

Outlaw Chronicles

Sappers clear the way!



Volume 1: Issue 10

November 15, 2012

Outlaw 6 Sends:



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Outlaws, as the holidays approach, I'd ask each of you to make a special effort to reach out to your friends and family back home.

This time of year is typically a time when families and friends gather to give thanks and celebrate the occasions. Although we can't be with our friends and family in person, a note, letter or card written just for the occasion might help your loved ones

know you miss them, and wish them the best given the circumstances. If you have children, write each one a separate letter or card. Write one for your spouse, and maybe your parents. Personalize the effort so that each understands that the message was for them and them alone. Our families and friends give much during holidays, and this holiday season will re-

quire and extra effort on their part because you aren't there to help. Make the choice to send them a special thanks on your behalf for keeping the holiday traditions on course.... Hell Yeah!

— LTC Jack Ritter



Task Force Outlaw



XO Foxhole

“As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”

Hey Outlaws! I finally had the opportunity to get out of Kandahar Airfield (KAF) and spend some time with another unit. My adventure took me to a preferred R&R spot, at a Forward Operating Base (FOB) outside of Kandahar City, to visit the 584th MAC. Of course, I had a task and purpose for going and it wasn't just to enjoy the good food, or workout in the new gym, or sleep in a location where you don't constantly hear jets taking off.

I had the opportunity to see, first hand, how a Route Clearance Company operates and what challenges they have that I can assist with. As I was strolling through the motor pool to observe the company conducting vehicle maintenance, they call it “pit crew”, I had a young SGT Skipper come up to me and introduce himself. SGT Skipper told me all about “pit crew” and showed me around to some of the vehicles and what issues they are having. I was impressed with the knowledge and ownership that he took in his vehicles.

Since we are from Okla-

homa, I was excited for the Oklahoma/Texas football game that weekend. I was hesitant at first to watch the game among a unit from Fort Hood, Texas, but I found out that most of the soldiers aren't even from Texas, so I felt comfortable with that. Of course, as you would know it, some electrical surge or something took out the satel-



On route clearance, SPC David Wilson throws the “hook ‘em horns” sign to MAJ DeShazo

lite on the whole FOB and there was no way to watch the game. I didn't panic too much though. I knew I could, at least, follow the game online. Well wouldn't you know it, the internet at the FOB was down also and so I



couldn't even get a score. I think it was sabotage. The next morning I woke up and prepared for a route clearance mission with 3rd platoon. I was assigned to ride in the “Buffalo” with driver, SPC Tyler Patrick, Truck Commander, SGT Sean Collins, and gunner, SPC David Wilson. These guys kept me laughing the whole trip. They would talk about everything from how crazy the drivers are in Kandahar City to how many calories are in an energy drink. We must have had a 20-25 minute conversation about shoes. These guys were talking about how many pairs of shoes they are going to buy when they get home and how many different colors of shoes they have. SPC Wilson definitely has a shoe addiction. He had pictures of his shoes like they were his kids. Good times. As we were riding along, I asked SGT Collins to send a message to 2LT Ethan Hager to see if we could get a final score on the football game.

XO Foxhole Continued

After a long wait, the only response I got back on the radio from 2LT Hager was, "Texas beat 'em". I was crushed. I didn't even want to know what the score was. I just couldn't see how Texas could have beaten us this year. After returning to KAF, I come into the office with my head down. I drop my gear and go to see what the score of the game was. After I find out that we beat Texas, 63-21, I had to send a message back to 2LT Hager and 3rd platoon to tell them, "Boomer

Sooner!"

Thanks to the CPT Frederick, 1SG Evans and 1LT Hine for hosting me. Also thanks to 2LT Hager, SFC Melendez (newly promoted) and 3rd platoon for a safe trip back to KAF. Woolly Bully!



— MAJ Brian DeShazo
XO, 120th EN BN



3rd PLT preparing for a route clearance mission.

Front Row (left to right): SSG Chong, SFC Melendez, 2LT Hager, MAJ DeShazo
Second Row: SGT Skipper, SPC Jackson, PFC Johnson, A., SPC Vanwey (kneeling), PFC Phillips, PV2 Willson, B., PFC Smith, SFC Miller
Back Row: SGT Harland, SPC Streetman, PFC Gregorovich, SGT Ulvi, SPC Patrick, SPC Adame, SGT Collins, SPC Wilson, D., SPC Mann

Readers Digest: Humor in Uniform

My squad leader decided to try and break the base record of 424 push-ups. With our physical training instructor standing over him, he knocked out 100 quick ones before he settled into a steady

rhythm. We were sure he'd break the record, but at 390 he paused at the top and began to shake his head from side to side before slowly continuing. After finishing his 402 push-up, he paused

again, shook his head, coughed, then collapsed. As we walked back to our barracks, our instructor cracked a rare smile. "You gotta give that guy credit," he said.

"if he had just been able to shake that wasp away from his face instead of inhaling it, he'd have broken the record for sure!"
-MSG Patrick L. Hathaway

Medical Corner: What is “Dietary Fiber?”



What is fiber, what are the benefits of taking fiber, how much fiber should I have daily? Fiber is the indigestible portion of plant foods. There are two main components: soluble fiber (Prebiotic) that is readily fermented in the colon into gases and physiologically active byproducts, and insoluble fiber that provides bulk and ferment. Bulking fibers absorb water as they move through the digestive system, easing defecation. Fermentable insoluble fibers mildly promote regularity, but not to the as much as the bulking fibers do. The benefits of fiber included lowering cholesterol levels, reducing risk of colon cancer, lower the risk of diabetes and losing weight. Soluble fiber supplements may be beneficial for alleviating symptoms of irritable bowel syndrome, such as diarrhea and/or constipation and abdominal discomfort. Prebiotic soluble fiber products, like those containing insulin or oligosaccharides, may contribute to relief from inflammatory bowel disease, as in Crohn's disease, ulcerative colitis, and Clostridium difficile. The insoluble fiber has been used as a supplement and may contribute to improving insulin sensitivity and glycemic management as well as promoting regularity and possibly relief of diarrhea. Fiber also improves the absorption of mineral and vitamins especially calcium. Soluble fiber can be found in these foods legumes (peas, soybeans, lupines and other beans), oats, rye, chia, and barley, prune juice, plums, berries, bananas, and the insides of apples, sweet potatoes and onions, and nuts. Almonds have the highest fiber value. Insoluble foods are whole wheat, corn bran beans and peas, nuts and seeds, potato skins, green beans, cauliflower, zucchini, celery, avocado, and unripe bananas, the skins of some fruits, including kiwifruit and tomatoes. According to FDA, the daily recommend dose of fiber per day is about 35 grams for adult.

Color coding of table entries:

Both Applies to both soluble and insoluble fiber (writing in red)

Soluble Applies to soluble fiber only (Blue Box)

Insoluble Applies to insoluble fiber only (Tan Box)

Dietary fiber functions and benefits

Functions	Benefits
Increases food volume without increasing caloric content, providing satiety	May reduce appetite
Attracts water and forms a viscous gel during digestion, slowing the emptying of the stomach and intestinal transit, shielding carbohydrates from enzymes, and delaying absorption of glucose	Lowers variance in blood sugar levels
Lowers total and LDL cholesterol	Reduces risk of cardiovascular disease
Regulates blood sugar	May reduce glucose and insulin levels in diabetic patients and may lower risk of diabetes
Speeds the passage of foods through the digestive system	Facilitates regular defecation
Adds bulk to the stool	Alleviates constipation
Balances intestinal pH and stimulates intestinal fermentation production of short-chain fatty acids	May reduce risk of colorectal cancer

By Medic of the Year
AKA SPC Osterloh



Power Point Ranger:



B.A.M. CONTEST!!!

Howdy Outlaws!
We will be having a
B.A.M. CONTEST

- Must sign up
- Open to all Soldiers (male and female)
- Before and after pictures (required for units not at KAF)
- Best and worst
- All members will shave clean on Thanksgiving Day.
- Everyone will have 40 days to grow their BAM
- All members will be judged on New Years Day.

Judges: SPC Osterloh,
SPC Diaz, SPC Churchwell,
SGT Duncan, and SSG
Wilson

Objective: to grow a Full, Thick BAM (within regulation). If you think you have what it takes to grow your BAM, if you have the STONES to play. then you need to be entered into this contest.

OUTLAWS! HELL YEAH!

Guess the B.A.M.!

See if you can properly Identify the
owner of this Task Force Outlaw
Engineer's B.A.M.!!!



Leadership Corner

If we don't look at ourselves honestly and realistically, we will never understand where our personal difficulties lie.

And if we can't see them, we won't be able to lead ourselves effectively.

~Anonymous~



Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Co.

Specialist Josh Smothers

- Home: Blytheville, Arkansas
- Years in Service: 4 yrs
- Married: yes, to my beautiful wife, Mallory, and a beautiful new-born daughter, Allie
- Parents: Scotty and Becky Smothers
- 1st thoughts when hearing about Deployment: Wow, I needed to get mentally, physically, and spiritually ready to take this task on.
- Something you have learned on this Deployment: Learned how important team work is.
- Favorite Food: A Good home cooked meal
- Sports Team: no question, Arkansas Razorbacks
- Hobbies: Fishing, hunting, basketball and just hanging out with my family
- Plans when you go back home: Catch up on lost time and get to know my daughter who was born 1 week ago.
- What were your thoughts on your first mission outside the wire? Nervous but ready. Going over all my medical training, in my head, over and over. Hope for a successful mission with no mishaps.



Hey Everyone!

**If you want to see
more photos and
awesome events and
happenings, check
out the Task Force
Outlaw Facebook**

Page!!!

[www.facebook.com/](http://www.facebook.com/TaskForceOutlaw)

TaskForceOutlaw

655 RSG "ONLY THE FALLEN HEROES" WORK OUT

2 X PERSON TEAM COMPETITION, NOV 25, HEATS START AT 0900 W/ A 35 MINUTE TIME CAP:



- 200M BUDDY CARRY RUN
- 100 PUSH UPS
- 100 AIR SQUATS
- 100 PULL UPS
- 100 BOX JUMPS
- 100 KETTLE BELL SWINGS (1.5 POOD MALE)
(1 POOD FEMALE)
- 100 DOUBLE UNDERS
- 100 SITUPS
- 200M BUDDY CARRY RUN

(*All Reps are Combined Effort)

➤ Tired of Fun Runs? This is a Team competition, to honor the 100+ Fallen Heroes from RC-S, SW, W, that we have completed Dignified Transfers for during our deployment. Each rep represents 1 x Fallen Hero.

➤ Team registration fee will be \$40.00 and will include free participant shirts. Shirts for non-participants will be available for minimum donation.

➤ Registration will be at the Boardwalk Oct 15-20 from 16-1800, or continuously at the US forces Garrison Command BLDG 241 RM 14.

➤ Push Yourself, Push your friends, Sweat and Hurt, for those who have made the Ultimate Sacrifice. Proceeds from event will be donated to the Wounded Warrior Project.

CONTACT SSG SHAWN FISCHER FOR TIME AND DETAILS, 312-241-2553

Soldier Spotlight: 182nd Engineer Company

Specialist Todd Eastman

- Home: Rockland MA
- Years in Service: 3 years
- Marital status: Single
- First person in family to be in the military
- Why joined: To give back to my country what others have given before.
- Deployment Job: Mechanic and QRF recovery
- How does this deployment compare to others: This is my first deployment.
- What are your thoughts on the deployment: This has been a pretty decent deployment. Being a mechanic in an engineer unit has given me a great deal of experience in a combat MOS. Learning new skills and problem solving in a very kinetic environment will be useful for future jobs.
- Something you have learned on this Deployment: Learning how to make decisions in a combat environment has helped develop a lot of confidence in my job.
- Favorite Food: Pizza
- Favorite Sport: Lacrosse
- Vehicle you own: 1965 Chevy Nova
- Civilian career: Mechanic
- Plans when you go back home: Go back to work. Buy and restore another antique car.



Chaplain Brown: Thanksgiving

Thanksgiving is just around the corner and I have something for you all to think about. In 1621 the Pilgrims went through a trying time. They had lost several family members and friends to a harsh winter, attacks, and sickness. There are many of us who have lost loved ones and friends too. So how do we give "Thanks" when we experience these heartaches in our lives? For many of us we turn to the strength we find in Christ Jesus. For others, it is through family and friends. Some of us even grow "BAMS" to help deal with the pain. Whatever you find your strength in this Thanksgiving always remember to give "Thanks" in all that you do. Also, tell others around you how thankful you are for them in your lives including your loved ones back home. Although we Outlaws will not be home this Thanksgiving we can still have an impact here and back home.

God Bless,

CH (CPT) Matthew S. Brown



693rd Engineer Company Cases Colors

In preparation for their upcoming deployment, Soldiers of 693rd Engineer Company, 7th Engineer Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade, 10th Mountain Division (LI), cased their unit's colors during a ceremony Tuesday at Monti Physical Fitness Center on Fort Drum. The company is scheduled to soon deploy to a Forward Operating Base in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, for a nine-month route clearance mission. After an invocation and the playing of the national anthem, Maj. Byung C. Kim, battalion training officer in charge, addressed deploying Soldiers, many of whom had friends, Family Members and fellow Soldiers in attendance. "Yours is a mission that will save lives," Kim said. "Trust in the training you have received, your leaders, and the Soldiers

to the left and right of you."

After Kim's remarks, guest speaker Col. James H. Raymer, former deputy commander of the Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, spoke to attendees.

Raymer praised Soldiers of 693rd Engineer Company for their hard work and professionalism ahead of their coming deployment. He also thanked family members for their continued loyalty and support.

"Operation Enduring Freedom has been going on for more than 11 years, and the 693rd will help bring an end to it," the Colonel said.

The concluding speaker for the ceremony was Capt. John R. Morrow, company commander. He recognized that a myriad of emotions accompany a deployment -- many of them not positive -- but suggested there can

be a positive upshot with any hardship.

"War is a transformative endeavor," Morrow said. "Amid war's destruction, there is an opportunity for growth. It has the power to strengthen those that meet the challenge head-on, endure it well and return with honor."

The ceremony concluded with the singing of the 10th Mountain Division song and the Army song.

— By Staff Sgt. Cory Thatcher



"The Hellbender"

The mascot and call-sign of the 1138th Engineer Company from Cape Girardeau, Missouri, is the Hellbender. What is a Hellbender, you might ask? The Ozark Hellbender is one of the largest salamanders in the world, reaching about two feet in length. Hellbenders are superbly adaptive to environments in which they live. Their makeup allows them little resistance to the environment they inhabit. They have a good sense of smell and will move against the grain in search of food, following the trail and scent of prey.

The hellbender salamander is considered to be a "habitat specialist"—in other words, it has adapted to fill a specific niche within a very specific environment. — CPT James Davis



Shoot, Move, and Communicate

We have come a long way in the realm of communications both in our personal lives and on the battlefield. Battlefield communications started with signal flags called “wig wags”. Courier pigeons and telephones were used before the radio even. Because of the need for smaller radios on the battlefield, the cell phone is now a part of our personal life. The change in technology will always influence the way we fight.



“Shoot, Move, and Communicate”: this is a phrase that you hear a lot in the Army. So why is it that most Soldiers tend to forget about the Communication side until they can’t do it? Technology has become so much a part of life that we can’t seem to live and work without it. Yet we have to have the MOS trained Soldier be the radio or the special program operator. These tasks are basic soldier skills, just like moving and shooting. The 25 series are the Soldiers who perform the same tasks on the communications equipment that an armorer would perform on weapons systems.

Today’s Soldier has a much higher intelligence when it comes to electronics. Any Soldier should be able to pick up and use almost any equipment on today’s battlefield. The “Comm Shop” is there to be the subject matter expert on the communications equipment. They are there to instruct on basic operation and to trouble shoot on any communication equipment. Once the Non-25 series Soldier cannot figure out why the equipment doesn’t work then the Communications Shop is called in to further assist.

An apparent problem is the lack of refresher training on communications equipment. We have to qualify with weapons every year, but we don’t qualify with a radio and sending radio messages. Although it is indirect, the radio is just as deadly a weapon as a rifle is. What if you get into a situation where you are the only one that can use the radio to call for help? This is how important that basic skill is. Another example is the use of a “DAGR” GPS mapping system. It is just as perishable skill as map reading. If the skill isn’t used often enough it is lost or greatly degraded. Or what do you do if your batteries die while using your dagger. Will you remember how to use that map and compass?

To be fully combat effective as a fighting team we have to be able to “Shoot, Move, and Communicate.” Technology is a good thing, but never become completely dependent on it. Always have a backup plan just in case. OUTLAW 9 out.

— CPT Daniel Dannatt



Soldier Spotlight: 23rd Engineer Company

Private First Class Andres Vasquez



- Hometown: Modesto, CA
- Years of service: 1
- Married with 1 kid
- Why did you join? Wasn't ready to go to school yet
- Deployment job: Husky Operator
- What are your thoughts on the deployment? Going good so far, it's starting to calm down a lot right now.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:

Responsibility, doing the right thing matters a lot, whether it is harder or not.

- How does this deployment compare to others? 1st deployment
- Vehicle you own: Jeep
- Plans to do when back home? Spend time with my son, haven't met him yet. He was born the same day we got to Manas.
- What is the most challenging thing about operating the Husky? The fact that you are pretty much leading the convoy, the convoy depends on you.
- How do you feel about being in front all the time? I like it, I feel like I'm actually making a difference the whole time, if I find something, that means it won't get someone else.
- How do you train your substitutes in order to give you a rest every once and a while? Pass on the knowledge that I have as far as what routes are tougher outside the wire.
- What are some interesting things about operating the Husky? You're alone a lot, it gets frustrating in there sometimes the fact that you're out there alone and it's difficult to communicate with the rest of the patrol sometimes
- What are some positive/negative experiences you have had? Positive-Once I realized that the piece of equipment works, I found an IED on my first mission
Negative-You really have to be paying attention, because there are a lot of things that can go wrong with the system
- How do you stay mentally focused while operating the Husky? Keeping in mind what complacency can do to the convoy and if you start to lose focus, things can go bad



1138th En. Co.: Deploying Together

Forward Operating Base, Southern Afghanistan- Combat Engineers, on their third deployment together with the same Missouri Army National Guard Engineer Company, reflect upon their journey. Sergeant First Class William Halbrook, Staff Sergeant Lawrence Johnson, Staff Sergeant Brian Lee, Sergeant Jason Reeves, and Specialist Jason Dane with the 1138th Engineer Company (Sapper), Farmington, Missouri are currently deployed to southern Afghanistan. Although these Soldiers' mission remains route clearance, much has changed.

"It's night and day difference", says Halbrook, of Bonne Terre, Missouri. "The size and type of improvised explosive devices (IEDs), the new equipment and the living conditions" describes Halbrook about the difference between Afghanistan and Iraq during their last deployment in 2007-2008. "KC (Kandahar City) is much different than Baghdad or Sadr City was in Iraq. The weather is much different and the people are not near as friendly as they were in the city of Baghdad" said Halbrook.

Specialist Jason Dane said, "In Iraq we mostly cleared flat paved roads. In Afghanistan we're clearing mountain terrain on what look like goat trails instead of road." Dane added, "so far Afghanistan doesn't seem to be as hot as Iraq."

The group was first deployed together with then Company A, 1140th EN BN in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2004-2005.

Staff Sergeant Johnson, of Park Hills, Missouri recounts his days in Iraq on his first combat deployment.

"It was eye opening for me as a young PFC" said Johnson. "We hit Kuwait with our Battalion and found out we were doing something new called route clearance." Johnson said he soon learned that route clearance was no joke. During their tour Johnson reports they found somewhere in the vicinity of 200 improvised explosive devices. "I don't take anything for granted" said Johnson. "I try to pass the knowledge I learned over my past deployments to my Soldiers to ensure we're safe and successful."

Staff Sergeant Brian W. Lee of Fredericktown, Missouri remembers his first deployment with the company back in 2004-2005.

"In 2004 I was deployed to Iraq as a light wheel vehicle mechanic and now I'm a supply sergeant as a unit Liaison Officer (LNO) in Afghanistan," said Lee. "I can still remember riding around the roads of Iraq in soft sided vehicles with no air conditioning looking for things that blow up. Now we have heavily armored vehicles with air conditioning." Lee continues, "I have been in the same unit since February 1996 and remain a proud member for what we have accomplished. On my first deployment my Daughter was only 5 years old and my Son was four. By the time I get home from this deployment they will both be teenagers." Lee and his wife celebrated their 15 year wedding anniversary this past July.

"It was a lot different back then!" said Sergeant Jason Reeves of Park Hills, Missouri. Reeves added, the equipment and force enablers that we utilize are night and day difference from my first deployment. Everything had evolved to technology and computers on my second deployment and now on my third deployment the technology and communications is even far superior to last time. Everything has developed to assist the personnel out on the roads clearing the IEDs.

Sergeant First Class Halbrook, Staff Sergeant Johnson, Staff Sergeant Lee, Sergeant Reeves and Specialist Dane first deployed as Company A, 1140th Engineer Battalion which was reorganized and re-designated September, 1 2006 as the 1138th Engineer Company. The group was ordered into active Federal service July 19, 2007 at Farmington and deployed to Iraq where they were tasked the arduous mission of route clearance for the second time. The 1138th Engineer Company was released from active Federal service August 21, 2008 and reverted to state control. The group was ordered into active Federal Service on July 6, 2012 for their current deployment. The 1138th Engineer Company Soldiers are deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom under command of Captain Jason R. Davis of Wentzville, MO. The 1138th is currently conducting route clearance as part of International Security and Assistance Forces.

Route clearance missions are the primary means of maintaining open supply lines in the area of operations. The 1138th conducts daily missions to ensure these routes remain free of threats and improvised explosive devices (IEDs). Home station, Farmington, Missouri (less detachment Fredericktown).

-CPT Jason Davis



584th is Climbing the Walls



"Move your hand to that white rock... Good! Now move your left foot up to that next higher green step... Good!" These are some of the commands on might often hear coming from the end of the gym, on the Forward Oper-



ating Base in Southern Afghanistan, that houses the 584th's Rock Wall. The Rock wall, originally just a small 2 pieces built against T-walls in the 584th compound, was moved into the gym and eventually made bigger and better by a few of the Soldiers from the 584th, Wooly Bullies.

The project, which

is completely Soldier-driven, has caught the attention of a few new climbers. The wall itself is roughly 25 feet tall and has different shaped areas with differing levels of difficulty. According to Sergeant Andrew Skipper,

one of the certified rock climbing instructors and member of the 584th,

"The intensity of the work out is all up to the individual. If you, ya know, go slowly picking out your next movement carefully, you're not going to get as tough of a workout. But if you just go and go and go, climbing as quickly as you can, moving until you can't any more? You're definitely going to feel it the

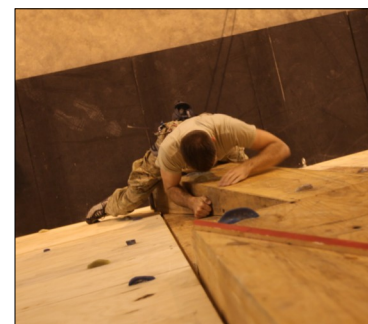
next day."

Some of the climbers come in and are hesitant to try the wall, but after attempting it, most people find it's not as bad as their first thoughts made it seem, and they usually return to climb again frequently.

"It's addicting. People often are fearful to try it, but once they do, they're hooked. I know of a couple people who never climbed before, that have purchased their own gear and come in to climb all the time," said Sgt. Skipper.

The Rock Wall is operated and maintained by the 584th and is the only one of its kind in all of RC South.

-SPC Klein, J. Alex



1433rd and ANA Still Going Strong

In the past month the ANA have shown us their ability to keep going despite outer influences. The ANA maintain their desire to continue training and have done so with improving numbers of attendance. Partnered missions have resumed and have been met with much enthusiasm. As ANA liaisons we have seen a boost in their desires to continue their partnership with us and work on their own needs instead of relying on outer sources. We have helped

in these areas of need by providing support and the knowledge and patience for them to be able to acquire the things they desire, such as fuel and parts for their equipment. These actions of acquiring are not yet efficient but they are climbing to be so, and they are showing much promise for the future. A tree shall grow providing it has the right nourishment and help; we believe this tree to be growing quite well and can see in the formidable

future this tree growing on its own to become a sturdy well rooted asset within their brigade, as well as future partnerships.

— SGT Joshua Rose, 1433rd



182nd Engineers Transfer of Authority

Kandahar Province, Afghanistan – Members of the 182nd Engineer Company, “Red Sox” prepared to redeploy home to the States as they transferred authority of operations in Kandahar Province, Afghanistan, to the 693rd En. Co. in a ceremony, Nov 8th at FOB Azzi Zullah.

U.S. Army Capt Michael Bouchard, commander of the 182nd Red Sox said he is very proud of his unit’s performance. “The 182nd Red Sox did a remarkable job this year and I could not have asked for more. Tell Master Sgt. St. Cyr we will be home waiting on him!”

These engineer companies perform a vital role in southern Afghanistan. They clear the roads and routes of improvised



Members of the 182nd engineer company after their awards ceremony just prior to departing Afghanistan for home. (Photo by Spc. J. Alex

explosive devices to improve the safety and security of both Afghan civilians and military units.

U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Rosa said “We are just glad that we will be home for the holidays!”

The 182nd is a National Guard

unit from Massachusetts and has a long and prestigious history that dates back to the first units organized in the Guard. They are also one of the route clearance companies that are proud to be able to bring all of their Soldiers home safe. First Sgt. Glen Bona of the 182nd said “We wish the best of luck to the 693rd Engineer Company and the 120th Engineer Battalion. We can’t wait to get home for some good pizza and beer!”

The official transfer of authority was executed on Nov 9th and with this transition, the 693rd assumed the mission and are currently fighting the fight with great success. The 182nd Red Sox will soon be happily heading home to their waiting family and friends.

—By CPT Paul A. Wyckoff

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



1433rd:

SPC Joshua Brown 11/15
PV2 Joshua Colon 11/15
SSG Joshua Smith 11/15
SPC Kyle Kontney 11/16
SPC Miguel Morales 11/18
PFC Thomas Noble 11/19
PFC Joshua Bahrman 11/25
SSG Roger Antilla 11/25
SFC Barry Ocallaghan 11/28
CPT Todd Falor 11/29

1039th:

SGT Anthony Taylor 11/26
SPC Zachary Johnson 11/26

120th HHC:

MAJ Cory Newcomb 11/15



1LT Brian Lageman 11/16

120th FSC:

PFC Docksey Christie 11/22

1138th:

SPC Vikas Singh 11/15
SPC Larry Kelley 11/23
PFC Matthew Wheelis 11/27
SPC Kevin Bronaugh 11/29

584th:

SPC Brian Gillan 11/18
SGT Lee Curry 11/24

Words From the TOP: 693rd Engineer Company

Remember to check your ranks to ensure Soldiers are wearing only ballistic eyewear on the Authorized Protective Eyewear List (APEL) IAW Regional Command (South) / Combined Joint Task Force – 3 (Uniform Wear, Appearance, Conduct and Standards) dated 01 November 2012 para 15. Prescription eyeglasses are not an acceptable substitution alone while outdoors. Soldiers who do not have prescription inserts for their APEL approved ballistic eyewear should wear goggles over their prescription glasses. Information on APEL approved ballistic eyewear is available at the following site:

<https://peosoldier.army.mil/equipment/eyewear/>

1SG Michael E. Behnkendorf
693rd Engineer Company (Sapper)





What is a Warrant Officer?

Warrant Officers are highly specialized experts and trainers in their career fields. By gaining progressive levels of expertise and leadership, these leaders provide valuable guidance to commanders and organizations in their specialty. Warrant Officers remain single-specialty officers with career tracks that progress within their field, unlike their Commissioned Officer counterparts who focus on increased levels of command and staff duty positions.

Prerequisites for attending Warrant Officer school:

- Complete MOS training
- Rank is usually SPC/E-4 or higher
- Must be appointed prior to age 46
- Most specialties require completion of appropriate NCOES leadership Courses.
- Documented proficiency in specialty area
- Meet prerequisite standards for specialty area

Warrant Officers serve at all levels of the Army. Typically, junior Warrant Officers are assigned at the unit level, whereas senior Warrant Officers are assigned at higher levels such as Battalion, Brigade and Division, and also to positions on the Army Staff at the Pentagon. Warrant Officers also serve with Department of Defense, organization of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, and other military services.

There is some evidence to suggest that Napoleon used Warrant Officers as communications links between his commissioned officers and the rank-and-file soldiers.

So now that one understands what a Warrant Officer is, the question that might arise next is: "What does a Warrant Officer do?"

Depending on the specific job, a Warrant Officer will become a managerial level Soldier. This means that they become the supervisors of the NCOs and Soldiers under their command. Certain duties might dictate that they be hands-on with the tasks being accomplished on the ground. While at other times, they may be sending emails or working with other people cross-level to accomplish their mission.

Warrant Officers have often been referred to as "The essential link between Officers and the Enlisted."

They are noted as being "Technically and Tactically Proficient."

-SPC Klein, J. Alex



693rd Engineer Company Tacking

Members of the 693rd Engineer Company gathered together on 6 November 2012 for their company tacking ceremony. Captain John Morrow, the Company Commander, presided over the ceremony in the western operational area of Regional Command South – RC(S), Afghanistan. About half of

the 693rd Engineer Company consists of combat veterans, making this deployment the first for many. The 693rd Engineer Company is conducting route clearance missions as a member of Task Forces Outlaw

within RC(S) through the spring of next year.

1SG Behnkendorf "tacks" a combat patch on one of his Soldiers at a Forward Operating Base, Southern Afghanistan.



The Last Word: Veteran's Day



On November 11th, Americans celebrated Veterans Day. It was formally known as Armistice Day, a holiday set aside to recognize the end of World War I and the signing of the Armistice Agreement that took place on the 11th hour, of the 11th day, of the 11th month, in 1918. It was said that World War I was the “War to end all wars.”

In 1938 Armistice Day became a Federal holiday and recognized as a day dedicated to “World Peace” and as a way to recognize World War I Veterans. But peace did not prevail and America was subsequently involved in World War II and the Korean War.

In 1954 Congress amended the law and changed the word “Armistice” to “Veterans” and it became a day to recognize and honor veterans of all wars. In 1968, Congress passed the Uniforms Holiday Bill and Veterans Day was moved to the last Monday of October, however many states did not agree with this and continued to celebrate it on November 11th, causing confusion. In 1975, President Ford signed legislation that moved Veterans Day back to the original date of November 11th.

Veterans Day National Ceremony

In 1921 America dedicated a site at the Arlington Cemetery called the “Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.” Each year on 11 November at 1100 hours a color guard that is comprised of all military branches honors America’s dead Soldiers with a ceremony at this site. The President places a wreath at the tomb as a bugler plays Taps and is followed by a “Parade of Flags” inside the Memorial Amphitheater.

Many people confuse Veterans Day with Memorial Day. Veterans Day is to recognize all Veterans of all wars, both live and dead. Memorial Day is the day designated to remember America’s dead servicemen and women.

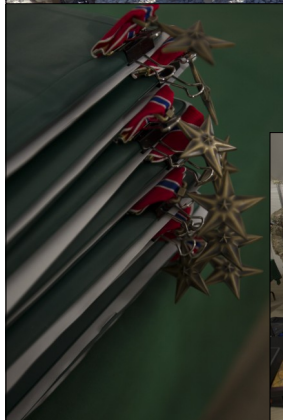
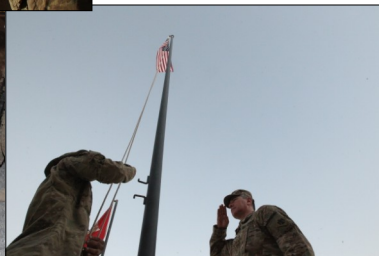
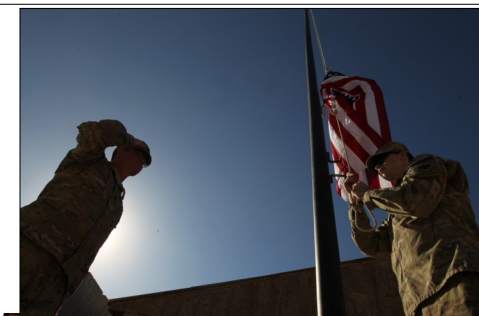
— CSM Richard Raby





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**MORE EXCITING
NEWS AND
EVENTS!!!**



Remember Everyone:

While here in Afghanistan, there are a few safety and Internet Security Notes to consider.

- 1.) Be Very Cautious of what you post on Social Media Platforms such as Facebook, Youtube, Twitter, etc.
- 2.) Don't post or say anything that could be considered offensive to any race, gender, religion, or anything of that kind.
- 3.) Don't plug any Unauthorized device(s) into any government computer.
- 4.) If you have anything that you think is questionable, check with the S-6 before you do anything with it.
- 5.) Any pictures or video of personnel, equipment, vehicles, etc. must be cleared for release by Battalion Public Affairs Office.

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER???
DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD???
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN A LATER ISSUE???
IF SO, CONTACT US!!!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

