder. Adults should take responsibility for assisting younger children. Decide in advance which adult family members will assist children from their rooms.
- Select a location outside your home where everyone would meet after escaping.
- Practice your escape plan at least twice a year.

Escape Safely

- If you see smoke in your first escape route, use your second way out.
- If you must exit through the smoke, crawl low under the smoke to escape.
- If you are escaping through a closed door, feel the door with the back of your hand before opening it. If it is hot, use your second way out.
- If smoke, heat, or flames block your exit routes, stay in the room with the door closed. Signal for help using a bright colored cloth at the window. If there is a telephone in the room, call the fire department and tell them where you are.
- Once you are out, stay out.

CW2 James Ballard “Families that are Army Safe, are Army Strong!”

We're on Facebook

<http://www.facebook.com/pages/298th-CSSB/12614034073566>

Promotions:

1SG Rone (298th)

Thought For The Day

If you always watch the demons behind you, then you will never see the angels ahead.



On The Funny Side

My therapist told me the way to achieve true inner peace is to finish what I start. So far today, I have finished two bags of chips and a chocolate cake. I feel better already.

