

TASK FORCE *Lifeliners*

September 2011

101st Sustainment Brigade

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INSIDE FEATURE:
Lifeliner celebrates Ramadan



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(Front cover) Col. Michael Peterman, the commander of Task Force Lifeline, speaks to brigade leadership following a professional development at the Bagram Supply Support Agency. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)



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A Message from the Commander and Command Sergeant Major

From Lifeline 6

This month 10 years ago marks the beginning of the Global War on Terrorism. The saying, "Everyday since 9-11, there's been a Lifeline in the fight," takes on a particularly significant meaning as we look back at the decade and the sacrifices each of our Soldiers and their families have had to make during this time.

The 101st Sustainment Brigade has deployed in support of Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom throughout GWOT. The brigade has always performed its mission admirably. I take significant pride in being chosen to lead this particular group of Lifeliners during OEF XI, having shared both the triumphs and tragedies that this group has endured.

The Lifeliners during this campaign have continued the high level of success they have become known for. We continue to ensure that our Coalition forces and partners not want for any and all necessary supplies and resources they need to fight a very determined enemy.

We've also ensured that we have acted as responsible and wise stewards for our nation's finances, doing our part in helping identify fraudulent spending and saving the government millions of dollars in contract services. And we've continued to develop, coach and foster positive relationships with our Afghan allies, as they learn to stand on their own in terms of providing economic stability and security for their own country.

The mission has come at a great sacrifice, as we have lost members of the family throughout this period. Rather than retreating in the face of tragedy, however, our Soldiers have stood their ground and continue to not only perform their mission, but exceed expectation at making sure they provide our forces with what they need to win the war on terrorism.

As we prepare to observe the 10th anniversary of 9-11, we also recognize the sacrifices our families have made during this past decade. They truly are the reason why we are the best at what we do.

We will continue to push logistics to its highest levels to ensure that our Soldiers want for nothing. We need nothing less than the events of Sept. 11, 2001, to remind us why.

Air Assault!
LL6



Col. Michael Peterman
Task Force Lifeline Commander



Command Sgt. Maj. David Thompson
TF Lifeline Command Sergeant Major

From Lifeline 7

Greetings to the Lifeline Family from downrange! We are now officially more than over the halfway point of our mission, and home is just over the horizon. This deployment has challenged us in many ways, but our faith in the team and focus on the mission has kept us going even through the most difficult times.

This month we are preparing to celebrate the 10th anniversary of 9-11. The attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon not only had a profound impact on America and the world, but it literally shifted our armed forces from a "Cold War" posture to where we are today. We have been engaged in a "Global War on Terrorism" during this entire decade, but our American forces' will to triumph has not wavered.

The same can be said for the 101st Sustainment Brigade. As we deployed once again to Afghanistan, we hit the ground running and have successfully maintained a breakneck pace on improving our foxhole and providing seamless logistics to every War fighter in three major regional command areas. More than ten months in theater and our Soldiers maintain the same enthusiasm and dedication to mission success they came here with. Every Soldier in this brigade ... officer, NCO, and

junior enlisted ... should all be proud of the job they have done here.

We are in the process of planning a 9-11 remembrance. The reasons we are here in the fight has never been lost on this generation of warriors, and as such, we will take the time and opportunity to re-look at what brought us here and why continuing is important. I continue to be proud of each and every Lifeline here in theater and back home. What you've accomplished is nothing short of amazing.

Air Assault!
LL7

SAFETY THOUGHTS

You Can't Know it All

by Maj. Henry H. Washington
G3, Accident Investigations Division
U.S. Army Combat Readiness/Safety Center

After riding motorcycles for more than 27 years, one tends to think he knows all there is to know. Well, I am here to tell you nothing is further from the truth.

On Sept. 10, 2010, while on my way to work, I had one of the worst scares of my life. I was riding at the speed limit when a driver in the oncoming lanes attempted to make a left turn as I rode toward her. As I approached, I just knew she had to see my fluorescent vest and the big, bulky Suzuki Hayabusa sport bike I was riding. Just as I was about to go by her, she turned left in front of me to enter a McDonald's parking lot. I quickly pumped my rear brakes and lightly hit my front brakes to slow down and swerve so I didn't T-bone her. As it was, I barely missed going into oncoming traffic and only cleared her passenger-side taillight by inches. What saved me from injury in this incident? It was my experience, training and individual safe riding attitude.

I was surprised that morning. I found out you can't take anything for granted when you're riding. Unfortunately, not all Soldiers who ride have the experience or self discipline to do the right thing. Since fiscal 2004, more than half of Army motorcycle fatalities were single-vehicle accidents where riders exercised poor judgment and made bad risk management decisions. Those were fatalities that didn't have to happen. As riders in the Army, we are given the tools to prevent them. In view of the spike in motorcycle fatalities in fiscal 2011, it's worth taking a moment to review these.

Training

If you're a Soldier, Department of Defense Instruction 6055.04 and Army Regulation 385-10 require that you go to motorcycle "boot camp." Nope, it's not the basic training you went through when you joined up; it's the Motorcycle Safety Foundation's (MSF) Basic RiderCourse (BRC). You're given the opportunity to trade what you don't know for the skills needed to survive on the street. Under the guidance of trained instructors, you learn a number of valuable riding techniques, including proper braking, cornering and obstacle avoidance. Aside from the training being a requirement, it makes sense to get all the skills you can before going onto the road. Remember, on the road your motorcycle isn't at the top of the "food chain." Those Soldiers who choose to be reckless reflect poorly on the rest of us riders. Because of that, it's in our own interest to police ourselves and our fellow riders.

Motorcycle Mentorship Program

Not every Soldier out there has 27-plus years of riding experience to call on when things go wrong on the road. But there is a practical answer to that within the Army's Motorcycle Mentorship Program (MMP). The MMP takes new riders out of the controlled environment of their BRC training to give them hands-on experience on the street with seasoned riders. Among the things stressed are wearing the proper personal protective equipment (PPE), how to ride in groups, how to avoid other motorists' blind spots and how to properly corner and maneuver around obstacles. Under the watchful eyes of seasoned riders, new riders don't have to learn the rules of the road the hard — and sometimes painful — way. MMPs also offer riders a positive alternative to off-post clubs where they may be encouraged to ride recklessly.

Dress for the Crash

No matter what kind of motorcycle you ride, eventually you're going to meet the road "up close and personal." When those moments occur, you'll appreciate having something separating your head and your hide from the highway. Asphalt tends to be harsh on bare skin, and concrete can crack even the hardest skulls. Therefore, wearing good PPE is the rider's ace-in-the-hole when things go wrong on the road.

While riders like to look good and there's plenty of expensive, "sexy" gear available, you don't have to put a hole in your wallet to avoid putting one in your hide. You simply need to make sure your gear meets the following standards:

- Department of Transportation-approved helmet that fits well and is in good condition
- Impact or shatter-resistant goggles, wrap-around glasses or a full-face shield properly attached to the helmet meeting American National Standards Institute Code Z87.1
- Sturdy footwear, leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes
- Long-sleeved shirt or jacket, long trousers and full-fingered gloves or mittens designed for motorcycle use
- Brightly colored, outer upper garment during the day and reflective upper garment during the night for on-road riding
- For dirt bike and other off-road riders, knee and shin guards and padded full-finger gloves

While even the best PPE can't fully protect you if you're hit by a car or strike a solid object, it can lessen your injuries and speed your recovery by keeping your wounds clean.

Although it's impossible to eliminate all riding risks, you can lessen your chances of winding up in an Army Ground Accident Report. Your most important piece of safety gear is the one your helmet is designed to protect — your brain. Practice the skills you learned in your MSF training; don't let them get rusty. Seek the wisdom of more experienced riders so you don't have to learn from "scratch," bruise or broken bone. And never assume you know it all when you're riding. Someone's likely to come along and prove you wrong.

WHAT'S ON YOUR NOGGIN?

Not all helmets will do a good job of protecting a rider's head in an accident. Will yours?

To find out, go to <http://www.nhtsa.gov/cars/testing/comply/fmvss218/>

Articles of Faith

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Fintan Kilmurray completed his tour as the JSC-A chaplain and returned to his parish in Mississippi recently. He wrote this article for his last mass in Kandahar as a reflection upon his ministry there. I asked him if we could include his thoughts in our newsletter to which he agreed. The details may be different from our own location, but the reflection serves as a reminder that what each person does regardless of how mundane or how small the task does make a difference. And, our experiences while deployed do impact us as we impact our environment — hopefully, to make the world around us a better place for those who call Afghanistan home as well as for those of us who are visitors.

Chap. (Lt. Col.) Fintan Kilmurray

As we come to the end of our deployment and look back over the months we spent here, I am sure there are many memories we have in common. The heat, the flooding, the Bazaar, the boardwalk, the mingling aromas of the Poo Pond and the Asian Defac in the late afternoons, the big voice in the sky that we heard mostly at night, The Care Packages and the friends we made.



I remember the Female 1LT at Stallion Ramp who thanked me for being a priest and coming here to offer Mass which she said brought some semblance of normalcy.

I remember the hospital, offering Mass for the staff and the wounded, the children's ward that I passed by because it broke my heart to even look. The courage of the Doctors who had to deal everyday with trauma surgery.

Offering Mass at Fraise Chapel, meeting the soldiers of different nationalities, the civilians from all around the world, their beautiful smiles, all sharing a common faith.

I remember the sadness of the "RAMP" Ceremonies — Although they changed the name to Dignified Transfers, that didn't change the feeling of loss and sadness.

I remember the poverty, the color of poverty, the dingy brown color of poverty, discarded hoops and bicycles, corrugated tin and debris everywhere. I saw this in most places I traveled to, outside the wire.

I remember the apprehension I felt from time to time as we traveled in various places, but I also remember the comradery and care we had for each other — I remember the term "We got your back Chaplain", and they did!

I remember the stares from the people as our convoys passed by, some with indifference some with disdain, but in particular I remember a barefooted little girl in a soiled purple dress. I remember her because, in the mist of all this poverty and apprehension she stood on the pavement and smiled and waved. I don't know if we were a parade to her, or even if they have parades in Afghanistan. But that pretty little face and trusting smile is something I will always remember about Afghanistan. It is my "Take Home" memory.

We all played a part in making Afghanistan a better place to live; I hope that because we came here that little girl in the purple dress will have a better future. I pray she can go to school, live with equality and grow up in a safer and richer Afghanistan.

We take home these memories, but let us also take home with us a grateful heart for all those who supported us during our deployment and a knowledge that God blessed us and brought us home safely.

Chap. (Maj.) Tammie Crews
TF Lifeliners Chaplain



Around the Compound

“Where were you on 9/11?”

“ On September 11, 2001, I was in my homeroom. At the time, I was in sixth grade and when it happened, we watched the recap on the news. I was scared and was confused as to why it happened. ”

Spc. Kanisha David
530th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Legal



“ During 9/11, I was in class in Maryland and my professor told us that class was canceled. We all wondered why. I got in my car to drive home and on the radio they announced that the US was under attack. Shortly after, I joined the military. ”

Sgt. 1st Class Mia Gillens
Brigade S1



“ On 9/11, I was a PFC assigned to Fort Bragg (82nd Airborne Division). I was finishing in the motor stables, we were about to leave to go to the company when the motor sergeant came running that we were on lockdown and would not allow us to leave, but could not tell us why. After about 15 minutes, the armorer and supply sergeant pulled up in a Humvee with a cache of weapons. After they were issued, we were dispatched in two-man teams to locations all over the base, still not knowing why. In fact, it wasn't until the perimeter was reinforced and we were released to our units and briefed that we were notified that the country was under attack. ”

Staff Sgt. Dominique Kess
SASMO

“ On 9/11, I was sitting in English class. I remember the teacher letting us go so we all went on a computer or find a TV about ten minutes after it happened. I remember getting a call telling me to go to my National Guard unit to report for duty. I remember thinking this is it, I'm going to war. I left for Kandahar, Afghanistan six months later with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). I deployed with the 626th Forward Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade. ”

Sgt. Melinda Tucker
SASMO



8:46 am EST
The North Tower of the World Trade Center is hit



9:03 am EST
The Second Tower of the World Trade Center is hit



9:37am EST
Pentagon hit,
Flight 93 crashes near Shanksville,
Penn., at 10:03am EST



9:59am EST, September 11, 2001
The World Trade Center South Tower collapses,
at 10:28 am the North Tower falls



September 14, 2001
President George W. Bush delivers famous 'bullhorn' speech at Ground Zero



October 7, 2001
US begins Operation Enduring Freedom

Announcements



Promotions

Congratulations to these newly promoted Lifeliners

CW2 Lashawn Ingram	MSG Lamar Chancellor
SSG John Keene	SSG Glen Tucker
SSG Patrice Dorsey	SSG Gar Covington
SGT Jordawn Crutch	SGT Aaron Leeds
SGT Salvador Vega	SGT Socorro Garcia
	SGT Daniel Flynn

Awards

This past month, Lifeliners received:

- 4 Purple Hearts
- 11 Bronze Star Medals
- 336 Army Commendation Medals
- 10 Combat Action Badges
- 5 Combat Medic Badges



20th Quartermaster named Army's best water treatment unit

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

JOINT EXPEDITIONARY BASE LITTLE CREEK, Va. - Five soldiers of the 20th Quartermaster Company were awarded first place in the Sgt. Maj. John C. Marigliano Award of Excellence at the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit competition at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek - Fort Story (East), Va., Aug. 25.

The competition included a 100 question test exam which tested the soldiers on their knowledge and ability to scour the manuals. The team also operated and maintained several ROWPU systems within just a span of hours.

The team, based out of Fort Campbell with the 106th Transportation Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, was led by team leader Staff Sgt. Davis Ross. Completing the team were Sgt. Antonio Thompson, Sgt. Chad Boger, Spc. Ronald Adams, Spc. Michael Hickman and Spc. Anje Jones.

The ROWPU provides potable water from any water source, like lakes, wells and oceans. The treatment of water with the system prevents diseases from infecting soldiers who need clean water in deployed environments.

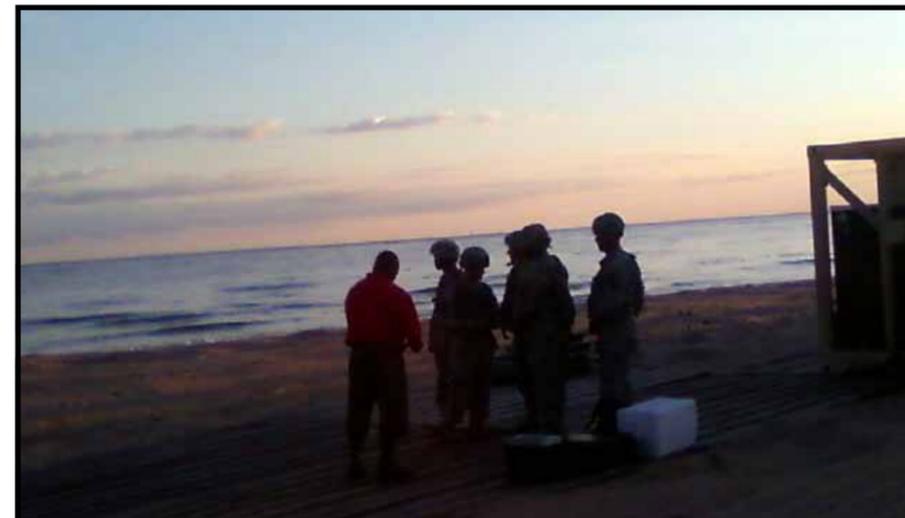
After the test, the team moved out to the coast of Virginia to offload, set up and deploy a 3,000 gallon per hour ROWPU and Tactical Water Purification System. Only two hours were given to set up the ROWPU and ready it to issue water to supporting units.

For the next four hours, the soldiers operated and maintained the two systems. They produced clean drinking water and completed the task above the standards.

The final round of the competition was draining and re-packing the ROWPU and TWPS in just three and a half hours.

The team received a trophy to take back to Fort Campbell for their excellence in the competition.

Five soldiers of the 20th Quartermaster Company were awarded first place in the Sgt. Maj. John C. Marigliano Award of Excellence at the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit competition at Joint Expeditionary Base Little Creek - Ft. Story (East), Virginia, Aug. 25. The ROWPU provides potable water from any water source, like lakes, wells and oceans. The treatment of water with the system prevents diseases from infecting soldiers who need clean water in deployed environments. (Courtesy photos)



“Not an easy process”

Lifeliners play pivotal role in preparing and processing fallen U.S., Afghan troops

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

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan –The first call came early Saturday morning about the 38 U.S. and Afghan troops, killed by insurgents who shot down their CH-47 Chinook helicopter. After getting the call, Sgt. 1st Class Mary Perez said she doesn't remember getting much sleep from that moment on.

She, along with other senior leaders from the 101st Sustainment Brigade and the 101st Special Troops Battalion, began rolling up their sleeves and headed to the Bagram Air Field Mortuary Affairs Collection Point where they were tasked to provide support in preparation for the eventual ramp ceremony.

“You're tasked out to do it and it's your job. But to do something like that, it's just ... different,” said Perez, a brigade military intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge. “It's not just a tasking anymore. It's something personal. It's a tasking that as a Soldier, no matter who you are or what rank you wear on your chest, you execute, and you execute to your fullest capability.”

The members of the special operations mission - which included 22 Navy SEALs, three U.S. Air Force airmen, four U.S. Army air crew, and a K-9 unit dog - died after their helicopter was apparently shot down last week as they were flying in to help Army Rangers who were going after insurgents on the ground.

Eight Afghan Commandos and an Afghan interpreter were also on board the downed aircraft.

The Department of Defense has ordered an investigation into the incident. According to official reports, the deaths are the highest number of U.S. forces killed during a single event in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The Mortuary Affairs Collection Point at BAF is tasked with the retrieval, tentative identification, transportation and burial of deceased American and allied personnel. The brigade's special troops battalion provides staff supervision at the site, which is operated by the 54th Quartermaster Company, based out of Fort Lee, Va.

The senior leaders from the brigade and battalion assigned to the detail are not specifically trained as mortuary affairs specialists. They helped with recovering and transporting the remains from the flight line, getting additional transfer cases, ironing the flags, and cleaning the MACP site.

They also took part in the ramp ceremony, acting as pallbearers and carrying the transfer cases of the deceased to the special operations forces units to load onto the planes heading back to the U.S.

“They provided the logistical support we needed, like the vehicles for transport and additional cases as we needed,” said Sgt. 1st Class Alessa Jose, BAF MACP noncommissioned officer in charge, 54th QM Co. “They also made sure we had additional refrigeration units for the fallen.”

Jose said her team normally receives between one and two remains a day to process and handles all aspects of the preparation. She said her team received the remains on Sunday morning, and was able to process and prepare all of the remains by Monday.

“Their support was critical because of the time involved,” she said. “If it was just us doing this, the processing would have taken longer.”

“By the Lifeliners coming in and helping with the other part, it allowed us to focus on the processing job and cut down a lot of the time. You're looking at about a 36-hour time frame. That helped us out a lot.”

Brigade Medical Operations Officer Maj. Dierdre Lockhart was part of the truck team detail for loading and unloading the deceased SOF team members and said the Lifeliners' involvement illustrated

their willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty.

“It definitely showed we were willing to pick up the ball and run with it when we were needed,” she said.

The brigade conducted Leadership Professional Development training on Mortuary Affairs this past March, where they were introduced to how fallen heroes are identified and processed in preparation to be sent home.

But even attending that training did not prepare the senior leaders for being active participants in an actual event.

Perez said she and other senior leaders in the brigade received a call to go to the MACP, but were unsure what their duty was going to be. As time went on, they started to figure it out, she said.

She and two other officers were also assigned to a truck team that loaded and unloaded the remains. It was the first time she's ever been involved with something like this, she said.

“You come there to do a mission and then the reality hits you: all you could see, smell and feel was death,” she said. “And you have to maintain composure.”

Perez said she noticed the Navy SEALs carrying their fallen

teammates to the trucks. “I mean, these guys are tough, they're in it, they're the ones kicking in doors, but I've never seen them look more vulnerable,” she said. “They're not just machines. It brings light to the fact that we're all in this fight together.”

The decision to use brigade and battalion senior ranking leadership to assist the MACP unit was not lost on Perez, she said.

“You don't want to expose your junior Soldiers to that. It's emotional and disheartening when you're in this fight to see mass amounts of casualties like that. There were majors ironing the flags and mopping the floors in the MACP, not because it was a task, but because it was the right thing to do,” she said.

The seniors also intensely rehearsed their part of the ramp ceremony, filling transfer cases with bundles of water and practiced carrying the containers on the K-loaders to deliver to the SOF teams.

“We wanted to do this right and give these guys the honor they earned and deserved,” Perez said. “As an NCO, you know what right looks like. These guys deserve the very best we could give them. Everything had to be perfect.”



Soldiers with the 101st Sustainment Brigade listen attentively as they receive a block of instruction on conducting mortuary affairs at the Mortuary Affairs Collection Point at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, in March, 2011. The brigade and the 101st Special Troops Battalion provided critical support to the MACP who processed the recent fallen members of the special operations forces team killed this past week when a rocket-propelled grenade struck their Chinook in Afghanistan. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)



Mortuary affairs specialists of the 54th Quartermaster Company and the 101st Sustainment Brigade command team pose in the Bagram Mortuary Affairs Collection Point after received their end of tour awards. The team, based out of Fort Lee, Va., deployed for six months to Bagram Air Field where they prepared fallen servicemembers, local nationals and military working dogs to go home with their personal effects. Working twenty four hours operations in the MACP, the Soldiers and noncommissioned officers of the 54th quickly reacted to fallen Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines to guarantee a dignified transfer of the bodies back to families. The ***** will take over the mission at the MACP for the next six months. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

Lifeline observes Ramadan in Afghanistan

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – As the crescent moon dimly shone the first of August, Muslims across the world began their holy month of Ramadan.

Ramadan is a time of fasting and refraining from food, drink and other physical needs during the daylight hours.

"It's a cleansing process to think about the more important things in life, like God and helping others," said 1st Lt. Shuja Kazmi. "It cleanses the body and the soul, and it gives you more time to be thankful for what you have."

Kazmi and other Islamic Soldier are celebrating the holy month through fasting and prayers while deployed to Afghanistan.

In the Islamic faith, these Soldiers are exempt from the fasting of Ramadan, but they choose to adhere anyway. Those traveling or in combat, pregnant women, and the sick and elderly do not have to follow the fast, since it could be detrimental to their health.

"My doing Ramadan is my personal choice," said Kazmi, the command group admin for the 101st Sustainment Brigade. "My dad actually told me not to, but I wanted to as a challenge to myself."

During his first deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom in 2003, Kazmi served as a medic for daily convoys, and he was unable to perform his duties while observing the fast. This deployment, he's able to follow the traditions of Ramadan.

"I appreciate going through the whole work day, 8 in the morning until 2300, with keeping the fast," he said.

The sun rises around five in the morning in Afghanistan, and stays in the sky for 14 hours. The long days can be challenging with a fast, but the exclusion of food allows one to narrow his sights on other tasks.

"I think people need to realize with Ramadan, is that it's not about starvation," Kazmi said. "If you don't get anything other than losing weight, you really didn't gain anything. When you take something away, you focus on what you still have."

In addition to prayers at the mosques on Bagram Air Field, Kazmi is concentrating on his duties while deployed.

"I'm able to focus more on military things and forget about food," he said. "After a while, you forget about food."

When the sunsets into the mountains west of Bagram, Kazmi said he communes with others to break the fast. The various mix of local nationals, contractors, interpreters and other Soldiers, gather at the mosques here to share meals and fellowship.

"We use that time to create brotherhood, sisterhood, camaraderie," he said.

During the daylight hours of working in the Lifeliners headquarters, Kazmi is finding support from his fellow Soldiers. He said they are showing their support by fasting with Kazmi, as best as they can.

"Everyone's really supportive," he said. "The brigade commander goes out of his way to make sure I don't see him eating. It's an internal brotherhood, the Soldiers are very considerate."

With the smorgasbord of cultures in the Army, Soldiers are exposed to people of different backgrounds on a daily basis. This leads to better understanding amongst the ranks.

"I think it's exclusive to the military," Kazmi said, "that's something you wouldn't see in the civilian world."



Fueling the fight

Quartermaster Co puts in thousands of miles to resupply Soldiers

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Communication systems up. Check. Maintenance performed. Check. Final Manifest called. Check.

A chaplain leads a prayer and the team rolls out the gate to resupply outlying forward operating bases.

Since arriving here this past May, the 59th Quartermaster Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, has run convoys throughout Regional Commands East and Capitol, and accumulated more than 66,000 miles on the road.

That's roughly the same as driving from the American West Coast to the East Coast, 22 times.

While on the road, the company guarantees multiple classes of supply make it to the thousands of servicemembers fighting in the mountains, valleys and other areas of RC-East.

"We're getting equipment to the battle space owners to complete combat operations," said Sgt. 1st Class David Rodriguez, platoon sergeant and convoy commander for the 59th QM Co. "The Soldiers have a level of responsibility that wasn't expected. We put a lot of their shoulders when we go out."

The ranks 59th QM Co. are not filled with the usual trucker drivers, also called 88 Mikes, of a convoy security company. Fuelers are driving the armored vehicles through the terrain and manning

the gun turrets up top.

At Fort Carson, Colo., the Soldiers trained up, preparing for their Afghanistan mission with their rear headquarters, the 68th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 43rd Sustainment Brigade. Besides the technical aspects of driving a huge vehicle and shooting weapon, the fuelers worked on their sense of awareness while on the road.

"There's a lot going through their heads, to know how to be a driver, gunner or AG [assistant gunner]," Rodriguez said. "They identify hazards, knowing they might come into small arms fire, IEDs, RPGs [rocket-propelled grenades]."

Some of the Soldiers reported to the 59th with combat experience, including how to conduct convoy operations and security. "I already had the experience from my first deployment," said Spc. John Gutierrez, a gunner and assistant gunner with the 59th, "so I helped the new guys understand the mission."

Resupplying Afghanistan is a stark contrast to logistics in Iraq, where most the 59th Soldiers deployed before. The battlefield here is intricate and diverse, from the terrain to the weather to the enemy.

"These guys like to fight," Gutierrez said. "In Iraq, there weren't a lot of complex attacks. Here, they attack with armor piercing RPGs and small arms attacks."

Looking from a turret in Iraq, a gunner will pretty much see the same flat desert no matter what direction they travel. However, in the mountainous desert of Eastern Afghanistan, the terrain changes significantly depending on which direction the Soldiers head out. Each mission is approached differently depending on the task force being resupplied.

"You can't generalize for the entire tour," Rodriguez said. "You have to make it specific to the mission. We rely on the NCOs and Soldiers to make the best decision on the ground while everyone is out there."

Each completed mission marks another few hundred miles driven, and few hours of sleep and relaxation before the Soldiers go on the road again.

"They come back from a mission," Rodriguez said, "then 24 hours later, they're getting ready to head out again. From the external to the internal of the vehicle, they make sure everything is good to go within the 72 hours they are back from mission and they go out again."



The 59th Quartermaster Company, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, has put in a lot of miles in short period of time. Their convoy teams have run the equivalent of 22 coast-to-coast drives since May. (courtesy photo)

Finance Soldiers guarantee local workers' paychecks

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – "Before I started working here, I never knew if I would get paid," said a local Afghan, who is contracted as a construction worker on Bagram Air Field. "Now, I always have money for me and my family."

Several local Afghans work on American bases, doing anything from construction to cleaning to laundry. Making sure they receive their paychecks falls into the hands of one office on Bagram Air Field.

The Contract Vendor Services office of the 101st Finance Management Company, Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade recently consolidated ten different offices into one central location to pay local nationals working on forward operating bases.

By centralizing the payment of contracts with the local population, the CVS office alleviated the fragmentation of payment offices spread throughout Regional Commands North, East and Capitol.

"They weren't intertwined, but now we're all connected," said 1st Lt. James Elkins, the officer in charge of CVS. "Consolidation was the solution."

Now, the one office handles payment for Soldier support, including locals working in the dining facilities, laundry and construction on bases. CVS also pays local interpreters and contractors delivering goods and services for the Commander's Emergency Response Program, Elkins said.

CERP provides humanitarian assistance for cities and villages outside the walls of FOBs and outposts here. School, hospitals and other public areas are built or improved with the program. Local Afghans are hired to provide the assistance by CERP teams, and they are paid by the CVS office.

Both workers on and off the wire are paid through Electronic Fund Transfers, just like a direct deposit paycheck in the states, said Staff. Sgt. Jeffrey McArthur, the noncommissioned officer in charge of CVS. McArthur is with the Charlie Detachment, 9th Finance Management Company, attached to the 101st Finance Management

Company from Joint Base Lewis-McChord, Wash.

The CVS pays an average of \$1.4 million each day for the local contracts, and about \$50 million per month is paid for services and projects through RC North, East and Capitol, Elkins said.

Before the office was consolidated in April, a finance office at each major base in the three Regional Commands paid the contracts in their area. However, with ten different offices, there would sometimes be confusion as to which office would inevitably make the payment, and the vendors would go to separate finance offices to get paid, Elkins said.

The 101st FM Company pulled the ten divided CVS offices and housed them under one roof at the company's headquarters on Bagram Air Field, and a Contracting Officer Representative was left at each location. The smaller finance offices provide monetary support, through cash and financial advice, for servicemembers in the major FOBs.

The office is continually seeing Soldiers report in and out. Five different detachments make up the Finance Company, and the Soldiers of the CVS are constantly coming in and leaving.

"Every month we're training new people," McArthur said. "They have to come up to speed quickly to keep up with the heavy workload."

The central location keeps the local workers paid quickly, giving them steady pay for themselves and their families.

"It maintains the peace within the country by providing money and eventually infrastructure in this country," Elkins said.



Soldiers of the Contract Vendor Services office of the 101st Finance Management Company, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade stand outside their office at Motel 6 on Bagram Air Field. CVS consolidated ten offices throughout Regional Commands North, East and Capitol to better pay contracts with local Afghans. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

'Operation Clean Sweep'

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – “There’s a lot of ammo out there from the past 10 years,” said Capt. Marjorie Samples. “It’s handed from unit to unit, year to year.”

The 101st Sustainment Brigade “Task Force Lifeliner” is leading a process, called “Operation Clean Sweep,” to sweep through Regional Command East by inventorying ordnance, sending the old ammunition off smaller outposts, and preparing better storage for the future.

“It’s an effort to address ammunition and explosive issues in the battlespace after ten years of war,” said Samples, the ammunition (Class V) officer in charge for support operations, 101st Sustainment Brigade. “Some of the issues are excess ammo, unserviceable ammo and improper storage of ammo.”

The Class V section worked with Combined Joint Task Force – 1st Cavalry, U.S. Forces - Afghanistan and Joint Munitions Command to stand up five teams to sweep throughout the battlefield.

“We’re practically sweeping and cleaning the battlespace,” Samples said, “and getting the ammo retrograded for us to prepare to leave theater.”

The teams worked with the task forces in charge of each battlespace, and they are composed of explosive safety representatives, quality assurance specialists (ammunition specialist) and engineer representatives.

Ammunition handlers, pulled from the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, were also trained up to help with the sweep. The handlers are a mixture of truck drivers, mechanics and fuelers, so the ammunition specialists of the 592nd Ordnance Company, a reserve unit from Billings, Mont., attached to the 142nd CSSB, gave a crash course to prepare for the mission.

The 592nd trained the handlers before they set off for the austere outposts. The 592nd operates the Bagram Ammunition Supply Point, the single location that resupplies ammo for Regional Command North, East and Capitol.

“The largest part of the mission was inspection and packaging the ammunition,” said Staff Sgt. Ryan Lugenbill, the ASP operations non-commissioned officer in charge for the 592nd. “After that, they’d have a basic knowledge to handle the ammo.”

The 15 handlers learned how to inventory, palletize and retrograde ammo. “They could use that knowledge to send the good ammo back to Bagram back in to the ASP,



Spc. Frank Barnes, an ammunition specialist for the 592nd Ordnance Company, a reserve unit from Billings, Mont., attached to the 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade, inspects an Air Force pallet with ordnance preparing for an air delivery to outlying forward operating bases. All ammunition destined for FOBs in Northern, Central and Eastern Afghanistan passes through the 592nd.

and the bad ammo would be retrograded,” Lugenbill said.

After a month of learning, working and sweating at the ASP here, each of the handlers joined the rest of their team and moved out.

“The teams left here and went into each battlespace, exploring hazards and conducting 100 percent inventories at each site,” Samples said. “We’re focusing on the smaller company-sized [combat outposts].”

When the teams land at a COP, they find all the ammo on the small bases. The ammo is sifted through, the holding areas are inspected, and the teams retrograde some of the ammo back to Bagram.

Storing ammo is a complicated task. The engineers on each team work with the COPs to re-fit their ordnance holding areas, to protect the future ammo from the

elements and separating the rockets and the bullets. “The engineer tells the COPs how to store their ammo, where to store it, and mitigate any hazards,” Lugenbill said.

“Once all of this is complete, they go to a different COP in the battlespace,” Samples said.

As they leave, the task forces and commanders say they are appreciative of the work the teams are doing for their outposts and soldiers.

“We’re hearing back from the battlespace owners how knowledgeable these guys are and how easy the process is going,” Lugenbill said.

Each team is scheduled to visit 25 to 30 outposts during the next few months. The teams stood up and headed out this month, and they are prepared to continue on with operation until December.

Finance Soldiers learn to diagnose counterfeits

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Servicemembers deployed to Afghanistan have several ways to pay for necessities. While some Soldiers go for the plastic approach, like Eagle Cash, credit cards or debit cards, some stick with the classic paper bills.

With paper currency comes the possibility of fake money, but finance Soldiers here are prepared to separate the genuine from the frauds.

Soldiers of the 101st Finance Management Company, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade learned the basics of identifying counterfeit currency during a training opportunity. The class, taught by U.S. Secret Service special agents, showed the Soldiers how genuine American dollars are made during the training.

Aside from protecting national leaders, the U.S. Secret Service “safeguards the nation’s financial infrastructure and payment systems to preserve the integrity of the economy,” according to the Secret Service website.

By learning how currency is produced, the Soldiers could identify the fake money that might circulate through their cashier cages and vaults.

“We’ve already dealt with hundred dollar bills that were counterfeit, now we know what to look for,” said Spc. Grace Marquez, disbursing for the 217th Finance Detachment, 101st Finance Management Company.

Cashiers, bank tellers and other money handlers can easily spot fake currency since they deal with high volumes of cash, the special agents said.

The 101st FM Co. distributes all the American currency for Regional Commands North, East and Capitol. Due to this, they

have more face time with the bills circulating the theater than the typical servicemember.

Rather than learn about the several different counterfeit bills that might end up in their tills and vaults, the finance Soldiers learned the basics of how real money is printed. From the banknote series to the art of engraving to the unique paper, this knowledge will help the cashiers and other Soldiers identify when something isn’t in line.

The special agents said that by knowing how currency is printed, the paper used for printing and the fibers in the paper, they could identify most funny money.

While using advanced screening can help identify counterfeit dollars, the most important tool is the most simple.

“The things you can see with your eyes can help us make sure these bills aren’t going back out to Soldiers,” Marquez said.

Magnifying glasses and ultraviolet lights make the security features of real money stand out to the naked eye and can keep the finance Soldiers from sending out the fake bills. The finance Soldiers used these tools to look at some of the fake currency that has circulated through Afghanistan and other countries during the hands-on part of the training.

The tools and knowledge that the finance Soldiers gained from the Secret Service – led training will trickle down to the other Soldiers of the 101st FM Co., and future finance detachments and companies deploying to theater.

Aside from learning how to recognize funny money, the Soldiers were given the steps on how to deal with potential counterfeits that could reach their hands.

“It helps to know how to handle it,” Marquez said.

If you have received suspected counterfeit money, take it to your nearest finance office for further identification.



Soldiers with the 101st Finance Management Company, 101st Special Troops Battalion, 101st Sustainment Brigade use magnifying glasses and ultraviolet lights to identify fake money during a counterfeit currency training. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

Leaders learn supply chain



Chief Warrant Officer 4 Jerry Scarborough, of Support Operations, 101st Sustainment Brigade, shows leaders of the 101st Sust. Bde. the process of receiving goods at the Bagram Supply Support Agency. (U.S. Army photo by Spc. Michael Vanpool)

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – Several leaders of the 101st Sustainment Brigade gathered at the Bagram Supply Support Agency to learn the ropes of the operations at the warehouse facility, Aug. 16.

The groups of officer and noncommissioned officers, from the brigade staff, 101st Special Troops Battalion and 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, convened on the cramped area here and toured the busiest SSA in Afghanistan.

“In all of Afghanistan, this SSA has the most transactions but the smallest area,” said 1st Lt. Suzan Beattie, of the 142nd CSSB and the accountable officer for the Bagram Supply Support Agency. “Today the leaders learned the overall operations of the SSA.”

Anything, from tires to mattresses to mouse pads, that is bound for servicemembers in Afghanistan cycle in and out of SSA.

During the walk through, the leaders went through each of the sections of the complex. They followed goods as they were received, stored and issued straight to the customer.

“The leadership walked through the different areas of the SSA, and they got a feel for what this is all about,” said Lt. Col. Jose Solis, the commander of the 142nd CSSB. Task Force 142 “Wagonmasters” supervises the Bagram and various smaller SSA in Eastern Afghanistan.

Nearly 400 separate units are serviced by the Bagram SSA. Some of these units pick up their goods directly here, or a liaison officer will arrange additional shipment to their units on outlying forward operating bases throughout Regional Commands North, East and

Capitol.

The Bagram SSA is the busiest SSA in the Department of Defense, so as goods are received by the employees, they promptly inventory and store the supplies. Then as customers come into the facility, they are given to the supply clerks or sergeants and LNOs to deliver to the person who ordered.

“We strive to give them supplies as quickly as possible,” Beattie said.

The leaders learned how orders are handled at the SSA, from the time the workers at the SSA receive it to when it reaches the customer. This knowledge can help them and their subordinates better understand the process, and can lead to better results.

“By knowing the system these leaders can maximize the supply chain and make sure they follow the procedures,” Solis said. “You can better support your own units and the outlying FOBs.”

The SSA is supervised by Army personnel, and contractors work in the warehouse and yard, storing and giving items to customers. Due to this, many Soldiers don’t understand the journey an item makes from the confirmation screen on the computer until it arrives in their hands.

“It’s very important to learn the support system because a lot of the time we take it granted,” Solis said.

As the leaders walked the grounds of the SSA, they were able to see the space constraints on the small 1.4 acre facility. The SSA is slated to move to a new location on Bagram, and expand to around seven acres. This growth should help them better take care of their multiple customers, Beattie said.

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 Brigade Conference Room

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



Lifeline Gym

The gym is open every day from 4 a.m. until midnight.

The cardio room, a second floor and several new pieces of equipment keep the Lifeliners fit and ready to fight.

101st Special Troops Battalion

BAF completes new PAX terminal

Bagram Airfield recently completed the building of a newly designed and spacious PAX terminal for its military and civilian personnel. The Air Force Personnel Accountability Team, of the 90th Human Resources Company, assisted in the transition from the old terminal to the new one. Air Force 2nd Lt. Melodie Capole said, "I helped with the moving of all the internet connections in order to keep operations running." This should ensure that the transition to the new facility is seamless.

This facility will be better equipped to sustain coordination for tracking, briefing and accounting of all personnel. The new terminal opened its doors August 31, and it will seat 1,250 passengers rather than 250 and cover 45,000 square feet instead of the 7,000 previously. This facility will help improve customer services, making it easier to process travel for deploying and redeploying troops, DOD employees and contracting members.



1st Lt. Hiedi Miller, the personnel officer for the 101st Special Troops Battalion, pulls a dummy during the 101st STB Best Sustainer Competition, Sept. 2.

45th MP trains with Military Working Dogs

Up until about two months ago, the 45th MP Detachment had administrative control of 20 military working dog teams based out of Bagram Air Field. Due to a realignment of operational and administrative control for the 45th, the dog team are no longer attached to the 45th MPs. Even though there is no longer a formal relationship with the dog teams, there remains an informal relationship. The supply sergeant and human resources specialist from the 45th continued working with the MWD teams to ensure a seamless transition. Another example of this relationship is in the training of the military working dogs. The dog handlers need personnel to train the attack skills of their working dog partners. Soldiers from the 45th MP Detachment volunteer to assist with this training on a regular basis by going to the kennel, putting on the bite suit, and acting as a training aid for the dogs and their handlers. This assistance provides a valuable benefit to the MWD teams by providing personnel to allow proper training for the dogs. In addition, many of the troops enjoy being around the dogs and assisting in the training serves as a morale booster. It also allows these troops to learn about the capabilities of MWD teams.

142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion

131st Transportation Company

The 131st TC, 2nd Platoon "Mud Puppies," road tested a modified SPARKS II - IED Roller on their mission to Forward Operating Base Warrior this week. The concept was sparked by Lt. Col. Jose Solis, 142nd Combat Sustainment Support Battalion commander, to offset the light signature of the Scout vehicle. The Soldiers were happy with the light's performance and have provided suggestions to improve the product. The 131st will continue to install the kits on more IED Rollers in the near future.

Chaplain on the move

Task Force 142 Chaplain (Cpt.) Don Fulton and Task Force Lifeliner Chaplain assistant, Sgt. Justin Hudgens, visited members of the Lifeliner family at Forward Operating Base Phoenix, Aug. 9-12. During their visit, the religious support team was able to meet the members of the 360th Transportation Company, 90th Human Resources Company and 101st Finance Management Company. The RST was able to spend time shadowing these Soldiers while they performed their mission. This gave the RST time to learn Soldiers' concerns as well as provide any religious support or consoling needed. During their visit to Phoenix, the RST met with the religious support team stationed at Phoenix to discuss religious support coverage. Soldiers of the 101st Sustainment Brigade are active in the religious community at Phoenix and have developed relationships with the Chaplains on the FOB.

A Valid Complaint

A valid complaint is one that violates regulation through discriminatory behavior based on race, color, religion, gender, or national origin. Sexual harassment is also a behavior that is unacceptable according to Army Regulation 600-20, "Army Command Policy" and a basis for filing an equal opportunity complaint. Now that the violations have been explained, you may be asking what's next. Well, I thought it might be important to explain just that - what's next.

I have mentioned before that equal opportunity issues are encouraged to be handled at the lowest level. That handling at the lowest level may include the complainant confronting the individual displaying inappropriate behavior (however, not required). But what happens if you find it difficult confronting the individual? Well, a suggestion or recommendation would be to write the individual or find a leader or supervisor that would accompany you to address the issue. Another individual you may find beneficial, and who is fully qualified to assist in these matters, is the Equal Opportunity Leader. In my experience as an Equal Opportunity Advisor, I've found confronting individuals to be an extremely effective measure in mitigating complaints. If an individual is made aware that their behavior is offensive or harmful, they're more inclined to curb that behavior. Conversely, there are some



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

individuals who don't take heed. In that instance, it is recommended that you get the chain of command involved, and if any of these courses of action fail to correct the complaint, then seek the assistance of an Equal Opportunity Advisor.

An Equal Opportunity Advisor can assist you in one of two ways: by processing an informal complaint or by processing a formal complaint. An informal complaint is one that is not filed in writing and has

no time limitations. It is the process of fact finding, identifying the issue, and developing courses of action needed to resolve the issue. In this instance, an Equal Opportunity Advisor would revert back to the chain of command and assist all individuals involved with this process. A formal complaint is one that is filed in writing and has timelines and requirements on actions to be taken in the resolution of the complaint. This action triggers a formal investigation and requires the complainant to swear to the accuracy of the allegations being made on DA Form 7279, "Equal Opportunity Complaint Form". The investigation will be handled by the lowest echelon of command possible, and the Equal Opportunity Advisor will assist in this process as well.

In every situation that has been brought to my attention, it has always been the case that the complainant simply wanted the discriminatory action or harassment to cease. I've found this to be a good indicator that there is something worth looking into. If you should find yourself in a position where a service member has sought you out for assistance, listen to them. If you can assist the individual, by all means assist. If you can't, refer the individual to an Equal Opportunity Leader or myself. Every member of our team deserves to be treated fairly and each one of us has a responsibility in ensuring that happens.

101st Lifeliner Association, Inc.

The mission of the 101st Lifeliner Association is to organize the Veterans, Soldiers and Friends of the 101st Sustainment Brigade or 101st Airborne Division Support Command:

- Support our soldiers currently serving around the world, honor and perpetuate the memories of the officers, men and women who distinguished themselves by their past service and sacrifices while serving with or attached to the 101st Sustainment Brigade.
- Unite and promote fellowship for the good of the membership through our Reunions, Publications and Website to document the achievements of the unit
- Assist in the relief and special needs of our membership and the education of their children to the betterment of American patriotism and American citizenship, and to promote the national defense.
- Encourage historical research of wars, to acquire and preserve the records of the service of the members, as well as documents and relics, and mark the scenes of the activities of the 101st Sustainment Brigade or 101st Airborne Division Support Command with appropriate memorials and/or monuments, and celebrate the anniversaries of prominent events of our country's wars and conflicts.
- Foster true patriotism, to maintain and extend the institutions of American freedom and at all times to uphold, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America.



For more information, go to the 101st Lifeliners Association, Inc. Facebook page



Local family advancing women's equality meets with Chaplain

Lifeliners donate school supplies, clothes and blankets to an Afghan mother and daughter working towards gender equality in Afghanistan

by Spc. Michael Vanpool
101st Sustainment Brigade

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan – From a chance encounter at a Baptist church in Georgia, Chap. (Maj.) Tammie Crews was able to build relationships across the world in Afghanistan.

The chaplain for the 101st Sustainment Brigade, "Task Force Lifeliner," met with a local mother and daughter working to progress women's rights in Afghanistan and to give them several donated needs for girls here.

Crews met Mashuq Askerzada at a church near Fort Benning, Ga. Askerzada was born in Afghanistan and left for the United States decades ago. They built a friendship that lasted after Crews left the area. When Crews joined the Lifeliners to deploy to Afghanistan, Askerzada put her in contact with his sister still in Afghanistan.

35 years have passed since Askerzada had stepped foot in America and seen his sister, Najiba. Since the siblings last saw each other, Najiba followed their mother's lead and worked to progress women's rights in Afghanistan. When King Zahir Shah's government granted women emancipation in the 1960s, their mother was one of the first to take off the burgha and embrace the change with open arms.

Najiba has risen to an active role in politics by running for office in Kabul and Kunduz. Her daughter, Geety, has worked to women's rights in her own way by working her way up to become a school principal in Kabul.

"Being a school teacher, she's really trying to educate girls," Crews said. "[Najiba] is working in the political system. They're really at the forefront of women's issues and giving women a voice in the society."

The women and Crews talked for months through emails trying to arrange a meeting. All through these months of talking, Crews gathered donations from several sources for the girls of Geety's school.

Chapels at Fort Campbell sent children's hygiene kits that were built during the summer Vacation Bible Schools. Crews also set aside schools supplies sent in the plethora of care packages she distributes to Soldiers here.

School supplies were also sent from Jason's Box, a non-profit organization that sends care packages to deployed Soldiers. When the brigade was approached by Jason's Box this past spring, the Lifeliners asked the organization to instead send school supplies for the chaplain's mission with the women here.

Clothes, blankets and infant supplies were also donated by Operation Care and Comfort from San Jose, Calif., Lindon

Police Department Wives from Lindon, Utah, and Adopt a Platoon.

During the Muslim Holy Month of Ramadan, Crews, Najiba and Geety met up at the brigade headquarters here. They spent an afternoon sitting around talking and sharing stories. Najiba was especially eager to know what her brother's three children looked like, since she has never met her nephews and niece.

When the time came for the women to part ways, Crews gave her visitors the nearly 60 boxes of donations. They used these donations to help the young schoolgirls, who often go without the most basic of needs.

The timing of the meeting and donations had a special meaning for the women. Ramadan is a time of fasting and helping the less fortunate.

"Even though we didn't plan it, it's a season of giving near the end of Ramadan, much like the Christmas season," Crews said. "It was a symbol of giving to them from the American Army to those that are in need."



Chap. (Maj.) Tammie Crews, the brigade chaplain for the 101st Sustainment Brigade, stands with a local mother and daughter who work to progress gender equality in Afghanistan. The mother is involved in politics and the daughter is a school principal. Crews gave them around 60 donated boxes from several organization across the U.S. to distribute to the young girls at a school in Kabul. (Courtesy photo)

Women's Equality Day Celebration

by Sgt. 1st Class Aniceto Valencia
Lifeliner Equal Opportunity Advisor

The 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution shattered the formal barrier to women's legal right in our Nation and empowered America's women across our society to be heard. Today, Task Force Lifeliner celebrated Women's Equality Day in observance and celebration of this historic amendment. This Amendment became law only after decades of work by committed trailblazers who fought to extend the right to vote to women across America. As a result, brave, and tenacious women are challenging our military, society, and as a Nation to live up to its founding principles. Women of Task Force Lifeliner came together here in Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, and provided insight into who are the women in our formations. They were from a wide array of military occupational skills; they were active, guardsmen and reservists who answered our nations call; they contributed to the war effort serving in their MOS capacity or working outside their MOS by performing critical jobs as convoy commanders, gunners, convoy truck drivers, logisticians, battle captains, clerks, and ammunition specialists; Some are students, Doctors, law enforcement officers, and teachers when in the public sector; they are Grandmothers, Mothers, Sisters, Aunts, Cousins, and Daughters.....They are American Soldiers.

Women of the 101st Sustainment Brigade graced us with their legacy and inspired us all to reach ever higher in our pursuit of liberty and equality for all. Even though the 19th Amendment to the United States Constitution shattered the formal barrier, there is still a glass ceiling. Women like CW4 Angela R. Lowe, who is the first female 131A, Field Artillery Targeting Officer, in the history of the Army and General Ann E. Dunwoody who is the first woman in U.S. military and uniformed service history to achieve a four-star officer grade, are breaking these glass ceilings, paving the road for others to follow and creating bridges to cross-over to positions generally held by men.



A day in the *Life* Liners

