

TASK FORCE *Lifeliners*

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101st Sustainment Brigade

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INSIDE FEATURE: Wagonmasters take helm



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A Message from the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



From Spirit 6

Hello from Camp Dehdadi II to all fellow Lifeliners, and friends and family of the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Just recently, the Task Force Spirit headquarters passed the mark of 100 days boots on the ground. This coincided close with the Memorial Day weekend, giving us the opportunity to observe both milestones. A team of Soldiers from the HQ Company competed in and won a FOB-wide 3-on-3 basketball tournament that culminated with the championship game on Memorial Day. We also held a Memorial Day 5k run and a cookout that was enjoyed by all.

Within the first 100 days, the Spirit battalion has made its presence felt throughout the region, delivering fuel, water, repair parts and equipment, maintaining and repairing equipment and moving cargo in support of unit movements. In addition to its sustainment mission, the Spirit Battalion is also the base operations support integrator (BOS-I) for Camp Dehdadi II, responsible for all life support and mission functions, as well as force protection for the FOB. In the first 100 days we have already made many improvements, and many more are in various stages of planning and execution. By the end of the summer we will have a fully staffed and stocked AAFES store, a new morale, welfare and recreation facility, a new gym, and an AAFES food court consisting of Subway, Pizza Hut and Green Beans Coffee, all of which will greatly improve the quality of life for the Soldiers and civilians who live and work here.

Perhaps our greatest accomplishment is the relationships we have established with the Afghan people. Our Soldiers conduct combined action with locally stationed Afghan National Army logistics Soldiers on a weekly basis, providing them with valuable training in supply operations, equipment maintenance and repair, and driving skills. We are also partnering with local civic leaders to increase capacity by improving roads and bridges, schools, medical facilities and drilling water wells. Through these partnership initiatives, the Spirit Battalion is doing its part to advance the counter-insurgency strategy and maintain peace and security in the local area.

The first 100 days has come and gone, but there are many more days ahead before this chapter in the history of the 530th CSSB is complete. We still have a lot of work to do, but Task Force Spirit is up to the task. To all the family and friends out there, your Soldiers are doing great and you should be proud of them.

Warrior Spirit, Warrior Support, Lifeliners
Air Assault!



Lt. Col. Austin Elliott
530th CSSB Commander

From Spirit 7

Hello from Camp Dehdadi II to all fellow Lifeliners, friends and family of the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion. Reflecting on this first 100 day mark I have to say well done to my Soldiers on ground who heard the mission answered the call and hit the ground running. I look at this current mission, the situation, the current threat and my Soldiers and I have to marvel at the evolution of this war the past ten years.

The lines of communication are key to completing a successful mission, leading Soldiers, and it also presents a great opportunity to build relationships. Communication is a key factor when deployed ensuring that leadership has clear concise tasks as well as a defined mission. Soldiers must have clear guidance from leadership and families, friends and love ones need to communicate with their Soldiers whenever possible. The 2 way line of communication that I have witnessed on this deployment is awesome. Soldiers have 2 MWR facilities in which they can use the internet, web-cameras, and phones to make contact with the outside world. They also have the luxury of having personal cellular devices and access to internet capabilities in their living quarters.

Proper planning, time management, two way communication as well as quality of life on the FOB have always been important when evaluating Soldiers deployments. The B.O.S.S program has been instrumental in making all of those 3 major elements above seamless for Soldiers as well as civilian life on our FOB. Making the environment a community in which Soldier and Civilian workers place the mission first and achieve the goal set forth while making the most of the environment that they work and live. Our 5k run as well as our Barbeque for the holiday has become a staple event for our



Command Sgt. Maj. Edward Johnson
530th CSSB Command Sergeant Major

"home away from home" with great turn outs from all sides of the FOB. In addition, the Soldiers, LNO's as well as civilians played side by side this weekend in the Memorial Day Tournament in 3-on-3 basketball. The championship game was Memorial Day and a true moral buster for the FOB and enjoyed by all who participated.

We have seen the first 100 days of this deployment come and go with tasks, objectives and obligations that were filled with great pride as well as accomplishment. 530th CSSB arrived with Soldiers who had been deployed for the first time as well as Soldiers who were no stranger to rigors of the deployment cycle. Regardless, all Soldiers are walking a path that will talk about in history books and that war movies are made of. I want to ensure the Soldiers families that you're Soldiers are doing a great job setting a standard. We still have a lot to do but we also are ready for the fight and prepared to work hard. We are American Soldiers and the members of our team stand ready to complete the mission.

Warrior Spirit, Warrior Support, Lifeliners
Air Assault!

SAFETY THOUGHTS

Do You Really Need Energy Drinks?

The television commercials continuously bombard viewers. Need a lift? Feeling sluggish? Well, just drink our little concoction to give you instant energy! Energy drinks have become a \$9 billion industry, as consumers purchase a wide variety of energy shots and canned liquids to stay alert and awake. It has become very common to see Soldiers suck down multiple energy drinks like Monster, Rip It, Rock Star and others. Many MRAPs and MATVs rolling out of the gate have coolers filled with these stay-awake drinks.

But what are you ingesting into your body when you suck down an Amp, Red Bull or Spike Shooter? If you believe the manufacturer, the caffeine content is not much more than a cup of coffee. Studies show this is not the case. Caffeine content varies. A 12-ounce serving of Amp contains 107 milligrams of caffeine, compared with 34 to 38 milligrams for the same amount of Coca-Cola or Pepsi. Monster has 120 milligrams and Red Bull has 116. Even higher on the spectrum, Spike Shooter contains 428 milligrams of caffeine in 12 ounces, and Wired X344 contains 258. Furthermore, some of

these drinks contain guarana, taurine, theobromine, theophylline, and other herbal supplements. Do you know what these chemicals are? (Didn't think so...) Yes, they are chemicals. They are stimulants. They may wake you up and give you a lift, but in some cases they have adverse effects on your system. Physicians on Bagram Airfield have seen multiple cases of Soldiers experiencing a frightening racing heart rate; in one case an officer had a sitting heart rate of 240 beats per minute. The cause? He was pounding down energy drinks all day. After two to three cups of coffee each morning, of course.

We haven't even addressed another issue with these drinks. Most have an extremely high caloric content. They're full of sugar and empty calories. Excessive amounts of sugar aid the stimulant effect. But it also can pack on the pounds. Here's an idea. If you feel that it's necessary to get a pick-me-up in the middle of the day... If your butt is dragging in mid-afternoon... If you keep drifting off when you're in a briefing... GET MORE SLEEP! It's nature's way of recharging your batteries. Put down the DVD player, quit horsing around til the wee hours, stop the card game before 2 AM. Lay your head on the pillow and get the rest your body needs. Follow this simple guidance (like your Mom told you) and you won't need to suck down energy drinks. You'll save money, avoid empty calories, and a possible adverse reaction to all those chemicals in the drink.



Jay Jennings
TF Lifeliners Safety Officer

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain (COL) Kenneth Sampson, recently retired after over 25 years of active duty service, completed his last tour of duty as the Army Materiel Command (AMC) Chaplain. He is one of the most positive persons that I have ever met. His approach to life inspires the best in others around him. I think that this is in part to the fact that he has the amazing gift of finding the positive side of almost every situation.

Each Sunday evening, Chaplain Sampson published through the AMC Operations Center his "Spiritual Thoughts" which were reflections on the events of the previous week and how he had been spiritually inspired by those everyday events. One of those reflections was called the "Hall of Heroes" on the occasion of a ceremony honoring Wounded Warriors held in the Pentagon's Hall of Heroes. I have borrowed the headings of his thoughts for these thoughts today.

The persistent conflict of 10 years at war has produced many acts of heroism, but it has also produced a weariness that is sometimes hard to shake off so that we can continue to the end. Some days there is just nothing left to give. This is not just a phenomenon of the Soldier but also of the Soldier's family and even of the greater society as a whole. How do we keep going and rise above the dogged push of the mundane and not so mundane requirements of any given day? Perhaps, the following points may inspire out thoughts as we attempt to answer the question of constancy as we enter the second half of our deployment as the Lifeliner community:

Strength: Strength is found in the will of the individual but even greater so in the collective group. As families and as units and sections, we need to add to each other's strength for a strength that is greater than we will have alone, rather than to drain the life out of each other. Adding strength may be as simple as thanking someone for something they have done; it may be saying I am sorry for something we have done or failed to do. It always means standing alongside each other simply because that is what we do as Lifeliners. The old adage reminds us that "there is strength in numbers" and "no one is an island unto himself."

Sacrifice: Prolonged conflict has brought innumerable sacrifices on all levels – physically, emotionally, relationally, spiritually, etc. You can all fill in the blanks on this topic – fallen heroes, family separations, emotional and spiritual strain, missed special occasions, broken relationships, etc. However, we are always reminded of the even greater sacrifice that God made for each of us. And, hopefully that helps us to find some perspective.

Resilience: We know about endurance training because the Army trains for the long fight. Resiliency is the ability to use coping resources effectively such as family and other social support systems, internal resources, decision-making skills, stress reduction techniques, and spiritual resources. Army leadership has recognized for some time the importance of the human terrain on the battlefield. Resilience is about balance in our lives physically, emotionally, socially, family, and spiritually. For the person of faith, resilience is a deep and profound trust in God who sustains, strengthens, and enables continued growth.

Contribution and Care: Little do we know so often, how profound an impact even the smallest contribution that we make to the lives of each other can be. A simple act of caring, by attitude, word or action, can make all the difference to another person. The simplest acts of thoughtfulness are often the most profound. Mother Teresa of Calcutta once said, "We shall never know all the good that a simple smile can do."

Community: As Chaplain Sampson commented, "It takes more than a lone individual to make a Soldier. Mother and father, close relatives and neighbors, leaders, peers and subordinates in the profession of arms – all impact us." We must support each other – our families, our fellow Soldiers, the stranger in the camp, etc. The New Testament reminds us that often we find faith, strength, and courage for the day in the community of others. Here is the kingdom and strength for the day: "I was hungry, and you fed me. I was thirsty, and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you invited me into your home. I was naked, and you gave me clothing. I was sick, and you cared for me. I was in prison, and you visited me." (Matthew 25:35-26 NLT)

May we each and all find strength for today and hope for tomorrow.

Chap. (Maj.) Tammie Crews
TF Lifeliners Chaplain



Why We Serve...

My name is Angela Prayoon Somnuk, I was born on September 11, 1984 in Heidelberg, Germany. My parents both served and met in the Army. My mother got out when she had my brother 28 years ago and my father stayed in for 24 years as an AG Officer. My older brother did ROTC at the University of Florida and commissioned in and I followed suit by joining the ROTC program at Florida International University, in Miami, Florida.

I commissioned in 2006 as a Transportation Officer, got stationed in Ft. Hood, TX, and deployed with the 3d Armored Cavalry Regiment to Operation Iraqi Freedom 07-09. I later attended the Combined Logistics Captain's Career Course at Ft. Lee, VA and was assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade at Ft. Campbell, KY which ironically is where my younger sister was stationed at the time. She deployed to Afghanistan a day after I got there and I later deployed to Bagram Airfield. I currently work in the Plans Shop at Brigade as the Force Manager.

I joined because I thought it would be a great way to start a career, learn a useful set of skills that I could apply to my life later on, and because I liked the Army life that I was so used to. I plan on doing the full 20 years as an Army Officer because it is a one of a kind job that not many people do, and I enjoy contributing to the military and being around the caliber of people that the Army has. I love being around Soldiers and I love teaching and mentoring them. People in the military have such a different mentality and perspective on life, and I enjoy the maturity and discipline that Soldiers of today's Army possess. The bonds and friendships that are developed while deployed with fellow Soldiers are unparalleled and that is hard to walk away from.



My name is 1LT Christina Ann Kalogiros. I am 25 years old and was born in Honolulu, Hawaii on February 2nd. I received a Bachelor's Degree in Criminology at the University of Florida and also received a 4 year ROTC scholarship. I commissioned in May 2008, and was branched Military Intelligence with a 3 year detail in Chemical Corps.

I married my husband about one month later on June 7, 2008.

After a short honeymoon, it was off to training at Fort Benning and Fort Leonard Wood.

I was assigned to the 2nd Battalion 44th Air Defense Artillery Regiment in Fort Campbell, KY and served as the Battalion Chemical Officer. A year later, we received a non standard NATO mission and deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom 10-11. My job for the last year has been training and mentoring the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Civil Order Patrol to build a self-sustaining and capable Afghan National Security Force.

I am just approaching my 3 year mark in the Army and at the end of the year will be attending the Military Intelligence Captain's Career Course in Fort Huachuca, AZ.

I joined the military because the military life is all I have ever known and what I have come to love. Being raised in a military family all my life, I became accustomed to moving from state to state and school to school year after year. Getting the opportunity to meet new people and make new friends is what I looked forward to each time.

The Army has given me opportunities that most people will never get in their lifetime. I have traveled and experienced many different cultures. I have led teams consisting of Polish Police, Jordanian Gendarmerie, Afghans, Marines and of course Army Soldiers. You will never experience a stronger camaraderie like the one you will develop while serving in a foreign country during a time of war with your fellow Soldiers. Although the Army life has by no means been easy on my family, it has developed me into the professional I am today and I wouldn't have it any other way.

Announcements

Lifeline 'humbled' by Purple Heart

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Like many Purple Heart recipients, Maj. Mike Cupp said he does not believe he deserves the award.

"I did what I was trained to do in that situation," the former executive officer of the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade said.

Cupp was awarded the Purple Heart Friday at a small ceremony at the brigade headquarters. He also received the Bronze Star with a Valor Device and a Combat Action Badge for his actions during a suicide bombing at Forward Operating Base Gamberi this past April.

Six soldiers and one civilian contractor were killed when a suicide bomber dressed as an Afghan National Army soldier entered the building where the battalion was conducting its morning meeting wearing a suicide bombers vest and detonated himself.

Cupp was slightly wounded in the explosion, but maintained his presence at the scene, according to Brigade Commander Col. Michael Peterman.

"All of you know what went on at Gamberi ... we owe a lot to that great team that was out there," he said. Cupp was treated and released from the hospital on the same day of the explosion. He was also at the air field as he watched members of his team being loaded onto the plane in caskets heading back to the states.

"This one is hard to get over," Cupp said at his award ceremony. "If it was a different situation, it be a different story. Not this time. This one will be tough."

Cupp joined the Army in 1993 and spent six years on the enlisted side before being commissioned a second lieutenant in 2000. His previous assignments as an officer include Fort Polk, La., Yongsan, Republic of South Korea, and one tour in Iraq. He was also assigned to Special Forces Headquarters, Headquarters Company (Airborne) at Fort Carson, Colo.

Cupp was assigned to Fort Campbell, Ky., in June 2009, and was one of two majors assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade headquarters Plans and Operations section. Peterman said he was instrumental in the brigade's transitional phase as the unit prepared to deploy to Afghanistan in 2010.

Cupp is scheduled to be re-assigned to the 5th Special Forces Group.



Awards

This past month, servicemembers of TF Lifeline received:

- 30 Bronze Star Medals
- 4 Purple Heart Ribbons
- 115 Combat Action Badges
- 415 Army Commendation Medals



Promotions

Congratulations to these newly promoted Lifeliners

- | | |
|----------------------|-------------------------|
| MSG David Lamb | SFC Mary Perez |
| SFC Justin Jirkovsky | SSG Christopher Newland |
| SGT Herbert Hudson | SGT Christopher Hitt |
| | SGT Eduardo Jones |



Forging a legacy

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – In 2004, the Army started a transformation to gear up for the 21st century and the Global War on Terrorism.

Spc. Jerry Leal, a supply clerk with the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, came into the military in 2004 to transform himself into a Soldier.

Leal made the plunge into the Army shortly after his father passed away from kidney cancer in 2003. “When he passed away in May, a week later I joined the military for a change in pace and to get away,” he said. “I left for basic training three months after he passed.”

After graduating his military training as a unit supply specialist, Leal arrived at Fort Campbell, Ky., February 2005, to his first assignment in what would become the 101st Brigade Troops Battalion, 101st Sust. Bde.

The brigade was created from the 101st Division Support Command and the 101st Corps Support Group, 1st Corps Support Command. It was reorganized as reactivated as Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 101st Support Group in 2004, and officially re-designated as the 101st Sust. Bde. in 2005.



Spc. Jerry Leal, a supply clerk for the logistics section of the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, pose in the STB conference room at Bagram Air Field. Leal has been with the unit for six years, and he has witnessed the transformations in mission, names and insignias for the STB and the 101st Sust. Bde. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

The unit was called the Sustainment Unit of Action, and was preparing for an upcoming deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Leal and the SUA left for the Joint Readiness Training Center at Fort Polk, La., in early April 2004. “At the time, I didn’t know anything about the Army,” Leal said. “We were just starting the transformation.”

When the unit returned from two weeks at JRTC, they were designated the Brigade Troops Battalion and then the 101st Sustainment Brigade. Their mission was to not only supporting themselves, but also the newly created brigade combat teams when they needed assistance in combat operations.

“We’re all in one, we can support ourselves and other brigades,” he said. “The Army was building the brigade and figuring out what worked and what didn’t.”

The brigade and BTB spent a year in Iraq, supporting brigade combat team, mostly from the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) in Northern Iraq. During the year, Leal and other Soldiers of the unit earned the 101st combat patch.

“I got to wear Abe, and when I told people that I was 101st, they said I was in a prestigious unit and I felt proud,” Leal said.

As he was gearing up for a second deployment, the brigade and battalion were making visible changes of the new unit structure. He deployed to Kuwait with the R5 (reception, R&R, return-to-duty, replacement, redeployment) platoon of the Human Resources Company, BTB, 101st Sust. Bde. in August 2007.

Command Sgt. Maj. Robert Blake, then the command sergeant major of the 101st Sust. Bde., gave the platoon his design of the infamous “Death Star” for their helmets. The four brigades of the 101st Division wear distinctive insignia on their helmets, including a Club, Heart, Tori Gate and Spade.

Blake created the death star for his brigade, which includes the 4 brigade insignias in a four-point compass rose, with the 101st Screaming Eagle front and center.

Leal and the R5 platoon were the first to deploy to combat operations with the new brigade insignia. He spent 15 months in Kuwait, and supported servicemembers as they entered and exited the Iraq theater of operations.

This past June, the brigade made a significant change in repatching Lifeliners with a brand new unit patch. The patch is a slightly modified version of the 101st Airborne Division patch, but spilt in two colors, with red representing their operations in Vietnam and green being their current operations in Afghanistan.

The deathstar, created by Blake, is prominently centered in the shield, signifying the brigade’s lineage with the division.

“We’re still Screaming Eagles no matter what,” Leal said. “I feel honored to wear the Sustainment brigade patch since I’ve been here since the beginning.”

The 101st Brigade Troops Battalion became the 101st Special Troops Battalion, meaning the battalion includes staff of the brigade and battalion.

Leal witnessed firsthand the transformation of the Lifeliners in the past six years, and will continue to as the brigade transforms again.

“The leadership molded and mentored me from multiple deployments to change me to who I am now,” he said. ♦

Train to lead, lead to train

Lifeliners tackle NCO/Soldier of the Quarter board in Afghanistan

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Three Soldiers from the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade competed in a Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter board here at Bagram.

Aside from a board seated by senior NCOs of the battalion, the competition started with an Army Physical Fitness Test and an eight station test of Warrior Tasks.

“It’s not just about the board,” said Command. Sgt. Maj. Katrina Najee, the command sergeant major of the 101st STB. “It’s making sure they’re technically and tactically proficient.”

The warrior tasks included several scenarios prevalent in Afghanistan, like conducting emergency first aid, interacting with news media, and searching a detainee.

Sgt. Sean Graham, a team leader for the Personal Security Detachment for the 101st STB, was one of the competitors for NCO of the Quarter. He constantly trains on many of the warrior tasks from the competition while attached to the PSD team, which runs convoys and foot patrols through the brigade’s area of operations.

“It keeps us on a common level,” Graham said. “A lot of this stuff we train on all the time to keep our levels up.”

All of the competitors brought their fighting spirit- from the APFT to the Warrior Tasks to the actual board - to prove who could dominate their battle buddy.

“I wanted to go to the board,” said Sgt. James Croghan, team member for the Brigade’s Repair and Upgrade team. “If I compete in something I’m going to give it my all.”

Prior to the battalion level board, the Soldiers and NCOs went head to head with other Sustainers in company level boards. For the STB Quarter Board, the final Soldiers and NCOs came from Alpha Company and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company.

“We didn’t have to force anyone of them to come out here,” Najee said, “and they all came with a competitive spirit.”

The final competitors came from units organic to the 101st STB, and have worked side by side with each other, not just during their deployment to Afghanistan, but also back at Fort Campbell, Ky.

“They’re going against their own peers,” said Sgt. 1st Class Luis Rivera, the operations section noncommissioned officer in charge for the 101st STB. “It builds esprit de corps due to the fact it’s one team and one fight. It all goes for the same outcome.”

The board allowed the Soldiers and NCOs a chance to hone their skills by training and constantly improving themselves as Soldiers and leaders.

“When you’re deployed, it can be mission, mission, mission,” Najee said. “But we still need to educate our junior NCOs because they are our future. The NCO Academy has a saying, ‘Train to lead, lead to train.’ That’s the statement for the NCO of the quarter board, and I’ve very proud of them.”

The final Soldiers and NCOs will face a board with Najee and the four first sergeants of the 101st STB May 18. The best Soldier and NCO will be decided, and will advance to the brigade competition.

“They all strive to be the best, but only one can be the best,” Rivera said. “It’s keeping the warrior instinct alive by giving Soldiers a competitive mindset.” ♦



Spc. Jessica Tosado, a competitor in the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade Soldier and Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter Competition of Alpha Company, identifies terrain features as her sponsor, Staff Sgt. Chad Cooper, looks on. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

Cross country communication

Kuwait Liaison helps Lifeliners support Soldiers

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – There are no Walmarts in Afghanistan.

Picking up the bullets, vehicle parts, lumber isn't as easy as driving down the street with a shopping list and a credit card.

When the 101st Sustainment Brigade needs supplies for the thousands of servicemembers it supports in Afghanistan, the liaison office in Kuwait makes sure the Lifeliners equipment never dwindles.

Operating out of Camp Arifjan, the LNO prioritizes cargo needed downrange for forward operating bases in the brigade's area of Regional Commands North, East and Capitol. If emergency resupplies are needed, then the LNO utilizes the express lane and expedites that cargo to Bagram Air Field.

"The LNO is the eyes and ears for the brigade," said Sgt. Maj. Jennifer Love, the Kuwait liaison office sergeant major for the 101st Sust Bde.

Since arriving in Afghanistan, the LNO team has pushed more than 100 million pounds of cargo by ground, and more than 10 million pounds of cargo by air, according to leaders with the brigade's Support Operations Transportation team.

Communication is the key to mission completion. The Kuwait LNO works with Support Operations and the brigade command team here in Afghanistan, and they feed them all the information during Logistics Synchronization meetings and Battle Update briefs many times a week, Love said.

"We expedite any type of cargo or personnel, for example, equipment or [Supply Support Agency] parts," said Staff Sgt. Karla Tyson, the ground movement coordinator noncommissioned officer in charge for the Kuwait LNO.

Tyson recently moved to Afghanistan with the transportation section for the brigade SPO. "If the parts the brigade needs were in Kuwait, then we would expedite them instead of working with a third party. If you have a liaison, then you can work the change of command and get what you need quickly," she said.

During constant communication across the two countries, the two groups discuss incoming mine resistant ambush-protected vehicles and material handling equipment vehicles. They also work together to expedite and prioritize ammunition and manage containers throughout Kuwait and Afghanistan.

"We would communicate a lot to make sure we're all on the same sheet of music," Tyson said. "We make sure that what they are tracking is what we're tracking."

The Kuwait LNO includes just a handful of Lifeliners, so they rely on learning each other's jobs to push cargo to the brigade.

"We have to know how to do ammo, supply, we're all cross trained," Tyson said. "When someone went goes on R&R [rest and recuperation leave], we'd have to pick up the slack."

The team works closely together knowing their work and decisions impact thousands of servicemembers in the fight in Afghanistan.

"They're not thinking about themselves," Love said, "they're thinking about the war fighters and the ammo, MRAPS and everything else they need. It means a lot to know we're affecting what's going on in the battlefield."

From making sure pallets of ammo were ready for shipment to making the right number of vehicle parts are on hand to scheduling an airplane, the Kuwait LNO worked closely with each other for seamless mission completion.

"If it wasn't for the team coming together as a team, it would all fall apart," Love said. "The most important part of a deployment is building relationships."

While the hours are long, the sandstorms inevitable, the work seemingly overloading, the small team pushed through it all so that the servicemembers in FOBs throughout Afghanistan don't go without what they need.

"The people are doing this wholeheartedly and selflessly," Love said. "It's a lot of work, but it's all in God's favor. There would be nothing without God's favor." ♦



Ensuring supplies reach the Soldiers it needs is the priority for the 101st Sustainment Brigade's Liaison Office. Here, Staff Sgt. Larry Dixon, LOG expeditor NCO, is preparing bundles at the yard. (Courtesy photo)

School on the road

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – A deployment calls for a different skill set than the garrison Army life as many Soldiers expand their knowledge with on the job training.

Those Soldiers have formal classroom training and the same program as the schoolhouse. The only difference, instead of traveling to the school, the classroom came to them.

Instructors from the US Army Ordnance Center and School recently deployed to Afghanistan to train Soldiers outside the schoolhouse, including a Vehicle Recovery Course for Soldiers of the 101st Sustainment Brigade.

The 83-hour long course, taught over eight days instead of 10 in the schoolhouse, includes classroom instruction and hands on training with the M984 HEMTT wrecker and the M1089 wrecker. After completing the courses, the graduates are awarded the H8 additional skill identifier and valuable knowledge to help their missions here.

"The training definitely helps them because they will use it immediately," said Staff Sgt. LeJuan Taylor, a recovery instructor with the 59th Ordnance Brigade, US Army Ordnance Center and School. "There's a lot of Soldiers here who do this, but have never been trained. We're showing them the proper way to recover a vehicle and add a couple new techniques to help them."

This marks the first time instructors from the Ordnance Center and School have deployed to a combat environment. The curriculum may be the same, but the scenery is a vast contrast to the training grounds of Fort Lee, Va., especially with the blistering sun and infamous 120-day winds.

"What makes this different is the environment," Taylor said. "Over

here you have to overcome a couple more obstacles than in traditional school."

With constant deployments rampant, a lot of Soldiers have not attended a formal recovery course before, and they have relied on on-the-job training to recover vehicles both on and off the wire.

"Some of the guys who have come are saying their company has broken two or three booms," said Sgt. 1st Class Alvin Beehler, the chief instructor of the course and school. "This will teach them the right way to recover so they won't break anymore."

The terrain of Afghanistan produces many perils that can down a vehicle. Convoys of the 101st Sustainment Brigade make sure to travel with a recovery asset to prepare for any outcome.

"If you look at the situation where these Soldiers ride through the mountains, it is way too easy for a vehicle to flip over or run into a ditch," Taylor said. "Now they will know how to recover it."

When a vehicle rolls over or is stuck in the mud, the convoy commanders don't ask who is H8 qualified, they just need someone to retrieve the vehicle. This training will add more formally trained wreckers to their arsenal.

"It'll help us a lot. There's a lot we didn't know," said Spc. Yvenson Dure, an all wheel mechanic with the 131st Transportation Company, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit attached to the 101st Sust. Bde. "They're teaching us how to recover a vehicle quickly and not fail."

The dedicated experts from the Ordnance School are showing the Soldiers the proper way, with calculating weights and angles and several other factors.

"We're here to show them the safe way to do it," said Beehler. "We show them the fundamentals; it's up to them to use it." ♦



Spc. Larry Smith, a mechanic with the 131st Transportation Company, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit attached to the 101st Sustainment Brigade, and Sgt. 1st Class Alvin Beehler, the chief instructor for the vehicle recovery course from the 59th Ordnance Brigade, US Army Ordnance Center and School, flip a mine resistant ambush-protected vehicle with an M984 HEMTT wrecker. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

Wagonmasters take the helm

17th CSSB cases colors, 142nd CSSB takes over mission

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – The 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion ended their year-long deployment Thursday, May 26, when they cased their colors and handed over their responsibility to the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at a relief in place and transfer of authority ceremony.

The battalion, based out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, was assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade. They provided logistical support to nine task forces in the 14 provinces of Regional Command East and Capitol during their yearlong deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The 142nd CSSB, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, will now take on the mission as well as command and control over eight separately deployed companies.

“The battalion is trained and prepared to provide command and control, logistics support, perform convoy operations, and develop long lasting partnerships with the Afghan people,” said Lt. Col. Jose Solis, the commander of the 142nd CSSB, during the ceremony.

After the 17th CSSB colors were cased during ceremony, the soldiers of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company prepared to head back to rejoin the 3rd Maneuver Enhancement Brigade and Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson.

The eight companies falling under the CSSBs during their deployment include active duty, reserve and National Guard units from across the United States. The companies’ missions vary from tactical convoy operations to maintenance to container management to ammunition resupply.

During the ceremony, Solis addressed the companies lined across the

clamshell auditorium, who are now under the banner of Task Force “Wagon Master.”

“I am confident that the success to our mission will depend on everyone here today,” Solis said. “We are a team, a family! Always keep in mind that you are the best no matter the challenges and situations presented. Your positive attitude, enthusiasm and commitment to duty will help you achieve beyond expectation.”

Among the other missions, the 142nd CSSB will also continue the 17th CSSB’s partnership missions with the Afghan National Army across RC East.

“Each of you has made a lasting difference in support of Operation Enduring Freedom by sustaining U.S. and coalition forces in Regional Commands East, North and South,” said Lt. Col. Leslie Caballero, the commander of the 17th CSSB, during the ceremony, “and conducting combined action with the Afghan National Army at Gamberi and Gardez.”

The battalion also provided support to the Kabul Base Cluster in RC Capitol with a Forward Logistics Element of officer and noncommissioned officers from the battalion staff.

As the 17th CSSB prepared to head back to the states, several of the other companies which fell under Task Force “Always Ready” redeployed to their home station, and some to their civilian lives.

“There’s kind of a mass RIPTOA currently happening in this task force and we’re about to give the reins to the 142nd,” Caballero said prior to the ceremony.

“And within the last 90 days, we’ve had five companies transition out. We’re a multi-component task force which consists of eight units: four active duty, two National Guard and two reservists. So this is a very complex organization on top of a very complex environment.”



Top: 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Leslie Caballero and Command Sgt. John Gory, and 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander Lt. Col. Jose Solis, and Command Sgt. Maj. Dolishia King salute the colors during the Transfer of Authority ceremony at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. (U.S. Army Photo by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Mayes) **From left to right:** Solis and King uncasing the 142nd CSSB colors. • Caballero and Gory case the 17th CSSB colors. • Cpt. Nicole Jackson, the maintenance officer for the 142nd CSSB looks as the 142nd CSSB commander speak during the ceremony. • Solis places the 101st Sustainment Brigade patch on Maj. Norman Hodges’s right sleeve in a patching ceremony following the uncasing of the battalion’s colors. Hodges is the support operations officer for the 142nd CSSB. • Solis salutes Maj. Michelle Nhambure, the executive officer of the 142nd CSSB, at the end of the ceremony, signifying his command of the battalion and eight companies below it. (U.S. Army photos by Spc. Michael Vanpool)



Making the transition

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes & Spc. Sarah Keegan
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – One battalion commander marked the beginning of year-his unit's long deployment to Afghanistan while another finally prepared to bring team home.

Lt. Col. Jose Solis marked the beginning of his command Thursday as the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion conducted their Relief in Place Transfer of Authority ceremony in Afghanistan at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center clamshell.

Uncasing the Battalion colors, Solis and his battalion command sergeant major, Command Sgt. Maj. Dolishia King, completed the RIPTOA with the 17th combat Sustainment Support Battalion. The battalion, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, will be assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Campbell, Ky., during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

Solis, an officer in the Quartermaster Branch, took command of the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in January of 2010. He said his initial plan is to follow the 17th CSSB's footsteps. "We want to look at the areas that we can improve while looking out for the soldiers and the mission," he said.

Solis described the transition between the two battalions as "very smooth and professional," saying that establishing an early relationship with 17th CSSB commander Lt. Col. Leslie Caballero was crucial.

"The relationship we started many months ago paid off. We had a team here that was already part of the mission, and they provided us with many notes which we used to develop our plan," Solis said.

As for Caballero, her team's journey has come to an end.

The 17th CSSB came to Afghanistan this past June during the surge, arriving at the peak of the fighting season. During their time, they've moved plenty of cargo across Regional Commands East, North, and

Capitol, as well as helped push out tons of mail to soldiers across Afghanistan.

Because of the surge, mail became one of those positive things that had to happen, she said. "It was part of maintaining Soldier morale. So we played a big part in that throughout the holiday season, making a big difference to those soldiers out on the outer Forward Operating Bases."

Caballero described the 17th CSSB as a multi-component "Pickup team," one that was comprised of Active Duty, National Guard, and Reservists, that were put together and grown as they conducted the mission.

"It is a very complex organization on top of a complex environment. Overall, a very rewarding but tough tour," she said.

At the end of the day, Caballero said, with all of those accomplishments, the mission is still about the soldier.

"Every soldier that comes here wants to do their best. And with that, I am confident that (Solis') team will do that because it is the individual Soldier at the end of the day that makes the difference." Solis said he wants the 142nd CSSB to set the standard for all Combat Sustainment Support Battalions during their deployment in Afghanistan.

"We need to find a way to establish a positive relationship with the Afghan people. That's going to be key for us. Internally, I just want to ensure that my Soldiers are trained, that they're safe, that they're taking care of each other, take advantage of the educational opportunities here, and keep in contact with their families," he said.

(Editor's Note: Spc. Keegan is the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative. The battalion, part of the 15th Sustainment Brigade out of Fort Bliss, Texas, is attached to the 101st Sustainment Brigade during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.) ♦



Lt. Col. Leslie Caballero, commander of the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, and her unit are preparing to head home to Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, following their year-long deployment to Afghanistan. The battalion was assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jens Vadelund, 131st Transportation Company)

The other half of the picture

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Staff Sgt. Blake Adams' and Sgt. Dennis Stanley's background in law enforcement is proving vital to their mission to help combat corruption here in Afghanistan's trucking industry.

The two are members of the 101st Sustainment Brigade's Anti-Corruption interview teams which are working with the various Host Nation truckers to learn about the potential hazards they face on the roads in and around Regional Command's East, North and Capitol.

"The Afghan drivers I've met are really good people. What they do for us is extremely dangerous, so if I'm in a position where I can help them out and make it better for them, then that's what I'll do," Stanley said.

The knowledge they receive from the truckers play a vital role in the brigade's attempt to help stem the tide of corruption in Afghanistan that affect combat logistics, said Maj. Sean Gallagher, the brigade intelligence officer.

"We're trying to improve the environment along the roads so that goods and services can be rendered free of enemy or criminal interdiction," he said.

"Our focus is asking the drivers what they're seeing on the roads, and where they're seeing things, so that we can help target those places for our partner brigade combat teams to go out and reduce the enemy/criminal activity in that area."

Corruption has long been an issue here in Afghanistan. It is not unusual for host nation truckers to be the victims of ambushes and pilferage along their routes as they try to deliver supplies and cargo to their intended destinations.

Gallagher said the heart and soul of this mission is found in the brigade's interview teams. The soldiers are paired with a linguist and go to the convoy staging yards both at BAF and Forward Operating Base Deh Dadi II to interview the drivers and gather information.

"As the get clues or responses, they follow up with questions about illegal checkpoints or where attacks have occurred, Gallagher said.

"We put the pieces of the puzzle together so that we can build a bigger picture. We can find the areas where it's happening at. You interview 15-20 drivers, and 12 of them complain about the same area or checkpoint, and then you narrow it down to where it's coming from, and the higher ups can address that at their level," Stanley said.

This wasn't the mission that Stanley initially was deployed to do. A trucker for the 109th Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, his civilian background as a reserve police officer back in Dayton, Texas



Staff Sgt. Blake Adams, of the 101st Sustainment Brigade anti-corruption interview team, talks with a local trucker about the conditions on the road. The team was created to focus on corruption issues host nation truckers face on the road. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

made him a viable candidate for the role.

"Brigade had sent down a request for soldiers who could assist with the interview team. My first sergeant knew of my background and selected me, and rather than driving the trucks, I ride along with them," he said.

Adams, a transporter with the 919th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, was a former active duty Military Police officer before switching to the Army Reserves. Echoing Stanley's sentiments, he's see the team as a means of helping the truckers taking care of their country's issues.

"We're going to leave eventually, and they'll still be here. If they want this country to be better and safe, they really do need us to help fix their country. It's got to start somewhere," he said.

Both Stanley and Adams stress the partnership that has been formed with the truckers through the experience. "We're able to get it first hand from them: 'hey this is what we need,' not just what we think they need," Stanley said. "With us helping them out, in return they help us, and it builds a stronger partnership."

"Not everybody over here is a terrorist," Adams said. "They have families and they want to have money to take care of their families. They're people like us too."

"They want to make a living for their families. They just have a rough way of doing it," Stanley said. ♦

Supplies found, given to remote bases

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – When the 101st Sustainment Brigade arrived in Afghanistan six months ago, the commander, Col. Michael Peterman, and his staff aimed their sights at simplifying the logistical battlefield after ten years of war.

They sought to work closely with other logistical elements in their area of responsibility, Regional Commands North, East and Capitol. The Lifeliners began to re-manage the storage of cargo and supplies on Bagram Air Field, in a project called BAF After Next.

The Billing of Material yard here was a part of the BAF After Next project, which is reconfiguring the logistical elements on Bagram. A team from the brigade went to the area and inspected the yard. What they found was \$12 million in unaccounted and highly desired building materials.

“All this material showed up that no one knew about,” said Capt. Rob LoMonaco, the operations officer for the Defense Logistics Agency Support Team – Bagram Detachment. “The key thing is we figured out what it was and where it came from.”

After the material was identified, the mobile retrograde team for DLA came in and inventoried the containers. Inside the conexes were plumbing and electrical materials, as well as other soldier life support supplies, that are crucial to servicemembers on smaller forward operating bases.

The brigade Router Identifier Code – Geographic section deals with all classes of supplies coming into theater. When the materials were found, they scoured open orders from outlying FOBs and distributed the supplies to units with needs and FOBs building their bases, said Sgt. 1st Class Patrick Hall, the non-commissioned officer in charge of

the RIC GEO section.

“It was critical supplies just lying around,” he said. “The customer didn’t have to wait for their order to come into country. It was already here.”

“We found some battle space owners who needed it and shipped it to them,” LoMonaco said. “It helped a lot of units with material they needed. If they break a pipe they can’t just order a new one and receive it immediately.”

As the materials were being inventoried and distributed, the brigade, DLA and the Combined Joint Task Force-101 logistics and finance sections sat down and worked out a plan. The drafted policy was distributed by CJTF-101, and brings only vital equipment and supplies into the theater.

“The last thing we did was work with CJTF-101 to make sure orders are properly vetted,” LoMonaco said. “They have to show that the material they are asking for is needed for a project.”

By bringing in only the essential materials and supplies, air and ground transportation are free for other more critical missions, he said. Aside from the \$12 million saved with the project, potentially millions more were saved in transportation costs.

“If you can properly monitor BOM, you’re freeing up air assets and storage on the ground,” LoMonaco said.

Since the BOM yard project this past winter, the 101st Sust. Bde. and DLA have been working closely to guarantee the service members throughout Afghanistan are supplied and ready for the fight. Peterman has encouraged his staff to coordinate with DLA to prevent any future logistics issues.

“Why wait until you need it, when you can project what you’ll need?” LoMonaco said. ♦



Millions of dollars of unused equipment have been found on the Billing of Material Yard at Bagram Air Field. The 101st Sustainment Brigade set their sights on simplifying the logistical fielding with their “BAF After Next” concept. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

No little things left undone

Riggers’ mural provides glimpse into their world

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Back at Fort Campbell, Ky., or Fort Bragg, N.C., parachute riggers are distinctive, from the signature red baseball hats to the collection of badges adjoining their uniforms.

Once they deploy here, the badges are tucked away in a shadow box and the caps only worn around the old airplane hangar called the Rigger Shed. But that doesn’t keep them from keeping their own style.

The riggers of the 11th Quartermaster Detachment, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade are adding their touch to the Rigger Shed on Bagram, including a 14 foot mural depicting their unique job.

When a new group of riggers from the 11th QM arrived here this past April, they decided to fix up their little piece of Bagram.

“We got here and decided to do some shop upkeep,” 1st Lt. Chelsea Craig, the commander of the 11th QM. Det. “It puts our signature on the job and lets future units know that the 11th Quartermaster was here.”

Spc. Blake Chambers, a rigger with the 11th QM Det., got to work soon after coming back from his rest and recuperation leave with the paramount piece of the renovation, a 14 foot mural. The mural shows a nighttime combat jump into a rock quarry and forest in the background. A U.S. Army Senior Combat Parachutist badge stands front and center.

“With this mural, when someone comes in the rigger shed, they know who we are and what this is,” Chambers said. “And it helps that a rigger did this.”

Chambers and the riggers stayed in the shed after all the bundles were rigged to complete the projects. Aside from the massive mural, other signs and recreational activities have been added.

“When I first got back from R&R, I was working nights and painting,” Chambers said. “I felt bad for the guys working while I was gone, so I started working days and staying through the night shift too.”

Estimating around 30 hours to complete the mural, Chambers had to round up spare supplies from the back of the closet to paint with.

“That’s what made it hard. It was old latex paint, old paint brushes – not artist brushes – and it was on uneven plywood,” Chambers said. “Since it is 14 foot by 14 foot, I had to use a forklift to reach most of it.”

The painting is inescapable and overlooks the team of riggers bundling food, fuel and other supplies on the floor below.

“I knew everyone would be looking at it, it wasn’t just for me,” Chambers said. “I wanted people to have a good impression on us and the quality of work we do. Even though it’s not rigging, it still represents us and this shop.”

The riggers of the 11th QM Det. have added their touch to other parts of the shop as well. They wanted to brand the shed to represent their lineage as one of the oldest rigger companies in the Army, Craig said. The 11th QM traces its origins to the Airborne Quartermaster Companies created during World War II.

“We started new things, like putting our signature in the bundles and let them know we bundled it,” Craig said. “These guys are motivated because they know they’re helping the guys on the ground. Sometimes they’ll even throw in extra candy or drinks or Bibles to let them know we care.”

Even as the little extras are thrown in with other supplies, the riggers remain largely faceless to the countless Soldiers in the remote forward operating bases that receive the bundles.

“There are always people behind the scenes,” Craig said. “But these guys don’t need the recognition. They get their satisfaction knowing they’re helping the guys on the ground who are having a rougher time than them.” ♦



Sgt. 1st Class Narada Johnson and Spc. Blake Chambers, of the 11th Quartermaster Detachment, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, look on at the 14 foot mural recently completed in the Rigger Shed at Bagram Air Field. Chambers completed the mural in his spare time, adding distinctions of the unique job of a U.S. Army Rigger. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)



142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion "Wagonmasters"



Standing out among one's peers

Task Force Ready Soldiers compete in Warrior of the Month Board

by Spc. Sarah Keegan
142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan - Two Soldiers recently competed and emerged victorious from the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade's Warrior of the Month board, Saturday.

Sgt. Jared Leimeister, a wheeled vehicle mechanic for the 131st Transportation Company, 17th CSSB won the board's noncommissioned officer's division.

Pfc. April Tennyson, a motor transport operator for the 109th Transportation Company, 17th CSSB won the Soldier's division.

"Soldiers should attempt to go to the Soldier of the month board because it gives Soldiers something extra to do. This helps to make time go by faster so that means going home faster," Leimeister said.

The Warrior of the Month board is a competitive range of Army warrior tasks to be performed and graded in the ranks of private through specialist and sergeant through sergeant first class. Two junior enlisted Soldiers and two NCOs from two of the battalion's companies took part in the competition.

The Soldiers are tested on basic combat skills, including a physical fitness test, a written Army Warrior task test, land navigation and map reading, an oral warrior task board and combat life saving skills. The Soldiers must also pass a uniform inspection, physical appearance and bearing observation, and maintain a high level of discipline.

The Warrior of the Month board competition is designed to identify the Soldier and NCO that best represents the battalion in exemplary knowledge and performance.

The competition began at 5 a.m. at the Blackjack Gym to perform the Army Physical Fitness Test, and was followed by a height and weight test. Soldiers who did not meet these requirements were eliminated from the remainder of the competition.

The Soldiers then reported to the 17th CSSB motorpool following a short break to complete all physical testing and uniform inspections. The Warrior competitors were tested on a variety of tasks including evaluating a casualty, performing first aid

to prevent or control shock, reacting to a possible improvised explosive device, adjusting indirect fire, and map reading and land navigation.

The also received a written examination and participated in an oral board at Davis Hall. Finishing the Warrior of the Month board, the judges, first sergeant from the companies, submitted their point grading on the evaluated Soldiers.

"I feel that the Warrior of the Month board is a good motivational tool to use during deployment," said Sgt. Crystal Lewis, the board's point recorder. "It breaks the monotony of Soldiers' every day routine, while maintaining their Soldiers skills."

Leimeister agreef. "The knowledge and abilities attained during preparation for

the board set you up for success for the rest of your military career," he said. "The opportunity to look good in front of your peers as well as have your unit look good is a great thing."

Both Leimeister and Tennyson will be awarded an Army Achievement Medal and a Battalion coin for their achievement in the board.

The Warrior of the Month board is open to all qualifying Soldiers in the Battalion.

(Editor's note: Spc. Sarah Keegan is the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Unit Public Affairs Representative. The battalion, of the 15th Sustainment Brigade based out of Fort Bliss, Texas, is assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade during their deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom) ♦



1st Sergeant Irwin Whittington, of the 584th Ordnance Maintenance Company, inspects Sgt. Reginald Miniweather's weapon during the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion's Warrior of the Month board. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jesse McCullough)

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Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

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Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Protestant (Unplugged) Service
Sunday, 6:30 p.m.

Aviation Chapel

Protestant Service
Sunday, 7 p.m.

AMC Chapel

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Just like a new home

Lifeliners' "B-Huts in a Box" gives Soldiers better quality of life

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Ask any Soldier deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, and more often times than not they'll tell you the same thing: living conditions here can be pretty rough.

Along with the weather and sandstorms, living out of a tent or a deteriorating B-Hut can be a challenge. This is where Sgt. 1st Class Phillip Schafer and his crew come in.

Schafer, a brigade plans section noncommissioned officer in charge with the 101st Sustainment Brigade, and his team is responsible for "B-Huts in a Box", a project aimed at delivering all the materials and supplies necessary to build a brand new living quarters for Soldiers assigned to remote Forward Operating Bases throughout Afghanistan.

The intent is to replace those tents and deteriorating B-Huts and improve the living conditions and quality of life for Soldiers on the front lines, Schafer said. "It's just like buying a new house. Every Soldier's glad to move into something newer or better," he said.

The project - also nicknamed, "the Schafer Shacks" - consists of a conex filled with

MORE "SCHAFFER SHACKS" ON PAGE 21



Pfc. Floyd Chongum of the 101st Sustainment Brigade moves some lumber. The lumber, along with other building material, is used to help Soldiers construct their own wooden B-Huts in remote Forward Operating Bases throughout Afghanistan (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)



Spc. Jason Morrison of the 101st Sustainment Brigade carefully helps guide Sgt. Justin Scott, a Military Heavy Equipment Operator with the 919th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, sheets of plywood inside a conex. The plywood, along with other building material, is used to help Soldiers construct their own wooden B-Huts in remote Forward Operating Bases throughout Afghanistan (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

101st Lifeliner Association, Inc.

The mission of the 101st Lifeliner Association is to organize the Veterans, Soldiers and Friends of the 101st Sustainment Brigade or 101st Airborne Division Support Command:

- Support our soldiers currently serving around the world, honor and perpetuate the memories of the officers, men and women who distinguished themselves by their past service and sacrifices while serving with or attached to the 101st Sustainment Brigade.
- Unite and promote fellowship for the good of the membership through our Reunions, Publications and Website to document the achievements of the unit
- Assist in the relief and special needs of our membership and the education of their children to the betterment of American patriotism and American citizenship, and to promote the national defense.
- Encourage historical research of wars, to acquire and preserve the records of the service of the members, as well as documents and relics, and mark the scenes of the activities of the 101st Sustainment Brigade or 101st Airborne Division Support Command with appropriate memorials and/or monuments, and celebrate the anniversaries of prominent events of our country's wars and conflicts.
- Foster true patriotism, to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and at all times to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.



For more information, go to the 101st Lifeliners Association, Inc. Facebook page

"SCHAFFER SHACKS"

lumber, sheets of plywood, insulation, electrical hardware, and other material needed to construct a complete open bay B-Hut. It also comes with blueprints and instructions on how to actually construct it.

"The ones I sent out this past week, they've already started erecting," Schafer said.

Schafer said the idea to create "B-Huts in a Box" originated in April after an excess amount of lumber ordered into country was found in a Carrier Container Holding yard in Kabul. Leaders decided to distribute the excess lumber out evenly to the various FOBs throughout Afghanistan, he said.

"Col. (Michael) Peterman threw out the phrase, "B-Hut in a Box" and then tasked me to put the idea into fruition," he said.

So far, Schafer said he and his crew have put together approximately 50 "B-Huts in a Box" containers and sent them out. The crew

also employs local Afghan workers to help putting the items together.

Spc. Jason Morrison, a Soldier with the 101st Sustainment Brigade, is assigned to the team and his role is to show the local nationals how to bundle the items together to put into the conexes. "We show them good ways to get things done without getting hurt and staying safe," he said.

Morrison credits the Afghans for their role in the project. "They help out a lot. Even though many of them can't speak English and we don't know their language, hand signals work pretty good," said "You can show them one time, and they're pretty much good from there."

Others said the job their doing is gratifying because they know they're helping improve their fellow Soldiers' quality of life so far from home.

"We're the ones putting this together to help the other Soldier have better living conditions," said Spc. Gamalier Mendez of the 131st Transportation Company, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit assigned to the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade.

Sgt. Justin Scott, a Military Heavy Equipment Operator with the 919th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, an Army Reserve unit based out of Bay City, Michigan, and also assigned to the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, echoed Mendez' sentiments.

"It provides an opportunity to provide more stable housing out to those areas. It's not as easy to get these materials to those areas on trucks in bulk, and this can provide a little more comfort and possibly more security for the Soldiers' personal items," he said. ♦

Lifeliners complete recovery training

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers of the 101st Sustainment Brigade completed the hands on portion of the Vehicle Recovery Course taught here with recovering a mired vehicle.

The course was taught by instructors deployed from the US Army Ordnance Center and School, and was taught over 83 hours and eight days.

During the course, the six Soldiers learned the basics of recovering vehicle with the M984 HEMTT wrecker and the M1089 wrecker.

The instruction takes place on a sandy pit on Bagram Air Field, in the same environment they will use the skills with their companies.

“For this situation it’s perfect,” said Staff Sgt. LeJuan Taylor, a recovery instructor with the 59th Ordnance Brigade, US Army Ordnance Center and School. “It allows you to show students different techniques and what the equipment can do.”

The class sizes are smaller than the typical 18 Soldiers who attend the course at Fort Lee, Va., and other state-side training locations for the Vehicle Recovery Course. The six Soldiers for this class came from the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and 530th CSSB, both of which are assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade.

“A lot of the Soldiers are excited and willing to train,” Taylor said.

A majority of the Soldiers were from the National Guard and Reserve Component units attached to the brigade. This course gives them an opportunity to improve their skill set, which will immediately be put to the test outside the wire.

Students in the course were already recovering vehicles with their units, but the formal training shows them the proper way to retrieve vehicles stuck, rolled over or broken down on the roads of Afghanistan.

“There’s a lot of stuff I didn’t know,” said Spc. Yvenson Dure, an all wheel mechanic with the 131st Transportation Company, a Pennsylvania National Guard unit attached to

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the brigade. “I’ve learned a lot of different ways to rig.”

While most of the Soldiers learned some recovery through on the job training, they learned proper angles, weight limits and approaches to different types of down vehicles.

“This is preparing them to use the equipment safely without damaging equipment or damaging personnel,” said Sgt. 1st Class Anthony McCray, with the brigade maintenance section.

The training concluded with a mire pit recovery, where the Soldiers had to wade in water to recover a mine resistant ambushed-protected vehicle stuck in the mud. The course included various simulations to augment the classroom portion of the class.

“Every other simulation was a vehicle being rolled over,” McCray said. “Mostly here, it’s rolled over vehicles that need recovery that have been hit with IEDs or breakdowns.”

The unforgiving roads of Afghanistan lay claim to many vehicles, and with these new set of skills and fundamentals, the Soldiers can bring the vehicles back to a forward operating base.

“It’s highly, highly, highly likely they will at some point use the skills they learn here,” Taylor said.

The 101st Sustainment Brigade requested the instructors from the Ordnance Center and School to add more recovery personnel to their ranks, McCray said. With the assistance of US Forces Afghanistan, the brigade was able to bring the instructors to Afghanistan, marking the first time the instructors of the Ordnance Center and School have deployed to a combat environment. ♦

Below: The six students of the Vehicle Recovery Course traverse into waist deep mud to recover a vehicle stuck in a mire pit for their last exercise in the course. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)



Sgt. Joshua Garner, a recovery instructor with the 59th Ordnance Brigade, US Army Ordnance Center and School, walks the six students of the Vehicle Recovery Course through different approaches to recovering a vehicle stuck in a mire pit. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

Retention

For reenlistment information regarding your future Army career, contact your unit reenlistment office



MSG Michael Bonfardine
101st Sustainment Brigade
Career Counselor

A day in the *Life* Liners

