

Ever

Volume I, Issue 7



There

May 2011



Naturalization Ceremony

Sustaining the Fight

Inside This Issue

Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan

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On the cover: JSC-A hosts a naturalization ceremony at KAF to honor 53 Service members on April 22. The event was attended by Karl W. Eikenberry, U.S. Ambassador to Afghanistan. (Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A PAO)



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From the Commander's Desk...

As we enter the final phase of our deployment, we must remain focused on the mission, as well as set the conditions for a successful transfer of authority with the 4th Expeditionary Sustainment Command. Each section should be updating continuity books to aid the 4th ESC upon their arrival in CJOA. It is incumbent upon each of us to do our part in setting our replacement up for success.

Over the past few weeks, I've been happy to see an increase in unit morale. It was good to see people relax and enjoy last month's unit BBQ at the boardwalk, and I look forward to more events like this. I also enjoyed watching the healthy rivalry between Lt. Col. Thomas Booker and Maj. Todd Pohnert at the "Run Together 5K", a race benefitting cancer research in the United Kingdom. Booker and

Pohnert agreed that the loser of the race would shave his head bald before the crowd. Needless to say, it was an "unsightly" sight to behold. Lt. Col. Booker had his head shaved and it was all in good fun. It's been said that laughter is the best medicine and I believe it. Take time to decompress and relax. Watch a movie, exercise, visit the USO/MWR or begin a new hobby.

We will have a Memorial Day observance on the last Monday of the month. Memorial Day is a time to remember those Warriors who have fallen in the defense of our nation, both past and present. Those of us who serve understand the true meaning of Memorial Day and here in Afghanistan we are reminded of that almost daily. I would ask each of you to take a moment in silent remembrance of our fallen comrades who gave their lives to insure our freedom.



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

Finally, I would like to say that I am proud of each and every one of you. You continue to impress me with your performance, dedication to duty and selfless service.

"You are truly the strength of our nation. Keep up the great work!"

Warrior's Call

Warriors, we have arrived into the spring/summer season, remember to stay hydrated and protect yourself from the sun.

In this month's edition of Warriors Call, I want to recognize the great Soldiers and NCOs of the JSC-A Soldier/NCO of the Year competition. In this high mission OPTEMPO, we still have great Warriors that step-up to the challenge and to challenge themselves.

The "Magnificent Seven" as I call them were: Sgt. Michael Navarro and Spc. Dale Adams, 101st Sustainment Brigade; Sgt

Latanya Dineyazhe and Spc. Justin Ross Bustillo, 7th Sustainment Brigade; Sgt. Brendone Glenn, 643rd Regional Support Group; Spc. Antwone Murray, 145th Theater Transportation Opening Element; Spc. Martez Wells, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command.

These Warriors were put to an all day challenge. At 0430, 15 April, the competition began. They took the APFT, fired their weapons for qualification and took a written exam. This exam was not the normal multiple guess. The exam questions from the Soldiers' Study Guide had to be answered in written form and



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

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

to receive credit, the Soldiers had to answer the questions in a comprehensive manner. Partial credit was not given. They also had to write a 500-word essay on "How the Army Values applied to themselves and the United States Army". Finally, they appeared before the board. As my fellow Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson said, "We scuffed them up."

In the end, from these great Soldiers and NCOs, we had two that were outstanding among their peers to be the JSC-A Soldier and NCO of the Year.

Spc. Dale Adams and Sgt. Latanya Dineyazhe will go to the "roar of the guns" in Kuwait, representing the JSC-A in competition at the 1st Theater Sustainment Command, 9-12 May. I have great confidence these Warriors will make the JSC-A victorious.

This competition could not have been possible without the volunteers from Command Sgt. Maj. Tony Escalona and the Soldiers of the 7th Sustainment Brigade, Command Sgt. Maj.

Lawrence May and the Soldiers of the 643rd Regional Support Group, and 1st Sgt. Mike Manning and the Soldiers of the 184th Headquarters and Headquarters Company. I thank you all for making this a successful competition.

"The bravest are surely those who have the clearest vision of what is before them, glory and danger alike, and yet notwithstanding, go out to meet it."

- Thucydides



JSC-A Soldiers enjoy an icebreaker dinner prior to the SOY competition the following morning.



Sgt. Latanya Dineyazhe, 7th SB, writes her essay during the JSC-A SOY competition.



Spc. Dale Adams, 101st SB, works through the 500-word essay portion of the JSC-A SOY competition. Adams won the male division of the Soldier of the Year competition. He will go on to compete in the "roar of the guns" in Kuwait.



JSC-A Soldiers stand at parade rest before appearing in front of the JSC-A SOY board.



Spc. Joshua Wells answers questions from the board during the JSC-A SOY competition at 4-401st AFSB headquarters at KAF. Wells, a member of the 184th ESC, is a paralegal specialist serving at the KAF legal center.

JSC-A Soldiers pursue fitness goals

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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The rigors of a deployed environment can increase the difficulty of maintaining physical fitness, but the Soldiers of the Mississippi National Guard’s 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command/Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan are finding ways to stay fit while serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom at Kandahar Airfield.

“Basically, I have cut my calories way, back,” said Maj. Scotty Carpenter, deputy officer-in-charge of the JSC-A Support Operations Distribution Integration Branch section. “I eat a 4-egg omelet and a small bowl of cereal every morning for breakfast, and that’s about it. I usually go to the gym and lift weights for 45 minutes a day and do 30-40 minutes of cardio during lunch.”

Carpenter said that he also limits his snacking to healthier choices such as almonds and apples, and generally avoids dessert foods and limits his portion sizes at evening meals.

“I’m moving more and eating less,” said Carpenter, “and I’m also trying to build more lean muscle so that my body will be able to burn more calories a day.”

Other Soldiers in the unit follow similar fitness regimens, and running seems to be one of the most popular fitness activities, followed

closely by cardio workouts and weight lifting.

“When I mobilized in August, I was 209 pounds,” said Lt. Col. Lourie N. Formby, board president of the Combined Joint Inter-Agency Task Force 435 at Bagram Airfield. “When we arrived at Fort Hood, Texas, I decided to get serious about losing weight. I began to walk/run daily and lay off the desserts and sweets, and I’ve lost more than 17 pounds and am well on my way to my personal goal of getting down to 180 pounds.”

Some Soldiers began their workout routines during mobilization at Fort Hood, Texas, but then ramped up their activities significantly once the unit arrived at KAF.

“When we got to Fort Hood, I was pushing somewhere around 250 pounds because I was coming from a civilian job where I was not very physically active,” said Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Fernandez, JSC-A medical logistics NCO. “I worked out some at Fort Hood, but I didn’t really get started until we arrived here at KAF, where I started making time for regular trips to the gym.”

Fernandez said that his workout consisted of a mix of weights and cardio, combined with cutting out excess sweets and carbohydrates.

“It’s always good to eat well, and even if you don’t have too many choices here sometimes, you can try to do the best you can with the choices you do have,” said Fernandez. “You don’t have to totally cut out all so-called “bad” foods every day, because if you try to eat super healthy all the time, it gets boring. Just try to maintain a healthy balance.”



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

(Above) Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Fernandez sprints to the finish line of the Pat Tillman Memorial Run at KAF.

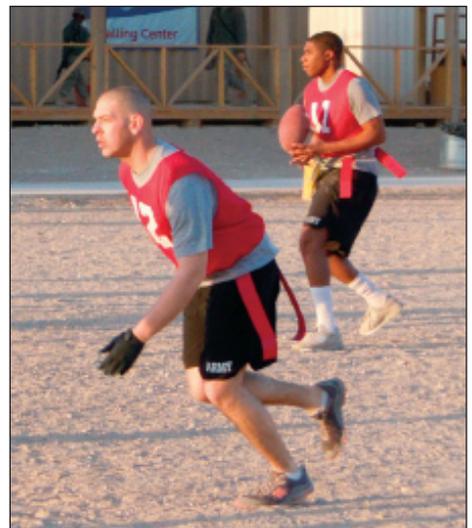


Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten,
JSC-A Public Affairs

(Above) Staff Sgt. Joshua D. Fernandez rushes the opposition during a flag football game at the boardwalk.

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JSC-A hosts naturalization ceremony at KAF

 *Story by Staff Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten, JSC-A Public Affairs*
Photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command/Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan hosted a naturalization ceremony at Kandahar Airfield on April 20.

The ceremony was the culmination of a joint effort between the 184th ESC/JSC-A and the U.S. Customs and Immigration Service, which oversees all immigration and naturalization processing for U.S. service members overseas.

“We receive the cases and then reach out to our points of contact in Afghanistan,” said Kenneth J. Sherman, U.S. CIS Field Office Director for Seoul, Korea, and acting Deputy District Director for the Bangkok District. “We usually pre-schedule the ceremonies throughout the year, because we know that anytime within three months, we will have enough cases to hold a naturalization ceremony.”

The naturalization ceremonies are held on a quarterly basis at Kandahar Airfield, and for each one, a unit or organization from the base volunteers to coordinate the event.

“It’s a lot of work for the unit that steps up to take the lead for a ceremony like this,” said Sherman, “because it’s a combination of many moving parts – scheduling the venue, providing a band for the event, contacting applicants, arranging travel and lodging for them as well as the CIS personnel, and there is usually some involvement of very senior military or embassy people, which means a greater than normal amount of activity and preparation than for a routine event.”

Once the ceremony was arranged, the U.S. CIS district office contacted the 184th ESC/JSC-A to finalize the coordination and prepare for the event.

“We received instructions that detailed which sections would be involved and what they were responsible for,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Esther Zamora, JSC-A personnel sergeant, “plus, we had weekly meetings to track our progress. Everything went smoothly, and I look at my experience as more of an honor and a privilege than as just another task to be done.”

Zamora added that she felt a close kinship with the candidates because of her own background as a citizen and service member.



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“The naturalization ceremony was more of a personal experience to me because I was born in Manila, and naturalized with my parents at age five,” she said. “It was good to know that the military is willing to help our fellow service members become U.S. citizens in consideration for their service to our country. I didn’t just see myself as a facilitator for the ceremony, but also a part of the group of candidates.”

The candidates themselves were very excited about their status as new citizens of the United States, and talked about their different paths to citizenship.

“I started the process in July of last year in Bamberg, Germany, where I’m stationed,” said Spc. Marie Josie Cythia Betsy, originally from the Seychelles Islands. “It took a while to get all the paperwork done and arrange to get down here to KAF for the ceremony, but I’m so proud to be a member of the U.S. Army and to finally be a citizen of the United States!”

Other candidates mentioned the importance of citizenship in regard to their future plans after military service.

“I started the process during our work-up at Camp Pendleton,” said Lance Cpl. Jacob Portilla, originally from Canada. “I had to take several days off from training to get everything done, but it was totally worth it. Being a citizen means a lot to me and my family, and it’s essential to my plans for after I get out of the Marine Corps, because I plan to start a career with the U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and you have to be a citizen for that.”

Sherman said that the personnel of the 184th ESC/JSC-A were instrumental in bringing the ceremony to a successful conclusion.

“No way could he have processed as many applicants without the JSC-A personnel who helped us with the coordination of this event,” he said. “They did a very important job, we really appreciated their assistance, and I’m sure that the applicants were very appreciative, as well.”

“If there is any group of people who deserve naturalization, it’s the people who have already shown their commitment to our country,” said Sherman. “These young men and women weren’t even citizens before, yet they were over here in harm’s way, defending our country and our way of life.”



- Fitness goals Continued from pg. 5

The large number of 5 and 10 kilo meter running events held at KAF also provided an opportunity for unit members to get out and stay active.

“When we first arrived in October, I saw that they had these 5K runs you could sign up for, so I decided to try one and found that I liked it,” said Fernandez. “After my first one, I signed up for another one, and I’ve been found that the more I ran, the more I enjoyed it. I always used to hate running, but I’ve really gotten into it since I’ve been here.”

Fernandez said that his goal is now to make more frequent trips to the gym, in addition to maintaining his running schedule.

“I’m down to 216 pounds now, and I don’t really want to lose any more weight,” he said. “I want to concentrate on building more lean muscle and losing the last bit of excess fat before I go back home.”



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

U.S. Army Maj. Scotty L. Carpenter works out on the bench at the NATO gym at Kandahar Airfield as **Lt. Col. Randall P. Mantooh**, right, “spots” for him to ensure a safe, yet invigorating workout.

J6 members receive recognition

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



Mr. Christopher Girouard and **U.S. Army Sgt. Brian Blanton**, JSC-A J6 members, stand at attention prior to receiving command coins from Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher. The two were recognized for their actions to restore functionality during a server crash involving the Logistics Reporting Tool system. With the help of Mr. Ed Malic, the three worked around the clock to recover the data in 24 hours. The system is used by all sustainment personnel in the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan.

New flagpole at JSC-A headquarters

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



(Above) U.S. Army Capt. Steve McCarthy leads the charge as members of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan guide a new flagpole into position at JSC-A headquarters on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 5, 2011.

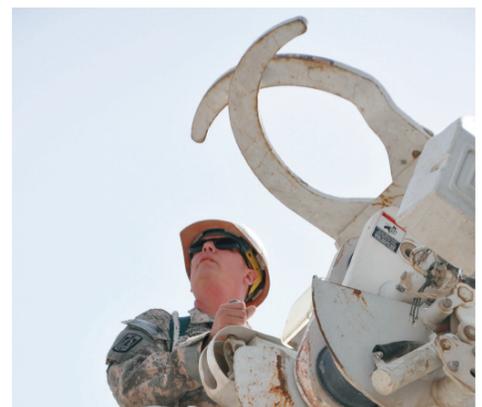
(Right) A crane lifts a new flagpole into position at Joint Sustainment Command - Afghanistan headquarters on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 5, 2011.



A U.S. Navy Seabee welds two pipes together to secure the new flagpole in place at Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan headquarters on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 5, 2011.



U.S. Army Master Sgt. Michael Box, of Eupora, Miss., instructs movement as a new flagpole is hoisted into position at Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan headquarters at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 5, 2011.



A U.S. Army Service member prepares to aid in the movement of a new flagpole via bucket truck at JSC-A headquarters on Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 5, 2011.

KAF EO team graduates 25 from UVA / DSARC class



Courtesy of Master Sgt. Jacqueline McDonald, JSC-A Equal Opportunity Advisor



The KAF Equal Opportunity Team graduated 25 students during the class 25-30 April at KAF. This is one of five Unit Victim Advocate/Deployable Sexual Assault Response Coordinator classes scheduled this fiscal year. Students attended from KAF, BAF and other FOBs. This training is essential for the units to handle sexual assault victims properly. The instructors are from RC-South and JSC-A. JSC-A instructors were Lt. Col Vincent Orlando and Master Sgt. Jacqueline McDonald.

From the Inspector General's office...

By Lt. Col. Mathyn D. Williams

"Victory belongs to the most persevering."

~Napoleon Bonaparte



Among the most passionate issues brought to the IG are those concerning military awards. Some Service members (SM) feel entitled to receive certain awards but are disappointed when they don't get what they expected. Many SMs wonder why they were not recommended for an award that they discovered someone else in their unit received. The complainant's argue that they did 'just as much or more' than the person who got an award they did not receive.

When the IG gets involved numerous factors are reviewed to determine the legitimacy of the SM's complaint. Factors like: type of award a SM is eligible for, which awards the Service member should have expected to receive for the period served in a specific location, their duties performed at this location, and if an award is warranted for exemplary service above and beyond merely doing one's job. Army Regulation 600-8-22 Military Awards and Decorations prescribe Army

policy, criteria, and administrative instructions concerning individual and unit military awards.

One thing to keep in mind is that awards and decorations of the United States' military are those which recognize service and personal accomplishments. Together with military badges, awards are a means to outwardly display the highlights of a Service member's career. Some confusion abounds on when an award is merited, and for whom, as well as what type of award is justified. Many people feel that they should get the same awards another SM received, but this logic is not necessarily the most effective way to decide if one should receive an award, nor is it the best way to resolve a complaint. Unfortunately, the award process could be affected by the SM's supervisor, and whether or not he or she was willing or able to articulate in writing the justification needed for an award, in accordance with regulatory guidance. Further, did the action(s) taken merit the

award a SM desired? To try and put this into perspective, consider that the justifications used for awards earned is normally based upon performance that is above and beyond the call of duty, or for heroic actions, or actions that distinguished oneself above their peers.

The best advise the IG can give to a SM wanting to receive an award or awards is to work hard, do your best and always remain prepared for whatever may happen that could afford you the opportunity to excel; placing yourself in a position to be recognized (awarded) for your efforts. If you feel that you have been unfairly left out of the awards process, please try to work with your chain of command first, then contact your local IG if deemed appropriate, so the IG can communicate with your leadership to determine your eligibility.

National Guard families raising money for welcome home

Story by Charles Herrington, WDAM, Hattiesburg,

Family members of a Mississippi National Guard unit have been busy lately raising money to give their heroes a proper welcome home. Saturday morning, the Family Readiness Group for the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command hosted a pancake breakfast at First Baptist Church.

The purpose was to bring in funds for the welcome home gatherings planned for the 250 soldiers of the unit.

They've been serving in Afghanistan since last August and are due home in July.

"This money is being raised to help us fund any of the celebrations for when they come home, putting the billboards up on the streets, putting the signs up, putting the flags up and having a celebration dinner when they come in," said Meri Drago, fundraiser co-chair for the 184th Family Readiness Group.

Saturday's event was the group's second fundraiser in Hattiesburg (raising over \$700).

Others are also planned.



Courtesy Photo

Plans section promotes Lopez to major

 Story by Sgt. Maj. Matt Martin, JSC-A J5,
Photo by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock, JSC-A PAO



The JSC-A J5, plans section, is proud to announce the promotion of Capt. Chris Lopez to the rank of major. Maj. Lopez, promoted April 11, is a member of the Air Force Reserve currently serving with JSC-A as a J5 section planner. Lopez is doing an outstanding job within the section despite the component differences between Army and Air Force procedures.

"It's safe to say he has taught us as much about the Air Force as we have taught him about the Army," said Sgt. Maj. Matt Martin. "The communication gap between California and Mississippi will take a little longer. I do understand Maj. Lopez has been compiling a list of Mississippi quotes to take back home with him. We expect publication sometime after July 2011."

Monthly promotions at JSC-A

 Photos by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly & Staff Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten, JSC-A Public Affairs



U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, JSC-A commander, promotes 1st Lt. Andrew B. Adcock to the rank of captain on April 15. Adcock serves as the deputy chief of public affairs for JSC-A.



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Kenneth Dowd, commander of 1st TSC, congratulates Staff Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten after promoting him to the rank of staff sergeant on April 30. Hatten serves as the photojournalist for the public affairs section at JSC-A.



Staff Sgt. Lee M. Davis, of the Mississippi National Guard's 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, was promoted to the rank of sergeant first class at a ceremony held at Kandahar Airfield on April 11. Davis, a resident of Purvis, Miss., works as a maintenance management NCO in the materiel readiness branch of support operations.



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Brown, of Coffeeville, Miss., poses for a photo after being promoted to the rank of staff sergeant on April 11 by Lt. Col. Thomas L. Booker, support operations munitions branch chief. Brown serves as an ammunition logistics NCO for JSC-A.

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

On the morning of Monday, May 2nd, an event happened we will remember the rest of our lives. We were informed Osama bin Laden had been killed by U.S. military forces.

This month I want to remind you of the significance of the Army value of Personal Courage.

The Army value of personal courage is facing fear, danger or adversity, physical or moral. Personal courage has long been associated with our Army.

Physical courage is a matter of enduring physical duress and at times risking personal safety. Moral courage may be a long slow process of continuing forward on the right path, especially if taking those actions that are not popular with others. You can build your personal courage daily by standing up for and acting upon the things that you know are honorable.

As we get closer to the end of our tour, I ask you to take time to reflect on this Army value to

prepare yourself mentally and physically. Emotions will be at high levels and family members will have mixed feelings upon your return. As time seems to stand still for us who are here, things will be different for our families back home. Movies, events, and attitudes will take time to readjust to the lifestyle we were accustomed to.

Be thankful for the success of our country and may God bless the United States of America.

Coin presentations from Maj. Gen. Dowd

 *Photos by Lt. Col. David F. Jolly & Staff Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten, JSC-A Public Affairs*



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Milton Griffith, JSC-A Contracting



U.S. Army Capt. Andrew Adcock, JSC-A Public Affairs



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Burr, JSC-A Operations



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Phillip Patrick, JSC-A Intelligence

- Coins: Continued from pg. 10



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Harry Gunter,
JSC-A Mobility**



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Edward Waller,
JSC-A Operations**



**U.S. Army Maj. William Reese,
JSC-A Materiel Readiness**



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Kevin Bullard,
JSC-A Knowledge Management**



**U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Thomas Goodwin,
JSC-A Plans**



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Craig Thompson,
JSC-A Mobility**



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Randall Mantooth,
JSC-A Distribution Integration**



**U.S. Army Maj. William Smith,
JSC-A Human Resource Operations**



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Thomas Booker,
JSC-A Munitions**



**U.S. Army Lt. Col. Cheryl Anderson,
JSC-A Supply & Services**



**U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Brian Morris,
JSC-A Sustainment Automation Support**

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

REFLECTIONS OF A "YANKEE" IN WONDERLAND

Let's face it...when I found out that my role at the 184th ESC smacked of administration, I was a bit bummed. I had always been a "hands on" type of doc and the prospect of shuffling papers did not excite me. I imagined being out "where the action is", and "sustainment" didn't sound like that at all. But, I've always felt that God had a plan and I would go along with it no matter what.

My first impression of the 184th was that everyone talked funny. (Of course, I later learned that it was truly I that had the speech impediment!) I was told that I was a yankee if I came from the northern hinterlands...but, I was a "Damn Yankee" if I planned on moving south!

The Commanding General's Standup Brief introduced me not only to fluent Mississippi, but acronyms beyond imagination! (What is a FLIPL anyway?!?)

As time went on, my knowledge of the job of the 184th became clearer. In essence, without the products and materials they provide, the Army (and Air Force, and Marines) would stop dead in their tracks! From food to ammo, they are the lifeline for the Army's efforts in Afghanistan. The sheer magnitude of coordination that is required to handle tons of goods

going to all the right places became more apparent to me with each passing day. The dedication of each and every one of the members of this team was inspiring to say the least. Everyone knows that if they fall down on the job, our troops suffer for it. I wonder if any of the frontline troops ever thought about all the effort it takes to sustain them. And, how dangerous it is to get the supplies to where they need them? There will probably never be a movie made about supply ("The Fighting Sustainment Command: Rambo XXIII"). But, now I know the truth...and the REAL heroes live in Mississippi (or are attached to them if they're lucky!).

Now, I'll never be a "Damn Yankee" since I truly enjoy cooler weather. But, I have learned that certain things "won't do" and that I'll not be happy unless I'm allowed to occasionally visit the "Amazing Squashed Turtles" in their native habitat. (Thanks for getting over Katrina by the way!) You do an amazing job for our (fowah) country and I am proud to have served you and with you. It's also interesting to note that it wasn't until the 184th arrived in theater that UBL was finally dealt his come-uppin's! I'm just sayin'...

To all the amazing people of the 184th, I'd like to wish you all (y'all) a safe and speedy trip home. It has truly been an honor to be part of your war effort and I will always look back on this time as one of the best in my life. My best to all of you and your families. And finally...y'all come up and visit anytime!!!

Chaplain's Message... by Religious Programs Specialist 2nd Class William McCall

I look to the right, past the camouflaged legs of the gunner and see the chaplain praying. I look to the front through the dusty windshield to find the convoy commander acting as a ground guide to get our vehicles off of the forward operating base. Communications check, weapons check, eye pro – check. I look back to the chaplain who is still praying. I was hesitant to interrupt him. "Chaps, are you good to go?" No answer. "Chaps?" Nothing. I thought the chaplain was saying a prayer, but no such luck, the old man had fallen asleep.

Was the chaplain resting in the belief that God was protecting us, or was he just tired and needed a nap? The truth is that God is with us every day. Philippians 4:7 tells us, "The peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." I believe the peace referred to here is that which is felt when we have no fretful care about the content of our needs, and we go assertively and place everything into the hands of God.

As we live our daily lives in a war zone, I challenge you to decompress at night, and think of

the peace that we have been given. Take your daily fears, woes and complaints, and put them in the Lord's hands for "He who dwells in the shelter of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust'." Psalm 91:1-2

Monthly poetry

 Poem by Staff Sgt. Daniel A. Brown, JSC-A Munitions

A Good Friend

*A good friend is one who is always there!
They drop what they can,
Come running to help you,
No matter where!*

*A good friend is one who is selfless!
They care about their friends,
Sacrifice their popularity,
If they have to sell out their friend.*

*A good friend is one who forgives!
They accept your faults,*

*Never criticize your weaknesses,
Never asking for more than what their friend can give.*

*A good friend is one who has your back!
They stand toe to toe,*

*Against even the bigger foe,
Saying, "Don't worry friend, I got your back!"*

*A good friend is one who is honest!
They say, "Hey, you are wrong!"*

*"I'll be here but you have to stop doing that.
This is putting our friendship to the test."*



Photo by Staff Sgt. Kenny B. Hatten,
JSC-A Public Affairs
(Above) Col. Gary Doublestein plays the
guitar during Easter Sunday mass at
Camp Lindsay.

JSC-A state awards presentation

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

JSC-A Soldiers stand at attention after receiving the Mississippi Commendation Medals during the monthly professional development briefing at KAF on April 28. (From left) Sgt. 1st Class George Scanlin, Sgt. 1st Class Todd McClelland, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dykes, Sgt. 1st Class Bradley Wilkins, Sgt. 1st Class Hope Poole, and Sgt. David Nelson.



Pat Tillman Memorial Run at KAF

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



U.S. Army Maj. Robert Bartran, JSC-A plans section, carries Maj. Michael Harlow, JSC-A mobility, across the finish line during the 4.2 mile Pat Tillman Memorial Run at KAF on April 16.



(Left) U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs, 184th ESC, poses for a photo with Command Sgt. Maj. Lawrence May, 643rd RSG, prior to officiating the Pat Tillman Memorial Run at KAF on April 16.



JSC-A members pose for a photo prior to participating in the Pat Tillman Memorial Run at KAF. The run was 4.2 miles in memory of Tillman's number 42 worn in the National Football League. The run raised over \$13,000 for the Pat Tillman foundation with some 870 registrants.

JSC-A member goes bald for cancer research at KAF boardwalk

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



(Left) U.S. Army Maj. Todd D. Pohnert, munitions deputy branch chief for JSC-A, and Lt. Col. Thomas L. Booker, munitions branch chief for JSC-A, face off at the boardwalk prior to the start of the Run Together 5k at KAF on April 30. Pohnert and Booker agreed that the loser of the race would shave his head bald before the crowd.



Lt. Col. Thomas L. Booker inspects the work of Chief Warrant Officer 2 Phillip G. Cliburn after losing the Run Together 5k to Maj. Pohnert by mere minutes.



Coalition Service members and civilians begin the Run Together 5k at KAF on April 30. The race benefited cancer research in the United Kingdom. The rivalry spawned by Lt. Col. Thomas and Maj. Pohnert boosted the morale at JSC-A.

Safety section conducts fire drill at JSC-A

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



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Rodney Hall rings the fire alarm outside a JSC-A building at KAF on April 29.



U.S. Army 1st Lt. Nicholus Cook battles through the heat during the 24-hour Run for Charity at KAF.

This month in Army history

1775 - American troops under Col. Ethan Allen captured Ft. Ticonderoga, N.Y., from the British

1798 - The first U.S. government contract authorized the purchase of pistols and other firearms by Congress. The contract was valued at \$800,000. Simeon North of Bristol, Conn., was the first government pistol maker, receiving a contract for 500 horse pistols on March 9, 1799. The price was \$6.50 each.

1798 - The U.S. Congress created the Navy Department. The immediate cause of the action was to fight French vessels in the West Indies.

1863 - Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee defeated Union troops under Union Gen. Joseph Hooker at the Battle of Chancellorsville, VA.

1926 - U.S. Navy Lt. Cdr. R.E. Byrd becomes the first man to fly over the North Pole. For this feat, he was promoted to commander on the retired list and awarded the Congressional Medal of Honor and the Distinguished Service Medal. Machinist Floyd Bennett, U.S. Navy, also received the Medal of Honor for accompanying Byrd.

1927 - Capt. Charles Lindbergh, an Army Reservist, completed the first non-stop transatlantic airplane flight from Long Island, N.Y., to Paris, France, in 33.5 hours.

1942 - An American task force sailed from Honolulu, Hawaii, to defend Midway Island against an anticipated Japanese naval and air attack (World War II).

1942 - Congress created the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC) with Col. Oveta Culp Hobby as its first director. The WAAC ceased to exist on Oct. 20, 1978, when women were fully integrated into the Army.

1945 - The German military in Europe surrendered unconditionally to Gen. Eisenhower and other allied commanders in a French school building at Rheims, France, ending World War II in Europe. V-E Day (Victory in Europe Day) was formally proclaimed on May 8.

1960 - A U-2 spy plane flown by Francis Gary Powers was shot down over the U.S.S.R. by Soviet missiles.

Team Hambone wins first place in 24-Hour Run for Charity at KAF



*Story and photos by Capt. Andrew B. Adcock,
JSC-A Public Affairs*

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Ten members of Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan participated in the 24-hour Ultra Run and Relay for Charity at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 16, 2011.

The team, also known as Team Hambone, chose Sunnybrook Children’s Home in Ridgeland, Miss., as their beneficiary. Sunnybrook Children’s Home is a nonprofit, Christian child-care organization and was chartered as a non-profit Christian child-care organization by the state of Mississippi on Dec. 10, 1963. Founders Alonzo Welch, Clark Stringer, H. J. Massie, J. C. Reed and Robert M. Moon began this benevolent service to children in rented quarters in Jackson. The home provides residential care for male and female children from ages six to eighteen, who meet the criteria for basic care. Children considered appropriate for basic care are those who are capable of functioning in a family environment as part of the community. Christian house parents provide for the basic physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each child with twenty-four hour supervised care seven days a week.

The team began at 6:00 a.m. the day of the race by participating in the Pat Tillman Memorial run, earning 5k credit for each participant towards the team’s 24-hour relay total. The 24-hour Ultra Run and relay officially began at 12:00 p.m. later the same day. The race officially ended at 12:00 p.m. the following day with teams running the 2.5k closed-loop course throughout the night. At the conclusion, Team Hambone had completed a total of 344k (215 miles), won first place in the all-male team division and raised over \$2,300 for Sunnybrook Children’s Home. The event included 35 teams, 30 individuals from 5 different countries and a total of 350 runners. The event raised money for over 21 different charities.



Members of Team Hambone included U.S. Army 1st Lt. Nicholus Cook from Batesville, Miss., 1st Lt. Hermon Cotton from Byram, Miss., Master Sgt. Stanley Coats from Petal, Miss., Sgt. 1st Class Jason Dykes from Laurel, Miss., Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Bowman from Purvis, Miss., Maj. Clint Barnes from Ripley, Tenn., Maj. Michael Harlow from Grenada, Miss., Sgt. 1st Class (retired) Mark Croswell from Morton, Miss., Master Sgt. Bobby Patrick from Hattiesburg, Miss., and Maj. Dexter Thornton from Collinsville, Miss.

Easter Mass at Fraise Chapel on KAF



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



News from the KAF Legal Center

By: Maj. William W. Dreher

Remember the “Dependents” in “BAH with Dependents”

More often than we like, our office receives calls from spouses of Soldiers who report their military sponsor is not sending any money home or not sending enough money to cover the bills. Meeting your family financial responsibility is not only the right thing – it is required of all Soldiers serving on active duty.

Family support obligations are governed by Army Regulation 608-99, which states in pertinent

part that: “Soldiers are required to manage their personal affairs in a manner that does not bring discredit upon themselves or the U. S. Army. This responsibility includes—(1) Maintaining reasonable contact with family members so that their financial needs and welfare do not become official matters of concern for the Army...(2) Conducting themselves in an honorable manner with regard to parental commitments and responsibilities...(3) Providing adequate financial support to family members...(4) Complying with all court orders...

Generally, if a court has ordered a Soldier to pay a certain amount to his dependents or former dependents, then that court-ordered amount is the maximum amount required by the Army. If there is not a court order, a written

agreement between the Soldier and the spouse or dependent will determine the amount of support payments. In most cases, if there is no court order or agreement, Soldiers are required to pay at an amount equal to the “Basic Allowance for Housing (BAH)-with dependents” for their rank, exclusive of locale pay.

This is a general summary of the requirements of AR 608-99 and there are several exceptions for different circumstances. Most legal assistance attorneys are experts in these matters and can answer questions you may have. If you find yourself in the situation that you are uncertain how much family support you are required to provide, make an appointment to see a legal assistance attorney at your nearest JAG office.



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



This month’s safety topic is spring safety tips. Many people will be on leave in the month of May, just in time for spring and summer. I just got back from leave and it was great. I thought I could get away from basic safety issues, but when you practice them, safety becomes part of you. I was able to keep a man from breaking his arm at the boat ramp in Pensacola, only because I saw an unsafe act and yelled at the man.

Consider these safety tips from the March 2011 Installation Management Command Safety Gram:

- Look out for each other. Always travel with a group, because there is safety in numbers.
- Prepare for the unexpected when you travel, carry extra cash or a credit card to deal with an emergency.
- Drivers are reminded to be on alert for motorcycles, especially when pulling into and when changing lanes.
- Motorcycle riders need to wear proper riding gear and take advantage of motorcycle training safety courses.
- Motorcycle riders should remember to look out for potholes, loose sewer lids, and loose gravel. The long hard winter took its toll on the roads and many of these problems have yet to be fixed.
 - You can become dehydrated anytime of the year. Drink plenty of water, non-carbonated and non-alcoholic drinks, even if you do not feel thirsty.
- Be aware of the weather conditions. It can change quickly. Seek shelter in case of a storm.
- If barbecuing is in your plans, make sure you clean your BBQ and check for leaks, breaks and other wear and tear. Remember, never store propane inside your house or garage.
- Protect yourself from the sun whenever you’re outside at work or play. Use a sun protection factor (SPF) of at least 15. Look for the words “broad-spectrum” on the label - it means that the sunscreen will screen out both ultraviolet B (UVB) and ultraviolet A (UVA) rays.
- Don’t forget to protect your eyes also.

While you are enjoying the beautiful weather and dusting off the cobwebs of winter, remember to take on-the-job safety awareness with you.

JSC-A conducts battlefield circulation visit to FOB Shindand

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



(From left) U.S. Air Force Col. Larry D. Bowers, U.S. Army Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher and Lt. Col. Lynn Pippen pause for a photo during a battlefield circulation to Forward Operating Base Shindand by JSC-A staff. Pippen is commander of the 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, a Mississippi Army National Guard unit, assigned to the base.



U.S. Army Maj. Ashley Mills, JSC-A support operations mobility, speaks with crew members aboard a helicopter from Kandahar Airfield destined for Forward Operating Base Shindand.



(Right) U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Bonnie Hughes, 298th CSSB public affairs, displays a command coin presented by Sgt. Maj. John Thomas, JSC-A support operations, for her contributions to unit success in support of OEF.



(Left) U.S. Army Spc. Natalie Vigil, 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion poses for a photo with Spc. Joshua Wells, JSC-A paralegal specialist, outside the tactical operations center at Forward Operating Base Shindand.

Materiel Readiness Branch keeps the wheels turning

 *Story by 1st Lt. Edmeisha R. McGill, JSC-A Materiel Readiness Branch*

The Support Operations (SPO) Materiel Readiness Branch (MRB) of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command tracks equipment readiness throughout the Combined Joint Operations Area-Afghanistan (CJOA-A). The MRB has the responsibility of ensuring all equipment shortages are filled and any excess equipment redistributed. MRB produces reports that provide maintenance information to decision makers that are located both inside and outside the continental United States.

Soldiers in the MRB section work diligently everyday to meet the needs of subordinate units. There is constant networking between military and civilian entities to get the job done. “I leave work every day with a sense of accomplishment that we have supported Soldiers,” said Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Bourne.

MRB has made several accomplishments since the transfer of authority in October. MRB has refined the Battle Loss/Battle Damage replacement process, which has decreased the time it takes to get a piece of equipment back into the fight from 108 days to 11 days. The battle loss fragmentary order (FRAGO) issue process has made a tremendous decrease from its highest point of 89 days to 7 days in the issuance of orders. MRB writes FRAGOs that deal with repair, replacement, and fielding of equipment. As of April 28, 2011, MRB had published 472 FRAGOs.

When asked about the future of MRB, several section members expressed their desire to keep the ball rolling for incoming units and to steadily increase maintenance productivity throughout the theater. “The work load is different and rapidly changing to meet the maintenance demands of the war fighter. With the vast management and oversight responsibilities, MRB has done a good job thus far,” said Chief Warrant Officer 5 Martin Jones.

There is no doubt MRB has placed its footprint in the CJOA-A.

Petal Primary School flag dedication

Courtesy photos and story



U.S. Army Maj. Daniel Beeson, Master Sgt. Stanley Coats and Maj. Todd Smith of the 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, along with their wives, visited Petal Primary School and presented a flag to Mrs. DeDe Smith, school principal. The flag had been flown at Kandahar Airfield on Jan. 21 in honor of Petal Primary School. The Soldiers visited the school while on R&R, March 7.

Latrine complex opens

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



The ablution (A/B) unit is the newest edition to the JSC-A compound. The unit began as an Afghan First project on Nov. 27, and was officially completed on April 28 at a cost of over \$82,000. The complex consists of two male/female latrine buildings with five water closets and sinks each. The facilities will replace a portion of the portable latrine units that have been used by JSC-A for some three years.

United States Customs & Immigrations Services in action at KAF

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



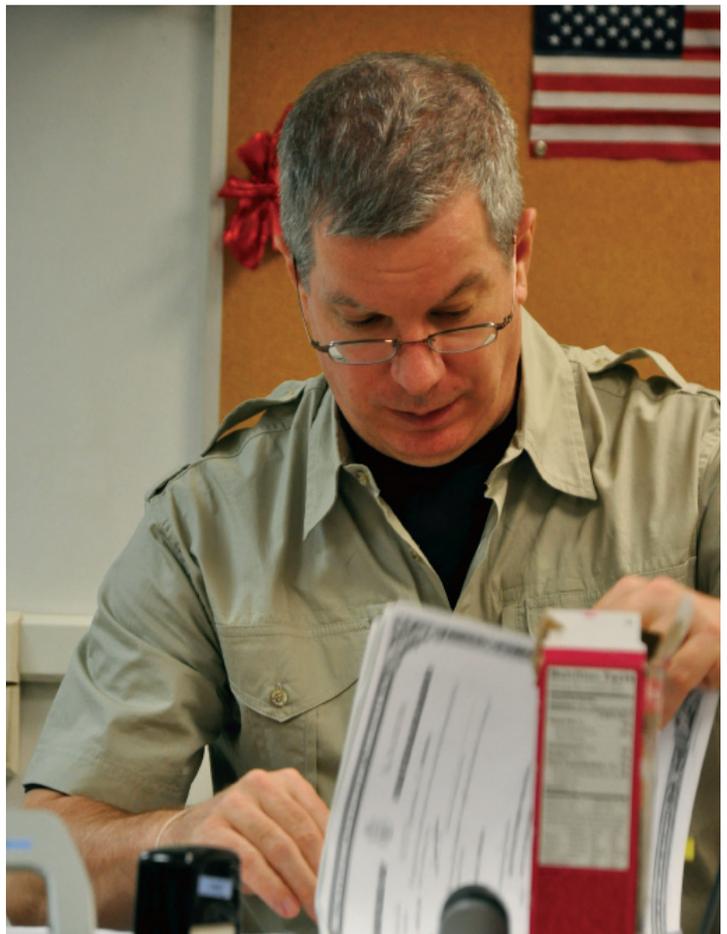
Mrs. Traci Picciano, immigration assistant for USCIS in Bangkok, Thailand, assists a U.S. Marine in completing paperwork to become a U.S. citizen at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, on April 19.



Mr. Kenneth Sherman, field officer director for the USCIS in Seoul, South Korea, explains the naturalization process to a U.S. Army Soldier at the Kandahar Airfield legal office on April 19.



(Left) Mr. Jackie Wong, field office director for the USCIS office in Guangzhou, China, looks on as the Oath of Allegiance is administered to a Service member during a naturalization ceremony at KAF on April 19.



(Right) Mr. Kenneth Sherman, field officer director for the USCIS office in Seoul, South Korea, reviews paperwork for a Service member preparing to become a U.S. citizen later in the week during a ceremony at KAF on April 19. During the week, Sherman naturalized four Service members.

Shindand Airfield postal operations

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



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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Mississippi National Guard’s 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command/Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan established Shindand Airfield as a Direct Air Stop for postal operations on April 26.

“JSC-A Support Operations (SPO) Human Resources Operations Branch (HROB) worked directly with U.S. Army Central Command (CENTCOM), the 101st Sustainment Brigade HROB, 7th Sustainment Brigade HROB and 1st Theater Sustainment Command to negotiate the establishment of direct air stop postal operations for Regional Command-West,” said 2nd Lt. Bryan T. Rushing, JSC-A SPO Postal/Finance operations officer.

Rushing said that in September, 2010, the 135th ESC had submitted a plan to CENTCOM to re-route RC-West mail to Kandahar Airfield (KAF), but that plan was not approved because CENTCOM stated that there was not enough logistical infrastructure at KAF to support the increased volume of mail traffic.

“In early December, 2010, we conducted a conference call with CENTCOM and U.S. Forces – Afghanistan (USFOR-A) to withdraw the previous request and seek support for an alternative plan,” said Rushing.

“We proposed a plan to establish a direct air stop at Shindand and develop a plan for DHL to start operations there, and this involved coordination between RC-West,

DHL and our key leadership to determine the sizes of the planes to be used, frequency of flights and resources required to run such operations.”

Representatives from JSC-A and the rest of the organizations involved in the plan conducted site visits to Shindand and reviewed the RC-West postal operations plans, and they determined that the runway, apron and taxi-way were not designed to handle the larger aircraft that DHL uses to transport mail into Afghanistan.

“It looked as if the plan would be halted until improvements could be made in late 2011 or early 2012,” said Rushing, “but after a detailed analysis of the alternatives, we recommended a plan to use a larger airfield as a transfer point, which would allow the larger DHL aircraft to offload their mail cargo onto smaller aircraft for transport to the final destination in RC-West.”

Once the plan was approved, JSC-A HROB began working with the 7th SB HROB to execute the postal operations plan.

“The establishment of RC-W as a DHL air stop will get the mail to the service member much quicker,” said Rushing. “Previously it took approximately 7 days to get the mail from the States to Bagram Airfield, then an additional 7 to 14 days to RC-West. Now that we have DHL operations in RC-West, we have eliminated the 7 to 14 day wait time in Bagram.”

An added benefit of the establishment of the Shindand mail hub is

the reduced requirement for military support personnel needed to conduct operations, which further reduces the U.S. military footprint in Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1st Class Brian E. Speagle, JSC-A HROB Postal Contracting Officer Representative, worked with the contracting officers, contractors and sustainment units to modify the contracting agreement to move contractors from several different locations to Shindand.

“I conducted a line-by-line scrub of the Performance Work Statement to ensure the most cost-effective services were provided by our contractors,” said Speagle. “This allowed us to reduce the number of military personnel required for postal operations by 78 soldiers.” As a way to further streamline the RC-West postal operations, construction is underway to improve the taxi-way and apron at Shindand in order to accommodate the larger DHL aircraft, which will allow for more effective logistical operations by eliminating the transfer points and allowing the larger aircraft to fly directly into Shindand.

“With the establishment of this direct air stop and the improvements that are in the works, we can help Bagram Airfield make better use of their air mobility assets by reducing the number of flights into RC-West,” said Rushing. “We’ve reduced the number of flights by 40 per month, with an estimated monthly savings of \$80,000, and this will also reduce the strain on postal processing facilities and personnel.”

JSC-A hosts humanitarian assistance conference at KAF

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



U.S. Army Maj. Ailrick Young, JSC-A J9, welcomes participants to a humanitarian assistance conference hosted by JSC-A at KAF on April 26.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class John Beers, JSC-A J9, fields questions from participants at the humanitarian conference hosted by JSC-A on April 26.



U.S. Army Maj. Pia Rogers, contract and fiscal law attorney for USFOR-A, discusses the legal requirements of humanitarian assistance during the conference on April 26.



Mr. Darell McIntyre, U.S. Agency on International Development, discusses the role of USAID in Afghanistan during the humanitarian assistance conference on April 26.



U.S. Service members, coalition members and civilians gather for a group photo during a humanitarian assistance conference at KAF on April 26. The conference featured presentations from the U.S. Agency on International Development, commander's emergency response programs and various topics involving planning and coordination of local humanitarian assistance yards throughout Afghanistan.

Combat Action Badges awarded

 *Story and photo courtesy of 401st Army Field Support Brigade*



U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officers 2 Matthew P. Dress, Joel J. Hounshell, Jay L. Strande, and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy J. Sutter, AFSBn-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade, wait to receive Combat Action Badges from Lt. Col. Lee G. Lienemann, battalion commander, during an awards ceremony held March 9 at Kandahar Airfield.

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — A normal meal in the dining facility on January 19 led to Combat Action Badges for four Soldiers assigned to Army Field Support Battalion-Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade at Kandahar Airfield.

The Monti dining facility was hit by an enemy rocket at approximately 6:30 p.m. and Chief Warrant Officers 2 Matthew P. Dress, Joel J. Hounshell, Jay L. Strande, and Sgt. 1st Class Timothy J. Sutter, who were eating dinner, were suddenly thrust into a scene of chaos and confusion.

The Soldiers joined others exiting the building after lying on the floor for the required two minutes. “I then consoled the Soldiers that were worried about their buddies that were inside,” said Strande.

Strande said he had seen a Soldier crying because he didn’t know about his buddies who were still inside. He stayed with the Soldier until some members from his unit showed up and then helped direct ambulances to the casualty collection point.

The Combat Action Badges were awarded on March 9 by Lt. Col. Lee G. Lienemann, AFS battalion commander during the 401st AFSB Commander’s Acquisition Integration Logistics Workshop held at the battalion headquarters at Kandahar Airfield. Brig. Gen. Philip R. Fisher, 184th Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) commander and Brigade Commander, Col. Richard B. O’Connor II, were among the first to congratulate the Soldiers and express their thanks for their quick thinking and action.

“Right after the explosion I thought how did that suicide bomber get in here. I thought that because the flash from the explosion was so high off the ground and I didn’t hear the rocket come through the roof, the first thing I thought was it had to be a suicide bomber,” Strande said. “When there wasn’t a huge reaction I also thought maybe it was a test for a mass casualty exercise. But then when people starting rushing over to the impact site, I realized it was real.”

The Combat Action Badge was approved by the Chief of Staff, Army, on May 2, 2005, to provide special recognition to Soldiers who personally engage, or are engaged by the enemy. The badge recognizes Soldiers who do not qualify for the Combat Infantry Badge or the Combat Medic Badge. Unlike the CIB and CMB which require assignment to infantry, Special Forces, or medical branches the Combat Action Badge requirements are not branch or Military Occupation Specialty specific.

Attitude

by Charles Swindoll

The longer I live, the more I realize the impact of attitude on life.

Attitude, to me, is more important than facts. It is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than failures, than successes, than what other people think or say or do. It is more important than appearance, giftedness or skill. It will make or break a company... a church... a home.

The remarkable thing is we have a choice every day regarding the attitude we will embrace for that day. We cannot change our past... we cannot change the fact that people will act in a certain way. We cannot change the inevitable. The only thing we can do is play on the one string we have, and that is our attitude... I am convinced that life is 10% what happens to me and 90% how I react to it.

And so it is with you... we are in charge of our attitudes.

Professional Development

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



U.S. Army Col. Clint Walker, JSC-A chief of staff, addresses members of the 184th ESC during the monthly professional development briefing at the Kandahar Airfield Fest Tent, April 28.



U.S. Army Capt. Gary Crist discusses movement operations during redeployment with members of the 184th ESC during the monthly professional development briefing at the Kandahar Airfield Fest Tent on April 28.

Soldier Spotlight: Spc. Ashley Crotwell

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

U.S. Army Spc. Ashley E. Crotwell is a human resources specialist with the Mississippi Army National Guard's 184th Expeditionary Sustainment Command/Joint Sustainment Command – Afghanistan.

She is currently assigned as a Joint Operations Center administrator, and she also serves as a member of the commander's personal security detail (PSD).

"I work in the J3 Section, where I help build the nightly reports for the commanding general," said Crotwell, "and every other weekend I get the opportunity to get off Kandahar Airfield with the PSD team, taking part in small missions to the surrounding bases."

The Wetumpka, Ala., native has served more than two years in the MSARNG, and this is her first overseas deployment.

Crotwell graduated from Chapman Christian Academy, in Millbrook, Ala., in 2007, and then decided to join the military.

"Growing up, I wasn't too fond of the military because I had always seen my parents going away for drills/training or deployments, but the older I got, the more respect I had for the armed services and what they do," said Crotwell. "I really appreciate the sacrifices my parents made for me so that we



could have a better life."

Now deployed in Afghanistan, Crotwell said that her experience has been good so far.

"Our work environment is calm and laid-back, and it's a place where everyone can get their work done at a comfortable pace," she said. "We work very efficiently together, and even though 12 hours is a long shift with the same people every night, we've learned each other's likes and dislikes so that we can work through issues together and help each other as much as possible."

Crotwell said that she tries to catch up on sleep during her spare time here at KAF, and generally doesn't go out much except to go get something to eat at the Boardwalk.

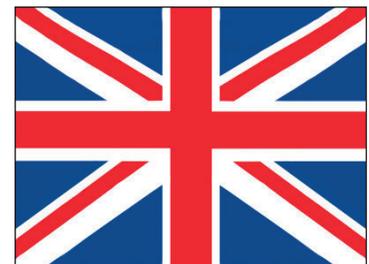
"Working 12 hour nights doesn't leave a lot of spare time to get around, but it passes the time quickly and keeps me busy," she said. "I do like going to the food places on the Boardwalk, though, because the dining facility food isn't so great, and it's nice to have something a little different every once in a while."

At home, Crotwell said that she prefers to spend as much time with her family as possible, and that she misses the freedom of being able to hop in her car and go places.

"I love spending time with my family, and sometimes I like to take long drives just to get out and see things, so I guess I miss that freedom the most," she said.

Crotwell said that she was surprised that the living conditions at KAF were better than she expected.

"There's a lot more here than I expected, and the living areas aren't as bad as people were saying before we got here," she said. "I don't need a lot, though; I'm glad we have beds and indoor plumbing, and that's more than a lot of other Soldiers have over here."



U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. receives a ceremonial pace stick from U.K. GSM Noel Gibbons after a morning standup briefing at JSC-A headquarters on April 21.

Cooling off with ice cream at KAF

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



U.S. Army Sgt. James Walton enjoys soft serve ice cream from the KAF ice cream truck on April 19.



A worker pulls a cone of soft serve ice cream on board the KAF ice cream truck, April 19.



U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Reginald Thompson prepares to halt the melting of his ice cream cone from the KAF ice cream truck on April 19.



ISAF Senior Enlisted Advisor visits KAF

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



(Above) U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill, ISAF senior enlisted advisor, poses for a photo with Sgt. McSwain and Spc. Durr during a battlefield circulation to Kandahar Airfield, April 28. Hill took time out of the day to reward Soldiers with ISAF command coins for their actions in supporting coalition efforts throughout Afghanistan.



(Above) U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Marvin Hill speaks with Service members at the mortuary affairs complex at KAF, April 28.



JSC-A hosts commander's conference at KAF

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



U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale explains his vision for sustainment operations.



(Above) U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jeffrey Riggs, JSC-A, takes a moment to sign an artistic rendition of a battlefield print at the 4-401st Army Field Sustainment Brigade Headquarters on KAF, April 9.



(Above) U.K. leaders participate in the conference discussions.



(Above) Conference attendees listen as current sustainment operations are discussed by key leaders at the 4-401st Army Field Sustainment Support Brigade headquarters on KAF, April 8.



Conference participants from across the Combined Joint Operations Area - Afghanistan pose for a photo outside the 4-401st Army Field Sustainment Brigade Headquarters at Kandahar Airfield on April 9.

184th ESC Family Readiness Group Monthly Update



Courtesy of Sgt. 1st Class Harry M. Carnes, 184th ESC FRG Coordinator

Upcoming Events:



May 14

3:00 p.m. FRG Meeting
Hattiesburg Armory

May 15

2:00 p.m. FRG Meeting
Ridgecrest Baptist Church - Madison

June 4

3:00 p.m. Statewide FRG Meeting
Hattiesburg Armory

Fundraising Update:



\$100 T-Shirt Sales

\$120 Chili's Fundraiser

\$260 Pre-sale Pancake Tickets

\$445 Pancake Tickets at the Door



FRG Chair

Ms. Angie Carnes
Cell: (601) 408-6375
Work: (601) 558-2437

Ms. Timony Winstead
(601) 209-6948

FRG Co-Chair

Ms. Kimberly Gunter
(228) 217-6698

FRG Secretary

Ms. Karen Walton
(601) 500-3261

FRG Treasurer

Ms. Brenda Walker
(601) 624-7540

FRG Fundraisers

Ms. Tamara Bullard
(601) 898-8248

Ms. Meri Drago
(601) 310-9894

FRG Phone Tree

Ms. Jamie Bowman
(601) 606-0925

FRG Facebook

Ms. Michele Williams
(601) 549-5850

FRG Newsletter

Ms. Leigh Cliburn
(601) 297-1023

Chili's in Madison Fundraiser

Chili's in Madison has partnered with the 184th ESC FRG once again for a fundraiser. On May 18, from 11:00 a.m. to 11 p.m., Chili's in Madison will donate 10% of sales when customers present a coupon from the 184th ESC FRG.

For copies of the coupons, contact Ms. Timony Winstead.

Kid's Annual Training at Camp Shelby

A unique Annual Training experience for children and grandchildren of Mississippi National Guard members and retirees at Camp Shelby. Contact Ms. Timony Winstead for more information.

My Thirty-One Online Fundraiser

Ms. Kimberly Gunter is hosting an online fundraiser at the My Thirty-One website, www.mythirtyone.com/kimberlyg129. The link will be open until 5:00 p.m. on May 24 for those interested. All proceeds will go to the 184th ESC FRG. Spread the word!

Family Photos

Ms. Carolyn Critz will be setup in the Hattiesburg armory from 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. during the June 4 FRG meeting to take family photos. The photos will be available online for download and to send to your spouse. Ms. Critz recommends wearing red, white and blue for the photos. This is a great opportunity to send a professional quality photo and message to your Soldier.

May Birthdays

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



Sgt. 1st Class John Beers	Chief Warrant Officer 3 Willie Guthrie
Chief Warrant Officer 2 William Bowman	Sgt. Maj. William Hatten
Master Sgt. Michael Box	Sgt. 1st Class Mark Lemsky
Sgt. 1st Class Kevin Burr	Spc. Ashley Macon
Maj. Christina Burton	Capt. Michelle Mobley
Sgt. Maj. Dewitt Carney	Lt. Col. James Payne
Maj. John Cochran	Master Sgt. Danny Plunkett
Master Sgt. Marshall Coleman	Petty Officer 2nd Class Andrew Reed
Lt. Col. Edward Coutha	Lt. Col. Jeffrey Ryan
Chief Warrant Officer 4 John Cowart	Sgt. 1st Class Deangelis Taylor
Capt. Gary Crist	Mr. James Williams
Master Sgt. Abel Deida	

Information provided by JSC-A, J1 Section