

# Ever

Volume 1, Issue 4



# There

February 2011



## *JSC-A: The First 100 Days*

### *Sustaining the Fight*

# Inside This Issue

## Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

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**On the cover: Soldiers of the 24th and 287th Transportation Companies conduct one of numerous logistics convoys in southern Afghanistan. Feature story on pg. 4 (photo by 1st Lt. Steven P. Haggerty, 1225th CSSB)**



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

## From the Commander's Desk...

It seems just a short time ago we arrived, but on January 24th, we crossed the 100-day milestone since assuming responsibility of Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan. Those of you assigned to JSC-A and our subordinate units are directly contributing to the hardest, most challenging logistics fight our nation has ever endured. Back in October, I can assure you, there were folks doubting whether JSC-A was up to the mission. But, you have proven the naysayers wrong. The JSC-A is up to any task, any mission and any requirement to sustain the warfighter. I am extremely proud of your hard work and dedication in getting the job done!

As I travel throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan, I see a team of logistics professionals that day-in and day-out conduct their missions to the best of their ability. It doesn't matter whether they're

conducting a convoy, delivering mail, preparing an airdrop, tracking ammunition or providing admin support. The sacrifices you are making have not gone unnoticed. Everyday I hear of extraordinary accomplishments that members of our command have achieved in order to sustain the force or help a fellow Service member. It takes everyone, doing their part, to make our mission here successful.

Continue to respect others. Our actions, and how we treat others, are a direct reflection of this command. Each of us should take time to reaffirm our commitment to the Army Core Values—Loyalty, Duty, Respect, Selfless-Service, Honor, Integrity and Personal Courage. I expect nothing less than professionalism from the men and women of the JSC-A.

For members of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, your deployment to Afghanistan is half over. In approximately six months, you'll



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

be home with family and friends. You have a lot to look forward to. The days are passing quickly, but I need you to keep your head in the game. Keep an eye on your battle-buddy and don't get complacent. Be aware of your surroundings and challenge others to do the same.

Remain vigilant and remember the life you save, the accident you avoid, or the injury you prevent, could be your own.

## Warrior's Call



**Sgt. Maj. William P. Hatten**  
**JSC-A Command Sergeant Major, Acting**

As we have just passed the halfway point of our mobilization, I would like to commend everyone on a job well done.

With the next six months ahead of us, I encourage everyone to remain focused on the JSC-A mission, and to remember that we are all part of a team. Do not give in to complacency and get relaxed on or off duty. Remember safety in everything you do, whether it is walking to work or conducting

physical fitness training. The last thing we need are avoidable injuries to any of our Soldiers.

Also, don't forget to look out for your buddies. Ask them how they are doing, and make sure they are keeping in touch with their families back home. We are on the downhill side of this mobilization. Stay positive, stay motivated, and we will finish this deployment on a positive note.

Thank you for your support during Command Sgt. Maj. Riggs' leave.

# The first 100 days: a story of sustainment

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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – What organization’s finance office processes an average of \$181 million per month and on a daily basis is responsible for feeding more than 100,000 personnel? Their contracted vehicles travel an average of 23,570 miles per day and their contracted aircraft fly an average of 23,700 passengers monthly? Is this a Fortune 500 company? No, it’s the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command and its subordinate units.

The 184th ESC assumed responsibility for all sustainment operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan, October 17th, when the 135th ESC, an Alabama Army National Guard unit, passed the baton and returned to the states. Since that time, the 184th ESC and its subordinate units have continued to provide support for all coalition forces in Afghanistan and on Monday, January 24th, the Army National Guard unit from Laurel and Hattiesburg, Miss., marked its 100th day as the headquarters element for Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (JSC-A).

The U.S. Army’s Field Manual 4-0 defines sustainment as “the provision of logistics, personnel services, and health services support necessary to maintain operations until mission accomplishment.”

“The logistics fight in Afghanistan is without a doubt the most challenging job we’ve ever been tasked with. ‘Afghanistan is not

Iraq’ is an understatement. The dynamics of an ever changing battlefield, limited lines of communications and the lack of a staging base, such as Kuwait, requires a support operations staff that must quickly assess the situation and make sound decisions to ensure uninterrupted sustainment flow,” said Col. Craig M. Weaver, JSC-A support operations officer, whose hometown is Brookhaven, Miss. “Our strong staff relationships with our strategic partners, 1st Theater Support Command, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, 101st and 43rd Sustainment Brigades, 401st Army Field Sustainment Brigade, 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion, 145th Theater Transportation Opening Element and the 643rd Regional Support Group have

ensured warfighters have what they need to conduct combat operations and defeat the insurgents on the battlefield.”

In the first 100 days, JSC-A and its subordinate units have met the challenge. Their leadership reports facilitating or accomplishing the following missions which gives a small snapshot of the magnitude of sustainment operations. They provided support for more than 100,000 Service members and civilians on a daily basis, which is more than the combined populations of Hattiesburg and Biloxi, Miss.; reviewed and approved \$1.2 billion in military contracts; processed an average of \$181 million in finance transactions per month; delivered more than 126 million gallons of fuel, which would fill 7.8 million passenger cars; provided 25.6

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

**A 43rd Sustainment Brigade convoy prepares for movement to the Kandahar City water treatment plant from Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on Oct. 28, 2010.**

# Army National Guard Director visits Soldiers at KAF

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



**U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, talks with senior leaders of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan.**



**(Center) U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, stops for a group photo with Soldiers from the 211th Engineer Company (Concrete), a South Dakota Army National Guard unit, during a battlefield circulation at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan on Jan. 23, 2011.**



**(Left) U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, presents a director's coin to Sgt. Lamarcus Anderson, of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan.**



**U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Raymond W. Carpenter, acting director of the Army National Guard, presents Sgt. Lex B. Clough, of the 1225th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, with a Purple Heart and Combat Action Badge during a battlefield circulation visit to Kandahar, Afghanistan. The 1225th CSSB is a Michigan Army National Guard unit currently serving in Afghanistan.**

## - 100 Days

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million meals, which would feed the population of Texas; distributed 7.6 million pounds of ammunition; delivered more than 17 million pounds of mail, which would cover eight football fields stacked six feet high; flew an average of 23,700 passengers monthly by contracted aircraft; amassed 2.4 million

miles by contracted host nation trucks, which is the equivalent of driving around the world 95 times; managed more than 19,000 bed spaces on a daily basis; airdropped 5,400 bundles of critical supplies to remote combat bases; provided 1,925 legal services for Service members; and conducted 1,848 combat logistics patrols.

“All Service members involved in the operational sustainment of

logistics continue to perform above expectations in this difficult and austere environment. Their efforts are greatly appreciated by all in the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan, and their families can take great pride in their service,” said Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, JSC-A commanding general, whose hometown is Clinton, Miss. “The work they do here is critical to mission success.”

## *From the Inspector General's office...*

By Lt. Col. Mathyn D. Williams

***Because a thing seems difficult for you, do not think it impossible for anyone to accomplish.***

*~ Marcus Aurelius*

Some Soldiers may wonder why we have Inspectors General (IG) in the military. According to The Army Inspector's General School (TIGS) the Inspector General serves as a "confidential representative of the commanding general and is an extension of the commander's information gathering capability. The Inspector General advises the commander on existing conditions relating to the performance of the mission and the state of discipline, efficiency, morale, esprit de corps, and economy within the Army, ARNG, or USAR."

The IG got involved in the war fighting efforts around the middle of the 16th century, when it was determined that

armies were becoming larger and more complex, requiring more standardization and discipline. The French, Prussian and British militaries were the first to have an Inspector's General on staff. During the Revolutionary War, seeing that his army was suffering from a lack of discipline and organization, Gen. George Washington, on Oct. 29, 1777, convened the Council of 14 Generals. After this counsel, he decided to solicit Congress to appoint an IG for his army. He proposed to use the IG to serve as drillmaster general, to establish uniform tactics, publish a manual on drill, organize and lead training, and ensure troop proficiency in the field.



Congress agreed with Gen. Washington that an IG was needed and that the IG should work for him, as the Commander in Chief. Afterward, several inept Inspectors' General were appointed under Washington, but in 1778, one finally came about to be known as the first successful IG. His name was Baron Friedrich Wilhelm Augustus Heinrich von Steuben. Key to his success is that he got out and did the work needed to improve conditions, morale and efficiency for the army. Shortly after making his first inspections of one of Washington's outlying camps, von Steuben noted, "The

- IG

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## **Opportunities during deployment**

 *Story by Maj. Juan A. Corrigan, JSC-A J2 (Intelligence) Section*

While deployment can place stress on all aspects of a Service member's life, deployment can also create unexpected opportunities. These opportunities are becoming readily apparent in the J-2 section.

The J2 section's mission is to provide timely, accurate and actionable intelligence regarding sustainment operations. The section advises the commander on enemy threats and their potential impacts on mission accomplishment. The intelligence section continually monitors operations through the efforts of trained personnel, including military and civilian personnel. The diversity of job duties in the intelligence section are

what give ISAF and NATO forces a competitive edge on the battlefield.

Some of the many J2's duties include providing training for Security Managers, Flight Security Managers, Contracting Officer Representatives, Industrial Security, Foreign Disclosure Officers, Foreign Disclosure Representatives and Foreign Linguist Officers. These additional duties continue to add additional levels of responsibility to our section, but also provide valuable experience to section members.

- J2

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# Special delivery: Soldier uses Skype to help coach wife, deliver baby from Afghanistan

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

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BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Alright, listen up all you deployed dads (especially if you’re an expectant father): you can take an active role in the birth of your child, even if you’re stationed in a combat zone. All it takes is commitment, a little ingenuity, and Skype.

Just ask Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph Palermo, who recently coached his wife Katherine through the birthing process. Separated by several continents, they both welcomed their daughter, Anna Grace, into the world.

“I didn’t think it would work out. It sounded too good to be true,” said Palermo, battalion chaplain for the 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade. “It was a pretty awe-inspiring experience.”

Anna Grace was born Jan. 12, at Elmendorf Hospital, Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska. She is the couple’s first child. Palermo, a 17-year military veteran, said he prides himself on his speaking abilities. The birth of his daughter, however, left him speechless, he said.

“I’m a professionally trained speaker, practiced in conveying complex ideas through sermons, but I found myself at a great loss for words at the moment of Anna’s birth, even though I was not there,” Palermo said. “That’s a rare occasion for me, and that says



Sgt. 1st Class Peter Mayes | 101SB PAO

**Chaplain (Capt.) Joseph Palermo, 17th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, poses with a photo of his newborn daughter, Anna Grace, on his computer screen. Palermo, who is deployed to Afghanistan, helped coach his wife through childbirth using Skype.**

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a lot.”

Palermo said they had heard there was a possibility that Skype services were available through the hospital. The hospital offers the service as an option for deployed Service members stationed who cannot physically be there for their children’s birth due to deployment.

“I didn’t know all the ins and outs of it,” he said. “I didn’t think it would work out, or that there would be any rooms available. It turned out there was one room where they have a wireless network.”

The battalion senior chaplain’s wife was instrumental in getting everything set up, Palermo said. “She brought it up to my wife

that it might be available, and the chaplain spoke to the hospital staff, and it sounded like everything was going to work out,” he said. “The hospital staff made it happen for us.”

A lot of work went into getting everything set, he said. Friends helped by donating their laptop so that Palermo could see everything that was happening from the delivery room. They also had a doula (a pregnancy coach) on hand to help as well.

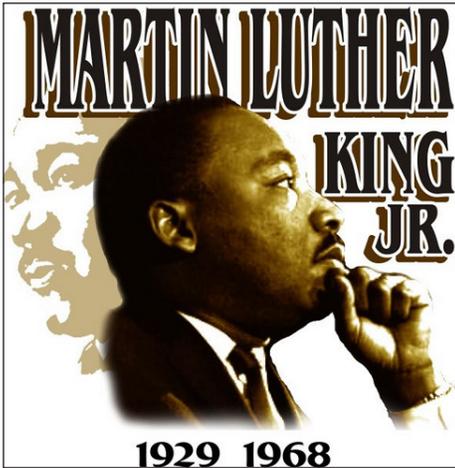
“One held the computer and encouraged Katherine, and the doula was present to coach her

- Delivery

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# Martin Luther King Jr. observance at Kandahar Airfield

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



Mr. Benjamin Luster, U.S. Army civilian, performs a musical tribute to American jazz trumpeter Louis Armstrong during the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance.



(From left) U.S. Army Sgt. LaTondra Moultrie and Spc. Kenya Clark sing traditional gospel music during a performance at the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance. Both are members of the Kandahar Airfield Gospel Choir, which performs regularly throughout the base.



U.S. Service members display protest signs during a historical reenactment at the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday observance at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on Jan. 21. The signs were created by members of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan and the 43rd Sustainment Brigade. The annual event was widely attended by Service members and civilians from numerous nations and featured live music, inspirational quotations, a musical tribute to Louis Armstrong and traditional food sampling.

- IG  
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situation of the camp is such that in all human probability the Army must soon dissolve...there is no meat, the horses are dying, and the bare country surrounding is a poor location for a camp.” With this report, Gen. Washington was compelled to dispatch his staff to take corrective actions. Afterward, von Steuben developed the first standards, regulations and tactics that led to what we know so well today as Army Regulations and Standard Operating Procedures. He codified these first standards in the “Blue Book,” which demonstrates the way

an army should drill and practice. His efforts greatly contributed to the future successes of the Revolutionary Army, which gave way to today’s Army.

To make a difference, the IG should remain diligent in trying to alert the commander or staff to any systemic problems he is observing, before they degrade the war fighting capability of the fighting force. The IG should be an extension of the “eyes, ears and conscious of the commander.” To do this, the IG should know and understand the commander’s intent and gain the trust of subordinate commanders and staff so that they will see him as a person who is truly “there to help”.

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## 948 MCT making moves at Bagram

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

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BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – From the hustle and bustle of Las Vegas - bright lights, busy people, dancing and music - comes a small unit of movement control personnel ready to bring that energy to Bagram Airfield.

The 948th Movement Control Team, 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion, ensures the Soldiers living and working on Bagram Airfield receive cargo shipped by air. The unit also assists Soldiers in coordinating the shipment of cargo by truck, plane or helicopter.

“Our Soldiers know that what we do here matters and that they are making a difference every day,” said Capt. Shawn Adams, commander, 948th MCT, a native of Surprise, Ariz. “They really enjoy the interaction with the Soldiers and units here on Bagram - they are able to assist and make their missions



**Members of the 948th Movement Control Team, 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion, take a group photo near their work location at Bagram Airfield. The team assists units and Soldiers receiving and transporting cargo by ground and air throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area – Afghanistan.**

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more successful.”

The U.S. Army Reserve unit prepared for this mission during post-mobilization training at Camp Atterbury, Ind.; sweeping changes are already underway, just two months after arriving in theater.

“The mission here is pretty close to what they set up for us at Camp

Atterbury,” said Adams. “Except now we have to relocate our entire operation to the other side of the base. That is presenting a whole new set of obstacles. We in the 948 say that with every obstacle

- 948 MCT  
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- J2  
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This work experience is readily translated to the civilian sector. Real world, hands-on experience in a war zone is a valuable commodity and is not easily attained back home. Despite the overall scarcity of jobs in many sectors, the intelligence community continues to thrive with job opportunities for those with military combat experience. Many jobs in the intelligence sector require months or years of training and equivalent periods of related work experience.

Our section continues to adapt to the current mission

set here in Afghanistan. Additional duties are providing our section with valuable experience that is in high demand from companies and government organizations, such as General Dynamics, Honeywell, Boeing, Xe, numerous banking institutions, Department of Homeland Security, National Security Administration, Central Intelligence Agency, Federal Bureau of Investigation and numerous others that require experience in intelligence operations.

Even though life during deployment can be stressful, unpredictable and generally unpleasant, opportunities are being planted here that will readily bloom with proper care after deployment ends.

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# JSC-A weekly Bible study at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan

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

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**U.S. Army Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Edward R. Coutta leads members of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan in a weekly Bible study at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on Jan. 12. The group meets weekly and is open to all faiths.**



**(From left) U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 William J. Bowman, Sgt. 1st Class Eric T. Deitrick, Capt. Dana R. Pierce and Master Sgt. Earnest W. Burton follow along as Deitrick reads an excerpt from Romans 7 during weekly Bible study at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on Jan. 12. All are members of the Mississippi Army National Guard's 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command currently deployed to Afghanistan since Oct. The weekly event provides Service members and civilians with the opportunity to discuss various Bible verses and engage in conversation about faith-based issues faced in the combat zone.**

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## - Delivery Continued from pg. 7

Palermo said Katherine was in labor for 24 hours before Anna was born. During that time, he was able to watch as his wife was giving birth on the other side of the laptop, also offering encouragement and support along the way.

“After Anna was born, Katherine immediately wanted to hold her so she could have skin-on-skin contact,” he said.

Anna, crying immediately after birth, quieted down once Katherine held her, Palermo said. “She knew where she was supposed to be. Next to momma,” he said.

Palermo described witnessing Anna’s birth via Skype as, “extremely powerful.”

“Seeing God’s hands at work through creation of a new human life as a minister and person of faith made me reflect on the awesomeness of God and the wonder of His handiwork,” he said. “As a father, it made me very proud. It was a unique moment. I’ve never experienced anything like it.”

Palermo said it was very encouraging that the hospital offered the Skype service, and marveled at the technology itself. “It made a big difference in our experience. It made me feel like I shared an event where I wasn’t there, but was able

to witness the event and provide encouragement, and talk to my daughter and see her as she was born,” he said.

“It removed a lot of my worries when she came out and was bawling. I knew she was healthy,” he said.

Palermo said he would definitely encourage other Soldiers and Service members who are deployed and expecting children to do the same.

“I would help them explore other possibilities. If Skype is available at the hospital, I would encourage them to ask about it,” he said. Palermo said he is heading home for leave in February, where he will meet his daughter in person for the first time.

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# U.S. Forces Command conduct battlefield circulation of JSC-A

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 *Photo by Spc. Edward A. Garibay, 16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment*

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(Left to right) Brig. Gen. Philip Fisher, Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan commander, Command Sgt. Maj. Christopher Greca, Regional Command - South, Col. Erik Peterson, RC-S, Gen. James Thurman, U.S. Army Forces Command, Col. Richard Martin, JSC-A J3, Sgt. Maj. William Hatten, JSC-A J3 and Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Riling, U.S. Army FORSCOM pose for a group photo during a battlefield circulation visit, Jan. 12th.

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- 948 MCT

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comes opportunity; just as every opportunity comes with obstacles.”

This unit, only together since August of 2010, seems capable of overcoming any obstacle with all the Las Vegas energy and positive attitudes of its members. When the unit first began training last year, 24 eager Soldiers were members of the team. Only 21 could deploy, creating a very difficult decision for Adams.

“We had to decide which three would not be able to join us for the mission. It was tough letting them go. They all truly wanted to deploy and serve their country,” said Adams.

The team continues to prove

how impressive it really is. While continuing operations, leaders prepare for the relocation. However, no one ever loses focus on the mission here at Bagram.

“Our unit knows that the war fighters who go outside the wire daily to face the enemy have everything they need because we assisted them in getting it. We say, “They can do what they do, because we do what we do,” said Adams.

The 948th MCT continues to support the effort in Afghanistan in all the ways Adams expected and some he did not.

“My team surprises me everyday with skills I was unaware of them possessing and a level of professionalism and motivation that

I believe is unmatched by any unit I’ve ever been a part of. They are truly remarkable,” he said.

These Soldiers provide support to each other, the warfighter, and their families, through a strong Family Readiness Group. They posed for a unit photo near where they work here at Bagram Airfield and hope to share their excitement for the movement control mission with those here and at home. When asked what he would share with families and friends back in Las Vegas, Adams said:

“I would tell them that being here with 948 MCT has far exceeded my wildest expectations. As a commander, I have definitely hit the jackpot. This unit rocks!”

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## *From the Headquarter's Company Commander...by Capt. Tawaski R. Carter*

Congratulations to all JSC-A members. We met the 180 day mark at the end of January and are close to the midway point of our deployment. This is a great accomplishment and everyone has done a remarkable job. With the first 100 days behind us, we need to begin to focus on the movement back home while maintaining commitment to the daily tasks at hand. This is one of the most dangerous times for Soldiers, and we don't need to get complacent and relaxed with our duties. During this time, personality differences may begin to clash and tempers may rise, but remember to maintain your professionalism and situational awareness. Utilize the resources within our unit, such as the chaplain and chain of command for counseling or advice. Also, there are stress management resources available on the base. It is not a sign of weakness to ask for help, but rather a sign of courage.

Many Soldiers have begun the R&R process and many more are preparing to go. Ensure you have a good

hand-off with your co-workers. A good turnover will ensure the continued success of our mission and give confidence to your leadership that there will be an easy transition back into your section upon your return.

For those taking R&R, this is a time to be with loved ones and an opportunity to take a break from the duties of the mission. Once home, you and your family will be overwhelmed with emotions. Please keep in mind to be patient when reintegrating with your loved ones, especially when faced with difficulties. Most of all remember to have FUN, but stay safe and out of trouble. You are a Soldier and represent the U.S. Army. Remember our core values!

To all Soldiers here, ensure you're keeping the lines of communication open with your family and loved ones, but remember to keep OPSEC in mind.

May God bless the Service members of our command, family members and the United States of America.

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## **Grand opening of Independence dining facility on Kandahar**

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



(Above) The Independence dining facility quickly fills with Service members during its grand opening at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 12th.



(Left) U.S. Air Force Brig. Gen. Jeffrey B. Kendall (center), Kandahar Airfield commander, cuts the ceremonial ribbon with (right) U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan, and other partner nations at the grand opening of the Independence dining facility at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 12th.

# Support Operation's Corner

By:

*Lt. Col. Thomas L. Booker  
&  
Maj. Todd D. Pohnert*

The Munitions Branch of the Support Operations Section made a seamless and successful transition from the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command to the 184th ESC. We also endured the transition from the 82nd Sustainment Brigade to the 101st SB for sustainment support in the East and North. In December, we participated in our first Quarterly Stockage Objective Working Group in Kuwait and successfully obtained an Operational Reserve to be stored at the Ammunition Supply Point in Bastion. This Operational Reserve allows us to store an additional 25 percent of

the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan (CJOA-A) stockage objective at Bastion for approximately 60 of the most critical munitions. We have facilitated the delivery of over 1,500 pallets of ammunition from Kuwait into the CJOA-A. During this period, the CJOA-A expended over 1,600 pallets of ammunition; one of the most active times during OEF. Nothing is too small, 5.56mm cartridges; or too large, entire Mine Clearing Line Charges, weighing in at close to a ton a piece, when it comes to the Munitions Branch supporting the combat troops. The Munitions Branch has proven to be a responsive and user friendly section by going the extra mile to help facilitate getting munitions to locations at the last minute when a short suspense was required. We have touched ammo that supports every branch of service in the United States military to our coalition partners and local Afghan partners in the CJOA-A.

On the personal side, the

Munitions Branch has displayed its hospitality to various passerbys with candy, coffee, and a fully functioning microwave. The branch is represented in religious circles, with our own vocalist, Spc. Kenya Clark. We also have our poet in hiding, Sgt. Daniel Brown, who participated in poetry night with the USO and is currently working on his latest project, "Rocket Attack, Rocket Attack." We have had a number of Service members participate in the Kandahar Air Field (KAF) 5Ks, 10Ks, and Sgt. Daniel Brown even ran a half marathon. Maj. Todd Pohnert, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillip Cliburn, Sgt. 1st Class James Wilkins, Sgt. Daniel Brown, and Sgt. David Grayson have displayed their support for Wounded Warriors, Cancer Research, and other causes by sucking in the dust during numerous runs.

Our section is also staying

- SPO

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## Safety



By: *1st Lt. Rodney L. Hall Jr.*

Coffeemakers come with a wide range of special features varying from the ability to make coffee at a predetermined time to those that have more bells and whistles than a luxury automobile. To coffee lovers, this may seem like a blessed fate. However, there are still hazards associated with electric coffeemakers. Below are some tips to keep your coffeemaker safe and you happy.

- Do not immerse coffeemakers in water as it could damage the appliance permanently.
- Always place electric coffeemakers on hard heat-

resistant surfaces.

- Do not attempt to repair the coffeemaker on your own. If it is broken, replace it.



- Always unplug electric coffeemakers when not in use.
- Discontinue use of the coffeemaker if it begins to make strange sounds or produces a burn odor.
- It is best to plug the coffeemaker in its own socket.

With these tips, you can continue to enjoy your liquid gold as well as stay safe.

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# Telecommuting comes to Afghanistan

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

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BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Microsoft SharePoint is the way of future military communications and coordination. It allows the military and its Service members to set up web sites, manage documents from start to finish, and publish reports to assist in better decision making.

SharePoint and information technology specialists like Spc. Aerick Gomez, webmaster for the 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion from Baltimore, Md., and a native of Lorton, Va., enable Service members to respond to changing business needs by creating a forum for sharing ideas and expertise, creating custom solutions for specific needs and finding the right information to make better decisions.

“For S-6 [signal] shops, SharePoint helps to produce documents that assist in training and walk-throughs,” said Gomez. “It saves time and effort, allowing Service members more time to focus on solutions rather than focusing on a communication problem.”

A commander’s guidance working together with the skill of a knowledge management expert, can decide what information should be accessed, what information should be private, and what information should be on the portal at all.

Gomez is the battalion’s knowledge management expert, working for the commander of the 313th JMCB. His talents created an easily accessible, useful SharePoint

site that is currently easing communications with subordinate units.

“What Gomez did was awesome,” said Maj. Gregory Glasow, 313th JMCB support operations officer and contracting officer representative. “It’s going to make everybody’s life easier with remissions, cancellations, issues and allows better tracking,” added the Littleton, Colo., native.

That is exactly what SharePoint offers. It is not only a file repository but a tool that increases overall productivity by significantly improving communication among those who access the system.

SharePoint provides document libraries which, when created correctly, allow for easy transportation of information without ever leaving a specific duty location. The 313th JMCB has 15 subordinate units in more than 20 total locations across Afghanistan. The ability to share information quickly and without travel is paramount to mission success.

“If user A in Kandahar wants to share a file with user B in Bagram, the user simply uploads a file to the intended document library. Seconds later, user B can now access that file without the two users ever needing to be in the same location,” said Gomez.

Military members can coordinate with others from all around the world through SharePoint, meaning fewer service members need to travel and risk danger in order to conduct business.

“SharePoint acts as a one-stop



**Spc. Aerick Gomez, webmaster for the 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion and a native of Lorton, Va., works with his supervisor, Staff Sgt. Christopher Hagy, officer in charge of the 313th JMCB signal section and a native of Huntington, W.Va., to establish the best format for the battalion’s SharePoint website.**

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shop,” said Gomez. “The system reduces the 6,000 emails users generally receive each day and works as a file repository. It also enables users to create custom lists very similar to an excel spreadsheet.”

Also, Service members do not have to login every day to view changes. A list alert sends a notification when certain criteria are met, such as a new item created, or a document edited. SharePoint also assists in system security and file integrity, preventing access to documents by those who are not privy to them.

“The site provides exclusive permissions, such as the ability to view, but not edit documents, or manage which users can edit or delete documents,” Gomez

- Telecommuting  
Continued on pg. 15

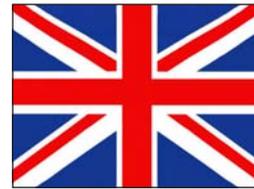
# JSC-A briefs UK military on Afghan sustainment operations

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



(From left) Fisher, Royal Navy Commodore Mike Bath, Royal Air Force Commodore Graham Howard, Commander of the Order of the British Empire Brigadier David Martin, Officer of the Order of the British Empire Brigadier Alan Clacher, Royal Air Force Commodore Les O'Dea.

U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan, discusses current sustainment operations with a delegation from the United Kingdom's military at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 27th. Fisher hosted the event in order to discuss current issues facing the military sustainment community and improve joint military relations with the United Kingdom in Afghanistan.



## - Telecommuting Continued from pg. 14

explained.

“You can also edit the permissions of files, which allows users to access only the files

requested,” he added.

The system is military telecommuting at its best, particularly when it is managed by a pro like Gomez.

“He did everything and more that we wanted him to do,” said Glasow

regarding the creation of the 313th JMCB's SharePoint site.

It brings together the assets and skill sets of Service members all around the world and is one more way to support cohesive and successful efforts in Afghanistan.

## - SPO Continued from pg. 13

well-rounded with members participating in online and local courses for personal, as well as professional development. 1st Lt. Tony Harrell brushed up on his finance and budgeting skills by completing Dave Ramsey's Financial Peace University. Sgt. 1st Class James Wilkins and Department of the Army Civilian Mr. Randall Hull played in the MWR Pool Tournament and Mr. Hull vows to win it next time around. Lt. Col. Booker has also led the way as branch chief, as well as being a media star back

in the states with the “story of the day” in local Mississippi news for four days. We also had our representation on TF Razorback with Spc. Jonathan Evans going the extra distance and showing what Ammo Dawgs can do. Even Spc. Tanya Jones went the extra mile by volunteering and being part of the group working off the holiday mail backlog to support the warfighters out at their FOBs. Mr. Cliburn has come out and started growing some hair to cover his once bald head and Warrant Officer 1 James Cochran has gone the other direction by cutting most of his off. In their spare time, Staff Sgt. Paul Hughes and Spc. Evans battle it out

on the video games.

The Munitions Branch is made up of personnel from a variety of military backgrounds that all came together during our train up and bonded to form a great team. We integrated Sgt. Willie Billips and Spc. Jones who are cooks, Sgt. Brown who is a mechanic, and Sgt. Grayson who is a supply specialist, into the ammo world and all have easily made the transition. Overall, the Munitions Branch has shown teamwork and camaraderie that has been reflected in their work, as well as their personal time, that will make the rest of this deployment a great remembrance to all on their return home to Mississippi.

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## *Chaplain's Message... by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Edward R. Coutta*

Over the past two months, as the 184th ESC Family Life Chaplain, I have been leading a marriage enrichment class provocatively entitled "Sacred Marriage: What if God Designed Marriage to Make Us Holy More than to Make Us Happy?" I know most of you reading this did not have the opportunity to attend this class, so I would like to write a few lines highlighting the most helpful principles discussed.

The thesis of the class was that we have the idea of marriage all wrong. Marriage is much more than two people coming together to make each other happy and to raise a family. Marriage should be a reflection of our relationship with God and it should be entered into with the goal of helping each of the spouses grow in their relationship with the Lord. A closer relationship with God will ultimately lead to a closer relationship with one another. Some of the key points

included:

1. Marriage has a sacred purpose. The intimacy and closeness of two married people creates a perfect setting for growth, maturing and lessons in holiness. When we listen to the wisdom God has to offer, it can be a satisfying and life-changing journey that shapes our souls and connects us with God and each other.

2. One of God's best ways of shaping our character and growing our maturity is through our relationships, particularly the marriage relationship. Marriage can be challenging at times, but God can use this intimate relationship to refine, strengthen and grow us in amazing ways.

3. God's design for marriage is to move beyond self-centeredness. In God's design, the spouses seek to love, serve and do what will bring joy to their partner.

4. If we are going to mirror the heart of God in our marriage

relationship, it will be a marathon—not a sprint. It means committing to hang in there when things get tough, celebrating when things are going well and giving God the glory at all times.

5. A Biblical view of sex flies in the face of the two extremes of sex as either a recreational pursuit focused on self-satisfaction and sex as something that is dirty, bad and to be avoided. Sex is meant to be enjoyed between a husband and a wife and held in high esteem.

6. There is no better place to learn the way of love than within the bounds of a marriage relationship. Marriage can shape us into something more beautiful than we dream by shaping us into the image of the Lord.

I hope these principles will prove helpful to you. I would encourage you to order the book and read it whether you are currently married or contemplating marriage.

God bless!

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## *This Month in Army History*

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**1848** -- The war between the U.S. and Mexico ended on Feb. 2 with the signing of the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo.

**1870** -- The Army Signal Corps establishes the first weather service.

**1901** -- Congress establishes the Army Nurse Corps, Feb. 2. The original group includes 202 female members.

**1932** -- Army Chief of Staff Gen. Douglas MacArthur approves establishment of the Purple Heart medal for combat wounds, Feb. 22.

**1942** -- The first Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Alexander Nininger (posthumously) on Feb. 10, for heroism during the Battle

of Bataan.

**1943** -- During World War II in the Pacific, U.S. troops captured Guadalcanal, Feb. 10, in the Solomon Islands after six months of battle, with 9,000 Japanese and 2,000 Americans killed.

**1984** -- Lt. Col. Robert L. Stewart becomes the first Army astronaut in space, Feb. 3, as a crewmember of space shuttle Challenger flight STS-41 B.

**1912** -- The Army establishes the new rating of "military aviator."

**1991** -- Offensive ground action of Operation Desert Storm begins, Feb. 23. The successful campaign to drive Iraqi forces from Kuwait lasts 100 hours.

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# MACP cares for Fallen Heroes

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

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan (JSC-A) Mortuary Affairs Collection Point (MACP) is responsible for coordinating the evacuation or disposition of Fallen Service members and their personal effects (PE) throughout the Afghanistan theater of operations.

“JSC-A is based at Kandahar Airfield (KAF), which is the home of one of two MACPs in Afghanistan, the other MACP being located at Bagram,” said Capt. Myranda Lindsay, MACP officer-in-charge (OIC). “Fallen Service members may be evacuated out of either location, and there are two Marine Corps Personnel Retrieval and Processing (PRP) units located at Camp Bastion

and Camp Dwyer. Fallen Heroes evacuated from KAF are processed by the 111th Quartermaster Company, from Fort Lee, Va.”

With the support of JSC-A, and other units here at KAF, many improvements have been made to the compound. The MACP Processing Facility now has an internet connection so files no longer have to be handwritten and later transferred to Mortuary Affairs Recording and Tracking System, and a new personal effects warehouse was built by 111th Quartermaster Company with help from volunteers of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command/JSC-A Headquarters Company.

“The major improvement at the compound was the construction of the PE warehouse, which we accomplished in a matter of weeks with the help of the Soldiers from the 184th ESC,” said Sgt. 1st Class Timothy Davis, MACP NCOIC (non-commissioned officer-in-charge).

The main structure was built in about six days. Prior to this construction, personal effects of Fallen Service members were processed on pallets outside. The new facility provides a clean, secure environment for processing, safeguarding and preparing personal effects for shipment to the Joint Personal Effects Depot at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

“Before the warehouse was built, we were processing everything outside on Air Force pallets in the open air,” said Davis. “The warehouse allows us to treat the personal effects with the respect they deserve, while at the same time enabling our personnel to work without being exposed to inclement weather.”

Poor lighting was also a problem for the MACP team prior to the construction of the warehouse, especially when there was the possibility of finding unexploded

- Fallen Heroes  
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## Filing deadline for federal income tax return

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 *Story by:*  
*Lt. Col. Lawrence B. Austin*

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As the calendar turns closer to April, a number of you are asking about the rules concerning the filing of your United States Federal Income Tax Return, Form 1040. It is good to see we have so many conscientious taxpayers eager to contribute their fair share to the United States' treasure.

Remember we are talking about your 2010 and not your 2011 tax return. This year, the due date for

your 2010 tax return is April 18, 2011. However, as a deployed Service member, you are entitled to an automatic extension of the due date for the tax return.

The deadline extension applies to individuals serving in a “combat zone”. Combat zones are designated by an Executive Order from the President as areas in which the U.S. Armed Forces are engaging or have engaged in combat. There are currently three such combat zones, of which Afghanistan is one.

The filing deadline is extended for the period of service in the

combat zone, Afghanistan for the 184th ESC, plus 180 days after the last day in the combat zone. The deadline for payment of income tax is also extended for the same period of time. During the extension period, assessment and collection deadlines will be extended. There is no interest or penalties charged during the extension period.

This extension also applies to periods of continuous “qualified hospitalization”. The hospitalization

- Taxes  
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## Soldier spotlight...

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 *Story and photos by  
Petty Officer 1st Class  
Sandra M. Palumbo,  
JSC-A Public Affairs*

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KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Staff Sgt. Cheryl L. Spencer, of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, provides a support system for all Service members and a sense of empowerment for her fellow-deployed females through her coordination of the 184th “Ever There” Ladies Group and her work at the Chapel Ministry Center (CMC) on Kandahar Airfield (KAF) in Afghanistan.

A native of Kansas City, Mo., who now calls Hattiesburg, Miss., home, Spencer is currently assigned as a unit chaplain’s assistant and is the CMC’s NCO (non-commissioned officer). Her responsibilities include assisting the command chaplain in providing pastoral care to Service members and ensuring the supervision and functioning of KAF’s Fraise Chapel and the CMC.

“I have been blessed with my work environment here at the Chapel Ministry Center on KAF,” said Spencer. “It has a home-like feel. Diverse people come in and out to pick up items, attend Bible studies, services, watch television or a movie, and sometimes just stop by to talk. As you can see, I’m very fortunate to be in a position to help others, and meet people from all over the world.”

Spencer has served in the Mississippi Army National Guard for more than three years, and served ten years with the U.S.



**Staff Sgt. Cheryl L. Spencer poses for a photo outside the Kandahar Airfield Chapel Ministry Center where she is the non-commissioned officer in charge.**

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Army Reserve. Spencer said she joined the military because she came from a military family. Her father, James Allen, served in the U.S. Navy. Several of her family members and siblings are also military Service members in various branches, to include one brother in the Army, one brother who is retired Army and one sister who is retired Air force.

“Out of all the branches, the Army was the branch I was most interested in,” said Spencer. “I knew I would have the opportunity to meet new people, travel and be adventurous.”

Currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom on Kandahar Airfield in Afghanistan, Spencer said that she wanted to reach out to the women within the 184th ESC and offer a women’s support group that women can make their own. Some of the goals of the Ladies Support Group are to provide a place where women

can share concerns, develop mentorship relationships, and know that they are there for each without judgment.

“The support group is here to help each other spiritually, provide a listening ear and emotional support,” said Spencer. “Life here can get a little stressful at times. Also, at various times in our individual lives, we may need help which can take the form of prayer, guidance or a listening ear. We may be Soldiers, Marines, Sailors, and/or Airmen, but we are first human beings and we can help each other.”

In civilian life, Spencer has worked more than 20 years in the field of social services. Spencer says she refers to her work as the “helping field.” Early in her career, Spencer worked with the Department of Social Services in Baltimore, Md., while stationed at

- Spencer  
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## - Fallen Heroes

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ordnance (UXO), live ammunition or demolition materials during processing.

“We had issues with the bad lighting outside,” said MACP team member Staff Sgt. Juel Mallard. “Without any kind of flood lighting or outside lighting, it was very hard to see what we were doing, and this made it hard to spot any possible UXO during processing. We also check for biohazard materials, such as blood, and that was hard to see in the dark as well.”

Another improvement in the works for the warehouse is a new x-ray scanner that is being shipped from Kuwait for the warehouse. The new scanner will serve as the first line of defense in case UXO is found in the Fallen Service Member’s belongings. Bagram MACP already has an x-ray scanner that arrived last month.

“Training will be conducted by an Explosive

Ordnance Disposal Team at both locations in order to ensure that MACP personnel are fully aware of the dangers of handling UXOs,” said Lindsay. “They will also train the MACP team on the safety measures that must be enforced if items like these are found.”

Future improvements for the personal effects warehouse include a flag press, which will eliminate the manual labor involved with ironing flags that are placed on the transfer case of every Fallen Hero, and a new box truck that will ensure there is a secondary mode of transportation for moving remains to and from the flight line in preparation for evacuation out of theater.

“The improvements we’ve made so far would not have been possible without the cooperation and support of the 43rd Sustainment Brigade and the 111th Quartermaster Company,” said Lindsay. “Mortuary Affairs is a small community of professionals working as a team to honor those who have given everything for our freedom, and it is a unique privilege to serve in this capacity.”

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## Naturalization ceremony honors 97 Service members

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

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U.S. Service members pose for a photo after becoming U.S. citizens at a recent naturalization ceremony honoring 97 Service members at Kandahar Airfield, Jan. 29. The JSC-A KAF Legal Center was instrumental in working with the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service in completing paperwork for the event. U.S. Army Maj. Gen. James L. Terry, commander of Regional Command - South, Hon. Karl W. Eikenberry (Lt. Gen Ret.), U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan, and Congressman Darrel Issa (R), California 49th District Representative, were guest speakers at the event. (Back row, from left) Pfc. Juan C. Garcia Carrasco, 300th Movement Control, Staff Sgt. Rodney B. Ruttan, 919th Transportation Company, Spc. Williams A. Lara, 302nd Inland Cargo Transfer Company. (Front row, from left) Spc. Yaw T. Kwake, 919th Inland Cargo Transfer Company, Pfc. Sharen E. Kelley, 106th Financial Management Company, Cpl. Alfredo A. Espinoza Garcia, 656th Transportation Company.

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

Sometimes being involved in sustainment, if not careful, we can forget the human aspects of the conflict we are here to support. This country has been at war for better than 30 years and much of its infrastructure has been destroyed. The medical system has not been spared.

At nearby Camp Hero, the Kandahar Regional Medical Hospital, a relatively new hard stand facility on a single level, is used to care for civilian injured and ill, uniformed Afghan National Army Soldiers and Afghan National Police, besides providing a well-child clinic for the local area.

The physicians and surgeons from Afghanistan, with the assistance of coalition doctors, some from Bulgaria, heroically “put together” the significantly wounded.

Care of the critically ill is often done by instinct, as there have been times when no reagents have been available to run laboratory tests in order to track patient progress or the necessary monitoring of medication effects.

- Surgeon  
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## - Spencer Continued from pg. 18

Fort Meade.

“I’ve worked in group homes for disadvantaged children, and Pine Grove Substance Abuse program, as a counselor. After deployment, I will return to my current job that I implemented, at Camp Shelby in 2005, as the Victim Advocate Coordinator and Sexual Assault Response Coordinator (SARC), Victim Advocate, and Trainer,” said Spencer. “Keeping my current job in mind, I wanted to provide not only victim advocate services, but ensure women have a safe space to be open and honest about issues that may be bothering them. You never really know what is happening in a person’s life unless you give them an opportunity to share their problems with you.”

The 184th ESC Ladies Support Group meets every Friday at 8 p.m. at the CMC. Each week, various topics are discussed and sometimes with a guest speaker. Topics discussed include: self love/value, stress management, mentorship and issues associated with being

deployed. Spencer said with the success of the support group, she is also thinking of starting a book club to discuss books by the Christian author, Vanessa Miller.

The Spencer family includes four sons: Robert, Michael, Lorenzo and Isaiah. Robert, who is 25, is the oldest and he deployed with the National Guard when he was 18. Michael, 24, is a freshman

at Cameron University studying psychology. Lorenzo, 17, is a junior at Oak Grove High School and is preparing to go to college to become a doctor. Isaiah, 14, is an 8th grade student and football player at Oak Grove Middle School. Also, Spencer has a two-year-old grandson, Robert Jr., who Spencer said she is excited to see when she goes home on R&R in



Members of the 184th ESC Ladies Support Group join together as they listen to Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Donnette Boyd speak. Boyd spoke on self love (God's love), and learning your value through sharing her own personal story.

# Humanitarian Assistance yard helps Afghans in need

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



From left, Master Sgt. Purvis Gray, non-commissioned officer-in-charge of the KAF Humanitarian Assistance yard, briefs JSC-A Commander Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher and Chief of Staff Col. Clint E. Walker on the different types of humanitarian assistance supplies available in the facility.

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Kandahar Humanitarian Assistance (HA) yard provides food, clothing and essential supplies to families in need throughout Afghanistan.

The yard was established in 2009, as part of a program to provide assistance in the wake of natural disasters, as well as supporting the Afghan people, during the reconstruction efforts by furnishing them with much-needed supplies.

“We have two programs at the yard, which are CERP

- HA yard

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- Surgeon

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Besides these issues of basic supply, there are cultural issues which directly affect the hospital. Some of these injured are comatose, ventilator dependent (unable to breathe on their own) and paralyzed with little, if any, chance of recovery. In this country, there is no such concept as DNR or withdrawal of life support, when further therapy might even be considered cruel as artificially prolonging one's death rather than saving one's life. Should life support be withdrawn, the medical staff might be declared “non-Islamic,” marked as enemies, and have reason to fear for their life. This means that patients with essentially terminal conditions can languish in the hospital for days, artificially supported; this, in a system that does not have enough resources to provide care otherwise.

On a recent visit, Capt. Gerald Hodges, Environmental Science Officer, and I made hospital rounds with the trauma and medical service. We saw many civilians, passive victims of IED and mine blasts, and a number of Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police personnel who had been injured,

usually severely. We visited one adolescent with significant abdominal injuries sustained when he and his five other family members were victims of an IED. One brother died and there were four others in the ward next to him. Such is the nature of this conflict.

Hodges and I observed what we felt to be a breakdown in cleanliness or “aseptic technique” with changing of bandages done ungloved and without gown. This can result in the spread of infection, patient to patient, especially in a ward setting and can be prevented by something as simple as disposable gloves and paper gowns. The Humanitarian Assistance Yard of the 184th ESC has such materials that could be of service to this and other medical sites in the Afghan system, and we are in the process of getting those needed materials where they would do the most good.

It is clear that a collaborative effort between coalition forces and JSC-A, on multiple fronts, can be an effective tool to increase the ability of the Afghanistan medical system to better serve its population now, in time of war, and later, hopefully, when there is peace. This is a complex problem, but our surgeon cell intends to foster and maintain that relationship for the good of all involved in the current effort.

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## - Taxes

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must be the result of an injury suffered while serving in a combat zone or contingency operation. The extension continues during the period of hospitalization outside the United States, and up to five years of hospitalization in the United States. Once released from the qualified hospitalization, the time periods are extended for 180 days, beginning the day after release.

The actions to which the deadline extension provision applies include:

- Filing any return of income, estate, gift, employment, or excise tax,
- Paying any income, estate, gift, employment, or excise tax,
- Filing a petition with the Tax Court for redetermination of a deficiency, or for review of a Tax Court decision,
- Filing a claim for credit or refund of any tax,
- Bringing suit for any claim for credit or refund,
- Making a qualified retirement contribution to an IRA,
- Allowing a credit or refund of any tax by the IRS,
- Assessment of any tax by the IRS,
- Giving or making any notice or demand by the IRS for the payment of any tax, or for any liability for any tax,
- Collection by the IRS of any tax due, and
- Bringing suit by the United States for any tax due.

Spouses of individuals who served in a combat zone or contingency operation are entitled to the same deadline extensions with two exceptions. The extension does not apply to a spouse for any tax year beginning more than 2 years after the date the area ceases to be a combat zone or the operation ceases to be a contingency

operation. The extension does not apply to a spouse for any period the qualifying individual is hospitalized in the United States for injuries incurred in a combat zone or contingency operation.

This extension is automatic and does not require filing Form 4868 , Application For Automatic Extension of Time To File U.S. Individual Tax Return. Working with the Department of Defense, the Internal Revenue Service identifies taxpayers who are serving in a combat zone so that we may suspend compliance actions, such as audits or enforced collections, until 180 days after the taxpayer has left the zone.

However, the IRS can be notified directly of a request for combat zone relief for extensions of deadlines through a special e-mail address: [combatzone@irs.gov](mailto:combatzone@irs.gov). The notifying email should include name, stateside address, date of birth and date of deployment to the combat zone. The email should not include any social security numbers. This notification may be made by the Service member, Service member's spouse, or authorized agent or representative.

To ensure the IRS has all of the information it needs to confirm military service for the automatic extension, attach a copy of your orders to the back of your income tax return. Also, it is a good idea to write in bold letter across the top of the return "OEF RETURN" and highlight. This may not be possible for e-filers, since the returns are filed and signed electronically.

If the IRS takes any actions covered by these provisions or sends you a notice of examination before learning that you are entitled to an extension of the deadline, contact your legal assistance office. For state income tax returns, notify the tax commission for your state.

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## Promotion

Lt. Col. James P. Lavery, JSC-A logistics civil augmentation program liaison officer, was recently promoted to the rank of colonel at the Kandahar Airfield LOGCAP – South headquarters on Feb. 6. (From left) Col. Warren C. Olson, LOGCAP Regional Command – South assistant deputy program director, Brig. Gen Philip R. Fisher, JSC-A commander, Lavery, Col. Eddie D. Nagel, LOGCAP – Afghanistan deputy program director, Col. Clint E. Walker, JSC-A chief of staff.



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

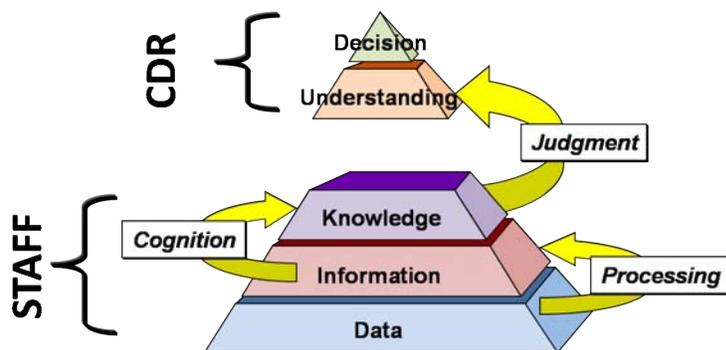
# Knowledge Management

 Story by Lt. Col. Kevin L. Bullard

Knowledge Management – not an unfamiliar term for most, but a somewhat ambiguous one for many. Doctrinally, KM means much more, but to the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (JSC-A), it is synonymous with SharePoint – and for good reason. Quoting from the JSC-A’s commanding general, “knowledge isn’t power; the distribution of knowledge is power”.

Recognizing that fact, the JSC-A established its Knowledge Management Working Group in June of 2010. Comprised of representatives from all staff sections and subordinate units, the group meets regularly to discuss issues, concerns and new ideas for the three, yes three, SharePoint portals owned and maintained by the command.

Furthermore, it established a full-time knowledge management cell within the unit, utilizing three slots



from elsewhere in the unit. Transitioning these from their normal duty positions was a slow process, and understandably so. Duties had to be transitioned and responsibilities shifted. The team currently consists of Lt. Col. Kevin Bullard, still serving in the Sustainment Automation Support Management Office, Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jerry “Jay” Myrick, Staff Sgt. Charles Copeland

- Management  
Continued on pg. 24

## - HA yard Continued from pg. 21

(Commander’s Emergency Relief Program) and donated,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Bianca Gravitt, an HA team inventory controller. “The CERP program is mostly made up of food and related supplies, and on the donated side, we have school and hygiene kits that are provided by various charity and community groups back home.”

The yard has approximately 150 Conex shipping containers set up to receive and store the various types of supplies, and from here, the HA yard staff count, sort and prepare bulk packages for delivery to local communities.

“The supplies are ordered by the individual units in the field,” said Master Sgt. Purvis Gray, HA yard NCOIC (non-commissioned officer in charge). “We assemble the packages and then set up transportation for

them by air or ground assets. The unit can also come and pick the supplies up themselves.”

All of the Service members who work at the yard take part in all stages of preparation, from sorting, packing and verifying that all requested items are in the packages, all the way to getting them loaded on the trucks.

“I organize transportation to get the supplies out to the people in need,” said Senior Airman Tessa Rodriguez. “I order trucks to pick up and transport the supplies, as well as arranging air transport. It’s a very involved process, but we make sure that everything is packed and ready to go on a moment’s notice.”

Seven Service members, as well as 11 local nationals, work at the yard and assemble the packages and pass them out to the local communities. Operating the yard seven days a week, the HA team is ready to provide assistance, as needed, in the event of natural or man-made disasters.

“The work hours depend on the mission,” said Gravitt, “and when the items are needed. My job is to ensure that all of our CERP supplies are up to date and accounted for.”

The humanitarian assistance items are normally replenished on an as-needed basis, and many of the supplies are purchased from local vendors, which helps to stimulate the local economy, as well as build partnerships between JSC-A and the Afghan people.

“It takes forever to build roads and schools, but we have supplies here that we can get to the warfighters right now,” said Staff Sgt. Christopher Breaux, replenishment NCOIC. “That way, they can make an immediate effect on the quality of life in Afghanistan.”

“The mission of the yard is super, and I couldn’t ask for a better job,” said Breaux. “Instead of bullets, we’re shooting out beans, rice and flour to people in need.”

## - Management

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and Mr. William Knowlin, General Dynamics contractor. Additionally, a number of staff sections and units have skilled personnel dedicated primarily to maintaining and developing their portals.

Prior to the JSC-A's Transfer of Authority on Oct. 17, 2010, the portals were primarily used to store data. Knowledge Management is the art that takes data, transforms it into information by applying context, and turns that information into knowledge by putting it all together into something a commander can use to make informed and timely decisions. It differs from Information Management in that IM is primarily the technological platform on which KM is built. It has gained widespread acceptance and is now viewed much more as a necessity than in past years. All JSC-A portals are now leaps and bounds ahead of where they were four months ago. The working group members, as do the senior leadership, understand the big picture. They understand the importance of document libraries, work flows, alerts, SharePoint lists and InfoPath forms. For many, these items represent an absolute change in culture. Despite that fact, most of the Soldiers within JSC-A are embracing the technology. Gone, almost anyway, are the days of emailing spreadsheets

and slideshows back and forth between hundreds of people. Most see the indisputable value in this new direction. Not only are the unit members recognizing its importance, but subordinate units are doing so, as well. That fact is evidenced by the vast improvements being made to their own portals. Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commanding general of the JSC-A, is the driving force behind the Knowledge Management program. Receiving visibility from all levels and emphasis from top to bottom, the JSC-A is well on its way to meeting the CG's charge – to “set the standard for Knowledge Management in Afghanistan.” The three portals combined receive in excess of 5,000 hits per day.

The portals may be found at the following web addresses. Note: The portals are only available on corresponding networks and are not available at all locations.

Non-classified Internet Protocol Router Network (NIPRNet) portal:

<http://jsc-a.rcsouth.afghan.centcom.mil>

Combined Enterprise Regional Information Exchange System (CENTRIXS) portal:

<http://jscarcs.afgn.centcom.gctf.cmil.mil>

Secret Internet Protocol Router Network (SIPRNet) portal:

<http://jsc-a.rcsouth.afghan.centcom.smil.mil>

## Service Fours visit JSC-A on KAF

(Left) U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, commander of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan, and (Far right) Col. Edward M. Daly, commander of 43rd Sustainment Brigade, look on as Ms. Sharon E. Burke, Assistant Secretary of Defense for Operational Energy Plans and Programs, and Lt. Gen. Kathleen M. Gainey, Joint Chiefs of Staff Director for Logistics, depart a U.S. Army Blackhawk helicopter after a senior leader's tour of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan's area of responsibilities outside Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Jan. 24.



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

# Pizza for Patriots

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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – In the middle of an active combat zone, a familiar DHL aircraft carefully lands at Kandahar Airfield. The contents of the plane are not common military supplies, but rather thousands of Chicago-style deep dish pizzas destined for U.S. Service members serving at outlying forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan. The pizzas are part of the Pizza for Patriots program, which donates pizzas to military men and women stationed around the globe. The program operates through a unique combination of corporate and individual donations.

During “Operation Pizza Bowl,” some 4,050 pizzas were transported in preparation for Super Bowl XLV festivities from facilities at Kandahar and Bagram Airfields, to outlying forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan. An additional 1,950 pizzas were also distributed throughout Iraq during the same period.

“We could not have pulled this off without the dedication and hard work from our subordinate units,” said Maj. Christina L. Burton, JSC-A class one subsistence officer. “This mission was a team effort and has given a whole new meaning to pizza delivery. Troops in the field deserve this.”

Transporting the “slices from home” in a combat zone is no easy task. DHL Express



**Cases of pizzas packed in dry ice are carefully off loaded at Kandahar Airfield on Jan. 22, by U.S. Service members and DHL employees. The pizzas are part of the Pizzas for Patriots program and are destined for outlying bases throughout Afghanistan in preparation for Super Bowl XLV.**

volunteered their shipping services for the overseas endeavor. After the pies arrived in theater, Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan was tasked with coordinating the movement of the pizzas forward to individual operating bases via armored convoys. With logistics expertise from the 43rd and 101st Sustainment Brigades, stationed at Kandahar and Bagram Airfields respectively, the pizzas were delivered on-time for game day.

“The Pizza for Patriots program is an excellent morale booster to the most forward deployed Soldiers serving in Afghanistan. The Soldiers are provided with high-quality pizzas that exceed the standards of quality they are normally afforded. Without a doubt, this program helps to improve esprit de corps and team cohesion,” said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Charles H. Talley, Jr., 43rd Sustainment Brigade command food service technician.



Uno Chicago-style pizzas are stored at Kandahar Airfield class one facility before delivery to forward operating bases.

This year marks the third year Pizzas for Patriots has donated pies to Service members serving overseas. The organization has also delivered pizzas on Independence and Veteran’s Days. To date, the organization has shipped a total of 41,500 pizzas, enough to feed some 124,500 Troops, around the globe.

“It is our goal to make them feel they are not forgotten but remembered and appreciated by the country and residents who enjoy the freedoms that they provide for us,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. (Ret.) Mark Evans, Pizza for Patriots founder and CEO.

# KAF's cultural 10K



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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Running enthusiasts from every nation and service branch serving at Kandahar Airfield participated in the Passport through KAF 10K Run on Jan. 30.

“The idea was formulated as a joint race event for all nations on KAF,” said Chief Warrant Officer 2 Judith Treadway, who helped organize the event. “With help from Capt. Ben Uhl, of the Role 3 Clinic, Sgt. Bart Direks, of the Dutch National Support Element, Maj. Tony Scott, of the Australian Rotary Wing Group, and many others, we scheduled a planning meeting to try and garner interest in the event.”

The planning process started with just the five major stakeholders (United States, United Kingdom, Canada, France and the Netherlands) participating, but quickly grew as the route was plotted and the group noticed the many different nations’ compounds along the way.

“It was very difficult to plan this route because we had to take it through so many different compounds and still make it a 10K,” said Uhl, “but it all worked out.”

After the route was completed, it was a matter of finding points of contact for the nations along the route and working through the communication barriers to articulate the plan.

“Chief Treadway invited me to join this event, and I had several meetings with her and some of the other nations, and we coordinated



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

Members of JSC-A pose for a photo prior to the Passport through KAF 10K run on Jan. 30. (From left) U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Delton L. Smith, Maj. Todd D. Pohnert, Sgt. 1st Class Kevin G. Burr, Master Sgt. Stanley E. Coats, 1st Lt. Nicholus T. Cook, Spc. Crystal A. Mayers, Sgt. Torrence A. Green, Maj. Dexter T. Thornton, Chief Warrant Officer 2 William J. Bowman.



Staff Sgt. Bernado Fuller | 16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

More than 350 runners participated in the Passport through Kandahar run Jan. 30, at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan. Stations were set up across KAF to represent countries around the world. At some of the stations the runners had to complete an obstacle before moving on. After completing the country’s task, the runner’s passport was stamped, giving them permission to move on to the next country.

the various stations and activities along the route,” said Direks.

The primary point for this run was that it was to be a joint event and that no one country owned it, said Treadway, and each country was to use their compound to promote their

own culture and offer an activity or some other trinket appropriate for their country.

The runners received a blank

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passport and a map at the starting point, which they took to each of the international compounds along the way, where they completed activities to get their passports stamped. Once the passport was completed, the runners continued to the end to turn in their full passports and receive a commemorative medal at the finish line.

“These events not only build morale, but it also gives people on KAF the chance to get out and build camaraderie across different

countries,” said Uhl.

The USO (United Service Organizations) became our primary sponsor and donated the medals, while the Morale, Welfare and Activities Committee (MWAC) approved the additional funding for the volunteer t-shirts, badge holders and placement medals.

“This run was a collaboration between all of the nations here, working together to have an activity that everyone could enjoy,” said Scott. “It enabled us to get around to the different compounds, experience a bit of each others’ culture and have a great time.”



Staff Sgt. Bernado Fuller |  
16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment  
**Participants received the Passport through Kandahar Airfield medal after completing the International Passport Run Jan. 30, on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.**

***Deployment Valentine***

***Thousands of miles away from you,  
Feeling rather blue!***

***I want to hold you tight,  
From the evening, to the morning light.***

***I want to run my fingers through your hair,  
But, of course, I'm not there.***

***I send you my deployment valentine,  
Thanks to the various sites online.***

***I imagine myself there,  
With red rose petals scattered everywhere.***

***But, no candlelit dinners for you this year.  
No bottle of wine or your favorite beer.***

***Just the great times in front of Skype,  
Which is worth, all the hype!***

***I see your beautiful face.  
Oh, that angelic face!***

***No holding you tight, Valentine's Day, this year,  
Only my deployment valentine, to fill you with cheer.***

***I wish you a happy Valentine's Day,  
Thousands of miles away.***

***Please accept my deployment valentine,  
For you, will always be mine.***

***~ Poem by:  
Sgt. Daniel A. Brown  
9SC-A SPO Munitions Section***

# February Birthdays

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



Mr. Joseph Alvarado	Mr. William Knowlin
Sgt. Brian Blanton	Chief Warrant Officer 2 Jody Kyzar
Sgt. 1st Class Terry Brannan	Capt. Cindy Martin
Mr. William Cannon	Capt. Stephen McCarthy
Maj. Scotty Carpenter	Mr. Raymond McLean
Warrant Officer James Cochran	Sgt. Mary McSwain
Mr. James Crosno	Sgt. 1st Class Donald Mills
Spc. Ashley Crotwell	Col. Gordon Moshman
Sgt. 1st Class Eric Deitrick	Mr. Richard Osterfeld
Chief Warrant Officer 2 Henry Gallant	Maj. Nickie Overby
Mr. Leonard Haynes	Sgt. 1st Class Marco Rodriguez
Staff Sgt. Paul Hughes	2nd Lt. Tyrone Sanders
Mr. Stewart Hughes	Staff Sgt. Delton Smith
Sgt. James Hutcherson	Sgt. Nehemiah Taylor
Spc. Stephanie Jarrett	Sgt. 1st Class Torrance Thomas
Spc. Candace Jones	Maj. Dexter Thornton

Information provided by JSC-A, J1 Section