

Ever

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There

April 2011



Keeping the Ball in Play

Sustaining the Fight

Inside This Issue

Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan

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On the cover: Spc. Christopher D. Heidelberg leaps into the air during an impromptu volleyball match during the 184th ESC cookout at the boardwalk on April 3. (Photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo, JSC-A PAO)



See archives of *Ever There* at www.dvidshub.net/units/JSC-A



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From the Commander's Desk...

Take care of your buddy. How many times do we hear this phrase everyday? Perhaps so often that the words lose their impact and simply flow into one ear and out the other. However, those five words encapsulate everything the military service stands for and believes in.

The Army values of loyalty, duty, respect, selfless service, honor, integrity and personal courage set a tone of professional responsibility. "Take care of your buddy" sets a tone of personnel responsibility and ties directly in with the principles of the Army Values, equally important and vital to the well-being of our military structure.

Our buddy is the one we trust; the person we rely upon. They are perhaps the only individual that can look us in the eye and tell us what we don't want to hear. A buddy goes with us, even when they would rather do something else. A buddy is the first one to smile

at our success or dust us off when we fall. A buddy is one of the most trusted people we know.

No matter what happens, in good times or bad, in the best of conditions or the worst, in agreement or disaccord, your buddy is the one you depend on to be there. A buddy will come to our aid at a moment's notice. We trust them to climb the highest fence or swim the fastest stream to assist us in times of peril.

This month is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. Sexual assault can happen anywhere, anytime. The first line of defense is our buddy, a person that cares for us and strives to ensure our safety. One of the first lines of defense is walking in buddy-pairs to avert the dangers of potential attackers at night.

As a whole, we are responsible to each other to answer a call of distress and protect one another. Failure to come to the aid of



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

another in their time of need is a failure to live the Army Values.

Remember, when we fail to intervene and act, everyone suffers. This suffering is imparted not just from the act itself, but in the ensuing loss of faith in our trusted comrades in arms.

"Take care of your buddy"

Warrior's Call

You are in a war, whether you drive a truck, perform administrative duties on a forward operating base, or any other military functions, you are a warrior. There are only two kinds of people once the bullets, rockets or IEDs come your way: warriors and victims, those who fight and those who are unprepared, unable or unwilling, to defend themselves.

In Richard Gabriel's *No More Heroes*, he tells us that in the great battles of World War I, World War II and Korea, there were more Soldiers pulled off the lines because of psychiatric wounds than

were killed in combat. There was a study written on this phenomenon in World War II entitled, "Lost Divisions". American forces lost 504,000 Soldiers from psychiatric collapse, equivalent to 50 divisions.

My duty as a leader is to prepare you. I have been reading on the effects of psychology and the physiology effects of combat. My reading included FM 4-02.51 (Combat and Operational Stress Control), TG 320 (Guide to Coping with Deployment and Combat Stress), *On Combat* by Lt. Col. Dave Grossman with Loren W. Christensen and *Warrior Mindset* by Michael J. Asken, Ph.D., Grossman and Christensen.



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

- Warrior Call
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JSC-A commemorative knives



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Stacey L. Haga, ISAF HQ PAO

(From left) U.S. Army Master Sgt. Roy A. Wilson, Spc. Wade A. Eason and Staff Sgt. Joby N. Moss display the newly produced JSC-A commemorative knives.

- Warrior's Call Continued from pg. 3

I was most intrigued with Lt. Col. Grossman's writings in *On Combat* and overwhelmed with his research that I made contact with him. I posed the question. What one chapter or bit of information can I tell the Warrior that will save their life from being a psychiatric casualty when confronted with a rocket/IED blast or armed conflict? Lt. Col. Grossman responded, "Make the warrior understand the physiological effects of perceptual distortions in combat and that there are stress responses within the human body that will occur."

- Auditory Exclusion
- Intensified Sounds
- Tunnel Vision
- Automatic Pilot
- Heightened Visual Clarity

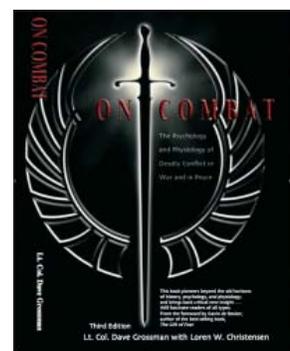
- Slow Motion Time
- Temporary Paralysis
- Memory Loss of the Event
- Memory Loss of your Actions
- Dissociation
- Intrusive Thoughts
- Memory Distortions
- Fast Motion Time

This bizarre set of perceptual distortions can occur in combat that may alter the way in which the warrior views the outside world and reality. When you hear Soldiers talk about these occurrences, they often speak of their most memorable stress responses. Always encourage your Soldiers to seek advice and counseling from our medical combat stress professionals and chaplains.

As warrior leaders, we have an inherent duty to educate ourselves and our subordinates to better understand and learn from the

warriors of the past, to prepare and train and not to be the victim of the toxic, corrosive and destructive domain that we operate and live in daily. I encourage all warriors to read all of Grossman's books for further information on these and many other perceptual distortions.

"Pain shared is pain divided"



Permission given for all or in part of this article by: Lt. Col. Dave Grossman

‘Resolute’ PSD team provides aid, evacuates Afghan casualty

 *Photos and Story by Staff Sgt. Alexander Burnett, 7th SB Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - The morning of March 18 started out like any other day for the 7th Sustainment Brigade personnel security detachment team. Get to the trucks by 7 a.m., draw weapons and conduct a convoy brief. The convoy commander, Sgt. 1st Class Michael Griffin, accounts for all personnel riding that day and gives the order to move out.

The day’s mission was to travel from Kandahar Airfield to the Chaman gate, on the border of Pakistan. The brigade intelligence team and force protection team conducted a reconnaissance of the

gate while the security detachment waited.

The convoy of mine resistant ambush protected vehicles and their Soldiers drove on the roads for nearly six hours without incident.

The “Resolute” warriors continued to drive north to their next inspection point when they came upon a car accident. An Afghan national rolled his dump truck, hitting an Afghan family. As the team approached, Griffin told the convoy medic, Spc. Gordon Welch, to get ready.

The mission changed in that moment and the team sprang into action. The truck commanders all dismounted from their vehicles, the drivers staged the MRAPs around the wreck and the gunners provided 360 degree security. Welch declared two of the casualties dead on sight, but one was still breathing.

The medic provided live saving first aid before calling for a litter to move the casualty to one of the vehicles for transportation. The vehicle drivers sped toward KAF, Welch rendering aid and checking



U.S. Army Spc. Gordon Welch, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade personnel security detachment medic, takes a breath after delivering a casualty to the Kandahar Airfield hospital, Afghanistan, March 18.

the casualty’s vitals. Gunners hung on and provided security as the vehicles traversed the treacherous roads that lead to the hospital.

“This is exactly why I joined the Army and why I enjoy the PSD mission,” said Welch. “I am glad that I got a chance to help someone and I will be happy to do it in the future.”

The MRAP pulled directly into the hospital entrance, a port much smaller than the vehicle. The vehicles crew leapt out of the vehicle, removed the casualty and transferred him over to the hospital’s care.

“This incident proves just how fast a mission can change from a reconnaissance to a casualty evacuation,” said Griffin. “The whole team did very well and Welch did an outstanding job as our medic. In the future, we will continue to provide all the help we can when we can.”



U.S. Army Spc. Tommy Rutmag, a Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Special Troops Battalion, 7th Sustainment Brigade cargo specialist assigned to the personnel security detachment as a driver, prepares the common remote weapon station before going on a convoy at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, March 18.

SPO celebrates Mardi Gras



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



Members of the support operations section celebrated Mardi Gras with traditional costumes and food on March 8.

From the Inspector General's office...

By Lt. Col. Mathyn D. Williams

*“Reject your sense of injury and the injury itself disappears.”
- Marcus Aurelius*

In order for the Inspector General (IG) to advise the Commander on the state of discipline, efficiency, morale, esprit de corps, and economy within an organization, the IG must be in tune with the commander's subordinates. One way to accomplish this is by performing sensing sessions to find out what the troops are thinking, but might not feel comfortable talking about to the command element. Sensing sessions are information gathering tools, not to be confused with ‘whining’ or complaining events. Army Regulation (AR) 20-1 (dated 29 November 2010) explains different situations where sensing sessions might be required, as well as different types of these sessions. Examples follow below:

Soldier equal opportunity complaints: When an equal opportunity complaint is presented to an IG, the IG will normally refer the complainant to the supporting equal opportunity office for action. If an equal opportunity complaint requires IG action, the IG will use the IGAP rather than the equal opportunity process to resolve complaints. But in accordance with AR 600-20, and paragraph 1-4a(9)(c) of this publication, IGs will use an IGAR to process the complaint as an alternative to normal equal opportunity complaint channels. When the complainant seeks redress for past alleged discriminatory practices that have become part of official Army records, the IG will advise the complainant to use



the appeals procedures provided by law or Army regulations pertaining to the particular adverse action. Examples include officer or noncommissioned officer evaluation reports appeals, courts-martial appeals, and other action listed in subparagraph g, above.

Command climate sensing sessions: Inspectors general will only conduct command climate sensing sessions if specifically directed to do so by the directing authority. Other staff proponents such as the equal opportunity advisor, chaplain, or EEO advisor are trained to conduct these sensing sessions and will perform them as requested during command or

- IG
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staff inspections or under other circumstances as directed by the commander. If the commander directs the IG to conduct a command climate sensing session, the IG will always recommend first that the appropriate staff proponents conduct the sensing session, because the IG must act on every issue or allegation that surfaces during the session. The DA PAM 600-20 provides guidance on how to conduct command climate sensing sessions, and the proponent for this pamphlet is the DCS, G-1. If an IG must conduct a command climate sensing session that

includes DA civilian employees, the IG must first coordinate with the servicing CPAC to determine if the IG must notify a union. This provision does not preclude IGs from assessing the command's morale. An IG may assess morale using interviews, sensing sessions, and other IG information-gathering techniques and may report the information informally or formally to the commander. In all cases, the information gathered is IG information and subject to the provisions governing IG records outlined in chapter 3 of AR 20-1.

Criminal allegations: Inspectors general will not normally conduct investigative inquiries or investigations when the alleged

impropriety is of a nature that, if substantiated, would likely constitute criminal misconduct.

Remember that IGs can only recommend, not order, a resolution to any problems identified in these sessions. Only commanders can order resolutions. The role of the IG is to 'advise' the commander, not tell the commander how to command. If you feel the IG can assist you, please contact your local IG office. The 184th (Expeditionary)/JSC-A IG is Lt. Col. Mathyn D. Williams, DSN 318-421-6568 / Email mathyn.williams@afghan.swa.army.mil or Sgt. 1st Class Jonathan J. Golden, jonathan.golden@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Professional development training

 Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs



JSC-A members listen to briefers during the monthly professional development training session on March 28. Topics included awards processes briefed by Staff Sgt. Joby A. Moss and U.S. Navy Petty Officer 2nd Class Jamaiel Z. Dickerson, information spillage briefed by Mr. Alan D. Elliott and ADO processing briefed by Spc. Christopher D. Heidelberg and Staff Sgt. Brandi S. Simmons.



Staff Sgt. Joby A. Moss instructs JSC-A members on rules and regulations regarding wear of awards and decorations and submission of awards.

Army graduates first Lean Six Sigma course in Afghanistan

 Story by Spc. Michael Vanpool, 101st Airborne Division (AA) Public Affairs

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Twenty soldiers, both enlisted and officers, with the 101st Sustainment Brigade and 401st Army Field Support Brigade, both of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan, graduated the first Army-sponsored Lean Six Sigma course in Afghanistan March 27.

The completion of the course is the first step towards Green Belt certification; the next step is the implementation of a project for each of the soldiers. Since the certification is in theater, the projects directly correlate with the jobs of the graduates.

“In theater, it’s a motivating factor for the soldiers to work within their knowledge base,” said Martin Kennedy, black belt and instructor for U.S. Army Central LSS team. “For a lot of projects in the States, we don’t have subject matter experts.”

In addition to the Soldiers’ typical 12 to 16-hour work days, students attended the 40-hour class over the course of four weeks, with classes held two nights per week.

“They are putting in the time to do the project and leave a legacy,” Kennedy said.

The project phase of the certification comes next for the group.

“For graduates to become certified, they have to complete a project and deliver results identified by project sponsors,” said Lee Olsen, master black belt working with the U.S. Army Central Command LSS team.

For the 20 graduates, the projects directly relate to their present responsibilities within logistics.

“In this case, we’re in theater specifically for units here,” Olsen said. “Many of the projects are for supply and logistics, as well as retrograde process and mass casualty plans.”

U.S. Army Sgt. Randy Castillo, a materials manager for the 101st SB, is working on a class IV (construction materials) container management project to improve the system units use to order building materials and barriers for their forward operating bases throughout Regional Commands North and East.

“We’re trying to get the program to run right,” Castillo said. “There are programs to track class IV, but they’re not being used. We’re going

to save millions of dollars if we take control.”

By reworking the process for ordering the materials, the Soldiers will receive these necessary resources quickly and more efficiently.

Each of the projects gives the Soldiers an opportunity to think outside the box to solve logistics problems at Bagram Airfield, and in-turn, throughout RC North and East.

“Lean Six Sigma has grown your mind a little further, not what to think, but how to think,” said Col. Michael Peterman, the commander of the 101st Sustainment Brigade, at the graduation ceremony.

The graduates worked hand-in-hand with project sponsors during the course, and will continue to work together as the projects come to life over the next few months.

“The sponsor is the owner of the project who will identify a process that needs to be improved,” Olsen said. “They need to take it from where it is to where they need results.

- Graduates
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*JSC-A wishes all
Mothers a
Happy Mother's
Day
May 8, 2011*

- Graduates Continued from pg. 8

Lean Six Sigma is a process of continuous improvement.” It focuses on delivering results to the customer. In this case, the customer is the soldier at the FOB. LSS goes from indentifying a problem to improving it.

“We use DMAIC - which is define, measure, analyze, improve,

control - to deliver results to fulfill sponsors’ requirements,” Olsen said. “The key is in a sponsor who cares about the process. We’re very much focused on delivering results.”

Although the course teaches Soldiers a way to tackle a problem, the execution is up to the Soldier.

It gives you the tools and more insight on how to approach a problem,” Castillo said. “It identifies a problem and steadily solves it.”

The knowledge gained through the course and certification not only benefits the Soldiers now, but will continue to in the future.

“For some, it’s a part of leadership training,” Olsen said. “In personal lives, Green Belt and Black Belt certifications are a recognition that can be used in Army and future civilian careers.”

Promotions at JSC-A

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



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cheryl D. Anderson promotes Staff Sgt. Jackie W. Blakeney to Sgt. 1st Class on March 18 while Master Sgt. Gary P. Akins looks on.



U.S. Army Sgt. James D. Walton smiles after his battefield promotion to the rank of sergeant on March 24 while Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher looks on.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Harry A. Gunter promotes 2nd Lt. Mark K. Grimshaw to 1st Lt. on March 15.



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher promotes Master Sgt. Christopher D. Berry on March 15 from Sgt. 1st Class.

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

As we continue on with the sustainment mission here in Afghanistan and have less than 120 days until we return stateside to our loved ones, I want to remind all of you about the Army value of respect.

In the Soldier's Code, we pledge to "treat others with dignity and respect while expecting others to do the same." Respect is what allows us to appreciate the good in other people. Respect is trusting that all people have done their jobs and fulfilled their duty. Respect also works both up and down the

chain-of-command. Ensure you are always using respect, even if you feel that you are not receiving it. There is never an excuse to not use respect in any situation.

Self-respect is also a vital component of the Army value of respect, which results from knowing you have put forth your best effort. The Army is one team, and each of us has something to contribute. Treat people as they should be treated while performing your daily duties.

As we enter a time when patience is in short supply, we

tend to become complacent. I want all of you to be respectful of your fellow brothers and sisters in arms. Ask yourself, "Am I living up to the Soldier's Code?" If you are not, identify what is wrong and correct it. If you need help, don't be afraid to ask.

Remember, we still have a duty to treat everyone here with the upmost respect and drive hard to accomplish the mission at hand. You are all doing a great job and I am proud to be leading you as your company commander.

Monthly awards at JSC-A



Capt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

U.S. Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo receives an end-of-tour Joint Service Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, April 1.



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO

U.S. Air Force Capt. Andrew B. Stewart receives an end-of-tour Defense Meritorious Service Medal from Lt. Col. Harry A. Gunter, April 4. Stewart serves as the air mobility officer for JSC-A.



Capt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

(Left) U.S. Army Col. James P. Lavery receives an end-of-tour Bronze Star Medal from Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, April 1. Lavery served as the JSC-A logistics civil augmentation program liaison officer.

- Awards
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- Awards: Continued from pg. 10



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Chantha N. Ouch receives an end-of-tour Joint Service Commendation Medal from Lt. Col. William R. Causey and Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, April 1.



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Elizabeth G. Ramos receives an end-of-tour Joint Service Commendation Medal from Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, April 1.



Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. Benjamin J. Pharris receives an end-of-tour Joint Service Commendation Medal from U.S. Army 1st Lt. Rodney L. Hall, April 1.



Capt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. John S. Daschle receives an end-of-tour Defense Meritorious Service Medal from U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cheryl D. Anderson, April 1.



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Army Sgt. Brian S. Blanton receives an Army Achievement Medal from Capt. Tawaski R. Carter, March 24.



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Army Spc. Henry A. Rapp receives a Army Commendation Medal from Capt. Tawaski R. Carter, March 24.

Surgeon's Section...by Col. Gary L. Doublestein

In a much shorter time than anyone can imagine, we will all be at home and not under the auspices of "General Order #1". It will be a time of great joy and celebration. Unfortunately, some will turn celebration into tragedy by celebrating too much and in the wrong way. Let's be real...unless you were raised under a rock someplace, everyone knows they should not DRINK AND DRIVE. But, if you ARE one of those under-rock dwellers, I will repeat - DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

But, does that mean that alcohol in general is a bad thing? That is a big negative. Aside from the hazards of irresponsible drinking and alcohol intoxication, a MODERATE intake can have very beneficial effects on your heart and vessels.

In a recent Mayo Clinic article it has been shown that moderate alcohol intake will do the following:

- 1. Raises high-density lipoprotein (HDL) cholesterol. This is the "good" cholesterol.**
- 2. Reduces the formation of blood clots.**
- 3. Helps prevent artery damage caused by high levels of low-density lipoprotein (LDL), the "bad" cholesterol.**

So, what is moderate drinking? Depends on what you are reading. In French journals, the amount that is

considered moderate is much higher than in American journals. But, the consensus seems to be two-three glasses of wine or two-three beers or two-three mixed drinks per day. **HOWEVER, THIS DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN ABSTAIN FROM DRINKING ALL WEEK AND HAVE 14 BEERS ON SATURDAY!** Moderation is determined on a DAILY basis.

Drinking in excess increases blood pressure and triglycerides and can lead to obesity and certain types of cancer. It can also cause weakness in the muscle of the heart. Of course, drinking during pregnancy has been frowned upon, but recent articles have relented a bit and actually found a benefit to MODERATE drinking. If you take a daily aspirin, you should talk with your doctor about alcohol intake.

If you don't indulge in alcohol at all, this is NOT a recommendation that you start! One can achieve the health benefits of alcohol by eating right and exercising. If you cannot control the amount of alcohol you consume, there are medical and social programs that you should seek out. Alcoholism is a disease and can be treated.

But, if you are a moderate drinker, take heart (no pun intended). As long as you limit your intake of alcohol, you may actually see a benefit to your overall health. Listen to the wisdom of Benjamin Franklin, **"all things in moderation."**

Chaplain's Message...by Staff Sgt. Cheryl L. Spencer

Merriam-Webster defines attitude as "the way you think and feel about someone or something; a feeling or way of thinking that affects a person's behavior; a particular way of positioning your body."

In Philippians 1:27, the Apostle Paul instructs us to conduct ourselves in a manner worthy of the Gospel of Christ. In other words, regardless of the disappointments and difficulties life brings our way, we should respond with a Christ-like attitude.

A Christ-like attitude focuses not only on your own interests, but also on the interests and needs of others.

This is not always natural for most of us. Yet, Christ himself established a paradigm regarding attitudes in regard to relationships with others.

It's easy to replace cars, shoes, houses or any other materialistic object. However, we can never replace another human being. Maintaining an attitude of respect, value, and understanding for others affects our mind, body, and spirit in a positive way. It also helps us to be less defensive, discouraged and depressed.

God desires for us to take on His values, attitudes and character. Pray about everything and choose not to

worry about anything!

I strongly encourage you to show and share a caring attitude and show value to your battle buddy, commander, friend, children, spouse, neighbor and anyone that God allows to cross your path. Smile, extend a hand of friendship, concern, lend an ear to listen or provide a simple greeting of the day. Remember, we are all created by God, children of the Almighty. Despite the emotional stressors due to deployment, family separation, living in a foreign country, etc., don't miss an opportunity to make a positive impact in someone's life.

Soldier uses writing as a way to express thoughts

Story by Jill Deakle, *The Impact*

🇺🇸 Poem by Staff Sgt Daniel A. Brown, JSC-A

🇺🇸 Photo by Maj. Jacqueline L. Corley, JSC-A PMO

Daniel Brown always wanted to be in the military. He knew he would like being a Soldier. After September 11 when the United States was attacked, he wanted to be a soldier more than ever.

“In May, it will be nine years since I joined the military,” said Brown. “I signed up the following Tuesday after I graduated high school.”

Brown, who is currently in Afghanistan, is a SGT/E-5 in the Army. He began his military career as a radio operator. “I topped out in that field within two and half years. I was then given an opportunity to change military occupation specialties and decided to become a mechanic. I have two mechanic MOSs now: M1 tank systems mechanic and light wheeled mechanic. My job at home is a mechanic at MATES at Camp Shelby.”

This is not his first tour of duty overseas. “I was deployed to Iraq in 2003 with B Company 223rd Engineer Battalion. I worked as a radio operator during that deployment.”

Brown grew up in Coffeerville, a small town in north Mississippi that has a population of approximately 1,000. In high school he wrote poetry, but he quit writing after graduating, with the exception of required writing for college classes. However, he took up writing again after a difficult time in his life.

“I went through a divorce in 2009, and I had a hard time adjusting because I missed my kids so much,” remembered Brown. “I decided to start putting my feelings on paper through blogs. That led me to putting some of how I felt in poetry again. I really got pass the pain of divorce through letting things go through writing. Now I write about anything I feel strongly about. I write about my deployment, kids, views on different things, and love.”

Brown currently lives in Petal, after accepting his job at Camp Shelby in 2009. “I hope to stay here unless there is a better job to be had somewhere else.”

Although he enjoys writing, he won't be leaving his military job anytime soon. “I plan on being in the military until I am no longer able to stay in. The only two things that will make me get out are my kids or if the military doesn't continue to protect the people.”



Bonds We Build

*The great thing about the military,
Is the bonds we build when things get scary.
Even though we are pushed to our max,
We still have each other's backs.
Never quitting just even though want to,
We know our battle buddies are tired too.
We won't let them down,
By throwing up our hands and our weapons
down.
We embrace the suck,
Even if we have to crawl through the muck.
With this close of a bond we share,
Knowing that we all care.
If one of us falls,
We are always here to hear our brother's calls.
We all fight the tears in our eyes,
When the duty is done and we say our goodbyes.
Though time may make us old and grey,
We will share the bonds that bind us to this day.
Nothing is stronger than the bond of brothers
and sisters at arms,
As we stand to keep our families safe from
all harms!*

JSC-A celebrates Saint Patrick's Day



Lt. Col. David F. Jolly | JSC-A PAO

Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher puts on a hat and button to celebrate Saint Patrick's day at JSC-A on March 17. Numerous staff members were seen wearing their green throughout the day.

Brig. Gen. Dana visits JSC-A



Capt. Andrew B. Adcock | JSC-A PAO

United States Marine Corps Brig. Gen. Michael G. Dana, commander of 2nd Marine Logistics Group, speaks with JSC-A staff during a visit to Kandahar Airfield on March 28.



Safety... by Chief Warrant Officer 2 David G. Hardigree



This month's safety topic is about heat issues, particularly those dealing with dehydration, heat exhaustion and sunburn. Summer is fast approaching and the heat index will steadily rise as each day passes. Your work location plays a big role in how quickly you may become dehydrated. That being said, no matter where your mission takes you, from behind the desk to outside the wire, the need to remain hydrated remains a top safety concern.

Leaders must ensure Service members don't become heat casualties. The buddy system should be in effect at all times. Conduct regular training on dehydration and the symptoms of heat exhaustion. Make sure copious amounts of water and electrolytes are available. Unit members must be aware of who are combat lifesavers and where they are located. Use sunscreen on all exposed body parts. Make constant use of the wet bulb program and monitor the daily heat index. Follow all recommended precautions within mission constraints.

For more information, members of JSC-A can go to the "Safety" section on the knowledge management portal, click on "staff" and then "safety". Feel free to contact the safety office with any additional concerns. Stay safe and stay hydrated!

JSC-A visits Romanian compound at KAF

 Photos by
Capt. Andrew B. Adcock,
JSC-A Public Affairs

(Right) The coat of arms of Romania is displayed outside the Romanian compound headquarters at Kandahar Airfield.



Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Col. Richard P. Martin and Col. Clint E. Walker discuss current sustainment issues with Col. Veronel-Cristian Vavura and Col. Constantin Raileanu at the Romanian compound headquarters at Kandahar Airfield, April 1.



(Left) Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher accepts an honorary Romanian Ministry of Defence coin from Romanian Col. Constantin Raileanu, April 1.



(Left) Col. John M. Prine and Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher tour the Romanian Eastern Orthodox chapel at Kandahar Airfield, April 1.



JSC-A command staff pause for a photo during a tour of the Romanian compound at Kandahar Airfield on April 1. (From left) Col. John M. Prine, Romanian Col. Veronel-Cristian Vavura, Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, Romanian Col. Constantin Raileanu, Col. Richard P. Martin and Col. Clint E. Walker.

Sgt. Audie Murphy Club helps develop leaders in Afghanistan

Story by Spc. Jennifer Spradlin, 16th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – More than 66 years after then 2nd Lt. Audie Murphy was awarded the Medal of Honor for his actions in Holtzwihr, France, during World War II, his legacy continues to influence the professional development of non-commissioned officers at Army installations across the United States, and now even in Afghanistan.

Audie Murphy is the most decorated U.S. combat soldier of World War II. He earned 33 decorations and awards for his valorous and selfless actions during his brief active duty service. Murphy began his military career as an enlisted private and quickly worked his way to the rank of staff sergeant before he was given a battlefield commission to second lieutenant.

The Sergeant Audie Murphy Club, first established in 1986, was created to recognize non-commissioned officers who are dedicated to professionalism, integrity, leadership and strong moral values.

The club is a private organization whose candidates gain access through a rigorous selection process. Once accepted, members are expected to give back to other Soldiers and their communities through mentorship and volunteerism.

In 2010, the 135th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, in conjunction with Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan, began the first SAMC chapter at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan.

Sgt. Maj. Ruby Murray, 7th Sustainment Brigade future

operations sergeant major, is the new chapter president and has already begun to build on the prior accomplishments of the chapter.

In her opinion, the SAMC is the perfect opportunity for deployed Soldiers.

“When you go into the fight, and I call it the danger zone, when you go into the danger zone, you still have to uphold the standards from garrison but at a higher level,” said Murray. “This is where the rubber meets the road. When you are at war, you really learn who your Soldiers are.”

Murray first became interested in the SAMC in 1997, after belonging to the Sergeant Morales Club, a similar organization for Soldiers in United States Army Europe. She was pregnant with her daughter. At that time, Soldiers were required to earn one hundred points in each of the categories of the Army physical fitness test.

- Audie Murphy
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This Month in Army History

1775 - The first shots are fired at Lexington, followed at Concord by exchanges of musket fire. The British are driven back to Boston by American fire.

1865 - On April 28 the steamboat Sultana explodes on the Mississippi River, killing 1,700 Union Soldiers, many of whom are recently released POWs from the Confederate prison at Andersonville, Ga.

1865 - The Civil War effectively ended as General Robert E. Lee surrendered to General Ulysses S. Grant in the village of Appomattox Court House.

1911 - The first Army pilot school is established at College Park, Md., on April 11.

1917 - Congress declares war on Germany, April 6.

1934 - The Army officially discontinues using the

saber as a weapon.

1949 - Twelve nations signed the treaty creating NATO, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The nations united for common military defense against the threat of expansion by Soviet Russia into Western Europe.

1951 - General of the Army Douglas MacArthur, relieved of command in Korea, delivers his famous “Old Soldiers Never Die” speech to Congress, April 19.

1954 - The first Army helicopter battalion is activated at Fort Bragg, N.C., April 1.

2002 - On April 13 the Army accepts the first of the new wheeled Stryker armored vehicles.

- Audie Murphy

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It took her two years to become physically and mentally prepared for the selection process. During her first attempt, she was denied by the board for having an “improper knock,” which is a specific element of military board performances, but Murray said she was unwilling to stop coming back until she was successful.

Candidates often fail on their first attempt at membership. This experience mirrors that of Audie Murphy, who attempted to join the military numerous times, but was turned away for first being too young, and then too short and underweight.

“It’s very important for non-commissioned officers to continue setting goals. We don’t like to accept failure. Failure is a no-go to us,” said Murray, a 21-year Army Veteran with previous deployments to Somalia, Kuwait, and Iraq. “[SAMC] is about building leaders. Not tearing them down, but building them up so that they can see the full spectrum of what it is to be a non-commissioned officer.”

In 2007, Murray deployed to Kuwait and became the SAMC president of their chapter. During her tenure, she tripled the SAMC membership. Less than thirty days after arriving in Afghanistan; she procured a building for potential candidates to hold study halls, sent out flyers welcoming Soldiers who were interested in joining and arranged for the club to volunteer at the Role 3 hospital on KAF.

Murray doesn’t shy away

from hard work. She said non-commissioned officers lead from the front and that philosophy is something she keeps close to her heart.

“We’re Soldiers 24 hours a day,” said Murray, an Eastern Shore, Va., native. “If someone needs our help, we need to be ready and available.”

Over the next few months, Murray and other members of the SAMC will devote their efforts to readying candidates at KAF and Bagram Airfield for the JSC-A board in June. In addition to their unit mission and obligations, the candidates will have mandatory study halls, physical training sessions, and practice boards to prepare them for the final selection process. The process is designed to push the Soldiers beyond their comfort limits.

“I think Soldiers join the military for something more than the benefits. They join because there is something inside them that enjoys challenges,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs, 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command command sergeant major. “It’s up to the NCO Corps to give them that inner challenge.”

Riggs said SAMC offers Soldiers a positive outlet to focus their energies on during deployment. Rather than just simply trying to get through the time, they are taking advantage of it for personal development. Overall, he said, the SAMC is an important aspect of revitalizing the NCO Corps.

“I want to see the NCO Corps thrive,” said Riggs, who has a

combined total of more than 36 years of service. He served four years of active service in the Coast Guard. “I think with all the deployments over a ten-year war, we’ve been spinning so fast that we haven’t been able to slow down and allow NCOs to really be able to mentor their soldiers. I would like to get back to the old standards of the NCO Corps.”

Even while upholding the standards of Audie Murphy, the members do not regard him as a perfect man. It is openly acknowledged that Audie Murphy suffered from alcoholism and post traumatic stress disorder, then known as “shell shock”.

“I think SAMC builds compassionate leaders,” said Riggs, a Vicksburg, Miss., native. “We have young Soldiers that mess up, and we need to mentor them and give them a second opportunity. We could waste a lot of our national assets if we don’t take on that challenge.”

Murray held her first SAMC meeting at KAF March 17. The sergeant major stressed to the new candidates the commitment needed to lead Soldiers effectively into combat today. She told the candidates that there was no time for second-guessing, Soldiers deserved better from them.

“If you have it in your heart that you are a non-commissioned officer and not just a sergeant, and there is a difference between the two, then you will not give up,” said Murray. “Leading from the front is not about making excuses. If you really want it bad enough, and if you have the passion, then this is the place for you.”

948th MCT taking on Kandahar



Story by:

Capt. Shawn Adams, 948th MCT

Capt. Shawn Adams and Sgt. 1st Class Sokhon Pel, packed up 3/4 of their unit, the 948 Movement Control Team, and left Bagram Airfield heading for Kandahar Airfield.

This element of the 948th MCT completed a relief in place and transfer of authority with the 632nd MCT March 13. Switching gears just a few months after arriving in theater, the Soldiers of 948th MCT adapted quickly and are excited about the new mission.

The unit's experience in movement control operations at Bagram Airfield was one side of the theater movement control mission. Now, these Soldiers have the opportunity to see first-hand the other side of host nation trucking operations.

The Soldiers of the 948th MCT are dedicated to increasing throughput on Kandahar Airfield and providing accurate data to the for tracking movement control operations.



Courtesy Photo

Capt. Shawn Adams and Sgt. 1st Class Sokhon Pel face the guidon bearer of the 948th MCT during the TOA Ceremony with the 632nd MCT. The ceremony signified the official assumption of movement control operations by the 948th MCT.



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers of the 948th and 632nd MCT pose for a photo with the 313th Joint Movement Control Battalion command sergeant major, Connie E. Royal, after their transfer of authority ceremony March 13.

Mission to FOB Lindsay



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



Convoy commander Maj. Jacqueline L. Corley conducts a pre-mission safety briefing prior to an escort mission to FOB Lindsay on March 6. The JSC-A security team escorted the chaplain section to the camp, just outside Kandahar Airfield, in order to conduct Catholic Mass service at the chapel located there.

News from the KAF Legal Center

By: *Capt. Harold A. Koons, III*

The KAF Legal Center welcomes Capt. Correy Smith to the office as replacement for Capt. Parker Still. Smith is a member of the 29th Infantry Division (Virginia Army National Guard) and is an Assistant Commonwealth's Attorney for Augusta County, Va., when not deployed. He will act as the primary legal assistance officer at the legal center and will redeploy with the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command at the end of its tour in July, 2011.

By far, the most common questions we receive at the legal center deal with family law. From separation agreements to post divorce petitions, our office sees the whole spectrum of family law issues. This article serves to try to give the reader some of the basic facts about this area of the law.

The first thing one has to determine is whether or not one really wants a divorce. This decision should be made only after careful consideration is given to the present circumstances and likely consequences associated with the divorce process. For some, the answer will be clear. However, for most, the answer is anything but clear. Issues of child custody, child support, alimony, and property division can seem overwhelming

for the average person, especially for those who are in the initial phases of the process. For some, there are no decisions to be made because their spouse has made the choice for them. Their only issues are how to defend against the divorce.

While many of the issues are similar, no matter the Soldier's state of residence, the law is often state-specific and requires the advice of a licensed practicing attorney familiar with the domestic relations laws of his or her particular state. Here at the legal center, we try to answer general questions about the divorce process, but we are in no way a substitute for the advice of

- Legal Center
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Women's History Month



Lt. Col. David F. Jolly | JSC-A PAO
U.S. Air Force Col. Tamara Averett-Brauer speaks during the Kandahar Airfield women's history month observance on March 18. The event celebrated the role of women throughout U.S. history.

- Legal Center Continued from pg. 19

of a local attorney back home who is experienced in the area of domestic relations law and is familiar with the local judges and their particular leanings. Practically speaking, there is no way we can know how judge so and so, from such and such, is going to respond to a particular fact situation, but a local attorney can give you some idea.

One of the things we can advise is that it is best if you and your spouse can work through whatever issue has come between the two of you during your deployment. With the stories I hear, sometimes I wonder if it would not be better to communicate with only snail mail so that one can put aside a letter written in anger for a day or so and reread it before mailing it to one's spouse. Skype, email and telephones are not as forgiving as an old fashioned letter. Remember, one cannot unring a bell. Once it has been said, it is out there with no way to take it back.

If one finds himself facing a separation, the first thing one should find out is the regulation particular to his branch of service regarding spousal/family support during a separation. For U.S. Army personnel, this information may be found in AR 608-99. Typically, Soldiers have to pay a portion of the basic allowance for housing (BAH) received until there is a valid court order saying otherwise, or a support agreement is signed by both parties. After the court order or support agreement, the Soldier pays what has been ordered or what has been agreed to in the support agreement. Under certain circumstances, Soldiers can be relieved from the obligation to pay pursuant to AR 608-99 by their command.

The next thing a Soldier needs to try to do is to find out if there is enough common ground with his spouse that will allow the parties to obtain an uncontested divorce. An uncontested divorce can be the difference between a somewhat normal co-existence with an ex-spouse and a knock-down, "War of the Roses" type of experience that generally does not benefit either side. Obviously, the cases in which there are no children and no jointly-owned property should be settled with an uncontested divorce.

For most jurisdictions, it does not matter who did what with whom and when. It surely is not worth the expense associated with a contested divorce just so one can get on the stand and call his spouse a no good so and so for what they did during the deployment. In fact, that is counterproductive. I have found that in most cases of infidelity, spouses who get caught cheating go through a short guilt phase that allows for a reasonable settlement agreement to be signed by both parties and filed with the court. Notice I said "short guilt phase." Timing can be everything in these cases.

If an uncontested divorce is not possible, then the Soldier needs to ask friends and family back home for the name of a good lawyer who does family law and has a good reputation. (Yes, there are a few of those around, but you are not likely to find them on television or on a billboard. Would you really choose your cardiologist by an advertisement you saw on a billboard? "1-800-HEART-DOC. Enough said!)

Once you have found a good lawyer back home, it will probably be necessary to bring him up to speed on military regulations regarding pay and housing, unless the attorney practices in an area near a military base. Think ahead to your next duty station so you and your attorney can discuss future visitation plans prior to your court date. Most courts are sympathetic to Soldiers and will take some extra time to fashion a visitation schedule that gives extended visitation to Soldiers based around their leave.

Finally, try to behave yourself, no matter what your spouse has done. I can promise that if you send some kind of crazy email or leave some kind of nasty message on the answer machine, you are going to see it again in court. Remember that we like to fight from the high ground. In divorce court, you want to fight from the moral high ground. Do not give up the moral high ground by doing something stupid.

It is an honor serving you in this time of great strife in your life. We at the KAF Legal Center welcome the opportunity to try to answer all of your legal assistance questions. The only stupid question is the one not asked. Our number is 841-1163. The office is open from 0730-1800, Monday through Saturday, and 1200-1800, on Sundays.

Knowledge Management

 Story by Lt. Col. Kevin L. Bullard

It's a digital world now. It seems almost every piece of valuable information takes the form of a one or a zero at some point. The Sustainment Automation Support Management Office (SASMO), is the branch within the Support Operations (SPO) directorate that helps make that happen. While the traditional functions such as email, shared drives, and printing are not the responsibility of the SASMO, the specialized sustainment applications and systems are. The SASMO is responsible for what is known as Standard Army Management Information Systems (STAMIS). There are quite a few of these. One of the more widely used is the Standard Army Maintenance System – Enhanced (SAMS-E). It is necessary to report and track the maintenance status of vehicles and other items. Another popular one is the Property Book Unit Supply Enhanced (PBUSE). In simple terms, this keeps track of the Army's inventory. The Standard Army Ammunition System – Modernization (SAAS-MOD) is used for ordering and tracking ammunition. One more to mention is the Standard Army Retail Supply System (SARSS). It is used for the requisition, storage, issue and management of several of the Army's classes of supply. While some of these STAMIS communicate over traditional networks, some require the use of the Combat Service Support Very Small Aperture Terminal (CSS-VSAT) – a fancy name for a satellite transceiver. These are but a few of the systems for which the SASMO's at all levels are responsible.

So how does the Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan (JSC-A) SASMO accomplish this for the entire Combined Joint Operational Area – Afghanistan (CJOA-A)? The answer: with a lot of help from a lot of skilled people. Each of the sustainment brigades and support battalions has their own SASMO section. They do most of the touch labor. There are also a number of civilian contractors dedicated solely to this purpose. Most of them are specialized Field Service Representatives (FSRs) for their respective STAMIS.

- SASMO

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Maj. Gen. Aycock and Brig. Gen. Cross visit JSC-A



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO

(Left) U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Jesse R. Cross, Commanding General of the U.S. Army Quartermaster Center and School at Fort Lee, Va., and (right) Maj. Gen. Al T. Aycock, Deputy Commanding General of the U.S. Army Installation Management Command, pause for a photo with Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher during a battlefield circulation visit to JSC-A on March 8.

Gen. McNabb visits JSC-A



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO

U.S. Air Force Gen. Duncan J. McNabb, Commander of U.S. Transportation Command, discusses current sustainment issues with Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher during a visit to JSC-A on March 4.

New military store opens at Camp Shelby

Story and photo by La Tonya Frelix, Hattiesburg American

Soldiers like Sgt. Michael Morales now have more options for shopping at Camp Shelby. Thursday was the ribbon cutting and grand opening of the Army and Air Force Exchange Service store.

“This is nice and it’s bigger than the old space,” said Morales, who is with the 45th Fires Brigade from Oklahoma.

The new facility is now 15,895 square feet - triple the size of the former 5,000-square-foot store which included the Military Clothing Sales store.

Now the clothing store operates from a separate 4,288-square-foot building - next to the Exchange. The renovation was also the unveiling of a new logo.

The facility is now known just as The Exchange as part of a new branding. Camp Shelby’s post is the first facility to have the new name.

AAFES paid \$472,000 and Camp Shelby contributed approximately \$1.9 million. The Military Clothing and Sales Store funding from Camp Shelby totaled approximately \$550,000 in new construction costs.

“What you’re looking at today represents the newest technology and sustainability initiatives that we have in the Army Air Force Exchange Services,” said Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, commanding general for AAFES. “The bottom line is it allows us to offer up more of our product that you wouldn’t normally see in a smaller store.”

Military officials said the renovation allows for more merchandise and a wider selection.

“This project was two years in the

making,” Maj. Gen. William Freeman said. “This is a much better flow for our customers and it translates to short lines and a shorter wait.”

Freeman said Shelby has mobilized and demobilized about 150,000 Soldiers since Sept. 11, 2001, and said traffic will continually pick up through the year.

“We have more brigades coming in later and the main thing is taking care of soldiers and making sure they’re prepared to go to war and they have the things they need,” he said. Military data shows a combined work force and family member population of about 7,400 people who can take advantage of the new store.

Vanessa Saelens, store manager, said the hope is to make the Exchange more attractive to retired and military dependents - many who would drive to Keesler Air Force Base in Biloxi to shop.

“It’s still geared toward Soldiers moving in and out, but it’s now a more inviting store,” she said.



Dignitaries cut the ribbon during the Army and Air Force Exchange Service store opening Thursday at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center. Pictured from left are Penny Madison, general manager for Keesler Exchange, Sgt. Sara Welch, Maj. Gen. Bruce Casella, Maj. Gen. William Freeman, Vanessa Saelens, Camp Shelby Exchange store manager, and Col. Steve Parham, Camp Shelby post commander.

Post Cmdr. Col. Steve Parham said the new store design will be great for soldiers. “It’s a world-class facility here,” he said. “This is one of the few places they can come and get away from training and the barracks. I think the Soldiers who come here are going to be very proud.”

Ash Wednesday services at KAF



Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten | JSC-A PAO

JSC-A Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Fintan J. Kilmurray anoints Capt. William D. Austin with ashes on Ash Wednesday during Catholic mass at Kandahar Airfield on March 9. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent, the 40 day liturgical period of prayer and fasting prior to Easter.

529th CSSB officer involved in heavy fighting in Kandahar

 Story by 1st Lt. Brian Webb, 529th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



As part of the 529th CSSB partnership program for the Afghan National Security Forces, Capt. Jaden W. Stapleton was working with the 1st Brigade, 4th Infantry Division's Security Forces Advisory Team (SFAT) in Kandahar to mentor the Afghan National Police since September. Just before noon on February 12th, 2011, while providing security at the nearby Afghan Border Police Headquarters, the combat patrol Stapleton was on received notification that the Kandahar Provincial Headquarters, where the SFAT is based out of, was under intensive enemy rifle and rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) fire. Captain Stapleton, along with the rest of the patrol, immediately returned through the crowded downtown streets of Kandahar City to relieve the besieged

building.

Arriving on the scene after assaulting through the enemy's fire in his armored vehicle, Stapleton immediately began scanning his sectors of fire from the vehicle's turret, seeking the source of small arms fire. Stapleton immediately engaged enemy combatants with a .50 caliber machine gun, while reporting enemy locations over the radio to other vehicles. Throughout the firefight, which lasted



nearly one hour, Stapleton maintained suppressive fire in response to

Hotel adjacent to Provincial Headquarters after the attack.

- 529th CSSB: Continued on pg. 25

- SASMO

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For example, there are 6 FSRs in various locations throughout the CJOA-A whose sole purpose is to maintain the SAMS-E systems. There is an Automation Logistics Assistance Team (ALAT) located at both Kandahar and Bagram Airfields. Each team is comprised of eight civilians who are subject matter experts on the various STAMIS. They are responsible for user training and for help desk operations. They also assist in fielding new equipment and maintaining the Theater Provided Equipment (TPE) property book. The ALATs combined have completed in excess of 3,300 help

desk tickets and, along with other FSRs, have trained almost 1,000 personnel since the 17th of Oct.

The JSC-A SASMO is responsible for overseeing and coordinating all of this. The officer in charge (OIC) is Lt. Col. Kevin Bullard, who transferred into the unit for the deployment. Back home, he is chief of the Network Operations Center for the Mississippi National Guard. The deputy OIC is Maj. Cindy Martin, a member of the Alabama National Guard, who volunteered for a second consecutive tour with the JSC-A. Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Morris is the SASMO chief. He is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the office and as a full-time SASMO technician for

the Mississippi National Guard, is the 'go-to' guy for logistics automation. Sgt. James Hutcherson is the non-commissioned officer in charge (NCOIC) and ensures the unit and administrative requirements of the section are met. He also coordinates and approves the training requests for the STAMIS classes.

The SASMO, like other information technology jobs is mostly a 'behind-the-scenes' operation. There's no tracking of commodities and no coordinating of aircraft. It is very different from any other section in the SPO. It's a very low visibility job, until things aren't working. Then, it's as if the eyes of the world are watching.

Humanitarian Assistance Yard sees increase in activity

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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan’s Kandahar Humanitarian Assistance Yard saw an increase in activity during the first three months of this year, resulting in double the amount of missions that were conducted in 2010.

“Our predecessors conducted approximately 45 missions in the latter part of last year, which was the bulk of their activity,” said Maj. Ailrick D. Young, Humanitarian Assistance officer for JSC-A. “We’ve completed more than 90 missions since we arrived last October, and we’re doing very well three months into the new year, so we’re pretty pleased with the progress we’ve made.”

Staff Sgt. Christopher M. Breaux, the replenishment NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) for the yard, said that the number of missions performed is only a part of the equation.

“Compared to last year at this time, we’ve done about half of the volume of business that we did last year,” said Breaux, “with a total of 400,000 pounds of supplies delivered versus 208,000 this year.”

However, in terms of dollar value, said Breaux, this year’s amount is a little more than double last year’s total of

- HA yard

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HA Yard 151 : Chaplains section NCOIC (non-commissioned officer in charge) Sgt. 1st Class James Davis (Second from left) and Humanitarian Assistance Officer Maj. Ailrick D. Young (right) assist host nation truckers in unloading humanitarian supplies from a “jingle truck” during a work-day organized by Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan at the KAF humanitarian assistance yard on March 8.

JAG recognized by U.S. Pony Club

Source: United States Pony Club, Spring 2011 Newsletter



Photo by: Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo, JSC-A PAO

Lawrence Austin, a familiar face to Championship attendees, is currently working large contract issues for the transfer of logistical support throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan (CJOA-A).

His unit is the senior logistics command for the entire Afghanistan theatre where the unit coordinates all support for Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines.

He’s shown here in his office with the Pony Club flag in the background. Unfortunately, he will still be in Afghanistan during Festival, so he won’t be part of the Ops crew this year. See you in Champs 2012, Lawrence!

- HA yard

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\$427,000. “This year, we’ve delivered more than \$837,000 worth of supplies to needy families in Afghanistan, and this is only the third week of March.”

Young and Breaux attribute the increase in deliveries to the fact that many units throughout Afghanistan are becoming more aware of what the HA yard can do for them in terms of humanitarian relief efforts.

“We did a special presentation on humanitarian assistance

operations at the USFOR-A (U.S. Forces-Afghanistan) J9 Conference in Dec. 2010,” said Young, “and we basically told everyone about what we had available and how they could request it.”

Young said that the JSC-A J9 section also placed the information on the unit web portal in order to ensure greater knowledge distribution.

“Sgt. 1st Class John E. Beers, our Operations NCO, did a great job of putting our products and information out on the web portal,” said Young, “and this provides guidance and examples

of everything that interested units would need to submit humanitarian assistance supply requests.”

Breaux said that the increased awareness and availability of humanitarian assistance supplies has enabled many units to make progress quickly in their areas of operation.

“It takes forever to build roads, bridges and schools,” said Breaux, “but we have supplies here that we can send to the war fighters directly, so that they can make an immediate difference in the quality of life of the Afghan people.”

- 529th CSSB

Continued from pg. 23

repeated enemy assaults while coordinating with the patrol leader and other advisors in adjacent vehicles. Following a brief lull in the firefight as the Afghan National Police began clearing the lower floors of the five story hotel adjacent to the headquarters, Stapleton engaged an insurgent preparing to fire another RPG from the roof. His continued vigilance, accuracy and gallantry under fire kept the insurgents from gaining the upper hand they needed to allow them to breach and overwhelm the defenses of the headquarters. As a result, the coordinated insurgent attack did not succeed in overrunning the Provincial Headquarters and killing the Chief of Police.

Stapleton has been recommended for the Bronze Star Medal with Valor for his actions and has been recognized as a key member of the multi-national partnership that mentors the Afghan National Police to assist in the development of a sustainable, viable government for Afghanistan. “Capt. Stapleton was instrumental in the training and education of the Afghan National Police supply accountability, maintenance, and weapons and munitions storage plans and policies for Kandahar Province, one of the largest and most volatile regions in the country,” stated the 529th commander, Lt. Col. Michelle



Captured enemy munitions and weapons during the attack on the Afghan National Police Provincial Headquarters at Kandahar City.

Rose. “Jaden has fulfilled a key partnership need for logisticians in support of our Afghan counterparts in the region and has performed above and beyond our expectations.”

Stapleton is completing his second tour in support of the Global War on Terror. In 2006 he deployed as an Embedded Training Team member in Eastern Afghanistan to mentor the Afghan National Army. In March 2010, he deployed with the Virginia Beach-based 529th CSSB to Afghanistan to provide logistical support to U.S. and Coalition forces until chosen to be an advisor to the Afghan National Police. His unit will be returning in March, after which Stapleton plans to resume his career as an International Airlines pilot.

Parish receives Patriot Award

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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Sgt. 1st Class James H. Parish, of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC)/Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan (JSC-A), was this year’s recipient of the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leader Award given by the Mississippi National Guard Non-Commissioned Officers Association.

“The command of the 184th ESC told us to select qualified leaders from within our organization to compete for the award in Mississippi,” said Sgt. Maj. Dewitt W. Carney, of the J6 (Signal) section, “and after a careful selection process, we decided to send Parish’s name, along with a biography and list of his leadership accomplishments as our candidate for the award.”

Parish currently serves as the Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan (JSC-A) J6 Platoon Sergeant, Operations Sergeant and Plans NCO-In-Charge. “As the Platoon Sergeant, I take care of the day-to-day Soldier’s business in our section,” said Parish, “and as the Operations Sergeant and Plans NCOIC, I oversee everyday section functions and assist with planning for future operations.”

Parish enlisted in the Marine Corps as an aircraft electrician and electronics technician, serving 13 years on active duty before joining the Mississippi Army National



Ms. Sandy Ates | MSNG PAO

Sgt. 1st Class James H. Parish of the 184th ESC accepts the G.V. “Sonny” Montgomery Patriot Leader award from Maj. Gen. William L. Freeman Jr., Adjutant General of the Mississippi National Guard, on March 26.

Guard, where he has worked as an aircraft electrician, special electronics repairman and signals systems support specialist for the last 15 years.

“My father was in the Army, and I grew up on stories about the military,” said Parish, “and I knew from an early age that this was what I wanted to do.”

Parish has deployed several times during his 28 years of service, both as a Marine and a National Guardsman.

“I deployed to the Persian Gulf in 1987 in support of Operation Earnest Will, which was the U.S. Navy operation that protected oil tankers travelling in the Gulf during the Iran-Iraq War.” said Parish. “I then deployed in 1990 for Operation Desert Storm, Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003 and am currently deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.”

When he is not deployed, Parish works as a Federal technician at the Combined Support Maintenance Shop (CSMS) number 1 at Camp

Shelby Joint Forces Training Center, where he supervises repair operations on all types of military equipment, such as radios, power supplies and Bradley TOW missile systems.

Now deployed to Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, Parish said that there is plenty to do here in order to make the time pass by faster. “I have a pretty good work environment,” he said, “and sometimes I have more office work than I care for, but I often have the chance to get out and about.”

Parish said that he is very proud to have been selected for this year’s award, especially since this is not his first association with “Sonny” Montgomery.

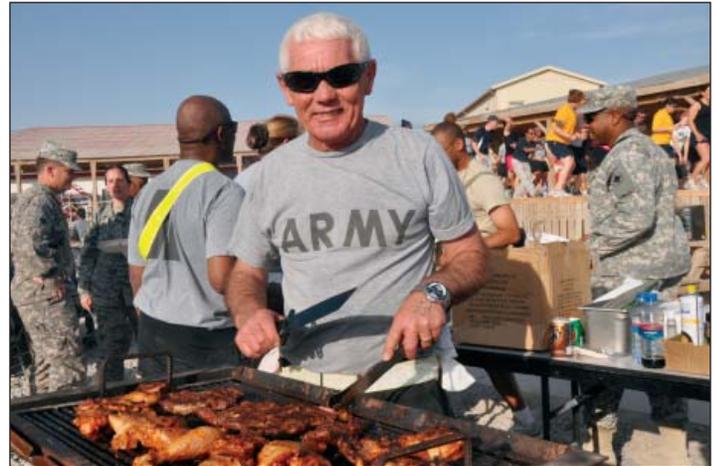
“Winning this award is the highest honor I’ve received in 28 years of service,” he said, “and it has been a very humbling experience for me.”

“In 1996, as I was being discharged from the Marine

- Patriot Award
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184th ESC hosts cookout at boardwalk

 Photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Sandra M. Palumbo, JSC-A Public Affairs



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- Patriot Award Continued from page 26

Corps, I got a call from “Sonny” Montgomery’s office, and my wife answered the phone, telling me that the person on the other end asked for Sgt. Parish,” he said.

As my wife handed me the phone she said to tell them ‘we are not going to buy any newspapers,’ so, I took the phone and said ‘hello.’

“When I realized who it was, I looked at my wife and shut the door,” said Parish, “and went on to talk to Montgomery about joining the Mississippi National Guard. After a few minutes I came out and

said to my wife that it was “Sonny” Montgomery on the phone and he wanted me to tell you he wasn’t selling any papers today.” Parish has made a great impression on the people he works with, as evidenced by the things they have to say about his work ethic and leadership abilities.

“He’s got great potential to operate at a higher level than his current E7 position,” said Carney. “He’s in a Master Sgt. (E8) position, awaiting his last phase of NCOES (Non-Commissioned Officer Education System), which he chose not to attend before we mobilized because of family health

concerns and his desire to help this unit get through the mobilization process.”

“He knew that it would hamper his promotion prospects and result in a monetary loss for him during this deployment, but he was dedicated to his family and his unit, and we supported him in that decision,” said Carney. “He displayed leadership in the truest sense, and he’s got the ability to become a key leader, not only in this unit, but also in his Federal technician position back home at CSMS #1.”

- 184th Cookout: Continued from page 27



April Birthdays

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



Maj. Daniel Beeson	Sgt. 1st Class Rodney McDonald
Master Sgt. Christopher Berry	Mr. Theodore McHugh
Lt. Col. Kevin Bullard	Mr. Craig Melvin
Sgt. Benjamin Campbell	Maj. James Mills
Capt. Kelly Carey	Maj. Nicholas Morgus
Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dykes	Staff Sgt. Joby Moss
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Hiznay	Maj. William Reese
Sgt. 1st Class Patricia Howard	Mr. Richard Scott
Mr. Robert Ingram	Sgt. 1st Class Robert Stone
Col. Bruce Irwin	Ms. Rosie Thomas
Spc. Shantel Jones	Mr. Dino Valvero
Master Sgt. Michael Lee	Col. Clint Walker
Sgt. 1st Class Michael Lyon	1st Lt. Michael Watford
Col. Richard Martin	Lt. Col. Mathyn Williams
Col. Samuel Massey	Mr. Paul Williamson

Information provided by JSC-A, J1 Section