



# “On Point”



Volume 2, issue 3

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## Commander's Corner



Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, program management teams, contract personnel, Family and friends of the battalion, thank you for everything you do each and every day in support of our great mission. It is time to bid farewell to the majority of our military personnel in the battalion headquarters and our two Logistics Task Forces. For some this day could not come fast enough; for others it will be

bittersweet as they ponder the many events that occurred over this busy deployment. I encourage all to take the time to reflect on what you have accomplished and to recognize the contributions each of you have made to our unit and our Nation. Your dedication and personal sacrifice does not go unappreciated. Job well done!

To the family members anxiously awaiting the return of their loved ones; they will be home soon. Thank you for your untiring support throughout the deployment for our Soldier's could not do what they do without it.

To our incoming team, I would like to welcome you to the battalion. We look forward to integrating you into the team and facing together the challenges

that the next year will bring. I know that the first few weeks will pass in a blur, as we throw many new ideas and issues your way to achieve success. I am confident that you are up to the challenge.

Fall is finally here, but the temperatures are still high so stay hydrated and continue to do the right thing. As the daylight hours start to decrease, remember your reflective belts and to stay alert for pedestrians both on our compounds and on the roads. Remember those in harm's way and continue to provide them the best support possible. Have a great month. Stay Safe and Stay Focused!

Trust and Loyalty!  
On Point!  
-Excellence 6

## Around the Footprint...



## Sergeant Major's Desk



This last week marked the 10 year anniversary of the 9-11 attacks on the United States. While this is a bit late I hope it is received in a manner that it is intended. That is with respect, dignity and admiration. Respect for the victims of the attacks. Dignity for the family members and admiration for the responders and the servicemen and women that went into those buildings not knowing if they would be coming out again.

As much of a tragedy that 9-11 was, it was also a credit to the people of our

nation, of all walks of life, to be able to come together as a country in a time of need.

The current state of affairs in this country seems to be dividing it because of political views in our nation's capital.

I ask that we take a moment within ourselves to think about what is really important and to remember the victims of 9-11.

With that said, I would like to THANK all of you that are currently serving our communities as Firefighter/First Responders back home and the military, Department of Army Civilians and Contractors serving here in Afghanistan.

For the Firefighters/First Responders, YOU make our communities safer. For those who have served, are serving in the military, or are still in harm's way, THANK YOU for bringing the fight to

our enemies and for keeping the fight off our shores.

If you are reading this you fall into one of the categories above, take a moment to let your brothers and sisters around you know their commitment to making our lives safer does not go unnoticed.

In closing, set aside a little time to call family, friends or someone special in your life. Because of the attacks there are too many of our countrymen and women that will never have that opportunity again. To do otherwise would be to dishonor their sacrifices.

**I REMEMBER!!**

SGM Kaufman  
BN SGM

For photos of 9/11 ceremony at Shindand go to page 5.

# Please join us online



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## The Executive Officer's Pen by Maj Brent



Wow, it is football season again. I remember arriving in Afghanistan last year during the football season, which means it's time to go home. To me, this football season is special because I am going to be reunited with my family. After a long year in Afghanistan I am looking forward to the integration back into family life. What does football mean to you?

I am a huge fan of football. I watch the pee wee, high school, college, and NFL leagues. I usually pick one team that I want to win, and that's

usually the underdog. It is very exciting to see the underdog knock off the team favored to win. I like rooting for the underdog because they come from a smaller conference and everybody wants to see if the little guy can beat the big guy. Football fans are passionate and they are usually fueled by their love for their alma mater and a tremendous amount of their favorite drink. It translates to raucous cheering sections and a true home field advantage for teams. In no other sport is a home field advantage so important, because of how loud the home team's stadium can get. It can be so loud that it can disrupt or rattle an opposing team's entire game plan.

Another reason is the football rivalries. They are so huge,



because teams usually play their rivals once a year, and the game usually means so much. Finally, men need an extra reason to sit home and watch sports. Football starts on Thursday and ends Monday night. It is on from noon to about midnight on Saturday, so you can spend an entire day watching the NCAA.

Now, a few words of wisdom: death and life are in the power of the tongue. Think before you speak, because you can really ruin someone's day. Choose your words wisely. It is better to build a person up rather than tear the person down.

Always stay mentally, physically, and spiritually fit. A little effort in all three areas will make you a better person.

"God speed"  
"On Point"  
"Maintain the Momentum".

MAJ Derek Brent, BN XO



**"Always stay mentally, physically and spiritually fit."**

## The Command Vision of the 401st AFSBn—KAF



### *Command Vision*

*An accomplished, agile and adaptive organization comprised of skilled and disciplined Soldiers, DA Civilians and contractors who will succeed in any type of mission for our Nation.*

*A diversified formation that values discipline, initiative and integrity, and respects each team member as someone who volunteered to serve a cause greater than oneself.*

*A disciplined, combat-experienced organization which all others aspire.*

## Spotlight by J. Elise Van Pool **Leatherneck TPE Team**

"We keep accountability of all the equipment units are signed for." Said Jeffery Calhoun, a Honeywell employee who helps the Army manage theater provided equipment at Camp Leatherneck, Afghanistan.

The TPE team falls under Logistics Task Force-4, part of the Army Field Support Battalion--Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade. They manage 72 hand receipts, worth approximately \$182 million.

Often when units arrive in Afghanistan they get many of



their vehicles and other equipment here. Managing all of that equipment is Army Material Command's 401st Army Field Support Brigade and its subordinate units. It's a big responsibility,

made even more challenging when the equipment is issued to another service.

"The Marines manage their accountability a lot differently."

There is no typical day Calhoun said. "Every day is different. We just help the units"

Calhoun's favorite part, "dealing with the customers."

The idea of being responsible for millions upon millions of dollars worth of equipment might give some insurmountable heartburn. While it causes a stressful day or two for Calhoun and his team it's all part of a day's work here.

"As a team member it makes me important. Accountability is the most important thing out here," said Calhoun.

## Points of Safety by Mr. Baylor

### SAFETY TIPS TO FOLLOW WHEN

#### DRIVING IN

#### HIGH WIND/BLOWING SAND



- Allow extra time for your travels and reduce your speed.
- Increase the distance between you and the vehicle in front and be certain you can stop within the distance you can see to be clear.
- Reduced visibility conditions include bright sunshine, blowing sand.
- Make sure you have a pair of sunglasses in your vehicle to deal with bright sunlight.
- Use moderation in judging safe speed. Slow down enough to maintain a safe stopping distance.
- Do not slow down so much that you become a risk to drivers behind you.
- Be aware that in reduced visibility conditions, drivers tend to follow the tail lights of vehicles in front of them.
- If you must pull off of the road, pull as far off of the road as possible (shoulder of the road may consist of soft sand) turn off your headlights and turn on your hazard lights.

### 401<sup>st</sup> AFSB SAFETY

## Are You In The Dark?

It's that time of year again, when you go to work in the dark, come home in the dark, and if you are on shifts, do your job in the dark. Many hazards lurk under the cover of darkness that can cause injury.

Consider these hazards and how to protect yourself if you work or commute in the dark:

- Keep your vehicle in good condition. Check your battery, head, tail and signal lights. Keep all lights clean and free of obstructions.
- Take the time to clear the windshield and windows before you start.
- Compensate for any vision limitations you may have. As you get older, you need more light to see. If you wear lenses that change color according to the light, make sure they become clear enough for you to see and wipe clean condensation from your glasses or goggles.
- Make sure walkways and parking areas are lit and report any burned out lights. Be wary of slippery areas that may have built up during hours of darkness on walkways, steps, and pavement. Use of portable Light sets for outdoor work should be designed to prevent direct glare, reflected glare and shadows.
- Practice good housekeeping.

SAFETY BULLETIN

SAFETY BULLETIN

SAFETY BULLETIN

### So long, Mr. Thompson...



"I just wanted to see what was here and what I could add to or help with," said Clarence Thompson.

Thompson, a 40-year supply veteran, just finished a six-month tour in Afghanistan serving in Logistics Task Force-4, part of the Army Field Support Battalion--Kandahar, 401st Army Field Support Brigade.

"It was rough," Thompson said about working with Marines for the first time in his long

career. "Different branches have different ideas about equipment maintenance and accountability."

Thompson continued, "Sometimes the train of thought was hard to follow."

After 12 duty stations and 21 years in the Army, Thompson changed his green suit for black and has been working as a Department of the Army Civilian for the last 19 years.

"It's hard to do that." Thompson said about the switch from Soldier to Civilian. "It's a culture shock. Things don't move as fast as you think they should."

Thompson currently serves as a supply specialist at Red River Army Depot near Texarkana, Texas. He says not much has changed about doing supply in the Army, just the, "property accountability methods and equipment upgrades."

What is his favorite part about working for the Army? "The people," Thompson said. "I have met a lot of great people. If you don't have good people, it doesn't matter what you do, you will never have a good



### Shindand Remembers 9/11



US ARMY



We would also like to welcome the following individuals to the battalion.

Ardoin, Aaron	Marshall, Janell
Newton, Brian	Evans, Stanley
Tejchman, Joseph	Cotto, Damian
Melton, Bernard	Shumway, Andrew
Jimenez, Judy	Hunt, Stanley
Creek, Paul	Miner, Jason
Pearce, Phil	Edwards, Ruben
Jiminez, Judy	Shapiola, Michael
Gill, Maurice	Myers, Franklin
Gant, Ricky	Stratton, Todd
Starks, Gregory	Santiagoortiz, David
Cruz, Michelle	Kool, William
Jones, Brian	Baumgart, Randal
Quinley, Wilson	Davis, Kristen
Twitdy, James	Johnson, Allison
Briones, Teobaldo	Cassidy, Martin
Ross, John	Bice, John
Lastrapes, Tyrone	Rinard, Sean
Moon, Joshua	Meyers, Bryan
Waldrip, Kevin	Vaughn, Todd
Fields, Sherri	Currier, Thomas
Stephens, Nicola	Norris, Jerome
Brooks, Pamela	Powell, Douglas
Coffey, Robert	Burton, Roderick
Mcqueen, John	Rosardo, Angel
Palmer, Stephen	George, Joanne



Woodbridge, Shawn	Lawson, Ricky
Walny, Jason	Phillips, Christopher
Murphy, Seamus	White, Errol
Yelder, John	Hamilton, Scott
Matthews, Terry	Hutton, Phillip
Chavez, Daniel	Smith, Jason
Kelley, Michael	Smith, Jimmie
Pullicar, Robaire	Robinson, Richard
Barling, Cody	Knieff, Michael
Butler, John	Martinez, Paul
Capps, Johnathan	Capers, Ray
Gaitan, Holman	
Hensel, Paul	
Jiles, Eric	

**Last Words by the Editor** by J. Elise Van Pool



First, I would like to welcome all of our new Soldiers and civilians to the battalion. It is a pleasure to have you all here and I am looking forward to having the opportunity to work with you in the coming months.

I recently had the opportunity to travel to Shindand and Leatherneck. I visited the LSEs and LTFs at those locations

and got to see the great work they do first hand and challenges they face.

Being away from the flagpole has its advantages and disadvantages. For better or worse, those away from the flagpole often receive less recognition for their efforts. That is why I wanted to feature them more prominently in this month's newsletter. We all work hard, it is nice to share the fruits our labor with the whole team.

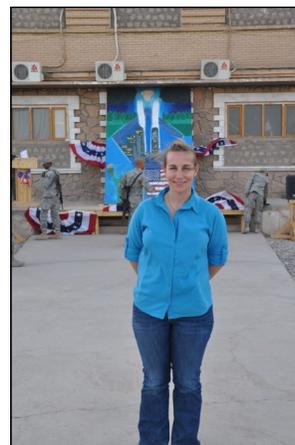
As we move forward with the drawdown I would like to encourage you to share your stories of success with the team and with the families back home via our Facebook and

Flickr pages. Please email or call me if you have a story you would like to share.

Story submissions email:

Jacqueline.e.vanpool@swa...

Or call: 318-421-5040





# Out on the FOB: Photos from Leatherneck and Shindand

