

# Duke



# Dispatch

Vol. 8

Blackfoot, aka Butcher Troop,  
squad leader proud to serve

TF Duke assumes  
command

February 2011

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Photos from operations of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's first month of deployment. Top Left: Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Tobey White Top Right: Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Tobey White, Middle Left: U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Lohr, Bottom Left: U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Matthew Lohr Middle Right: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil Bottom Right: U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Barry Loo



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## Looking for the Duke Brigade?

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<http://www.facebook.com/3rdBrigade1stInfantryDivison>

<https://twitter.com/3rdBCT11D>

<http://www.youtube.com/user/TFDukePAO/>



Cover photo- U.S. Army Pfc. Zachary Kampmann, an infantryman with 3rd Platoon, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, from Union, Mo., provides security on the landing zone as the members of the Department of Women Affairs who participated in the women's shura at Jaji Maidan, Afghanistan on Feb., 10, board a CH-47 Chinook. (U.S. Army photo by Staff Sgt. Andrew Guffey, 210th MPAD)

## Commander's Corner

By Col. Chris Toner  
TF Duke

Our Duke Brigade is firmly established now in eastern Afghanistan after several busy weeks of international travel, on the job training with our counterparts from the 101st Airborne Division, the Afghan National Security Forces, and the assumption of operational control of coalition forces in Khowst and Paktya Provinces, as well as a portion of Ghazni Province. Our mission here is crucial to the larger international effort in Afghanistan to secure a prosperous future for the Afghan people. I'd like to share a few thoughts this month about key characteristics of our operational area, an area we refer to as AO Duke, and how improving and understanding those factors will make all the difference in the success of our mission.

Khowst, Paktya, and Ghazni Provinces have long and rich histories influenced by oppressive and brutal forces. The Soviet occupation of the 1980s is well-documented, with the Red Army fighting and losing to a spirited resistance movement. Once the Soviets left, internal strife helped bring the Taliban into power, and it took the international community responding to 9/11 to topple the Taliban. The last ten years have seen a tough fight to secure and perpetuate

gains in the governance and prosperity of the Afghan people and we are doing our part to continue these successes, tenuous as they are.

Uniting the people of our area against oppressive, anti-Afghan government entities like the Taliban is no small task. Approximately 1.7 million people, predominately of the Pashtun variety, occupy the nearly 12,000 square kilometers of AO Duke. For comparison sake, this is almost the size of Connecticut in land area. Our AO also shares roughly 230 kilometers of border with Pakistan, which adds a layer of complication when conducting operations. This border, drawn over a century ago by the British, separated Afghanistan from what was then considered British India, and effectively cut through Pashtun tribal areas, often placing family members in two different countries. Needless to say, the people situated along both sides of this line largely consider the border irrelevant, and travel between Afghanistan and Pakistan without trepidation. I already mentioned the Pashtuns are the dominant ethnic group in the area. What I didn't mention was there are at least 12 major tribes, with an estimated 100 sub-tribes, making for a complex, fractured tribal structure in AO Duke.

To add to the complication, the terrain



in AO Duke is very mountainous which, coupled with lack of infrastructure, isolates the majority of tribes from any formal government system. Effective governance across the AO in turn becomes difficult, providing opportunities for groups like the Taliban to influence the people in these areas, often with brutal intimidation. This difficult terrain is also found along the Pakistan border and offers many infiltration routes, permitting insurgents safe passage into Afghanistan where they can influence these isolated population centers and conduct attacks against the people, government officials, ANSF, and the coalition.

Despite these challenges, I can tell you we're off to a great start. The Dukes were well-prepared before arriving and it shows. We are successfully striking the delicate balance between partnership with our Afghan brothers, and conducting combat operations when necessary to counter the objectives of Afghanistan's enemies. The ANSF is stepping up and leading operations, with Dukes by their side, advising, assisting, and fighting. I am constantly meeting with government officials and ANSF leaders during my battlefield circulation who have enthusiastically embraced us in this joint effort.

Lasting success in Khowst, Paktya, and Ghanzi Provinces, and ultimately Afghanistan will come down to a couple issues, none of which are surprising. They are universal ones, and no more complex than the people's desire to live in peace, governed by leaders committed to the common good, security, and the ability to provide economically for one's family. Ultimately, Afghans in Khowst, Paktya, and Ghazni will be the arbiters of their own success. Until then, TF Duke Soldiers will assist them to achieve their goal.

Duty First! 🇺🇸



Photo by Capt. Ken Hoover

Col. Chris Toner, commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division speaks with Khowst Provincial Governor Abdul-Jabbar Naeemi before the transfer of authority ceremony between Task Force Rakkasan and Task Force Duke on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Jan. 30.

## Voice of the CSM

By CSM Drew Pumarejo  
TF Duke

It's certainly been an eventful month, hasn't it? From saying goodbye to our loved ones at Fort Knox, to traveling almost halfway around the world to Afghanistan, our Duke Brigade has seen its stamina and mettle tested. Now that we're safely on the ground in challenging conditions, and official owners of the responsibilities once held by Task Force Rakkasan of the 101st Airborne Division, it's time for the rubber to hit the road.

I'd like to take a few moments in this month's article to emphasize some key

points I believe will not only make our deployment more productive and rewarding, but also more enjoyable. Hopefully they'll even help

time pass a little quicker for all of us. I want to get back to my Family in the states as much as the next person, maybe even more. First things first, however, and now that we're here it's important to fulfill the mission and duties we're entrusted with.

What's at stake on this deployment? Well, in addition to our own personal and

professional development, there's the even more important responsibilities our Duke Brigade is entrusted with. Namely, we will be helping the Afghan people see there is an alternative to the lawlessness and hopelessness that defines our enemies. Pretty important stuff when you stop and think about it. We literally have the power at our disposal, through the sum of our collective actions, to help our Afghan partners improve their lives through improved security, greater education and improved infrastructure that promote better health and economic opportunities. It won't be easy. Few things

**I'm not going to sugarcoat it. Days will seem long. Nights may seem longer.**  
—CSM Drew Pumarejo

in life worth accomplishing ever are. The Afghan people have known little but warfare and brutality over the last 30 years.

They've lived through the Soviet occupation of the 1980s only to endure the authoritarianism of the Taliban. Meaningful and lasting change won't happen for the Afghans overnight. But realize our efforts are making a tremendous difference, and all of us are ready for this difficult yet rewarding task.

As far as what to expect on our year-long



deployment, I'm not going to sugarcoat it. Days will seem long. Nights may seem even longer. There is even the likelihood of being put in harm's way on missions that take the fight to the enemy. This is the big leagues, and now is the time to come together as a team with those troops on your left and right. The time may come when you need to rely on your battle buddy for your life, so do your part now to make sure unity and cohesion in your unit is where it needs to be.

I wrote an article several months back about how our time at the National Training Center would provide many valuable lessons for the deployment we now find ourselves on. Naturally, I believe that what I said then still holds true, especially when it comes to the many ways technology now can help ease the burden of separation from our friends and loved ones back home. Our primary mission here is to assist the Afghans in counter-insurgency operations and facilitating the effectiveness of the legitimate government to effectively serve the people in our AO, but I recognize there will be some down time. Whether you like to e-mail friends, establish a video connection with your loved ones via Skype, or simply phone home, take advantage of these outlets when your duties allow. We all need a morale boost from our Families when possible, and that interaction with the home front can make the year here pass more quickly. As always, remember how fortunate we are to have such things at our disposal compared to fellow Big Red One Soldiers from earlier wars.

That said, some things remain constant when it comes to Soldiers of the BRO. Here in Afghanistan, as it has always been since the 3/1 was formed in 1917, we face no mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great.

Duty First! 🇺🇸



Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Barry Loo

Afghan National Army soldiers distribute radios to villagers at Tandan Village, Jan. 25. The Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, Niaz Mohammad Lali Zadron, and Afghan National Army soldiers distributed shovels, radios, backpacks, food, warm clothing and other supplies in the frigid mountain village as part of an Afghan government outreach mission.

# Chaplain's Word

## Deployment, spiritual resilience

By Chaplain (Major) Mike Nishimura, TF Duke, Brigade Chaplain

We have embarked on another journey of our spiritual resiliency. This time we are in a foreign land far from our loved ones and friends.

Undoubtedly this journey will be very challenging for many--both those who are deployed at the forward edge of the battlefield and those who remain on the home front. We are greatly separated by time and space.

I remember my first operational deployment. That was before the time of Internet access, much

less WiFi connectivity. Our phone capability was very limited. In fact, I don't remember making any phone calls home while I was gone. The only way to communicate was through exchanging letters and cards through the U.S. Mail--yes, the now almost forgotten old-fashioned snail mail!

**Whether dealing with our frustration of not being able to communicate readily, or simply not being with our loved ones and friends, we need to maintain our positive attitude.**

**—Chaplain Mike Nishimura**

Though technology has improved communication in recent years, with things such as Skype and Facebook, it continues to pose a challenge to maintain close

communication between us. As we deal with our challenges during



Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. John Zumer

Command team members of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division based out of Fort Knox, Ky., fall in behind Col. Chris Toner, 3/1 BCT commander, to receive their combat patches at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Feb. 1. The Soldiers were at a ceremony awarding the Big Red One shoulder sleeve insignia, designating former war time service, or combat patch, officially signifying their status as combat veterans serving in a war zone.

this time, let me suggest some things to consider.

In a challenging environment, we need to maintain a positive attitude. The bottom line is we can choose our own attitude no matter what is happening externally. No one can take our ability to choose our attitude from us. Whether dealing with our frustration of not being able to communicate readily, or simply not being with our loved ones and friends, we need to maintain our positive attitude.

Also, we need to keep our lines of communication open. When we are challenged with difficulties, it is easier for us to simply give up. There is truth to the saying popularized by Billy Ocean's song, "when the going gets tough, the tough get going." We need to be persistent in communicating with each other.

Perhaps this is our opportunity to regain our letter-writing skills. Fortunately for us who are deployed, it is free to mail postcards or light letters. Why not drop an envelope in the mailbox once in a while? I still cherish the letters and cards I received while I was on my previous deployments.

It is really fun to look back and read again what our children said in their letters when they were young. If it's not for your benefit, they may appreciate it when they become older. It will create great memories.

Yes, any deployment can be a very challenging time. However, it is also an opportunity to grow and develop our resiliency. I hope you approach this opportunity positively and experience growth in your personal spiritual journey. May the LORD bless you richly as you continue your journey!



# TF Duke uncases their colors

Photo by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Barry Loo



Photo by 2nd Lt. Adam Smith

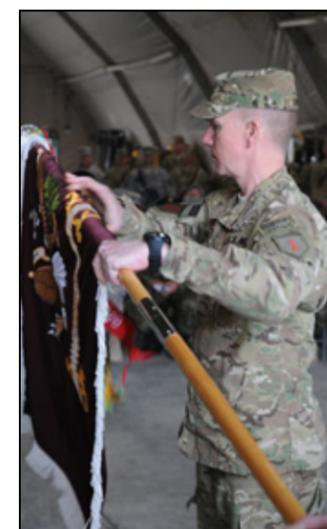


Photo by Capt. Ken Hoover



Photo by Capt. Brian Hollmann



Photo by Capt. Matthew Terry



Photo by Capt. Brian Hollman



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil



Photo by Lt. Col. Bruce Coyne



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil

# TF Duke takes over from TF Rakkasan

By Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil, TF Duke, PAO

A transfer of authority ceremony, in which the command of Khowst and Paktya Provinces was formally handed over from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division, Task Force Rakkasan, to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, was held on Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Jan. 30.

The Rakkasans also ceremoniously cased their colors in preparation for their trip back to their home base in Fort Campbell, Ky., while the Fort Knox, Ky., – based Task Force Duke uncased their own, in a time-honored military tradition.

The ceremony was attended by Duke and Rakkasan Soldiers; Brig. Gen. Stephen Townsend, Deputy Commanding General of Combined Joint Task Force 101; Abdul Jabbar Naeemi, Khowst Governor; and several members of the Afghan National Security Forces. It was a great medley of backgrounds, ethnicities and even uniform styles, as the outgoing Rakkasans wore the Army Combat Uniform, while the Duke Soldiers wore the newer Multi-Cam patterned uniform.

“The hard work, the sacrifice, the blood of the ANSF and coalition partners have helped meet the conditions for stability in the region,” said Naeemi, speaking in Pashto and translated by a TF Duke interpreter originally from Khowst Province, “and the enemy forces can no longer move freely.”

Rakkasan commander U.S. Army Col. Viet X. Luong, of Fort Campbell, Ky., cited particular examples of valor shown by his Soldiers during their time here, and also emphasized the progress they helped make during their combat tour.

“During the early moments of this rotation,” he said, “The Taliban was winning in our provinces. But this summer our combined actions started to produce remarkable results. We began to take many enemies out of the fight. The security conditions improved and we began turning the tide against the Taliban.”

Speaking in both English and Pashto, U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, commander of TF Duke and Topeka, Kan., native, thanked the Rakkasans for their service and sacrifices, and pledged his assistance to the ANSF.

“Our brothers in the ANSF,” he said, “we embrace you with a spirit of mutual respect and cooperation. We are here now to continue the support the Rakkasans have given you over the past 12 months.”

“The hard work, the sacrifice, the blood of the ANSF and coalition partners have helped meet the conditions for stability in the region, and the enemy forces can no longer move freely.”  
–Abdul Jabbar Naeemi

**Far Left-** U.S. Army Pfc. Lauren Sivak, an intelligence analyst from Cleveland, Ohio, and U.S. Army Spc. Brandon Wells, a topographic analyst from Hartsville, S.C. - both of Headquarters, Headquarters Company, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division - practice before participating in the color guard of the Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Jan. 30. 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division transferred authority of Khowst and Paktya Provinces to 3/1 IBCT, also known as Task Force Duke.

**Center-** U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, Commander 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, and the 3/1's Command Sgt. Maj. Drew Pumarejo, unveiled their colors as Duke Brigade assumes command over the area at a ceremony on Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan on Jan. 30. The 3/101 were transferring authority to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. The 3/1 IBCT, based out of Fort Knox, Ky., will be operating out of eastern Afghanistan for the next year.

**Far Right-** U.S. Army Col. Chris Toner, a Topeka, Kan., native and commander of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, speaks at a Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, Jan. 30. 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division transferred authority of Khowst and Paktya Provinces to 3/1 IBCT, also known as Task Force Duke. TF Duke, based out of Fort Knox, Ky., will be operating in eastern Afghanistan for the next year.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil

**Left-** Pfc. Brandon Wells, a topographical analyst for 3/1 HHC BDE, practices with his weapon before participating in the color guard at the Transfer of Authority ceremony held at Forward Operating Base Salerno in Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Jan. 30. The color guard is a time-honored tradition where the U.S. Flag and other flags in the chain of command are carried as the outgoing command cases their colors while the incoming command uncases theirs.

As the ceremony drew to a close, Toner promised that he and his Soldiers would help the Afghan people in their fight for their country.

“The Soldiers of the Duke Brigade are committed to using everything in their power to build Afghan capacity for providing security and stability to the region,” he said.

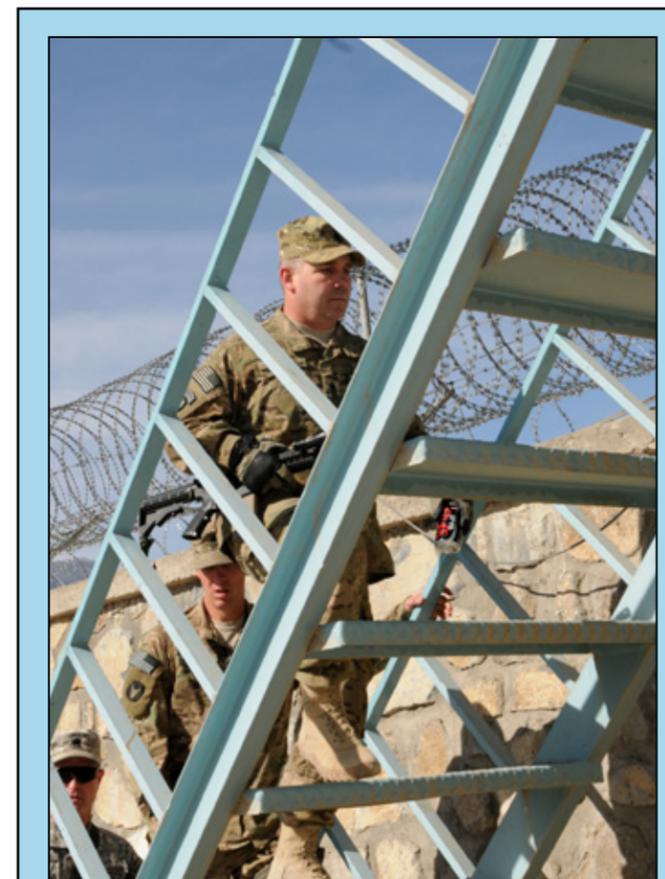


Photo by Spc. Tobey White

Command Sgt. Maj. Drew Pumarejo of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division and a native of Harrisburg, Pa., inspects a guard tower on Combat Outpost Dand Patan in Khowst Province, Afghanistan. His visit to COP Dand Patan was part of the transition between 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division and the 3/1 IBCT. The 3/1 IBCT, or “Duke Brigade” assumed command of Khowst Province in late January for a year-long deployment. Col. Chris Toner and Pumarejo toured many of the COPs and Forward Operating Bases in their command area to familiarize themselves with the area and its Soldiers.

# Hoosier Soldiers share poultry knowledge

By Staff Sgt. John Zumer,  
TF Duke, PAO



“There’s more than corn in Indiana,” according to an old Indiana Department of Tourism slogan. The saying is certainly true, but continuing along that same Hoosier agricultural legacy, a group of citizen-Soldiers from Indiana is now sharing their modern agricultural knowledge and experience with their Afghan counterparts.

Members of the Indiana National Guard’s 3-19th Agricultural Development Team have spent the last several months of their deployment assisting Afghan farmers in improving agricultural practices. The 60 National Guardsmen comprising the ADT are presently supporting the Fort Knox, Ky., - based 3rd Infantry Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division’s Task Force Duke. Skills and education among the ADT members include forestry, engineering, general farming, pest management, horticulture, marketing and education. A mission to Combat Outpost Terezayi, Feb. 2, saw members of the ADT facilitating a local class on poultry, an important component of the Afghan agricultural economy.

According to one 3-19 Guardsman, it was time and resources very well spent.

“There is a lack of understanding here on nutrition and vaccinations for poultry and other livestock,” said U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 3 Samuel Rance, rangeland manager for the 3-19 and a native of Rensselaer, Ind. He helped coordinate the ADT poultry mission, which had larger goals of nurturing greater health management, vaccinations and production techniques in the poultry field.

The 3-19 ADT Soldiers brought more than their agricultural knowledge and experience to the poultry training location, however. Fifty chickens, very much alive and kicking, and purchased beforehand through Afghan contractors, accompanied the Soldiers on the ride from Forward Operating Base Salerno.

Five chickens each were given to the farmers as an incentive to attend the training. Farmers spent a morning in the classroom listening to Haji Mohammed, the Afghan agricultural agent for the Terezayi area. In all, there are 18 agricultural agents spread across Khowst Province, operating under the authority of the Afghan Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock, said Rance.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer

An Afghan boy holds chickens he received at Combat Outpost Terezayi, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Feb. 2. The chickens were distributed to local Afghan farmers who had attended a poultry management class sponsored by the Afghan Director of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock.



Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer

**Above Photo-** An Afghan man waits in line for complimentary chickens at Combat Outpost Terezayi, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Feb. 2. Soldiers from the Indiana National Guard’s 3/19th Agricultural Development Team, attached to the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, helped to facilitate the training.

**Left Photo-** An Afghan man holds complimentary chickens he received at Combat Outpost Terezayi, Khowst Province, Afghanistan, Feb. 2.

A \$200,000 grant from the Commander’s Emergency Response Program, which allows local U.S. military commanders to devote funds to needed projects, helped to fund the classroom instruction at Terezayi. Remaining funds will be used for similar projects designed to get more poultry knowledge into the hands of area farmers. Follow-up missions will chart progress that is made in the interim.

Metrics for success, more commonly known as benchmarks, previously hadn’t been established properly, said Rance. Areas that will be now be focused upon largely involve safer, efficient and modern poultry management techniques.

“The farmers will learn that it’s important to keep accurate records on how many chickens were still alive, sick, eaten, sold, or stolen,” Rance said.

All the training is designed to provide background knowledge for a five-day seminar to be held later this winter at Khowst University. The seminar goal is to train 100 people in many of the same poultry techniques being discussed at Terezayi, with 20 people receiving the training each day.

The 3-19 will also be facilitating future training in compost and forestry techniques. Earlier projects included the building of a greenhouse at the Afghan National Army’s COP Parsa, located near the U.S. Army’s Camp Clark, which allows for controlled horticulture experiments.

U.S. Army Sgt. Brandon Reese, also a native of Rensselaer, Ind., and an infantryman attached to 3-19, has farming experience back home. While many of the agriculture techniques taken for granted in the states are just being learned in Afghanistan, he’s comforted to know that the common goal of helping others help themselves is universal across the miles and cultures.

“It’s nice to know we’re helping. Our main goal is to put an Afghan face to the training, where they can conduct the training on their own without our support,” said Reese. 🇦🇫

# Warrior's spotlight

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Ben Navratil,  
TF Duke, PAO

## *A military Legacy*

**Name:**  
Courtney Proctor

**Age:** 40

**MOS:**  
19D Cav Scout

**Hometown:**  
St. Joseph, Mich.



Combat Outpost Wilderness, as its name suggests, is found in what can only be described as the middle of nowhere. Tucked in between the tall mountains of Paktya Province, in eastern Afghanistan, getting there by convoy is a bumpy and slow ride along the side of what appear to be endless, craggy mountains and steep cliffs.

Stepping out of the vehicle I'd been bouncing around in for the last two hours into what doubles as the COP's motor pool and helicopter landing zone, the convoy commander gestured to several of the tall peaks surrounding us, jokingly warning me that "they can kill you from there, there, there and there." His warning turned out to be mostly unfounded though, as most of the taller peaks are home to observation posts, where lookouts scan the surrounding areas for any sign of activity threatening the COP.

This tiny COP, literally built on the side of a mountain, is home to Blackfoot (also known as Butcher) Troop of the 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, based out of Fort Knox, Ky. I recently had the opportunity to sit down with Staff Sgt. Courtney Proctor, a cavalry scout and squad leader from Butcher Troop's 3rd Platoon, and talk with him about his background, his job and his Soldiers.

Born in St. Joseph, Mich., Proctor said he lived in Kalamazoo, Mich., until his mother joined the Army when he was very young, only six or seven years old. He spent much of his early years moving with her from one post to another, first to Fort Hood, Texas, then several others.

His mother decided to leave the Army when Proctor was in his teens, at which point they returned to Michigan where he graduated from Ypsilanti High School.

After high school, he "did everything," he said. "I lived. I worked. I partied."

Eventually though, at the age of 34 he decided he'd had enough and needed more options. "I wanted a better life," he said, "I wanted to better myself." So he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a cavalry scout and was sent to his first duty station, Fort Hood, which ironically enough, was also his mother's first, about a quarter of a century earlier.

Why a scout? "I consulted my uncle, who'd been in the Army," he said, "and his guidance was to choose something that will help me market myself."

Also, he said, his recruiter showed him "a cool, high-speed video with people wearing ghillie suits and jumping out of helicopters," and he decided that's what he wanted to do.

"The role of a cavalry scout," he said, "is to act as the commander's eyes and ears on the battlefield."

"We go out and sneak around the battlefield," he said, "and report back on everything we see out there, including enemy activity, possible routes we can move Soldiers along and descriptions of the area in general."

He enjoys his job, he said, and when going on patrol or conducting reconnaissance, prefers to go on foot rather than in vehicles. Luckily for him, he has ample opportunity to walk in the mountains of eastern Afghanistan, where the rough terrain often precludes the use of heavy vehicles.

Even though he prefers dismounted patrols, he admits that climbing up and down mountains all the time, in his own words, "sucks."

His platoon goes out on patrol often, "usually four to five times a week, depending on weather," he said.

It's important, he said, not only to go out often, but also for each platoon to stay in roughly the same area. This way they not only familiarize themselves with the terrain in that specific region, but also so they interact with the same villagers often, getting to know their needs and building a rapport with them.

"We interact with the Afghans every chance we get," he said. "Ultimately, we're here to help them, but we also hope that in return, they help us out as well. We might dig a well for a village, and then maybe someone in that village will then give us information, such as insurgent hiding spots, that might help save lives."

When not on patrol, Proctor spends his time trying to keep in touch with family, taking care

of equipment, or spending time with his Soldiers.

As a squad leader, he's responsible for 11 Soldiers, some of whom he's been working alongside since late 2009, he said.

The main difference between being a squad back at home and being one here in Afghanistan, is simply that he watches his guys a little closer here.

"I've got to watch them for signs of depression, homesickness or just being overwhelmed."

He's had to deal with instances of depression in his previous deployments, he said, but so far this time around there haven't been any issues. He said his past experiences have given him the knowledge and skills he needs to prevent them from happening now.

"I try to approach these types of issues in my Soldiers ahead of time," he said. "I don't wait for the symptoms to become obvious. At the first sign of anyone looking down, or just not right, I'll approach them and try to help them out."

Even before the deployment, Proctor began preparing his Soldiers for the possibility of depression and combat stress. He ensured that all of his Soldiers had someone else in the squad or platoon that they could confide in when they're feeling down, "because everybody gets there eventually."

"My squad and I are like a family," he said. "We may not share all the same interests, but we spend a lot of time together, talk and play games, and that brings us closer."

"Unless I absolutely have to be somewhere else," he emphasized, "I'm with my Soldiers."

He doesn't take all the credit for keeping his Soldiers healthy and battle-ready, he said. Compared to his other deployments, he said that he's seen the most support from the families back home during this one.

"I want to say thanks to the family readiness groups and the individual spouses back home for all their support," he said. "We can't do what we do without their help."

Proctor seems optimistic about this deployment, and with good reason. With the obvious care he takes of his Soldiers, plus the support coming in from home, there's no reason why he shouldn't have another successful deployment under his belt when he returns to Fort Knox.

"Everybody's doing well," he said. "Everyone's taking care of each other." ▀



# Guarding against sexual harassment

By Sgt. 1st Class Andrew Kretz,  
Equal Opportunity Advisor

As a child, my parents always strived to teach me to treat others as I would like to be treated. During this deployment for Task Force Duke, we should all strive to treat one another, as we want to be treated.

Harassing one another sexually is not treating one another with respect. The Army defines sexual harassment as a form of gender discrimination that involves unwelcomed sexual advances, requests for sexual favors, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature between the same or opposite genders when—

(1) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct is made either explicitly or implicitly a term or condition of a person's job, pay, career, or

(2) Submission to, or rejection of, such conduct by a person is used as a basis for career or employment decisions affecting that person, or

(3) Such conduct has the purpose or effect of unreasonably interfering with an individual's work performance or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive working environment.

Any person in a supervisory or command position who uses or

## Sexual Harassment Checklist

- Is the behavior sexual in nature?
- Is the conduct unwelcomed?
- Do the elements of power, control or influence exist?
- Does the situation indicate a quid pro quo relationship?
- Does the behavior create a hostile or offensive environment?
- Is the behavior repeated or an isolated incident?
- How would a "reasonable person" feel or be affected?
- Is the behavior inappropriate for the workplace?

condones implicit or explicit sexual behavior to control, influence, or affect the career, pay, or job of a Soldier or civilian employee is engaging in sexual harassment. Similarly, any Soldier or civilian employee who makes deliberate or repeated unwelcome verbal comments, gestures, or physical contact of a sexual nature is engaging in sexual harassment.

DSN:318-851-0506. SIPR: 308-851-1105. 24 HR Hotline: 318-851-0311

## Reenlisting | By Master Sgt. David Burgoon TF Duke, Retention

Last fiscal year, the Warriors of the Duke Brigade made the commitment to stay with the team in numbers that were unprecedented for a reconstituting brigade combat team. Most of those elected to participate in the Deployment Extension Incentive Pay program to preserve their reenlistment options until they arrived in theater.

The most important thing any Soldier can do whether they intend to reenlist, separate after the deployment or are undecided is to see their reenlistment NCO now! Feel free to contact a Career Counselor at one of the numbers below:

FOB Salerno (Bldg 1542): ROSHAN- 0796478692  
SVOIP- 851-1001 FOB Andar: 776-9072  
DSN- 851-0509/0513

### Reenlistment Changes

• Soldiers serving in an over strength MOS are limited to reenlisting for training in a shortage MOS. The place to check your MOS status is the latest In/Out call and with your Career Counselor or Retention NCO. The sooner you act, the better your selection of an MOS.

• PFCs are currently not eligible for reenlistment options other than Needs of the Army.

• Assignments are still available for those who qualify. The REUP 12-24 program is still available! This program offers a wide selection of assignments that will report upon redeployment and shortly after. Further into deployment, roughly 9 months from redeployment, there will be even more assignments available.

• The Commander's Education Incentive is being offered to any Soldier who reenlists to stay with the Brigade upon redeployment. The incentive offers 12 semester hours of class time for Soldiers who are trying to start or finish a degree. See your retention NCO for details on the incentive.

## FRG events | By Ally Reese FRG

With the departure of the last Main Body Flight in January, our Families are now beginning to settle into their new routines. Our Family Readiness Groups have been busy tracking Families who have left the area and are offering support and assistance to other unit Families.

We encourage all our Families to stay connected and busy. There are many great events planned throughout the deployment for our Spouses and children to participate in. A few upcoming events for February are:

### Calendar of Events

- Feb. 16- National Prayer Breakfast  
7 AM-8:30 AM at the Leaders Club
- Feb. 18- Camp Kentahten – Free 3-Day Middle School Camp at Green River Lake in Campbellsville
- Feb. 25- Family Fun Night  
6 PM- 8PM at the BSTB classroom  
Bring the kids for fun crafts and games

Please remember to update any changes in your contact information with your Family Readiness Group so we can keep you updated with the most timely and accurate information available as well as all the great events for you and your family.

Visit the FRG website to register for the virtual FRG @ [http://www.knox.army.mil/forscom/3ibct/frg\\_register.asp](http://www.knox.army.mil/forscom/3ibct/frg_register.asp)

Visit the FRG website for future events @ <http://www.knox.army.mil/forscom/3ibct/frg.asp>

# street

## Word on the

What was celebrating the Super Bowl with other Soldiers in Afghanistan like?



Whether you're in America or Afghanistan the Super Bowl is an unofficial American holiday.

-Staff Sgt. Jeff Desrosier  
HHB, 1-6

The Super Bowl isn't too big a deal for me this year.

-Pfc. Paul Sanchez  
Bravo Co., 1-6 FA



Had I been at home, I would have watched the game with my Family. I miss the commercials.

-Pfc. Henry Hansen  
F Co., 1-26

Over here is a good chance to step back, enjoy some good food and watch the game.

-SpC. Brian Long  
A Troop, 6-4



## Safetycorner

Rollovers continue to be an issue for deployed forces in both Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom. Recently, U.S. Forces have experienced 16 rollover events that have resulted in 23 U.S. fatalities; 10 from drowning and 13 from blunt force trauma. There have been 465 reported rollover injuries since Nov.1, 2007. I foresee this to be



By Ken Campbell,  
TF Duke, Safety Director

an ongoing issue for our brigade throughout our deployment. The terrain in Afghanistan, especially in the mountainous regions of Khowst and Paktya Provinces, is not suited for the bulky MRAP vehicle, which leads to the majority of rollovers. As crews prepare for missions it's paramount we continue to rehearse rollover drills before movements to ensure rollover drills become muscle memory.

After only one short month in country the brigade has already experienced four rollovers resulting in thousands of dollars worth of damage. The good news is that none produced an injury. This is due to the crew's ability to properly conduct rollover drills and leaders ensuring that gunners are riding at name tag defilade at all times. Leaders must continue to enforce standards and drill this into the heads of the young Soldiers of the Duke Brigade. With increased attention to detail and continued training, we can drastically reduce the number of vehicle rollovers and injuries.



Coming soon: **The REAL Barracks Lawyer**  
Past experience has proved there are plenty of fly-by-night Barracks Lawyers in the ranks whose "counsel" is neither wise, nor legally sound. Duke Legal is here to set the record straight. Look for a monthly column in the next issue of the Dispatch that dispels some common legal myths perpetuated by those who think they know. If you are a TF Duke Soldier and have a pressing legal question contact Legal at 851-0128(n) / 851-1286. Duty First!

Photo by Staff Sgt. John Zumer

Master Sgt. David Dunbar, NCO in charge of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division communications section and a native of Lewisville, Texas, shakes the hand of Warrant Officer 1 Josh Johnston, the 3/1 IBCT food service officer and a native of Tyler, Texas, after bestowing him with his Big Red One patch during the combat patch ceremony for Headquarters, Headquarters Company 3/1 iBCT, held at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Khowst Province, Afghanistan,

