



# “On Point”



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## Commander’s Corner



Soldiers, Department of the Army Civilians, Program Management teams, Contract personnel, Family and Friends of the 4<sup>th</sup> Battalion, thank you for everything you do each and every day in support of our great mission.

This has been a busy month, full of challenges, which were successfully accomplished through your professionalism and dedication.

Moving forward over the next few months, do not expect things

to slow down. As we shift focus onto supporting those units leaving over the next few months, we must do all that we can to ensure that we are ready and able to meet our requirements.

This will provide us an outstanding opportunity to test our processes and refine them in preparation for the larger unit departures next year. I encourage everyone to place a critical eye on each process and provide your feedback to the battalion leadership to make things better and more efficient.

Autumn is here, and there has been a noticeable change in temperature. Please stay aware of the weather predictions and dress accordingly. As darkness continues to arrive earlier each day, remember your reflective belts and remind your coworkers to do the right thing and

wear their belts. It is too easy a task when you consider that the consequences are potentially so severe.

To the family members back home, we hope that all is well and that each of you understands what a vital role you play in supporting your deployed loved one. You remain important members of our team. Please 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



The AFSBn—KAF had the opportunity to spend some time with the Command Sergeant Major of the Army Reserves here at Kandahar, Afghanistan. He talked about the way ahead for the U.S. Army Reserve, the new physical fitness test, combat readiness test, and Yellow Ribbon issues and concerns. He held a town hall meeting for Soldiers to hear

their concerns and thanked the Soldiers for their sacrifices.

After being here for the past month, I would like to say thank you to all of you for the jobs that you do. Also, I need to focus on an issue that is very near and dear to me and that is safety. When driving in and around the work areas, DFAC, PX and anywhere that people are walking, please follow the speed limit. Pay attention to those around you. There is no need to speed thru the areas mentioned above.

There will be a warning order coming out very soon with regards to safety, speed limits and what will happen if the rule of engagement is broken. Make sure at night that you are wearing your safety belts so that you can be seen.

Last but not least, please use the buddy system when possible to ensure your safety during the hours of darkness. Make sure that you are wearing your

seatbelts and if you drive a gator that you have on your Kevlar. Remember, safety is everyone's responsibility!

Team work: we are all members of the team and we need to keep that in mind in everything that we do. Be respectful of your fellow teammates and let us always show how professional we are in everything that we do.

Veterans Day is fast approaching and I would like to say to all veterans, thank you for your service and the sacrifices that you have given for our freedom. Never let us forget about the men and women that have given the ultimate sacrifice.

Command Sgt. Maj. White  
BN CSM  
ON POINT!

For more photos of Command Sgt. Maj. Schultz' visit, please see page 5.

# Please join us online



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**The Executive Officer's Pen** by Maj. Andrew Shumway



Remember the movie *Miss Congeniality*? In it, Sandra Bullock plays an FBI agent who is under cover at a beauty pageant. There is a scene where she is required to do the standard beauty queen interview. They ask the standard question about what she wants to accomplish and she says something about "harsher punishment for parole violators," then, after a pause, she tacks on the stock phrase, "and world peace."

So, for the newsletter, the standard question is always: what do I want to accomplish in the year or so that we're going to be here? Try not to picture me in an evening gown while answering.

I want to make sure that everyone gets home safely. The last thing I want to have to do is go see your loved ones and explain, "what happened." If we were a combat unit, I would write about how there is always some risk involved in accomplishing our mission. However, for AFSBn-KAF, unless things go very wrong, the risks that we face are almost all ones that we have control over. Please pay attention to those controls, not just in terms of what you're doing, but as they apply to those around you.

I would also like to position

the staff to support the commander as effectively as possible. Right now the staff works very hard to get the commander the information he needs to make day-to-day decisions. I want to get to the point where the day-to-day stuff is routine and systematic so that we, as an organization, are focused on the future.

To do that, I want to implement a set of staff tools like a staff action tracker, a staff calendar and common operating pictures. If we create those and make them part of our organization along with the tools we already have, we'll have the staff positioned to move forward into a predictive mode. We'll also be able to hand off work very effectively as people transition in and out. That's the "forget the Olympics, go Pro" level of performance AFSBn—KAF staff should have.

What else would I like? Well, world peace would be nice...



**“Well, world peace would me nice...”**

**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: CREW by J. Elise Van Pool



"If it's on, it's going to work. So it's 100% effective." said Eddi Bowers, the Regional Support Center—Kandahar site lead, about the Counter Radio Electronic Warfare system.

CREW systems are helping Soldiers to defeat deadly improvised explosive devices by blocking radio signals that can be used by insurgents to deto-

nate the devices remotely.

The jammers were developed in 2006, when insurgents in Iraq were using cell phones to remotely detonate roadside bombs. The equipment developed by military scientists is basically equivalent to a transmitter on steroids, said Bowers. "It takes a little more than an off-the-shelf item to do that."

CREW has been highly effective in preventing the remote detonation of IEDs by cell phones, said Bowers. "There are still radio controlled ones out there, but nowhere near as

many as there used to be because they know we have it figured out."

"They [Soldiers] love it," Bowers said. "It gives them the boost of confidence to know that anything that's radio operated out there, they're going to jam it."

An average installation takes between two and four hours. The RSC at Kandahar averages about 10 installations per day and every field service representative there usually does about four or five maintenance calls a day, as well. The team also has 9 FSRs out at various

locations in Southern Afghanistan.

Despite challenges, RSC-Kandahar has the best production rate in Afghanistan. About fifty percent of all the theater-provided jammers are installed here.



## Points of Safety by Mr. Baylor

### *For Colds and Flu*

How many times a day do you wash your hands?

Mom was right: You need to wash your hands more often. It is just not enough to rinse under some lukewarm water. Infectious diseases are the third leading cause of death in the U.S., and the Centers for Disease Control calls hand washing "the most important means of preventing the spread of infection." The Food and Drug Administration recommends that hand sanitizers not be used in place of soap and water but only as an adjunct.

*Here's how to clean hands properly:*

1. **Remove rings and bracelets.**
2. **Wet hands using a stream of warm running water.** Excessively hot water is harder on the skin, dries the skin, and is too uncomfortable to wash with for the recommended amount of time. Because cold water prevents soap from lathering properly, soil and germs may not be washed away.
3. **Use soap (any kind).** Dispensers deliver the proper amount of soap, while protecting the rest from contamination. Use the right cleanser for the task. Use a nickel-size amount of general-purpose cleanser or a quarter-size quantity of anti-microbial cleansers. Follow the instructions on the label.
4. **Lather thoroughly.** Scrub hands, including the wrists, palms backs, fingers, and under the fingernails for total of at least 20 seconds.
5. **Rinse thoroughly.** Dry hands completely with a paper towel. Leaving soap residue on the skin and incomplete drying contribute to dermatitis.
6. **Repeat steps 2-5 if hands are particularly dirty or greasy.**
7. **Use a paper towel to turn off the faucet without re-contaminating hands.**
8. **Use hand cream after washing and during the day to restore the skin's natural oils, keeping it resilient.** Skin conditioning agents (emollients) soften and smooth skin. Moisturizers reduce shedding of dry skin flakes and inhibit the growth of microorganisms. It is recommended that you follow this routine before you prepare or eat food; tend to someone who is sick; or insert or remove contact lenses. Also wash after you go to the bathroom or handle uncooked foods.



**Hand Sanitizer:** apply about a teaspoon (dime size) of the sanitizer in palm of hand – spread thoroughly (front & back, fingernail areas) by briskly rubbing hands together until dry.

**Remember, hand sanitizer does not replace soap and water.**

## New Team at Leatherneck, Welcome!

**Back Row** (Left to Right): Ryan Schewe, DLA Rep; Roddell Johnson, QA; Pietro Schinaia, S-6; Ned Turner, TACOM; Lt. Col. Scott Hamilton, Commander; Robert Kriner, WRO;

**Middle Row** (Left to Right): Gasper Jarquin, QA; Joanne Geotge, Executive Assistant; Dave Hooper, QA, COR; Norris Simpson, deputy commander; Robire Pullicar, TACOM

**Front:** (Left to Right): Sgt. 1st Class Ruben Edwards, NCOIC, COR; Maj. Bob Smyth, Operations Officer, COR

**Not Pictured:** Julienne Byrd, TPE Chief; Tim Blair, Equipment Specialist



## Welcome Command Sgt. Maj. Michael D. Schultz, Army Reserve



### Holiday Mailing deadlines are in by Mark Edwards, HRC Public Affairs



The United States Postal Service and Military Postal Service Agency have released deadlines to ensure packages arrive to Military and State Department post offices overseas by Dec. 25, 2011.

Deadlines to ensure arrival by Dec. 25 are Nov. 12 for parcel post mail; Nov. 26 for space-available mail; Dec. 3 for parcel

airlift mail; Dec. 10 for priority mail and first-class mail, letters and cards; and Dec. 17 for express mail military service.

The Military Postal Service Agency highly encourages customers to mail packages on or before the dates for the specific mail category in order to avoid unplanned transportation delays. Not all military or State Department post offices are eligible for Express Mail Military Service therefore, customers should plan accordingly.

"Express Mail Military Service is not available for holiday packages and mail going to Iraq and Afghanistan," said Faye Slater, the deputy director of the Military Postal Service Agency.

The Military Postal Service provides mail service around the world to Department of Defense and most Department of State locations. Mail is moved on commercial and military aircraft and commercial sealift vessels to nearly 2,000 military post offices located in over 85 countries.

The Adjutant General of the Army, located at the Human Resources Command, Fort Knox, Ky., is the Executive Director of the Military Postal Service Agency.

For information on mailing deadlines and restrictions, email the Military Postal Service at: [MPSA-TR@conus.army.mil](mailto:MPSA-TR@conus.army.mil).

*“When I took command in Vietnam, I have great emphasis to food and medical—and to the mail.”*

*~ William Westmoreland*

### JSC-A Commander visits Shindand





**ON POINT!**

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

Gutierrez, Rafael  
 Batemon, Terry  
 Bargsten, Ralf  
 Faulk, Nathan  
 Ojeda-Vazquez, Alan  
 Richardson, Jimmy  
 Schultz, Randy  
 Stone, Gary  
 Hudspeth, Brett  
 Conserette, Thomas  
 Roberts, Jessica  
 Emerick, David  
 Duenas, Raymond  
 Early, Tonya  
 Barth, Riley  
 Van Brunt, Pete  
 Bausley, Christopher Sr.  
 Tewkesbury, Jeremy  
 Pearce, Phil  
 Batt, Stanley  
 Bear, Jane  
 Irby, Marshall  
 Masker, Donald  
 Mccloskey, Kenneth



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



As the summer winds to a close here in Afghanistan, the mission is only picking up. We are all preparing for the surge recovery that will begin in a matter of weeks, while still supporting the warfighters remaining on the battlefield.

As we prepare for these things, I would like to remind everyone to connect with your families back home. It's important to reach back every now and

then, send a note and let them know they are not forgotten. It's easy to lose track of time here and go for a while without talking to your loved ones back home.

A great way to help your family feel connected to you and to the rest of the battalion is to share our Facebook and Flickr pages with them. With these sites they can stay abreast of what is happening in the battalion and see what life is like for you here.

We are also quickly approaching the holidays; if you are doing anything special in your section, please feel free to send those photos to me so I can share them with the folks back home via our Facebook and

Flickr pages. I would love to share photos of you in your Halloween costumes, Thanksgiving feasts and Christmas and Hanukkah celebrations.

To that end, if you have photos or stories you would like to share with the rest of the brigade please don't hesitate to contact me.

Story submissions email:

Jacqueline.e.vanpool@swa...

Or call: 318-421-5040



# Just for Fun

