



# MAJ NESTOR and CSM SCOTT



Happy Valentine's Day to the Families and Friends of the Phoenix Battalion! It is very exciting to be entering February – although personally speaking, this month marks the end to both the college and professional football seasons. But hey, we are over the hump now and on the downside of a year-long deployment. Yes, there is still a tremendous amount of work ahead of us, but it still feels good to know that our time remaining in country is less than the time we have already spent here. Some of you may be wondering why the Battalion XO is writing the Commander's comments to this month's newsletter. As I write this Phoenix 6 is heading back this way after some much deserved leave. As the saying goes: "when the cat is away the mice will play."

The month of January has provided a great opportunity for the leaders of the Battalion to reflect on the great accomplishments that your husbands and wives, your sons and daughters have made under some of the most stressful and demands conditions here in Afghanistan. I have had the pleasure of reading the Battalion's award submissions for our deployment and while it is a lot of reading, it certainly does bring a smile to my face to be reminded of why we are here and what we have accomplished in the first half of the deployment. We continue to provide a better way of life for the Afghan populace; forging strong relationships with our Afghan National Security Forces has been the cornerstone to our successes and has set the conditions for a more secure environment. This increased security is the key to set the conditions for the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in providing governance and development to the Afghan people. Either directly through the training of the Afghan National Police or indirectly by providing communication support, intelligence support, logistics support or the dreaded "staff work", your loved ones have flourished. I continually tip my hat to the wonderful accomplishments we have made so far this deployment – it truly makes me proud to be a member of the Phoenix Battalion!

Finally, I wanted to end with two exciting thoughts. First, and perhaps most exciting, the Battalion staff has started planning for our redeployment back to you all. While there are more questions than answers right now, it is exciting to know that the discussions and planning have begun. Second, thank you so much for your continued love and support of our Soldiers – your letters, emails, phone conversations, and packages make a difference in our lives every day! Thank you for everything you have done and continue to do for your loved ones!

PHOENIX – FROM THE FLAMES!!!

Very Respectfully,

MAJ Don Nestor

Families and friends of Task Force Phoenix, I hope all is well and the New Year is treating you all to a great fresh start.

In the Battalion we have had to make several 1SG moves due to time restrictions, giving other 1SG's the opportunity to excel. We say good bye to 1SG Frank Mosher and welcome 1SG Stephen Botteicher to the Headhunter team. We will also be changing out the Renegade team on the first of March due to 1SG Cameron's selection to attend the Sergeants Major Academy. His replacement will be 1SG Jones. As we say, we keep rolling along and don't miss a step even with these types of changes. I appreciate everything these 1SG's did for the Phoenix Battalion and what they will continue to do for the Raider Brigade.

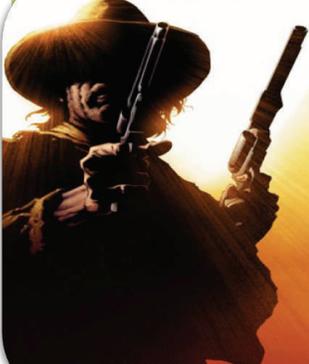
We are at the half way mark, eager to set our new mission set for the summer in motion. There's never a dull moment in this city. Our troopers are making it better every day and it's obvious the people of Kandahar City appreciate our efforts.

I send all of you my thanks for your support of your Soldier and all Soldiers' of Task Force Phoenix. We will be on our way home before you know it. Thank you for your time and support.

God Bless,

Phoenix 7

HHD, 1<sup>ST</sup> BCT, 4<sup>TH</sup> ID(M)



# RENEGADES



## Renegade News

Volume II, Issue 2

February 2011

US Army

### PSD, Punishers

For the Soldiers of the Raider-West PSD the New Year brings new resolutions, continuing dedicated military service, and for a select few new and wonderful bundles of Joy.

Throughout this year the PSD will welcome at least 3 new babies to its close knit and ever growing Family. Congratulations to those Families and we welcome the new babies to our Family with open arms. Versatility is a key element to any PSD when conducting missions. LTC David Bottcher along with his driver, SGT Chance Prewitt, and his

gunner, SGT Peter Herold, flew to Chaghcharan to conduct battlefield



Camp Stone, Herat, Afghanistan From L-R, MSG Kerry Bassett, SGT Chance Prewitt, SGT Bryce "Doc" Crawford, and LTC David Bottcher, prepare a M1151 HMMWV for shipment

conducted two ground missions to the 4<sup>th</sup> Afghanistan Border Patrol to secure vehicles that were later used to transport the Lithuanians in and around Chaghcharan. Building strong relationships within

your area of responsibility is one of the things that

circulation with the Lithuanian forces occupying in that area. During the mission they conducted vehicle maintenance and repaired some of the vehicles that were given to the Lithuanians to help them conduct their missions in their area of responsibility. The PSD also

makes any leader great and LTC Bottcher works really hard to improve these relationships as well as improving the capabilities of our allies who are helping Afghanistan improve. While continuing to run daily missions the PSD transitioned from an

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Camp Stone, Herat, Afghanistan from front to back, SPC Matthew Flores, SPC Daniel Beck, PFC Lucas Branchaud, and SGT Brendan Fossum relaxing in the dayroom.

## PSD Continued

older MRAP vehicle called a Cougar to the Multipurpose All-Terrain Vehicle (M-ATV), two of which are equipped with state of the art Common Remotely Operated Weapon Systems (CROWS). Once the M-ATV's arrived the PSD had them fully operational within two days of receiving them. The M-ATV's have enabled the PSD to conduct the battle-

field circulation missions for LTC Bothercher with ease, allowing the PSD to enter areas that they could not previously due to terrain. The M-ATVs simply go places the Cougars could not, have better off road maneuverability and handling, and are more comfortable. Part of keeping one's sanity during a deployment means tak-

ing advantage of downtime no matter how much or how little. Of any platoon the Raider-West PSD has the lap of luxury completely at their disposal. The platoon dayroom continues to be a work in progress and is now equipped with four leather couches, thanks to LTC Bothercher, a flat screen television, and an X-Box 360.

## S1

It is a New Year, and the beat goes on in the Brigade S1. Activity in the shop has increased substantially as S1 continues to process awards for the entire Brigade. The Soldiers in the Brigade S1 have obtained knowledge in many fields in which they may not have been accustomed to prior to deployment. Proficiency in our line of work is the key to success, and there is no room for error because S1 is entrusted to have accurate information when it comes to taking care of Soldiers. Being efficient is simply

what S1 does best. One of the things that the Brigade S1 decided to do was donate money and participate in a run on January 1<sup>st</sup>, 2011 to help the Wounded Warrior Project. The donations went to purchase new shoes for wounded Warriors in Afghanistan throughout the entire year of 2011. PFC Lexa Pagan led the way in making sure that the Soldiers of the S1 Section were signed up. The morning of the 1<sup>st</sup> turned out to be one of the colder mornings in Afghanistan so far this de-

ployment, and MAJ Jimmy Hamner showed up asking for coffee - before the run! It was inspiring for the Soldiers to come together as a shop and participate for a cause that they felt was bigger than them. The run turned out to be a lot of fun with over 600 individuals signing up and running together in the cold of the New Year's morning. CW2 Jennifer Simmons was promoted to CW2 this month, so now the section can all get away with actually calling her Chief, not

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KAF Afghanistan, Clockwise from top, MAJ Jimmy Hamner, SPC Robert Wygal, CW2 Jennifer Simmons, SSG Shana Dymeck, PFC Lexa Pagan, SGT Paul Adams holding their numbers from the Wounded Warrior Run

### S6 at KAF

Once the equipment comes in someone needs to get the equipment in place and this does not always come easy! The S6 section meets the challenge! TF Raider S6 section is reaching new heights to get comms up and signals received. When it comes to switches needing to

be replaced, new lines run, or configured, S6 is a beast! Communications, be it radios, anti-IED systems, networking printers, networking computers, faxes, scanners or satellites and antennas, the S6 Section is always ready to meet the challenge. SFC Ponce Crosier and SGT Paul

King are busy at work getting AFN for the entertainment and relaxation of Soldiers. SGT King has also been working in the server room, switching out equipment that is now out of date or needs to be serviced. This task is easier said than done as it is

*(Continued on page 4)*



KAF, Afghanistan, SGT Paul King holding a switch that he had just finished replacing.

### S1 Continued

that it ever stopped them before. She also led the way in establishing a new NIPR portal for the Brigade's Human Resources sections. This has been a wonderful asset for the Battalions to obtain information on personnel strength, awards, standard operating procedures, actions and other Human Resources information. On the lighter side of things, the lingo of the Brigade S1 has never been hotter. MSG Michael Newton has coined the term, "BISMS," which is the new word for Bronze

Star Medal submissions. Thanks to 1SG Cameron, "the new hotness," is the latest catchphrase that Brigade S1 has worked into nearly everything they do. When you ask SPC Robert Wygal what he thinks about the Brigade S1's lingo his response is simple - "Word." Also, the S1 Section wishes SSG Setedria Davis and SPC Sarah Jones, who both celebrated birthdays since the last newsletter, a happy birthday. So if you see them make sure to give them your birthday wishes! Overall, the section

has experienced a lot of growing and they are fully capable of handling anything that is put in their path. Change happens every day but with superb leadership in not only the Brigade S1, but in HHD, they will continue to accomplish the mission daily. In closing, the S1 Section wishes that everyone's New Year is off to a great start.



KAF, Afghanistan, SPC Sarah Jones

### S6 at KAF Continued



KAF, Afghanistan, SGT Ruth Almeida takes a break from work and relaxes by doing pull-ups

long and tedious. Once he connects all devices to a replacement switch, it makes a lot of end-users happy with increased computer speed. And even though SGT King is a Computer Analyst he was been working with radio communications equipment and has been identifying broken or miss-

ing parts that need to be ordered. Communication is a key to the Brigade Staff, and maintaining it keeps morale high allowing Soldiers to communicate with Family and friends. SGT Ruth Almeida is constantly leading by example, working out and staying fit. A proud mother of two, she still can smoke her

PT Test. She always makes time to exercise even after a long day at work. CW2 James Raby is also known for his extreme workout sessions and his strict diet. Don't get caught eating junk food around him or he could mistake you for a punching bag!

### HHD at Camp Stone

The month of January held a dual significance for HHD West, as it marked the new year of 2011, and the half way point of the deployment. Unlike the last deployment to Iraq, Afghanistan is very different in the winter months as opposed to the warm, sunny weather of July when we all left Fort Carson. This month brought the first snow that accumulated around five inches, and could be seen on the ground for three days. Soldiers have been bundled up, as the breeze has been bone chilling cold. The only downside was that they didn't get a snow day out of

it. HHD received a new non-commissioned officer, as SGT Danny Cagle was promoted



Camp Stone, Herat, Afghanistan, LTC David Bottcher awards SPC Tessie-Rose Camacho the Army Achievement Medal

to Sergeant on January 1<sup>st</sup>. SPC Tessie-Rose Camacho was recognized for excellence this month, and presented with the Army Achievement Medal for her hard work supporting the Soldiers out here and

ensuring the equipment is properly accounted for. SPC Camacho has been instrumental in the issue and turn in of vehicles and equipment for HHD West. The winter weather has not stopped projects from progressing on Camp Stone, as pipes have been emplaced to drain the black/grey water from the dining facility to the sewage system. Digging is ongoing to run pipes to connect the north well to the reservoir bladders and the new laundry facility which will significantly increase the amount of water available to Soldiers.



Camp Stone, Herat, Afghanistan, LTC David Bottcher after promoting SGT Danny Cagle, congratulates him for earning his new rank.

**ADAM/BAE**

While in Kandahar City the ADAM/BAE team has shown they are a great asset to the Brigade. With limited assets the team continues to shine on a daily basis. CW2 Steven Colburn, SSG Felix Camacho, SSG Tyler Woodward, and SPC Dan Wade have contributed a

lot of hours and energy into making sure the Brigade airspace is safe for all. At the helicopter landing zone CPL Dennis Murphy, SPC Jose Padilla, and PFC Christopher Kline have ensured all passengers have all of the proper information to get where they need to go in a timely manner. MAJ Ken Lizotte and SFC Andrew Stevens keep the section running efficiently by providing the planning and guidance

needed to complete the mission. The team would like to thank all of those Family members that have been sending “care packages” to



CNS, Kandahar City Afghanistan, a CH-47 Chinook helicopter preparing to take off from the helicopter landing zone

our team. They guarantee that none of the care packages are going to waste. One can never have too much candy, coffee, or snacks. Life at Camp Nathan Smith does not change much from day to day but the team has high spirits at all times. As the back side of the deployment has begun the team is thankful for such a successful first half. The team

would also like the Family members to know that they miss and enjoy hearing from their loved ones on a regular basis. Most members of the

ADAM/BAE team are Kansas City Chiefs fans so there were some disappointed Soldiers but we continue to drive on. Football is a great release but the time dif-

ference is a bit of a challenge. The team would like to thank CPT Jonathan Romaneski for his great contributions to team ADAM/BAE for the last six months, and wish him the best of luck at 1-2 Aviation back at Fort Carson as a Company Commander. He will be greatly missed but has a great opportunity.



CNS, Kandahar City Afghanistan, A Blackhawk MEDEVAC helicopter touches down at the helicopter landing zone



CNS, Kandahar City Afghanistan, The welcome sign at the CNS helicopter landing zone



Kandahar City, Afghanistan, L-R, CPTs Cory Tuck from the Legal Section and Mike Parks, Commander of C Co, 1STB

## Legal

Often people wonder what does the legal section do? Or is a member of the Judge Advocate General Corp (JAG) like the T.V. show that shares the same acronym? To answer these questions once and for all....no it is nothing like the show. The JAG Corp was established in 1775 by George Washington, making the JAG Corps the oldest law firm in the nation. The 1BCT, 4ID Legal Section performs a wide-range of duties that include military law, fiscal law, legal assistance, international law, operational law and claims — both in the U.S. and while deployed. The 1BCT Legal Section is comprised of three Judge Advocates who are licensed attorneys and 9 paralegals of which

six are assigned to a battalion. The paralegals are the backbone of the JAG Corp and play an important function for the battalion by ensuring that legal actions are properly and timely processed. SPC Jessica Lipe is the paralegal for Special Troops Battalion. SPC Lipe is not only a paralegal but she is also a wife and mother. SPC Lipe is originally from Southern California, she moved to Colorado Springs with her family, and that is where she met her husband, Chris. After spending a few years as an Army spouse, SPC Lipe joined the Army in 2007. Her duty assignments with her husband include Fort Hood, TX, Iraq, and Fort Carson, CO. SPC Lipe and her husband have one child Aidan.

Aidan is 11 months old and is as cute as a button. He loves being with his Daddy and grandparents in Colorado Springs while his mom is deployed to Afghanistan. It's definitely hard to be away, but SPC Lipe posts pictures of her family in her workspace to keep them close in thought. In addition to working on all STB legal actions, SPC Lipe is the lead paralegal for Camp Nathan Smith's Foreign Claims mission. Once a week, local nationals come to the front gate and seeking compensation for property damage caused by US Forces. Claims is an extremely challenging and frustrating mission however, SPC Lipe handles it like a professional.



Camp Stone, Herat, Afghanistan, (L-R) CPT Jason Genard and 1SG Eric Cameron

## Letter from the 1SG (Renegade 7)

To The Renegade Family,  
This will be the last installment of my bi-monthly articles for the newspaper. The big Army has decided it is time for me to move on. After being a 1SG in this Brigade for 48 months, and having the distinct

privilege of being the 1SG for your loved ones for the last 20 months, I have much to be thankful for. When I was told I was taking over the Renegade Company, I have to say, I received the news with dread. In almost 20 years of being in the

Army, I had never been on a staff, nor had I ever worked with females. Without a doubt I was a scared little Infantry guy. Even worse, I was coming out of an Infantry Company where I had spent plenty of time yelling

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**Letter from the 1SG (Renegade 7) Continued**

and screaming at like minded individuals for whatever I felt like yelling and screaming about. Now 20 months later I can reflect on the time I have spent here, and realize just how much we have grown as a Company, and I have grown as an individual. Because of the outstanding support I have received from the Senior NCO's in this Company, I was able to be successful. Each Senior NCO took the time to teach me what they did, so that I was able to see how each section was integrated into the fight. Without their knowledge to fall back on I would have been lost. They made my transition an easy one. I will never be able to thank them enough for what they did for me. My junior NCOs continue to amaze me. These young NCOs are the true future of the Army, and the backbone of the NCO Corp. Though I tried to impart as much knowledge on them as I could, many of them already had a strong

base that was at an extremely high level. I rest assured knowing that the future of the Raider Brigade is secure in these young NCOs hands. They will continue the fine traditions of discipline, respect and honor well into the future. I know with their continued support we have left the Brigade better



Camp Stone, Herat, Afghanistan (L-R) 1SG Eric Cameron and SSG Karen Grace

than we found it. Of course, I would be remised if I did not mention the enlisted Soldiers. Despite common belief, these are the kids that make the Brigade run. Without them, we would be nowhere. They constantly amaze me with the ideas they come up, and the capabilities they demonstrate on a day to day basis. These Soldiers are the complete package, and without a doubt

make the future seem bright for the Army. Finally, I would like to thank you, the Family members, for allowing me to serve with your Soldiers. Your support through the last 20 months is greatly appreciated. I know it was hard being without your Soldier, as we went through Raider Blitz, JRTC and all the numerous ranges. At the end of the day, there is not a single Soldier who can be successful without the love and support of a Family. You all have filled that role to completion. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve with each and every one of you. You all will be missed. Hopefully the Army allows me the privilege to serve with your Soldier again down the road. As I hand off the reins of the Company, there is no doubt in my mind that 1SG Jones will continue to lead the Renegades to success. I wish him and all the Renegades the best for the future. RAIDERS! RENEGADES!



Camp Stone, Afghanistan, (L-R), SGT John Nelson, 1SG Eric Cameron and PFC Steven Travers



Camp Stone, Herat, Afghanistan, entrance to the Camp Stone Mayor Cell



CNS, Kandahar city, Afghanistan, SSG Ronald Webb participates in the S2 Bench Press Competition

### S2 and FECC Bench Press

It was a nice day here on Camp Nathan Smith. The sun was shining; the birds were singing, and the excitement of competition was in the air. Soon the two strongest members of the S2 and FECC sections, Jay Bitterman and Rich Requinton, go head to head in the final contest of might to determine the uncontested winner of the 225 Bench Press Rep Competition. Compared to KAF Camp Nathan Smith is a little bit more limited when it comes to MWR facilities, so the Soldiers soon turned to the common military goal of physical fitness. It started out innocent enough with a challenge from one Soldier to another, "I bet I can push up more than you." No less than two weeks later more than half the S2 shop and some of the FECC were participating in the bench press com-

petition. The Soldiers created a scoreboard and divided themselves into weight divisions. The men have divisions based on the amount of weight they lift of 250, 300, and 400 pounds. The women have 100 pound and

consists of all Soldiers with MAJ James Snyder tied with CW2 Dwight Rhodes at 286, and SGT Keith Pope at 270. The Woman's Division at 135 pounds is led by PFC Jennifer Matikonis, and the 100 pound Division is led

by SSG Shannon Truitt and SGT Christina Smith who are tied. Soon after the competition began the efforts of Big Ben crushed the rest of the



CNS, Kandahar city, SGT Keith Pop participating in the S2 Bench Press Competition

Soldiers so a new competition was devised. Soldiers had to complete as many reps with 225 pounds as possible. This variation soon took a life of its own with most every competitor trying their hardest to win. Jay and Rich, tied and with 15 reps each. The leading Soldiers of the competition are SSG Curtis Langley with 14 reps and SSG Webb with 12 reps. The compe-

135 pound divisions. Topping the men's division was WO1 Benjamin "Big Ben" Castellanos stands alone with 405 pound with the next competitor Jay Bitterman at 330 pounds. The Male Soldiers leading the 300 pound division are SSG Curtis Langley at 305, SSG Ronald Webb at 300 and SSG Luis Rosa at 300. The Male 250 Division



CNS, Kandahar city, Afghanistan, The Gym at CNS includes a short track shown to the left

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## S4

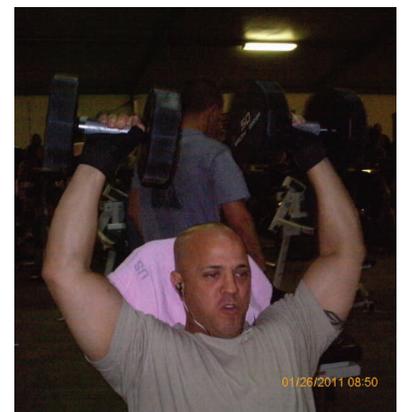
The changing of the year has been a welcomed sight as it signifies the halfway point in the deployment. The S4 Section continued to stay busy and make headway by outfitting Raider Soldiers with their requirements. The S4 Section continues to support the war-fighter and provide them with any needed supplies and equipment. With half the deployment complete the S4 Section's focus has begun to shift towards redeployment. The wheels are in motion with Soldiers attending classes geared towards resetting equipment and scheduling movement of that equipment back to Fort Carson. Many of the Soldiers in the section committed to a New Year's resolution and so far are sticking to it. SSG Katherine Corcoran and SGT Christopher Russell decided to give up smoking and smokeless tobacco respectively and as

the month comes to an end have stuck to their pledge. Many others have decided to get healthy and start going to the gym. Several company commanders have changed command, so the workload for the initiation of Financial Liability Investigations of Property Loss has increased, keeping SPC Jennifer Angelilli busy for the next few months. The Food Service Team is working hard to maintain the war-fighter with the adequate cooking equipment allowing them to maintain focus on the mission at hand. The Contracting Team continues to work hard providing necessary commodities and services to the Soldiers in the field. CPT Shadrika Witherspoon recently departed for some much needed R&R leaving the team in the very capable hands of SGT Russell. PBO continues to coach and mentor company commanders, supply sergeants

and supply specialists on the importance of supply discipline and supply accountability. Maintaining accountability of Army property during this deployment has been a challenge but with guidance and mentorship of WO1 Ulises Sepulveda and his crew, the Brigade is doing a good job. The Mobility Team has really ramped up the efforts by planning and preparing for our redeployment. CW2 Peter Cornog and SFC Shawn Payton are working tirelessly to ensure property required to return to Fort Carson is ready to go. The best news of the month is the pending promotion of SPC Angelilli. She made the cut-off for points and on February 1<sup>st</sup> will be promoted to SGT. She has worked hard to reach this goal and it is well deserved.



KAF, Afghanistan, demolition of these structures will allow the S4 Section to construct replacements that will adequately shelter units' supplies..



KAF, Afghanistan, MSG Mark Mansfield lifting weights at the US Gym



US Army



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## S2 and FECC

tition has engulfed almost all of the S2 and FECC without regard to job title or age. With competition growing among the Soldiers here at CNS, new short term goals have developed, which have enabled Soldiers to complete the deployment with greater

ease. Although loved ones are truly important having nothing but time to think about them can be distressing so having something like this competition gives the impression that time is moving faster. Not only are they becoming stronger and more physically fit,

they are having fun and enjoying the time spent with one-another away from mission essential duties and responsibilities. New friends are being made and relationships among the Soldiers are getting stronger due this creative and fun competition.



CNS, Kandahar city, SGT Keith Pop participating in the S2 Bench Press Competition

## **HHC is off to a great 2011!**

*By SFC Muriel "Hunter 3"; 1LT Adams "Thunderbird 6"; 1LT Vick "Rampage 6"; 1LT Lebo "Gambit 6"*

### **Headquarters Platoon "Hunters"**

January has been another busy month for the HQ Platoon. We continue with our mission handling all life support on Camp Nathan Smith. As the camp continues to grow and expand we are faced with daily challenges for a camp that was originally built to house about 400 Canadian Soldiers and civilians. We continue to strive to make this camp a better place for us and future Soldiers. Our new counterpart DYNCORP International has made things a lot easier on us.

The Soldiers continue to exceed expectations, no matter what the tasking is. They always seem to stay motivated, continue to work hard and still manage to have some fun playing Call of Duty when time presents itself. SGT Lesly has been recommended to attend the February promotion board for the rank of Staff Sergeant. We wish him luck! We also want to say congratulations to SGT Lesly and his wife on their 10 year anniversary.

To all our friends and Family we miss you all, stay strong. This deployment is half way through and we will be home soon!

Hunter 3

### **Support Platoon "Thunderbirds"**

Happy Groundhog Day from the Thunderbirds! A lot of people say that being deployed is like Groundhog Day, the same thing over and over again for a year. One platoon that definitely cannot say that, though, is the Support Platoon. This month the Thunderbirds saw an even more diverse mission set than usual, and as always your Soldiers rose to the challenge and exceeded everyone's expectations.

For about a week in January, Support Platoon was tasked to cover down on Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team (KPRT) missions in addition to our normal resupply missions. Like the true professionals they are, every Soldier stepped up to man two patrols simultaneously and we successfully accomplished ten missions in just five days. Soldiers took on new leadership roles, delivered more supplies with less personnel, completed dismount patrols to check the progress of marketplaces in Kandahar City, provided security for Canadian police to mentor prison guards at a municipal prison and ensured eight different locations remained supplied with fuel, water, food and heat. Every Soldier in the platoon rose to the challenge, and proved yet again that this platoon is capable of meeting any challenge with professionalism and excellence!

We are now back to our normal mission set and are focusing on preparing every Specialist in the platoon for the NCO board while we continue to perform several combat missions. This week the combat and cargo sections delivered a shower, latrine and sink trailer to a small checkpoint, enabling those Soldiers to take real showers at their own checkpoint for the first time since they arrived. The mechanics continue to keep over 90 vehicles mission capable, truly making the battalion run! The cooks have done an outstanding job facilitating transition of both DFACs to contracted support, and the water

purifiers' hard work made sure the DFACs and showers had water, even when a part broke on the water truck. The generator mechanics and fuelers have had a particularly busy month as Camp Nathan Smith switches from a Canadian power system to a more efficient, consolidated power generation system. As always, they work around the clock to make sure our generators are functioning properly and are full of fuel to keep Soldiers warm, both at Camp Nathan Smith and around the battlespace.

With everything else going on this month, we also found time to celebrate our platoon medic's promotion. Congratulations, PFC Montez!

Thank you for your continued support of our platoon. Please continue to let your Soldiers know just how proud you are of them. They consistently exceed everyone's expectations with their hard work, flexibility and willingness to do whatever it takes to accomplish their mission. We are at the halfway point in the deployment, and I look forward to seeing what the next six months will bring! Your Soldiers truly are incredible men and women, and I couldn't be more proud of the Thunderbirds.

Thunderbird 6

### **MP Platoon "Rampage"**

The Rampage Platoon had another great month in January. The Soldiers have proven to be as adaptive as ever. At this point in the deployment, the Soldiers are covering for one another in all facets due to the peak in mid-tour leaves and an increase in responsibilities. Soldiers of Rampage platoon have taken it in stride and continue to achieve all that is put before them.

In a few weeks we will be saying goodbye to SGT Fredy Saldana, 32. (SGT Sal also had a birthday this month, January 7th) SGT Sal has been an MP with 1STB for 7 years. He has mentored scores of Soldiers and been an indispensable leader. His experience, leadership and friendship will be missed. We wish SGT Sal all the best with his future endeavors.

CONGRATS!

The greater Rampage clan has grown by 2 since the holidays. SGT Jason Gallegos and his wife, Diana welcomed a baby boy, Andres in December. SGT Gallegos was able to be home for the birth and has reported the whole Family is doing well.

SGT Silverman and his wife Janet also welcomed a son, Titus Silverman, on January 6th. SGT Silverman went on leave just after the birth and is currently assuming parental duties at home.

Congratulations to SGT Brian Smith and his wife Melissa on their tenth wedding anniversary.

With January now behind us, we are solidly in the second half of our deployment. The platoon has stayed focused and remained a tight knit group. We are looking forward to a productive (and short) February. Thanks to all of our support at home.

Rampage 6

## **PSD Platoon "Gambit"**

Greetings from Gambit Platoon! January has been yet another quick month, as every day has been packed full. This month in the PSD, two Sergeants, SGT Rob Sickels and SGT Josh Smith were both recommended for promotion to Staff Sergeant from the Battalion. Congratulations are certainly in order, as well as hopes that they will make points in the upcoming months!

PSD has played an essential role in the planning stages of a new Police Sub-Station and two new critical checkpoints for Kandahar City. We have spent many hours doing reconnaissance; site surveys and assisting the Engineer team to jump start these huge projects; not to mention providing security for many meetings between our Battalion leadership and the Afghan National Police leadership! Our assistance with the building of these new police areas will eventually play a huge role in the continually improving security throughout the city. Every day our platoon gets to witness huge strides in the continued improvement of the Afghan Police.

Last but not least, Happy Birthday to SPC Willie Wood!

Gambit 6



## *The Sentinel Monthly*

01 February, 2011



I hope everyone is doing well at home and staying warm during what has been reported as an unusually cold winter back in Colorado this year. On this side of the globe we're dealing with some winter weather as well with Camp Stone and Qaleh-Ye Now receiving some pretty significant snow over the past month. Here in Kandahar our overnight lows routinely drop below freezing but aside from a few scattered rain showers the weather has been fairly pleasant.

We welcome 1LT Brian Kemper to the Company this month as he assumes the role of SIGINT Platoon Leader which has been vacant for the past few months. I know SFC Kern is very excited to have him on board after wearing both the Platoon Sergeant and Platoon Leader hats since early October and while establishing our SIGINT capabilities across RC-West where there was previously no existing infrastructure. Given all of his hard work and amazing achievements, I am even considering letting SFC Kern take leave during this deployment. He has earned it.



Across the Company things have stayed fairly stable over the past month with only some minor internal shuffling within the platoons. Everyone has remained hard at work, continuing to make improvements by the day. Fortunately, the insurgents don't like the winter weather any more than we do so the general activity level across the Brigade Area of Operations has been a little slower over the past few months. I think we all agree that we are okay fighting a little boredom from time to time.

As we start the month of February, I will be starting my change of command inventories across Afghanistan. I am sure most of you have already heard that I will be leaving Alpha Company in the first week of March and handing the Company guidon to Captain Bethany Vollmer who has been the STB Battalion Intelligence Officer for the past year. So, while I look forward to seeing all of the Sentinel Soldiers again over the next few weeks this will unfortunately serve as my last visit with many of the Sentinels before I leave command.

As always, I can be contacted at [james.m.brogan@us.army.mil](mailto:james.m.brogan@us.army.mil) for any questions or concerns.

Thank you for your continued support,

*CPT James Brogan*

# HUSTLER OMT

## HUMINT PLATOON

We are officially over the halfway mark! The HUMINT platoon continues to excel at our mission and we are having fun too. The only thing missing



is you guys back home. That's okay because we continue to rotate our Soldiers on EML. Soldiers coming back seem happier than ever. Soldiers coming back to Camp Stone discovered that it does in fact



snow here. Temperatures have reached single digits. Here are some pictures of Camp Stone during the "blizzard". I know, I know, it is not that bad but it makes a good story. Notice that we still have our Christmas tree which we take out every day so it can get some fresh air. We bring it back in at night because trees are more valuable than gold around here and we don't want anyone to "borrow" it.

We received a new Soldier a few months back to help us with language skills training. SPC Tedla is the only Soldier that I have met who can score 4/4 on the Defense Language Proficiency Test. His language skills are unique. Although he learned Dari just a few months ago he constantly coaches our other interpreters in grammar and proper use.



Additionally, he conducts every given task to the highest standard. We have decided to recommend him for

promotion to Sergeant; however he needed to conduct an Army Physical Fitness Test first. He did well in the test considering the weather. Here are some pictures of him doing push-ups, sit-ups, and a two mile run.



SSG Gordon was the NCOIC and SGT Wadley provided motivation. Notice the grass! Isn't it great? The guys over here do a great job on keeping it green for us to conduct soccer tournaments or, as in this case, an APFT.

I also had a chance to visit SSG Daniel, SGT Brune, and SPC Rivas in Badghis province. Here is a picture of us and their truck (which happens to be seriously up-armored). The chow on their base is amazing. The Spanish know how to cook.



I talked to SGT Brune who provided me with pictures and reported the following: "During the last month, SSG Daniel's team was able to



experience the Northern area and find out what cold really feels like. In the pictures, SSG Daniel takes time to pull security while out on patrol, SGT Brune tries on a new



weapon for size, SPC Metz and SPC Rivas show off the Spanish guidon, and SPC Metz gets her chance to ride on a donkey. Hustler 144 shows their Christmas spirit by decorating their office. The team also enjoyed spending Christmas with the Spanish



Soldiers. The Spanish Soldiers showed the team a great time by offering them to join in on a four course Spanish meal."

SGT Cowley, SGT Warren, and SGT Brown continue to lead their teams in their assigned battalions. They are getting ready for the upcoming change of command. Like always, they send their warmest regards. We will continue to rotate on leave as we get closer to returning home.





## ISR Platoon January Newsletter

January has been a big month for the ISR platoon. It's officially the year we're coming home, PFC Kevin White turned 24 on the 3<sup>rd</sup> (though he took *none* of his platoon leader's advice on how to properly celebrate), two kittens took up residence in the brigade intelligence fusion shop (errr.... Just kidding if any readers happen to hail from the inspector general's office...), and, perhaps most importantly, we celebrated our much awaited half-way day on the 17<sup>th</sup>. As of the 18<sup>th</sup> of January we have less time in Afghanistan ahead of us than we have behind us. And this is good.



*The ISR platoon shows that they represent not only the intellectual weight of the battalion, but the athletic prowess as well. The guy in the green shirt doing the Awkward-Heisman is a contractor, to be clear.*



*The ISR Tigers have finally found a mascot that embodies their work ethic and general attitude toward life. (If you don't get the captions on the picture and have never heard of lolcats, you should Google "I can haz cheeseburger". Right now.)*

It's been an unseasonably warm and dry January, providing a surprising number of opportunities to get outside, stretch our legs, and remind ourselves that 12 hours per day of intel analysis doesn't do a lot for our hand-eye coordination. But we have a few Soldiers who made the highlight reel.... SPC Elmore has so much reach he can pretty much stand in one spot and swat down anything that comes across his path. PFC's Matikonis and Lightner have proven themselves MVP's with ultimate frisbee and football, capable of catching and scoring on just about anyone. SPC Tisdale has all the speed.... and we're pretty sure that one of these days he'll learn to catch too.

Unfortunately, as soon as two of our newest

platoon members arrived, we had to say goodbye to them again. SSG Luis Rosa and PV2 Quincy Jones moved across the city to join the new joint fusion cell where they are working side by side with Afghan Security Forces. We'll miss having them around here at CNS, but I'm sure they're having an unforgettable experience at the front lines of Afghan intelligence.

Tisdale, Orellana, Elmore, Duffey and SSG Warren had the honor of attending dinner as guests of Haji Toor Jan, the former mujahadeen who owns both Camp Nathan Smith and the Local Guard Force that partners with our Soldiers in protecting the base. The people of Kandahar are famous for their adherence to Pashtunwali – a code dictating an almost militant reverence for guests. And the guys were able to experience this potentially painful cycle of hospitality first



*ISR Platoon at Haji\GV Toor Jan's home, just outside the gate of Camp Nathan Smith. PFC Elmore, PFC Duffey, SPC Orellana and SPC Tisdale*

hand. As a guest you're obligated by politeness to eat the food on your plate, and as hosts they're obligated by hospitality to fill your plate as soon as it empties. Good luck breaking out of that one. And for every mention of how great the food is, you can expect ten fresh kebab skewers.

As for the rest of the platoon... SSG Warren is quickly becoming the Brigade Counter-IED guru, heading up the section while CPT Hash is on leave. He is supported by two of our newer

Soldiers, PV2 Jesse Grable on nights and PFC Kerry Lightner during the day. Chief Weileman's vampire-like existence as night fusion chief suits him better every day – nothing like going home for the night at 10:30 and being greeted with a sunny “good morning” from the Chief. PFC Greg Dill was gone most of January for leave, and we'll soon be sending off SPC Orellana and SGT Lawhorn for much deserved R&R. SPC McCraw and SGT Lawhorn have gamely held on with near weekly changes to their schedule, but are finally settling into the night shift routine.

A few words from SGT Ryan Scott representing our team out west: “Most Soldiers out here have adjusted to being separated from their fellow Raider-South counter parts. It is strange to think I have been out here in Western Afghanistan almost longer than I have been at Ft.Carson, and have not even met some of the new Soldier additions to ISR Platoon. It will be interesting to see how Alpha Company will react to being reunited after a year apart. Overall, I have to say I have had an interesting experience so far. Right now, I have a solid battle rhythm I attempt to stick to in order to allow time to pass as quickly as possible. Work is work as always, and I am looking forward to leave to get some rest.”

CPT Brogan threw down the gauntlet with me as I set out to write my first ever platoon newsletter, saying that my Tiger 6 predecessor, LT Carrigan, consistently had the favorite newsletter of the company. There's a reasonable chance this was a ploy to get me to step up my game but regardless, I hope I've met the expectations of all of our friends and Families back



*The ISR Platoon celebrates their Half-Way Day. Pictured left to right: SGT Buck Lawhorn, SSG Scott Warren (Platoon Sergeant), PFC Kerry Lightner, SPC Brian McCraw, PFC Spencer Elmore (floating head), CW2 Mike Weileman, PV2 Jesse Grable (floating head 2), PFC Kevin White, PFC Greg Dill, SPC Gabriel Orellana, PFC Steven Duffey, SPC Christopher Tisdale, PFC Jennifer Matikonis, 2LT Maile Yeats (platoon leader). Not pictured: SSG Luis Rosa, PV2 Quincy Jones*

home. I look forward to updating everyone back at home for the next six months. I'd be lying if I said the first half went by fast, but here's to the last 6 months and being on the downhill slope!

- *LT Yeats*

*Sentinels in Action!*



SSG Wefenstette, SPC Fergusson, SPC Martinelli, and SPC Heflin (from 319<sup>th</sup> MI BN) with their Certificates of Achievement for the construction of the Sarkari Bagh SCIF.



UAV Platoon promoted SGT Reed, SGT Albini, SGT Mayer, and SGT Wolcott on the 1<sup>st</sup> of January this year on the UAV flight line at FOB Wilson.



CW2 Weilemann and CW2 Harrell enjoying their breakfast cigars outside the cannery building on Camp Nathan Smith.



SSG Wefenstette riding in the back of a MATV vehicle while on patrol to the Arghandab River Valley to provide maintenance support to our LLVI Team.



SSG Tallman and CPL Bragassa play a heated round of table tennis at the MWR facility at FOB Farah.



SFC Rudman demonstrates how he routinely gets caught in the flypaper when stopping by the office to talk with 1SG May.

# Sentinels Across Afghanistan



## TUAS Halfway Update

We all send our love and prayers back home as I'm sure you are all doing for us. As we pass the halfway point of our deployment, we find ourselves back to those cold winter months. Although all of us wish we were back home with our Family and loved ones, we understand there's a job we have to complete here in Afghanistan. The Soldiers are definitely up for the challenge ahead and have done an excellent job thus far.

The TUAS Platoon is definitely one of the best I have had the pleasure of working with. The Platoon has achieved almost 3,000 flight hours and has conducted two moves to two different locations here in Afghanistan, where they have had to build an operational flight line from scratch. It was definitely not an easy task to take on; however they were able to do it and achieved excellent results. The Platoon is definitely ready for any challenges we face in the future.



SFC Harris inventories new equipment while SGT Guinn surfs the internet at FOB Wilson.

Now that we have all made it to the halfway point of our rotation, I would like to say that it has definitely not been an easy one, considering we are all away from our Families and loved ones, but it's important to stay positive and realize it's nothing but a small moment for all of us. I hope you have all enjoyed leave with your Soldier, had time to rejuvenate and relax with each other or will be doing so soon.

As we look back on this rotation, we have been fortunate to have several of our Soldiers reenlist to stay in the Army. Although it's a tough choice to make, it displays the strength of our nation's Soldiers. So we would like to give our congratulations to the following Soldiers and their Families for making the commitment: SSG Reynaldo Martinez and Family; SGT Sean McEntee and Family; SGT Daniel Driskell and Family; SGT Robert Guinn and Family; and SGT Adam Albini and Family.

We have also promoted many of your Soldiers these past 6 months and hope to promote more in the future. So give congratulations to these newly promoted Sergeants: SGT Adam Albini; SGT Robert Guinn; SGT Joshua Mayer; SGT Jonathan Reed; and SGT William Wolcott. We look forward for these newly promoted Sergeants to continue to work hard and help the Platoon to continue to support the mission.



A panoramic photo of the UAV runway at FOB Wilson. The runway is actually straight; it's just the effect of the camera that creates the curve.

From all of TUAS Platoon Soldiers here at Forward Operating Base Wilson, we wish everyone a belated “Happy New Year”. We are all counting down the days and hope the upcoming months fly by so we can be with all of you soon!



Respectfully,

*SFC Steven Harris*  
TUAS Platoon Sergeant



[Sentinel T-shirts and Hoodies available at](#)

[www.smashteamwear.com/hooah](http://www.smashteamwear.com/hooah)



**“SENTINEL HEADQUARTERS PLATOON”**

<p><b>Alpha B-Dry Tee</b></p> <p>\$18.95</p>  <p><a href="#">[Product Details...]</a></p>	<p><b>Alpha B-Dry Tee w/ Name on Back</b></p> <p>\$23.95</p>  <p><a href="#">[Product Details...]</a></p>	<p><b>Alpha Hoodie</b></p> <p>\$29.95</p>  <p><a href="#">[Product Details...]</a></p>
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Headquarters and IEW continue to save the world one day at a time. IEW has responded to the demands of Camp Nathan Smith by repairing multiple different AFN dishes bringing sports and entertainment to the masses as they dine. They also continued to show off their carpenter skills by adding shelves to the supply closet and expanding the TSCIF by a few offices. Their newest project is to build a free mailbox for Soldiers to send letters out. It seems IEW has no problem finding work in the ever booming and expanding Camp Nathan Smith. Headquarters continues to keep the company running as smoothly as possible. With SFC Moreno taking control during the day and newly promoted SSG Watson holding down the fort (literally) at night, there is nothing that can stop operations... not even natural disasters.

SGT Lara is working hard making sure everyone's numbers are good to go for the up and coming change of command, to allow a smooth transition. Chess matches continue in the CP; SFC Moreno (5) vs. SSG Watson (2). Martinelli and Fargusson continue to rock out in their trucks to pass time. It doesn't hurt that they have a speaker box almost the width of the shelter.

CW2 Harrell got to visit his Soldiers out west to see how things are progressing at Camp Stone and to enjoy paradise, even if it was only for three days. Lots of snow is hitting the North and just giving that touch of good old Colorado in Afghanistan. As for us in the South, we can only wish we had snow. A change of scenery would be nice.

Soldiers are going to and from R&R feeling refreshed, recharged and ready to work, most with the anticipation of re-deployment, which we all know is not happening for another 5 months. Right now the CP is very quiet, because PFC Clark and 1LT Hadley are on leave, but I am sure the high pitch sounds will return shortly as they both share all the wonderful stories of their R&R experiences.

While 1SG May was on leave and visiting Soldiers out west, I maintained the fort. Sure, we all felt the earthquake from Pakistan, but as long as the CP doesn't catch on fire or fall to the ground, I think we are doing pretty well. That is at least, the safety brief that CPT Brogan gives every night before he leaves.

Sincerely,

*SFC Ryan Moreno*  
HQ Platoon Sergeant.

**Happy New Year from the SIGINT  
Platoon**

2011 is off to a busy start for us, we are currently inventorying the roughly 4.5



million pieces which make up our various systems in preparation for the Company Change of Command coming in March. We are also eagerly anticipating the arrival and integration of our new Platoon Leader, 1LT Brian Kemper. The PL position has been vacant since October, and the platoon will definitely benefit from more refined interaction with outsiders (I went to a meeting last week with several Lieutenant Colonels. I felt like Curious George without “the Man in the Yellow Hat” and I’m pretty sure I hurt some feelings).

SSG Tallman’s team in Farah has welcomed a new interpreter, Kat, to their office. She is already hard at work alongside Ali, and I expect great things from them in the coming months. SSG Tallman returned from leave, bringing boastful news of his new daughter Alex. Congratulations to SSG Tallman and his Family! I am also glad to see him carry on the 35P tradition of large, mostly female, Families.

SGT Call also returned from leave this month. His team has completed at long last, a series of upgrades to their system which will greatly increase their capabilities. SGT Presnell is currently receiving some on-the-job technical training with the Marines. The rest of the team will cycle through after she has finished. SPC Jin has started a rigorous physical training regimen doing two-a-day workouts under the “supervision” of SGTs Call and Peacoe; I expect that in a few weeks he will either be ready for the Ironman Triathlon or desperately trying to get re-assigned elsewhere.



SSG Tallman and SGT Call reunite over a pizza at the Kandahar Air Field Boardwalk while in transit for R&R leave.

The Control team at Camp Stone is starting to rotate for leave; SGT Ellis is now home and SPC Zawwin will be headed out in early February. In the meantime we are enjoying living in close proximity to the Italian contingent, who displays an affinity for “natural” scents and spandex clothing of all descriptions. I personally recommend the cardio gym anytime between 10AM and 4PM for all of you who can handle both. Good times.

SSG Shin’s team is still holding their own in the Arghandab River Valley; they have been busy providing training to 1-66 Armor Battalion’s companies on some new equipment they received. Interestingly, the team is self trained on said equipment and has achieved fantastic results at each of the locations so far. PFC Daigle has just returned from his leave and SSG Shin has started working his way through the R&R maze from KAF back home to see his Family. Here’s hoping he has a safe, quick trip home.

That’s all for this month, I wish all of you at home good health and happiness.

- *SFC Kern*

## Bravo Company Newsletter

### Headquarters Platoon

Headquarters Platoon has remained busy during the month of January. We continue to operate the brigade retrans site, detainee operations, and movement of mail and essential supplies to our Big Dawg Family located around Kandahar and Herat.

Headquarters is continuing to facilitate movement of Soldiers as they leave and return from R&R and in doing so has pushed out 11 Soldiers this month to reunite with their Families.

Newly promoted SGT Longest is proving to be a hard working NCO, falling into his new duties and responsibilities with ease. The Headquarters Supply team has had a busy month ordering and receiving equipment shortages and dispersing them to Soldiers, as well as maintaining a flawless property book.

### NETOPS Platoon

The month of January continued as normal within the COMSEC and NETOPS sections. The face of our respective battlefields still continues to change, bringing new challenges at every turn.

SSG Nairn entered a bench press competition on Kandahar Air Field, and won the competition with a bench press of 365lbs. Our platoon also was recently challenged by HQ Platoon in a friendly game of football. PFC Greene and SPC Buckner helped pave the way to a dominating victory. There were a resulting few bumps and bruises, but the friendly competition provided a deserved break from normal activities.

Our Soldiers remain vigilant, and continue to impress with their remarkable adaptations to the continual changes that a deployment brings.

### 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon

Happy New Year from First Platoon! Having reached the halfway point of our deployment, our Soldiers are regularly rotating home on R&R to visit their loved ones. Back in country, it's business as usual. Our communications network is expanding more slowly than six months ago. That being said, our Soldiers have smoothly settled into a daily routine.

PVT Harris has been put in charge of constructing specific force protection assets on Camp Nathan Smith. He has really excelled at this mission. SPC Edsall has been made supervisor of the strength management program for 1st Platoon with excellent results. PV2 Steele has been conducting classes on both Camp Nathan Smith and KAF to assist us all with some ongoing issues relevant to all military deployments.

All of our Soldiers have been hard at work during this past half year. I'm sure you are as proud of them as we are.

Lastly, I have been reassigned to the STB staff beginning 1 February. I want to thank SFC Morini and all my great NCOs and Soldiers for all their efforts these past 15 months. It's been a pleasure serving as their platoon leader. War Pigs!

1LT Watthuber

### 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon

HAPPY NEW YEAR EVERYONE from the Big Dawg element out West. We had a very good Holiday season - exchanged gifts within the Platoon and had a visit from BDE CSM Kinloch. He handed out Brigade Coins of Excellence to SPC Ross, SPC Theodorakis, and PFC Beck. The Soldiers got to take some time off on Christmas as we all had a very good meal. We thought of SGT Davis as he was on R&R leave with his Family back in the States. SPC Van Hoose eventually got to go on R&R leave and is with her Family in Mexico. SPC Ross, SPC Theodorakis, and SSG Barrington will all be going on R&R leave this month. We welcomed two new additions to the Platoon, 2LT De La Guardia and PFC Kovalenko. 2LT De La Guardia hails from California and has now signed for and is responsible for the Soldiers and equipment of 2PLT. PFC Kovalenko, from Virginia, is a JNN operator and slowly learning the ropes. All in all, the Platoon is doing well and the Damage, INC. platoon continues to march on. Big Dawg 27, out.

## Command Team

Big Dawg Friends and Family,

Winter is in full swing here in Afghanistan as we cross the halfway point of our deployment. Your Soldiers continue to work hard and impress everyone who encounters them on the battlefield. SSG Richardson from NETOPS reenlisted to stay in the Army for a few more years. 1<sup>st</sup> platoon installed a couple more communications systems for Task Force Raider as well as the Rule of Law Field Force which is working at one of the Afghan military's prisons. For our Soldiers out west in Herat Province, they've had a fair amount of snow covering their area but continue to work hard to maintain communications for our forces on that camp. We've enjoyed watching how Soldiers who come from places other than Fort Carson react to the weather. The headquarters platoon stood watch over another of the battalion's detainees before he was sent to the Afghan justice system as we continue to affect the fight in Kandahar City. NETOPS continued their work as they added elements from a nearby signal battalion onto the array of signal equipment they monitor and administer. Our work continues unabated and nearly every week brings a new mission or a twist on an old one. Your Soldiers continue to do amazing work and keep their eyes focused on the mission as we get closer to coming home.

"Damn Lethal!"

Travis M Beller  
Captain, Signal Corps  
Big Dawg 6  
Ralph P Sanchez  
1<sup>st</sup> Sergeant, US Army  
Big Dawg 7



SFC Ronquille, PFC Vargas, SSG Nairn, and SGT Vargas



2PLT with CSM Kinloch at Camp Stone



CSM Kinloch delivers holiday cheer and coins to SPC Theodorakis, SPC Ross, and PFC Beck.



1SG Sanchez, SFC Morini and 1LT Watthuber share good Company and Christmas cigars at Camp Nathan Smith.



# C/STB NEWSLETTER

A PUBLICATION FOR THE FAMILIES AND SOLDIERS OF CHARLIE COMPANY  
OEF VOLUME 1, ISSUE 6, FEB 2011



## From the Command Group:

**Company Commander:** CPT Michael Parks, Company Commander [michael.andrew.parks@us.army.mil](mailto:michael.andrew.parks@us.army.mil)

**First Sergeant:** 1SG Bobby Simmons, First Sergeant; [bobby.simmons@us.army.mil](mailto:bobby.simmons@us.army.mil)

It's already February! The Command Team traveled a lot over this last month. 1SG Simmons was able to branch out to Kandahar City for a few weeks and CPT Parks headed out to BMG and Farah to see the men doing great things for the 7-10 CAV and 4-42 FA BN. Company T-shirts are still available and are open on the website. Place your orders from now until the end of deployment.

Thank you for your time and support!

## Headquarters PLATOON: Executive Officer: 1LT Simon Chung & Operations Sergeant: SSG Gabriel Minor

Headquarters would like to congratulate SPC Cummings and his wife on their new born. They had a baby girl, 6 lbs 8 oz, 20in long on 31 Jan 2011 at 2345. The headquarters platoon is hard at work with managing Battle Space, KPRT and Route Clearance. We want to recognize SGT Anderson, Jacob for all his hard work and efforts. His ability to conduct intelligence data led to the gathering of several caches this past month. Also, thank you to all the Families of the Sapper Community! The packages and the Sapper Santa hats were a hit!

## CRT PLATOON

**Maintenance Operations Sergeant:** SFC Jason Lasher

**Motor Sergeant:** SSG Brian Draper

The CRT teams are the best in the brigade within Charlie Company Sappers! There is no other company like this one with the same demand and support needed for a company level operation to be successful. SSG Draper leads the way with his men making sure all the support is given to the platoons. SGT Kaelin in Farah is doing an outstanding job and SPC Wells is leading the way in Bala Morghab by ensuring the vehicles are 100% mission capable all the time! Thank you for your support!

## MP PLATOON

**Platoon Leader:** 2LT Michael Williams

**Platoon Sergeant:** SFC Lisa Morgan

The MPs would like to thank the Sappers for their support during this deployment. With redeployment insight in the next few months, the platoon is working hard to maintain the upbeat operational tempo for the Sappers. They are leading the way! To the Families back home, thank you for your support. We will all keep in contact as we change locations in the next few months and prepare to redeploy back home! Thank you again!

## 1<sup>ST</sup> PLATOON

**Platoon Leader:** 1LT Chase Podsiad

**Platoon Sergeant:** SFC Abelardo Tijerina

1<sup>st</sup> platoon is working hard every day with Route Clearance missions in the Farah Province. The demanding schedule and long hours are paying off and proving absolutely instrumental in the success of the 4-42 Field Artillery Battalion. SSG Velasquez and SSG Buker are working hard and with the arrival of SSG Harvin and SSG Pineroso, we have built a great team to take us into this year with the best leadership we could possibly ask for. Thank you to all the Families back home!

## 3<sup>RD</sup> PLATOON

**Platoon Leader:** 1LT Thomas Schlesinger

**Platoon Sergeant:** SFC Theodore Jubinville

3<sup>rd</sup> platoon is doing an outstanding job and we continue to be the main effort for the Bulldogs in support of Marine Special Forces and Task Force North, Italians. We want to welcome SSG Clarke to the team and would like to recognize the efforts of SGT Habecker and SGT McGlone in their recent actions. Their ability to prepare and execute during Route Clearance or other kinetic missions remains valuable and is a direct reflection on the success of this Task Force. Thank you!

## 2<sup>ND</sup> PLATOON

**Platoon Leader:** 2LT Stephen Wathen

**Platoon Sergeant:** SFC Kristopher Tate

2<sup>nd</sup> platoon welcomes LT Stephen Wathen to the platoon to take over for LT Anderson. The platoon would like to let LT Anderson know that he was instrumental in the success of this platoon and company. His ability to lead Soldiers into combat through his example was critical in winning the hearts and minds of the Afghan people. This platoon has done an outstanding job this past month and men like SGT Buchwalter and SGT McCormick have stepped up into roles of increased responsibility. Great job!

## 4<sup>TH</sup> PLATOON

**Platoon Leader:** 1LT Brenton Litfin

**Platoon Sergeant:** SFC Rick Lopez

4<sup>th</sup> platoon would like to welcome 1LT Brent Litfin to the platoon and farewell LT Kim for all his hard work and dedication to 4<sup>th</sup> platoon. We will miss LT Kim and we know he will do a great job as he moves to 1-22 IN BN as the Task Force Engineer. LT Litfin comes to the platoon with a lot of experience and knowledge as he is a prior service NCO in the Medical Corps. We would also like to recognize SSG Bower for his relentless attitude and leadership during the transfer and stepping up as platoon sergeant in the absence of SFC Lopez who is on R and R. Great job!

## Pictures of Charlie Company Soldiers in Afghanistan:

