

Ever

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There

January 2011



Record Holiday Mail Delivery

Sustaining the Fight

Inside This Issue

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

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Follow us at the Official Page of the 184th ESC and Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

On the cover: Christmas packages await movement to out laying Forward Operating Bases at the KAF Army post office. Feature story on pg. 4 (photo by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock)

From the Commander's Desk...

Quoting General George Patton, "The Army is a team. It eats, sleeps, and fights as a team". After witnessing the delivery of mail this holiday season, he could add "delivery of mail" to that list of team characteristics. Both those assigned to postal units and those that volunteered performed a great team service between 1 Nov. and 27 Dec., delivering twice as much mail as the previous year.

This team effort, stretching from Kuwait to Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan forward operating bases (FOBs) received and pushed 12,600,000 pounds of mail versus 6,400,000 during the same period in 2009. Families were instructed to mail their Christmas packages before Thanksgiving to assure a Christmas day delivery to Afghanistan. For the record, mail

sent from the continental U.S. by 18 Dec. made a Christmas Day delivery. I personally know of mail sent from the continental U.S. as late as 20 Dec. arrived at the FOB by Christmas morning.

The chain of this great team begins with the 1st Theater Sustainment Command and Central Command Deployment and Distribution Operations Center in Kuwait, continues to the postal units at Bagram and Kandahar Airfields and ends with the 101st and 43rd Sustainment Brigades tasked with final delivery via air and convoy.

Our British partners pitched in, delivering mail to Herat on two occasions. The strength of this great team centered on the volunteer spirit of the civilians and all branches of the military who gave their limited leisure time to give others a happier



Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher
JSC-A Commanding General

holiday season.

The actions of all involved proved that nothing could deter a dedicated team of people, focused on a selfless act, with the grit and determination to make the lives of others better. Please accept my sincerest thanks to all of you for your work.

Warrior's Call



Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey L. Riggs
JSC-A Command Sergeant Major

First, I must recognize that this article and its eloquence come from our great finance

Soldiers. Its purpose is to educate Warriors and Warrior Leaders on the true "cost of cash" and its impact.

In keeping with counter-insurgency tactics and the strategy to encourage the independent governance of Afghanistan, the Command has implemented a plan to reduce the U.S. dollar footprint in theater. Though the reduction of cash may initially seem to be inconvenient, we must examine the use of the U.S. dollar from a more comprehensive standpoint.

The use of a country's own currency is the key to the nation's economic survival. The "dollarization" of Afghanistan reduces the value of the local

currency, and discourages the use of banking processes that will allow Afghanistan to compete economically on the global level. We are scheduled to withdraw from this country on a short timeline. We have a moral obligation to assist the country in developing a solvent economic system prior to our withdrawal. A key part of ensuring Afghanistan is able to achieve economic independence is to encourage the use of their currency.

Bottom line: Use Afghanis at Bazaars and with local merchants. U.S. dollars reduce

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Record mail delivery in Afghanistan



Story by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly, 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock & Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo, JSC-A Public Affairs Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Mail delivery in Afghanistan sets new yearly and holiday records as joint sustainment forces bring holiday cheer to U.S. Service members.

“Since January, 2010, teams of postal professionals in Afghanistan have moved the largest amount of mail in Afghanistan’s history, more than 54,517,638 pounds,” said Lt. Col. Donald Brown, chief, Postal Operations Division, 3rd Human Resources Sustainment Center (HRSC), 1st Theater Sustainment Command (TSC). “In 2009, 34.4 million pounds, and in 2008, 19.2 million pounds was delivered.”

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (JSC-A) also reports that the amount of holiday mail delivered exceeded the amount of mail delivered for all previous years since Operation Enduring Freedom

began in 2001.

The JSC-A is responsible for all sustainment operations in Afghanistan, including postal operations. The 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, a Mississippi Army National Guard unit, assumed responsibility for JSC-A in October.

“The success we’re experiencing this season with the mail surge is the culmination of the collaboration of many,” said Maj. Gen. Kenneth S. Dowd, commander, 1st TSC.

The 1st TSC, based in Kuwait, provides support for all postal operations for Kuwait, Afghanistan and Iraq.

“[Worker’s] efforts and the support of our families and friends back home have ensured a positive result this holiday season. There’s nothing better than getting that package from home. We understand



Capt. David S. Duckworth and Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey L. Riggs maneuver a cart of holiday mail into the Kandahar Airfield post office. Both are members of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

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- U.S. CASH Continued from pg. 3

the value of the Afghan money.

Cash is expensive. As we all know, there is a cost involved in producing cash. That cost is approximately 6.4 cents per bill, but we must transport that cash to theater. The cash is transported via air, taking up valuable space that could be used to transport personnel, equipment, or mail, not to mention the cost in jet fuel, and support personnel. Since electronic mail does not have a production cost, though admittedly there are costs associated with its transfer, better stewardship demands that we use electronic means to transport cash. Moreover, there are a number of outlets that produce counterfeit currency, so the trading of the U.S. dollar only encourages this illegal activity.

Bottom line: 1.5 billion in U.S. currency is being

shipped here on a yearly basis. Next time your flight is cancelled, it may be carrying U.S. cash.

U.S. dollars can be used to purchase arms. Every one of us has experienced an indirect fire (IDF) attack. Many Soldiers have died in IDF and improvised explosive device attacks. The preferred cash vehicle for the purchase of arms is the U.S. dollar. In a sense, by using the dollars, we may be funding both sides of the war, and contributing to the injury and death of our own coalition forces.

Bottom line: The insurgents use U.S. dollars against U.S. and Coalition forces.

It is for these and other reasons that we have taken aggressive steps to remove cash from the battlefield. We ask that leaders at all levels encourage Soldiers to reduce their cash footprints as part of our collective strategy to fight the War on Terrorism.

Bottom line: Stop and think. It may save you or your fellow Warrior’s life.

- MAIL

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that and we worked hard to ensure our troops got those packages,” said Dowd.

Using a variety of transportation methods, including fixed-winged aircraft, helicopters and convoys, mail has been moved throughout Afghanistan with the help of many commands. The 3rd HRSC reports mail has been moved without major delay or backlog despite increased operational tempo.

The U.S. Central Command’s Deployment and Distribution Operations Center (CDDOC) based in Kuwait also played an important role in the postal delivery process. One of the missions of CDDOC is the coordination of available aviation assets within theater to move mission essential cargo, one of which is mail.

“Mail is the number two morale booster behind going home on R&R. We all understand that because we all enjoy getting mail,” said Rear Admiral Thomas C. Traaen, commander, U.S. CDDOC. “The logistics team really rallied behind ensuring that everyone received their mail in a timely manner. It has been a great team effort. It was our pleasure to assist in bringing the holiday spirit to our Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines. They deserve it.”

Packages from loved ones in the U.S. to a Service member deployed in Afghanistan, completes its journey on average in less than 10 days, meeting the U.S. Central Command’s (CENTCOM) standard of 16 days for parcels and 12 days for letters, said Brown.

From the United States, mail is transported by air directly to



U.S. Army Sgt. Jorge R. Medel, 328th Human Resources Company, guides a fork lift carrying care packages from Soldiers’ Angels. Members of the 328th HRC have worked around the clock to speed delivery of mail to outlying forward operating bases in Afghanistan.



U.S. Army Sgt. Matthew B. Gravely, 510th Human Resources Company, explains the finer points of sorting letters to Spc. Christopher M. Williams at the Bagram post office. Williams is a bass player with the 101st Airborne Division band stationed at Bagram Airfield.

Bahrain and then transported to the respective hubs at Kandahar and Bagram, Afghanistan, where it is then off-loaded, sorted, and moved to its final destination.

“The total amount of U.S. holiday mail delivered throughout Afghanistan from Nov. 1 to Dec. 24 is 12.6 million pounds. This is the equivalent of covering every square inch of six football fields in palletized mail with approximately 2,800 pounds per pallet. By the

end of December, we estimate to have received more than 13.4 million pounds,” said Maj. William T. Smith, chief, JSC-A Human Resources Operations Branch. “In 2009, the holiday mail delivered was 6.4 million pounds.”

Two of JSC-A’s units, the 101st Sustainment Brigade, from Fort Campbell, Ky., and the 43rd

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Sustainment Brigade, from Fort Carson, Colo., carry out sustainment missions throughout Afghanistan. For postal operations, they utilize human resource companies (HRCs).

The 510th HRC, an active duty unit from Fort Eustis, Va., assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade, operates the military post office at Bagram Airfield.

“The successful movement of over nine million pounds of mail this month at Bagram was a tremendous effort from a ‘team of teams’ that ensured everyone forward in combat received their mail and packages from their loved ones,” said Col. Michael P. Peterman, commander, 101st Sustainment Brigade. “Our entire Lifeline staff gained a newer understanding and appreciation for the hard work that our postal service/UPS/DHL workers put in yearly to ensure that every American gets their mail in hometown USA.”

The 328th HRC, an Army Reserve unit from San Antonio, Texas, assigned to the 43rd Sustainment Brigade, operates the military post



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert W. Monohan, American Forces Network Theater Maintenance Technician, looks on as Staff Sgt. Jessica L. King, AFN Bagram News NCOIC, picks up holiday packages for her unit at the Bagram Airfield post office.

office at Kandahar Airfield.

“This is another demonstration of the support Soldiers, who are the linemen and women of football, so to speak. Their numbers are seldom called, but they are critical to the mission. I couldn’t be more proud of everyone involved in delivering mail to our Service members, and I commend them on a job well done,” said Col. Edward M. Daly, commander, 43rd Sustainment Brigade. “The monumental efforts of these superstars truly made a difference by bringing the spirit of Christmas to Afghanistan.”

Other significant contributors to the successful mail delivery missions are the mobility sections at the JSC-A and its subordinate brigades.

“The JSC-A and its subordinate brigades’ ability to match available airlift platforms against the daily mail requirements contributed to the success of the mail delivery missions. The use of contracted fixed and rotary aviation support was critical for ensuring the successful ‘last mile’ delivery of the mail to the foxholes,” said Smith. “The coordination between the postal requirements and mobility’s resourcefulness has been a key component to mail delivery in Afghanistan.”

Due to the holiday rush, a call was sent out for volunteers to assist with the unloading and sorting of mail at the Bagram and Kandahar mail hubs. Soon, Service members from every branch of the military, in the ranks of private to general officer, were found working all hours to ensure their fellow troops received their holiday packages on time.

“All along the line, from the continental United States to the CENTCOM postal units, to Kuwait-

based 1st TSC and the CDDOC - military and civilian alike - made this season’s mail flow successful. And, in the true spirit of coalition partnership, the Royal Air Force delivered U.S. holiday mail to Herat,” said Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander, JSC-A.

The United Kingdom’s Royal Air Force used one of their C-130 military aircraft to assist the JSC-A in reaching the mail delivery milestone.

“The cooperation and hard work is a great success story and all should be proud of their work. The efforts of those involved with the holiday mail service have been phenomenal. The postal units in Bagram and Kandahar, the 101st and 43rd Sustainment Brigades, and the volunteers throughout Afghanistan diligently worked to make sure all deployed in the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan received their mail from the millions of pounds of packages and letters sent from loved ones at home,” said Fisher.

Mail delivery has a tremendous impact on the morale of Service members. During the holidays and due to the amount of mail received, military post offices within Afghanistan increased the number of mail calls for units to pick up mail.

“This is my first Christmas away from home. Although it’s hard to be away from home during the holidays, it’s great to be able to send and receive mail. The postal service has allowed me to stay connected with my family and friends back home. Mail call is easily one of the highlights of my day,” said U.S. Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Bradley Monahan, assigned to Fighter Attack Squadron 122, Kandahar Airfield.

184th ESC celebrates Christmas in Afghanistan



Story by WLOX & Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs



U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. William P. Hatten (right) distributes cutlery during Christmas dinner to troops.



U.S. Army Capt. Laketter M. Cannon smiles as she samples the desserts available for Christmas dinner.



(From left) U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 William J. Bowman, Maj. David A. Oglesby and Maj. Dexter T. Thornton smile as they enjoy Christmas dinner at the Niagara Dining Facility on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - They may be far away from home for the holidays, but members of the Mississippi National Guard celebrated Christmas with a delicious meal in Afghanistan.

Members got in the Christmas spirit as they sliced up countless rounds of hot roast beef and served up vegetables to their fellow service members. And no Christmas dinner would be complete without dessert.

While they may be away from their families, the meal definitely brought smiles to their faces.

The 184th has been stationed in Afghanistan since October.



U.S. Army Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten (right) and U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo (left), display their serving utensils as they serve Christmas dinner to Service members.



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Michael L. Box serves Christmas dinner at the Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Niagara dining facility. Box sliced up countless rounds of hot roast beef to serve Service members on Christmas.

Uncle renders first salute from Afghanistan

Story by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock,
 JSC-A Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. John A. Thomas, of the Mississippi Army National Guard’s 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC), rendered the first salute to his nephew, John T. Boswell, during his promotion to the rank of second lieutenant at a ceremony held at the University of Mississippi main campus on Dec. 10.

The first salute was conducted via video teleconference from the 184th ESC’s headquarters at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Maj. Gen. William L. Freeman Jr., Mississippi National Guard adjutant general, and Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, 184th ESC commander, were present for the ceremony. Also in attendance from Afghanistan was Maj. William M. Harlow, 184th ESC Air Mobility Officer. Prior to deployment, Harlow served as the Ole Miss Army ROTC assistant professor of military science.

“I am extremely proud to be a part of my nephew’s (Boswell’s) commissioning and honored to render his first salute. I know that he will be a great officer and lead troops from the front,” said Thomas. Boswell is a 2006 graduate of Scott Central High School and received a Bachelor of Science degree in criminal justice from the University of Mississippi. He is assigned to the Mississippi Army National Guard’s



Photo by Denita Thomas

Newly commissioned U.S. Army 2nd Lt. John T. Boswell receives the customary first salute from his uncle, Sgt. Maj. John A. Thomas, via video teleconference from Afghanistan as Maj. Gen. William L. Freeman Jr., Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, stands at attention.



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

Senior leadership of the Mississippi Army National Guard’s 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command look on via video teleconference from Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, as five cadets are commissioned to the rank of second lieutenant from the University of Mississippi Army ROTC program. (From left) U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Joseph J. Elder, Sgt. 1st Class Brian E. Speagle, Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Sgt. Maj. John A. Thomas, Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey L. Riggs and Sgt. Maj. William P. Hatten.

- SALUTE
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From the Inspector General's office...

By Lt. Col. Mathyn Williams



“Family life is not a computer program that runs on its own; it needs continual input from everyone.”

~Neil Kurshan

According to The Inspector General (TIG) of the Army, family non-support is the most frequently worked category of cases for nearly all Inspector General (IG) offices across the Army. Regulatory guidance for dealing with family non-support is found in Army Regulation (AR) 608-99. Though AR 608-99 is not a large regulation, it can be complicated. Adding to the level of difficulty in dealing with family non-support issues is the fact that these cases are nearly always filled with highly emotional pleas for help or even anger, and require prompt attention. The Inspector General has warned against IGs getting personally (emotionally) involved in resolving family non-support cases. Resolution of non-support cases is the responsibility of the Soldier's commander. Once notified, AR 608-99 requires commanders to conduct an inquiry within 14 days to verify the facts of the issue. A commander's inquiry protects the rights of the Soldier and the interest of the Army and is the best method to handle this sensitive issue.

When a non-support case is received by the local IG, that IG should address the immediate needs of the family, but must not get involved in the family member's banking business (like taking bank information, trying to pay bills, etc.). The obligation of an IG to assist the family member is to do things like verifying that the family's basic immediate

needs are met, i.e., adequate sustenance and life sustaining utilities are available, while the IG takes the case to the Soldier's commander for action. This may be as simple as informing the family member about community utility resources available to people experiencing hardships, or applying for government assistance until monies are received from the delinquent Soldier.

The problem of non-support is amplified by the distance factor involved when Soldiers are deployed, because of the global locations of our units. Some Soldiers believe they can disregard their obligation to support their family because they are thousands of miles from home. This is incorrect, and irresponsible. Commanders should teach and train Soldiers to remind them that financial support of family members is an official matter of concern. It is an individual Soldier's responsibility and a command issue. When an issue is raised, commanders must determine whether a violation of the regulation occurred, counsel Soldiers when substantiated complaints are brought against them, inform them of Department of Army (DA) policy on support of family members, and take appropriate action against Soldiers who fail to comply.

Soldiers must maintain reasonable contact with

- IG

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Personal Electronic Devices (PEDs) in secure working areas

 Story by Alan Elliott, JSC-A J2 (Intelligence) Section

The question everyone wants to know, can I bring my iPod or iPad into work? Your answer, No! Currently the command security manager, along with the J2, is putting finishing touches on the new PED policy. With the recent turn of events, securing sensitive

information is and has come under increasing scrutiny. The J2 is adamant about keeping PEDs out of our secure environments.

What are PEDs?

PEDs are portable information systems or devices with or without the capability of wireless or LAN

connectivity. These include, but are not limited to, cell phones, pagers, Blackberry's, personal digital assistants (PDAs), Palm Pilots, pocket PCs, laptops, memory

- J2

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313th JMCB meets local Afghans to improve trucking operations

Story by Capt. Julie A. Glaubach,
313th JMCB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Members of the 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion met with a local Afghan citizen living outside Bagram Airfield (BAF), Dec. 29, to discuss improving efficiency of host nation trucking operations.

Lt. Col. Mark Stimer, commander of the 313th JMCB, initiated the meeting with Hajji Wasim, furthering the International Security Assistance Forces – Afghanistan goal of partnering with local Afghans for sustainable economic growth and development.

Maj. Craig Macina, battalion support operations officer, and Capt. Todd Turner, commander of the



Sgt. 1st Class Eric Wichern | 266th MCT PAO

Leaders of the 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion discuss host nation trucking priorities and operations with a local landowner outside Bagram Airfield via an interpreter. Hajji Wasim, U.S. Army Capt. Todd Turner, commander of the 266th Movement Control Team, Lt. Col. Mark Stimer, commander of the 313th JMCB, and Maj. Craig Macina, support operations officer for the 313th JMCB, are working together to improve processes for host nation trucking and its military customers.

266th Movement Control Team, also attended the meeting, or shura, in Mr. Wasim's truck contracting office located in a lot approximately one mile outside Bagram.

The U.S. military maintains

contracts that employ, through subcontracting, local truck companies to move basic supplies

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their family members to ensure the family's financial needs and welfare do not become official matters for the Army. They have to provide adequate financial support to their family members. And, they have to comply with all court orders. Ignoring obligations can result in a memorandum of reprimand, bar to reenlistment, administrative separation from the service, non-judicial punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice (UCMJ) and even court martial if they do not fulfill their obligations.

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1687th Transportation Company in Southaven.

Boswell will attend the Transportation Officer Basic Course at Fort Eustis, Va., following graduation. His future plans include attending law school at Mississippi College. He currently resides in Flowood.

Also commissioned were 2nd Lt. Michael T. Bodin of Madison, 2nd Lt. Windoll R. Brown of Grenada, 2nd Lt. Joshua N. Edwards of Columbus and 2nd Lt. Aaron C. Proctor of Crystal Springs.



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. John A. Thomas smiles as he renders the first salute to his nephew, 2nd Lt. John T. Boswell via video teleconference from Kandahar Airfield.

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sticks, thumb drives, iPods, iPads, MP3 players, two-way radios, cameras, camcorders and reminder recorders. Current technologies (infrared, radio frequency, voice, video, and microwave) allow the inclusion of numerous capabilities within a single device and dramatically increases the risks associated with information systems and network access.

Guidance

The adherence of established guidelines for entrance of cellular phones and other personal electronic devices into secure areas will prevent potential security violations and will ensure the highest integrity of information security as well as operational security. The guidance applies to all military, contractors, Department of the Army, Department of Defense civilians and any other personnel who will be working in or visiting a Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan secure facility.

Any of the listed above PEDs will not be allowed into JSC-A's secure facilities or any facility that houses classified information and information systems. All PEDs are considered illegal, unless government issued and approved by the J2 or the command security manager and have a waiver by the designated approving authorities. Ensure all PEDs are left in designated areas by the entrances.

If there are any questions, comments or concerns regarding this policy feel free to contact Alan D. Elliott, alan.d.elliott@afghan.swa.army.mil or Maj. Juan A. Corrigan, juan.corrigan@afghan.swa.army.mil .

Soldiers return home to waiting families for Christmas

 Story by Julie Straw, WLBT 3



JACKSON, MS (WLBT) - Some Mississippi Soldiers made it home just in time for Christmas. They flew into the Jackson Evers International Airport to a crowd of waiting family and friends. Minutes can seem like hours while waiting for a loved one to touch down at the airport. The Booker family has been waiting for Christmas Eve night for nearly four months.

"We're excited, right?" said Melisha Booker to her daughters. "That's all these two girls have wished for Christmas is for their daddy to come home."

Lt. Col. Thomas Booker has been serving in Kandahar, Afghanistan, since September first. He will be home on leave for two weeks.

"Just a lot of family and a trip to see Mississippi State at the bowl game in Jacksonville. We can't

miss that," said Melisha Booker when asked about plans for the holidays.

Around 6:00 p.m. Saturday, the Soldiers arrived to a crowd of hugs and kisses.

"It's been a long time, glad to be home to see these girls," said Lt. Col. Thomas Booker. "The job that we do it is worth it. Still it's hard to be away from home."

This Christmas thoughts were with their brothers in arms still overseas, not able to return home to their families.

"I do want to give a Merry Christmas to the rest of my unit in Afghanistan who are still there working, holding down the fort for us. It's wonderful to be home. I'm just going to enjoy it, spend time with my family and get ready to go back and do it again," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Jerry Crain.

JSC-A hosts ROC drill on KAF



*Story by
Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten,
JSC-A Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan (JSC-A) conducted an air mobility rehearsal of concept (ROC) drill Dec. 20 at Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

The event consisted of briefings followed by practical exercises on the subjects of intra-theater airlift systems, Theater Express, aerial delivery, contract air and R&R (Rest & Relaxation) passenger movement.

“USFOR-A (U.S. Forces-Afghanistan) directed us (JSC-A) to conduct a ROC drill in order to educate air mobility end-users about the different air assets available, how

to request them and use them more efficiently,” said Maj. David Oglesby, JSC-A J5 section planner, and one of the event organizers.

The event included several discussions on current air mobility processes, questions about the processes and suggestions for improvement, said Oglesby. The event was directed at the user level, and there were representatives present from units at the receiving end of the food chain, who were very competent in the subject areas we discussed.

“It was a productive forum in which we looked at the various air mobility assets available, as well as how to request them,” said Maj. James Mills, JSC-A contract aviation program manager and event facilitator. “Each briefer came well-prepared and many questions were addressed that will enable us to streamline the air mobility process

and make it better.”

The event ended with an open discussion session involving each of the topics covered in the ROC drill, during which the organizers and participants were able to make comments, whether positive or negative, concerning the actual conduct of the ROC drill.

“The discussion period enabled us to identify any deficiencies in the air mobility process, whether in terms of cargo handling/preparation or lift assets (aircraft) available, and address them to make the process run smoothly for the end users,” said Mills.

“The overall theme revolves around the visibility of the air assets available and the integration of those assets to meet the actual lift requirements,” said Mills. “This ROC drill and the feedback from our end users should enable us to streamline the utilization of air assets in the most efficient manner possible.”

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to bases throughout Afghanistan. The system ensures movement of supplies without over-extending limited military assets, supports the local economy, and supports the relationship between coalition and Afghan forces.

“Bottom line is that the success of the movement control team is weighted on the relationship between those MCT troops and the efforts they put forth to show Afghans that we are real people and that we stand “shohna ba shohna” (shoulder to shoulder) with them in this fight,” said Turner.

Personnel from the 266th MCT meet with Mr. Wasim regularly. The movement control team also works with 24 local national interpreters. These interpreters assist the Soldiers

in communicating with the Afghan truck drivers.

“Our troops ensure all ground cargo entering or exiting BAF is both tracked and gets to where it’s supposed to go. In conjunction with our local national MCT workers, the Soldiers count trucks, contact customers, liaise with cargo yards on BAF, and basically do whatever it takes to get cargo moved to where it needs to go in the most efficient manner possible,” said Turner about his unit’s sizable mission.

The team continues to develop a valuable relationship with Mr. Wasim that helps them establish and enforce throughput priorities, reduce pilfering, and streamline in-gating. This relationship will likely continue to grow and provide greater support to the movement control efforts.

“The mission is better, more challenging, and more important

than any of us expected,” said Turner. The 266th MCT processes more than 300 cargo trucks daily, once reaching a high of 589 trucks in one day. “These trucks are destined for troops throughout Afghanistan, some is humanitarian aid which will go to building schools, and some is mail that will make a tired Soldier’s day,” he added.

Turner’s team uses its relationship with the local citizens and truck drivers to ensure cargo makes it to customers as quickly as possible. Through the positive relationships the team members foster, they are able to mediate issues outside the gate and keep trucks and supplies moving.

“Knowing that we directly contributed to that mission-essential cargo making it to combat troops in need is all that matters at the end of the day,” Turner said.

374th birthday of National Guard celebrated by JSC-A in Afghanistan



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO

Story by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock,
 JSC-A Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan celebrated the National Guard’s 374th birthday during cake-cutting ceremonies at both JSC-A headquarters and the USO at Kandahar Airfield on Dec. 13.

Pfc. Glenn P. Caylor, the

youngest member of JSC-A, led the ceremonies as he recited a history of the National Guard and its contributions to disasters and conflicts around the world.

The National Guard traces its lineage as the oldest component of the Armed Forces of the United States back to a direct declaration signed by the Massachusetts General Court in Salem on Dec. 13, 1636. The court order established that all able-bodied men between the ages of 16 and 60 would be required to join the militia, muster for military training and be called upon to fight as needed.

Fast-forward to the future: recent foreign call-ups experienced by the National Guard include Haiti, Bosnia, Kosovo, Iraq and Afghanistan. National Guard forces have also been actively deployed at home in support of border security, counter-narcotics, natural disaster and search and recovery operations. Citizen-Soldiers and Airmen have been increasingly called upon to provide security at home and combat terrorism abroad.

Today, the National Guard continues its historic dual mission, providing support and assistance to both state and national interests around the world, and evolve as its forces have become essential to the national defense. The Mississippi Army National Guard’s 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command continues this long and proud tradition of service in Afghanistan.



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO



Sgt. Kenny Hatten | JSC-A PAO

Grand opening of Defense Logistics Agency Disposition site on KAF

Story & photo by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan (JSC-A), presided over the ribbon-cutting at the grand opening of the Kandahar Airfield (KAF) Defense Logistics Agency (DLA) Disposition Services site on Dec. 27.

The 10-acre KAF DLA Disposition Services site will be the third site of its kind in Afghanistan, along with sites at Bagram Airfield and Camp Leatherneck. DLA Disposition Services, formerly known as the Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office, is part of the DLA with a mission to reuse, transfer, donate, sell or dispose of excess property.

“This facility represents great work by many people. Its value to Kandahar makes it one of the most important functions here,” said



U.S. Army Pfc. Nekillya Covin cuts the ribbon at the grand opening of the Defense Logistics Agency Disposition Services site at Kandahar Airfield. (From left) U.S. Navy Cmdr. Al Schmitt, OIC for DLA Disposition Services-Afghanistan, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan, Pfc. David Anderson and Nekillya Covin of Support Troop, 2nd Striker Cavalry Regiment and Col. Tim Garth, commander of Deployment Support Team - Afghanistan. Covin and Anderson were the first customers at the Kandahar Airfield site.

Fisher.

Units are able to turn in battle damaged, recalled and recovered equipment at the site. Recovered items may then be reutilized by units in need of replacement parts. DLA employees can even assist units with hazardous waste disposal.

“During the past six weeks, the site has already removed some 300,000 pounds of scrap from Kandahar Airfield,” said Perry D.

Daniels, Chief of DLA Disposition Services KAF. “Having a site here keeps Soldiers off the roads and saves money from not having to transport non-serviceable or excess equipment to other locations. It also helps the economy because the scrap is disposed of through local Afghan companies.”

After the ribbon-cutting, Fisher and members of JSC-A toured the KAF DLA Disposition Services site.



Army Chief of Staff visits 43rd SB on KAF

Story & photos by 43rd SB Public Affairs

Gen. George W. Casey Jr., 36th Chief of Staff of the Army, visited KAF and talked with the Soldiers of the 43rd SB, Dec. 23.

Casey thanked the Soldiers for their service and unwavering commitment to the mission and closed with a Holiday Message for the Army.



Support Operation's Corner

By: *Capt. Bridget Armstrong*

The Supply and Services (S&S) branch of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC) Support Operations plays a key role in supporting our war fighters. Led by Lt. Col. Cheryl Anderson, S&S is made up of various sections that manage the receipt, storage, and distribution of food, water, fuel, and building materials throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan (CJOA-A). They also have the solemn duty of managing all theater Mortuary Affairs Collection Points (MACP) and tracking the movement of our fallen warriors back to the Air Force Mortuary Affairs Operations Center at Dover Air Force Base, Del.

Although an area we wish in our hearts didn't exist, the task of providing mortuary affairs support falls within the purview of the Mortuary Affairs section and is by far the most important task performed within the S&S Branch. The Mortuary Affairs section

works around the clock to provide unprecedented support to our fallen warrior heroes and their families, to ensure they are properly taken care of after paying the ultimate sacrifice for our country. No day is too long or no night is too dark or cold. This mission will go on for our warriors.

Since their arrival in theater, the Class I section has facilitated an increase in the number of containers carrying subsistence moving into the CJOA-A as well as an increase in Supreme vendor warehouse stockage levels. This is due to a combined effort of Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (JSC-A), our sustainment brigades (SBs), and the Surface Deployment and Distribution Command (SDDC) to move Class I up on the commodities priority list.

"We will continue to monitor and coordinate with the SDDC to keep this trend alive, building stocks in the CJOA-A, and ultimately feeding the fight," said 2nd Lt. Tyrone Sanders, Class I Officer.

The Class II, III/IIIB and Multiclass sections are also instrumental in keeping our Soldiers engaged in the fight by ensuring fuel availability for all

operations and validating fuel consumption and usage; tracking the production, delivery, and equipment management of all bulk water in the Afghanistan area of operations; and coordinating the distribution of clothing items and construction materials.

"Monitoring and analyzing fuel data is critical," said Maj. Jose A. Lopez, JSC-A Sub-Area Petroleum Office (SAPO) Liaison Officer (LNO). "Having fuel or not having fuel makes a world of difference at the ground level for the battle space commander."

One of JSC-A's main objectives is to facilitate independent water production at all FOBs so that one day they won't have to rely on SB's to provide them with their water. The Multiclass section has pushed over 20 million board feet of lumber and 15 million sheets of plywood in the last 90 days.

"No mission is impossible for the S&S branch because we are a team and we work hard to support all of our troops across the CJOA-A," said Warrant Officer Milisante Jones, Multiclass Supply Technician.

Our warriors in the field have what they need to carry out their missions, because the Supply & Services branch is..."Ever There"!



Safety



By: *Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Hardigree*

Happy holidays from the JSC-A safety office here in Kandahar! We hope everyone has had a great holiday season with plenty to eat, time to rest and spend time communicating with family and friends. Many have put safety on the back shelf for a period of time. This is understandable, but we must remain aware that

safety is an ongoing priority.

Many of our Service members and civilians have gone home for R&R or will soon leave. Situational awareness must continue to be a priority, whether you are back in the comfort of your home or while you are in the battle space.

Below are things to keep in mind as we close out the holiday season. Leaders, with the winter season

- SAFETY
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From the Headquarter's Company Commander...

As your new company commander, I would like to take the opportunity to introduce myself.

Most of you may not know that like some of you, I first joined the military in order to help pay for school, but since then the military has become much more than that to me. The military is not only a job and responsibility, but it has become a part of how I define myself through discipline, knowledge, and career advancements.

Through the years, I have had the privilege and opportunity to meet and work with great people. Also, I've developed friendships that have taught me so much about military and life. I wouldn't give up anything for having this opportunity or the pleasure and the commitment of serving my country.

As your company commander, I want to stress upon four areas I would like all of you to consider. They are accountability, risk management, education and family.

Accountability: use the buddy system. Make sure that if you go somewhere by yourself (i.e. laundry) let someone know where you are at all times. It is very important that we are able to locate you for accountability. When there is a rocket attack it should not take a long time to verify our roster list.

Risk Management: While here on KAF, my goal is that we have no injuries or accidents. You are all important

to me and I want to make sure you go home in the same condition that you came here in. Be smart in your work and living areas when making decisions.

Education: During deployment, please consider furthering your education either through military training or college courses. As a graduate of many military courses and the University of Southern Mississippi with a Bachelor of Science in software engineering, I can tell you that education is extremely important. Please utilize the college office on base and the resources of online schooling.

Family: Though we are separated from our loved ones, please remember to take care of them not only financially but emotionally as well. Take time to stay in touch but keep OPSEC in mind especially when going on R&R.

Lastly, prior to becoming company commander I worked with Capt. Crist and I would like to thank him for his time and efforts into preparing this unit for mobilization. I will strive to excel as the HHC commander. I feel that I have enough support around me to accomplish the mission. I do have an open door policy but respect your chain of command and utilize them first. I will do my duty to support the general's intent and also give my support to the fellow staff directors to ensure the 184th's mission is successful. Have a Happy New Year!

Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl



Story & photos by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly,
 *JSC-A Public Affairs*

Maj. Ailrick D. Young, Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan, and Lt. Col. John G. Shaw, 643rd Regional Support Group, show their team spirit prior to the Beef 'O' Brady's Bowl held December 21. Young is a graduate

from the University of Southern Mississippi and Shaw is a graduate from the University of Louisville. Young and Shaw made a friendly wager that if their respective team won, the other would have to wear a shirt in support of their school. USM lost to Louisville 31-28. Shaw relished the moment as Young followed through on the wager and wore a Louisville t-shirt.



This Month in Army History

January 1, 1776 -- During the American Revolution, George Washington unveiled the Grand Union Flag, the first national flag in America.

January 21 -- Ethan Allen (1738-1789) was born in Litchfield, Connecticut. He was a hero of the American Revolution who led the small force that captured Fort Ticonderoga in New York without bloodshed in 1775. The fort contained much needed supplies and ammunition.

January 19 -- Robert E. Lee (1807-1870) military leader of the Confederacy during the American Civil War, was born in Westmoreland County, Virginia. He was the son of a Revolutionary War hero, a graduate of West Point and served in the U.S. Army for 25 years preceding the Civil War. At the outbreak of hostilities, he was offered command of the Union Army, but declined and instead accepted command of the military and naval forces of Virginia.

January 8, 1815 -- The Battle of New Orleans occurred as General Andrew Jackson and American

troops defended themselves against a British attack, inflicting over 2,000 casualties. Both sides in this battle were unaware that peace had been declared two weeks earlier with the signing of the Treaty of Ghent ending the War of 1812.



January 14, 1960 -- U.S. Army promoted Elvis Presley to Sergeant and his birthday is also January 8, 1935. Elvis was born in Tupelo, Mississippi.

January 27, 1973 -- U.S. involvement in the Vietnam War ended as North Vietnamese and American representatives signed an agreement in Paris. The U.S.

agreed to remove all remaining troops within 60 days thus ending the longest war in American history. Over 58,000 Americans had been killed, 300,000 wounded and 2,500 declared missing. A total of 566 prisoners-of-war had been held by the North Vietnamese during the war, with 55 reported deaths.

January 16, 1991 -- The war against Iraq began as Allied aircraft conducted a major raid against Iraqi air defenses. The air raid on Baghdad was broadcast live to a global audience by CNN correspondents as operation Desert Shield became Desert Storm.

- SAFETY

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upon us, continue to make sure your troops stay warm and are taking appropriate cold weather precautions. Be mindful of frost bite and hypothermia. After a record holiday mail delivery, be sure to police up discarded boxes and appropriately dispose of the remnants. This includes sanitizing all garbage by removing any identifying information from both sender and recipient. Avoid overloading electrical outlets. Be on the lookout for aftermarket power strips and transformers that are not approved for use; these devices pose a severe fire risk to all. Finally, vehicle accidents tend to increase during the winter months due to the onset of rain, snow and ice. Drivers are reminded to exercise extra precautions. Happy New Year!



Lifeliners conduct “Big Drop II”

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Peter Mayes,
 101st SB Public Affairs

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – The 101st Sustainment Brigade is dropping 101 bundles of Christmas cheer directly to the Soldiers living in remote Forward Operating Bases throughout eastern Afghanistan.

Dubbed, “Big Drop II,” the “Lifeliners” brigade is using their Low Cost, Low Altitude aerial delivery system to get some much needed supplies, as well as some extra goodies, like snacks and personal hygiene items, to the troops. The brigade conducted a similar aerial delivery drop during their last deployment to Afghanistan in 2008.

The delivery mission, which began Dec. 22, and will conclude on Christmas Day, is a combined effort between the brigade and its unit ministry team, who reached back home to the families and community groups at Fort Campbell, Ky., and asked for their support.

“We put out a list of things that people could send, and they’re still people trying to send things to us even now,” said Maj. Tammie Crews, brigade chaplain, UMT, 101st SBDE. “The thought was to be able to do something a little special out to the FOBs who don’t have a lot of the amenities we have here at Bagram.”

Crews said the Soldiers assigned to the FOBs face many hardships and dangerous situations daily, and she wanted to let them know they’re being thought of during Christmas.



Pfc. Michael Vanpool | 101SB PAO

Two of the bundles from the 101st Sustainment Brigade’s 101 air drops fall to a remote forward operating base in Regional Command-East.



Pfc. Michael Vanpool | 101SB PAO

U.S. Army Pfc. Ashley Way (left), a rigger for the 11th Quartermaster Detachment, 101st Sustainment Brigade, and Staff. Sgt. Jeffrey Duncan, chaplain’s assistant for the 101st Sustainment Brigade, tie down bundles for the 101st Sustainment Brigade’s air drop for the holidays.

The brigade has trained on using Low Cost, Low Altitude delivery, or LCLA, for the past 18 months. Using smaller aircrafts and non-perishable parachutes, supplies can be dropped directly into a FOB

or a nearby landing zone from a minimum 150 feet in the air. The accuracy of the drop lessens the

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43rd Sustainment Brigade hosts Run for Life



*Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Ian M. Terry,
43rd Sustainment Brigade Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The 43rd Sustainment Brigade sponsored a Run for Life on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Dec. 24, with a goal of raising \$10,000 on behalf of the American Cancer Society. Through numerous initiatives to raise funds and donations from several nations and services across KAF, the brigade was able to surpass their goal in the early morning hours, just before the race began.

As part of one initiative, 1st.

Lt. Cathryn C. Testerman, a battle captain in the 43rd SB, and organizer of the race, donated her more than two feet of hair to Locks of Love, an organization that makes wigs for underprivileged children undergoing chemotherapy.

Testerman has been touched personally by cancer, and said the issue was very close to her heart. She said she was grateful for the generous donations from so many individuals and looks forward to sponsoring similar events in the future.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Cathryn C. Testerman of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade, donated more than two feet of hair to Locks of Love, to be made into wigs for underprivileged children undergoing chemotherapy.

Chaplain's Message... by Sgt. 1st Class William Davis

The chaplain and chaplain assistants make up a Unit Ministry Team (UMT) which has a great impact on commanders and their units by providing nurture to the living, caring for the wounded, and honoring the fallen heroes. We look after the spiritual well-being of all Service members, civilians, and their families.

Usually at the end of every year, television networks begin to show major events that took place during the year. The events shown this year were the New Orleans Saints winning the Super Bowl, Los Angeles Lakers defeating the Boston Celtics in the NBA championship, combat missions ending in Iraq, Gulf of Mexico oil spill, Chilean miners rescued after 69 days underground and many more.

As 184th ESC Soldiers, we spent most of our year training for deployment to Afghanistan. Even though the training caused an

extended amount of time away from our families, it helped us prepare for the many challenges we are now facing. Deployment is never easy for Service members or families.

Here in Afghanistan, there are many opportunities Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines can utilize that will help them stay connected with family and friends back home. Of course, a lot of us did not get the chance to be with our families during Thanksgiving or the Christmas holidays, but because of today's technology we had the chance to talk with them while being separated.

Even though things can change in an instant, we must give thanks for what we have now and take advantage of the opportunities given. The MWR and USO facilities provide great recreation for Service members and civilians, and the United Reading Program is an excellent program that helps parents

stay connected with young children while being deployed. I thank the Lord for what we have because our situation could be a lot worse.

We have entered into that time of the deployment where we have gained some experience and established a good working system to perform our respective duties. During this stage of deployment we also have adjusted to the living conditions, DFAC food, getting around from one place to another and connecting to our families either by phone or email. Continue to give thanks to the Lord daily and pray for His protection around us as we enter the "smooth-sailing" period. Soon, deployment will be over, we will be sitting at home with our families once again and sharing with our fellow comrades the experiences of our deployment.

In 2011, let us maintain situational awareness and complete this mission to the best of our abilities.

JSC-A conducts battlefield circulation visit with 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion at FOB Shindad



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Telacey McGee, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) accountability officer, conducts a site tour of the Supply Support Activity yard at FOB Shindad for Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan and staff on Dec. 28. (From left) McGee, Support Operations Officer Maj. Michael S. Waterman, Fisher, 183rd Maintenance Company Commander Maj. Jeremy R. Hahn, JSC-A Chief of Staff Col. Clint E. Walker and 529th CSSB Commander Lt. Col. Michelle M. Rose.

- AIR DROP Continued frm pg. 18

chance of Soldiers being victims of roadside bomb attacks.

The UMT and parachute riggers assigned to the 11th Quartermaster Detachment, 101st SBDE, spent most of December gathering and packing the bundles for the drop. Brigade Commander Col. Michael Peterman said being able to deliver the bundles directly to the FOB's was a way to ensure a better Christmas for those Soldiers far from home.

"Because these packages are coming directly from hometown America, we wanted to ensure that nothing got left on the side," he said.

Peterman also rewarded the riggers for their help by allowing the riggers to fly on the aircrafts and watch as the bundles were dropped onto the FOBs.

"The riggers are a very special group," he said. "Their motto is, 'I will always be sure.' They're the ones who have to ensure 100 percent accuracy in those bundles because lives depend on them."

Sgt. Joshua Wetzal, squad leader for the 11th QM Detachment, said it was good to know that the riggers were able to do some things for the Soldiers to make

them feel better during the holidays.

"We're able to get some stuff to them that they want to have, as well as what they need," he said.

Spcs. Nathaniel Mumbulo and Johnny Perez, both riggers with the 11th QM Detachment, were two of the riggers who flew on the drops.

They said compared to their fellow Soldiers assigned to outlying FOBs - having access to a post exchange to purchase snacks and other goods, decent internet access, hot meals daily, and a relatively safe environment, minus the occasional indirect fire from insurgents - they understand they have it pretty good.

"I can't imagine what it must be like to have the delivery drops come. We're their only source of survival," Perez said.

Mumbulo said he actually put on a harness and helped push cargo out of the aircraft. The experience made him appreciate how fortunate he was in doing his job, he said.

"It puts things in perspective," Mumbulo said. "We're not directly in the fight like many of those Soldiers are, but we do serve an integral part of their mission."

Mumbulo also said it was good to know he was helping a Soldier enjoy Christmas a little better.

"We got to be Santa Claus for them," he said.

529th CSSB helps empower local Afghan women

Source: 529th CSSB Public Affairs

SHINDAND, Afghanistan - The 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), along with the 104th Transportation Company (TC) and Italian Soldiers of the 5th Alpini Regiment, helped some 4,000 widowed Afghan women during a special holiday mission.

On Dec. 23, Service members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) 529th, 104th TC and Italian Soldiers delivered seven sewing machines with materials, more than ten rolls of cloth and toys for local children. The sewing machines and materials went to the town of Shindand, the capitol of the Shindand District in Afghanistan.

Master Sgt. Clara Vargas of the 529th CSSB led the mission by raising \$3,200 for the project. Vargas accepted donations of sewing materials and other items from friends and family members back stateside, who were willing to support the mission. Organizations such as Adopt-a-platoon and Bella Fabrics have also been enlisting



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Clara Vargas poses with Michael Kutz, a civilian electrical engineer from DynCorp International who donated money for the purchase of the first sewing machine and cloth for the Shura mission. Kutz said, "I was looking for a way to give back to the local community and this has provided the perfect opportunity to do so."

help, as well as sending needed sewing items to support the mission.

This mission supported a Women's "Shura" (consultation), and promoted the Afghanistan Women's Sewing Project, which is aimed at helping local widows in the community. The local Afghan women will use the sewing machines to make clothes for themselves and their children.

Several locals have pledged their time and talents to provide the local



women sewing training prior to distributing the sewing machines.

The mission will give local women in Shindand valuable skills they can use inside their home and provide them a tangible trade that can be passed along for future generations.



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

Chaplains and their assistants gather for a group photo during the monthly chaplain coalition meeting at the Kandahar Airfield Chaplain Ministry Center (CMC) on Dec. 9. Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan, addressed the group and offered thanks for their work during the holiday season. Each month, the group gathers at the CMC to discuss current issues and share their experiences with others.

Promotions at JSC-A



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

Sgt. 1st Class Hope D. Poole was promoted Dec. 10th by Lt. Col. Cheryl D. Anderson and Master Sgt. Gary Akins.



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO

Chief Warrant Officer 4 John C. Taylor was promoted Dec. 17th by Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher.



Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo | JSC-A PAO

Sgt. 1st Class Torrance T. Thomas was promoted Dec. 18th by Lt. Col. Harry A. Gunter.



Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo | JSC-A PAO

Staff Sgt. Byron K. Clark was promoted Dec. 19th by Chief Warrant Officer 2 David A. Ruffin.



Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo | JSC-A PAO

Sgt. Jocelyn M. McLeggon was promoted Dec. 19th by Sgt. Maj. William P. Hatten.



Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo | JSC-A PAO

Sgt. Brian S. Blanton was promoted Dec. 24th by Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher.

Surgeon's Section...by Col. Gordon S. Moshman

As the new command surgeon, I feel fortunate to be assigned to a very professional outfit, the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Although having served in the military on and off for 40 years now, I am still feeling my way as a relatively new arrival. My "shop", to include Capt. Gerald Hodges and Staff Sgt. Joshua Fernandez, has been instrumental in orienting me to place and procedure.

My goals are to be a source of medical care and information for the command at every level of position and rank. I am also hoping that everyone in the unit will take back with them some basic life support skills, how to give compression only CPR-cardiopulmonary resuscitation, and develop competence in applying an AED-Automatic External Defibrillator. These lifesaving skills will benefit the command and the community back home and

could conceivably make the difference whether another lives or dies after a cardiac arrest.

I am encouraging everyone in the command to get immunized against epidemic influenza, take their malaria pills as prescribed, quit smoking if currently doing so, and try to get some regular exercise. The latter will help people stay in shape, pass their required physical fitness test, but also is a means of relieving stress. Developing and maintaining good health habits can serve as an example to the next generation and improve their respective health, as well.

Finally, deployments are not only inherently stressful for the Soldier, Sailor, Airman or Marine, but also



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Army Col. Gordon S. Moshman explains the proper usage of an AED-Automatic External Defibrillator to members of JSC-A during a training session.

for the family left behind. Distance can place a strain on relationships. Keeping a good attitude and maintaining regular communication, which, these days is so easy with e-mail and phone service, will help us all get through this difficult and dangerous time and allow us to successfully accomplish our mission.

Awards



Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Michelle C. Smith receives an end of tour Joint Service Commendation Medal for her work in the J6 section of the 184th ESC. Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher presented the award on Dec. 24th.



1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Air Force Tech Sgt. Joseph P. Maurin receives an end of tour Joint Service Commendation Medal, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and certificate of appreciation for his work in the Supply & Services Class III (B) office of the 184th ESC Support Operations Section. Col. Craig M. Weaver presented the awards.

USO brings entertainment to deployed troops on KAF

 Photos by 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

The Sergeant Major of the Army's 2010 USO Hope and Freedom tour and the Annual USO Holiday Tour Led by Admiral Mike Mullen brought holiday cheer to Service members on Kandahar Airfield.

The Hope and Freedom tour brought country music stars Leeann Tweeden, Keni Thomas, Alana Grace, Buddy Jewell and Emily West. They were joined by Dallas Cowboy cheerleaders, Nicole Hamilton and Brandy Redmond, comedian Chonda Pierce and 18 members of The U.S. Army Band.

The Hope and Freedom tour began in 2002 with Sgt. Maj. of the Army Jack L. Tilley and is sponsored by the USO. The tour brings together celebrities and musicians from the Army to perform for men and women serving in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Annual USO Holiday Tour included seven-time Tour de France champion Lance Armstrong, Grammy award-winning comedian Lewis Black, Country music singer/songwriter Kix Brooks, Hall of Fame songwriter Bob DiPiero, Comedian Kathleen Madigan and Academy award-winning actor/comedian Robin Williams.

Partnering with the USO since 2000, the Office of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff has deployed more than 11 entertainment tours and lifted the spirits of more than 150,000 service men and women.

This Holiday Tour trip will mark the sixth USO tour for Williams, the third for Black and the second for Armstrong, Brooks, DiPiero and Madigan.



Kandahar

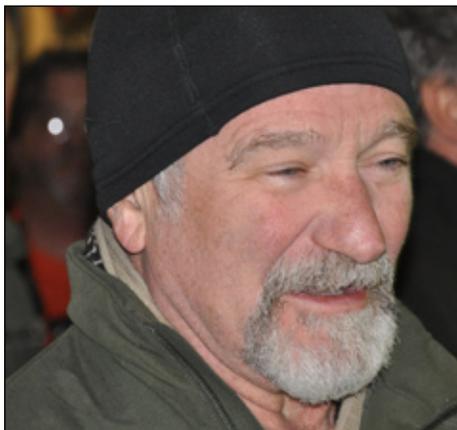
More photos on pg. 25



Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Brandy Redmond



Country music artist Emily West



Actor and comedian Robin Williams



Supermodel Leeann Tweeden



Country music artist Buddy Jewell



Cyclist Lance Armstrong



Kandahar



Actress and singer-songwriter Alana Grace



Country music artist and former Army Ranger Kenji Thomas



Sgt. Maj. of the Army Kenneth O. Preston



United States Navy Adm. Michael G. Mullen, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff



Dallas Cowboys cheerleader Nicole Hamilton



Comedian Kathleen Madigan



Comedian Lewis Black

Soldier spotlight...



*Story & photo by
Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten,
JSC-A Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Air Force Staff Sgt. Chantha N. Ouch (pronounced “Ou-shay”) is an individual augmentee working with the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC)/Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (JSC-A) here at Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

The Stockton, Calif. native is currently assigned as a client systems network technician, and her responsibilities include managing client user accounts, troubleshooting and repairing standard voice, data, video network and cryptographic systems.

“I am currently supporting JSC-A in the J-6 (information management) shop,” said Ouch. “We help manage the communications network for the more than 350 people working in the compound here.”

Ouch has served in the Air Force for more than nine years, and served eight years as an information manager at Beale Air Force Base, Calif. before cross-training as a client systems tech in April, 2010. Ouch said that her decision to join the military was influenced by the educational benefits, job stability and travel opportunities available in the Armed Forces. “I joined the Air Force because I had heard that the quality of life was very good, and their recruiter was the first one to contact me,” she said.

In 2007, Ouch deployed to Balad

Air Base in Iraq, where she worked as an information manager with the 332nd Expeditionary Medical Group (EMDG)/Medical Control Center (MCC) in support of Operation Iraq Freedom (OIF).

“My job with the 332nd EMDG/MCC was to in-process and out-process personnel, manage records and manage the detainee program,” said Ouch. “I can honestly say that working in the hospital there was the most humbling and rewarding experience of my life.

“It opened my eyes, and it was heartbreaking to see our fellow service members being brought into the ER with combat wounds,” said Ouch. “Some survived and some didn’t, and that was the harsh reality of war.”

Back at her home station, Ouch works as the NCOIC (Non-Commissioned Officer-In-Charge) of the Call Service Center at the 9th Communications Squadron’s Communication Focal Point (CFP), providing network support for Beale AFB.

“My job at the CFP was to manage all incoming tickets (work orders/service calls) and ensure that they were completed in a timely manner,” she said.

Now deployed in support of OEF, Ouch said that her current work environment is a big improvement over the way things used to be. “My work environment is great,” she said, “and I’m really happy that we’re no longer working in tents.”

Ouch said that network communications is a very important part of the missions here at KAF, and that the J-6 team supports the warfighters by providing network communications



**U.S. Air Force
Staff Sgt. Chantha N. Ouch**

that enable their leadership to have maximum visibility of all ongoing operations.

“My co-workers are fun-loving individuals who work hard and play hard,” said Ouch. “They welcomed me from day one and made me feel like I’m part of the family, and I think it’s great to be working with the 184th and to have met such wonderful people.”

Ouch said living at KAF isn’t so bad, despite the “moon dust” and some of the foods available at the DFACs (dining facilities). “I’m grateful to be living in the Mods (housing units), and to be within walking distance of work, the gym and the Boardwalk,” she said.

“One of the things I’ve really enjoyed at the Boardwalk is Salsa night,” she said. “Just being there, listening and dancing to the music almost makes me forget where I am, and sometimes I feel like I’m

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Financial Peace University held on KAF

 *Story & photo by Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten, JSC-A Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers of Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (JSC-A) attended a weekly course offered by Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University (FPU) here at Kandahar Airfield (KAF).

Dave Ramsey is a nationally syndicated talk show host and founder of FPU. The course is a DVD-based set of lectures designed to teach the basic principles of budgeting, money management and better spending habits.

“I had read a few books by Dave Ramsey, and had always wanted to take one of his courses, but none were ever available in my area,” said Staff Sgt. Brandi Simmons, JSC-A Supply Non-Commissioned Officer-in-charge (NCOIC). “I found out about the classes available here at KAF and enrolled as soon as I could.”

There were a limited number of seats and course packets available, said Simmons, but after speaking with representatives from the Chaplain Ministry Center (CMC) and 643rd Regional Support Group (RSG), she was able to secure a larger classroom space and more course materials for the more than 75 service members who were eager to take the course.

“I contacted the 643rd RSG about getting the ‘Day Two’ Tent for the class, and at first they said no,” said Simmons, “but after I went over there and spoke to them about the large number of people who wanted to take the course, it was a



Attendees of the Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace course pose for a group photo.

go!”

The CMC provided all the course material kits (usually priced at \$100) at no cost to the Soldiers, said Simmons, and everyone who wanted to take the course was able to get a seat.

The course consisted of video lectures followed by group discussion of the concepts and techniques outlined by Ramsey in

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back home.”

During her spare time here at KAF, Ouch said that she spends a lot of time reading and doing homework, and that back home, she spends most of her time with her husband Dan, and their two daughters, three year-old Lilylani and one year-old Daisy.

“We are stationed near my hometown, so we’re always away from home on weekends, visiting family and friends,” she said.

“There is always some sort of family gathering going on, and I enjoy spending every moment with them. I’ve been stationed away from family before, and I know how hard it is not having them close by, especially now that my parents are older.”

Ouch said that she misses homemade cooking, her husband’s BBQ and her daughters’ hugs and kisses more than anything else. “Just being home with them is what I miss the most,” she said. “I’d do anything to be able to just hold them and kiss them right now.”

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the videos.

Ramsey's seven step system is designed to be a road map to help people get out of debt and move toward financial freedom.

His seven tips for financial peace are:

1. Put \$1,000 in an emergency fund.
 2. Pay off all debt using a "debt snowball."
 3. Put three to six months of expenses in savings.
 4. Invest 15 percent of your household income into Roth IRAs and pre-tax retirement.
 5. Save for your children's college funding using tax-favored plans.
 6. Pay off your home early.
 7. Build wealth and give! (Invest in mutual funds and real estate.)
- Other Soldiers from JSC-A

attended the course because they had read or heard of the FPU program before.

"I have listened to Dave Ramsey for years and was interested in the course but never had the opportunity to take it," said JSC-A Property Book Officer, Chief Warrant Officer 2 David Ruffin. "I heard about this course from Staff Sgt. Simmons, and I decided to take it."

Ruffin said that Ramsey's course takes a more common sense approach to money management, and relies upon the discipline of the individuals taking the course.

"The basic ideas of the course are curbing unnecessary spending, saving money, building wealth and charitable giving," said Ruffin. "The 'building wealth' part emphasizes that it won't happen overnight and that it takes time." Some Soldiers decided to take the course in order to reinforce

the concepts they had learned previously from reading Ramsey's books.

"I joined the Dave Ramsey course as a refresher," said Staff Sgt. Randall Lowe, JSC-A support operations (SPO) executive assistant. "I've read many of Dave's books, but I've never had a chance to take the Financial Peace course."

Lowe said that Ramsey's teachings have changed the way he and his family think about money, and that the course has been a big help in reinforcing the importance of saving for the future.

"My family's financial future is much brighter, thanks to Ramsey's program," said Lowe. "We were able to pay off more than \$40,000 in debt in two years, and we are now debt-free except for our house payments, and have been able to start retirement and college funds for ourselves and our children."

New Year's Resolutions...*Photos by Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten*



Spc. Crystal Mayers, JSC-A Support Operations CPOF (Command Post of the Future) operator: "I'm working toward scoring a 300 on my Army physical fitness test (APFT) before we go home at the end of our deployment. "



Shannon Page, General Dynamics information technology contractor: "My new year's resolution is to start eating healthier."



Staff Sgt. Joshua Fernandez, JSC-A Medical Logistics NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer): "My New Year's resolution is to lose ten more pounds before we redeploy back home. I've been working out several times a week, doing the 5K runs here at KAF and I've been seeing a lot of improvement."

Every Veteran's Day...

*Every Veteran's Day is hard in its own way.
We find ourselves doing the same routine everyday.
We wake up, shower, shave, and grab our weapons,
To the chow line we make our way,
Thinking how great momma's cooking would be good today.
Watery eggs, burnt toast and cold grits,
Yeah that's the way,
I've always wanted to start my day.*

*Every Veteran's Day is exciting in its own way.
We find out new things about ourselves each day.
We max out our physical ability to get things done,
Lack of sleep and lack of help, still the mission must be done,
Yet we have just enough strength despite our underlying fears.
Through all the blood, sweat, and tears,
We finish our day with the respect of our nation,
Our families, our leaders, as well as our peers.*

*Every Veteran's Day is sorrowful in its own way.
We find ourselves saluting a fallen comrade this day.
Standing in formation in our best,
Tears in our eyes and they are dropping down on our chests,
Watching as they lower the flag half mast,
Saluting our hero as they carry him past,
Standing there motionless we let out a gasp,
"I truly hope this will be our last"!*

*Every Veteran's Day is prideful in its own way.
We find ourselves marching in a parade today.
Holding up our colours high,
Looking sharp for all the spectators as we're walking by.
We think of what we and others have sacrificed,
Some have paid the ultimate price!
We think of our pride, our sorrow and our pain,
We pray our brothers have not died in vain!*

*~ Sgt. Daniel A. Brown
JSC-A SPO Munitions Section*

January Birthdays

The JSC-A would like to wish the
following people a
Happy Birthday!



Spc. Andre Brown	Sgt. David Nelson
Master Sgt. Earnest Burton	Maj. David Oglesby
Staff Sgt. Encarnacion Cardona	Mr. Sherman Preston
Staff Sgt. Curtis Davis	Mr. Franklin Procell
Staff Sgt. Joshua Fernandez	Staff Sgt. Elizabeth Ramos
Mr. Raymond Leak	Lt. Col. Millard Reedy
Sgt. Maj. Dennis Lindgren	Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs
Mr. David Massey	Mr. Kevin Sawyer
Sgt. Brad McCormick	Master Sgt. Joseph Settles
Spc. Terrance McGill	Master Sgt. Willie Smith
Maj. Keith Menyweather	Sgt. Maj. Stanley Williams