

# THE BAYONET

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 170TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM

**FORMER RANGERS VISIT DEEDS SOLDIERS**

**RAIDER COMPANY MORTARMEN HONE THEIR SKILLS**

**WARRIOR BATTALION TRAINS THE TRAINER**

**BEHIND THE SCENES WITH 502ND MI**

**FEAR THE REAPER: HH3 1-84 AT WORK IN FARYAB**





**By Col. Patrick E. Matlock**  
*170th IBCT Brigade Commander*

# FROM THE COMMANDER

BAYONET TEAM...

As we move into fall it's encouraging to note the visible progress the Brigade's troops are making across our many areas of operations. Command Sgt. Maj. Grinston and I recently had another opportunity to visit Task Force 3-4 Infantry and Task Force 4-70th Armor, and recognize some of their Soldiers for excellence. Both battalions are doing truly commendable work in their respective areas. Over the next two months Task Force 3-4 will be completing their operations and redeploying after doing a great job.

They've performed very well in their training mission and have made a lasting impact on the Afghan National Army and its training efforts. Task Force 3-4 Infantry's Soldiers are leaving a high standard of success in all the locations they're operating. Task Force 4-70 has excelled in the face of challenges that few organizations have to face. Their operations in the southern region of Afghanistan improve the stability within their area of operations on a daily basis; their accomplishments are even more impressive as they have transitioned to a new commander. We want to thank the Lt. Col. and Mrs. Oeschger for all their combined contributions to the Brigade and to Task Force 4-70th; they continue to be an integral part of our community, and we wish them well as they transition to their next assignment. We also want to welcome Lt. Col. and Mrs. Fisher to the Brigade; they have quickly and seamlessly transitioned in and I am confident that Thunderbolt Soldiers and Families remain in good hands.

The major efforts we undertake everyday result in great improvements throughout the area of operations and support the overall stability of Regional Command North. Task Force 2-18 Infantry continues to do exceptional work; they established a new combat outpost at the Shir Khan border crossing point which will allow them to do even more direct partnering and leader training with Afghan Border Police. Task Force 1-84 Field Artillery, their partners within the Afghan Police and Afghan Army forces, as well as the Norwegian troops they work with, continue to improve the security situation in what has been a fairly restive location. Notable are their recent clearing operations to remove insurgent elements from areas around Highway 1 a critical transportation link connecting all Afghanistan.

Soldiers of 40th Engineer Battalion are doing superb work with officials in the Mazar-e Sharif area; last month the battalion directly supported the start of a major construction project on the Deh Dahdi-Mazar-e Sharif road, which will greatly improve the city's transportation infrastructure and enable business development, growing the local economy. This, and other development projects like it, will have an enduring effect on the lives of the Afghan people and are key to our mission of maintaining a secure environment. Our Brigade's logisticians in the 24th Brigade Support Battalion are providing excellent support to units across Regional Command North; the Battalion's Soldiers have conducted countless combat logistic patrols over many miles providing vital supplies to remote locations throughout the area of operations. Leaders at all levels are also partnering directly with Afghan forces, and the extensive time and effort they've expended in providing logistical mentorship is vital to increasing the capability of our Afghan National Security Force partners.

The unit level partnership each of the battalions does is complimented extremely well by the noncommissioned officers and officers of our stability transition teams. The 303rd Afghan Uniform Police and 5th Zone Afghan Border Police adviser teams are constantly improving the capability of senior leaders and staff of their partnered organization. The transition teams' partnerships are ensuring the units our battalions partner with are well led, well equipped and well trained.

I'm looking forward to discussing the great work the Brigade is doing with Soldiers and Families in Baumholder during my upcoming question and answer meeting hosted by Task Force Aegis Oct. 12. I hope to see many of you there. As our Soldiers continue to deploy from Baumholder, the rear detachment also continues to prepare them for their mission as well as supporting our Families in Germany, the United States and elsewhere. Command Sgt. Maj. Grinston, myself and the Soldiers of the Bayonet Brigade are grateful for their support to Families and for the support we receive from each and every family member for their Soldier.

Over the coming months we'll continue our focus on partnering with Afghan forces here in Regional Command North. The Afghan Security Forces we work with are continuing to grow in numbers and in operational capacity. That growth is a direct credit to our efforts in partnering and training. Because of our work with them the Afghan forces here continue to be increasingly well suited to perform their mission of providing security to the local population.

We want to congratulate everyone on the start of a new school year at home and we hope that everyone enjoys the upcoming holidays.

**"BAYONETS!"**



# B7 SENDS

SOLDIERS, LEADERS, AND FAMILIES  
OF THE 170TH INFANTRY BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM...

**By CSM Michael Grinston**

*170th IBCT Brigade Command Sergeant Major*

Here is an update from Regional Command North. It is almost October, and from this side of the fence, the time continues at a very rapid pace. We are now at the 7-month-plus mark of the deployment, and I am happy to say that the Brigade as a whole continues to perform at a superb level and Col. Matlock and I have definitely seen the results from all the hard work.

The other result of a lot of hard work is the transition of 3-4 Infantry for redeployment during the October through December time frame. The rest of the Brigade is right behind them. I want to personally commend the Soldiers and Leaders of 3-4 Infantry for a job well done! They endured a very hard but important mission training the Afghans for the future and imminent transfer of authority to them in 2014.

As you know, the president has announced the gradual withdrawal of U.S. Forces in Afghanistan starting with 10,000 by the end of December 2011. This force reduction may effect a large portion of all of the Brigade's units throughout Afghanistan. The Brigade Staff is currently planning for what, if any, impact the reduction will have on our Soldiers and how we will ultimately transfer authority to the 37th Infantry Brigade at the beginning of 2012.

We are also planning on sending a few selected Soldiers home early to help facilitate the Brigade's redeployment. These warriors have all earned their right to conduct this important mission and most will be attending some sort of training to enhance the Brigade's capabilities as we return home. These individuals will return with a very specific mission and for a very specific reason. I would ask everyone to be patient as the Brigade moves through this transition.

Another important area we are working is the basing plan for when the Brigade returns. Master Sgt. Salazar is the lead on all Soldiers' housing issues and he is returning to Baum-



holder to start working the plan in October. He

has the important role of ensuring that all of our basing needs are met from Soldiers' barracks to military vehicle parking areas. This is extremely important and will take some tightening up on the Brigade's part, because in the summer of 2012 we are scheduled to welcome other units to our community. There is no perfect plan, but I am very confident that our basing strategy is sound and with Master Sgt. Salazar's leadership we will have a seamless transition back to Baumholder.

The Colonel and I are continuing to circulate our entire area of operations and we are happy to report that all Soldiers remain highly motivated supporting OEF. Our latest trip was a visit to the South to see 3-4 Infantry and 4-70th Armor. Col. Matlock and I were pleased with the Soldiers that we saw and are very proud of the work they are doing.

After visiting our troops it was time for Col. Matlock to take some leave. While I was on R & R back in August, I enjoyed being able to meet with families, answer their questions, and provide them with an update. Col. Matlock will conduct a similar briefing with the families as well Oct. 12.

In closing, I want to thank all the family members for continuing to support your deployed loved ones by providing care packages, letters, emails, pictures, etc. You continue to remain strong, and I fully understand the sacrifice a family member endures when their loved one deploys for an extended period of time. Your loved one will be home soon, and it will all be worth the wait when we are all home safe. Have a great last quarter of 2011 and stay strong.

**B7 OUT**

**"STRENGTH, HONOR, DISCIPLINE!"**



# Former Rangers Visit Deeds Soldiers

Story and photos by  
Spc. Nathan Goodall

170th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP DEH DADI II, Afghanistan -- Former U.S. Army Rangers visited to share their stories and show their support for Soldiers here Oct. 2.

The visit was part of the Armed Forces Entertainment Ranger Tour, created by Robi Powers and his nonprofit organization American300. The all-volunteer organization attracted the attention of four former Rangers who were thrilled to meet deployed Soldiers.

The former Rangers, with all the incredible experiences they've had, presented themselves as human beings in a deployed environment just like everyone else in the room. It was on this level they connected with the Soldiers. Before they went to the front of the room to speak, they sat and ate with Soldiers, sharing their companionship.

"They don't ignore anyone, they'll talk to you and get to know you," said Spc. Tereza Purdon, an Overland Park, Kan., native, now a chaplains assistant with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 24th Brigade Support Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

"This is one of the most exciting things I have done since I retired," said former Ranger battalion commander Danny McKnight. "Anybody that has the opportunity to do this, to come visit our American Soldiers, and did not take advantage of it is absolutely out of their mind. Because this is the greatest privilege anybody can have."

McKnight, portrayed in the movie "Black Hawk Down," was a widely recognized name throughout the camp.

Sgt. Russell Fiske, a Wilmington, Del., native, now a truck commander with 1049th Transportation Company, Delaware National Guard, had recently watched "Black Hawk Down" before he even knew the Rangers were coming.

Fiske and his peers ate with McKnight during dinner.

"They care enough to come over here



Former U.S. Army Ranger and country musician Keni Thomas plays a song for the Soldiers.



Sgt. Michelle Groth, an East Troy, Wis., native now a chemical operations noncommissioned officer with B Company, 24th Brigade Support Battalion, talks with and gets an autograph from former U.S. Army Ranger Howard "Mad Max" Mullen.

and talk to the troops, spend time with us, and I think that speaks a lot to their character and a lot to being a Soldier," Fiske said.

The amount of mutual respect between the groups was apparent as the former Rangers praised the Soldiers for their service.

"The thing I remember most is that I got to be one of you, I got to be an American Soldier and to me there's nothing finer," McKnight said to the crowd. "It is an honor to be in your presence. I mean it from the bottom of my heart."

Charlie Manis, a former Ranger whose career included being part of the only National Guard Ranger infantry rifle company in combat during the Vietnam era, had the

female Soldiers stand up to be applauded, saying how important it is for male Soldiers to recognize their equal military service.

Kenji Thomas, former Ranger and current country music star, brought his guitar and played for the Soldiers to express his appreciation.

Spc. Lindsey Pierson, a Hampton, Iowa native, now a supply specialist with A Company, 24th Brigade Support Battalion, is a fan of Thomas' music and enjoyed every bit of the Ranger Tour, saying the songs and speeches "keep your motivation from falling."

"It really opens your eyes, it makes you appreciate what you have where you're at no matter what," Pierson said.

From the back of the room, the amount of camera flashes and outstretched cell phones filming video made it look like a red carpet event. But up close, it seemed more like a meeting between old friends.

The former Rangers were kind and took the time to talk to each and every person that approached them.

"Being an old [noncommissioned officer], the most important thing was taking care of my troops," said Howard "Mad Max" Mullen, retired Army Ranger master sergeant. "Even though I'm no longer in the military, I see these men and women and if there's anything I can do to support them, I'm all for it."

Mullen described the Soldiers at the camp as "highly motivated and very impressive."

"Everywhere I stopped here the Soldiers are vigilant," Mullen said. "They're alert and ready to roll, I like that."

Mullen, who has appeared in movies, is the owner and CEO of Tactical MilSim magazine, and has had three action figures created of him, showed no egotism or superiority toward the Soldiers. Instead, he had only pride for the people around him.

"I'll tell you what, just to get out here with you Soldiers, to walk amongst you, to share a meal with you, it really means a lot to me," Mullen said to the group of Soldiers. "There is no other place I'd rather be than right here in this moment with all of you."



# Raider Company Mortarmen Hone Their Skills one Shell at a Time

Story and photos by  
Spc. Jazz Burney

170th IBCT Public Affairs

COMBAT OUTPOST KHILAGAY, Afghanistan - Behind a seven-layer-high wall of sandbags, U.S. Army Soldiers in body armor and helmets gathered around a long metal cylinder.

"Fire mission! Deflection! Elevation! Charge two!" said a senior Soldier who tilted his head back to project his commands. His subordinates lifted and passed one 81 mm mortar shell from inside a nearby crate, to be dropped inside the mortar tube.

Thundering booms echoed around the combat outpost, as Soldiers with Mortar Platoon, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team conducted mortar live fire training here Sept. 3.

Soldiers launched more than 15 rounds from three separate mortars into a designated mortar range outside the outpost. During the exercise, Soldiers fired 60 mm,



A Company, 2-18 Infantry Soldiers conduct a mortar live fire exercise at Combat Outpost Khilagay Sept. 3.

81 mm, and 120 mm mortars for proficiency and maintenance of the weapons.

Throughout military history, militiamen used mortars to assist ground forces by providing indirect fire against their enemies.

"Our mortar systems are valuable assets for engaging and eliminating the enemy from long distances. Instead of shooting point blank, we can fire our rounds from many meters out," said Staff Sgt. Albert Brown, the Mortar Platoon sergeant with A Company.

Depending on the size of a mortar, Soldiers can fire a shell and hit a target more than 1.9 miles out or as close as 160 meters.

Because certain mortars are light enough to be carried, a mortar crew of three or more can accompany infantrymen in combat, said Spc. Christopher Hoffman, a Philadelphia, native, now a member of the mortar platoon.

A Company's Mortar Platoon consists of two sections known as One gun and Two gun. Though a team, Soldiers compete against each other during fire missions. This friendly rivalry improves the time it takes Sol-

diers to accurately land rounds on target, but bragging rights are on the line also.

"We encourage a little competition in the training of our men. An effective training event has to have an element competition in it," Brown said.

Like any skill, repetition builds confidence and the live fire exercise symbolized "being able to pedal and stay on the bike," said Pfc. Randall Long, a Richmond, Ind., now a mortarman with the platoon.

Leaders trained their Soldiers to perform the fire missions in the absence of their guidance, in case in battle a leader is taken out the fight.

"We have to train these guys to do our jobs," said Sgt. Jason Carroll, a Riverside, N.J., native, now the second gun squad leader with the platoon. "We also want to prepare them for when they are promoted and have a squad or platoon of their own," Carroll said.

Mortarmen of A Company also function as defense for the outpost, protecting the lives of their comrades from enemy combatants.

"Ideally if we are under fire, our team should be able to deliver immediate support fire within 15 minutes. This is why we train, so that we can eliminate our enemies with accurate steel on target," Carroll said.



A Company, 2-18 Infantry Soldiers conduct a mortar live fire exercise at Combat Outpost Khilagay Sept. 3.



# Bayonet Soldiers Take Backseat

## How 3-4 Infantry Worked Themselves Out of a Job

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Christopher Klutts



Afghan National Army Col. Fazl, a kandak commander at the Kabul Military Training Center, shows photos of his family to 2nd Lt. Jaymon Bell, a platoon leader and adviser with A Company, 3-4 Infantry at the Kabul Military Training Center Sept. 17.

KABUL, Afghanistan - Naqbullah, 22, said he left his job as a mechanic to join the Afghan National Army. He wore a piece of cloth on his left shoulder which marked him as a leader of fellow recruits. The Taliban have threatened his family twice since he left home for training in August.

Life for Naqbullah, in the infancy of his military career, is like a U.S. Army recruit's. He lives in an open bay. His sandals point toe-out under his bunk bed. He spends hours in formation. He jokes with his friends, all wearing the same uniform, void of patches and experience. He is taught how to shoot.

But, Naqbullah has an identity, U.S. Army Soldiers stand quietly in the wings during some of his training events. They talk to his toli first sergeant and commander, then leave. His drill instructor, cook, commander and comrades all hail from his country. The Americans watch from a far.

"I see the Americans and the others about every two to three days. Our instructors give us the training," he said.

"The others stay behind. They talk."

At the Kabul Military Training Center, Soldiers with 3rd Battalion, 4th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team advise Afghan leaders at the kandak and toli levels, equivalent to battalion and company respectively. U.S. platoon leaders and platoon sergeants partner with kandak commanders and sergeants major, while sergeants work with toli command teams.

Most mornings, lieutenants meet their Afghan counterparts at their kandak headquarters as sergeants make their rounds at training sites.

Getting to know a counterpart on a personal level is as important as providing sound advice, said 2nd Lt. Jaymon Bell, a Lebanon, Tenn., native, now a platoon leader and adviser with A Company, 3-4 Infantry.

Col. Fazl, a kandak commander and Bell's counterpart, lit up when Bell entered the room for a morning visit in September. Bell said he knew little professional worth would come of the meeting, but he wanted to stop in anyway. Fazl's kandak was only a few days from graduating a class of recruits, a slow time for

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Cpl. William Metz, a team leader and adviser with A Company, 3-4 Infantry, watches recruits return from a foot march.



Noncommissioned officers with 3-4 Infantry maintain a presence at the center's ranges. Here, Sgt. Robert Foutch watches as recruits practice movement techniques.



Soldiers at the center partner at the kandak and toli levels, battalion and company respectively. Here, Sgt. Michael McClure talks to a drill instructor and a logistics Soldier.



Afghan National Army recruits stand in formation during their graduation ceremony Sept. 22. More than 4,000 recruits graduate from the Kabul Military Training Center each month.

both Afghan trainers and U.S. advisers.

Fazl asked Bell about his recent mid-tour vacation to Australia. They talked about surfboards and beaches. Fazl showed Bell new pictures of his family, and Bell promised to share photos of his vacation during his next visit. When Fazl's older brother called during their meeting, the colonel waved his adviser over and insisted, behind a smile, that Bell speak to his brother. Bell spoke the little Dari he knew over the phone.

"He's really proud of the relationship he has with his mentor," Bell said after the meeting. His regular appearances and close relationship with Fazl have led to "less defensive" responses when he offers advice.

Like U.S. Army battalion commanders, Fazl and his peers at the training center are far removed from the training itself. They coordinate and plan. They resource and decide.

A recruit's drill instructor and toli command team however, are at the range, in the classroom and everywhere in between providing a constant presence. And at their side, at least part of the time, are their advisers.

Sgt. Adnan Tvrtkovic, a Des Moines, Iowa native, and the rest of 2nd Platoon, A Company, are adjusting to a new role at the training center. They've spent the majority of their deployment at a remote Afghan training site in Khost province.

The Soldiers were more directly involved in training at the site in Khost. They helped set up ranges, taught Afghan instructors how to zero their rifles and saw immediate results for their efforts, said Cpl. William Metz, a Clearwater, Fla., native, now a team leader and adviser with 2nd Platoon.

Kabul Military Training Center is different. An Afghan-led system guides a recruit from reception to graduation. The facility sees more than 4,000 recruits graduate each month. Tvrtkovic and his comrades play a supporting role, as opposed to Khost where they trained Soldiers and instructors at center stage.

Maintaining a presence and providing advice to improve the Afghan system is part of the "big picture that some guys don't get." When U.S. Soldiers leave, Afghans will have to train their own army, Tvrtkovic said.

"We're letting them know we are still here," he said acknowledging his platoon's new mission. "Its like we're pulling the anchor to the ship. Its off the ground but still in the water."



Soldiers with C Company, 40th Engineer Battalion deliver wheelchairs in Kaldar District, Afghanistan Sept. 28, 2011.



Spc. Trevor Morganflash with Command Security Detachment, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team gears up for tower guard.



Cpl. Geoffrey Cantley and Cpl. Cecil Lawrence of Bravo Company, 24th Brigade Support Battalion at the test fire pit before rolling out on a mission, Sept. 2011.



Soldiers with A Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team gather their equipment after a mock medical evacuation here Sept. 9, 2011.



Pfc. Jeremiah Blanchette with C Battery, 1-84 Field Artillery Battalion at the Bazaar in Ab Ghormac.

# 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](mailto:christopher.klutts@afghan.swa.army.mil)



1-84TH FA HQ



40TH EN HQ



24TH BSB HQ



2-18 IN BN HQ



3-4TH IN BN HQ



470TH BN HQ



HHC 170TH HQ



24TH BSB HQ



2-18 IN BN HQ



3-4TH IN BN HQ



From left Pfc. Davis, Sgt. Bridge, Spc. Bostick and Pvt. Riley participate in a 4-70th Armor change of command ceremony.



Pfc. Crow and Spc. Ofori, assigned to C Company, 3-4 Infantry, conduct reflexive fire drills.



# The Secrets to Saving Lives

Story and photos by  
Spc. Nathan Goodall

170th IBCT Public Affairs

CAMP MIKE SPANN, Afghanistan - At the age of 21, Pfc. Jacob Gulack is learning secrets that he will never be able to tell his family or friends. Ever.

Gulack works as an intelligence analyst, dissecting and putting together collected information alongside the rest of his team with 502nd Military Intelligence Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team.

The military intelligence world is teeming with classified material. The Department of Defense carefully screens Soldiers like Gulack before granting them top secret security clearances needed to access and gather it.

His career field is shrouded in mystery, and for good reason. If the information used by military intelligence Soldiers gets leaked, it could lead to the failure of any number of missions or result in the loss of countless lives.

That amount of power isn't normally placed in the hands of a 21-year-old American. In Clovis, Calif., Gulack's hometown, he isn't even old enough to rent a car. In Afghanistan, he's handling matters of national security.

Qualifying to be trusted with such secrets was a "mind-blowing" process. But after it was completed, Gulack said he understood how to handle sensitive material and what he could and could not do with it.

Like Gulack, other young Soldiers in the company understand the nature of their work requires them to operate on a very mature and serious level, said 1st Sgt. John Devine, the company's first sergeant.

The intelligence Soldiers main-



Pfc. Jacob Gulack, a Clovis, Calif. native, now an intelligence analyst with 502nd Military Intelligence Company, 40th Engineer Battalion, 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team, stands by the company guidon. Gulack's work contributes to the analysis of the area.

ly operate out of a fusion cell where bits of interconnected data, irrelevant when alone, are "fused" into a powerful mixture of intelligence.

"You can never get all the information yourself," Gulack said.

Gulack described the process like putting together a puzzle. Each person contributes their data and when everyone puts their pieces together it forms a clearer picture of what's going on in an area.

This snapshot can be used to assess mission capabilities, track enemy movement, predict upcoming events and potentially save lives.

Everyone on the team specializes

in some form of military intelligence. A human intelligence collector might gather information on a certain group of people and activity in an area, while an imagery analyst would identify types of structures and their locations.

Behind their vague job descriptions and top secret work, intelligence Soldiers are still human beings. The amount of pressure put on them to provide accurate information is considerably high, Devine said.

Most Soldiers handle the pressure by realizing the impact their work has on operations, even if no one outside the cell knows of their efforts, said Spc. Brice Bergen, a Friendly, Nev., native, now a human intelligence collector.

"This isn't the job for someone that's here if they want to get medals; this is the job for someone who legitimately just wants to help," Bergen said.

A lot of information 502nd personnel gather is used to help Soldiers they will never meet.

For Soldiers like Spc. Jayci Brower, a Huntsville, Ala., native, now a Russian cryptologic linguist with the cell, putting a face to the strangers she helps is all too easy.

"I think about my buddy Luke a lot. He was a Marine that I went through the Defense Language Institute with that was in my Russian class," Brower said.

The day that Brower deployed to Afghanistan, she received news that her friend Luke had been killed by an improvised explosive device. She said knowing her work can prevent the loss of Soldiers' lives has kept her focused and devoted to giving her best every day.

"I just think about how many other Lukes there could be here in our own brigade that I'm trying to watch over and that I'm trying to make sure stay safe," she said.



# An Equal Opportunity

## EO starts with the leader

By Sgt. 1st Class Sean Allison  
170th IBCT Equal Opportunity Adviser

I teamed up with equal opportunity advisers from 1st Cavalry Division to conduct the first Equal Opportunity Leaders Course in Regional Command North at Camp Marmal Sept. 5-10.

Nine Bayonet Soldiers were among the 27 who attended from Regional Commands North and East.

The Equal Opportunity Leaders' Course is designed to train promotable sergeants through first lieutenants in the skills needed to be a unit equal opportunity leader. The knowledge gained throughout the class enables them to be their unit's subject matter experts on the Army's Equal Opportunity policies and procedures.

"The skills learned in class are skills every leader should have in order to make the Army better as a

whole," said Staff Sgt. Christopher Ayers, the equal opportunity leader for A Company, 40th Engineer Battalion.

During the class, the leaders received training on subjects that ranged from the socialization process to conducting ethnic observances. They also identified types of discrimination within the Army. They participated in group activities that ranged from the identifying effects of the abuse of power and privilege within society, to the role that socialization and media play in

the building of prejudices throughout our ranks.

When asked about the over success of the class, Staff Sgt. Robert Walden, the equal opportunity leader for Service Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, said the class could benefit Soldiers at all levels. He added the class was an opportunity for every leader to learn, not only about the Army's equal opportunity program, but also about themselves.



Staff Sgt. Jonathon Brown, the A Company, 2nd Battalion, 18th Infantry Regiment explains his "badge" during an Equal Opportunity Leaders' Course. Photo by Master Sgt. George Parks

## Equal Opportunity Leaders From Class 11-09

Sgt. 1st Class Marcus Parker, HHC 2-18 Infantry

Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Porzio, HHC 2-18 Infantry

Staff Sgt. Jonathon Brown, A Co 2-18 Infantry

Staff Sgt. William Wood, B Co 2-18 Infantry

Staff Sgt. Joseph Terry, C Co 2-18 Infantry

Staff Sgt. Christopher Ayers, A Co 40th Engineers

Staff Sgt. Myer Sherman, A Btry 1-84 Field Artillery

Staff Sgt. Charles Dodson, C Btry 1-84 Field Artillery

Staff Sgt. Robert Waldon, SVC Btry 1-84 Field Artillery



# A Pause for Excellence

Story and photos by  
1st Lt. Jessie Moreno  
1-84 Field Artillery Battalion

FORWARD OPERATING BASE, Griffin -- A suspicious vehicle pulled up to the entry control point here. Wires hung from its door. The guards on duty that day were Pfc. Michael Ilacqua and Spc. Brandon Jones.



Command Sgt. Maj. William Wofford congratulates Pfc. Michael Ilacqua and Spc. Brandon Jones.

They stopped the vehicle, detained the driver, shut down the entry point and called for an explosive ordnance disposal team.

Fortunately for all who call FOB Griffin

home away from home," it was not rigged with explosives. If it had been, these two brave Soldiers would have stopped it at risk of their own lives. The routine duties of a guard can easily result in complacency; so without the dedication of the Soldiers in this article, the enemy would be able to exploit the protection measures that keep all personnel on FOB Griffin safe.

Command Sgt. Maj. William Wofford, the command sergeant major for 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment, recognized the two Soldiers for a job well done.

"I don't just give out coins to anybody, my coins are for excellence. Even though it turned out to be nothing, that kind of attention to detail and courage to do the right thing is what saves lives," Wofford said.



Command Sgt. Maj. William Wofford congratulates Pfc. Michael Ilacqua and Spc. Brandon Jones.

# Thunder Support

Story and photos by  
1st Lt. Jessie Moreno  
1-84 Field Artillery Battalion

On a hot September day in Afghanistan, Soldiers are packing and loading up the trucks again for what seems like the thousandth time. They're going out on the combat logistical patrol to Combat Outposts Ghormach and Qaisar to drop off supplies.



Scorpion Soldiers unload ammunition for resupply along with parts and mail at Combat Outpost Ghormach.

This is reality for the generally unrecognized Scorpion warriors of Service Battery, and they wouldn't have it any other way. Although the Soldiers do not meet with local leaders and conduct foot patrols, they do risk their lives every time they conduct a logistics patrol to transport supplies and per-



A Norwegian explosive ordnance disposal team and an RG-33 "school bus" were part of a patrol to Combat Outposts Ghormach and Qeysar.

sonnel to outlying combat outposts.

Whether bringing food, water, and mail to troops, bringing parts and equipment for mechanics, or escorting Soldiers and coalition forces to their destination; Service Battery answers the call.

To stress the importance of logistical support, Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower said, "You will not find it difficult to prove that battles, campaigns and even wars have been won or lost primarily because of logistics." Scorpion Soldiers travel out in rain, snow, mud, and sandstorms, never knowing what they might meet out on the road, because their fellow Soldiers need them and depend on them to complete their mission.



# Battalion Buddies for our Bayonet Kids

Story and photos by  
Rachel Dooley

Family Readiness Support Assistant

Why is the number 2,500 so significant? It's the approximate number of children that reside here in U.S. Army Garrison Baumholder, and a vast majority of these children have a parent who is currently deployed with the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team in Afghanistan.



During a deployment, children often don't know how to handle all the changes and uncertainties. High fives, hearing the words "I love you," and a simple hug from a cuddly friend can go a long way in helping children cope with difficult situations. That simple hug has come from the organization Operation Gratitude to our Bayonet Kids in the form of an amazing gift known as the "Battalion Buddy".

The Battalion Buddy Program was designed by Operation Gratitude in order to serve and encourage young children of deploying troops and offer some degree of comfort while their parent is far away serving their country. The Battalion Buddy stuffed animals made their debut at The Baumholder EXPO Sept. 10. The Buddies were greeted with open arms by an overwhelming amount of our little warriors. The 170th IBCT Rear Detachment team was on hand to make sure each child received their new special friend.

Each Battalion Buddy greeted each child with a simple message: "Hi Brave Young Warrior: I am your Battalion Buddy! I am here to cuddle and play with you while Mommy or

Daddy is away! And my friends at Operation Gratitude will be sending a little something to Mommy or Daddy, too!"

During the event, the children, parents, Soldiers and civilians showed their appreciation by signing page after page of an oversized "Thank You" card that will be sent to the amazing volunteers at Operation Gratitude. Some children showed off their writing skills by signing their name for the first time and others drew pictures to show their gratitude.

Mrs. Amaryllis Diaz, a 24th Brigade Support Battalion Family Readiness Support Assistant was delighted by the participation.

"Watching these children light up with smiles when they receive their new friend and then to watch them be so grateful in saying thank you is an amazing thing," Diaz said. "Military children are truly amazing in their character and strength and it makes me so proud."

The 170th IBCT could never thank Operation Gratitude enough for the amazing gift they have provided our children and the ongoing support they provide for our troops and their families on a daily basis.

Operation Gratitude





King prepares a sling-load net while Sgt. Heiter waits to place the Hell Fire missiles.

# Ammo All Over Afghanistan

Story and photos by  
Warrant Officer  
Mitchell Brannen

24th Brigade Support Battalion

CAMP MARMAL, Afghanistan -- It's the middle of the day on an open gravel field outside Masar-e Sharif, Afghanistan. Spc. Justin King waits for a helicopter to arrive to take an ammunition sling-load to faraway places. King and the other six members of the ammunition transfer holding point section are responsible for all ammunition and explosives in the 170th Infantry Brigade Combat Team battle space.

Adm. Lynde McCormick once said, "I am tempted to make a slightly exaggerated statement: the logistics is all of war-making except shooting the guns, releasing the bombs and firing the torpedoes."

Staff Sgt. Carl Craft of A Company, 24th Brigade Support Battalion, 170th IBCT and his team ensure those tasks can be accomplished. He leads the ammunition transfer holding point section.

Their task is to ensure that war fighters have the ordnance they need when they need it, and that it's properly stored and accounted for along the way. Since assuming this mission in February 2011, the holding point has received, stored and issued over \$237 million worth of ammunition.

Part of their workload at the ammunition support area is configuring ammunition loads on Air Force pallets. Ammunition is almost exclusively moved via air in order to mitigate the risk involved with hazardous material and



Staff Sgt. Craft with 24th BSB and Pfc. Hunter with A Co., 615th ASB look on as a sling-load is lifted into the air.



Staff Sgt. Craft, Spc. King and Spc. Russas inspect a Hell Fire missile.

to ensure timely delivery to outlying stations. The team has configured and successfully delivered ammo on over 23 different missions.

These Soldiers are on call 24 hours a day to support Soldiers in need of ammunition at a moment's notice. They provide the technical expertise needed to show supported units how to safely identify, store and maintain accountability of ammunition. The section actively sends out site assistant visit teams to remote combat outposts and forward operating bases with the 170th IBCT footprint to assist in any way possible.

The outposts and bases may be located far away from A Company, but are an integral part of their day-to-day operations.



Staff Sgt. Carl Craft receives guidance from a Molson Air representative as he hooks up the sling-load net.



# Chaplain's Corner

## Seasons

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

For everything there is a season. Much has transpired since last we spoke. Yet I am reminded that the more things change the more things stay the same. I do not want to speak in riddles or be glib with you. I simply want to express to you that nothing will last forever and for everything there is a season. We in the military are very intimate with changes when it comes to locations, jobs, homes, schools and friends.

So I am going to jump right into my Word of the Day

Ecclesiastes 3:1-15. A Time for Everything

"There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven.2 A time to give birth, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted.3 A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to tear down, and a time to build up.4 A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance.

5 A time to throw stones, and a time to gather stones; A time to embrace, and a time to shun embracing.6 A time to search, and a time to give up as lost; A time to keep, and a time to throw away.7 A time to tear apart, and a time to sew together; A time to be silent, and a time to speak.8 A time to love, and a time to hate; A time for war, and a time for peace.9 What profit is there to the worker from that in which he toils? 10 I have seen the task which God has given the sons of men with which to occupy themselves. 11 He has made everything appropriate in its time.

And Now the Chaplain's Thoughts  
God appoints the Times and Seasons

These words are words for every person, in every place, in every circumstance. God has appointed the times and sea-



Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Dunn delivers boxes of coffee to Soldiers at Camp Spann, Afghanistan Aug 2.

sons, the events of our lives, the happy and the sad, the easy and the difficult. The season of deployment will be met with the season or re-deployment and re-integration. PCS season creates not only the stress of packing and moving, but the joy of a new adventure, new places to explore and friends to make.

It is okay to be concerned as you witness political and social changes in your world take place, as you witness the economic hardship continue in our great nation or something closer to home; as you deal with deployments and the family dynamic shifts as a result.

Change can bring worry, but on the other hand, it can bring us hope. We all must remember God is in control.

God has got it all under control. God has a purpose in what He does even if we have a hard time understanding what that purpose is.

We live in a world of change. The evidence of change is all around us: Summer

becomes fall. Fall becomes winter. Winter becomes spring and spring becomes summer. The young become aged and the new becomes old, and boy am I feeling a little old today.

My computer runs slower (grooaaann!) and my body gets weaker - so it's time for more PT. Change, you will be wondering about where to go to church next year. You may be wondering where you will be stationed next year, where you will be leaving next year or even when will I find Mr./Mrs. Right.

But don't worry. God is in control. Change can be quite good. Change stretches you. It challenges you by causing you to grow through the trials and tribulations of life and deployments. Change keeps you from getting bored.

Part of my wedding vows to my bride Holly was simple that, "All I can promise you is that you will not be bored." Wow, has that turned out to be soooo true. We have lived and loved, hurt and cried, yelled and laughed and we have grown as individuals but more importantly we have grown as a couple.

Question for you, are you the same person you were 10 years ago? Five years ago? One year ago? Even though there are things that are painful and frustrating, each has its place. And as I say, that which doesn't kill you can (not will) make you stronger if you allow it to.

There is only one that that will never change God and His love you will never change. This means you can count on Him to always be there and to do the right thing.

And on a personal note I would like to mention a change that took place here in Afghanistan is my chaplain's assistant, Staff Sgt. Simon Williams, was promoted to sergeant first class. Now that's an outstanding change!

Much Love and Respect - Chaplain (Maj.) Steve Dunn, 170th IBCT.



Reaper Platoon Soldiers pose with a local security force near Abe Garmak.

# Reaper Platoon Partners Up

Story and photos by  
**Capt. Michael Angwin**  
*1-84 Field Artillery Battalion*

Last month, Soldiers of Reaper Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 84th Field Artillery Regiment had their toughest mission thus far this year: Conduct overnight operations at Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army checkpoints to train security forces and record activity at the checkpoints and their surrounding areas.

To do this, Reaper Soldiers moved from Forward Operating Base Griffin to Combat Outpost Ghormach for a month. The Soldiers wondered whether they were up to the challenge, as they were the last platoon to be established in 1-84 Field Artillery and executed most of their training in theater.

They took a week to prepare for the mission. They stocked up on extra supplies like ammunition, equipment and weapons; specifically the new M110 sniper rifle and M14 enhanced battle rifle. Both rifles are capable of firing 7.62mm long range ammunition, increasing the platoon's accuracy and allowing them to engage targets out to 800 meters.

Furthermore, for this mission the Soldiers received a special intelligence brief on the area from 1st Lt. Owen Ryckman, the battalion intelligence officer. During their movement to Combat Outpost Ghormach, they were escorted by Apache helicopters. The extra security was needed for all the equipment and ammunition they were carrying as they



Sgt. Henderson pulls security with the Afghan National Army while they hand out clothing to the Afghan Village

could not afford to get into a fire fight on the way there. The Apaches did their job well and the platoon arrived safely to the outpost.

The Reaper Platoon conducted operations with platoons from C Battery to familiarize them with the area and to recon key locations. Also during this time, they received intelligence briefs from their company intelligence support team. Once they were comfortable with the area, they began to execute missions on their own.

The first mission the Reaper Platoon executed was overnight at an Afghan National Police checkpoint. It was on top of a hill overlooking the village of Ab-e-Garmak, approximately four kilometers of unimproved road away from the outpost. During these missions they developed a sense of trust and respect for their vehi-



Capt. Angwin and Pfc. Weeks with children who received some donated clothing from the United States.



Capt. Angwin sits down and listens to the Afghan National Army Commander and Village Elders discuss key issues



Spc. Bihanta and Spc. Rice pull security and smile as children come up to receive clothing.

cles and their capabilities. Once inside the checkpoint they met with the commander and informed him of their overnight stay.

The police were extremely excited to have Soldiers stay overnight. They established a mini-command post, set up security and learned about the checkpoint and its commander. As night came, they prepared for the worst, but their greatest enemies were the temperature difference and harsh wind. In the morning they trained the police on important military tactics then said goodbye. The Soldiers learned many things from that first night including what to improve for their next mission.

As the Reaper Platoon executed more overnight stays at different checkpoints, they got better and better at it. In a span of 16 days the platoon executed seven overnight stays, ranging from 20-27 hours in sector. One morning, they were dropped off by Soldiers from C Battery, and stayed overnight without vehicles, allowing them

to go unnoticed by the villagers at the checkpoint.

The furthest overnight mission was at a checkpoint more than seven kilometers away from the outpost. Throughout the mission, Reaper Platoon Soldiers executed five joint patrols with Afghan security forces. They were able to meet key leaders in the area, build a lasting relationship with citizens, and discover the needs of the people.

On three occasions, they supplied clothing, slippers, and toys to Afghan security forces so they could take the lead of humanitarian efforts in conjunction with our primary mission. Afghans of all ages and genders came to the checkpoints to receive these items. The Reaper Platoon Soldiers were able to gather a greater knowledge of how the checkpoints operate by staying overnight.

Every night they ate dinner provided by the Afghan security forces at the

checkpoint; doing this allowed them to have long discussions as friends.

Every time the Reaper's returned to a checkpoint, the Afghan Soldiers immediately recognized their faces and were always happy to have them.

The month went by fast for the Reaper Platoon and they returned to Griffin. The Soldiers' confidence in their capabilities increased after performing these missions. The month-long mission made all the hard work and sacrifice of reaper platoon in the past months worthwhile, because they made a difference.

In closing from the Reaper Platoon, a dedication of this month long mission to Reaper 41 and Reaper 42. Staff Sgt. Michael Lammerts and Staff Sgt. Scott Burgess. The training they provided to the Soldiers showed on the checkpoints. Every quiet moment in the cold night they were thought of, wishing they were there.

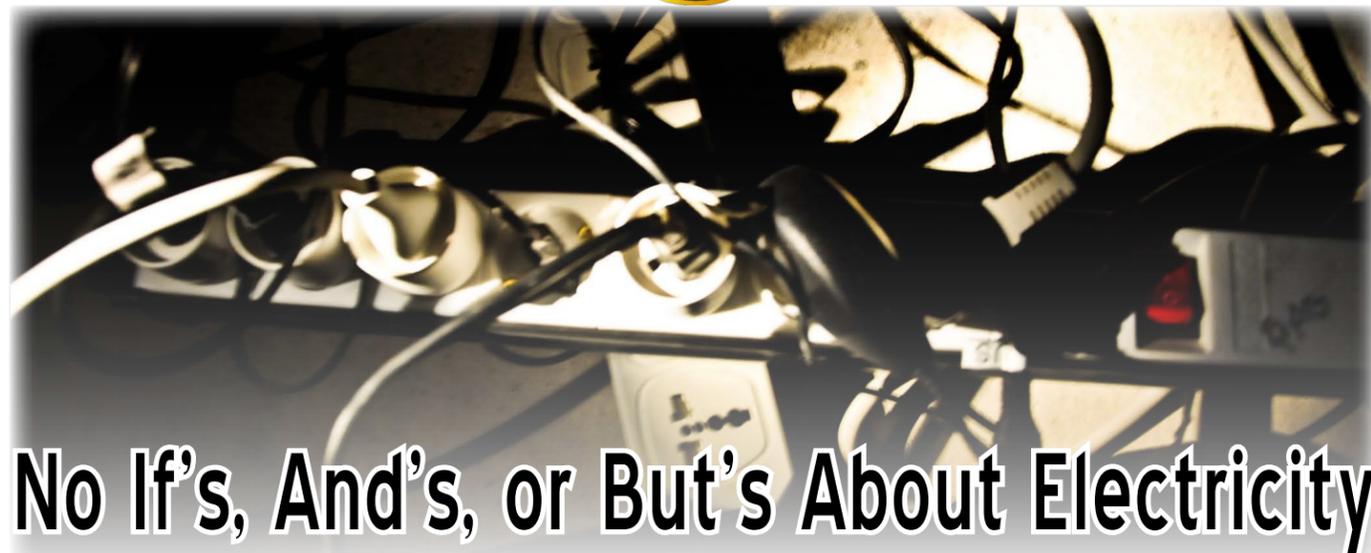
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# No If's, And's, or But's About Electricity

**Story by Kevin Glapion**  
*Brigade Safety Manager*

Most electrical fatalities occur at voltages of less than 500 volts, and a large number of those occur on 115-volt circuits and equipment. Those voltages are most likely to cause ventricular fibrillation (irregular, rapid contractions of the muscle fibers of the heart that do not respond to cardiopulmonary resuscitation). Higher voltages are less likely to cause this deadly condition, but they can cause more severe burning. And, shocks that are not severe enough to electrocute can still result in death because of their effect on muscles i.e., a person who is mildly shocked can fall to their death from a ladder or scaffold. Needless to say, all types of electrical shock must be avoided.

Improper grounding frequently results in shocks from equipment having internal leakage to its enclosure. A person touching the equipment and structural steel, piping, or earth provides a path for ground current. This is likely to start fibrillation, or the "no-let-go" effect of tightening the grip, which allows more current to flow. None of this would happen if the wiring and the tool were properly grounded.

Principal contributors are wetness of equipment and surroundings, working on concrete floors or on grades or structural steel. But the largest contributor is the widespread use of unauthorized electrical adapters such as surge protectors, transformers and temporary wiring.

In addition to personal electrocutions,

thousands of fires result from surge protectors transformers and temporary wiring every year. Follow these suggestions to help prevent a possible fire from beginning:

- Use only surge protectors and transformers that have an internal circuit breaker. These units will trip the breaker to prevent overheating if a power strip is overloaded or shorted.
- Surge protectors, power strips, or transformers are not a substitute for permanent wiring.
- If at any time the surge protector or transformer is hot to the touch remove and replace the unit. The electrical load for the strip should be evaluated for overloading.
- At no time should a surge protector or transformer be placed in a situation that will allow it to be damaged or exposed to a moist environment.
- Any surge protector or transformer that does not have an internal circuit breaker, has frayed wires, or has a unit that is not working properly, should be replaced immediately.
- Do not plug a surge protector into an existing surge protector. This practice is called "daisy chaining" or "piggy backing" and can lead to serious problems.
- All surge protectors and transformer need to be Underwriters Laboratory (UL), Canadian Standards Association (CSA) or Conformance European (CE) approved. The UL, CSA or CE label must never be re-

moved from the unit. On the underside of the casing, there should be the manufacturer's name and the name of the testing lab where the unit was tested.

- There should only be one surge protector or transformer plugged into a single duplex electrical outlet.
- Do not place a surge protector or transformer in any area where the unit would be covered with carpet, furniture, or any other item that will limit or prevent air circulation.
- Do not staple, tack or tape a surge protector or transformer power cord.
- Visually inspect all surge protectors and transformers on a regular basis to ensure they are not damaged or show signs of degradation. During the visual inspection, ensure the plug is fully engaged in its respective outlets.
- When the surge protector or transformer is not in use, unplug or turn off the unit.
- The surge protector should always have either a polarized plug with one of the blades being larger than the other, or a three-prong grounded plug. Never use a three to two prong adapter to power the unit.
- Never plug medical equipment into a surge protector or transformer unless it is approved for this purpose.

**Safety is  
NO accident!!!**



# Reporting Rabies Saves Lives

**By Capt. Stephen Harper**  
*170th IBCT Brigade Surgeon*

Recently three personnel at Deh Dadi II, none of them from the 170th IBCT, were bit by a dog. That dog, pictured below, has tested positive for the rabies virus.



Rabies, a viral disease that infects the central nervous system, is prevalent in Afghanistan. Current estimates are that 1200 Afghan civilians die every year from rabies. While infection with the rabies virus is essentially 100% fatal without treatment, it is also nearly 100% preventable with post exposure vaccination within a few days of a exposure.

The rabies virus is transmitted from the saliva of warm blooded animals, such as dogs, cats, bats and other mammals.

The most common route of entry is from a bite; however any saliva infected with rabies that comes into contact with a pre-existing break in the skin or mucus membranes can transmit the rabies virus. So even letting a dog lick your hand may transmit the rabies virus under certain conditions. While non bite transmission is certainly an uncommon way to be infected with rabies, it does present a theoretical risk, especially in areas with a high prevalence of the disease such as Afghanistan.

In August of this year, a U.S. Soldier contracted the rabies virus while deployed to Afghanistan and died months after he redeployed. It is suspected that he was bit on deployment about a year before showing any signs and symptoms of the disease. Investigation into the treatment that he received or did not is ongoing.

Since rabies is almost 100% preventable if given the appropriate series of vaccinations, any exposure that you are concerned about should be treated immediately. The vaccination requires at least five injections over the course of two weeks, but once again as I cannot stress this enough, proper treatment is nearly 100% effective at preventing the



disease. The disease may take several months after exposure to start developing signs and symptoms. The most common symptoms are neurologic; weakness, numbness, inability to talk or swallow, acting strangely, vomiting and headaches. However once these symptoms develop, the chance of survival is low so don't let your feeling fine after a bite reassure you that you should not be treated.

Strategies to limit your personal rabies risk include not feeding or housing dogs and cats as pets and avoiding any contact with local animals. If you are bit, you must seek medical attention immediately. All three personnel from Deh Dadi II are getting the appropriate series of vaccinations and will be fine.

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