



# Logfire Ledger

## 298th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



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### Ledger Contributors:

#### Editors:

CPT Fanneta Battle  
SFC Bonnie Hughes

#### Writer:

CPT Fanneta Battle

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### Lines from "LOGFIRE 06"

As I write this column from the comfort of my tent here in Shin-dand, I'm reminded of the chal-lenging journey that all soldiers, airmen, sailors, and marines take simply to "get here". A deeper look into the journey offers even greater respect for the character, and sheer dedication, of each man and woman contributing to this war effort. Being relatively new to this theater, these thoughts of the travels and preparation to "get here" are all very recent memo-ries.

As I dissect these memories, and refocus them to the point of "soldier character", it is truly a testament to the character of the American warrior. On average, most soldiers; reserve or active component, spend months in preparation for deployment. We often associate the sacrifice of time away from family merely to the deployment itself. However, these warriors commit time, labor, thought, plans, and personal sacri-fice; on every level, to the prepa-ration of this momentous event called deployment.

I offer these observations, not as complaints, but as a testimony to the mighty character traits of the American warrior. Some may say, "Well, you signed the line....", or "That's what you signed up for...". These state-ments are valid, which leads to the root of the "earned respect" for each contributor to this "war fight". We serve with a body of volunteer "warriors" every day. These mighty "warriors" were not forced into service. Each member

of the team made a conscious, life decision, to serve their country. Others may question motive for volunteering service.

Some may note that service comes with great benefits, such as education, bonuses, etc. I submit that regardless of individual motive for serving, a common bond is found in the personal courage which sets them apart from the average citizen. Somewhere in the background of every warrior's personal history is the day they raised their right hand, and took an oath before the glorious colors of the American flag acknowledg-ing a willingness to accept per-sonal sacrifice for the good of their country.

To both the warriors, and families of the "LOGFIRE" team, I salute, respect, and thank you for your commitment to freedom. It is truly my honor, and privilege to stand "shoulder to shoulder" with the brave Americans in the 104<sup>th</sup> TC, 183<sup>rd</sup> SMC, 226<sup>th</sup> QM, and HHD, 298<sup>th</sup> as we continue this journey for the sake of freedom, and the American way. Further-more, I render my deepest respect to the families and friends of all of these soldiers, who without your support, we could not do our jobs here.

As we continue the journey, we shall continue it in pursuit of ex-celence. Our daily goal, and effort, is to become better with each sunrise. We shall never be satisfied, for satisfaction often leads to complacency. Our perse-vering goal is to always offer our



LTC Lynn Pippen  
Battalion Commander

"Very Best Effort" in all that we shall do. Every day is not, and will not be "easy", however, we can end each day with personal pride if we realize we have put forth our "Very Best Effort" each day.

Thanks to the soldiers, and fami-lies, of the "LOGFIRE Team" for all that you do, and may God truly bless our efforts!

LTC Clifton "Lynn" Pippen,  
Commander, 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB  
"LOGFIRE 06"



CSM William B. Ward

**Words from Command Sergeant Major**

Welcome to Shindand, Afghanistan. Please let me introduce myself. I am the Command Sergeant Major of the 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB, William B. Ward. I have served in the Mississippi Army National Guard for 39 ½ years. I enjoy talking with and taking care of soldiers. As the Command Sergeant Major, taking care of soldiers is a challenging responsibility which I take on full-heartedly.

Remember safety starts with each individual soldier. You are all safety leaders. When in a vehicle, each soldier will wear seatbelts at all times. Use the buddy system when walking around. Reflective belts/vest will be worn during the hours of darkness, limited visibility, and while wearing the PT uniform.

Leaders, check your section for sensitive items. No negligent discharges. Also make sure soldier's uniforms have the proper insignia.

As leaders we need to uphold the Army Standard and live the Army Values. Remember that NCO's are the Backbone of the Army.

I would like to extend my personal thanks to the Family Readiness Group. Thank you for all that you do.

Logfire 09



**New Command Team Pays a Visit to Shindand**

The 298<sup>th</sup> welcomed a special guest on Saturday, March 12, 2011, when COL Lawrence A. Kominiak, the 7<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade (SB) Commander, and CSM Tony Escalona, the Brigade Sergeant Major, paid a visit to Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan, for the Transfer of Authority Ceremony between the 529<sup>th</sup> and 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB's. During the command team's first official visit to Shindand, COL Kominiak and CSM Escalona were able to get a briefing on the operational tempo and the missions the 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB soldiers are performing in RC-WV, while also allowing the new command team to become familiar with the staff and their functions. In addition to meeting the staff, they also received an overview of the installation and its relationship with the surrounding villages.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade, the "Army's Navy", is based out of Fort Eustis, VA and is the only Composite Sustainment Brigade within the Active Component of the US Army. The 7<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade has served honorably around the world in time of conflict since its activation in 1942. Its mission is to conduct multi-modal transportation operations in support of the reception, staging, and onward movement of joint and/or combined forces into a theater of operations. The 7th Sustainment Brigade assumed control of the sustainment mission in Afghanistan during a transfer-of-authority ceremony with the 43rd Sustainment Brigade at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, February 28, 2011.

## RIP/TOA

### Task Force Cavalier and Task Force Log Fire Transfer of Authority

In a morning ceremony, the 298<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), Task Force Log Fire assumed command of the logistical operations in Regional Command-West (RC-W) in Afghanistan from the 529<sup>th</sup> CSSB, Task Force Cavalier. The Transfer of Authority ceremony took place on March 12, 2011, at Shindand Air Base, Afghanistan.

The Log Fire Team of the 298<sup>th</sup> is a National Guard unit that hails from Philadelphia, Mississippi. The 298<sup>th</sup> will be the second CSSB to deploy to RC-W, while their higher headquarters from Mississippi, the 184<sup>th</sup> Expeditionary Sustainment Command (ESC), is finishing out the remainder of their tour in Kandahar, Afghanistan as the Joint Sustainment Command for Afghanistan.

Lieutenant Colonel (LTC) Clifton "Lynn" Phippen, the incoming battalion commander, gave praises and thanks to all the soldiers that fall under his command for their willingness to serve, and the professionalism they displayed during the transition. LTC Phippen also reminded his soldiers that while the coming mission would be difficult, their dedication to being the best they can no matter what they do will have a lasting impact on Afghanistan and its people.

The 298<sup>th</sup> was organized in January of 1943 as a Tank Battalion. In 1968, it was re-organized into the logistical unit that it is today. The battalion participated in the European Campaign of World War II, and was activated in 2004 in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The 529<sup>th</sup> leaves behind a rich legacy for the 298<sup>th</sup> to follow. As the first CSSB in RC-W, the unit achieved many notable accomplishments to include the following: command and con-

trol for convoys that covered nearly 500,000 miles, within RC-W, managed over \$700,000 of Commander's Emergency Response Program contracts, for local infrastructure and humanitarian aid projects, as well as managing an overall total of over \$24.6 million in contracts throughout the battalion, just to name a few.

The 298<sup>th</sup> welcomes its newly assigned units to the Log Fire team which are as follows: the 226<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Platoon from Fort Stewart, GA; the 104<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company from Fort Benning, GA; and the 183<sup>rd</sup> Maintenance Company from Fort Carson, CO. Each of these units has tailored their own successes within RC-W with their highly trained soldiers and incomparable leadership. Both the incoming and outgoing commanders gave their thoughts on the missions and the impact their units will have in Afghanistan. LTC Michelle Rose, the 529<sup>th</sup> CSSB Commander said, "Without teamwork between other U.S. units,

coalition forces, contractors and Afghans the mission would have been impossible." LTC Phippen, the 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB Commander had this to say, "I think what is most exciting is I see American soldiers, sailors, marines, and airmen all making a difference and helping the people of Afghanistan take their country back. I see a very diverse incorporation with the coalition and Afghan forces all together as one team. I'm very excited about that dynamic. It's very evident it will be a big part of this mission."

The 298<sup>th</sup> faces a challenging year ahead, but through proficient training, skilled leadership, team work, and the love and support from its family members back home, LTC Phippen and the Log Fire team are ready to meet those challenges head on.

Watch the ceremony here: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UokPZ5aCX8>



## CERP Project

The 298<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion is making positive impacts in Afghanistan by providing critical sustainment support to coalition forces in their area of operation as well as helping improve quality of life and promoting economic development in local Afghan communities. The Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) is being executed in villages around Shindand Air Base and it provides funds to resource projects in the local communities, assisting the local populace with certain life support needs, such as potable water production, power generation, and other infrastructure developments.

*"A good battle plan that you act on today can be better than a perfect one tomorrow."*

*- Gen George S.*

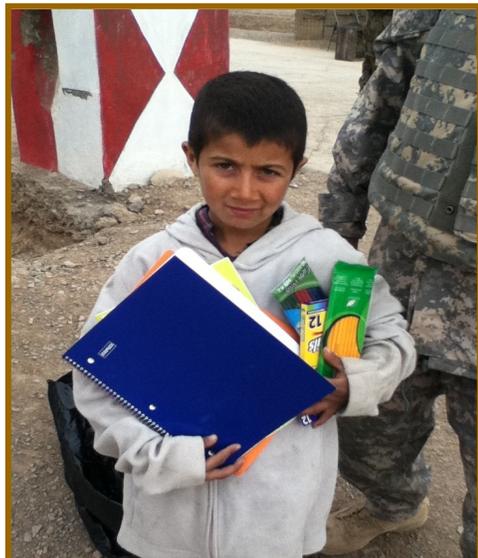


CPT Reginald R. Brownlee (center), CPT Eric L. Quinn (right), and the Battalion Interpreter (left) visit with the Village Elder from Deh Ali Beg village to discuss placement of three wells that will provide water to the mosque and homes.



The water that flows to the local villages comes from a 500 year old underground stream called a "Karez." This is also one of the CERP projects being managed by the 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB. A local construction company and 30 local workers have materials made, prepared, and laid out as depicted in the left photo. In the photo on the right, local workers install new ellipsoid concrete rings in the Karez, which establishes the base for wells in villages like Deh Ali Beg. This project has opened up job opportunities within the community and with jobs comes financial stability, economical growth, and reinforcing infrastructure. The Elder expressed much thanks to CPT Brownlee and the 298<sup>th</sup> CSSB, for all of what we were doing for them. He also stated that the people in his village were very excited and willing to help, knowing that the completion of this project will bring lots of water to the village.

### The School Boy



This boy's story is that his dad died at a young age. His mother remarried and the stepfather convinced her to let his uncle take care of him. His uncle is blind and cannot take care of himself. The little boy is now the man of the house.

This little boy came to us asking for something to write with and write on because his notebook was full from school. He told us that he loves to go to school. How many kids do you hear that from back home? The next day came and there he was with that worried look on his face waiting for us outside the gate. As SGT Moody was going through the bag of school items a tear came upon the little boy's face. He was so grateful, especially for the notebook!



SGT Mason

SGT Moody



### **Basketball Tournament**



USO at FOB Shindand took part in a very engaging and entertaining event. What started as a dunk contest escalated into a full-blown basketball tournament and BBQ, put together by SPC Cotton.

## Chaplain's Corner

### One cup at a time

By CH Heather Duff

The book, Three Cups of Tea, chronicles David Mortenson's experiences with Pakistan and Afghan people. After recounting the journey that led to Mortenson's failed attempt to climb Pakistan's K2, Mortenson focuses on his mission to provide the impoverished Afghans with schools to educate their children. A phrase often used to describe Mortenson's mission is, "One man's mission to promote peace, one school at a time." In this book, Mortenson explains that the reason the book is titled Three Cups of Tea is that, in Afghanistan, the first time you share a cup of tea, you are merely a stranger; the second time, you are an honored guest; and the third cup of tea signifies that you are a part of the family. Here in Shindand, SPC Wright and I, in conjunction with the S4 and an interpreter, are working with the local Afghan people one cup of tea at a time!

SPC Wright and I first met the local Afghans at the well site.

Initially, there was no interpreter, so we greeted one another with much hand gesturing and wide smiles. Before the introduction of names, the village elder brought us each a cup of tea. He then patiently stood beside us as we tasted the cup of tea that he offered. Upon tasting the tea, he made hand gestures to inquire as to whether or not we thought the tea was good. It was, in fact, very good. Only after we finished our tea did he initiate further discussion as to our names and our purpose.

Our purpose was to distribute care packages to the local villagers. The care packages included sheets, toiletries and some school supplies. The Afghans were very appreciative. Some of them would gesture, to ask what a particular toiletry item was used for. In one instance, SPC Wright gestured back to them that sunblock would protect their skin from the sun. They nodded enthusiastically as they rubbed the sunblock on their hands and faces. They indicated that their skin needed protection and the sun block was met with hardy approval.

Once our interpreter, Abdul, arrived, we could converse with words rather than gestures. We learned that their needs centered on shoes, especially for the working men, and school supplies for their children. Some of them lifted the leg of their pants to reveal worn shoes held together by string and tape. Others spoke about the needs of their children for pencils and paper. All were appreciative and friendly. We believe that meeting some of their needs will enable us to develop strong and trusting relationships between the Afghans and ourselves.

As noted, a cup of tea is an offering of friendship and is often served before any meeting. SPC Wright and I are honored that we were invited to share that first cup of tea. Our prayer is to establish enough of a bond to eventually venture to that second, and God willing, perhaps third cup of tea.

*"Commit to the LORD whatever you do, and your plans will succeed."*

Proverbs 16:3



### **BN's Recovery Tams**

Dear Friends, Family, and Loved Ones,

It is my firm belief that we, as Americans and as both the financiers and suppliers of our nation most precious treasures, our sons and daughters, are unaware of our purpose in this landlocked and turmoiled country. Many of us can recall hearing from the mainstream media that our purpose here may be confused, misguided, or simply unjust. I will submit to you that while that belief may be the face of mainstream media, it is not the case. Sensationalistic and dramatic driven and with the notion of "if it bleeds, it leads" does not provide a fair assessment as to the task and purpose of our lengthy and sustained presence here. The deep-rooted notion that the United States is attempting to "kill its way out of the war" is a complete fallacy. As it currently stands, our purpose here is to "degrade the insurgent effort to a level manageable by the Afghan National Security Forces". It is the front line warriors of the COIN (Counterinsurgency) strategy which take on that monumental task on a habitual basis. I would like to shed some light on those front line warriors and showcase some of their finest achievements.

Since our arrival, our recovery teams have not only proved their worth to us during dozens of mission and even recovering our vehicles 26 times in one mission, but also to the local Afghans. We have recovered local trucks carrying goods, harvest, and commodities throughout Western Afghanistan. Last week, a recovery team (SGT Nolen and SPC ) from the 104<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company recovered a man's truck who had been stuck on the side of the road for two days. The man told me that crane companies had refused to come out and help and that other locals would not provide any assistance. So, with no other choice, he sat waiting on the side of the highway. With a wide smile from ear to ear, his utter jubilee was not only seen as we recovered his vehicle but also felt by his vigorous handshakes and hugging. To us, it was simply 30 minutes of our time; but to him, it meant a season's worth of harvest and livelihood for his family.

Two days ago, we came across another instance similar to the previous. It was also in this mission that we were partnered with an Italian Parachute Regiment and Slovenian Stryker elements; a true coalition effort. A man, driving from Herat to Kandahar, had fallen asleep at the wheel and crashed his vehicles into a ditch. The recovery team from the 183D Maintenance Company (SGT Downs and SPC Wheat) embarked on, what was going to be, a very long road to recovery. This man's truck had flipped on its side with over 80,000lbs of scrap metal. Under blazing heat, the recovery team had separated the container from the truck. And after almost an hour and half, the truck was flipped on its side and pushed away from incoming traffic.

Sayed, our interpreter, told me that based on this man's income, he would have never been able to afford to pay for his own recovery.

Our purpose here is to help the Afghan people; like I tell my platoon, we must act and treat the Afghans in way that we would want to be treated: do unto others as you would want done to yourself. The efforts and responsibilities taken upon by all are truly inspiring in the most altruistic sense. These achievements are shared by all those who leave behind friends, family, and loved ones. As an Afghan Police Colonel told us, "Thank you for leaving your families so that I can be with mine". These are only a fraction of the examples of the overall and substantial Counterinsurgency efforts in which we, as a true multi-national and coalition force, work together today for a better Afghanistan tomorrow.

Keep on Rockin' in the Free World!

1LT Avraham (Avi) Behar  
Gun Truck Team 1 "Warpigs" Commander  
Maintenance Support Platoon Leader



SSG McSwain and SSG Cole helping the locals clear out their underground river to insure that they have water to their village for the dry season.

*Show class, have pride, and display character. If you do, winning takes care of itself.*

## 104th TC CSDP

The 104<sup>th</sup> Transportation Company recently participated in a Command Supply Discipline Program (CSDP) Inspection, conducted by the US Forces – Afghanistan (USFOR-A) Property Accountability Team (PAT). The team traveled to Shindand to inspect the 104<sup>th</sup>'s supply room and their accountability. Since the beginning of the war, the Army has suffered more than \$200 million in property loss. The PAT was assembled to try and reduce that number by keeping supply sections accountable and on their toes.

The 104<sup>th</sup> Supply Team consists of SSG Ventrick Hines, SPC Tyesha McClain, and SPC Devora Alston. They achieved a rating of Commendable, scoring a 99% on their inspection. They were graded on areas ranging from Management, Inventories, Standard Operating Procedures, Key/Lock Control, Arms Room Operations, and many other sections. Each section was worth a predetermined amount of points, and the sum total of those points determined the overall score.

“We appreciated the inspection and the insight they provided, the team provided us with several useful tools to enable us to tidy things up and keep our records straight. Hopefully this can help set up the incoming unit for success as well,” said SSG Hines. Said SPC McClain, “ We got a lot of information that helped me update our TMs and get our company ready for the upcoming RIPROTA and redeployment.”



## 226<sup>th</sup> Quartermaster Detachment “Always on the Move”



SPC Vien, of the 226th Quartermaster Detachment, receives a 40ft container in the Central Receiving and Shipping Point (CRSP) yard using the Rough Terrain Container Handler (RTCH) at Shindand Air Field



SPC Johnson, working hard at the FSSP pumping fuel



SSG Plummer and SPC Fewtails, both 92F of the 226th take measurements at the FSSP to ensure on-hand balances



SPC Fewtails works along side a Dyncorp employee at the fuel site



## We're on Facebook

[http://www.facebook.com/  
pages/298th-  
CSSB/12614034073566](http://www.facebook.com/pages/298th-CSSB/12614034073566)

### Promotions:

SPC Amanda Smith  
(298th CSSB)

## Safety message from CW2 Jeff Revette

Fatigue is a common stressor that challenges Soldiers at all levels. Both Leaders and Soldiers must be aware of the effects of fatigue on their bodies. Failure to prevent it could result in Soldiers making mistakes that have catastrophic consequences. Sleep deprivation may lead to drivers falling asleep at the wheel, failing to recognize a threat or reacting too slowly; impaired thinking and reasoning abilities, leading to bad decisions; and an overall degradation in alertness and ability to function properly. The following tips can aid with sleep management:

- Maintain a nutritious diet and try to avoid too much caffeine, sugar and tobacco
- Do not eat or drink too much prior to bedtime
- Exercise regularly-but not within three hours before bedtime
- Avoid activities that are mentally or physically stimulating before sleeping
- Avoid over-the-counter "sleep aids," which cause grogginess, not actual sleep
- When sleeping, minimize noise and light by wearing earplugs and blackout shades
- Maintain a disciplined work/rest cycle

(For more information on this, check out Knowledge Magazine Online, vol 2, October 2008; <http://safety.army.mil/knowledgeonline/october2008> )

I would also like to say that, with unit members continuously departing on and arriving from leave, I want all soldiers and their families to have fun but, be extra careful when enjoying their time on R&R and get back to us safe and sound. Also a big Hooah! to the 298th CSSB; as a unit, they have been accident free since leaving home station! Let's keep it up!

"Army Safe is Army Strong!"

### Mayor's Cell Projects

Coming to Shindand:  
The Green Bean Coffee House should be up and running within two weeks. Also The Education Center is in the initial steps to get established.

### Thought For The Day

*"Never look down on anyone unless you're helping them up."*



### On The Funny Side

A man and his wife entered a dentist's office. The wife said, "I want a tooth pulled. I don't want gas or Novocain because I'm in a terrible hurry. Just pull the tooth as quickly as possible."

"You're a brave woman," said the dentist. "Now, show me which tooth it is."

The wife turns to her husband and says: "Open your mouth and show the dentist which tooth it is, dear."