

TASK FORCE *Lifeliners*

August 2011

101st Sustainment Brigade

Volume 1, Issue 8

INSIDE FEATURE:

“Lost boy found”



Remembering the Fallen

Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Vangiesen

Staff Sgt. Brian K. Mowery

Sgt. Edward W. Koehler

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A Message from the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



From Wagonmaster 6

Greetings from the "Wagonmasters" to our Family Members and teammates back in the States. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve under the 101st Sustainment Brigade and to lead TF 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion into combat.

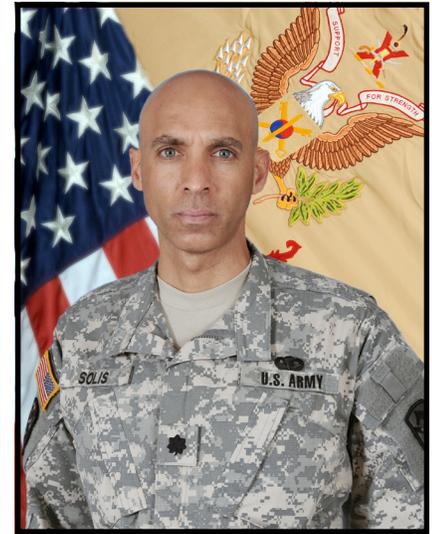
I am surrounded by an outstanding group of professionals who impress me on a daily basis with their positive actions and enthusiasm. The Soldiers are tough, ALL managing their time in order to execute our monumental logistics mission. While doing so, they are maintaining a high level readiness aimed at executing daily logistics tasks; among them: ammunition, containers, maintenance, fuel, multiple-classes of supply management, transportation of personnel, recovery, and combat logistics operations to Regional Commands East, North and Capitol. Our Team, comprised of eight companies, is getting better every day no matter the challenges ahead.

TF 142 recently hosted a prayer breakfast at the Dawson-Petree Convoy Readiness Center. The theme of this event was, "In God We Still Trust" by guest speaker Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Father Eric Albertson. Several members of the Wagonmasters family participated in the event, including Soldiers reading scriptures.

Another key event that took place this summer was the participation of our Soldiers at the Re-Affirmation and Re-Enlistment Ceremony hosted by the 1st Cavalry Division on 4th of July at Bagram Airfield. Soldiers committed additional years of service to the Army; they were re-enlisted by Gen. David Petraeus while celebrating the United States' 235 years of independence.

It is already August, time is moving fast! Our Family Members back home had the opportunity to enjoy the summer and endured the ever changing weather and the high temperatures in the Fort Bliss, Texas area. Now their focus is on "Back to School Operations". We know you safely enjoyed the 4th of July festivities and remembered the true meaning of the day which is "a day to celebrate the independence of our country, the United States of America."

Lastly, I would like to say "Thank You" for all you do back home; your support gives us energy and determination to keep fighting. Support for Strength!!



*Lt. Col. Jose Solis
Task Force 142 Commander*



*Command Sgt. Maj. Dolisha King
TF 142 Command Sergeant Major*

From Wagonmaster 9

"Every Day Blessed," from the "Wagonmasters" to our Family Members and team back in the States taking care of the Home Front. It is truly an honor and privilege to serve as the Command Sergeant Major of Task Force 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and its Families. Thank you in advance for all your prayers and supporting our and your Soldiers daily. Every day I am surrounded by an outstanding group of Brothers and Sisters who exemplify professionalism and what it means to be an American Soldier and Leader no matter their rank. Our Teams dedication and enthusiasm to accomplishing the mission is the reason we are here together as one.

Task Force 142nd is comprised of eight companies and getting better every day through continued training and taking care of one another no matter the challenges. Although here for a little under 90 days, our "Wagonmaster" Family took a tremendous loss of three Fallen Heroes and Great Americans from the 131st Transportation Company, a National Guard unit from the great state of Pennsylvania. Our three brothers of the 131st will be greatly missed, however never forgotten. The company and its leaders are moving forward to finish the mission that they were called upon to do with great pride and dignity. Our prayers are forever with the families of these Fallen Heroes.

On July 28, 2011, the Army retained another great leader in the NCO Corp in Staff. Sgt. (P) Gene Ruiz when he re enlisted indefinitely in the United States Army. This brought our Team great honor and pride to see this great American and his family once again sacrifices for our Nation.

The Soldiers of "Wagonmaster" Team have also embarked on providing Humanitarian Aid on numerous missions. Your Soldiers have also been volunteering at the Egyptian Hospital here on Bagram Airfield, bringing various goodies to the children who go there for medical care. I've also implemented movie night for our junior Soldiers to build cohesion and change the pace of our op-tempo mission to ensure the Soldiers can relax from time to time.

For the mothers and fathers holding the family together, I would like to say thank you from the bottom of my heart. When our Nation calls our Soldiers, no one knows what an Army Family goes through during these rough times so if you need anything please reach out to our Family Support Groups. The first day of school is approaching and it can be quite demanding. Moms and dads take a deep breath and everything will be just fine. Once fall is here, Christmas is around the corner. So what I'm saying is, the deployment is flying by and your Soldiers will be coming home on Rest and Recuperation soon. Cherish that time and make time for one another and love one another!

SAFETY THOUGHTS

EyePro – More Than Just A Good Idea

Making protective safety equipment fashionable and less “nerd-ish” has proven to be a major challenge in the world of safety and occupational health. Even at work, people don’t like to wear clunky, goofy-looking personal protective equipment (PPE). The lack of acceptance makes the job of enforcing safety requirements and preventing injuries very difficult. A few years ago, safety glasses manufacturers began making cool, sleek protective eyewear, the kind you might want to wear while driving to and from your job. One producer struck gold when it paid for the rights to put the Harley Davidson logo on their glasses and hard hats. The PPE flew off the shelf. Here’s the pitch on the webpage: “It’s how workers look and feel when they have them on. It is the power of knowing that when you wear Harley Davidson safety glasses, your image is as protected as your eyes.” Protecting the image. The Army Special Ops community, concerned with protecting their Soldiers, bought and issued the cool PPE and – lo, and behold – people started wearing it properly. And, of course, the image was protected.

All Army-approved protective eyewear has one thing in common. It is engineered to protect your eyes from explosions. There are numerous choices which don’t look silly or goofy. However, some Soldiers continue to wear faddish or stylish eyewear on convoys. One blast from an IED and they run the risk of being blinded, but hey, their image is protected, right? Maybe they’ll be given a really neat white cane that will turn heads as they feel their way down the sidewalk. Or maybe a mean, tough-looking guide dog. That’s the risk you’re taking when you toss aside Army eye-pro. Another common practice is to take off the glasses while riding in the back of the MRAP. That’s a bad idea. A recent IED attack proves this and confirms the value of wearing Army-approved protective eyewear.

On July 20, 2011, a Task Force Lifeline Soldier was riding behind the driver in an MRAP on a convoy. He was the assistant gunner and was properly wearing all his Army-approved gear. An armor-piercing rocket-propelled grenade struck the side of the vehicle, penetrating the armor. The projectile traveled across the cargo area and struck the window behind the driver, detonating and spraying shrapnel. The assistance gunner’s head was within inches of the detonation. Metal shards peppered his face, but his eyes were protected. Without the ballistically-tolerant glasses he would probably have been blinded. He’s not interested in the white cane or guide dog; he’s currently recovering and wants everyone to know how important it is to wear eye-pro correctly, even when no one is watching.

The pictures accompanying this article speak volumes about the wisdom of wearing Army-issued eyewear. 1st Lt. Anthony Aguilar, a Platoon Leader assigned to B Company, Task Force 2-1 Infantry, 172nd Stryker BCT, was deployed to Mosul, Iraq. His words:

“Our patrol was struck by a massive IED on Feb. 28, 2006, launching shrapnel and debris at high velocities toward the vehicle. I was thrown into the hull of the Stryker and later discovered that my eyepro prevented a shard of shrapnel from contacting my face, saving my eyesight and preventing serious injury. The shrapnel punctured the lens, but did not penetrate.”

Not wearing your Army-approved eye protection? Think again – and learn from those within our own ranks who have their sight because they followed procedures when no one was looking.



Jay Jennings

TF Lifeliners Safety Officer



Articles of Faith

The Right kind of Attitude

“For God has not given us a spirit of fearfulness, but one of power, love, and sound judgment.”
(2 Timothy 1:7 Holman CSB)

Are you fearful, angry, bored, or worried? Are you pessimistic, perplexed, pained and perturbed? If so, God wants to have a little talk with you.

God created you in His own image, and He wants you to experience joy, contentment, peace, and abundance. But, God will not force you to experience these things; you must claim them for yourself.

God has given you free will, including the ability to influence the direction and the tone of your thoughts. And here’s how God wants you to direct those thoughts:

“Finally brothers, whatever is true, whatever is honorable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is commendable – if there is any moral excellence and if there is praise – dwell on these things.” (Philippians 4:8 Holman CSB)
So, the next time you find yourself dwelling on the negative aspects of your life, refocus your attention on things positive. The next time you find yourself falling prey to the blight of pessimism, stop yourself and turn your thoughts around. The next time you’re tempted to waste valuable time gossiping or complaining, resist those temptations with all your might.
And remember: you’ll never whine your way to the top ... so don’t waste your breath.

Something to think about ...

“We are either the masters or the victims of our attitudes. It is a matter of personal choice. Who we are today is the result of the choices we made yesterday. Tomorrow, we will become what we choose today. To change means to choose change.” -John Maxwell

“We shouldn’t deny the pain of what happens in our lives. But, we should refuse to focus only on the valleys.” -Charles Swindoll

“Pain is inevitable, but misery is optional.” – Max Lucado

“Attitude is more important than the past, than education, than money, than circumstances, than what people do or say. It is more important than appearance, giftedness, or skill.” -Charles Swindoll

“The greater part of our happiness or misery depends on our dispositions, and not our circumstances.” - Martha Washington

Timely Tip

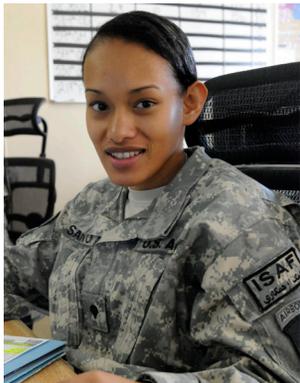
If you’re a Christian, you have every reason on Earth – and in Heaven – to have a positive attitude.

“From the book, ‘100 Daily Devotions for people who serve on the Front Line’



Around the Compound

“What are you going to do when you get home?”



“ I’m going to get some real food, go for a long drive with my husband, and go shopping. ”

Spc. Doioko Santos
Awards Clerk
101st Sustainment Brigade

“ I’m going to get reacquainted with my family, go on a vacation, then prepare for my transition out of the Army. ”

Sgt. Haneka Pugh
Standard Army Maintenance System 2 Manager,
101st Sustainment Brigade



“ I’m buying a brand new luxury intermediate SUV! Either a Lexus, BMW, Mercedes Benz or Range Rover! ”

Capt. Temika Davis
Logistics Section Officer in Charge
101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade



“ The first thing I’m going to do is buy some new tires for my bike, then my wife and I are going to ride to Nashville to get new tattoos. I’m also taking my son to Wisconsin Dells because he made honor roll this year. ”

Pvt. Jordan Brooks
Repair and Upgrade Team
101st Sustainment Brigade



Announcements

Awards

This past month, Lifeliners received:

9 Purple Hearts

1 Bronze Star Medal with Valor

16 Bronze Star Medals

211 Army Commendation Medals

8 Joint Service Commendation Medals

16 Joint Service Achievement Medals



Photo of the Month

"A mission with PSD"
by Sgt. 1st Class Mary Perez

*submit your best photo to the
PAO team to become the "Photo of the Month"*



Promotions

Congratulations to these newly promoted Lifeliners

Cpt. Matthew Mace

Cpt. Jonathan Andol

Cpt. Robert Perkins

Sgt. Jeffrey J. Peterson

Sgt. Michael Choi

Sgt. Larry Deweese

Sgt. Ronald Haitz

Sgt. Sarah Keegan

Sgt. Maryann Adam

Pfc. Alexandra Richardson



Reenlistments

Sgt. Patrick Murray

Sgt. Lenin Santana

“Mavericks” deliver aid to Afghan village

Battalion seeks to improve relations with Afghans through words, actions

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Afghan truck drivers loaded their vehicles this past week with much-needed supplies from the Bagram Airfield Humanitarian Assistance Yard to support a humanitarian aid mission in Regional Command North.

The 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, spear-headed the relief effort to provide rice, beans, flour, cooking oil, coal, tarps, prayer rugs and hygiene for the villagers in the town of Sar –E Pol, located in the Balkh Province, said Navy Chief Petty Officer Tychicious Turner, noncommissioned officer in charge for the Bagram Humanitarian Assistance Yard.

The relief effort is part of the Commanders Emergency Relief Program, a program designed to have a positive, immediate effect on the local population. Such relief efforts are an integral part in International Security Assistance Force Commander Gen. David Petraeus’ Counter –Insurgency strategy to “win the hearts and minds” of the Afghan population – a strategy not lost on the Mavericks battalion.

“Since we’ve transitioned from a very straightforward ‘us vs. them’ campaign, we’ve come to realize that the human terrain is just as important as the physical terrain,” said 2nd Lt. Donovan Sullivan, supply and services officer, 142nd CSSB, 101st Sus. Bde. “In providing that humanitarian relief effort where we can, we’re proving to the people that your welfare is important to us.”

Turner said the battalion worked with the 170th Sustainment Brigade to provide support for the villagers whose food and water supply had suffered during a drought which caused a shortage of crops.

“A request was put in that there were roughly 30,000 people starving out there in need of food, supply and some clothing items,” said.

The battalion sent more than 650,000 pounds of supplies to the villagers, Turner said. The supplies- valued at \$1.1 million U.S. dollars-were enough to support the population of a small Midwestern or Southern town in the states, he said.

Sullivan said ensuring that the villagers had ample food and water was a top priority in the relief mission.

“That’s what gets damaged very quickly. There’s not a lot of fresh water supply here and what food is here can spoil or damaged very quickly, so that’s what needs to be replaced,” he said. “Once the immediate needs are addressed, we can start working on re-building or improving on the infrastructure if we can.”

Sullivan said while geographically the Humanitarian Assistance Yard is a small mission, its impact on the region is not.

“The command is very big on it, and they definitely place it as a high priority,” he said. “The transition to the ‘hearts and mind’ mindset makes the people of Afghanistan very important in a way that they have not been before. Keeping that in mind, the battalion is very big on expanding this effort and improving our relationship with the yard.”

Lt. Col. Jose Solis, commander of the 142nd CSSB, said the battalion is proud of the current partnership with the Bagram Airfield Humanitarian Assistance Team, whose mission is to simply support and reinforce the principle of the equal worth of every human being.

“We are working together aimed at reaching the common goal of a better future for the citizens of Afghanistan,” Solis said.

Sullivan also said the battalion’s humanitarian mission is not just confined to the yard. “It’s something we make an effort toward every time we deal with the Afghans,” he said.

“A lot of the truckers and interpreters have complained in the past that when they go out on convoys with some of the units they weren’t always treated well. The colonel has put out firm guidance that they are to be treated as we want to be treated. It’s one thing to say we support the Afghan people, but we have to put our words into action. That’s what he’s driving for.” ♦

(Editor’s Note: Cpl. Sarah Keegan, a Unit Public Affairs Representative for the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, contributed to the article.)



Staff Sgt. William Lyons of the 584th Supply Maintenance Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, loads bags of flour into the back of a truck Bagram Humanitarian Yard. The battalion recently sent more than 600,000 pounds of supplies to a local village of Sar-E Pol, which was suffering from a drought. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

‘Life support’ for truckers

Construction of truck “rest stop” serves dual purpose for local national drivers, Lifeliners

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – The Convoy Staging Yard at Bagram Airfield is considered a “home away from home” for many of the host nation truckers who convene there.

On any given day, the drivers converge there after completing a long haul through the dusty terrain. Once they arrive, they can line up outside a conex filled with Meals-Ready-to-Eat or Halal meals and grab a packet or two for chow. They can spend anywhere from two to three days on the road just to get to Bagram Airfield, and then spend an additional several days waiting there for their next mission.

The 101st Sustainment Brigade is hoping to make the truckers stay a little more comfortable by creating what is called a “Life Support Center” for them. In short, the center is essentially a truck stop where once completed, the truckers will have a place to relax in between drives, brigade officials said.

The center also helps continue the line of communication between the brigade and the truckers. “It makes their lives easier. They know we’re here to support them, and in turn they support us,” said Staff Sgt. Lauro Flores, convoy staging noncommissioned officer in charge, 236th Inland Cargo Transportation Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade.

The center will consist of a prayer tent for the truckers to conduct their daily prayers, an outdoor water tank that will allow them wash themselves, a convenience store for snacks, and a restaurant for meals. Flores said the concept of the center originally grew out wanting to give the drivers another option for their meals.

“We’ve heard complaints from them that the MREs did not agree with their digestive systems,” he said. “They like the Halal meals we provide them, but they get tired of eating it every day, just like a normal Soldier would get tired of eating the same meals all the time. This restaurant would give them a different venue to get food.”

Flores said the Soldiers noticed the truckers in the back of their trucks praying at certain hours of the day, and determined that a central prayer area was needed for them as well.

The convenience store and restaurant are being constructed out of hollowed

out conexes. Construction has already begun at the site, and the store and restaurant are intended to be operational sometime next month, Flores said.

Capt. Jim Chesier, the brigade Law Enforcement Protection officer in charged, said there were several advantages to having a center such as the one being constructed from a force protection standpoint.

“Before, the drivers would roam around looking for food and water. This keeps them centrally located and easier to be found, especially for no-notice missions we give them, or if we have to conduct searches of their vehicles for narcotics, or health and welfare type issue.”

He also echoed Flores’ statements about the importance of the center.

This restaurant will give them another option, and when asked, the drivers said they’d be willing to purchase food, water, and beverages of their choosing,” he said. “They want to see this, and they want additional food sources that don’t tear up their stomachs.”

While Chesier said truckers are doing the coalition forces a favor and service by supporting their efforts while deployed here, Flores said the intelligence information they receive from the drivers about the Afghan roads is valuable.

“They’re pretty adamant about providing us intel when it comes to letting us know what routes are dangerous,” he said. “For example, if I asked for volunteers to go to Kandahar, they’ll tell me the exact day they do not want to go. For intel gatherers, it makes their jobs easier to learn what’s going on. They’ll tell us if there’s danger in a certain area.”

“There’s no one in Afghanistan besides the 101st Sustainment Brigade that travels more time on the road than these host nation truck drivers. The intelligence piece they bring to us and the positive benefits of it are almost immeasurable.” ♦



Spc. Shaun Donahue of the 584th Maintenance Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, provides an Afghan driver with bottled water and a Halal meal. The drivers will soon have a place to get cooked food, a place to pray and wash themselves at the soon-to-be constructed Life Support Center. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

A justifiable recovery

JRADS system proving its worth in Afghanistan

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Soldiers with the 101st Sustainment Brigade are no strangers to the effectiveness of the Army's new Joint Recovery and Distribution System. It was their input and recommendations that directly resulted in the equipment's fielding to Operation Enduring Freedom.

The vehicle's effectiveness in a combat environment showed itself as the 584th Maintenance Company recently used the JRADS to recover a downed Apache helicopter. It took the recovery approximately four hours to safely recover and transport the aircraft back to Bagram Air Field, company officials said.

"The mission validated it. The JRADS definitely does what it is supposed to do," said 1st Lt. Krystal Hertenstein, executive officer of the 584th Maint. Co., 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sus. Bde.

This was the fourth recovery mission the company has conducted since being deployed to Afghanistan this past April in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. Sgt. Brandon Allen, a wheel vehicle mechanic with the 584th Maint. Co., said the unit has also recovered a bulldozer, a wrecker, and a Mine Resistance Ambush Protected Vehicle.

Allen, who was a member of the recent Apache recovery mission, said the recovery team consisted of two JRADS and a Mine-resistant Recovery Vehicle, a new wrecker system the Army is also fielding. The team headed to an area close to BAF to retrieve the Apache, he said.

Allen said the recovery mission was made easier with having two JRADS on the scene. "We put the front portion of the Apache on one

JRADS, and the rear portion and other sensitive items from the aircraft on the other," he said.

The sergeant sang the praises of the JRADS system. "It was great for the mission. It worked perfect. The length of it gave us enough clearance to get everything loaded up on one trip," he said. "The JRADS ability to lower its trailer out there helped out a lot because we didn't have to lift the Apache any higher than we needed to."

The 101st Sustainment Brigade began training on the JRADS system this past year back at Fort Campbell. The recovery team worked closely with designers at Boeing on training with the new system, as well as providing insight into what would make the new system more combat effective.

The brigade also sent a team to Scott Air Force Base in Illinois to test and demonstrate the improvements made to the system this past summer.

The company deployed to Afghanistan in April, and began training on the new system here in Afghanistan.

Allen, like many of the Soldiers operating the JRADS system here, said he conducted recovery missions while deployed to Iraq and noticed the differences between the two regions.

"The terrain and drivability on some of the roads there in Iraq were much better there," he said. "Using the other recovery vehicles that we used in Iraq here would have been more difficult, but the JRADS turning radius makes it easier for us to maneuver out there."

Hertenstein said the combination of the JRADS and MRV made the vehicle recovery mission much better.

"They are a perfect complement to each other every step of the way," she said. ♦



The Joint Recovery and Distribution System is proving successful in vehicle recovery in Afghanistan. Here, Soldiers with the 584th Maintenance Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, use the JRADS to recover a downed Apache helicopter. (Courtesy photo)

A generation removed

Lifeliners officer discovers Soldier is daughter of his former Soldier

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – It's not uncommon for family members to serve together in a combat operation, or even unusual for former drill sergeants to eventually serve with one of the Soldiers they trained during basic training.

The Army is chock-full of stories of parents and children, married couples, and siblings all deployed together in theater. Being a Soldier, however, who's led both a parent and their child at different points of one's career is something entirely different.

Such is the case for Lt. Col. Robert Eoff, who has the unique distinction of falling in this particular category. He recently learned that one of the Soldiers in the brigade – Pfc. Jasmine Edwards – is the daughter of one of his former platoon sergeants back in his days as a young officer at Fort Bragg, N.C.

Eoff, the executive officer for the 101st Sustainment Brigade, said he even knew Edwards when she was a baby. Her mother, then Sgt. Andrea Notice-Mitchell, was one of Eoff's ammunition managers at the Materiel Munitions Center, and would bring baby Jasmine to the office on occasions, he said.

"Never in my wildest dreams did I think her daughter would be serving with me in the same unit in combat," Eoff said. "It is pretty rare when you hear that a Soldier you worked with has a child that is under the same care, if you will, of that same leader a generation removed."

Edwards, a brigade computer automations specialist, said she concurred with Eoff, but was not surprised.

"I was just like, 'Oh my God!' My mom knows a lot of people, so it's kind of normal, but still kind of shocking," she said.

Eoff said he first met Edwards' mother, who is now a retired Sergeant 1st Class, when they were assigned to the 8th Ordnance Company at Fort Bragg, where he was a platoon leader and she (then known as Sgt. Mitchell) was one of his squad leaders. They worked together again when they were both assigned to the MMC, he said.

"She was one of my best squad leaders," he said. "We worked together there for about two years, and then when I moved up to the MMC, she was reassigned there and worked as one of my ammunition managers for about a year-and-a-half."

Eoff said Sgt. Mitchell got married and became Sgt. Notice-Jones and was expecting while there. When she had Edwards, he said Edwards' mother would bring her to the office and "do the things that most parents do with a baby."

"She'd show her off, parade her around, and pass her around to folks, and take all kinds of pictures," he said.

He said he learned about the relationship recently as he was having some computer issues and went to the help desk, where Jones was talking on the telephone with her mother.

"I told her I would come back later," Eoff said.

Edwards said her mother asked who was asking for her daughter, and when she told her, things started to click. Her mother then asked for the spelling of the XO's last name, and realized she knew him, she said.

"She was like, 'I know him!' and I told her,

'No you don't, chill out,'" she said.

Edwards said her mother asked to speak to Eoff, so she went to his office to deliver the message. "He gave me this real shocked look," she said. "He got up and came and talked to her and realized who she was."

Edwards said Eoff and her mother talked for about 30 minutes, catching up on old times. "He said he knew me when I was a baby, and he knew my sister and my dad ... it was crazy," she said.

Eoff said he recognized Edwards' mother's laugh immediately. He also said he and Jones' mother kept in touch some during the years, writing each other Christmas cards, and would often visit her at Fort Bragg after she retired at the cemetery where she worked outside Spring Lake gate between 2001 and 2005.

"We had a general idea of what we were doing and who our families were," he said.

Eoff said he sees a lot of similarities between Edwards and her mother.

"She's very conscientious, wants to do a good job, is professional at all times and has good military bearing," he said. "You can tell that she is disciplined and that she learned that from her parents, who were both military. She's got the background as a military child, and as a Soldier herself."

He also said she's a lot like her mother in her personal demeanor. "She smiles a lot, she's always happy... her mother was quite interesting to have as a squad leader because she could go from that Mother Hen-type to being very strict if you got out of line. It made her very effective as a leader."

Edwards said the lieutenant colonel shared with her a few stories about serving with her mother. "He told me that she was a really good noncommissioned officer, and that I should strive to be like her if I decide to stay in," she said. ♦



Pfc. Jasmine Edwards (left) and Lt. Col. Robert Eoff of the 101st Sustainment Brigade pose underneath the brigade "Deathstar" in Afghanistan. The two share a unique history because Edwards' mother was a squad leader under Eoff's command early in his military career. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

Lost boy found

Faith, focus kept "Lost Boy of Sudan" alive

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DEH DADI II, Afghanistan – 1st Lt. Gabriel Chol Deng said he does not envy his fellow officers when they speak fondly of their childhood memories, but he does find himself having to walk away from those particular conversations.

Instead of enjoying a carefree youth and adolescence, Deng spent several years as an orphan separated from his family and as a guerilla fighter in his native Sudan. He was one of the infamous, "Lost Boys of Sudan," one of thousands of displaced boys whose youth was marred by violence, brutality and survival.

And while Deng admits it's sometimes hard to remember those hardships of his past, he said he chooses not to dwell on them.

"I told myself if I can go through this, God would guard me and I can grow up," "It was always the hopes and dreams of my parents that I would get through this."

Deng was one of the 3,800 boys who were allowed to enter the United States under refugee status in 2001. After settling in the U.S., he went on to obtain a degree in Political Science from the University of Missouri and join the Army.

He is assigned to the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, where he works in a variety of support elements, including working with the Combined Action Team, and pay agent for the Command Emergency Response Program.

The story of Deng and his fellow "Lost Boys" is well-known: more than 20,000 boys from Southern Sudan were forced to flee from their villages during a Civil War in their country. They faced many hardships, including disease, starvation, wild animal attacks and enemy soldiers as they walked more than 1,000 miles to safety at villages in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Deng, 32, said he was nine-years-old when his ordeal began. Sudan had long been divided into two separate nations where the Muslims occupied Northern Sudan, and the Christians were located primarily in the Southern region.

According to the website, "The Alliance for the Lost Boys of Sudan," Northern Sudan sought to unite the country under Islamic rule, prompting Southern Sudan to rebel.

"The government was going through political difference, which intensified in 1983 when the Southern Sudan decided not to cooperate with the Northern government anymore," he said.

Deng said from that point, the Southern Sudanese began fighting back, going to Ethiopia to train as guerilla fighters. By 1987, the guerillas had increased their numbers from 500 to 20,000 fighters, Deng said. At that point, they begin to use intimidation tactics on the southern villages.

Boys from the Southern were quickly recruited into the war effort, he said. "That's when we were told by the government that all the boys in Southern Sudan were to be taken away from their villages and sent to the guerilla camps to train as fighters," he said.

Deng said that he could not fight against his own people, and decided to flee. "You had to make a choice to either run away to where you believe is more secure or go back and fight against your own village," he said. "We had some adults with us who said, 'we don't know where we're going, but we'll guide you all the way until you get to Ethiopia.'"

Deng said he left with the other boys for Ethiopia in 1987 and stayed there for five years. While there, he said if the boys who started getting taller were conscripted to join the Guerilla fighters.

"I had an older brother with me who told me my father, uncle, and other two older brothers were fighting, so let's wait until you grow up and turn will come," he said.

The government was overthrown in the 1990s, Deng said. That is when he decided to go back to Southern Sudan. Heading back, he said he and his group ran across with a group of soldiers near a small town who warned there were government troops who were waiting for them ahead.

"We did not have weapons, and the town leader said they had weapons. So, we got AK-47's and from there we never gave them up," he said.

Deng said it was at that point that the boys decided not to go back to the refugee camp or the village, opting instead to become guerilla fighters. He was 16-years-old, and spent several years fighting and enduring hardship, he said.

MORE "LOST BOY" ON PAGE 13



BACKGROUND PHOTO: 1st Lt. Gabriel Chol Deng endured many hardships as one of the "Lost Boys of Sudan." Today, he is a Soldier assigned to the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)



"LOST BOY"

One of those hardships was the death of his brothers, Deng said. "I thought they were just asleep in front of me," he said. "I'm just sitting next to them, and all day long they would not wake up."

He said some of the people who realized what actually happened took him away from the site where his brothers were laying; telling him to let them sleep and that they'd wake up at any time. "When I came back, their bodies were gone," he said. "So I sat down there and waited for them to come back. Three days later, I realized what happened, so I just focused on myself and what to do."

In 1995, Deng said he and 30 other fighters were told to attend school at a refugee camp with the purpose of returning to the battle. He and his group were ambushed by government troops while enroute to the camp.

"A grenade was thrown and some of the shrapnel went into my leg, and some in stomach," he said.

Deng said many in the group were injured. They were taken to the refugee camp where

they received medical attention. He also received an opportunity to attend school while there. Then in 1998, a representative from the U.S. arrived.

"He saw there were a lot of boys hanging around and then to the far side of the camp and found the girls over there," he said.

Deng said one year later, the "Lost Boys of Sudan" project started, where medical experts were sent to the camp to interview the boys about their experiences as refugees. "They looked to see what experiences we had gone through, and decided if we send them to the states for help, it might help them," he said.

"The Lost Boys" began arriving in the U.S. in December 2000. Deng himself finally arrived in the U.S. in May 2001. He said at the time he believed only white people lived in the U.S., so he was surprised to be greeted at the airport by a black person.

"He was light-skinned, and kept calling my name, but I wouldn't respond back," he said. "I started to walk away and he kept following me. I finally stopped and asked him why, and he told me he was my sponsor. But because he

was light-skinned and shaved head, I thought he was Arab."

The man took Deng to his church, where he began the slow process of re-building his life. He lived in an apartment with fellow Lost Boys and began to adjust to life in America.

Deng joined the Army in 2009, opting to go into support instead of the infantry. "I had already done infantry stuff, and I wanted to be a job where I could help people," he said.

Deng said when he received his commission, he showed it to his fellow "Lost Boys," which resulted in some of them joining the Army as well.

The Civil War in Sudan has ended, and the young lieutenant said eventually he wants to return to Sudan and help his people. The one thing he wants people and his fellow "Lost Boys" to learn from his story is faith and perseverance.

"Even though things were hard, I never lost focus on my dreams and goals," he said. "My goal was to make my family proud and carry on our name. If you don't let the past control you, you will make it." ♦

As far as the imagination can take you

Soldier's artistic talent leaving a lasting impression

by Cpl. Sarah Keegan

142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,
101st Sustainment Brigade

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Being deployed in a combat theater can dull one's joys, but that is not the case with Sgt. Michael James Dunn, an ammunition supply manager with the 592nd Ordnance Company, 142nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade.

Dunn has made the most of his deployment and has helped spread, "Esprit de Corps," by using his artistic talent to create more than 30 logos, 13 of which have become Unit and special events T-shirts and three that have been made into challenge coins.

After trying his hand on graphic designing for a close friends screen printing business back home, Dunn realized his talents in designing logos and web design.

"I'm no commercial graphic designer, but I like to think I can interpret peoples wants fairly accurately," Dunn said, as he described being able to see potential in even the most mundane things.

Dunn joined the Army in 1989 as an active duty Soldier and was stationed at Fort Hood, Texas, where he was a member of the 1st Cavalry Division's Honor Guard and said he learned the importance of history.

"It really is a pride thing...that really gave me a deep appreciation for unit pride, and substantially changed the way I look at unit history," he said.

Now a reservist stationed out of Billings, Montana, Dunn said he wants Soldiers to look at his designs and think about the meaning behind it. "Give it to someone, it's what it is,

but if you were to personalize it, engrave it, heck, paint it pink and it becomes a story, an icon, something to be proud of," Dunn said.

Combining a unit's past, present and future is no easy task, when asked to create a logo. Dunn said he takes into consideration the things or mascots an organization uses for reference to create an updated and attractive design that he hopes not only represents the units history to date but also a progressive future.

"I get a joy from seeing a unit brought together once they receive their shirts, they strut a bit, and it gives me pride to know I helped with that."

Dunn receives full support from his unit in his designs and he gives credit to his team for their support when he is creating. While he often receives individual recognition, he said it would not be possible without the company's support.

Since he has been deployed to Camp Phoenix, Dunn has been taking Marketing classes, and preparing for the possibility of taking his artistic ability to the next level.

Dunn is a full-time welder when he is not on reserve duty. He said

he enjoys spending time with his family and working on cars with them.

"We're a 'hotrod family'. I enjoy being a custom auto painter. Part of my desire to do artwork derives from here. I love doing it. So in a way, I'm designing here to fill that desire, I guess," he said. ♦

Editor's Note: Cpl. Sarah Keegan is the Unit Public Affairs Representative for the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas. The battalion currently is assigned to the 101st Sustainment Brigade while deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Sgt. Michael Dunn, an ammunition supply manager with the 592nd Ordnance Company, 142nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, poses next to the custom T-shirts and coins he created while deployed to Afghanistan. (courtesy photo)

A “tedious,” but helpful process

Reserve MP detachment helps take stress out of going home

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – The soldiers entering the Bagram Air Field Customs terminal have only one thing on their mind at the moment: getting back stateside and reuniting with their loved ones.

They’ve carefully packed their bags to include some extra mementos of their tour of duty here. The only thing left standing between them and the plane ride home is this place. One by one, they unpack their once carefully packed bags and have their belongings searched by the customs agents of the 45th Military Police Detachment.

It’s a long process, and can test one’s patience. The customs agents, however, reassure them it’s not only for their best interest, but pays off in the end.

“These soldiers just want to go home once they back to wherever they’re going. We do the check here in country, so when they arrive, all they have to do is gather their things and leave,” said Master Sgt. Robert Shepherd, customs and operations noncommissioned officer in charge, 45th MP Det.

The detachment, an Army Reserve unit from Columbus, Neb., assigned to the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, have been in Afghanistan since April, and is responsible for checking all baggage and

containers belonging to units as they head home from deployment.

“Our mission basically is to pre-clear everybody that’s leaving theater,” said Capt. Orin Orchard, detachment commander. “Everybody going back to the United States has to go through customs. And that’s just to make sure that there no items going back that they’re not authorized to have.”

“Everybody hates the customs guy. We’re not doing this to see how you pack your bags. It’s to protect not only everyone in the unit and the United States, but to also to make sure they’re taking things back that they think are OK that might get them into trouble later.”

Both Orchard and Shepherd said each soldier is briefed on what can and cannot be taken out of country, and has ample opportunity to discard items that won’t make the cut in the various Amnesty boxes.

What is unique about the detachment is that they not only enforce customs rules, but also rules from the U.S. Department of Agriculture. Shepherd said that allows them to look closely inside containers to ensure that no foreign soils enter the U.S.

“The problem is dirt is different from wherever country you’re in,” he said. “Dirt is composed of all kinds of stuff, to include animal and insect feces. We have to be careful that large quantities don’t get back to the

states. Any type of a micro-organism that get introduced back home might flourish there and possibly go rampant,” he said.

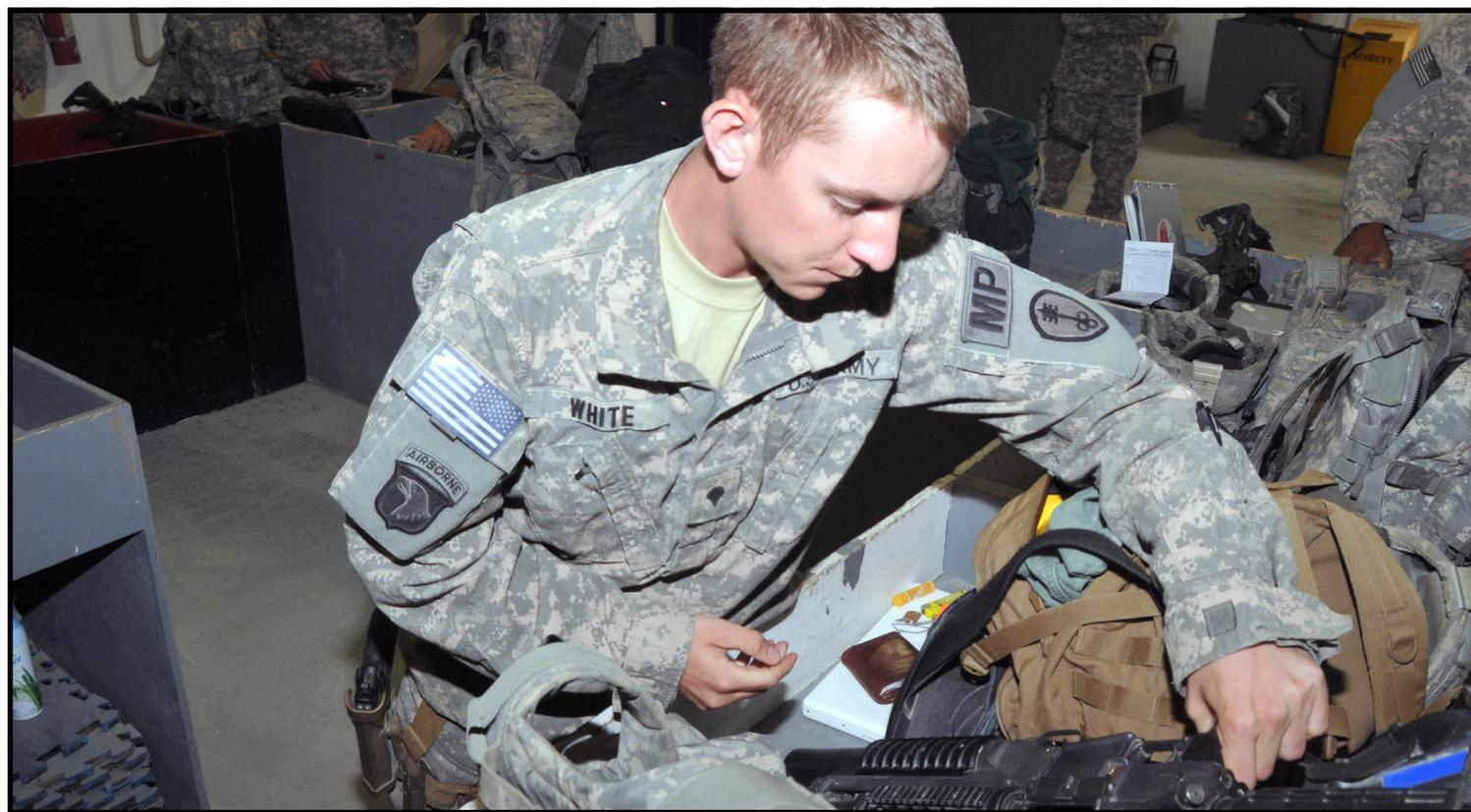
The amount of soldiers and cargo going through BAF customs vary, officials said. Shepherd said they inspected more than 1,200 various containers and more than 5,000 passengers from June 16th through July 16.

The detachment inspects anything ranging from weapons and spent ammunition rounds, to fruits and vegetables, animal fur, and even clumps of soil, dust and dirt. They also have soldiers assigned to Kandahar, and travel to various Forward Operating Bases to conduct container inspections.

“Once the customs agents see our seal on the containers, they know it’s been checked, and you’re free to go,” he said.

Some of the things the customs agents find and confiscate can be unusual: one recent inspection yielded an antler horn from a small animal that appeared to be browning. Orchard said a turtle was once discovered in one of the Amnesty boxes.

“It turned out to be an endangered species Russian tortoise when we first got here,” he said. “We took it to the vet services and turned it over to over to them, and from that point, we don’t know what happened.” ♦



Spc. Levi White, a customs agent for the 45th Military Police Detachment, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, checks the weapon and baggage of a soldier heading home from deployment. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

“Respect the Mike”

“Poetry Night” offers servicemembers, civilians chance to express themselves

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – The military has long been a breeding ground for many servicemembers who have gone on to achieve fame and fortune in world of sports and entertainment.

For the more creative types, the organizers of “Poetry Night” at the Koehle Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at Bagram Air Field present a twice-monthly event that offers aspiring poets, writers and other “expressionists” a chance to share their love for writing and the spoken word with their fellow servicemembers.

“We wanted to create an alternative to the nightlife here on Bagram that is creative, spontaneous, and gives them an outlet to express themselves,” said Maj. Walter Dunn III, a contracting officer at the Bagram Air Field Regional Contracting Office, and one of the creators of “Poetry Night.”

It’s something that has definitely caught on at BAF. Approximately 100 servicemembers and civilians recently packed the small MWR movie theater to hear the latest literary offerings from their peers.

Spc. Vaughn Jenkins, who is assigned to Task Force Odin, 306th Military Intelligence Battalion, is one such aspiring artist who climbed onto the stage. A regular attendee at the events, he’s prepared to express himself yet again in front of an eager crowd ready to hang on his every word.

Jenkins, whose stage name in “Von G,” crawled out of his comfort zone and committed his poetry to memory instead of reading from a script. Unfortunately, halfway through his piece, he started forgetting the words. And this is where his story truly began.

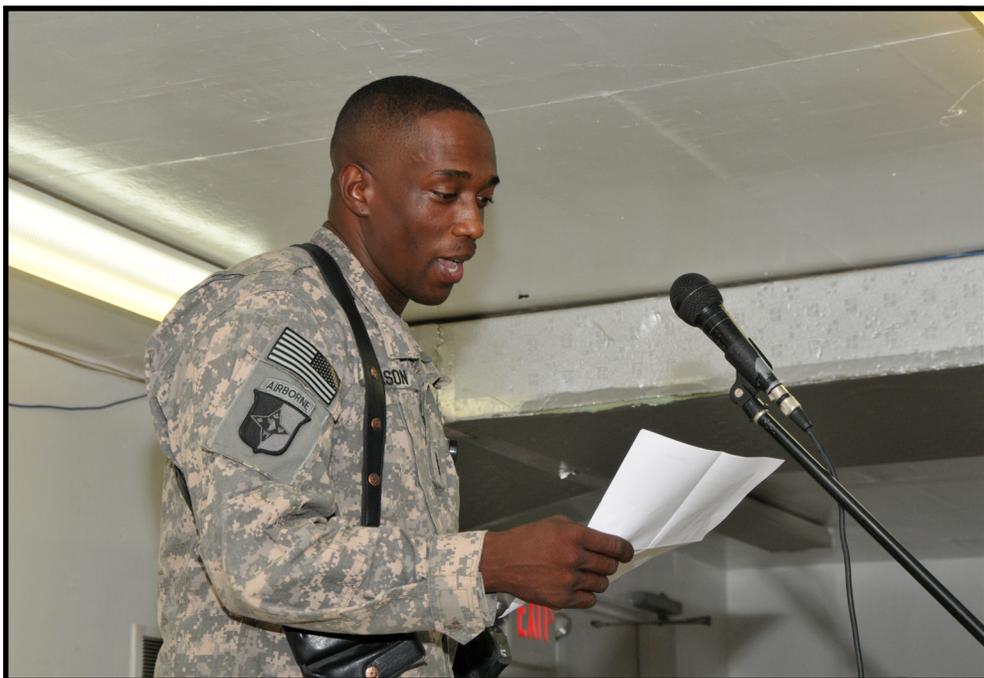
Instead of being booed off the stage, the crowd encouraged and cheered him on as he stumbled on his words. Finally, someone in the audience told him to “freestyle,” that is, make it something off the top of his head. And that is what Jenkins eventually did.

He found the words to express what he wanted to say, finished his piece and walked off the stage to applause from the audience for his ability to recover. “I tried to do my piece by memory at first,” Jenkins said. “The rhyming part was hard, but it ended up coming out right.”

Dunn said he originally came up with the idea of hosting a Poetry Night while he was assigned to Kandahar Airfield.

“It did very well there, so I thought it would do the same here at BAF,” he said.

He and a small team began putting out fliers announcing the event, and started hosting events in mid-February. It finally caught on,



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Keith Anderson of the 101st Sustainment Brigade Support Operations, shares his words during “Poetry Night” at the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Center at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. The event offers servicemembers a creative outlet for relaxation while deployed in a combat environment. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

he said, and has grown steadily since.

“We’ve been able to fill seats, and have people standing in the room,” he said.

The topics vary from poet to poet, which, according to Staff Sgt. James Menard, gives each event an energy that makes it special.

“It’s a free range of everything here ... inspiration, something funny, something comical, something serious... the whole nine yards,” he said. “Someone might even bring an instrument here. You never know what to expect.”

There are three general rules regarding participation in the Poetry Night: (1) No bashing the chain of command; (2) no bashing other’s religious views, and (3) be adults, but watch your language.

“If every other word coming out of your mouth rhymes with “spit,” or “luck” or “witch”, you’re not getting onstage,” said Christopher Capps, event host and poet who goes by the name, “Spoken Swirl.”

“We’re all here as a group to inspire each other, and we don’t want to necessarily touch any feelings or political views, but we do preach freedom of speech, in terms of people talking about their past, their present, or their friends who died on a mission.”

“You may want to think of another forum to express yourself, because it’s not here,” Dunn said.

Capps said there are times when Poetry Night offers servicemembers a therapeutic

session about their lives in a combat environment. One poet delivered a moving piece about his thoughts of fallen Heroes during a ramp ceremony titled, “Four Humvees.”

“It can get deep in there sometimes to the point it’s opening people’s eyes and inspiring the Soldiers. That’s why we do this; it serves as an outlet for them,” he said.

Menard, a noncommissioned officer in charge of the 101st Sustainment Brigade Support Operations Food Advisors, got onstage and offered his take on the stressors Soldiers face not only on the battlefield, but also being away from family and loved ones.

“We’re about passionate poetry. It’s nothing too grotesque, or politically correct or incorrect. It’s all about how you feel. If you want to share, then share,” he said.

Capps said he was amazed at how poetry can inspire the servicemember’s creativity, and that it serves the purpose of helping them relieve their energy and stress in a positive manner.

“One poem can have three poets come out the next week and write about something that’s been in their hearts and on their minds for a long time,” he said. “Some people don’t know how to express themselves, but when they get the pen and paper in their hands, that’s their outlet. Sometimes all they need is for someone to show them that.” ♦

“Muleskinners” get first glimpse of 101st Sustainment Brigade riggers Op-tempo

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan- Soldier with the 10th Sustainment Brigade got a taste of what their deployment to Afghanistan will look like when they assisted the 101st Sustainment Brigade in conducting a last-minute emergency resupply mission.

The Lifeliners received an order to supply Task Force-Currahee with 60 bundles of ammunition late Thursday evening, said Maj. Joe Suddith, 101st Sustainment Brigade Support Operations officer. They immediately tasked the brigade's rigger detachment to start prepping the bundles, he said.

The riggers, along with the Soldiers from the 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, spent 12 hours preparing the bundles. They finally finished preparing the bundles at about 7 a.m., he said.

“These riggers understand their role in maintaining combat logistics operations,” Suddith said. “This short-notice mission proves they take their jobs seriously.”

The 10th Sustainment Brigade “Muleskinners”, based out of Fort Drum, N.Y., is scheduled to replace the “Lifeliners” in combat logistics operations supporting Operation Enduring Freedom. The brigade sent a team to Bagram to learn the Lifeliners’ mission in preparation for their upcoming deployment.

In the end, they got a bit more than they bargained for.

“It’s hard to wrap your mind around the intensity of operations here in Afghanistan,” Suddith said of the Muleskinners’ experience. “It’s not Iraq. At all. The paced is quicker, the challenges are tougher...they got some first-hand experience with what some of those challenges are.”

The riggers worked into the early morning hours, carefully packing the bundles of 155-millimeter rounds of ammunition and water by hand. There are no hi-tech equipment or any other machines involved in this process (other than a forklift to lift the bundles onto the pallets).

Staff Sgt. James Menard, noncommissioned officer in charge of the 101st Sustainment Brigade Support Operation’s Class I section, had never participated in bundling supplies before, but joined in helping get the supplies ready for movement.

He described the activity as a “very tedious process.” “You have to continue doing the same thing over and over again, and if you slip up, you have to start all over,” he said.

Each bundle containing the rounds weighed approximately 1,860 pounds – the equivalent weight of a 1974 Volkswagen Beetle, Suddith said. It took each group of riggers and Soldiers approximately one hour to properly bundle the supplies for delivery.

Many of the riggers had already put a long day of work at the rigger



Sgt. 1st Class Narada Johnson (right), a rigger assigned to the 4/647th Quartermaster Detachment, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, instructs Staff Sgt. James Menard of the 101st Sustainment Brigade Support Operations, on how to properly rig a bundle. The Detachment worked long into the night and early morning hours preparing 60 bundles of ammunition and water for Soldiers at Task Force-Currahee. (photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

shed, packing other bundles of supply for distribution. Still, there were no complaints from these Soldiers, or from the Soldiers with the 101st Special Troops Battalion or the 10th Sustainment Brigade.

Although he is the Lifeliners SPO OIC, Suddith was not averse to rolling up his sleeves and bundling himself.

“The conversation I had with my 10th Mountain counterparts was every decision you make affects somebody,” he said. “The reason why I was because of the decision I made for the emergency drop. And if I’m going to ask them stay out there and work, they need to see the guy who made that decision extend a little personal energy as well.”

The message was not lost on Capt. Randy Schnell. “I think through this mission we’ve recognized the importance of aerial delivery and providing supplies to the war fighter,” said Schnell, commander of Bravo Company, 10th Special Brigade Troops Battalion, 10th Sustainment Brigade. “I’ve been on the receiving end of supplies, and now I’m on the other side. It definitely gives me a new perspective.”

Suddith also praised the STB Soldiers who helped out with the resupply.

“The riggers belong to the STB. That’s leadership showing that our guys are willing to go through this with you,” he said. “When you sit on a brigade or battalion headquarters staff, it’s important to understand the decisions you make everyday affect execution at the other end. It’s important to understand what you’re asking people to do so that you don’t make them lightly.”

Menard said he hoped the shared experience with the Muleskinners gave them a greater appreciation of what they are going to inherit.

“It’s very time consuming, what these guys do here. I only hope they have the same professionalism and get after it attitude that we use every day to get missions done,” he said. ♦

FOB Deh Dadi II continues expansion

Pizza Hut opening latest in base camp's growth

by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes
101st Sustainment Brigade

FORWARD OPERATING BASE DEH DADI II, Afghanistan – From what he's been told, 1st Lt. Robert Schnabel said Forward Operating Base Deh Dadi II is a great place to be.

"I don't get a chance to get off the FOB much, but I've been told it's well laid out," the FOB DDII mayor said.

Since their arrival in theater back in March, Schnabel and the Soldiers of the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, have been improving their foxhole steadily as they continue to expand the living condition at FOB Deh Dadi II.

The recent grand opening of the base Pizza Hut is another step in the direction of improving the Soldier's quality of life while being deployed in a combat theater.

The last time Sgt. William Paulk, a convoy security noncommissioned officer for the 900th Maintenance Company, an Alabama National Guard unit assigned to the 530th CSSB, 101st Sus. Bde., had pizza was six months ago. Now, he was preparing to wolf down his first slice of pepperoni goodness.

"This tastes way better than the last time I had it," he said.

Lt. Col. Austin Elliot of the 530th CSSB, called the Pizza Hut opening was great for Soldiers.

"They've been waiting for this for a while, and it's just another way for us to improve the quality of life here," he said. "It's just good to see we're making progress."

With the addition of the Pizza Hut, the FOB now has a complete food court that offers additional amenities for the Soldiers. A Subway and a

Green Beans coffee shop opened earlier in July.

Schnabel said there are many specific projects and services that have been completed in the last several months, adding many of the Morale, Welfare and Recreation projects are still ongoing. Among those plans include construction of a new MWR facility, a new gymnasium, and a new AAFES Post Exchange.

Schnabel said the plan is to have the MWR tent up and running by the end of next month. "That is a big push because the current MWR will be moved out and make room for that AAFES PX," he said. "That's going to be a huge asset here because it'll be one of the largest exchanges in our region and will be able to offer things the Soldiers needs, such as running shoes, CDs, and other amenities."

There are also plans to open an Afghan grill that will serve authentic Afghan cuisine, he said. "Those guys are in there setting up right now. We estimate they could be ready in a couple of weeks," he said.

Plans to stand up a fire station on the FOB, however, have been pushed back to January 2012, Schnabel said. It was originally planned to be open this past June.

"We still have a fires brigade team on the FOB that are trained and ready to go when we need them to be," he said. "We also have numerous safety personnel here that are trained as well."

Battalion Support Operations officer and BOSS-I Coordinator Maj. Torrance Cleveland also praised the expansion projects on the FOB.

"Everything we do here is progress," he said. "The goal is to ensure that our Soldiers have the ability to sustain themselves for their missions. When they have a moment to re-set their minds with these little touches of home, it reminds them to stay focused and resilient."

"Soldier morale is key to what we do. If we can give them a small thing like giving them a taste of home, that makes them a better Soldier. It makes them more complete, and allows them to do their job a little better and faster." ♦



Sgt. William Paulk of the 900th Maintenance Company, Alabama National Guard, eats his first slice of Pizza Hut pepperoni pizza at the grand opening of the facility at Forward Operating Base Deh Dadi II. The Pizza Hut completes the food court on the FOB, as the 530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion continues to expand construction projects there. (U.S. Army photo by Sgt. 1st Class Pete Mayes)

Around BAF

Chapel Services

Enduring Faith Sanctuary

Protestant Traditional Service
Sunday, 8:30 a.m.

Protestant (ChapelNext) Service
Sunday, 10:30 a.m.

Catholic Mass
Sunday, 12:30 p.m.

Gospel Service
Sunday, 3:00 p.m.

Plugged-In
Sunday, 6:00 p.m.

Catholic Mass
Sunday, 7:30 p.m.

Full Gospel Service
Sunday, 9:00 p.m.

Warrior Chapel

Catholic Mass
Saturday, 4 p.m.

Protestant Service
Saturday, 10 a.m.

For Information call:
Enduring Faith Chapel
431-3045

Pool, Movies, Dominoes, Cards

All day and night at the Lifeliner Lounge

Bible Study

Every Tuesday from 6 p.m. until 7 p.m. in the Lifeliner Lounge Theater

Rally Point

Service and Fellowship
Sundays 10 a.m. until 11 a.m. at the L3

Bible Study
Wednesdays, 6:00 p.m. until 7:30 p.m. at the L3

Devotionals
Mondays, Wednesdays and Friday, 7:00 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. at the L3

Fellowship
Tuesday and Thursdays, 7:00 a.m. until 7:30 a.m. at the L3

Green Beans,
Saturdays, 7:00 a.m. until 7:30 a.m.

*"Lifeliners" who live in God's Glory
who in turn become "Life Timers" living in God's Grace*



Lifeliner Gym

The gym is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. An added cardio room, a second floor and several new pieces of equipment to keep the Lifeliners fit and ready to fight.



Battalion Briefs



101st Special Troops Battalion

45th MP Detachment, Customs Operative TAV

The 45th MP Detachment is responsible for all customs clearance operations on Bagram Airfield Customs passenger clearance center. The 45th MP detachment received a Technical Assistance Visit (TAV) made up of personnel representing CENTCOM, the US Department of Agriculture, US Customs and Boarder Protection, USFOR-A, and USTRANSCOM from 4 June 2011. The purpose of the visit was to review procedures, provide technical assistance, and make any applicable recommendations for improvement. Prior to the departure the TAV team members gave the 45th MP positive feedback stating the clearance operations were up to standards and in compliance with governing regulations. While the TAV team stated they did not see any significant issues or problems with the way operations were conducted they did provide some recommendations to improve the clearance process. As a result of the visit the 45th MP Detachment will reconfigure the inspection area to better utilize technology, such as the x-ray baggage scanners, and improve on the flow of passengers and baggage through the customs clearance operations center.

101st STB Sling Load Operations at Gamberi

Who are you going to call when you need equipment sling loaded? Of course you call the Sustainers from the STB, 101st Sustainment Brigade!!!! Sustainers Soldiers assigned to the 101st STB TMT at Gamberi, recently assisted the CJTF-1CD TAC, also located at Gamberi, transport critical equipment to Bad Pakh DC. The equipment consisted of two containers, one being a field kitchen set and the other being a reefer container.

After the two CH-47 Chinooks landed and dropped off the sling sets, Gamberi crew quickly rigged the two containers and had them airborne within 30 minutes. The mission was a huge success and once again displays the dedication and commitment of Sustainers to getting the mission accomplished no matter the circumstance.



Pvt. Floyd Chonggum's Naturalization

The 4th of July was not only our country's Independence Day Celebration, but also one Lifeliner's dream come true. Pvt. Chonggum made history by being the first HHC Soldier to become a citizen during the deployment. His journey was completed along with 48 other Soldiers and Marines at Camp Phoenix, Kabul where the key note speaker was Ambassador Karl Eikenberry. Chonggum is originally from Samoa and will be the first in his family to become a US citizen. A generator mechanic by trade, his dedication to the mission and constant striving to improve his skill set is a daily ritual of his. This achievement is indicative of his high caliber attitude and determination as a Warrior. Additionally, Chonggum is single and is serving his first combat tour.

142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

Prayer Breakfast

Soldiers from various religious backgrounds and ranks from the 142nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion gathered together at a prayer breakfast at the Dawson-Petree Convoy Readiness Center. Several members of the Wagonmaster family participated in the event themed "In God we still trust". Guest speaker Chap. (Lt. Col.) Eric Albertson not only shared his words of devotion, his musical talents and a guitar composition with those in the audience. Soldiers rejoiced at not only the scripture readings but also the Battalion Commander along with his staff serving breakfast. The prayer breakfast brought encouragement and a reminder of spiritual resilience to the deployed Soldiers.

Dedication to Our Nation

Representing every year of our country's independence, 235 Soldiers raised their right hand in a Re-affirmation and Re-enlistment ceremony hosted by the 1st Calvary Division. Standing among these ranks Sergeant Dustin Williams, of the 592nd Ordnance Company, 142nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, renewed his oath dedicating himself to three more years of service. Gen. David Petraeus with his distinguished guests, Sens. John McCain, Joe Lieberman and Lindsey Graham witnessed this memorable day. "General Petraeus is a leader that I highly look up to and it was a huge honor to get to shake his hand," Williams said after the ceremony.

Accolades

Seven Soldiers from the 584th Maintenance Company received coins from Brigade Command Sergeant Major, Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson. The Soldiers received the coins for their outstanding job performance during a recent training exercise. "It always feels good to get recognized," said Staff Sgt. Muller of the 584th Maintenance Company, 142nd Combat Support Sustainment Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, after receiving acknowledgement and a coin.

Equal Opportunity Program is leadership business

There was a prevalent comment made during my training at the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute: "All leadership issues aren't equal opportunity issues; however, all equal opportunity issues are leadership issues." It was also explained to me that I might have to sell the Equal Opportunity Program to commanders. The comments struck me because, as leader, I had never taken that approach to the equal opportunity program. I served under many commanders and felt, for the most part, they fostered a healthy climate. Had I missed something or were my eyes being open to the program in a new way? After further evaluation, I concluded that I hadn't missed anything. I had been fortunate enough to serve with true professionals. As an Equal Opportunity Advisor for Task Force Lifeline, I'm elated to report that our commander, COL Peterman, is no exception. In fact, I have been charged with assisting him in ensuring the task force's program is a healthy, viable program. The Equal Opportunity Program is, after all, a commander's program, and COL Peterman is a leader who understands the direct correlation between healthy command and equal opportunity climates and mission readiness.

I can't stress enough the importance of leadership involvement as it pertains to equal opportunity. It starts with commanders;



*Sgt. 1st Class Aniceto R. Valencia-Caballero
Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor
Deployed Sexual Assault Response Coordinator*

however, leaders at all levels contribute to a command's climate and the equal opportunity program. As Service Members, our actions are governed by regulation. Leaders enforce those standards, and if they choose not to, the climate suffers. Leaders are an essential element in the mitigation of equal opportunity issues. If an organization has leaders committed to ensuring the fair

treatment of all service members based on merit, fitness, and capability, then it will secure a healthy command climate. And, as most leaders know, a healthy command climate is an essential element in mission readiness.

Equal opportunity issues are leadership issues and leaders must accept responsibility for those issues. If allowed to fester, those issues can be detrimental to an organization and its mission accomplishment. When equal opportunity issues arise, like any other leadership issue, they are encouraged to be handled at the lowest level – by leaders. If further assistance is needed, an Equal Opportunity Leader is trained to assist. There are also a host of alternate agencies who stand ready to assist in addressing climate and equal opportunity issues to include the Equal Opportunity Advisor, the Inspector General, Chaplain, Provost Marshal, Staff Judge Advocate, and medical personnel.

The Equal Opportunity Program exists to maximize the potential of all service members in support of readiness. It is mandated that commanders sustain a positive equal opportunity climate for good reason. Leaders must assist commanders in eliminating practices that undermine a positive climate. If all leaders do their part, we can guarantee optimum performance from our organization's members.

Woman's Equality Day August 26, 2011

Susan B. Anthony

Susan B. Anthony was born February 15, 1820 in Adams, Massachusetts. She was brought up in a Quaker family with long activist traditions. Early in her life she developed a sense of justice and moral zeal.

After teaching for fifteen years, she became active in temperance. Because she was a woman, she was not allowed to speak at temperance rallies. This experience, and her acquaintance with Elizabeth Cady Stanton, led her to join the women's rights movement in 1852. Soon after she dedicated her life to woman suffrage.

Ignoring opposition and abuse, Anthony traveled, lectured and canvassed across the nation for the vote. She also campaigned for the abolition of slavery, women's right to



their own property and earnings, and women's labor organizations. In 1900, Anthony persuaded the University of Rochester to admit women. (Photo from <http://www.winningthevote.org/images/SBAnthony1.jpg>)



Spc. Monica Brown

SPC Monica Brown was awarded the Silver Star at Bagram Airfield for her actions on April 25, 2007, during a combat patrol. SPC Brown is the second woman since World War II to earn a Silver Star for gallantry in combat and the first woman to earn a Silver Star in Afghanistan.

SPC Brown is one example of a many great women in uniform or civilian that have made great contributions and sacrifices for our military; the American way of life and the pursuit to equality.

Remembering the fallen

Lifeliners, Wagonmasters pay respects to fallen comrades

by Cpl. Sarah Keegan
142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion,
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - Soldiers of 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, came together to remember, mourn and celebrate the lives of their three fallen comrades killed last week.

The Soldiers - Staff Sgt. Kenneth R. Vangiesen, a fuel and electrical systems repairer; Sgt. Edward W. Koehler, a motor transport operator; and Sgt. Brian K. Mowery, also a motor transport operator - were killed July 18th when their convoy struck an improvised explosive device.

The Soldiers were assigned to the 131st Transportation Company of the Pennsylvania National Guard. The company is attached to the 101st Sus. Bde., as part of the 142nd CSSB during their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The three were remembered during a memorial ceremony conducted at the Morale, Welfare and Recreational Clam Shell at Bagram Airfield.

Their fellow Soldiers embraced, sobbed and tried to remain strong during the ceremony as a poem written by Spc. Michael Miller was read aloud, proclaiming the fallen Soldiers' unshakable courage and strength.

"We know that each of these Soldiers was committed to the mission," said Ch. (Capt.) Donald Fulton, battalion chaplain, 142nd CSSB, 101st Sus. Bde. "Courage is a choice. Courage is not a trait we are born with; courage is an action we take in the face of danger regardless of our fear."

Friends of the fallen Soldiers offered a glimpse into their lives, as well as how they affected them personally and professionally.

Vangiesen, 30, was born in Kane, Pa., and joined the Army in 1999. He completed two tours to Iraq in 2005 and 2009 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Staff Sgt. Robert Morrow said the most trying thing for him was not just losing a warrior, but a true friend.

"I know Ken as my ultimate friend," he said. "Every day we talked about the Pirates... 2.5 games back, 1.5 games back, .5 games... 'Ken, they really are in first place' I would tell him. He came over to my B-hut the day before we left for the mission to brag about Erin (his lifelong companion) getting Rocky Blier's autograph on his throwback jersey."

Koehler, 47, was born in Lebanon, Pa. and originally joined the Marine Corps in 1982, where he served for four years. He later joined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 1997, and deployed to Iraq and Kuwait in 2004.

"Ed helped me through many situations, some good, some bad, but he always had my back," said Sgt. Sarah Conrad. "When Ed and (wife) Cheryl got together, I was so excited. Every one of us here has our own story of times we have spent with Ed or with both Ed and Cheryl. "

"They were the perfect match for each other. You could see the love between them when they were together, whether it was riding cross country on their Harleys or sitting with friends just shooting the breeze," she said.

Mowery, 46, also a former Marine, joined the military in 1980, and spent four years as a reservist. Born in Harrisburg, Pa., he later joined the Pennsylvania National Guard in 2000, and deployed to Kosovo in 2003.

"It was never hard to understand why Staff Sgt. Mowery was an amazing man," said Pfc. Peter Bendza. "He took each and every one of us under his wings and comforted us when we needed it, taught us knowledge, and held us when we seemed like we could not take it anymore. He was always there for us, he was there for me."

Bendza said being around him everyday made him realize how "truly amazing" Mowery was, and how in his eyes no better man could be found. "I had adopted him as my father," he said. "I know you're watching us vigilantly from Heaven, making sure we do our best and protecting us."

Lt. Col. Jose E. Solis, battalion commander of the 142nd CSSB, 101st Sus. Bde, remembered the Soldiers as three outstanding noncommissioned officers. "They were NCO's we could rely on day in and day out. They helped and encouraged all of those around them ... Kenneth, Edward and Brian were always respectful and willing to work and help their teammates."

The fallen Soldiers were posthumously awarded the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star Medal, and the Combat Action Badge. Mowery was also posthumously promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant. ♦

Editor's Note: Cpl. (P) Sarah Keegan is the Unit Public Affairs Representative for the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 15th Sustainment Brigade, based out of Fort Bliss, Texas. The battalion is attached to the 101st Sustainment Brigade during their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.





101ST SUSTAINMENT BRIGADE



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