

THE BAYONET

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 179TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

RAMS TRAIN AFGHAN BORDER POLICE

ROBOTS TO THE RESCUE

**VANGUARD SOLDIERS
BUILD GOOD FENCES, MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS**

STEADY RAIN OF PROGRESS



FROM THE COMMANDER

BAYONET TEAM...

By Col. Patrick E. Matlock

170th IBCT Brigade Commander

This edition of "The Bayonet" marks the first month of deployment for the entire 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team. It is the first time since World War I that the entire brigade is deployed. We "uncased" our standards (colors) March 7 and they are displayed proudly at our main command post at Camp Mike Spann in Mazar-e Sharif. Mazar-e Sharif is an ancient city and home of the Shrine of Hazrat Ali, or "Blue Mosque," one of the holiest sites in Islam. The city was also the first city to fall to coalition and loyal Afghan forces after the tragic events of 9/11.

The brigade is off to a great start as we conduct counterinsurgency operations across all of northern Afghanistan. In our mission, we are working with and through our Afghan partners in the Afghan National Security Force. The focus of our partnership is with the Afghan Uniformed Police and the Afghan Border Police. At one end of this partnership, we have two senior advisors supported by advisor teams that provide guidance and mentorship to the Afghan Corp and Border Zone commanders and their staffs. At the other end of this partnership, our platoons and companies are living with and conducting operations daily with their police and border police counterparts.

Our operations across northern Afghanistan are also done in full partnership with 16 different countries from Europe and with Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, and civilians from diverse agencies of the United States and other nation's governments. Many of these teammates and their organizations are deeply involved in providing training to the Afghan Security Forces, economic development, and support to governments from village to provincial level. All of us are under the leadership of Major General Marcus Kneip of the German Army. He is the commanding general of Regional Command - North and has a supporting staff from all 16 nations of Combined Team North. As you can see

this truly is a mission for an American brigade that lives and trains in Germany and Europe.

We also have great work going on in other areas of Afghanistan. Task Force 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry continues to do exceptional work in its training mission with the NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan. They have literally trained and supported the training of tens of thousands of Afghan soldiers and police. Impressively, Afghans are now the lead trainers in almost every category of training. Also, Task Force 4th Battalion, 70th Armor is performing magnificently as part of the Canadian Battle Group in the Uruzgan Province with Regional Command - South. Finally and certainly not least, B Company, 40th Engineers continues to excel at its route clearance mission. They have completed the first 9 months of their deployment under some very tough conditions and we could not be prouder of their work. Command Sergeant Major Grinston and I will be travelling to visit these three great formations in the very near future.

We could go on with literally dozens of stories of the excellent operations your Soldiers and teammates are conducting. The best source of information for unit missions and operations is our new "Task Force Bayonet Blog" at <http://170infantry.armylive.dodlive.mil>. Our public affairs team is doing a bang-up job posting pictures and stories to the blog. We hope that all of you follow along as we continue to serve in Afghanistan.

We will finish as always by thanking our Families and friends who continue to give such incredible support to our Soldiers, units, and mission. Our rear-detachment team at Baumholder, Germany is performing its mission with great skill and enthusiasm. Command Sergeant Major Grinston and I and our spouses, Jacqy and Alexandra, could not be prouder of their work in support of our Families and Soldiers who remain "forward deployed" to Germany. And as we always say "every Soldier has a Family," regardless of whether they are single or married, living in Germany or in the United States. So to all of you, thank you for your service and support.

"BAYONETS!"



B7 SENDS

By **CSM Michael Grinston**

170th IBCT Brigade Command Sergeant Major

Soldiers, leaders, and Families of the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, greetings from Afghanistan! I want to begin by stating how extremely proud I am to be serving in combat with such a professional organization. The majority of the Brigade is now situated in Afghanistan and performing all of their duties in an exemplary manner. The Soldiers of the Bayonet Brigade have conducted an outstanding Transfer of Authority with the 1st Brigade, 10th Mountain Division Warriors. I want to personally thank them for the outstanding support rendered during this process. 10th Mountain Soldiers impressed us with their gains in the Regional Command -North area of Afghanistan. Their efforts prepared us well for our mission, and we will continue to make Afghanistan a better place for the population.

While 10th Mountain did a fantastic job, there is still work to be done here, especially with quality of life support. Please keep in mind that the Bayonet Brigade is currently spread out over the entire northern portion of Afghanistan along with elements of the brigade in the South as well. All told, there are more than 30 locations scattered throughout Afghanistan. Although we attempt to provide the same services with regards to morale welfare and recreation in each area, every location is unique. One Soldier may have a camp that provides wireless internet while another location may not have running water. We are constantly striving to improve all our locations in Afghanistan with the priority going toward those with less developed infrastructure. It is a work in progress and the logistics to get some of the changes in place are significantly more complicated than back in Germany.

Good news! The beginning of summer is right around the corner and as I'm sure you are all aware, our first company deployed, B Company, 40th Engineers will be returning to Baumholder this summer after serving a great and rewarding year in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Even though these brave Soldiers still have a few months

to go, they have endured 10 months away from their friends and family and are finishing up their duty in a

superb manner. We are all looking forward to their safe return to Baumholder. The brigade headquarters and 40th Engineer Battalion are working hard along with the rear-detachment in planning for this historic event.

Finally, I want to thank all the Family members in the United States, Baumholder, and around the world for all of the support during the initial deployment. Without the support from the Families we could not do what we are doing. We understand and truly appreciate the commitment and dedication you possess in your daily activities to support your families and Soldiers while we are away. I know that being an Army spouse is not easy by any means, and I just want to remind all of you that we do care.

Stay strong and we appreciate your support.



THE BAYONET

B7 OUT

"STRENGTH, HONOR, DISCIPLINE!"



An Afghan Border Policemen pulls security as his comrade performs low-crawl techniques to prevent being discovered, during an inaugural two-week training course at a Camp Shaheen compound, April 3, 2011.

TRAINING WITH THE BATTERING RAMS

**Story and photos by
Sgt. Jazz Burney
170th IBCT Public Affairs**

CAMP MIKE SPANN, Afghanistan- Afghan Border Policemen finished their first week of training instructed by Soldiers with 40th Engineer Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, during an inaugural two-week training course at a compound in Camp Shaheen April 3.

Afghan Border Police, or ABP provide law enforcement at borders and entry points to deter criminal activity and the movement of insurgents into Afghanistan. The force also works to isolate insurgents and criminal groups from external sources of supplies, money and manpower.

Throughout the week, 30 policemen trained to more effectively perform their duties at border crossing points throughout the country.

Soldiers with 40th Engineers and U.S. civilian policemen, at the request of Lt. Col. Kadoos, the ABP training officer with 5th Zone Headquarters, taught their Afghan partners basic, U.S. military and police tactics. The Afghan police-



Sgt. Andrew Lamer, a Dillsberg, Pa., native, now a squad leader with HHC, 40th Engineer Battalion, 170th IBCT, instructs a group of 30 Afghan Border Policemen during atwo-week training course at a Camp Shaheen compound, April 3.

men also trained on arrest techniques and how to identify counterfeit passports.

“Ram” Soldiers also taught the policemen how to use cover and concealment against an enemy, react to enemy fire, low and high crawl, and how to tactically scale a wall. The policemen also trained in map reading, land navigation and first aid procedures.

“We are able to provide instructors who train these policemen with a one-on-one style of instruction. This gives us the ability to hone in on key areas that will sharpen these policemen into the fighting force we know they can be,” said 2nd Lt. Logan

Biggs, a Sturgeon Bay, Wis., native, now the ABP training program officer in charge.

During the last four days of training, the border policemen will go to a local range where trainers will give instructions on how to properly fire their weapons. The primary weapons the policemen use are pistols, AK-47 rifles and PKM machine guns.

Upon completion of the training, policemen will receive certificates during a graduation ceremony.

“All training is good for combat because we can use these techniques to make sure the wrong people don’t gain access to our country or to save our buddies if we come under fire from an enemy,” said Aijus Didn, a noncommissioned officer with the Afghan Border Police.

The 40th Engineers are scheduled to move all training to the new 5th Zone Headquarters compound near Mazar-e Sharif. This will allow Afghan Border Police and Ram Soldiers to live and train side-by-side in support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.



ROBOTS TO THE RESCUE

**Story and photo by
Sgt. Christopher Klutts**

170th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP DEH DADHI, Afghanistan -- Soldiers with 24th Brigade Support Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team trained to use robots here March 29, to separate themselves from possible hazards on the battlefield. Whether a clump of wires on the road or gunfire from around the next corner, the faithful, metallic patriots charge into danger, all at the flick of a human thumb on a joystick.

Instructors at the Camp Deh Dadhi II Robotic Systems Joint Project Office taught Deeds Battalion Soldiers which



Courtesy Photo

A Soldier with 24th Brigade Support Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team test the capabilities of a robot at Camp Dehdadi II, March 29.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers with 24th Brigade Support Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team test the capabilities of a robot at Camp Dehdadi II, March 29.

robots were available to them and their specific functions during a 30-minute lecture. Then Soldiers began driving the robots around the graveled terrain of the camp and picking up and moving objects.

The systems were designed with a new generation of Soldiers in mind. The systems have an easy to use interface, some with popular gaming console controls, make it easy for Soldiers to become acquainted with their new

reconnaissance tools, said Josh Littlejohn, the joint project office site foreman.

“You know how mom used to say video games will melt your brain? Not anymore. The Army put them to good use.” said Cpl. Ryan D. Jenkins, a St. Louis native, now a squad leader with B Company, 24th BSB.

The robots will save time when investigating a possible roadside bomb. Without the robots, Soldiers may request an explosive ordinance disposal team to investigate what they think is a bomb, but turns out to be a “ball of twine” after a closer look. Now, Soldiers have a better chance of confirming the threat before calling for help, said Jenkins, who provides security for military convoys throughout northern Afghanistan.

2nd Lt. Shana Hewett, the 1st Platoon, B Company, platoon leader, said the robots will be a helpful asset while accomplishing her platoon’s vehicle recovery missions. If a vehicle is struck by a roadside bomb and her platoon is called to help, she can use the robots to check for secondary bombs near where the first exploded.

Robotic system training is another skill 24th BSB Soldiers will use as they continue to support 170th IBCT operations in northern Afghanistan.



Sgt. Andrew Lamer with 40th Engineers instructs an Afghan Border Policeman how to high-crawl at Camp Shaheen Apr. 4.

Photo by Sgt. Jazz Burney

THE BAYONET



VANGUARD SOLDIERS

BUILD GOOD FENCES, MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS

Story and photos by
Sgt. Jazz Burney

170th IBCT Public Affairs

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KUNDUZ, Afghanistan- Directly behind Joint Combat Outpost Fortitude, home to Soldiers with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stands the Imam Sahib Girls' High School. During a normal school day, many students view Soldiers manning their posts.

Leaders with the company initiated the battalion's first Commander's Emergency Response Program project to alleviate the cultural offense of U.S. Soldiers viewing Afghan women. Soldiers and local contractors will build two walls to redirect the entrance of the school away from the ISAF outpost.

"Because the walls of the outpost are tall, the Soldiers can see directly into the school. We want to make sure that the girls will not disturb the Soldiers but will be safe to focus on furthering their education," said Sakhidat-Sif-Mohmad, the manager of the high school wall building project.

The doors of the high school have been open for more than 10 years with 580 female students constantly in attendance. From ages seven to 18, students are taught mathematics, social studies and Afghan culture. Some students travel many miles to reach the school, said an Imam Sahib High School administrator.

The current path to the school places



Soldiers with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team unload protective barrier frames to be used as walls to separate the Imam Sahib High School entrance from the company's Joint Combat Outpost Fortitude, March 21.

students in harm's way, due to military vehicles maneuvering up and down the road. The road to the school is also directly adjacent to the Imam Sahib district governor's building, which was recently attacked by a suicide vest bomber.

"The route the girls were taking to get to school is literally right in front of the entrance to our outpost," said Capt. Christopher Mercado, a Sioux Falls, S.D., native, now the B Company commander. "We understand the Afghan culture and are working diligently to change this situation with the building of these walls. Once

up, these walls will keep the students out of view of the Soldiers and also shield them from potential insurgent attacks."

On the far right of the district building, two walls were knocked in creating a path that leads to a metal gate, which will serve as the school's new entrance. Soldiers and contractors will build an additional wall to separate the new road from the district governor's building.

Mercado quoted a famous line, "Good Fences make Good Neighbors" from a poem by Robert Frost, as he explained his eagerness to build the school's walls during a sit-down with local leaders.

"As a father myself, I understand that our children are our future, and the future of Afghanistan should be educated, these walls will be built so that this will happen," Mercado said during the meeting.

The project is nearing completion, and as their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom continues, Soldiers with B Company will assist government leaders of Imam Sahib with further projects to improve and protect the lives of citizens in the area.



Soldiers with B Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, dismount from their military vehicle to secure cargo straps on the side of a road in northern Kunduz during a refit and re-supply mission, March 21.



STEADY RAIN OF PROGRESS

A Soldier with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Artillery Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, scans nearby hills during a joint patrol with Afghan Uniformed Policemen in the borderlands of Qeysar and Ghormach, Afghanistan March 24.

**Story and photos by
Pfc. Nathan Goodall**
170th IBCT Public Affairs

QEYSAR, Afghanistan -- It was a little after 1 p.m. when Soldiers with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team walked out the front gate for a routine foot patrol here March 27.

It was cold outside and rain was already starting to fall, but the Soldiers were more than happy to begin the patrol - they were looking forward to every minute of it.

"We went out with the battery commander to visit the village leaders of Qeysar to find out what we could help out with," said Pfc. Loren G. Gaboni, a San Juan Batista, Calif., native, now a forward observer with A Battery.

The air was dense with mist, and rain was falling off-and-on, but it was vital the Soldiers conducted the patrol as if it were a bright, sunny day, said Gaboni.

"It was cold, everything got soaked. I was freezing," said Gaboni. "But it was important to go out just to make sure that the people know that no matter what, we're still here to help them."

While the patrol was routine, the Sol-

diers saw new evidence of their progress. A Battery has multiple projects in the works to help the growth of Qeysar, such as planting trees and building playgrounds for the people to enjoy, said Spc. Michael Rabacal, a Manila, Philippines native, now a signal support systems specialist with A Battery.

"The last time I went out we saw people digging holes, and this time we came back and those holes had trees



Staff Sgt. Lupe A. Irias, a Fresno, Calif., native, now a platoon sergeant with A Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, surveys the area as Navy explosive ordnance disposal technicians examine a potential improvised explosive device outside the town of Shakh, Afghanistan March 28.

planted in them," said Rabacal. "Right outside the COP people were building the wall for a playground we planned."

"A lot of the projects that the battery commander has talked about are happening," said Rabacal. "We're making progress and showing people that we're helping."

For A Battery Soldiers like Pfc. Patrick L. Spray, a Covington, Tenn., native, and Pfc. Eric D. Garcia, a Redding, Calif., native, the patrol was a new experience altogether.

Even though it was cold and wet outside, Spray and Garcia said they were very happy to be out on a foot patrol, rather than in large armored vehicles, separated from the people they help by inches of steel and thick glass.

"You get to interact with [the people of Qeysar]," said Garcia. "When my sister was deployed she said one of the things she liked most about deployment was interacting with the kids. I haven't been able to do that until today, because I've been in the truck the whole time. You get to see more. You get a different perspective of things."

"The more I get outside the wire the happier I am," said Spray. "[When we patrol people can] feel safe. They'll know that they're actually protected, that we're here if it's raining or not."

THE BAYONET



Spc. Christy Venery with 502nd Military Intelligence Company, 40th Engineer Battalion poses with local children.



Soldiers with 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team along travel to Afghanistan on a C-17.



Sgt. Thomas with F-84 Field Artillery participates in an International Women's Day celebration in Faryab province. Photo by 1st Lt. Crystal Schiller.



1-84TH FA HQ



40TH EN HQ



HHC 170TH HQ



24TH B



470TH BN HQ



A Soldier with 4-70th Armored at a guard post.

FROM THE FORMATION

Want to see your photo in the next Bayonet? Submit a .jpg to the 170th IBCT Public Affairs Office at christopher.klutts@afghan.swa.army.mil



Photo by CW3 Brian Henrikson
with other service members



Cpl. Murphy and Pfc. Loveland, with 24th Brigade Support Battalion, work on a radio in an MRAP at Camp Dehdadi II March 2011. Photo by Staff Sgt. Nancy Versteegen.



Soldiers with 3rd Platoon, A Company, 2-18 Infantry, German Soldiers and Afghan Uniformed Police meet with leaders in Baghlan province March 29.



Spc. Berryman helps an ANA recruit conduct remedial action on his weapon.



Rev. Grant Gaskin, a Washington, D.C., native, now a Roman Catholic priest with U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, conducts catholic services for Soldiers with 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, other coalition forces and civilian contractors at Freedom Chapel in Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan March 15, 2011. Gaskin will rotate throughout Regional Command North during his deployment. Photo by Pfc. Nathan Goodall

CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

By Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Dunn
170th IBCT Brigade Chaplain

Coming to you from beautiful, scenic Camp Spann, Afghanistan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been a month since the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team has been on ground performing its mission. Your sons, daughter, husbands, wives, fathers and mothers have been diligently at it. Already the bad guys have felt the presence of the 170th IBCT. Your Soldiers have been very effective in keeping the bad guys in check, and on many occasions have absolutely ruined their day! Doesn't matter what job your soldier has, all are part of the military machine that is the Bayonet Brigade. I impressed daily at how much and how hard your Soldiers are working, you all can and should be very proud of them all. God knows I am!

Okay now it's down to business. "Calling All Supporters! Calling All Supporters!" Large and small alike. I have a job for you ALL! Here on beautiful Camp Spann - (I just can't say that with a straight face.) I firmly believe that there are many people that desire to serve and help their deployed Soldiers, but they just don't know how.

There are some things we have plenty of and then there are things that we don't have too much of and could really use your help with. We have plenty of rocks, and almost as much dirt. Truth be told we have lots of Porta-Potties, and ahumm, let's see, what else? Lots of rocks? Check. Dirt? Check. Porta-Potties? Check. ... hummm. Well we are lucky compared to some of our line units - we have contractors that come and empty our porta potties - some of the line units have to burn theirs. Not really the job I would

want, but hey remember at the beginning of this month's article I said everybody's job is important, just not that glamorous at times.

Back to how you can help / serve, your Soldier at Camp Spann. We here have a mixture of all sorts of Coalition Forces, German, Croatian, Norwegian, and just as many civilian contractors. We are packed in this little piece of paradise pretty tight. We have a PX of sorts, again better than many. It is a semi-trailer that you walk down the center of and step out the front of. Its main purpose is to make sure the young people can get their special energy drinks (no wonder those soldiers can get so much done, have you seen the size of those things lately? Good grief!) And on the other side of the trailer you can find some basic hygiene items and candies.

We need Care Packages full of quality hygiene items, soap (full size bar and



liquid style) nice razors, deodorant, handi-wipes
 - lots of handi-wipes and candy! PLEASE - NO BOOKS! NO PAPER BACKS OR HARD BOOKS!
 - Magazines are cool, but send guys stuff. Outdoor, Sports, Cars, Trucks, Hunting. We don't need ladies style magazines, Better Homes and Gardens? Are ya kidding me
 - for a bunch of Infantry Brigade type guys? Yes we have some outstanding female Soldiers, and we do get a lot already to meet their needs, we are not forgetting about them, trust me.

Here is the great thing. We have what is called the Bayonet Pantry which is a small room fixed up to look like a small convenient store that is open twice a day and is to everyone, free of charge, laid out for all to select up to 5 free items of their choice per visit. And since we have a couple thousand on this camp at any time we can use "stuff". Use your imagination, shower shoes (flip flops), travel games, DVDs, whatever - it will find a home!
 2 NO GOs - no home-made food (we love grandmas cookies - but I can't distribute them and please NO BOOKS!

Other than that, use your imagination! Please address all packages "Bayonet Pantry" attn CH Dunn - Camp Spann, APO AE 09368.

How else can someone help / serve their Soldiers you ask? Well my bride Holly found this online <http://www.faihtdeployed.com/2009/10/how-to-pray-for-your-military-man/> and posted on her face book page today and I am inclined to share it with you.

The Bible tells us that "The prayer of a righteous man [or woman] is power-



Photo by Pfc. Nathan Goodall

Rev. Grant Gaskin, a Washington, D.C., native, now a catholic priest with U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, conducts catholic services for Soldiers with 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, other coalition forces and civilian contractors at Freedom Chapel in Camp Mike Spann, Afghanistan March 15, 2011. Gaskin will rotate throughout Regional Command North during his deployment.

ful and effective" (James 5:16). So what are you praying for? Most, if not all of us pray for our husbands. But do you know exactly how to pray for your military man's unique needs? I asked [a] Chaplain currently in Afghanistan, for some specific things we can be praying for. Here is the insightful list he shared with me:

- Pray that he would have the Peace of Christ with him — especially if he travels outside of his Forward Operating Base (FOB)

- Pray that he will depend on the Love of God to keep him from bitterness at others (who needlessly make life difficult on their subordinates especially when they aren't the most competent leader).

- Pray for Protection. Psalm 125:2 "As the mountains surround Jerusalem, so the Lord surrounds his people both now and forevermore."

- Pray for that he will be vigilant if he is called to fire upon the enemy. Psalm 144:1-2 "Praise be to the Lord my Rock, who trains my hands for war, my fingers for battle. He is my loving God and my fortress my stronghold and my deliverer, my shield, in whom I take refuge, who subdues peoples under me."

- Pray that the enemy will be turned back. Psalm 40:14 "May all who seek to take my life be put to shame and confusion: may all who desire my ruin be turned back in disgrace."

- Pray that our Soldiers will be fulfilled in their jobs. Without purpose time out here is extremely long and difficult.

- Pray that Soldiers/ their husbands will resist lowering themselves to low levels of conversations and instead seek to be examples of goodness and righteousness.

- Pray that Soldiers/husbands find "good and solid" Christian brothers to have fellowship with.

- Pray for the leadership in Platoons, Companies, Battalions, Brigadesdepending on what level the Soldier/ husband works. Leadership can make or break a man. They have the biggest impact.

I couldn't have said it any better even if I tried.

How can you love, support, serve your soldiers?

Start with prayer and then go from there.



170th IBCT rear detachment leaders cut the ribbon at the grand opening of a new family readiness center in Baumholder, Germany April 1, 2011.

STANDING UP THE HOME FRONT

By Alexis Dodge Veigas

2-18 Infantry Family Readiness Support Assistant

Family members in Baumholder recently joined the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team rear detachment team for the grand opening of the 170th IBCT Family Readiness Center April 1. The center houses the offices of the 170th IBCT family readiness liaisons, family readiness support assistants, and rear detachment first sergeants and commanders.

"The center is designed to be in a centralized location so the units can better serve their Soldiers and their Families during the deployment of the 170th IBCT to Afghanistan," said Rachel Dooley, the brigade family readiness support assistant.

Nearly 100 spouses, civilian employees, and Soldiers attended the event to meet the rear detachment teams.

"We are excited to better serve our Families and by the outstanding showing of people here today on this rainy day in Germany shows just how effective the Family readiness center is going to be," said Dooley. "The Family readiness center is a welcoming place for families to come and receive information, ask questions, and receive assistance. Family members and Soldiers can come in and meet with their unit FRLs and FRSA's; this is a great way to stay connected to the unit."

The event was also a great opportunity for spouses to register for the upcoming Bayonet Spouses Challenge on May 21. This is a brigade wide event where spouses can display their physical and mental fitness utilizing military-like tasks including a physical fitness test, an obstacle course, simulated weapons, a grenade assault course, orienteering, and a paint ball exercise. All Bayonet spouses are welcome to participate in the event in teams of four.

"The spouse's challenge is a great opportunity for spouses in Baumholder to build camaraderie and to practice some Army tasks that their spouses have mastered," said Staff Sgt. John Wayne Mullen, the 2-18 Infantry family readiness liaison.

The Family readiness center is conveniently located across from the community mailroom in building 8660 on Smith Barracks. The Baumholder community is not only supported by rear detachment groups but their individual Family readiness groups that are led by Baumholder's finest volunteers.

Nancy Sisson, a 2-18 Infantry family member said, "The FRC is a stress reliever for a spouse because we can get the answers we need in one stop without going to many different locations on post. There is always someone able to help at the FRC."



A Soldier with 40th Engineer Battalion ground guides the driver of a Mine Resistant Ambush Protected vehicle on Camp Mike Spann, April 2, 2011.

Photo by Sgt. Jazz Burney

CLOSE CALLS ARE WAKE-UP CALLS!!!

Story by Kevin Glapion *Brigade Safety Manager*

Close calls and near misses are very common. They're incidents that don't cause an injury or some other kind of property damage only because there was nothing in the way to be damaged, or no one close enough to be injured.

So, why talk about accidents that didn't happen? The following story might make it a little easier to understand by bringing a close call incident a little closer to home.

Your newly licensed Soldier runs into your office in a panic because he has just come within a few inches of running over your first sergeant who was holding formation in the parking lot. Your first reaction might be, "Why didn't you circle check your vehicle before getting in?" However, because it was promptly reported to you, you will now have the opportunity to investigate immediately for its causes.

Upon investigating you discover there is a "Do Not Enter" sign missing on the fence in your motor pool. If your Soldier had neglected reporting or ignored this near-accident to you, you may never have

known this sign was missing and it could have eventually cost you the life of one of your Soldiers.

The sequence of events which lead up to an accident is like a series of errors that fall onto one another like dominoes. A close call incident is simply this same sequence of events with one of the dominoes missing.

Close call incidents trigger the fact that something is seriously wrong. They allow us the opportunity to investigate and correct the situation before the same thing happens again and causes an injury or death.

Experience has proven that if the causes of accidents are not removed, the potential for an accident will occur again and again. Unfortunately, a typical story told after many accidents is, "Yeah, that happened to Jim as well - just last week!"

Why are close call incidents not reported? Typical reasons are: fear of reprimand or repercussions, red tape, not being aware of the importance in controlling future accidents, embarrassment, the spoiling of a safety or production record, or lack of feedback when similar issues

have previously been raised.

If you keep silent about a close call - you may avoid having to deal with it. But try to explain that to a co-worker who ends up in a wheelchair because of a hazard that you knew existed but were too proud to talk about.

Controlling close call incidents is really the secret to reducing the overall frequency of accidents. **For every 600 close call incidents, there were 30 property damages, 10 minor accidents and 1 very serious accident.**

Close call incident reporting is a very valuable tool in helping us all manage an effective safety program. But the vital part is to apply corrective action immediately. The only way this can be done is if a close call is reported immediately after it occurs. This way, we can learn as much as possible - as soon as possible.

A wise man once said, "A fool is not a man who makes no mistakes - we all do that. The fool is the man who refuses to

Safety is NO Accident!!!



MALARIA BITES

By Capt. Stephen Harper
170th IBCT Brigade Surgeon

It was a dark and stormy night. But that wasn't the scary part. The real danger was the standing water the rain had left, for this was a breeding ground for mosquitoes and their deadly scourge, malaria.

Malaria is a febrile, or fever based, illness caused by the Plasmodium genus of parasites that is transmitted from the bite of a mosquito. Afghanistan and more specifically, northern Afghanistan has seen a reemergence of the illness in recent years. The rice growing fields of northern Afghanistan act as giant incubators for the larva of mosquitoes.

Infectious disease experts have estimated that as many as 3 million persons contract malaria in Afghanistan each year. Most cases in Afghanistan occur between the months of April and October and, given the low altitude of northern Afghanistan, a large percentage of those cases occur there.

While malaria can be fatal, it is treatable if medical attention is sought. Any high fever in a malaria endemic region



should prompt a visit to a physician to be evaluated. The typical presentation is one where a patient has a cyclic fever that occurs every 3-4 days depending on the specific type of malaria. Other symptoms can mimic the flu and include headaches, vomiting, muscle aches, etc; the difference being that patients with malaria are usually much more severe in presentation.

The best treatment against malaria is to take preventive measures. These include: limiting standing water, consulting preventive medicine to ensure that the mosquito population is controlled,

wearing your uniform (treated with permethrin) properly, and using DEET based insect repellent. Perhaps most important is taking your anti-malaria medication that was prescribed during the pre-deployment processing.

The unit we replaced here in Regional Command- North had only one confirmed case of malaria. Their low incidence was undoubtedly due to the strict adherence to the preventive measures outlined above. The one case they had; the Soldier actually contracted malaria when he was on R&R to Africa. He did not take his anti-malaria medication with him.

THE BAYONET

The Bayonet News Team

170th IBCT Commander
Col. Patrick Matlock

170th IBCT Command Sergeant Major
Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Grinston

Public Affairs Officer
Capt. Royal Reff

Public Affairs NCOIC
Sgt. Christopher Klutts

Public Affairs NCO
Sgt. Jazz Burney

Photojournalist
Spc. Nathan Goodall

Official 170th IBCT Website
www.170infantry.army.mil

Bayonet Blog
170infantry.armylive.dodlive.mil

Bayonet Flickr
www.flickr.com/photos/170infantry

Bayonet News on DVIDS
www.dvidshub.net/170-IBCT

also

Follow us on Facebook

Please forward all submissions, suggestions and concerns to
Sgt. Christopher Klutts at
christopher.klutts@afghan.swa.army.mil

The Bayonet is an authorized publication for Department of Defense members. Contents of The Bayonet are not necessarily the views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, or the Department of the Army.

BAYONET EO QUARTERLY

UPCOMING DOD SPECIAL/ETHNIC OBSERVANCES FOR APRIL, MAY AND JUNE:



ASIAN/PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH

SPECIAL/ETHNIC OBSERVANCES-WHY DO WE CONDUCT THEM?

Observances are conducted to recognize the continuous achievements of all Americans to American culture and to increase awareness, mutual respect, understanding, and promote harmony among all service members, their families, and the civilian work force. Another important aspect is the education of our Soldiers, DOD civilians, local community, and family members.

Observances are usually set aside monthly in recognition of the achievements and contributions made by members of specific groups in our society. Observances should also promote understanding, teamwork, pride and esprit de

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY KNOWLEDGE CORNER

Q: What paragraph in AR 600-20 covers the Army language Policy?

Q: What paragraph in AR 600-20 covers the Equal Opportunity Special/Ethnic Observances?

Q: Which publication governs the Equal Opportunity Program in the Army?

Q: Before you can file an Equal Opportunity Complaint on someone, they would have to violate one of the five protected areas. What are those five protected areas?

DIVERSITY ROADMAP

The Army has been a national leader in providing opportunities to a diverse America over the past 50 years and beyond. We will take the same approach to achieving success through more proactive and mission-oriented diversity principles and practices, taking into account the Army's rich history and standards for excellence.

DIVERSITY DIVERSITY

The different attributes, experiences and backgrounds of our Soldiers, Civilians and Family Members that further enhance our global capabilities and contribute to an adaptive, culturally astute Army

DIVERSITY MISSION

Develop and implement a strategy that contributes to mission readiness while transforming and sustaining the Army as a national leader in diversity

DIVERSITY VISION

The Army is the national leader in embracing the strengths of diverse people in an inclusive environment. investing in and managing talent, valuing individuals, and developing culturally astute Soldiers and Civilians who enhance our communities and are prepared for the human dimension of leadership and global engagements.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITY

Enhances the ability to work effectively as a team

Shows respect for self and others

Supports Army Values

Supports mission readiness by impacting unit cohesion

Supports Army Values

Strengthens the bond that makes Soldiers willing to die for one another

Supports discipline.



CULTURAL AWARENESS IN AFGHANISTAN

OUR EFFORTS

With Afghanistan being the home to a great variety of ethnic, linguistic, and tribal groups, focusing on local Afghan culture is critical to enabling Afghans and U.S. forces to do the following:

- Earn each other's trust.
- Communicate the needs of the local population and possible U.S. support.
- Influence each other toward mutually agreed upon solutions.
- Build confidence in the Afghan central and provincial governments.
- Promote and develop economic and physical security.

It may be easy to recognize and celebrate American holidays, but it's also important to gain knowledge of holidays held throughout the world to better understand their culture. An upcoming Afghan public holiday, Victory Day, has been observed April 28 every year since 1992, when freedom fighters defeated the Soviet Union backed, communist Afghanistan Government, led by President Najibullah after 14 years of war.

It's important we learn about other cultures to understand their needs, wants, desires, customs and beliefs. When this is accomplished, we can develop a deeper respect for that particular culture and regard the people as equal. By doing so, we can learn from each other and increase our understanding of why diversity is vital in improving the relationship between all human beings.