



LOGFIRE LEDGER

298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



Army Ten-Miler Shadow Run

Volume 1, Issue 8

October 31, 2011



Members of the military as well as civilians participated in the Army Ten-Miler Shadow Run on October 9, 2011. The event was hosted by Task Force Spearhead. The Army Ten-Miler, the largest ten-mile race in America, is held every year at the Pentagon in Washington, D.C., with shadow runs held throughout the world. (more photos on page 10)

Photos by SFC Bonnie Hughes



Lines from "LOGFIRE 06"



Things That Make You Smile----

Some readers may recall that very early on in our deployment here, I wrote an article about the "little things" we learn to appreciate from home. Conversely, the focus of today's article will be on the "little things" at Shindand that make you smile. While we all would much rather be in the comfort of our homes, with our loved ones, there are certain "little things" that you learn to appreciate about life on Shindand. I asked for input across the team for a list of "little things" about Shindand that make you smile. Rather than offer my usual commentary, my hope is that you can "smile with us" as I list a compilation of little things that our warriors appreciate here at Shindand. The list is a mixture of both the "comedic" and "dramatic" things that we appreciate. I hope that you will enjoy.

Things that "make the LOGFIRE team smile":

1. We had our first rain in over 7 months
2. Sunrise over the mountain we have affectionately proclaimed as "Mount Ward"
3. Sunset with silhouettes of mountains on both sides
4. New friendships with people who barely speak our language
5. A new understanding of a culture that's often misunderstood
6. A tent that leaks, but doesn't flood
7. Plywood
8. Not having to think twice about what you're going to wear to work tomorrow
9. Days when the dining facility has both "Frosted Flakes" and "milk"
10. When you walk into the "shower trailer" without 3 other guys waiting
11. The cool Autumn air
12. Having the technology to email home
13. The USO, and a great staff of Americans who work there

14. Seeing the smile on a soldier's face, who you know just completed a 16-18 hour shift
15. Hearing people from other organizations compliment the character of your soldiers
16. Seeing the look on a young soldier's face when they get their first ride on a helicopter
17. The occasional "authentic Italian pasta"
18. The Post Office
19. New selection of reflector belts at the PX. LOL
20. A day when the generator doesn't quit
21. New selection of DVDs at the bazaar
22. The "Cup of Joe for a Joe" program
23. Mail Call
24. Days that "loose gravel" has been graded on the road and the track
25. One NCO appreciates having his own coffee grinder, and coffee beans sent from donors at home
26. Going to chapel; and meeting new people while there
27. A good cup of "Green Bean Coffee"
28. Meeting new leaders at the Base Command events
29. A clean port-a-john
30. The arrival of LDH Energy care packages
31. The Chaplain sharing "New Release" DVDs, like "Dances with Wolves". LOL
32. Not having to do laundry or dishes
33. The smile on an Afghan kid's face just from receiving a used pair of shoes
34. Arrival of a new shipment of "Near Beer"
35. When hot water comes out of the shower head
36. Big pigeons
37. Mountains all around
38. When an Afghani knows more English than I know Dari
39. The "chop chop" sound of a Huey helicopter
40. The runway lights at night
41. Helicopter rides through the mountain passes....you can almost touch the top of the mountains
42. Steak and Lobster Fridays
43. The wind actually makes the heat bearable
44. Extreme darkness of night!! You can see more stars, and the spiral band of the Milky Way
45. There are motorcycles here that we used to ride when I was a kid (60's-70's models) that you just don't see back home anymore
46. The 80's attire that the Russian TCN's wear is cool!!
47. Different cultures at every turn
48. The hum of generators at night. Like Hurricane Katrina, except no pine trees across the road
49. More rocks than you can toss a stick at....if you could find a stick
50. Concrete T-walls make an excellent artist's background
51. Little treasures everywhere in the dirt...like Russian buttons, buckles, etc...
52. People everywhere, but a solitude that cannot be explained
53. Tents....at least you know it's only temporary
54. The clean air (no "poo pond")
55. Bartering with Omid at the "7 Eleven"
56. Deciphering Italian emails
57. When the Dining facility is stocked with milk
58. Getting emails from friends or family at home
59. The Laundry and DFAC Personnel! They're so friendly
60. The Joint Forces working together
61. The USO having Free Internet and Phones
62. Watching the sunrise during an early morning run
63. The character of my students who are furthering their education, while defending freedom
64. The joy on the faces of the local school children when receiving basic school supplies
65. The courage of the local teachers to continue teaching when it's not popular among the Taliban
66. Knowing that the 298th CSSB has made Shindand and RC-West a better place, leaving a remarkable "logistical footprint."

I hope that all of the readers have enjoyed our list. Something that all members of the team try to keep in perspective is that our attitudes are what truly shape how much joy, comfort, or misery we have among the circumstances that are dealt. I remain honored to serve with this great team of Americans who always seem to find something to "Smile" for. We shall forever cherish the memory of these "little things", yet also long for the day of reunion with our families, loved ones, and "home". May God continue to bless the Warriors, families, friends, and loved ones of the "LOGFIRE TEAM"!

Words from Command Sergeant Major



Safety is Key! Leaders ensure we treat all weapon as if they are loaded. Leaders continue to supervise weapon maintenance.

Leadership: Make those hard right decisions and coach, mentor and teach your soldiers.

Standard: Enforce the standards, not just leaders but it is every soldiers responsibility. Remember when in a vehicle, buckle up and wear reflective belts during the hours of darkness and while wearing the PT uniform. Watch out for your battle buddies at all times. Make sure you and your soldiers stay mission focused. Section Sergeants, it is that time of year again to collect your NCO dues. The association does a lot for the National Guard. We need to support it. Again, thanks for your support and dedication.

I would like to say thanks to the Family readiness Group. Thank you for all that you do.

Logfire 9

Congratulations to:



NCO of the Month
SGT Derrick Jackson JR.
602nd Maintenance Company



Soldier of the Month
PFC Jessica A. Holmes
602nd Maintenance Company

602nd Support Maintenance Company

Greetings Friends and Family members!

October has come and gone and out here at Shindand AB we continue to move forward famously! This past month has blown by us as we have participated in many events and even held our Company Organizational/Sports day. But just as you all may be experiencing the changing weather in the states so are we! The weather is changing, as fall is in full swing! Here it isn't any different, the weather has gotten much more agreeable, we are experiencing lows in the high 50s and mild highs in the low 90s, and it has been a great improvement! I think the hardest part of the adjustment has been what to set our thermostats at?

At the end of this month our Company in conjunction with HHD, 298th have organized a fantastic Halloween party and I am sure it is going to be great! I will be sure and include photos in next month's newsletter; all our Soldiers are really looking forward to this event, the 602nd had a lot of help in making this event possible! I would like to thank all the Families and Friends that sent us a whole lot of Halloween Supplies as well as the NCO's and Officers for making their contributions to fund our event. This past month, our company has participated in a Camp 5K and an Army 10 Miler and have been fully engaged in this seasons Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). So far 602nd has donated over \$11,000 to the CFC! Which is half of the Base goal of \$22,000! I would like to thank everyone for their continued support, we appreciate everyone back at home, that continue to support us in our mission!



Thanks & God bless
CPT David Moreno Jr.



HOW MANY YEARS OF SERVICE?

I can't tell you how many times I have heard this question, "How many years of service have you done?" There is a reason that I can't tell you how many times I have heard this question, "How many years of service have you done?" There is a reason that we equate "military" with "service." In the military, these two words are interchangeable. As soldiers, we fight in order that we may serve.

Sometimes we lose sight of the servant aspect of being a soldier. When we lose sight of the servant aspect of being a soldier, we become very self-centered. For example, we decide that

we will take a very long shower, and use up all of the hot water so the next person has to take a cold shower. Or we decide that when doing our PT on the track, we really do not want to go out of our way to throw our water bottles in the garbage can, so we just toss them to the side on the ground, and hope that no one saw us. Or, we can become so frustrated with those that we work with, we decide that they are not worth talking to, so we just ignore their presence. When we make these decisions that we are here to fight, and not to serve, we become disheartened, disillusioned, and our actions are sown in dishonor.

As Christians, we are reminded again and again that we are here to serve. The Discipline of Service means we are committed to serving others as Jesus called and exemplified. Our service is a response as we look at what we do. This is about duty; it is about allowing our love for the Lord to cleanse us. Service builds and prepares us to be stronger in character and in fulfilling our responsibility for His Kingdom. Service also nurtures and strengthens us as a means of grace; as we grow, we serve.

When Jesus took a towel to wash His disciples' feet, He completely redefined what leadership and service are. He made the point that they are not about pride or position in the world, but rather our position in Him. A bowl and towel would be perfect because they represent service, as our ultimate Server, Christ, washed His disciple's feet. Christ came to serve to exemplify service. Mat 20:27-28; Luke 22:27; John 12:25-26; 13:2-5; Phil 2:1-4).

The same can be applied to service in the military. When we remind ourselves of our role – not just as fighters, but also as servants, we become disciplined. We become strong in character and in fulfilling our responsibility to our country. We strive to take a "combat" shower so others will have hot water. We do not mind throwing our trash away. We will always speak to those that we work with, because we want to acknowledge their presence. Here in Afghanistan, we need to remind ourselves that as we serve each other, our actions are sown in honor.





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



After six months of waiting the TARSU (TWL ROWPU) is finally up and running here in Shindand. The TARSU is a civilian water purification unit that is taking the place of the military's Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU). The bulk water site used 3 3k ROWPUs to support the needs of the entire FOB. Each ROWPU produces on average about 30,000 gallons of potable water per day. It will only take one TARSU to do the job of 3 3K ROWPUs. It also produces less waste water and takes less fuel to operate. This piece of equipment is relatively new to military water purification. In fact there are only seven of these systems in country.



The inside of the TARSU



Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Units



DynCorp worker giving a block of instruction on how to operate the TARSU.

University of Maryland University College Offers College Courses at Shindand



CPT Brownlee with his Business Communication students. One of the classes that is offered at Shindand through the University of Maryland University College.



CPT Brownlee explaining the chapter details and possible questions for the final exam.

548th Transportation Company

To the 548th Transportation Company, October signifies the “half-way” mark. We have now officially been here 6 months. Things are moving right along for us; we have kept very busy with missions, training OMLT team members on the MAXXPRO and MATV, assisting with the Kandak School visit, doing a little bit of running, taking APFT, and in our spare time some of our Soldier have really enjoyed the various dance nights at the USO.

We have had our 2nd platoon group from PASAB “Dirty South Boys” join us here at Shindand, and integrated them into the Logfire Convoy ways. They in turn have brought a lot of experience from running at night in Kandahar to share with our other troops; giving our Company an even larger base of experience to pool from on missions. These missions have taken us to a few new locations to our north this month, to include Turagundy and Montserrat.



We have also been assisting the OMLT team as they bring in their new Soldiers with getting them trained up on the MAXXPRO and the MATV vehicles. This is one task that the Soldiers of the 548th Transportation take to heart as it is a key part of their mission. 548th Transportation Company provided security and logistical support for the Kandak School visit in October ensuring that all safety aspects of the trip were covered as well as all the supplies meant for the school were delivered without incident. The Soldiers really enjoyed this project as it allowed them to give back to the Afghanistan people and make a difference in the lives of the children; hopefully changing the way they will turn out later on.

548th Transportation Company had several Soldiers participate in the 10-miler. These Soldiers got up early to embrace the morning sunrise with a quick 10 mile run. This helped some of them prepare for their APFT; like SFC Blanscet who scored a 300 on his APFT after participating in the 10-miler (not in the same day of course). All the platoons have worked really hard preparing for their APFT and are showing the payoff with good results on their APFT... Deployment has been good for that!!!

And last but not least, in their spare time, we have the USO dance nights that several Soldiers have been participating in. We have one star that outshines them all at the USO dance night, SFC Seib. It doesn't matter if it is Salsa, Country, R&B, or HipHop; SFC Seib is out there kicking it up and showing everyone how it is done. He says we all have to cut loose and have some fun!



Army Ten-Miler Shadow Run



298th CSSB participants



Operation School Daze

The 298th Logfire Team along with members of the Italian Army visited the Kandak Middle School to distribute school supplies. There were many smiles and high-fives exchanged during the visit with the kids.





Photos by SFC Bonnie Hughes

Army Physical Fitness Test in Shindand Afghanistan *Hoooah!*





Photos by SFC Bonnie Hughes

Born Again on September 25, 2011



SGT Jarvis Williams of the 377th is a special soldier. He is young, fit and amazingly resilient. As a soldier, he tries to be his very best. And his very best includes spiritual fitness as well as physical and mental fitness. He talked with several older, mature Christians about his walk of faith. He talked with Chief Revette, pastor of a church in Mississippi. He talked with his Company First SGT, SFC Taylor. And he talked with his Chaplain, CPT Heather Duff. His enthusiasm was infectious. He infected all of those he talked to with enthusiasm to renew the spirit within them – to come clean and make a new life.

He asked to be baptized. He wanted a physical expression of what was going on spiritually in his life. It took several people working together in order to make his wish a reality. Trying to find water in the desert is challenging at best. First of all, a container big enough to hold an adult had to be found. An old tarp was donated for the purpose. Then the tarp had to be laid out and

surrounded by sandbags, to keep the water in. Finally, SGT William's unit took responsibility for delivering 200 gallons of water on the day he was to be baptized. This group effort refreshed the spirit of all of those involved and all felt the renewal of spirit.

He was "Born Again" on September 23, 2011 in front of Shindand Chapel.



Brigadier General Carroll and Command Sergeant Major Williams from JSC-A visit the Logfire Team





1LT McDuffey with Chaplain Duff and SPC Smith after he brought the message during Sunday Gospel Service at Shindand Chapel



CPT Barber leads a song as Shindand Gospel Choir performs at Sunday services

Shindand Contemporary Choir



Logfire Team prepares to pack school supplies to be delivered to a local Afghan school.



Safety Message

DON'T SHOOT!

It was a crisp fall morning as I headed out to a large pond on post to try and bag a duck. I worked my way around the east side of the pond to a promising area. My single-shot 20-gauge lacked the range of a 12-gauge, so I needed to get close to have any chance at success.

I was just about where I wanted to be when I suddenly heard the loud crack of a high-powered rifle from across the pond. The bullet ricocheted off the water near a duck and passed within a few feet of me. Talk about an instant pucker factor! When the shooter immediately chambered another round, I could tell by the sound it was a lever-action rifle — probably a .30-30. He took another quick shot and I ducked, once again hearing the bullet pass nearby. Now I was angry. I raised my shotgun's muzzle and fired off a round, then quickly reloaded and fired a second shot. Since ducks don't pack shotguns, I figured the idiot would realize he'd just put another hunter in danger. I couldn't believe someone was dumb enough to try and shoot ducks with a .30-30. He stopped firing, and I quickly worked my way back to where I'd parked on a dirt road. I got to a phone and called the provost marshal's office, hoping the MPs could get there fast enough to arrest the guy before he left. As it turned out, they did; he lost his rifle and paid a hefty fine. As far as I was concerned, it served him right. My experience that morning was hardly unique. Turkey season where I lived was known for hunters hearing a sound and shooting before identifying their target. Occasionally they'd end up "bagging" each other instead of the bird.

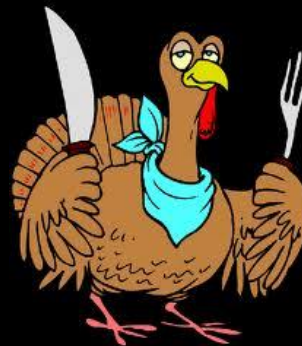
Since it's no fun to be on either end of the barrel when an accident happens, here are some tips to keep you safe this hunting season:

- Never shoot at a movement, sound or what you assume to be fur or feathers. Ensure you can clearly see and identify the animal you intend to shoot, including the correct body part for a kill shot. If you're not 100 percent sure, don't shoot.
- Before pulling the trigger, take a moment to look beyond the animal to ensure your shot won't endanger others should you miss or your bullet pass through the animal.
- Use the appropriate weapon for the game you're after and the area in which you're hunting. Some areas are restricted to shotguns because their relatively short range reduces risks to others who may be hunting in the same area. Illegally using a rifle in such areas puts others at great risk.
- Always wear a sufficient amount of blaze orange when and where it's required so you'll be visible to other hunters.
- Turkey and waterfowl hunters aren't required to wear blaze orange because it would hinder their ability to lure game within range. However, it's a good idea for turkey hunters to wear a blaze orange cap when moving through the woods between setups just in case other hunters are in the area. Also, most turkey vests have a stowed blaze orange panel that can be used when moving through the woods.
- Carry your decoys (or harvested game) in a bag to reduce the risk of other hunters mistaking them for live animals. Never carry an animal such as a deer over your shoulders through the woods because a hunter may fire, mistaking it for a live animal. To be safe, drag larger animals out.
- When hunting turkeys, never wear red, white or blue (such as an American flag patch/emblem) as these are the same as the male gobbler's head — the kill shot when taking turkeys.
- As you stalk game, be aware your stealthy movements may sound like those of an animal to another hunter. Pause every now and then to observe the area around you for other hunters in tree stands or ground blinds. If you see another hunter, show some blaze orange — especially if you're in full camouflage hunting turkeys — so he or she can see you, and then move out of the area. When wearing camouflage, avoid waving to other hunters as they could mistake your movements for something else.
- Good communication and coordination are important when hunting with others. Ensure everyone in the hunting party is aware of each other's movements at all times.
- When hunting on public lands or where there is little control over individual hunters, pay attention to the little details. Note how many other vehicles are parked near the area you intend to hunt. If there are too many other hunters in the area, find another location. This is especially important if you haven't made prior agreements with those other hunters. Since you don't know whether they're safety conscious, it's better to err on the side of caution.
- Take notice of the litter you find. Empty beer cans and whiskey bottles are a sign you may be in an area where irresponsible people are hunting. Find a safer place to hunt and report such findings to game wardens or other authorities.

To all of my hunters that are out there, please be safe this hunting season. Follow these tips in order to have a wonderful time while hunting and return to your home to enjoy the game that was caught in the cross-hairs.

CW2 James Ballard

"Families that are Army Safe, are Army Strong!"





We're on Facebook
<http://www.facebook.com/page/s/298th-CSSB/126140340773566>

Another addition to our "Unsung Heroes"

We are all probably familiar with the Peanuts character Snoopy, Charlie Brown's ever so cool dog. Snoopy was given to SSG Duncan by his daughter and he takes him along throughout his travels in Afghanistan. His son gave him a character he calls "Scrappy". His son felt that Snoopy needed a playmate while he was away.

Promotions: (298th)
MSG Sledge
SFC Shows
SPC Kincaid
SGT Alexander

Thought For The Day

*An eye for an eye
 only ends up making
 the whole world
 blind.*



On The Funny Side

Top Signs That You're Too Old to Trick or Treat

- You get winded from knocking on the door.
- You have to have another kid chew the candy for you.
- You ask for high fiber candy only.
- When someone drops a candy bar in your bag, you lose your balance and fall over.
- People say, "Great Keith Richards mask!" and you're not wearing a mask.
- When the door opens you yell, "Trick or..." and can't remember the rest.
- You have to carefully choose a costume that won't dislodge your hairpiece.
- You're the only Power Ranger in the neighborhood with a walker.