

# HEARTBEAT

The Official Magazine of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division



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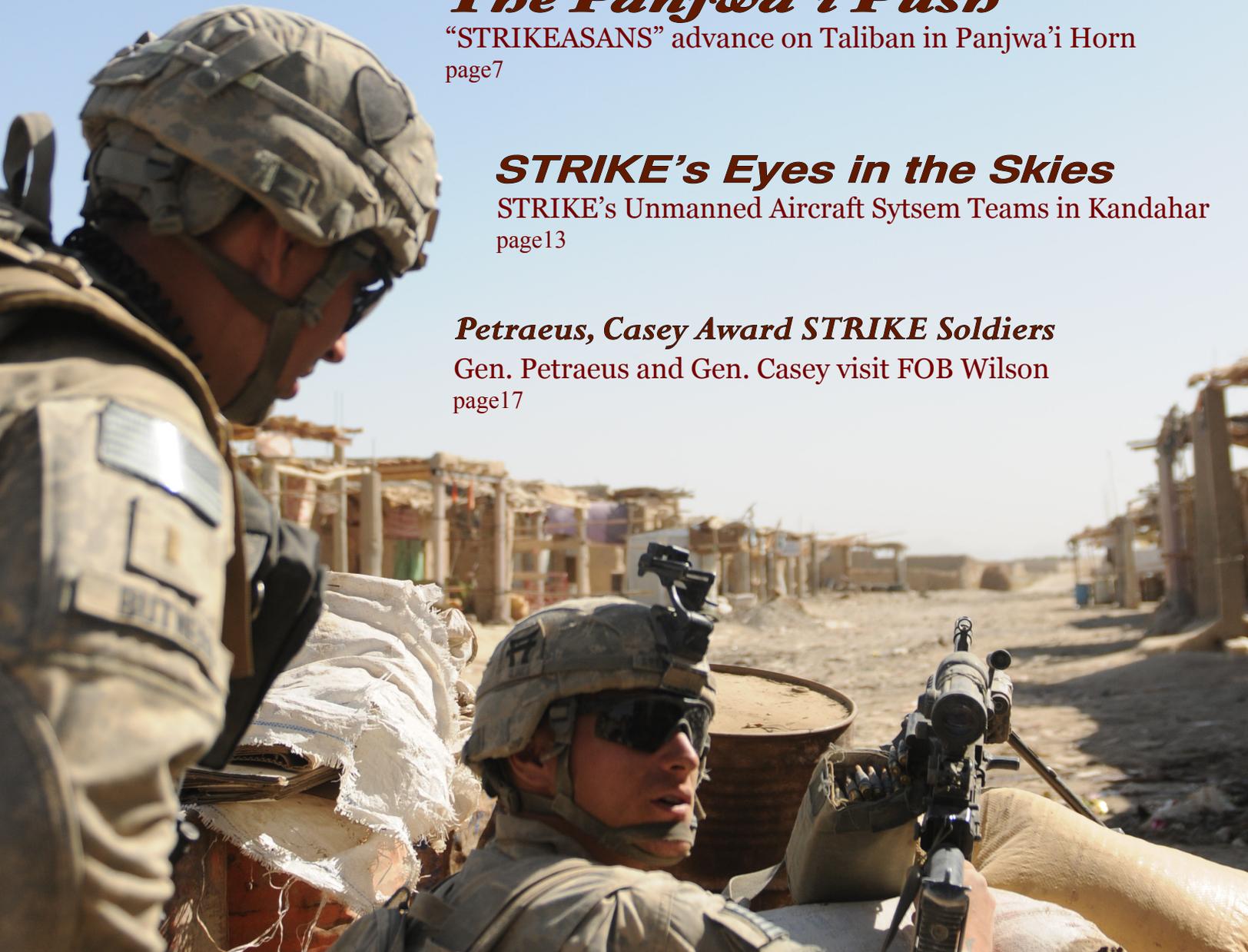
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# Words from the Top

To all the STRIKE Soldiers, Leaders, family members and friends, greetings. Once again it is an honor to inform and update you on the STRIKE Brigade's current status and where we are heading to reach the goals and objectives of this deployment. Recently Command Sgt. Maj. Alonzo J. Smith, "Strike 7" and the CTF STRIKE CSM returned after recovering from wounds he sustained in June. STRIKE is grateful to have him back along with his experience and genuine concerns for all Soldiers and leaders. In addition, we want to acknowledge the superb job Sgt. Maj. John White did while serving as the CTFS's command sergeant major in the absence of Command Sgt. Maj. Smith. Sgt. Maj. White's knowledge and leadership was invaluable and greatly enhanced our mission success.

STRIKE has had great success over the past few months, but there is still much work to be done. Each day Combined Task Force STRIKE Soldiers and leaders give it their all to ensure mission success. Let there be no doubt, the Soldiers and leaders of this CTF are doing an outstanding job and their efforts continue to impress all levels of Leadership above us. As we continue to work "Shoulder to Shoulder" with our Afghan partners, together we are improving



the security of the Afghan people. Through our combined efforts thus far in our area of operations, the people are starting to experience the freedom of movement within their communities and villages. This has allowed them to shop at local markets, work their farm land and interact with their local government and leadership. The evildoers and savages still lurk in the gardens and vineyards waiting for an opportunity to catch us off guard. But little do they know, the Soldiers and leaders of this CTF stay focused and switched on as we hunt them down. All the units within CTF STRIKE are doing a great job within their areas of operation. 1-502nd INF, "First Strike" has established a new Combat Outpost, COP Kandalay in addition to the clearing of roadways. This has allowed them to extend their ability to secure the people in that area providing work and infrastructure improvement programs. 2-502nd INF, "Strike Force" and 1-75 CAV, "Widow Makers" have done a tremendous job of clearing the insurgents out of areas they have controlled for years. Finding large amounts of insurgent supplies, ambush and staging locations used to attack Coalition Forces and improving roadways within their areas. The accomplishment of these two units during this phase of the operation is remarkable and a testament to the duty and commitment of these Soldiers and leaders. 1-187th INF, "Leader Rakkasans" continues to excel in all phases of their clearing operation. The speed and effectiveness in which they operate is truly amazing. We are privileged to have such a historic unit and Leader team serving with STRIKE. 1-320th FAR



"Top Guns" continues to fight and win the area as dismounted force of selfless warriors. Top Guns continue to improve their positions and increase the security within their area with astonishing results. 3-2 SCR "Wolf Pack" is continuing clearing operations in their area and has established the "Wolf Pack Wall." This barrier wall and trench line running for two kilometers denies the insurgents access to certain roadways within STRIKE's area of operations. As we all know, it's a team effort and the efforts of 2BSTB "Raptor" and 526 BSB "Performance" have met each and every challenge of supporting CTF STRIKE.

We will never forget our fallen Strike Soldiers and we continue to pray for the strength of our recovering wounded.

Command Sgt. Maj. Smith and I thank you, your families and your friends for all that you do and for your selfless service to our Regiment and our Nation. It has been said the 'hard times do not last forever, but hard Soldiers, leaders, families, and friends do. Stay disciplined, vigilant, focused and switched on as the mission continues. We are STRIKE Soldiers, we fight where told, and win where we fight. STRIKE

# The Doctor's Orders with Lt. Col Michael Wirt

The temperatures are finally beginning to cool off, especially at night. The searing summer heat that has helped dry our uniforms, socks and boots fades away more quickly. While this is a relief on patrol, it sets us up for injuries such as immersion foot. This problem has also been called trench foot. Trench foot was first described in 1812 by Napoleon's Army and



was made famous in the stationary battles of World War I. Though we no

longer fight trench warfare conflicts, we can still be exposed to wet conditions ripe for trench foot in the canals, grape fields and low lands along the Arghandab River. If left wet for too long, your boots and socks can and will become a formidable enemy capable of taking you out of the fight.

So how do you get immersion foot (trench foot)? It usually results from exposure to non-freezing cold and wet conditions. Wet conditions in temperatures below 60 degrees, such as the rains of late November through February here in Kandahar Province, provide conditions just right for foot problems. If wet feet are left unattended for a number of days, damage to your skin and nerves can occur. The signs to look out for include: Red skin that becomes swollen and pale; foot numbness usually occurs early with progression to

moderate to severe pain. After about 2 days to a week, your feet can look blotchy with areas of white, blue and/or red skin. Swelling, blisters and deeper wounds (skin ulcers) can be seen. Needless to say, you will not be effective patrolling in this condition.

Prevention is simple and includes keeping your feet warm and dry by changing your socks and rotating your boots whenever possible. Always carry at least one extra pair of socks on patrol. A quick change, even with wet boots can make a difference. Put the damp socks under your ACU top and let your body heat work to help dry them if it is raining. Then you can rotate them again.

Recognize the signs of trench foot before they become serious and inform your patrol medic or leader before things get worse, Doctors Orders!

## The Chaplain Says... by Chaplain (Maj.) David Beavers

“The Prophet Nathan said to David, You are the man!” (2 Samuel 12:7a) Throughout our lives we make mistakes. Whether these are of a spiritual or human nature, we have the opportunity for forgiveness and growth. Many times we are tempted to say ‘it’s not my fault’ and find any excuses why we weren’t at fault or didn’t make the mistake. The key for growth and understanding responsibility is to follow the three A’s. Acknowledge our mistake, Accept that we’ve done wrong and seek to make Amends.

King David messed up big time\*. The Prophet Nathan confronted David with the consequences of his

mistakes. When faced with awful ramifications of his actions, David acknowledged what he had done was wrong, no small feat for a king. He then accepted the consequences of his failing and sought to make amends.

This is a life lesson which echoes across time. No one enjoys making mistakes, but they are inevitable. Our challenge then is to remember and enact the ‘3 A’s’ When we slip up, we need to acknowledge our mistake. This means taking responsibility for what we did or what we failed to do. Whether we are forgiven or not, we must still deal with the consequences of our mistake. We must

work to make things ‘right.’

The final step in the process is to move forward. When we fail to address our wrongs, we find ourselves stuck in the fallout. When we take responsibility and deal with our mistakes, new opportunities for growth arise. The key is to move forward while making amends.

\*To learn more about what King David did, read 2 Samuel.



## Combat Stress Column

A restful sleep is extremely important, but can be disrupted by dreams. Dreams are how our minds untangle the days events. When we dream, we often dream of people, places or things from our past. These images flash before us because something happening in our life sparked a memory in our mind. It could be as simple as a smell, a sound, a photograph, a story or random event throughout your day. Dreams are often confusing and leave impressions on our daily activities. In order to lessen the impact of a dream, especially a nightmare, it helps to analyze it. The images in a dream represent aspects of our lives. A dream about a close friend from childhood could indicate qualities you liked or disliked about them are showing up in your personality. If the friend dies, then it is those qualities which are disappearing from your personality. Most dreams aren't literal. Dreams of real life events, such as combat, are called flashbacks. They usually occur when you experience a similar situation in the present or the stimulus is still present. The key to reducing the impact of a flashback is remembering and understanding it is a past event, and doesn't reflect the present or the future. A flashback's intensity usually lessens over time, but talking with trusted friends or a professional helps as well. When dreaming disrupts sleep, then it's important to talk about it. This will help untangle the confusion or anxiety and allow for more restful slumber.

# The Mayor's Cell

Going on leave is something every Soldier can look forward to. It can be a time to reunite with friends and family, or travel elsewhere to sight-see, but before anyone can go on leave there is a process to follow. In preparation to go on leave personnel need their leave date. This date must be given to the individual's chain of command to ensure awareness and preparations are made. Soldiers must attend a leave brief ten days prior to their actual leave date. Soldiers may depart any time after the brief, but no later than four days prior to the actual leave date.

Personnel going on leave first arrive at Kandahar Airfield. Once there, personnel turn in their body armor and weapon. A second brief is given at KAF every morning at 0930. Personnel who fail to attend will stay at KAF for another night. There are no

linens at KAF so anyone traveling there must bring their own.

Departure flight times are given at the 0930 brief. The flight stops at Kuwait where Soldiers going to the United States will be split into two groups depending on final destination, (Atlanta, GA, or Dallas, TX,) and wait between four to 18 hours. At Kuwait, another brief is presented and documentation is collected. From Kuwait the flight takes personnel to Germany, with up to a 2 hour delay for refueling before heading to the states.

Upon Arriving in the States you will be briefed again. From there, Soldiers either go to their destination, or transfer to other flights to fly across the States.

Soldiers are encouraged to enjoy their time abroad. All instructions and safety measures should be followed to ensure a safe trip.

## Safety Standards with Safety Mike

A good safety program mitigates risk throughout tasks on a daily basis. It is everyone's responsibility to reduce the probability or severity of an accident. Ground guiding is an important but risky job. Some risks include being struck by the vehicle being guided or crushed between two vehicles. Ground guides need to be aware of any obstacles or other Soldiers in the area. They are what keeps the vehicle, the driver and themselves safe. Three years ago a Soldier was crushed between two vehicles while ground guiding. He failed to stay within the driver's line of sight. In the photo the Soldier in position A



has reduced those hazards by guiding the vehicle from the left front side of the vehicle. This helps him to maintain eye to eye contact with the driver lessening any confusion between guide and driver. Soldier B is a dangerous position which. Always use position A when ground guiding a vehicle to eliminate these hazards. Stay safe. Stay in the fight.

# STRIKE's Wounded Warrior Program

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), takes care of its wounded Soldiers with its Wounded Warrior Program. The WWP provides Strike Soldiers that were wounded in combat the care needed so they can return to their units.

"The Wounded Warrior Program is very important and is Strike 6's and Strike 7's main effort to make sure that the Strike wounded warriors are taken care of," said 1st Sgt. William Montgomery, the WWP manager from the Strike Brigade's Headquarters and Headquarters Company. "The wounded warriors need to understand and know that the brigade cares and that's what it's all about, taking care of our wounded Soldiers."

The program is set up in Kandahar Airfield where Montgomery has a section designated just for the wounded Soldiers. There they have products and facilities to help with the healing process.

"This place offers housing, it offers an MWR in both tents, a small kitchen in both tents which is supplied every week," said Montgomery.

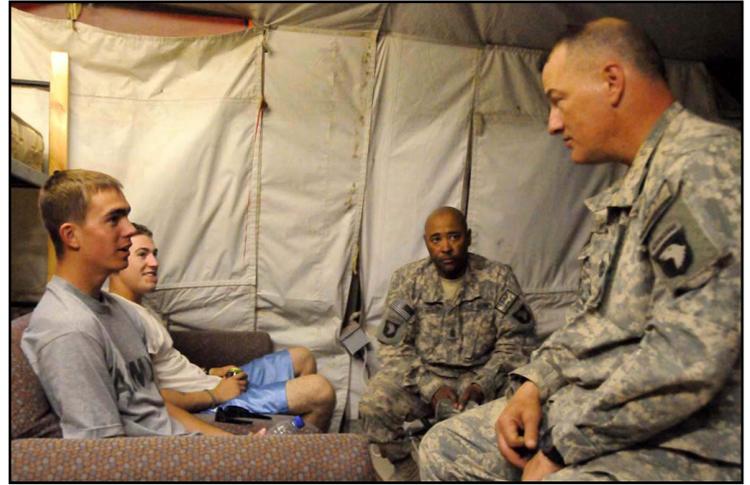
The program began earlier this summer with the first set of casualties seen by the 2nd Brigade. Growth of the program continues with the assistance of a Naval construction regiment nicknamed the SeaBees.

"When we had found out about the Wounded Warrior Program through our regiment, we were all too willing and proud to do anything we could to improve the quality of life for the Soldiers that have been wounded," said Chief Petty Officer Ernest Sierra from the Naval Mobile Construction Battalion. "We have built gazebos; we have built partitions to separate the tents so they can have a nice MWR area and built shelving in anticipation of the supplies coming from back home."

The program sees injuries both physical like broken bones and mental like head trauma, and during their stay proper medical care is provided. Doctors visit often to ensure physical and mental rehabilitation is ongoing.

"The Wounded Warrior Program is helping me get over the things that have happened so I can mentally prepare myself to get back into the field," said Pfc. Joshua Morales, a 20 year old infantryman with Company C, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment. "It's helped me understand what has happened and why I'm feeling the way I do."

Many in the program suffer from Traumatic Brain Injuries caused from roadside blasts which occurred during patrols in Kandahar.



Sgt. Maj. John White, brigade staff sergeant major, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), talks with some of the Strike Wounded Warriors at Kandahar Airfield, Aug. 22.

"I got injured Sept. 25 when I was exposed to an IED blast in Arghandab," said Spc. Dylan Schwinn, a 20 year old with Strike's Battery A, 1st Battalion, 320th Field Artillery Regiment. "I was standing no more than a foot away from the IED blast, it launched me up in the air, I hit a wall, took shrapnel and I was knocked out. The Wounded Warrior Program has been monumental in getting me back to my original health."

Having the wounded Strike Warriors living together helps the Soldiers cope with their current situation. For some of the warriors, spending time with those who can empathize hastens the healing process.

"Sharing our experiences definitely creates a bond," said Schwinn. "You've been through something that was traumatic to you so now you have someone to share that story with and they have a story to share with you. It's a brotherhood with the Army and though my brothers are still out there fighting, I got brothers here now with me."

Montgomery has Soldiers providing guidance and medical attention to the Strike wounded.

"I ensure the wounded warriors get blankets, sheets, pillows, clothing, personal hygiene products; direct them to the chow hall, to the showers and the MWR in the tent," said Spc. Joshua Pennington, a medic with Strike's 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. "I take it as an honor to be working with these guys."

Montgomery and his team run the Strike Wounded Warrior Program with devotion and make sure the warriors receive the best care.

"The Wounded Warrior program is 110 percent; it's not something you can just do, you got to put the time in," said Montgomery. "If I don't give a 110 percent, then I shouldn't be there."

# Chaplains provide for the soul of STRIKE!

Today's Soldiers face dangers at every point of the day. Improvised explosives, rocket attacks and insurgent small arms fire place Soldiers under severe stress. Soldiers need a way to strengthen not just their bodies, but their minds as well, to deal with difficult times.

The chaplain of Forward Operating Base Ramrod works constantly to assist Soldiers of 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment with their inner struggles during their time in Afghanistan.

Soldiers can find both religious guidance and secular counseling from Chaplain (Capt.) Phillip Raybon, the squadron chaplain.

"I offer a ministry of presence, free exercise of religion, counseling advisor to the soldiers and advisor to the commander on ethics, morale, and moral aspects that goes on here," Raybon said.

Raybon doesn't handle all the affairs by himself. His assistant, Pfc Earl Bundage, with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, also assists Soldiers in need of spiritual and mental guidance. With Bundage currently on leave, things are very busy at the chapel.

All Soldiers are welcomed to the chapel for counseling, regardless of religious or secular affiliation. The chapel is a wooden building standing nearby the FOB's dining facility. It was built several years ago by Soldiers who previously occupied the base, Raybon said.

Services and ceremonies are regularly held at the chapel. Schedules are advertised across the FOB by flyers and pamphlets to ensure Soldiers are aware of



Chaplain (Capt.) Phillip Raybon, chaplain for 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment, presides over a memorial for a fallen Soldier at Forward Operating Base Ramrod, Aug. 12. Memorials such as this are held by the unit ministry team during deployment.

the dates and times.

"We offer a Wednesday night Bible study," said Raybon, "we also have two worship services on Sunday at 10:00 am and 7:00 pm and we just recently started a 'Distinguished Faith Leader Group' Latter Day Saints worship service that also meets on Sunday so we've got several worship services in any given week."

Many beliefs are present at FOB Ramrod. Latter Day Saints, Catholics and Protestants are some of the diverse groups of faith represented, said Raybon.

Some of the functions the chaplain's office provides are more solemn. If a Soldier of the "3/2" is killed in combat, memorial ceremonies are held at the chapel for friends and colleagues to remember their fallen comrade. This can be an emotional time for Soldiers coping with the loss of one of their own and

grief counseling is offered. Chaplains and assistants sometimes arrive from other units to assist when needed.

"The memorial event is actually the Battalion Sergeant Major's responsibility," said Staff Sgt. Trevor Madison, native of Newton, IA, and chaplain's assistant with HHC, 2nd Brigade Combat Team located at FOB Wilson. "We provide assistance since we're subject matter experts.

The chaplains have a lot to deal with during such memorials. The memorial itself requires planning, coordination with other elements in the unit for photos of the deceased Soldier and plans for how the memorial will be conducted.

"We're there to provide a shoulder for that battalion's UMT," Madison added. "They're going to give a lot of themselves to their battalion and we're there to help them out."

Counseling is provided to Soldiers as well, but the primary concern of chaplains coming in to assist is to give emotional as well as spiritual support to the UMT in their time of need, Madison said.

Chaplains must be prepared to conduct memorial services during deployment. Standard procedures help keep the memorial focused and on track.

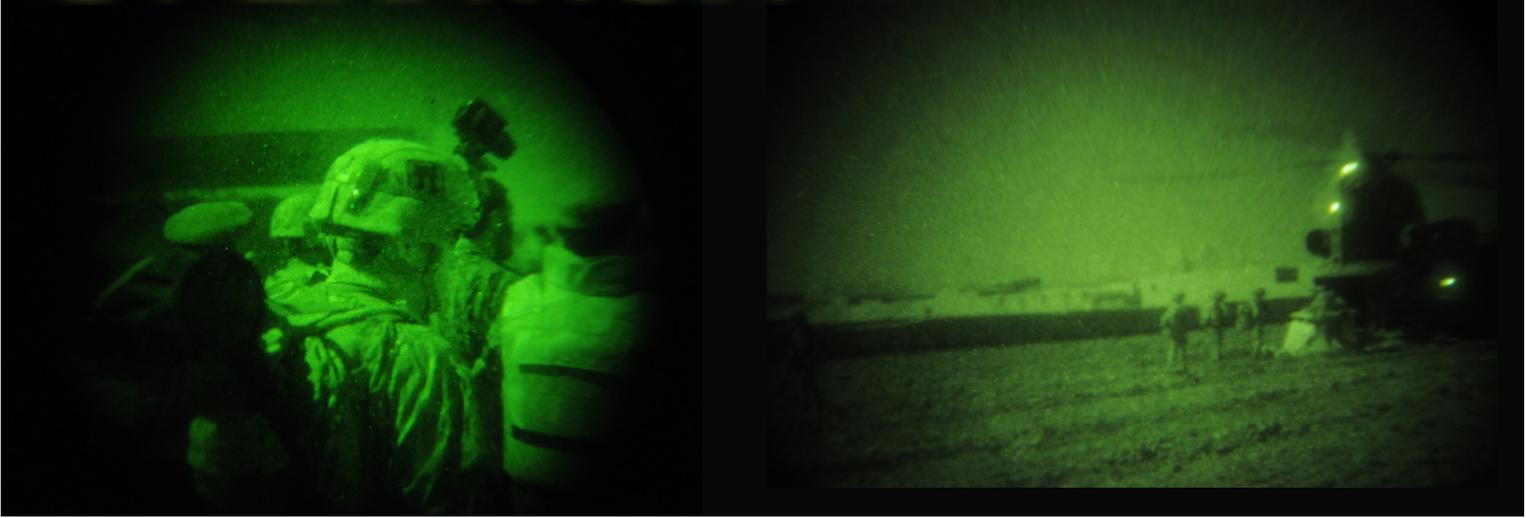
"We train for ceremonies at chaplain's school," Raybon said. "It's not something we do regularly here at FOB Ramrod, but unfortunately it does happen often in Afghanistan. With the increase in mission tempo, chaplains are called upon to do the memorial service more often."

The chapel isn't always busy with ceremonies and somber memorial services. During normal hours Soldiers can be found inside its quiet interior, visiting with each other or the chaplain for recreational purposes.

"The chapel is a place where Soldiers can come and relax," Raybon said. "We have Xbox, a Wii, movies, books and we offer a movie night on Friday nights and a Wii game night on Thursdays. When the chapel doesn't have services or ceremonies going on, it's open pretty much around the clock for morale, welfare and recreation purposes."

Counseling and guidance in times of war is something every Soldier can take advantage of. With the mental and spiritual welfare of their Soldiers in mind, the "3/2" unit ministry team of FOB Ramrod continues to help Soldiers through their personal issues during deployment.

# OPERATION DRAGON



The horn of Panjwa'i is the northern region of a Kandahar district that lies between the Arghandab and the Dowrey Rivers. The area has not seen US forces in years and is suspected to be Taliban infested. Advancing into the unknown terrain in support of Operation Dragon Strike is the newest addition to Combined Task Force

Strike; 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as Leader Rakkasans.

“The horn of Panjwa'i is the last bastion of hope for the Taliban right now and they thought they were untouchable in there and we have touched them in every corner of that

horn,” said Command Sgt. Maj. Eric Crabtree, command sergeant major of Leader Rakkasans. “The best news of all is the people there are hungry and ready to see US out there and more importantly, they're ready to see the Afghan National Army.”

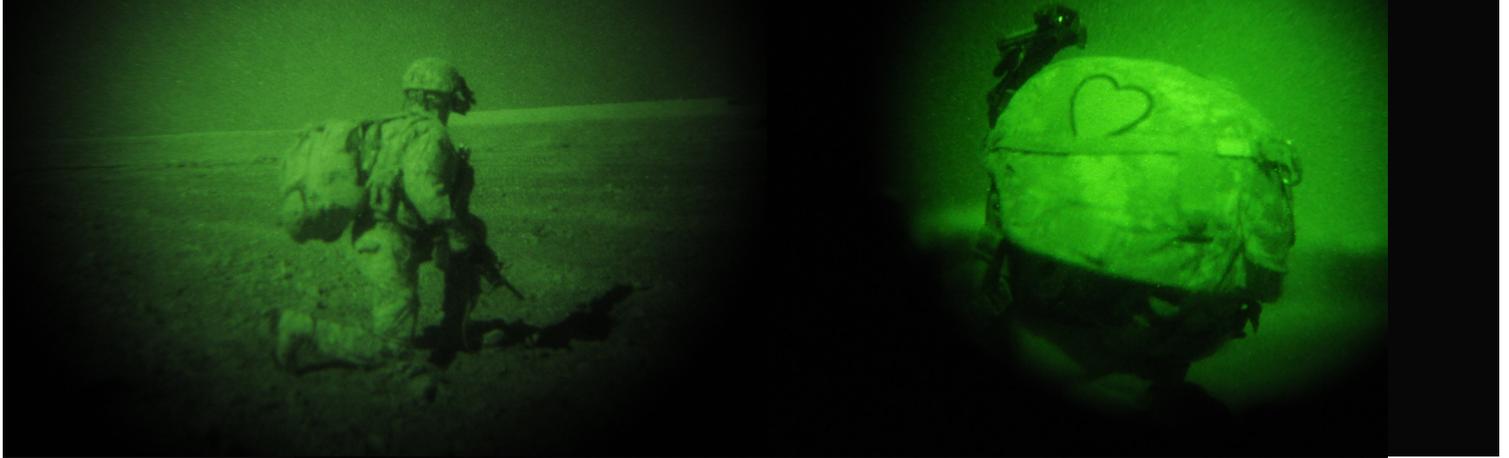
The Rakkasan battalion is partnered with three ANA Kandaks and has its four companies conducting missions in the horn. Each company has its own focus inside the horn. Company B, named “The Bulldogs,” is operating in the eastern part of the horn called Zangabad. Company D, named “The Dragons,” is operating in the central area called Talukan and Company A, named “ABU” is operating in the western part of the horn called Mushan, while Headquarters and Headquarters Company, named “Hatchet,” is set up along the south of the horn with Observation and Firing Points to overwatch the region and eliminate insurgents.

“As scouts, our mission is to set up OPs and observe the horn while the line companies operate to clear Taliban out,” said Sgt. 1st Class Nathanael Greene, a 39 year old native of East Taunton, Mass. and a platoon sergeant with Hatchet. “We're just



Sgt. Andrew Haywood, a combat engineer with Company A, Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) surveys the bazaar for any trouble while on patrol in Mushan. The patrol is part of the ongoing Operation Dragon Strike.

# STRIKE: PANJWA'I PUSH



trying to push Taliban out and get the local populace to turn to our side.”

The headquarters for Leader Rakkasan is in the Maiwand district on Forward Operating Base Ramrod. Due to Improvised Explosive Devices spread throughout the routes in Panjwa'i by insurgent forces, US and ANA troops use many methods to infiltrate the area.

Without being able to push by air it would be difficult to get into the horn said Sgt. 1st Class John Wagenkanecht, a 36 year old native of Savanna, Ill. and the FOB Ramrod Helicopter Landing Zone operator with Hatchet. Most of the roads are

filled with roadside bombs.

With about 2200 “Strikeasan” and ANA Soldiers air assaulting into the horn, three battalions of the Strike Brigade at the north and eastern Panjwa'i border, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Cavalry Regiment to the north and west in Maiwand and Hatchet Company covering the entire south, Taliban in the horn is surrounded and may be at its tipping point.

“How we came in here, we surprised the enemy,” said Lt. Col. Robert Harmon, Leader Rakkasan commander. “The several things leading up to the conditions we see right now and the method on how we

came in here, on their terrain, has put (Taliban) off. It is really up to us now on which way we go.”



Combined Task Force Strike Soldiers 2nd Lt. Dainis Butners, a native of New York and a combat engineer platoon leader with Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) and Pfc. John Krecek, an infantryman in Co. A, 1st Btn., 187th Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., secure an area called Mushan inside the horn of Panjwa'i on Objective Mississippi, Oct. 18. The push into the Panjwa'i horn is a part of Operation Dragon Strike and has the Strike and Rakkasan Brigades working together.



Lt. Col. Robert Harmon, Leader Rakkason commander stands with Capt. Chris Watson, commander of Abu company outside of a bazaar during a patrol. Later that day, they attended a Shura in Mushan, where local leaders, coalition forces and ANA soldiers sat down to discuss local issues and how GiRoA can help.

## ANCIENT LANDMARK GIVES WOLFPACK A BETTER VIEW

In combat, militaries take advantage of useable terrain features. Some terrain features left behind from previous wars may come in use centuries later.

The 3rd Platoon from Company H, 3rd Squadron 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment works with Afghan National Police during observation missions in the 'Hutal Hub,' an observation point attributed to Alexander the Great when his armies fought across Afghanistan over two millennia ago in the Maiwand District.

The observation point is located on 'ANP Hill', named after the ANP who are partnered with Combined Task Force Strike in the Maiwand district. The hill provides a large view of the region today just as it did during Alexander's time.

"This hill allows us to observe most of our (area of operation) and is extremely effective in finding and reacting to insurgent activity," said 1st Lt. Lazarius Davidson, fire support officer with the company.

Soldiers and ANP keep watch over the local villages from their fortified

vantage point at the top of the hill, providing security to the Maiwand area and its estimated 40,000 citizens and making spotting the enemy easier, just as it did for Alexander.

"The hill allows us the ability to accurately find the enemy and react quickly," said Davidson. "The history of this hill spans many wars. It's obvi-

ous Alexander the Great knew what he was doing when he built it."

Wolfpack's Company H and their ANP counterparts help ensure security in Maiwand with the aid of an ancient embankment. This centuries-old landmark offers the same advantages it did to its original builders to the Soldiers of Combined Task Force Strike today.



1st Lt. Lazarius Davidson, a fire support officer with Company H, 3rd Battalion, 2nd Cavalry Regiment, observes the local villages from atop the highest point of ANP Hill. 'ANP Hill' is named after the ANP who are partnered with Combined Task Force Strike in the Maiwand district.

## Teamwork Tames the Flames



Soldiers from 2nd Brigade Combat team and the 205th Afghan National Army Corps joined together to put out a fire on Forward Operating Base Wilson in Kandahar Province on Oct. 25, 2010.

"There was a lot of coordination between the military and the FOB



Wilson fire crew," said Cpl. Bryan Warman, an infantry team leader in Company C, 1st Battalion, 75th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Warman also serves as a firefighter on engine 1451 with the Herndon, KY Fire Department. The buildings next to the flaming



dining facility were saved as well as a large pile of wood stacked nearby.

"Nothing but the one building burned down due to the professionalism and the teamwork of the firefighters on the scene," said Warman.

# ANA, "STRIKEASANS" HOLD SHURA IN HORN OF PANJWA'I



Col. M. Rasool Qandahari, the executive officer of the Afghan National Army's 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps, holds a large shura with Mushan elders at a bazaar inside the horn of Panjwa'i, Oct. 18. The shura let the Panjwa'i populace understand Taliban was no longer in control of the area.

A Shura, an Afghanistan town hall meeting, was held between Col. M. Rasool Qandahari, the executive officer of the ANA's 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps, Combined Task Force Strike and the leaders of Mushan, a large area inside the horn of Panjwa'i, Oct. 19.

The shura's intent was to show the Panjwa'i populace a strong GIRoA presence in the area and control was no longer in the hands of Taliban.

"Our goal is to protect you and help you build, not to tell you what to do and not tell you how to live your life, we want to give you the environment to grow," Qandahari said to the Mushan leaders. "We're here and we're going to stay."

Qandahari arrived in the horn of Panjwa'i by air assaulting into Mushan during the night with his ANA soldiers and the Soldiers of Combined Task Force Strike. Hours later and over a loud speaker, Qandahari called for the locals to gather in the village bazaar for a town hall like meeting. More than

initially expected attended the shura.

"About a hundred people showed up which is unheard of," said Lt. Col. Robert Harman, the commander of CTFS's 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). "Prior to that, the Soldiers on the ground only saw about 20 males (in Mushan,) maybe 30 and then when we came in, about a hundred."

The large attendance reveals how the Mushan people view their current situation. It shows the populace respects Qandahari, a well known man from southern Afghanistan and is looking for help.

"Qandahari is a figure people look to and he has a history in this area, who lives in this area, whose family is from this area and he's fought in this area against the Russians," said Harman. "His reputation alone people know of him; they may not know of him personally, but they know who he is and what he's done and that's automatic credibility."

The people of Panjwa'i saw their government abandon them four years ago and many wonder if the government will stay this time.

Qandahari told the village elders, the GIRoA is here in front of you and will stay right in front of you. What happened in the past will not happen to our future, said Qandahari.

Qandahari spoke mainly to the locals who see the Afghan and US presence as a chance for a positive change, but also addressed those sitting in the shura with ties to Taliban.

"We understand what you've been doing, but now is your time to make a decision and come to the GIRoA," Qandahari said to Taliban amongst the crowd. "You

have a choice, let's build Afghanistan, not tear it apart." During the shura, Qandahari also talked about the potential futures of Mushan and the Panjwa'i.

"I want to move you forward and I need your support and I need your

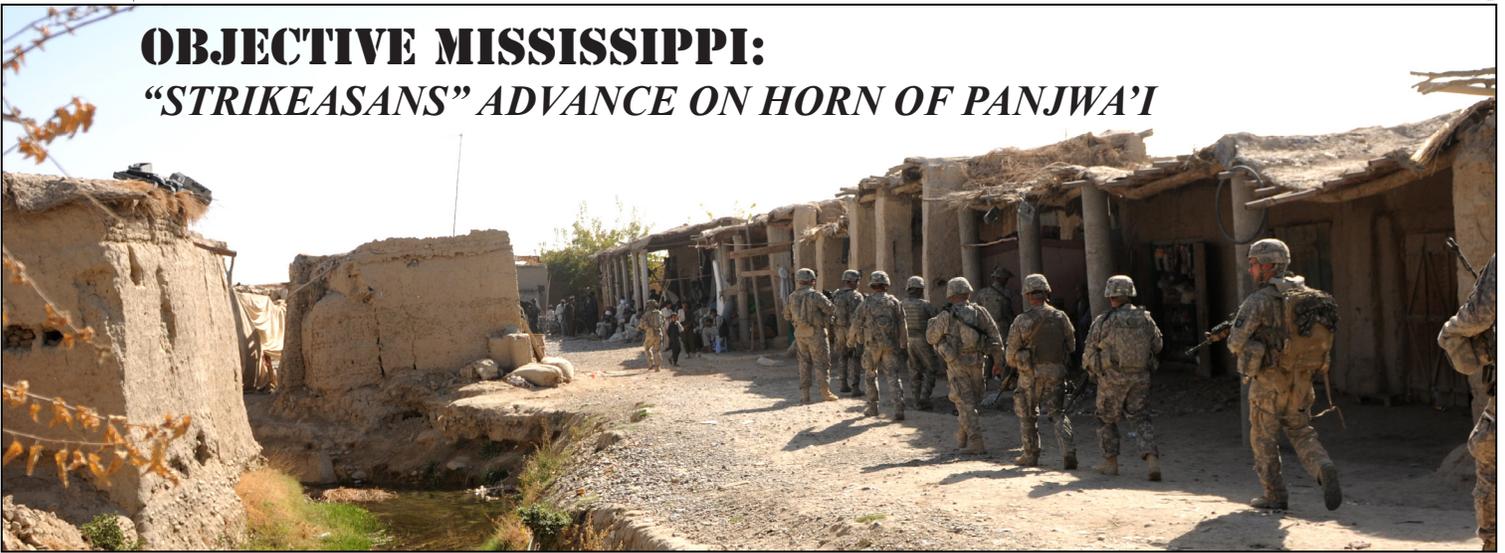
buy in to get this right," Qandahari said. "Our goal is to help you be free of this negative Taliban influence. Let's start fresh, let's start right now and let's move forward."



Col. M. Rasool Qandahari speaks to Mushan elders at a bazaar inside the horn of Panjwa'i, Oct. 18. The shura had about a hundred villagers attend the town hall like meeting and multiple issues were discussed.

## OBJECTIVE MISSISSIPPI:

### “STRIKEASANS” ADVANCE ON HORN OF PANJWA’I



Combined Task Force Strike Soldiers patrol through a Mushan village while conducting operations in the horn of Panjwa’i, late October. The push into the Panjwa’i horn is in support of Operation Dragon Strike and has the Soldiers of the 101st’s 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams working together to clear out Taliban.

Soldiers of Combined Task Force Strike moved into a known Taliban safe haven called the Horn of Panjwa’i, late October. The horn is a populated strip of land that sits between the Arghandab and Dowrey rivers. The terrain is irrigated and serves as an agricultural hub for the Kandahar Province. Company A, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), began to move on Objective Mississippi, an area of the horn called Mushan, a once Taliban

controlled village.

“For the last three years, the Taliban have been running this whole area,” said Capt. Chris Watson, commander of Company A. “If we can get the populace to see that there is something other than the Taliban, it will be a step in the right direction for Afghanistan as a whole.”

Air assaulting onto the fields of Mushan during the night, the troops moved toward the populated area as their mission began.

“Air assaulting gives the flexibility to maneu-

ver wherever you see fit to disrupt the enemy,” said Watson. “You’re avoiding the IEDs they’ve emplaced in the key avenues of approach for ground convoys.”

Moving with the Rakkasan company are the Combat Engineers of the 101st’s 2nd Brigade Combat Team. The Strike Sappers are clearing IEDs and creating pathways so



ANA Soldiers move into a compound on Objective Mississippi, Oct. 19. The ANA and “Strikeasans” conduct missions in the horn of Panjwa’i for Operation Dragon Strike.



Sgt. Andrew Haywood, a combat engineer with Strike’s Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, patrols in a Mushan bazaar while operating in the Panjwa’i horn.



Leader Rakkasan assess a village while operating in the Panjwa'i horn.

Leader Rakkasan's Company A, nicknamed ABU, can move with more confidence while on the battlefield.

"The Sappers are enabling the infantry to maneuver during this Panjwa'i push by utilizing our breach assets and proof for IEDs," said 2nd Lt. Dainis Butners, a platoon leader with Strike's Company A, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion. "It's been a long while since US forces have touched this place and there is a lot of uncertainty about the dangers here, but we have been very successful so far while working with our Rakkasan brothers," said Butners.

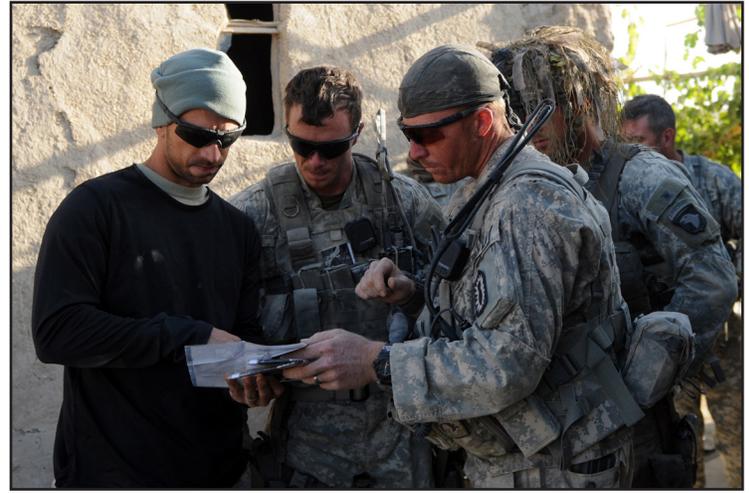
Under the dark skies, the units moved from Chinook helicopters toward the village using night vision and established strong points. Enemy resistance was low and Taliban may have already retreated from the area.

"I think the insurgents knew we were

coming and had already pushed out to different locations," said Watson. "Now could be the tipping point as to swaying the populace that are here onto our side."

Also partnered with the Rakkasan battalion are three Kandaks (battalions) that are taking the lead in proving to the Panjwa'i populace the Government Islamic Republic of Afghanistan is taking control away from Taliban.

Col. M. Rasool Qandhari, the executive officer of the 3rd Brigade, 205th Corps said to a large group of village elders and leaders during a key leader engagement in a Mushan bazaar, Oct. 19, GIRoA is



Soldiers attached to the Strike Brigade coordinate a mission on Objective Mississippi while operating in the horn of Panjwa'i, Oct. 19. The CTFS Soldiers are clearing Taliban from the horn during Operation Dragon Strike.

here right in front of you and will stay here right in front of you. What happened in the past will not happen to our future, said Qandhari.

Even in this group here, there is Taliban present, but GIRoA will ensure the security and prosperity

of Panjwa'i. Qandhari said to the crowd. The people in Panjwa'i and Afghanistan will move forward together, said Qandhari.

Success on Objective Mississippi continues as the "Strikeasans" and the ANA stay in Mushan.



Combined Task Force Soldiers from the 101st's 2nd and 3rd Brigade Combat Teams patrol on Objective Mississippi, a Mushan village in the western part of the Panjwa'i horn, late October. The missions in Panjwa'i are in support of Operation Dragon Strike.

# Strike's Eyes in the Skies

The 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), has many effective weapons in its arsenal. One of those weapons looks down from the skies onto the battlefield and is run by the Strike Brigade's Unmanned Aircraft System Team.

The Strike UAS team from Company B, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, maintains and flies four Shadow-200 UAS airplanes in support of the Combined Task Force Strike operations. The Shadow-200 UAS is a single propeller engine plane that has a wingspan of 14 feet, weighs 375 pounds and has a 360 degree view of its surroundings with full color and infrared capabilities. The unmanned planes provide intelligence to the brigade and an additional team member to the units operating on the ground.

"With the Shadows, so much is able to be done to support the troops on mission," said Pfc. Kristin Hagedorn, a native of Homer City, Pa, and a UAS flyer. "We have done over watch for convoys, looked for the bad guys, route scans, watch compounds, people and even caught the enemy putting in IED's."

The team consists of two sections; one maintains, launches and lands the Unmanned Aerial Vehicles and one controls the birds while in flight.

"There are two parts in the UAS platoon; maintaining the aircraft and the flying," said Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Elms, a native of Harrisburg, Illinois and the UAS platoon sergeant. The two sections put many hours in to ensure the troops on mis-



A Shadow-200 Unmanned Aircraft System operator rolls on FOB Wilson's Castro Airstrip after landing from a mission flying above the Kandahar landscape.

sion can be successful, said Elms.

The maintenance teams in the platoon have multiple day to day tasks to include the crew chief duties.

"I repair any mechanical failures, any problems that arise with the bird, engine swaps, refuel and defuel the aircraft," said Sgt. Justin Mull, a 32 year old native of Wheeling, WV and a Shadow-200 systems repairer in the platoon. "I also recover and launch the aircraft."

Before each launch, pre-flight checks are done to make sure the air-

craft is fully functional and ready for its mission.

We simulate air speed with the Air Speed Test Set while the bird is still on the ramp before its takeoff ensuring the aircraft will function properly when in flight, said Mull. The aircraft is then loaded onto a mobile launcher, which uses tension like a sling-shot to launch the bird into the sky, said Mull.

Once the Shadow is shot into the air, a pilot near the launch site monitors and controls the UAS, guiding it towards the objective.

The UAS is first controlled by the operators on the airstrip and when it leaves FOB Wilson the other operator takes control and flies it to whatever mission it has, said Hagedorn, the 23 year old UAS operator. "We sit on the ground and fly the system in the air."

"Being able to see at night has



A Combined Task Force Strike Soldier from Strike's Company B, 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, preps a Shadow-200 Unmanned Aircraft System on FOB Wilson's Castro Airstrip before a flight mission into the Kandahar skies. The UAS teams conduct pre-flight checks before every mission.



A Shadow-200 Unmanned Aircraft System sits on a launcher at Castro Airstrip before it takes off for a mission in the Zharay district. The Strike Brigade's UAS teams maintain, prep, launch and recover (land) the aircraft.

accomplished much for this brigade," said Chief Warrant Officer 3 Tyrone Hunt, a native of Conneaut, Ohio and a UAV operator with the platoon. The enemy does not have the cover of darkness when the Shadow is flying at night, said Hunt. "The Shadow is very effective while operating in Kandahar."

After providing a look out for patrolling units or catching roadside bombs being planted, the Shadow returns to FOB Wilson and lands back on Castro Airstrip, where the maintenance teams guide the aircraft onto the 1500 foot paved ramp. A couple months earlier, the landing strip was compacted Afghan dirt.

"It is great to have this airstrip; it cuts maintenance down by a lot like not replacing props and not replacing engines," said Mull. "(The landing zone) was rolled out moon dust, kind of like talcum powder and ended up chewing up parts of the birds. It's a lot better now."

The UAS teams from Company B provide the units of Combined Task Force Strike with an effective weapon every time the Shadow-200 rolls out.

"The feedback we get from the units

on the ground is good," said Elms. "They're excited that we are up there, they feel a lot of times we save their butts even when we don't see something with the camera. Just being up there, the bad guys hear us and that helps the guys on the ground and that makes all of the hard work worthwhile."



Sgt. Justin Mull prepares, launches and receives the Shadow-200 Unmanned Aircraft System on FOB Wilson's Airstrip Castro. Mull works daily to maintain and repair the Strike BCT's fleet of Shadows. The UAS Teams put in many hours and offers much to the Kandahar fight.



A Shadow-200 Unmanned Aircraft System launches from a ramp at FOB Wilson's Castro Airstrip. The Strike Brigade's UAS teams provide intel and acts as a presence for CTF's Soldiers operating in the Kandahar province. The aircraft has day and night capabilities allowing the Strike UAS teams to operate 24 hours a day.

# SeaBees Step Up: Set the Stage for Security



Equipment Operator 3rd Class Joshua Bruch, native of Geneva, NY, and constructor with 21st Naval Mobile Construction Battalion levels out the dirt on the top of the Hesco walls. The SeaBees are trained to construct different buildings for multiple purposes and do so at a fast pace.

Security across southern Afghanistan is a top concern of Combined Task Force Strike and its Afghan allies. Control of key locations along Highway One, the busiest route across Kandahar Province, helps limit insurgent activity.

Troops with the 21st Naval Mobile Construction Battalion, a reserve unit from Lake Hurst, NJ, are building new checkpoints near Forward Operating Base Wilson along Highway One.

American forces and soldiers of the Afghan National Army will maintain security at the new checkpoints. Monitoring vehicles and personnel passing through these points will help limit insurgent activity across the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) area of operation.

“We have 25 guys here currently,” said Equipment Operator 1st Class Ryan Williams, native of Utica, NY, and non-commissioned officer in charge of the NMCB 21. “Thirteen of them are here at FOB Wilson, the rest are building showers at (Combat Outpost) Azizullah.”

The NMCB 21 deployed to Afghanistan April 1, 2010 and since their arrival, have been busy building

Hesco walls, a wire cage filled with dirt designed for use as the outpost’s perimeter. This is the first time the unit has constructed checkpoints.

“This is giving us firsthand experience,” said Equipment Operator 2nd Class Jeremiah Johnson, native of Coshochon, Ohio and excavator with the SeaBees. “It’s

all straight out of the box though. We’re familiar with Hesco barriers and the rest is already built, we just have to install it.”

The SeaBees may be exposed to insurgent threats while building the checkpoint. Vehicle-borne improvised explosive devices and small arms fire are concerns for the team. The SeaBees remain dedicated to completion of the mission and prepared for what may lie ahead. A small detachment of

Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment will provide security to the site.

“This is one of the most dangerous missions we’re going on,” said Equipment Operator 2nd Class Joseph Marziotto, native of Elmont, NY and safety petty officer for the SeaBees. “We’re going out with an Army convoy for protection.”

The unique terrain features of Afghanistan present a challenge to the SeaBees. Rocky terrain and desert conditions can make excavation, leveling and building difficult.

“The terrain isn’t the easiest to operate on,” said Marziotto. “There’s no dust like this in the States. It can be very deep and cause problems. We’re using Army equipment because our original equipment was from Iraq and not designed to work in these conditions.”

The building of compounds along Highway One, like Checkpoints, Combat Outposts and Forward Operating Bases builds a more secure region and the SeaBees of NMCB 21 will be there to do their part every step of the way.



Troops with the 21st Naval Mobile Construction Battalion work to fill Hesco walls with dirt during construction of the first of three new checkpoints along Highway One, Oct. 12. The barriers provide protection to the personnel stationed at the checkpoint and can be erected on-site within hours.

## RAKKASANS Prepare Supplies



Soldiers with Company D, 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), prepared supplies at Forward Operating Base Ramrod, Oct. 22, for an upcoming mission in Talukan, an area inside the horn of Panjwa'i. The near 20 crates of supplies will be air assaulted into the horn and are a necessity to the objective.

"These supplies are important," said Staff Sgt. David Gasper, a native of Attleboro, Mass. and platoon sergeant with the company.

We prepare and ship as much supply as we can, said Gasper.

The Panjwa'i push is part of Operation Dragon Strike, a joint mission pushing the Taliban out of Kandahar. To keep the troops in the fight properly supplied involves a large effort.

"We've been putting these supplies together pretty much all day," said Spc. Walter Tockey, a native of Hastings, Nebraska and a rifleman with the Dragon Company. Teams from the company work hard and fast to crate the supplies, said Tockey.

Supplies like food, water, sandbags and Hesco walls are brought to a loading point and wait to be transported to a Talukan field in support of the mission.

Both American forces and their Afghan National Army counterparts, while operating in the horn of Panjwa'i, will use the supplies, said Gasper. Soldiers of Dragon Company work non-stop to prepare for their mission in the horn of Panjwa'i. Their efforts ensure success while outside the wire during Operation Dragon Strike.

## ANA Builds New Mosque

The Afghan National Army built a Mosque for its Soldiers in the Kandahar province at Forward Operating Base Ramrod, Oct. 18. The new mosque is the first of its kind inside of Ramrod and was built by the partnership of Combined Task Force Strike and the ANA.

"We provided the ANA with a variety of different prayer rugs, three bundles of flooring rugs, rice for fellowship eating, pitchers for the washing for their feet and a sound system used to broadcast their prayers four times a day," said Sgt. Charles Brewer, a chaplain assistant with CTFS's 1st Battalion, 187th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), also known as Leader Rakkasan. This also shows the other FOBs how to assist the ANA ministry teams, said Brewer.

The mosque offers prayer services to the ANA soldiers and can provide needed confidence during operations.

"It's a big deal for them to have their mosque to practice their faith and have confidence when out on mission," said Chaplain (Capt.) Bryan Wright, Leader Rakkasan chaplain. "The ANA Soldiers are the ones out here leading the charge too; they're laying their life down and they're living and dying for that right to practice their faith."

The mosque is currently a tent designated for Islamic religious practice and the ANA appreciates their US counterpart's assistance.

"After it was built, the Mullah said a prayer of thankfulness and said that it is a great accomplishment for the ANA," said Wright. "Their faith is their driving force and I believe it was Patton that once said that courage wins battles, but faith wins wars."



Staff Sgt. Larry Cason, the battalion Afghan National Army liaison with HHC, 1-187, 3rd BCT, 101st Abn. Div., brings prayer rugs to a newly built Mosque at Forward Operating Base Ramrod, Oct. 17. The mosque offers prayer services to the Soldiers and can provide needed confidence during operations.

# PETRAEUS, CASEY AWARD STRIKE SOLDIERS



Staff Sgt. M.J. Johnson, a material contracting NCO with Co. A, 526th BSB, gets pinned with a Purple Heart by Gen. David H. Petraeus, the ISAF commander during a ceremony at FOB Wilson, Oct. 7.

Gen. David H. Petraeus, the International Security Assistance Force commander, awarded medals to Soldiers from the STRIKE Brigade during a visit to Forward Operating Base Wilson, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Oct. 7.

Petraeus pinned 18 awards that included two Bronze Star Medals for Valor, six Army Commendation Medals for Valor and ten Purple Hearts. The medal recipients appreciated the visit from the four star general.

“We got awarded certain medals, but the main

thing is we received it from one of the greatest inspirations we have as Soldiers,” said Sgt. Zane Cordingly, a 24 year old native of Lexington, Ky. and an operations assistant from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment. “It meant a lot to us for him to come out here and give this to us.”

Petraeus took pleasure in awarding the Strike Soldiers for their actions in and before Operation Dragon Strike.

“Today it is a privilege to pin...these heroes and recognize others who have shed blood in service of our nation,” said Petraeus.

Before pinning the medals onto the chest of the Strike Soldiers, Petraeus spoke about how important the successes of the 2nd BCT and their ANA partners are.

“It is about your counterparts, your comrades, Team Merrill, going out night after night with the Task Force, getting into massive gun fights, doing incredible damage to the enemy and thinking it is just another day at the office,” said Petraeus. “The skill with which you have done it, the valor that has been demonstrated along the way and the tremendous leadership by our commissioned, warrant and noncommissioned officers...I am very pleased to recognize (the) individuals here.”

Gen. George W. Casey, the Army Chief of Staff, awarded medals to Soldiers from the STRIKE Brigade during a visit to Forward Operating Base Wilson, Kandahar province, Afghanistan, Oct. 12.

Casey pinned 5 awards that included, two Army Commendation Medals for Valor and three Purple Hearts. The Soldiers enjoyed receiving the awards from the Army’s highest ranking officer.

“It was really great to have General Casey at the ceremony,” said Staff Sgt. Joseph Perminas, a 32 year old native of Antiock, Il., who was given the Purple Heart for the shrapnel wounds he received to his lower back when a hand grenade exploded in the Zharay district, Oct. 2. “To meet him face to face was an honor and what he said was good to hear.”

Casey spoke to a crowd of STRIKE Soldiers attending the ceremony and talked about the importance of the 2nd BCT’s operation in Kandahar.

“You all know that you are the main effort in Afghanistan which is really the main effort in the War on Terror, said Casey. “You all got put into a tough fight and you are carrying a fight to the enemy in a way that I’m

sure they never expected.”

Before pinning the medals, Casey told the Soldiers their actions were affecting the International Security Assistance Force’s progress in Operation Enduring Freedom.

“What’s happening here right now is going to make a difference in ISAF’s main effort and you’re on the point,” said Casey.



2nd Lt. Taylor Murphy with Co. B, 1-502nd, gets pinned with a Purple Heart by Gen. George W. Casey, the Army Chief of Staff during a ceremony at FOB Wilson, Oct. 12.

# HOME IN KANDAHAR



Combined Task Force Strike Soldier, Pfc. John McLaughlin, a driver in a personal security detachment team with HHC, 2nd BCT, holds pictures of his wife Colleen and his niece Kensley Walker, while at Arghandab OCC-D.

The sounds of explosions in the not so far distance, blurry vision from a constant drip of sweat into the eyes and no room for complacency on a patrol as memories of a recently fallen comrade remain vivid. This is just a part of what Soldiers in Kandahar go through daily while fighting in a war in its ninth year. How do the Soldiers handle the stress and what can possibly reassure a Soldier fighting in the War on Terror that everything is going to be alright? For some of the Soldiers of Combined Task Force Strike, it's something brought from home.

Soldiers have taken more than their weapons to war. They bring a piece of home with them, an object that acts as a reminder of what they have left behind and of what they look to return to.

"A picture of my wife Colleen and one of my niece Kensley Walker is what I always have on me at all times," said Pfc. John McLaughlin, a driver in a personal security detachment team and an Iowa native with HHC, 2nd BCT, 101st Abn. Div. "It reminds me of who and what I got back home and it keeps me looking forward," said McLaughlin pulling out two wallet-sized pictures from the left breast pocket of his Army Combat Uniform.

Some of the Strike Soldiers carry tools handed down that spark memories of home.

"My grandfather gave me a Buck-110 Folding Knife when I was ten years old and he died shortly after that," said Cpl. Andrew Lee, a squad leader in HHC, 2nd BCT, a native of Houston, Texas. "I carry it on my belt and every time I use it I think of him and it makes me want to do him proud."

Some keepsakes held onto by the Strike Brigade

Soldiers are family heirlooms, older than the Soldier and are passed on through their family.

"I hold onto one of my grandfather's medals that he got during World War II," said Cpl. Alexander Orban, a fire direction chief with HHC, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment, from River Edge, NJ. He wasn't in the Army, but received the medal from a Russian politician during the war for smuggling persecuted Jewish people into the Soviet Union when he was living in Hungary, said Orban. "It was passed down from my grandfather to my father and when I joined the Army, I was made aware of its importance."

Other reminders come in the form of a gift, bought by friends to help keep Soldiers' morale high.

"A buddy of mine and his wife were out doing some Christmas shopping last year and they just happened see this mustache keychain and since it looks just like my mustache, they got it for me," said Spc. Jeremy Weinrich, a wheeled vehicle mechanic with Co. F, 2nd Btn., 502nd Inf. Regt. "They got it for me as a joke, but I carry it wherever I go because it makes me laugh, even out here."

For others, they carry the same document they pledged to protect the first day of joining the Armed Forces.

The Constitution of the United States stays in the pocket of his uniform during deployment, said Staff Sgt. Trevor Madison, the brigade's chaplain assistant from Newton, Iowa. "I am proud of the Constitution of the United States and I swore to defend it and that is what I am doing."

Religion is important for some of the Strike Soldiers and items they find sacred can often be found on them.

"I always have the New Testament with me and the words inside of it guide me through the deployment," said Sgt. Wyatt Karney, a native of Albuquerque, NM and a squad leader in HHC, 2nd BCT. "I carry that and the unit patch from my last deployment in Iraq," said Karney as he held a pocket size Bible and a 25th Infantry Division patch, his prior unit he deployed with. "The book has comforting words and good memories as far as the patch goes."

The Soldiers operating in Southern Afghanistan are thousands of miles away from the ones they care for and are here doing what they can to ensure their safety back in the states. Despite the hardships of the Afghan theater and the daily struggle of separation, the Soldiers of the Strike Brigade have found ways to carry home with them while in Kandahar.

# The Faces of STRIKE!





## Honoring Our Fallen



**SGT Karl Campbell**, 34, of Chiefland, Fla., died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Troop A, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment.



**SPC Joseph Prentler**, 20, of Fenwick, Mich., died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company G, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.



**SSG David Weigle**, 29, of Philadelphia, Pa. died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment.



**PFC David Hess**, 25, of Ruskin, Fla. died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Delta Troop, 1st Squadron, 75th Cavalry Regiment.



**SPC Matthew Powell**, 20, of Slidell, LA. died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his mounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company A, 526th Brigade Support Battalion.



**PFC Gerald Jenkins**, 19, of Circleville, Ohio, died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company A, 1st Brigade Special Troops Battalion in support of 2nd Brigade Special Troops Battalion.



**SPC Steven Dupont**, 20, of Lafayette, La., died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company G, 3rd Squadron, 2nd Stryker Cavalry Regiment.



**SSG Adam Dickmyer**, 26, of Arlington, Va., died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company A, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.



**SPC Pedro Maldonado**, 20, of Houston Texas, died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company B, 1st Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.



**SPC Brett Land**, 24 of Wasco, Ca., died of wounds suffered when insurgents attacked his dismounted patrol with an improvised explosive device. He was assigned to Company C, 2nd Battalion, 502nd Infantry Regiment.





# STRIKE ZONE AFGHANISTAN



*STRIKE Zone Afghanistan is the brigade's Tv show dedicated to keeping its viewers up to date with unit's events and missions during its deployment to Kandahar Afghanistan.*

*Learn about each company, battery and troop and be a part of their high-speed missions by checking out the STRIKE Zone Afghanistan. Look for it on the Brigade Facebook Page.*

## STRIKE HONORS



*A weekly look  
at STRIKE's History*

## The Brigade Facebook Page

*The STRIKE Brigade is in the social networking world with the Brigade Facebook Page. On it are images and videos of the great missions and actions involving the 2nd Brigade Combat Team. Join to start conversations and leave comments about everything the Team is doing. Watch the Brigade's Tv show, the 'Strike Zone' with monthly updates of our time in Afghanistan, read about the illustrious history of 2nd Brigade in the weekly edition of 'Strike Honors'. The page is an awesome way to stay close your Soldiers, even while they are far away.*

*To be a part of the STRIKE Brigade via the internet; log onto your Facebook page, click in the search box and type 2nd Brigade Strike. When the 502nd  comes up click on it and then click 'like'. Join the already thousands of viewers keeping up with the STRIKE Brigade!*



First Name:   
Last Name:   
I am:  Select Sex:   
Birthday: Month:  Day:  Year: