



LOGFIRE LEDGER

Farøwell Edition



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298th to 365th Transfer of Authority Ceremony



298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion bids Shindand a Farewell

The transfer of authority ceremony between Task Force Log Fire and Task Force Choctaw occurred on January 8, 2012. It was a beautiful day and a joyful celebration of two great organizations...one completing a journey and the other beginning theirs. The 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) commanded by LTC Lynn Pippen and Command Sergeant Major William Ward transferred authority to the 365th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commanded by LTC Stephen Smith and Command Sergeant Major Russell Stone. The reviewing officer for the day's ceremony was COL Lawrence Kominiak of the 7th Sustainment Brigade. The Commander of Troops for the day's ceremony is MAJ Tony Crowe the Executive Officer for the 298th CSSB. During LTC Stephen Smith's speech, he stated that his team was ready to accept the new mission ahead. LTC Lynn Pippen gave a very emotional speech and reflected on the many accomplishments of Task Force LogFire. The Task Force LogFire year in review:

- Sustained 2 U.S. Maneuver Battalions, 1 U.S. Aviation Battalion, 4 Italian Task Forces, and provided direct logistics support to 1 Slovenian Operational Mentorship Liaison Team (OMLT) and 4 Special Operations Teams in Regional Command-West (RC-W)
- Coordinated with contractors and joint forces to sustain Shindand Air Base
- Completed 221 combat support missions totaling 1,341 Load Movement Requests and 433,303 miles
- Propelled the pilot Afghan Transportation Network (ATN) through proof of principle into theater wide use
- Completed 998 ATN missions for a total of 98,237 miles
- Assisted our higher headquarters, the 7 Sustainment Brigade, in their efforts to coordinate elder vetting through RC-West opening up routes from Herat to Qal-e-Naw
- Support Operations Container Managers decreased detention carrier containers at Shindand from over 300, to a low of 132 bringing detention fees to \$0 per day which resulted in saving the government an estimated \$250,000.00 per year
- Maintenance managers reduced "dead lined" items by more than 50% and shortened the average days of those items by 33%
- The number of items requiring repair for more than 30 days was reduced by 64%
- Planned the receipt, and issue of over \$24,000,000.00 of equipment loaned to the Italian Army for route clearance missions
- Ensured that the equipment loaned to the Italians was maintained and inventoried as needed despite it being located at four different remote locations in Regional Command West
- Coordinated with Shindand Base Command, Base engineers, and US Forces-Afghanistan, Detachment West for Expansion of Shindand Air Base
- Assisted in the review and justification of Shindand expansion projects
- Actively participated in master planning meetings for Shindand Expansion
- Planned and tracked all Soldiers and unit equipment in the 298th deploying and redeploying which included force flow plans involving over 7 units, almost 900 personnel, and 150 equipment moves throughout the deployment
- Developed course curriculum, and offered drivers training to the ANA which resulted in qualified operators for multiple vehicle types. The program was eventually transitioned from American Soldiers teaching, to ANA Soldiers training their own drivers.

Since inception, over 366 drivers have graduated

- Supervised the successful distribution of over 120,520 cases of bottled water, and production and distribution of over 27 million gallons of bulk water for Shindand Air Base for use in latrines, showers and dining facility operations
- Commodities management section authorized and accounted for the receipt and issue of over 5 million gallons of fuel valued at over \$41,840,000.00 dollars
- Oversaw operations of the first Ammunition Holding Area at Shindand Air Base (AB) from initial operations to its' Fully Operational Capable status 89 different ammunition lines, over 136.2 short tons valued at over \$5,500,000.00, supporting over 14 units/customers to include special operations and Italian forces and has processed over 400 issues and 180 turn-ins of munitions that were critical to tactical operations, and training needs
- Managed a Supply Support Activity (SSA) alongside contractors employed by Dyncorp
- SSA employed workers from 8 different countries
- Reduced the Authorized Stockage List (ASL) for the SSA from 9,600 stocked item lines to 5,125 lines (\$85,894,680 to \$53,973,067) and oversaw the reduction of retrograde, reverse supply at the SSA from 104 pallets to an average manageable 9 pallets in support of Surge Recovery Efforts in RC-W
- Increased the SSA Inventory Adjustment Rate from 75% to 100% (over the 95% Army standard)
- Requisitioned 4,176 repair parts, 900 sheets of plywood, 14 automotive batteries, 37 batteries non-chargeable, 30 batteries multiband, 124 yards of Type XXI nylon webbing, 100 yards ½ inch tubular olive drab, 23 boxes of honey comb, 48 shipping and storage drum for Italian and Spanish forces
- Coordinated with various Movement Control Teams to aid in the completion of 64 Logistics Movement Requests for the movement of 1080 short tons of cargo for Italian, Slovenian, and American Forces throughout Regional Command West
- Coordinated 11 Aerial Movement Requests for Italian Task Force North at Bala Murghab for 277,370 liters of JP8 and 1680 cases of Meals Ready to Eat (MRE) valued in excess of \$677,890
- Sponsored 1 half-marathon and five 5K races of which the proceeds for each event were donated to various charities
- UMT managed a "Base Wide" chapel, and offered spiritual services to thousands of individuals
- Participated in multiple humanitarian assistance missions involving a variety of projects, including a sewing machine project, Karez restoration, school renovation, well installations, and school supply deliveries

LTC Pippen concluded his speech by bidding farewell to the units of Task Force LogFire:

The 548th Transportation Company commanded by CPT Douglas Adams and 1SG Mark Richardson, the 377th Quartermaster Detachment commanded by 1LT Shekelia Lockett and SFC Vicki Taylor, and 602nd Maintenance Company commanded by CPT David Moreno Jr. and 1SG Danny Jackson. Task Force LogFire would like to bid everyone on Shindand Airbase a fond farewell as they make their way back home to their family and friends.







298th End of Tour Awards Ceremony

The soldiers of Task Force LogFire were honored during an awards ceremony that culminated the events of the day for the 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Twenty three soldiers received the Bronze Star Medal for their great achievements and forty three soldiers received the Army Commendation Medal.



School Days

People often use the expression, “It’s a small world,” however; it’s rare to run into someone you haven’t seen in over 19 years. Funny how things happen, because that was the case with LTC Lynn Pippen, the Commander of the 298th CSSB and LTC Marvin Loera, the Deputy Inspector General for USFOR-A. LTC Pippen and LTC Loera attended the Military Police Officer Basic Course together in Aniston, Alabama at Fort McClelland in 1992. LTC Pippen and LTC Loera crossed paths by happenstance in the DFAC on Shindand while being introduced by LTC Loera’s predecessor.

Upon introductions, both knew they had been acquainted with each other before, but just couldn’t remember when and where. Eventually, it came to LTC Pippen that they were OBC classmates. LTC Loera stated that after graduating from OBC, the majority of their classmates went into Special Forces or became FBI agents. He says that it was “very cool” to see LTC Pippen as a Battalion Commander. They both expressed fond memories from their school days and reminisced about what it was like being fresh out of college, and in a gentlemen’s course with a great bunch of guys.



LTC Clifton “Lynn” Pippen and LTC Marvin Loera

Pictures of LTC Pippen and LTC Loera from 19 years ago



298th Combat Sustainment



ment Support Battalion



