



The Seahorse Standard

19th Engineer Battalion
Kandahar, Afghanistan

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October 29, 2009



“Bridle and Reins—Stand Tall!”



The Commander's Column



Greetings Family and Friends! We have hit the halfway mark for most of the battalion and the weather here has drastically changed, telling us that winter is right around the corner. I just returned from my R&R and got a chance to visit with the rear-detachment and meet with some of the FRG leadership. I must say that I am very pleased with how both organizations are working together to solve Soldier problems and keep Families informed. I also want to make special mention of 7 volunteers receiving recognition in the Fort Knox Ceremony on 23 October – they are: Stephanie Segura, Leah Dubree, Cindy Williams, Tanja Leach, Ann Delgado, Andrea Allison and Jimin Roscoe. To all of our volunteers, thank you for what you do every day! We have begun to receive many care packages from Families with lots of Halloween candy...this is not helping our weight reduction program, but it is a big moral boost to the Soldiers. The pace of operations hasn't slowed and your spouses are staying very busy. Team Blade (15E) has been hard at work preparing their FOB for the rainy season with flood mitigation as well as pushing out to the smaller Combat Out-Posts (COPs) to support the Infantry with force protection and winterization (prepare facilities for the cold weather). Team Hammer (76E) has been fully engaged in many FOB projects that include emergency repairs for aviation facilities, roads, ammo holding area and TOCs. As these missions progress, the company is also preparing for a change of command to occur in November between CPT Scott Williams and CPT Terry Riesel. This month Team Jungle (60E) was given the top priority construction mission for the SBCT at Frontenac

and did a great job planning and meeting the deadline. They continue to do an outstanding job with on and off FOB projects supporting the Infantry. Team Bridge (502E) though they just arrived a short time ago has been busy planning missions, reconnaissance of bridge sites and inventorying theater bridge stocks. They are also working hard getting settled at their FOBs. Their equipment has begun to arrive and they will soon be out executing critical missions. When it comes to supporting the battalion, there are none finer than the Renegades of FSC. This company is under strength, but continues to support a task force that is large and spread throughout the entire RC-S area of operations. The Warriors of HSC have moved the battalion Command Post (CP) to our permanent location this month, no easy task and the PSD platoon has done multiple logistical patrols with FSC in tow to support the outer FOBs. The Detachments remain busy with 655th swinging hammers and operating equipment in support of the Seabees at Leatherneck. 538th and 1227th have begun concrete operations and continue to get their equipment operational. The 269th are still waiting for a well drilling rig, but have jumped in to support many of the HSC missions that are going on. A great team effort from all of these units, I am very proud of their accomplishments. To all of you, I am truly honored to be part of this great organization - thank you for your service to our unit and to our great Nation.

BRIDLE & REINS!



LTC Heath C. Roscoe
19th EN BN Commander

LTC Roscoe laterally promotes ISG Quillin on 27 October.



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Contributing Editor: SPC Jason Blythe





CSM Dixon
Seahorse 7

The Seahorse Standard



Jingle Trucks



15th/60th working together



1SG Jefferson chillin

WOW Seahorse Families!!! Can you believe we are already six months into the deployment? October has been extremely busy with traveling and the movement of our Battalion Headquarters. The month started with some of your love ones graduating from an Equal Opportunity Course here on Kandahar Airfield. The Battalion moved out of the overly stuffed tents they were occupying as a Headquarters into a remarkable building. The 3rd PLT of the 76th did an awesome job constructing the new Battalion Headquarters. I visited the 15th and 60th this month and life for them is really getting better. The 15th built and moved into their new Tactical Operations Center/Company Headquarters. The lack of phones and internet are a thing of the past for them. There are two things left for them to do, move out of the tents into hard stand billets and receive a fully operational gymnasium. The 60th has moved into hard stand billets comfortably, there are two things left for them to do, move into their Tactical Operations Center/Company Headquarters and receive a fully operational gymnasium. They have phones and internet as well. Motivation today is higher than three months ago, this is definitely a testament of life getting better. Always remember that we are extremely proud to have you as our Seahorse Families. Attached are some photos of your Soldiers from the month of October that I care to share with you. **Command Sergeant Major's Advice:** Please remember, our success here is greatly dependent on you back there. Please continue to write your Soldiers, send emails/cards, goodies, and constantly remind them of how proud you are of them, how much you support, and appreciate what they are doing. This is definitely a boost from the home front. **CSM's words of the month: BETTER and BETTER.**



Chaplain Climbing



15th getting it down best



EO Graduation



SPC Dionne and his friend



ENG Flag flying at the new TOC



Old Glory and BN Colors



OLD GLORY



CSM's talks to Soldiers at Front



60th/15th moving dirt at Front



SH7 shuts it down



Sensing session at Front, nac



CSM Listening



Commander's Corner

The 502nd is finally getting our feet underneath us over here in Afghanistan, our theater specific training is complete and we've begun to work. Since last month, the company has split operations between two locations; 2nd platoon at Kandahar and the rest of the company at Leatherneck. We've started to receive the equipment; we'll need to start bridging both from theater provided stock and what we've shipped from the rear. The lack of equipment hasn't stopped the Soldiers of the Deuce from keeping busy; it's made them more creative.

2nd platoon has been extremely busy as the only company element at Kandahar. They've been on a two reconnaissance missions so far, each of which has a high potential for turning into a bridging mission. 2nd has also assumed the role of receiving all the 502nd equipment that's shipped into theater and getting it shipped out to Leatherneck. They're also serving as the liaison for the rest of the company by assisting incoming personnel from back home in getting training, equipment and transportation, as well as the movement of all other 502nd Soldiers in theater. No small task, but they're handling it flawlessly.

The Leatherneck crew is equally busy. First platoon has been putting the finishing touches on their platoon area and structures, and giving much needed assistance to the Navy Seabees by way of motivated, highly skilled labor.

Though most of platoon is comprised of bridge crewmembers, they're proving their true Army Engineer spirit by helping the Seabees with some earthmoving projects and horizontal construction projects. They've also augmented a recent reconnaissance with some of their Soldiers with an extremely high profile bridge site which has the potential to greatly increase the Marines freedom of movement in the area.

Maintenance/Support platoon is already starting on their third mission as a result of their desire to assist in the ongoing construction of FOB Leatherneck. They've assisted in filling in a burn pit for the Marine Expeditionary Brigade, and are awaiting plans to construct another. Most notably, they completed a small arms weapons range for the FOB to use; an asset that hadn't existed before the platoons efforts. The Maintenance crew has been busy in completing a fully functional motorpool for the company out of nothing more than what existed on the FOB. They accomplished this amazing feat while ensuring that the hardworking company equipment stayed fully mission capable.

As we finish our second month in country, we remain grateful to everyone back home giving us their constant love and support. We appreciate everything you're doing for us back there to make our job easier.

Bridge 6 – CPT Stephen M. Lucas



Above: Support Platoon constructs the berm for the new Weapons Range on FOB Leatherneck.

Below: PFC Daniel and SPC Jones assist with river reconnaissance on the Helmand River.



Left: PFC Durance assists with ground guiding a dozer during construction of the new Weapons Range on FOB Leatherneck.

Bottom Left: Soldiers of the 502nd train for the Marine Marathon on FOB Leatherneck.

Bottom Center: CPT Handy celebrates his 34th Birthday with a blast from the past on his favorite piece of earthmoving equipment during construction of the new weapons range on FOB Leatherneck.

Bottom Right: SGT Houser, SPC Jones, and two other Soldiers build out a connex on FOB Leatherneck.



Winter is on its way for FOB Wolverine

The 15th is continuing to move on with the projects they receive from higher. All platoons of the 15th are staying gainfully employed. 15th is still focused on the BLAHA, 50 x 90 TOC, FST tent pads, ECP footbridge, Engineer Compound, retention ponds, and various other projects off the FOB.

3/15th

3rd Herd continues to chop away at all of their projects. The completion of the BLAHA draws near with winter just behind. 3rd platoon is going to have to double the size of the retention ponds to meet the requirements needed.

They will also be joining the vertical platoons in the off base missions. The local engineer equipment contract has helped the platoon out in drawing closer to their completion dates. The barber shop and the bowling lanes remain open. Even during winter months EM will have work to do, maybe clearing roads here on base.

15th Maintenance

Maintenance continues to replace engines, transmissions, windows and various other broken or worn out parts on the equipment. They have also been inspecting the civilian equipment for safety issues. Maintenance rarely has time to leave the base with all the parts being installed. Keep up the hard work Maintenance, we need you.

15th Supply

Our supply SGT is now with us and getting the creases ironed out of supply. Headquarters continues to send out the reports that higher needs. Running like a well oiled machine 15th is doing great!



Top: SPC Alfano, SPC Stewart, SPC Wile and SSG Hidalgo take a break to eat jerky from Wal-Mart. **Center:** SSG Ioane, PFC Crawford, PFC Clapper, and PFC Agbodeka building FST tent pads. **Top Right:** PFC Johnson & CPL Brueggemann working on the crane. **Bottom Right:** PV2 Prasad, and PFC Guetty working the 50 x 90 building.

1/76th, Renegades of Steel Hammers

1/76th is prefabricating tent floor for surrounding bases while waiting for the word from higher to move out so they can execute. They are also continuing to work on the Engineer Compound buildings. Building doors, decks, trim work and electrical are just a few things to mention. 1st Platoon is getting geared up to build our Maintenance platoon a facility to work in during winter.

They have had to run a convoy to Kandahar to pick up building materials and maintenance parts just to keep the company busy. 1/76th continues to bust hump on all of their projects. They even had time to go see the USO stars that came by for a visit.

3/60th Jungle Eaters

3/60th has commenced work on the 50' x 90' building. The continued struggle for electrical materials is coming to an end. They have finished the five tent pads for the hospital and beautified the ECP guard tower. 3rd platoon has started construction on a footbridge for the ECP. They have also built three stall field showers and three stall field latrines for the outlying bases.

3/60th continues to knock out their vertical construction projects. 3rd platoon has run a convoy to KAF as well as to pick up material for projects and parts for maintenance. With the 50 x 90 building taking the majority of the manpower the platoon continues to work hard and finish projects.



The battlefield promotion is a very big deal and means a lot to the command. Congratulations to all the awardees and those promoted this month from the 3/15th, 3/60th and 1/76th, you did a great job and deserve it. The 15th Engineer Soldiers continue to work hard and play even harder. Thank you families for supporting your Soldiers.

Below: SPC Fowler, PV2 Fairbanks, SPC Duncan and SSG Shirk from building stairs and hand rails.



Left: 2LT Fenwick with the thumbs up approval of the BLAHA! **Below:** SGT Mel-lott, PFC Carder, and SGT Vukelic taking a break.





Commander's Corner

Jungle Eater family and friends,

This was another great month for the Jungle Eater team as we continued construction on several projects in Southern Afghanistan. During this month at FOB Frontenac, the Jungle Eater team enjoyed using the newly opened computer and phone center. This media center provides the Soldiers with the capability to contact their family and friends. Also, we thoroughly enjoyed participating in the video tele-conference with family and friends at Fort Benning on 17 OCT 09. Two Soldiers were promoted to Sergeant this month. Congrats to SGT Norton and SGT Simmons on their promotions.

1st platoon completed construction on the tactical operation center. The occupying unit and this command team are proud of this hard working platoon's accomplishments. Also, this month the remaining Soldiers were reunited with their Platoon Sergeant SFC Peterson and

their Warrant Officer Mr. Trujillo. Towards the end of the month, 1st platoon planned for their next project (another large wooden structure) for the explosive ordnance detachment here at FOB Frontenac.

2nd platoon, 15th EN CO completed construction on the landing strip in less than twenty days. The landing strip was the number one priority project for the Brigade we support here in Southern Afghanistan. Many compliments from our higher headquarters were doled out to these fine Soldiers on their exceptional mission accomplishment. At the end of October, this great platoon began construction on the new FOB landing zone and ammunition holding area.

2nd platoon continued constructed the Company TOCs for FOB Frontenac. They started pouring concrete pads for the FOB storage area. This great platoon appreciates the fine service, leadership, and knowledge that LT Wynn has bestowed upon them throughout his 12 month tenure as a 2/60 platoon leader. Good Luck 1LT Wynn in your future endeavors. 2nd Pla-

toon welcomed their new platoon leader 2LT Morris and their new Warrant Officer Mr. Kone. 3rd platoon continues to provide outstanding support on FOB Wolverine. During this past month they continued working on a tactical operations center. Also, they pushed out to a company outpost to construct essential life support structures. A job well done by this great platoon. Each month Team Jungle Eater continues to do a great job and strives to excel at achieving the company values (Teamwork, Excellence, Integrity, Pride). We are half-way through this deployment and we appreciate all that you are doing for us. Thank you for your continued support.

Jungle Eater 6 - CPT Vanessa Stolzoff



Above: SPC Mizelle and PFC Guinn working on a project

Commander's Corner

Hello to all the Warrior Families out there. Once again we have been having some pretty busy weeks. We are not quite on the down hill side of this deployment but we can see it from here. There are a lot of great developments in HSC. We had a bunch of promotions that were hard earned so congratulate the families of the newly promoted SGT Vega and SSG Hall in the S1 shop. They are top rate Soldiers and NCOs. We are very fortunate to have them on our team. As far as how things have been progressing here in Afghanistan, we are staying busy and supporting the fight the best way that we can. This month has seen a change of location for us here on KAF as we started to move into our new facilities that we constructed. It has been a definite upgrade for your soldiers in their work areas. As far as living conditions here they remain the same with most of us living in tents. The weather here is getting progressively cooler with highs in the 80s and lows routinely in the 40s. This has been the drop in temperature that we are all hoping for. Now that we start heading into Holiday season people are more conscientious of time passing,

SSG Stokes has put Halloween decorations up in the S4/S1 area and it is helping to make the move to the new building even more uplifting. Holiday seasons are always a time of mixed feelings on deployments while they seem to speed up time they remind us of the days lost with families. It is definitely a time where we try to keep in touch with the home front a lot more. Apparently our work is being seen all the way up at the department of the army. Photos of our Soldiers building the battalion headquarters were part of a brief to the Army Chief of Staff. The cooler weather is making working outside a lot better and we are knocking out projects all over KAF. We continue to do what we do best which is support the battalion through all the myriad of tasks that it takes to keep the unit running smoothly. In the process we are taking care of our Soldiers in whatever manner that we can. Chaplain McDonald has been a constant figure among the troops at the various job sites. He and SPC Raymond have logged quite a few miles flying from base to base. In addition to the taking care of work we have been taking care of our fitness as well. We had a diagnostic PT test out here and the company did great! Our high scorers were SGT Plunkett and ILT Melanie Zdaniewicz. The PT has definitely been doing us

good and helping us take care of ourselves while we take care of the battalion. You Warriors continue to do great things and definitely owe a lot to the support that we get from home. We are setting up another Video Teleconference with the home front in Kentucky on the 1st of November. Spaces are limited and we will be sending home the list of participants. Thanks for all the hard work back home.

Warrior 6

CPT Sean A. Wittmeier



Counterclockwise from top right:

CPT Ryan Knott in the new battalion motorpool.

SFC Jermaine Drayton making things happen!

ISG Jeremy Gross with his new ride.

CPT Megan Conrad administers the oath of reenlistment to SSG Keith Colon while PFC Dana Moore holds the flag.

SSG Andrea Stokes receives her certificate during the Equal Opportunity Leaders Course Graduation



Commander's Corner

Team Hammer Family,

We continue to knock out projects and set the pace for construction among all supporting units at FOB Spin Buldak. September was a fulfilling month because we closed out a lot of big projects. For instance, we completed the Stryker squadron 50'x90' TOC and the Strykers were able to move in and start directing their operations from the permanent building that they needed. Additionally, we finished the permanent ECP to control traffic entering the FOB.

As both platoons finished large projects, they transitioned smoothly to new construction tasks. 1/15th started work on the permanent ammo storage facility and gained experience in reshaping terrain as they took action to start on the large-scale drainage plan for outside the FOB. 2/76th started work on the second 50'x90' TOC building which will provide operations space to the remaining infantry and cavalry units here.

I mentioned last month that 2/76th has been doing a lot of carpentry around the FOB to expand the basic infrastructure – like building out

a PX. Well, this month they built a permanent PX container complete with deck. SGT Brand, SPC Cummings, and PFC Parks amazed everyone with the high-quality trim, shelves, and sign they put on the PX. 2nd Platoon also finished a barbershop container for a local barber. The main effort of 2nd Platoon has been the second 50'x90' that they are building. The building is ahead of schedule and the platoon is working well with all the experience they gained on the last SEA-hut.

1/15th started off strong on the permanent ammo storage area and was raising the foundation. The main effort has shifted for 1st Platoon in October and the platoon is busy building an enlarged and re-designed refueling area for helicopters. The platoon has also been engaged with graveling the new Team Hammer motorpool and just started preparing the land for the permanent TOC building for 76th.

With two platoons always busy on projects, Headquarters has been busy ordering boots, tools, and other supplies. Supplies may take some time to arrive but HQ is motivated to issue out stuff so they don't have to keep inventorying it! R&R continues to run well and we look forward to doing our best to get Sol-

diers back to the States with all the proper paperwork they need. Maintenance continues to pull tricks by fixing, welding, and building just about anything imaginable out of metal.

Overall, life at Spin B has changed as well. DSN phones moved closer to the DFAC, but the SPAVWAR system will have to wait until the temporary MVR facility gets powered up. Mail has improved a lot too. Most notably, the permanent DFAC opened in late September and has been serving up dining-facility-quality chow and not the "field" chow we were eating for the first few months out here.

The FRG continues to be busy with events. Please thank Lisa Williams, Gloria Mejia, and Samme Rapp when you get a chance – they have done a great job and given up free time to help build the Steel Hammer Team back at Fort Knox. Also, please continue to send the goodies that keep your Soldiers energized to complete the missions we have ahead!

STEEL HAMMER 6 - CPT Scott Williams



Above: SGT Brand and PFC Parks (2/76th) work on the trim for the cashier's counter in the PX container they built.

Below: PFC Bellovich and SPC Bunds (1/15th) receive Certificate of Achievements from LTC Roscoe during his visit to Team Hammer.



Above: SPC Foster, PFC Smith, PFC Perrault, and SPC Simpson (from L-R) (2/76th) frame walls on the second 50'x90' building. The platoon is speeding through the project!

Below: 1/15th and HQ play football on the HLZ pads. The current spread is PT Belts 1: No PT Belts 3.



Commander's Corner

Reinforcer Friends and Families:

We are arriving at the six month mark for many of our Soldiers. Your heroes have done an immense task of supporting this Battalion regardless of the mission. In reflection, the month of October has been a month of changes. The Motor Pool is realigned to best fit the Battalion's immense size. Our capabilities are greatly enhanced to support the Battalion with our Maintenance Platoon leading the way fixing deadline vehicles. Our Distro Platoon continues to push out needed supplies to each Forward Operating Base that is

currently based with 19th Engineer Battalion Soldiers. Our Headquarters Platoon continues to track every mission and support when needed. All this hard work and effort could not be accomplished without all the support we get from each Reinforcer Family Member. Be proud of all the sacrifice your Soldiers have made as they are making a difference for the better in Afghanistan. I am proud to serve with each and every one of your Heroes.

REINFORCERS!

ILT Mitchell A. Bosch

HQ PLT

The month of September has been a busy one, as per usual. While Headquarters platoon seems to get smaller and smaller throughout the deployment, we still managed enough manpower for minor touch-ups on the new CP. SGT Kinney, SPC Hall, and PFC Kannenberg, along with the help of Maintenance Platoon's SPC James Davis put a tarp over the roof so there would be no leaks come rainy season. SGT Tomassi and Specialist Hall got together and did more work on the inside of the CP to give the command as much space as possible to get the mission done. SPC Moseley completed work on the CP by laying rubber matting down on the floor. The arms room was also moved from

its original location to right beside the CP, leaving room for the addition of the Direct Support Arms Shop. SSG Harris, pulling a lion's share of supply-related work has been going to the TPE yard on a daily basis, getting more theater provided equipment. On the 29th of September, Headquarters platoon organized and conducted a company-level promotion board, the members of which included the FSC First Sergeant, ISG Dye (acting as the board president), the Headquarters Platoon Sergeant, SFC Doby (acting as a panel member), and company armorer PFC Kannenberg (acting as the recorder).

PVT Marquis McDuffy

Distro

This month Distribution Platoon has been heavily engaged in resupply missions. Distro has been working close with PSD Platoon putting together convoy teams to help push out mission essential equipment and supplies to their sister companies in the outlying FOBs. In the past month, they've gone to two different FOBs a half dozen times delivering equipment for 76th EN CO and 60th EN CO. In addition, they've been helping establish the new Battalion Motor Pool. Distro assisted in laying Force Protection Barriers and moving the Theater Provided Equipment into organized lines. The result of the new Motor Pool move helped establish more spacious

Company and Platoon areas, better vehicle lines so they can be identified by Company, and a more organized work environment to help FSC work better to support the Battalion. The local national trucks have slowly began to come back on to KAF, and Distro has been pushing out as much resupplies as possible. The Platoon's primary objective is to push out all of the Home Station and Theater Provided Equipment to all of the Companies in the outlying FOBs. These actions will make more room in the Motor Pool and 502nd EN CO can establish a new staging area to push out. Once all of the vehicles and equipment has been pushed, Distro will work to sustain the FOBs with construction resupply items on jingle trucks and on future convoys.

ILT Jo Kim



Counterclockwise from top right: SGT Cobbs takes part in office construction.

SGT Keedy working with the MSD system.

SPC Chiupka and PVT McDuffy helping out with a construction project.

PV2 Lockhart conducting maintenance on a Reinforcer vehicle.

Maintenance

Maintenance Platoon has been working fast and furious on the Motor Pool realignment mission. The goal was to establish a new permanent area for the Battalion to settle. The Soldiers have been heavily engaged in task outside of their Maintenance mission along with developing the Motor Pool. SPC York has been leading the charge on monthly services, SGT Keedy has been training Soldiers for recovery missions to assist Distro and PSD on logistical convoys, SPC Stewart, A. is always full of grease and spending countless hours fixing vehicles, SPC Davis has been increasing his frequent flier mileage by traveling back and forth to Bagram Air Field to keep our radios up and running. SPC Rose and PFC Lockhart are keeping the Battalion cool

by doing Maintenance and repairs on the A/C units for the Motor Pool offices and vehicles. The clerks are always on top of their game as SGT Rodriguez leads the team, PFC Caudill performs flawlessly. SPC Martinez and PFC Tate handle the inventory control and ORILs turn in. SSG Price has left Maintenance to take over as a Platoon Sergeant (Maintenance) for 60th EN CO at a different FOB. We are going to miss you SSG Price! We wish you the best of luck. The platoon has reached the half-way point in deployment, and Maintenance has been on of the biggest assets of support for the Battalion by handling not only their mission, but other tasks as well.

SGT Treves



72nd Survey & Design Detachment

This month has been busy for the guys at the remote FOBs. SPC Justice and his team started surveying and designing a UAV Landing strip at FOB Frontenac. This is a very technical and precise task, and they are doing an excellent job. SPC Petrus' team, at Spin Buldak, has been locating well digging areas and working as technical liaisons for Afghani surveyors. They also staked out the trash burn pit for the FOB. SGT Galbreth and the rest of the FOB Wolverine team actually moved to FOB Sweeney to start the expansion there. They staked out a number of buildings and completed a topographical survey of an area that will be included into the FOB. SPC Bogacz and the KAF team has been busy running the day to day operations of the Detachment. They have also staked out some building footprints for other units and completed drawings for construction projects for the Battalion. SSG Machen, SSG Barron, and SGT Hamilton spent the last month traveling to all the FOBs to ensure the guys have everything they need to accomplish their missions.

SPC Bogacz also passed his 30th day in theatre, so we held a patching ceremony for him.

SSG Jason Machen

Top Right: SSG Machen patching SPC Bogacz in South Park

Bottom Right: SPC Sanjuro surveying at Frontenac



Words from the Battle Desk

Dear Seahorse Family and Friends,

Thank you for taking such great interest in the 19th Engineer Battalion and reading this newsletter. The Battalion has made an exciting milestone, moving into our new Battalion TOC. A special THANK-YOU to 3/76th EN who built the 50x90 C-Hut. We had some hurdles to jump while making our TOC jump, but we are lucky to have a dedicated battalion staff and patient company operations. S-3 Current Operations is now up and running, working on the mission at hand.

I would like to take this time to say THANK-YOU and good luck to our Editor-in-Chief, 2LT Enriquez. 2LT Enriquez has worked diligently on this newsletter and also for me as the Air Movement Request OIC. 2LT Enriquez will be taking over the Battalion PSD platoon starting in November 2009. Please keep 2LT Enriquez and the rest of the Battalion PSD in your thoughts and prayers as they drive through the next six months of deployment and assist the Command group with battlefield circulation.

S3 Battle Captain - CPT Jaime Miller



Front Row (L to R): CPT Jaime Miller, SPC Josue Rosario, 2LT Romeo Enriquez, SFC Eric Johnson, SFC Eric Parsley, SFC Michael Staton, CPT Megan Conrad, ILT Melanie Zdaniewicz.

Middle Row (L to R): SSG William Rollins, PFC Samantha Thomas, CPT Kevin Franke, SSG Landress Hall, CPT Troy Miller, ILT Thomas Lopez, PFC Valejo Johnson, SSG Ramon Thompson.

Back Row (L to R): CPT Kiel Wright, CW2 Spencer Hayman, MSG Curtis Ratliff, CH (CPT) Peter McDonald

And Now a Word From the Soldiers.... by SPC Jason Blythe

Hello Everyone. This Is SPC Jason Blythe. I am assigned to HSC, 19th Engineer Battalion. I Work in the BN S-1. I have volunteered to write a column for the battalion paper . I will be doing an interview column every issue. The interview style will vary each time. But regardless the style, you will be able to hear from the Soldiers, themselves. Any feed back or requests are welcome and will be appreciated. You may send them to me at Jason.blythe@us.army.mil. Thank you, and I hope you enjoy the column.

Interview #1

Hello all, I recently traveled up to Frontenac for a command visit to the 60th Engineer Company, from Fort Benning, GA. That is where I found two of the three participants for this interview. For this issue I interviewed SPC Kristin Pineda, of 60th Engineers; SGT Jason Fineberg of HSC; and CPT Kiel Wright, of HSC.

Seahorse Standard (SS): Thank you for joining us. How are you doing today?

SPC Pineda (KP): I am well, thanks.

SGT Fineberg (JF): I am doing well.

CPT Wright (KW): I am doing ok , thanks.

SS: How long have you been a part of the 19th Engineer Battalion?

KP: I have been with the 60th Engineer Company, 19th Engineer Battalion since they stood up in November 2006. I am still with the 60th, but we now, fall under the 11th Engineers as of last July.

KW: Over three years. I was with the 60th Engineers for a year as a vertical engineer platoon leader. Then, I moved to HSC

JF: I have been a part of the battalion since May 2007. I spent the first three months with FSC then moved to HSC.

SS: And now attached to the 60th?

JF: yes. I am attached as the senior medic, for the company.

SS: What is your current job? ..and your branch, Sir?

KW: I am an Engineer Officer.

JF: I am the medical NCO/ senior medic.

KP: [I am a] carpentry/masonry engineer.

SS: What roll does your job fulfill?

KP: My platoon built up the motor pool for the Stryker Brigade. As well as their TOC

JF: I ensure that the Soldiers, that are under my care, stay healthy and are given the treatment they need, just incase they fall ill or sustain injury.

KW: I am the plans officer for the battalion. I publish the daily Fragos directing the companies to accomplish missions according to our priorities

SS: Did you deploy with the unit prior to this deployment?

JF: Yes. I deployed with the unit July 2007 to November 2007

KW: Yes I deployed with the unit from 2006 to 2007. I deployed with the 60th to Kirkuk.

KP: Yes, I was deployed with the 60th PSD. I was in Kirkuk, Mosul and Tikrit.

SS: How does this deployment differ from the last one?

KW: I am primarily on staff as opposed to being in a line company.

KP: We had many more convoys in Iraq. Here, we mainly work on the Fob. The living conditions were better in Iraq as well. We had our own rooms from the start. Here, we just moved in to trailers a couple months ago.

JF: The main difference is that I am now an NCO and my role differs from last time. Also, this is my first year long deployment.

SS: Congratulations on your Promotion.

JF: Thank you. It has been a long time coming.

SS: Is this deployment to Afghanistan anything how you imagined it would be?

KW: I thought Iraq smelled bad when it rained but Afghanistan smells bad all the time.

JF: yes, This deployment is going how I imagined it [from the start]. This is my second time, here, in Afghanistan. It is different, however, because last time, I flew in helicopters. This time it has been all on ground.



KP: I did not expect the Fob to be built up so fast. We have a new DFAC, living trailers, and a PX

SS: So you think progress is moving faster than expected?

KP: Yes. Even when we have limited supplies, we strive to complete the job.

SS: What are some things that you have noticed that are going well?

JF: From what I have seen, we are doing a great job building the structures, that other units need to do their job.

KP: Soldiers are working hard. There are normal complaints but that is to be expected. Another thing is time is passing a lot faster.

KW: I think by allowing Soldiers to have a low battle rhythm day, it gives them a weekly opportunity to relieve stress and a time to rest.

SS: And, now, how about not so well?

KW: I knew that was coming. I would say the current amount of connectivity limits the operational effectiveness of the battalion.

KP: This is a blackout Fob. There are no lights when the sun goes down. So Operations stop earlier than expected. I also seem to always run into things that I can't see. (laughs)

JF: Working only on a FOB, I have not seen anything negative for the mission or battalion.

SS: Has your outlook on this deployment change from the beginning up until now?

KP: Well, I was anticipating this deployment to be like Iraq. It wasn't even close, but it is not so bad now. The pace gave me a good chance to make some really good friends.

JF: Deployment has went how I expected so far. Every deployment has its ups and down. So the answer is no, my outlook has not changed.

KW: I think my second deployment is easier because I know what to expect.

SS: If there was one thing that you could change or improve upon, about this deployment, what would it be?

JF: I wouldn't change a thing. Looking back on past conflicts, we, now, are better equipped and trained then before. The over all living conditions are a plus.

KW: I would decrease the time deployed or give Soldiers two un-chargeable breaks. Deployments take a toll on families too.

KP: Um, I would rather be home.. (laughs)

SS: Well, other than that..

KP: I would like to go outside the Fob walls for missions. Maybe some crater repair and to see more than the Inside of a Fob. Other than work, a bigger PX and more expedient mail service

SS: Overall, has this deployment been a good experience to date?

KP: I would say so. I got to see Afghanistan and learn more lessons in life... I also got to build, which was a good experience.

KW: I am always sad to leave my family but one always learns more about themselves on deployment. They provide an opportunity to reassess your priorities and ensure you are working towards accomplishing your goals

JF: Yes!!

SS: and being promoted was a part of that?

JF: yes. That, and the leeway that I was given for leave to go home to see the birth of my son.

SS: Are there any leaders or colleagues that you would like to recognize?

KP: SPC Potts, SPC Cantwell, PFC Beard, PFC Huggins, and PFC Desselle. They really helped me through. There are many more to thank as well.

JF: My old platoon leader, 2LT Davis from PSD, my old squad leader SGT Foulkes from PSD, the battalion PA CPT Wampler and the aid station NCOIC SGT Plunkett.

KW: I would like to recognize PFC Valejo Johnson from the S-6 Section, HSC, for taking the initiative to check on my computers and fix them whenever he can

SS: Do you have any words for Family and friends back home?

KP: I miss you and can't wait to see you again.

JF: To my wife, Erin, and my son, Coleman, I love you and I miss you both. Stay strong, I will be home soon.

KW: I love and miss you. See you soon.

SS: Thank you for your time. Have a nice day and stay safe.

KP: Thanks!

JF: Thank you.

Alpha Company Gators

Rear D 6 Comments:

I think October is the greatest month of the year! The leaves change colors, the air turns crisp, and the streets fill with goblins and ghouls searching for free candy. In fact, we even celebrate the discovery of the New World with a four-day holiday dedicated to Christopher Columbus. And he never even stepped on North American soil! Additionally, for the 19th Engineers, we had students out of school for Fall Break, a Volunteer Recognition Ceremony, Spouses Appreciation Day, and the Battalion Trunk-or-Treat. Additionally, we started conducting Video Teleconferences between deployed Soldiers and their families here. This seems to have been a big hit thus far. So, it has been a busy month with the rear detachment supporting all of these events and deploying a lot of Soldiers who have come in lately. As always, our primary mission

continues to be supporting families in the 19th Engineer Battalion. As always, if you have any problems or concerns, do not hesitate to call your rear detachment NCOIC, me or SFC McBryar. Thanks!

Gator 6 - CPT Paul Turbeville



VTC Schedule

HSC (KAF)	- 1 Nov, 21 Nov, 2 Jan, 13 Feb, 27 Mar
FSC (KAF)	- 31 Oct, 12 Dec, 23 Jan, 6 Mar, 17 Apr
FOB Wolverine	- 14 Nov, 26 Dec, 6 Feb, 20 Mar
FOB Spin Boldak	- 7 Nov, 19 Dec, 30 Jan, 13 Mar
FOB Frontenac	- 28 Nov, 9 Jan, 20 Feb, 3 Apr
FOB Leatherneck	- 5 Dec, 16 Jan, 27 Feb, 10 Apr

Operation Faithful Support

Attention Spouses of Deployed Soldiers: Operation Faithful Support, a pro-marriage support group designed to equip and empower spouses to engineer strong marriages throughout deployment, will meet November 15th, 4-5:30 p.m. at 1116 S. Dixie Blvd, Radcliff (across from Radcliff Middle School). FREE onsite childcare provided for ages 0-10 yrs. Come, relax, enjoy a cup of coffee and some spouse-time.



THE SEAHORSE STANDARD

