



# LOGFIRE LEDGER

## 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



VOLUME 1, ISSUE 9

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### Logfire Thanksgiving Day Run



On Thursday, November 24, 2011, the LOGFIRE Team hosted a Thanksgiving Day Run, aka, the “Turkey Run”. This event was a half marathon which consisted of 13.1 miles. Low temperatures and dreary skies threatened to put a damper on the affair. However, as soon as the runners took off from the starting line, the sun came out and during the run, a beautiful rainbow arched across the sky. Many thanks go out to the runners, coordinators, the Shindand USO, and all of the volunteers that helped to put this event together and make it a success. All of the proceeds from this event went to the Wounded Warrior Foundation. More photos on page 14.



Photos by SFC Bonnie Hughes

## LOGFIRE LEDGER

### LINES FROM LOGFIRE 06



### The “LOGFIRE Pilgrimage”

As the “LOGFIRE” Team celebrates Thanksgiving, our thoughts gravitate to desires of being home and having a special dinner with family and loved ones. It becomes easy to fall captive to the temptation of depression on such special holidays. However, as we take a step back and focus our attention solely on the meaning of the holiday, we can find many things to be thankful as we progress on our journey through Afghanistan.

As I reflect on the origin of the holiday, I find great similarity to our current state of affairs. In an article written by columnist, Mark J. Yablonsky, he writes, “In 1621, Plymouth Colonists and about 90 Wampanoag Indians shared an autumn harvest that later became known as Thanksgiving. On the menu that day was corn, geese, turkey, eel, barley, venison and corn bread, among other goodies. That much we remember, but what we don’t always recall is the fact that the Pilgrims had suffered through an awful winter the previous year, one so harsh that nearly half their number had died. Without the help of the Indians, all might have been lost.”

The Plymouth Colonists Mr. Yablonsky writes about are often referred to as “pilgrims”. According to Wikipedia, “A pilgrim (from the Latin peregrinus) is a traveller (literally one who has come from afar) who is on a journey to a holy place. Typically, this is a physical journeying (often on foot) to some place of special significance to the adherent of a particular religious belief system.” This definition of pilgrim is where I find great similarities to in our journey and the origin of the Thanksgiving holiday. While our journey may not be religious in nature, I submit that our efforts; to include the support of our families and loved ones, are greatly a part of adhering to a very important belief system. Notably, this pilgrimage is fulfilled for the united belief in “FREEDOM”. Likewise, this journey has taken us to a strange land and encounters with people who seem strange to us and us to them. Despite the peculiarity of it all, this journey has rendered opportunities to help strangers, and for strangers to help us.

I believe that every family member, loved one, friend, and warrior on the “LOGFIRE Team” is committed to our belief in freedom, and the completion of this mighty pilgrimage we take together. So then, what can we be thankful for amidst our journey to this strange land? Everyone has their own list that comes to mind. As a simple man, I give great thanks for the simple, but most important things in my life. I’m always thankful for “my girls”, my God, my country, my health. I am also thankful for specific aspects of this journey in that we’re making a difference for freedom and each day we spend is a day closer to reunion with loved ones. We can collectively be thankful that we have reached heights of greatness together, and left marks of greatness across this strange land. May God continue to always bless the family, friends, loved ones, and warriors of the “LOGFIRE Team”!



## WORDS FROM COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



Remember Safety First!!!

It is everyone's job to think safety first. You are all safety leaders. When in a vehicle each soldier will wear seat belts at all times. Always use the Buddy System when walking around in the hours of darkness. You will wear reflective belts/vest and have a flashlight. DOD approved ballistic eye ware is mandatory anytime you are outside of a building, during all outdoor activities including PT. Everyone needs to slow down, obey speed limit signs and stop signs. Slow Down! Leaders make sure you and your soldiers stay mission focused. Make sure you pay your NCO dues. Deadline is 1 Dec 2011. See MSG Gardner. We all need to support the Association. Thank you for all your hard work.

I would like to thank the Family Readiness Group.

Logfire 09

## Congratulations to:



**Soldier of the Month**  
SPC Anthony Holmes  
602nd SMC

## LOGFIRE LEDGER

### 602ND SUPPORT MAINTAINENCE COMPANY

#### Giving Thanks

Hi again Family and Friends of the 602<sup>nd</sup> Maintenance Company!

Another month down and we are thankful! Of course we are; one more month closer to leaving Afghanistan. This past month has been adventurous to say the least for the 602<sup>nd</sup>. We have participated in a 5K and held one of our own! The 602<sup>nd</sup> in conjunction with some of the leaders from the 298<sup>th</sup> organized a Halloween party! Yeah! Needless to say our troops went all out and everyone who attended had a blast. So we are also thankful to everyone that participated and helped in organizing such an event. As for this month, November and Thanksgiving are synonymous with each other, and of course turkey and football! What else did you think I was going to say?? Seriously, our team is very thankful for all the support that we continue to get from the family and friends of the 602<sup>nd</sup>. I am thankful to the FRG team and their support and efforts in making the holiday season for the 602<sup>nd</sup> as delightful as possible. But, what else? Personally, I am thankful for the Soldiers. The Soldiers I serve side by side with, the Soldiers I am deployed with, the Soldiers back home that continually sacrifice personal liberties that most civilians take for granted. Like for instance, what time we wake, what diet we consume, where we will go and when, what country we will go to, but most of all for defending our country and our way of life. So thank you! Thank you team, thank you friends and thank you to all the Soldiers that are spending their Thanksgiving away from the people they are most thankful for!

Thank you so much for your service and sacrifice,

God Bless and Godspeed!







**377<sup>th</sup> QM DET/ 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB**  
*377th Quartermaster Detachment*  
*"Movement Brings Victory"*  
*Continuing Education*



During a deployment there is often little to do during your downtime. Most Soldiers used this time for self improvement whether it be improving their physical condition or to continue their education. Several members of the 377<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Detachment have decided to advance their education while deployed. Many of which have opted to go to school online, while others have decided to enroll at the University of Maryland based here in Shindand. Many of our Soldiers already hold Bachelor degrees and intend on obtaining their Masters with hopes of advancing their careers. Others are attending school for the first time. Many have also

taken the initiative to pursue improving their General Technical (GT) score. Attending school while deployed is no small feat. It takes a tremendous amount of discipline to pursue advanced education in this environment. Most work days range anywhere from 8 to 12 hours and are often in extreme temperatures. Even the lack of internet has not been a deterrent for the Soldiers of the 377<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Detachment.



SPC Bertrand, SPC Santillana, and SPC Ruiz opted to go to school on line.



SPC Bertrand, SPC Santillana, and SPC Ruiz working on class assignments for college at the USO.

## LOGFIRE LEDGER

### 548TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

Seven months into our deployment and all we can say this month is busy, busy, busy. And let me tell you that is not a bad thing at all. This time of year is good for APFT, NCOER's, awards and most important, for the common Soldier is the normal event of the week/day, the MISSIONS!

The Soldiers have been training since we got here to pass their APFT trying to score better than they have in the last few years. The score they receive on their APFT gives them more points for their promotion board and that is definitely a priority for most Soldiers. Everyone wants to make sure they are set up at the top of the list when the new list comes out this next year. We had 4 Soldiers score 300 points on their APFT – Congratulations to SPC Adkins, SFC Blanscet, 1LT McKellips, and 1LT Fountain.

The leadership has been hustling to get NCOER's completed. Now this sounds like it would be simple; but really it is not. They not only have to write them, but then they get scrutinized by the administrative staff and the ISG. Normally they are returned at least once for errors before they are accepted and allowed to be signed. The other thing that is really keeping the leadership busy are all the awards that have to be in this month. All of the end of tour awards must be complete this month so that we have time to get approval on them before our Battalion leaves country.



Last but not least are missions keeping our Soldiers busy. This is a good thing as it makes the time fly by. If a Soldier is busy preparing for a mission, executing and unloading from a mission, each one of those tasks makes a week go by quickly. That in turn makes the month go by really quick. We are getting our Soldiers that were stationed at Kandahar as the PSD team back at the end of this month; that will be a great change. We will welcome those 5 Soldiers back into our fold. We are getting closer and closer to becoming a whole unit again.

Pictured top: SPC Adkins, 1LT Fountain, SFC Blanscet and 1LT McKellips



Pictured right: PSD team along with LTC Pippen, SSG Thomas, SGT Hengeler, SPC Hibner and SPC Curtis



## CHAPLAIN'S CORNER BY CHAPLAIN HEATHER DUFF

The purpose of Thanksgiving Day is to remember all of the benefits that the Lord has blessed us with. ***Praise the Lord, Oh, my soul, and forget not all his benefits*** (Psalm 103). We can do this by naming our blessings one by one. Start with the seemingly “small” things – such as the physical benefits God provides us in our daily lives that we often take for granted. Even though we groan when the alarm rings each morning, thank you Lord that we can hear. There are many who are deaf. Even though we keep our eyes closed tightly against the morning light as long as possible, thank you Lord that we can see. There are many who are blind. Even though we sometimes maintain a martyred silence when we should speak, and spout forth when we should remain silent, thank you Lord for the gift of speech. There are many who are dumb. Even though the routine of our job as soldiers is sometimes monotonous, thank you Lord for the opportunity to work, for there are many who are unemployed. Even though we do not always approve the way our country is run, thank you Lord that we live in the greatest nation on earth.

After remembering all of the physical benefits that God has blessed us with, we need to remember that God has also blessed us with spiritual benefits. ***"As far as the east is from the west, so far has he removed our transgressions from his sight?"*** (Psalm 103). With the Psalmist David, we praise the Lord, who forgives all our sins, and heals all our diseases, who redeems our life from the pit and crowns us with love and compassion. Let's not forget his benefits – the benefits of forgiveness.



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### BREATHING FREE 5K RUN/WALK

The 298th CSSB sponsored a 5K Run/Walk on November 12th in remembrance of Holly Arthur who lost her life on August 8th, 2011 to Cystic Fibrosis. She was the wife of SFC Clay Arthur who is a member of the 298th. All proceeds went to the Cystic Fibrosis Foundation.







The G-4 for the Slovenian Army presents a token of appreciation to the Logfire Team for its unwavering support of the Slovenian Army Contingent in RC-West. The 298th CSSB is the sponsor unit for the Slovenian Army operating as mentors to the Afghanistan Army. MAJ Michael accepted the award for the Logfire Team.



SPC Davis, SPC Kincaid and SGT Ray receives the 7th SB coin from COL Kominiak.



## LOGFIRE LEDGER

# I AM THANKFUL FOR . . .

In keeping with the Thanksgiving season what are you thankful for? Finish this sentence.

## I AM THANKFUL FOR . . .

- my friends and family back home who are so supportive. I wouldn't be where I'm at today mentally and emotionally if it weren't for them. ~ SGT Aaron Vandergriff
- my God, Family and Friends. ~ SFC Howard Tucker
- being able to awake everyday with good health and to know that I am this far from home with people that care about each other, I am thankful to have a wonderful and caring family back home. ~ SFC Cecil McSwain
- all my Air Jordans. ~ SGT Cardell Alexander
- all the Blessings we have received since our arrival in Afghanistan. It could have been so much worse. ~ SSG Michael Cole
- the new friends I have made, and old ones I've seen. ~ SGT Robert Gilmore
- fried Super Chicken in the DFAC. ~ SGT Brandon Pope
- my loving and supportive family at home, and the family that I have here. ~ LTC Lynn Pippen
- the fact this deployment is almost over and we are blessed in the fact that all of us are returning safely! ~ SSG Steven Richardson
- for God, my daughter Taylor, my wife and family and friends and being able to serve my country. ~ SFC Douglas Laney
- four wonderful children who continue to make my life joyful even several thousand miles away! ~ MSG Kimberly Johnson-Williams
- for my wonderful husband, my fantastic fellow Soldiers, and God's wonderful grace! ~ CPT Cindy King
- God allowing me to see another holiday season, my family and friends. ~ SSG Alan Stewart
- being able to help others. ~ SGT Shaina Wilder
- family and friends but also the support of people from all over that I have never met. ~ SFC Bonnie Hughes
- my family, my health, our freedom, our Unit, our Country, Spaghetti in the DFAC and that we have a whole day to be Thankful for our many blessing. ~ SSG Lance Duncan
- for a SAVIOR who has found FAVOR in me to have some of the Greatest Treasures this world has to offer. And I really miss being with them during this THANKSGIVING season, Wren, Bates, White, Camper, Prince, Clark, Gray, Reed, Jones, etc....!!! ~ SSG Belinda Bates
- The Creator of Heaven and Earth, knowing I could never make it to him through any strength of my own, humbled himself and came to me. ~ SFC Jamie Shows



## VETERAN'S DAY 11/11/2011



SPC Derrick Meister and SGT Joshua Mickels raising flags on Veteran's Day





**LOGFIRE LEDGER**



SGT Vigil



SPC Bender



SSG Richardson



SPC Smith



SSG Mason



SPC Mosley

# Promotions Since Deployment



CPT Duff



SSG Gainey



MAJ Crowe



SSG Jackson



SGT Wilder



1LT Mailly





SGT Ray



SPC Morehead



1SG Rone



SGT Bostick



MSG Sledge



CW2 Olander

# Operation Enduring Freedom 2011



SFC Shows



SSG Arinder



SPC Kincaid



SFC McSwain



SGT Alexander



## LOGFIRE LEDGER





# Safety Message

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## Deep-fried, Safety Style!

Here is a story just in time for the holidays. My friend, Will Eggleston had an experience with frying that he will not soon forget. Read more about his story:

For Will Eggleston, a safety professional with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers in Huntsville, Ala., frying a turkey for the holidays wasn't as simple as it seemed.

"I thought frying the turkey would be a great way to speed up the cooking process," Eggleston said. "Depending on the size, you can fry a whole turkey in about 30 minutes versus slow roasting one for four or five hours."



Eggleston thought he'd done everything right that Thanksgiving morning. He'd started defrosting his 20-pound turkey in the refrigerator three days before and meticulously scoured his new turkey fryer's instruction booklet. In accordance with the manufacturer's directions, he placed the fryer 20 feet from his house, almost at the end of his driveway, and closely watched the oil thermometer inch its way to the recommended temperature. He wasn't prepared, however, for the "fireworks" that would erupt soon after he dropped the turkey and frying basket into the white-hot oil.

Eggleston could only watch in horror as the cooking oil quickly rose and spilled onto the propane flames below. His turkey — lovingly seasoned and basted — flew 40 to 50 feet into the air before smashing into the hood of his next-door neighbor's pickup. Hot oil splashed 15 feet in all directions, and it wasn't long before the entire front yard was aflame. It took a visit from the fire department to douse the fire and turn off Eggleston's propane burner.

Despite all his attention to detail and preparation for the task, how did Eggleston's first attempt at turkey frying turn into such a disaster?

"The turkey wasn't fully defrosted," Eggleston explained. "I thought it was. It had been in the refrigerator three days and I even checked it when I was cleaning and seasoning it. I learned a very important lesson that day: Gallons of hot oil and a frosty bird don't mix!"

Eggleston certainly isn't alone in his near-catastrophic experience. In fact, safety experts with Underwriters Laboratories have refused to certify any turkey frying devices with its trusted "UL" symbol due to increasing reports of fryer accidents. According to UL, potential hazards include:

- **Tipping.** The gallons of hot oil used in turkey fryers can cause devastating burns and property damage.
- **Overfilling.** Using too much oil is easy to do, and hot oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed in the pot. If oil hits the burner, fire is a real possibility.
- **Spillover.** Partially frozen turkeys placed in the fryer pot can cause a spillover effect. This, too, may result in fire.
- **Overheating.** Without thermostat controls, turkey fryers have the potential to overheat oil to the point of combustion.
- **Burns.** The sides of the cooking pot, lid and handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.

There are currently several electric turkey fryers on the market that provide the same deep-fried deliciousness without the propane and flames. Some of these products can even be used indoors, which is a major no-no for conventional turkey fryers.

For those who still plan to fry their holiday bird on an outdoor gas cooker, the Consumer Product Safety Commission offers the following guidelines:

1. Keep the fryer in full view while the burner is on.
2. Place the fryer in an open area away from all walls, fences or other structures.
3. Never use the fryer in, on or under a garage, breezeway, carport, porch or other structure that can catch fire.
4. Raise and lower food slowly to reduce splatter and avoid burns.
5. Cover bare skin when adding or removing food.

As I read this story, I was reminded that we sometimes tend to look over the obvious when cooking or preparing our food for frying. Please use the tips suggested in preparing for frying your turkey, so that your turkey day will not be a disaster.

**CW2 James Ballard**

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



We're on Facebook  
[http://  
www.facebook.com/  
pages/298th-  
CSSB/126140340773566](http://www.facebook.com/pages/298th-CSSB/126140340773566)

### **Promotions this month: (298th)**

**SFC McSwain  
SSG Roy Arinder  
CW2 Olander  
SGT Bostick  
SGT Ray**

## **Thanksgiving Humor**

What did the mother turkey say to her disobedient children?  
If your father could see you now, he'd turn over in his gravy!

What happened when the turkey got into a fight?  
He got the stuffing knocked out of him.

Teacher: "Why do we have a Thanksgiving holiday?"  
Student: "So we know when to start Christmas shopping!"

## **Thought For The Day**

Thanksgiving Day brings to mind  
the blessings in our lives  
that usually go unnoticed:  
a home that surrounds us  
with comfort and protection;  
delicious food, for pleasure  
in both eating and sharing;  
clothes to snuggle up in,  
books and good entertainment  
to expand our minds;  
and freedom to worship our God.  
Most of all we are thankful  
for our family and friends,  
those treasured people  
who make our lives extra special.  
You are part of that cherished group.  
On Thanksgiving, (and every day)  
we appreciate you.

**Happy Thanksgiving!**

