

December Edition

Wolves' Den



**HOME OF THE 1ST STRYKER BRIGADE COMBAT TEAM, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
"ARCTIC WOLVES"**

Volume I

Issue 4



COMMANDER'S CORNER

1/25 SBCT Commander

Colonel Todd R. Wood

Arctic Wolves,

The Holiday season is here as evident by the decorations, the increasing snow levels and the record low temperatures in Fairbanks. For the Soldiers here in Southern Afghanistan our hearts may be at home with our families singing carols but it is evident our focus is on the mission.

Every day I see Soldiers rising to the challenges they are faced with. We are maximizing our energy and focusing it in the right areas to produce success. Our Afghan partners prove to be enthusiastic and ready to improve their professional capacity. An Afghan National Army company moved into COP Lion, marking the 1st significant Afghan security presence in the former Taliban stronghold, leading to a long term commitment to security in Panjwa'i and all of southern Kandahar Province. Our partners are taking on equal shares if not more of the security operations. Afghan forces are taking more of a role in planning operations and are moving to the lead.

Every time we do an operation, the positive effects are almost instantaneous, making it easier for us and Afghan Security Forces to focus on stability operations and building the Afghan security forces. Our partners are anxious to advance and we continue to set conditions for them to step into the driver seat.

The reputation of this brigade, that we can accomplish any mission, has set us up for great relations with our higher headquarters and is spreading across the region. The Arctic Wolves are making a name for themselves and the actions of each and every one of you are making history not only for the Brigade but for the Kandahar Province. The successes we have had in the past couple months and the successes to come in the next few months will greatly impact the units that follow us through 2014.

I could not be happier with the Soldiers and family members of this brigade. Our Family Readiness Group and Rear Detachment support is the best I have ever seen. All of your efforts are greatly appreciated by those of us deployed. Thank you.

Throughout the Holiday season, in Kandahar Province and back home, I implore you to keep paying attention to each other. If you are a leader, check your subordinates. Everyone needs to continue to watch their battle buddies and be there for them. We continue to prove that we are...

ARCTIC TOUGH!

ARCTIC WOLVES!



1/25 SBCT Command Sergeant Major

CSM Bernie Knight

WOLF 7

Arctic Wolves,

Recently, while on mid-tour leave, I visited Bethesda Naval Medical Center, Brooke Army Medical Center, Madigan Army Medical Center, and the Warrior Transition Unit at Fort Wainwright. The LNOs and staff at all these warrior care facilities are providing excellent services for our wounded Soldiers, their families and the unit leaders at Fort Wainwright and Afghanistan. At all posts the LNOs coordinate for pickup of Family members at the airports and arrange for their stay at the facilities on post. Most of all, the LNOs become part of each Soldiers' family and help with motivation and serve as a link for the non military family members; helping them understand military jargon, as well as the programs and assets available for them. The LNOs are doing an outstanding job taking care of our Wounded Soldiers and their families. We owe a bit of gratitude for their service. Thank you to SFC Elsenpeter, SSG Thorpe and SFC McCormick.

When I saw our wounded Soldiers they were all motivated and happy to see a familiar face. Although these Soldiers were faced with a new adversity and wounds, most were intent on getting back to the troops. Some were focused merely on recovery. I was amazed at the quickness our Soldiers are healing. SPC Andrew Strege C Company, 3-21 Infantry was very happy when being fitted for his prosthetic leg. He took his first steps on his own that day. His motivation was to do well with his prosthetic so he could walk into his home on Thanksgiving without the aid of a wheelchair.

Our Soldiers are receiving state of the art quality care. The Center for the Intrepid near Brooke Army Medical Center is amazing! It has the best equipment and is filled with experts who help our Soldiers recover.

The Soldiers who are receiving out-patient care live on the grounds with quality living and services. They also have a magnificent center for watching TV, games and spending time with visitors. The center has many volunteers who help with anything imaginable. When I showed up they were decorating for the Holidays and making goodies for the Soldiers.

I delivered 1-25 hats, shirts and mini T-walls to the wounded Soldiers who have sacrificed so much. The T-walls have a piece of Purple Heart wood inlaid to signify their Purple Heart Medal the Soldiers received for wounds received in Combat. The T-walls were made in Afghanistan at FOB Masum Ghar by SPC Jeffrey Gilseth of the BSB.

All of our wounded Soldiers are proud of their team here in Afghanistan and enjoy their company on Facebook and email. They all want to know what is going on, how the unit is and how their team is doing. I assured them our units are doing a great job. I ask them to get healthy so they can come up to see us upon their return.

These strong Soldiers once again prove that the Arctic Wolves are Arctic Tough!

Strike First!
Strike Hard!

**Inside The
December Issue**

Cavalry Amputee Re-enlists in Afghanistan

by Sgt. Thomas Duval

Commander's Corner 1

Wolf 7 2

Cav. Amputee Re-enlists 3

Increasing morale one cup at a time 5

Running with the Pack: Photo Page 6

50km run for Wounded Warriors 7

Veterans Day brings Soldiers together 8

Arctic Wolves' Thanksgiving 9

Suicide Prevention 10

Home Away From Home 11

Retention 12

Soldier, NCO and Officer of the Month 13

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FRONTENAC, Afghanistan - The U.S. Army defines selfless service as putting the welfare of the nation, the Army and your subordinates above your own.

On Nov. 9th, Staff Sgt. Brian Beem



stood in front of a crowd filled with his peers, superiors and subordinates alike to remind them of what selfless service looks like during a re-enlistment ceremony at Forward Operating Base Frontenac in southern Kandahar, Afghanistan.

At first glance, Staff Sgt. Beem, a cavalry scout with the 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, resembles many Soldiers that came before him to re-enlist: standing tall and taking pride in his decision to once again raise his right hand to serve his country.

It wasn't until Beem finished his oath and his speech to his comrades that one could see what made him different from the other Soldiers.

As the Poughkeepsie, N.Y., native began to walk, there was a noticeable limp, one that he tried to hide with a smile and a small nod of the head as he shook hands with everyone that gathered to witness the inspirational event.

It was the limp that reminded each Soldier what true sacrifice and selfless service was.

During a deployment to Iraq in 2006, Beem, 33, received the injury that would change his life forever.

On Oct. 10, 2006, Beem was riding in his Stryker vehicle when an improvised explosive device detonated, sending him to the ground gasping for air. After gaining his composure, the 13-year Army veteran assessed his fellow Soldiers riding with him. That's when he began to realize

the severity of the explosion, as he found his battle buddy and best friend, Sgt. Nicholas Sowinski dead.

After performing checks on the rest of his crew, Beem began his own assessment.

"I knew right away my foot felt funny," he continued. "As I felt down my leg, I felt my knee, and then I felt what seemed like a second knee."

Beem was evacuated to Walter Reed Medical Hospital where the doctors fought to save his leg, but after a number of surgeries to reverse the infections and a number of attempts to repair the two missing arteries failed, the decision to amputate his leg was made.

Despite losing his leg, he continues to live his dream of being a Soldier, and in May 2010, he

returned to Iraq for Operation Proper Exit. The program allows Soldiers who have suffered traumatic and sometimes career ending injuries to return to the battlefield and leave on their own terms.

The titanium leg that Beem relies on to walk will always be a reminder of the horrific day in Iraq. He refuses, however, to let it affect him finishing what he started and often jokes that the new prosthetic leg has made him faster and somewhat of a "bionic" Soldier.

Beem's positive attitude and the Army's Continuing on Active Duty program have allowed him to continue his military service. After returning from Operation Proper Exit and receiving the support of his commanders and fellow Soldiers, he decided to secure his footprint as a cavalry Soldier, as he chose to join his fellow "Black Hawk" Soldiers of the 5/1 CAV for their deployment to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"He is a true inspiration," said Command Sgt. Maj. Joseph McFarlane, 5/1 CAV's senior non-commissioned officer in charge. "If we think that we have a bad day or this day is too hard, all we have to do is look at Staff Sgt. Beem and remember his bad day in October 2006 and then remember that he is still here with us today."

"To see him come in every day motivated and confident inspires me," said Spc. Jason Harris, a cavalry scout with the 5/1 CAV. "It's amazing to see someone who can stay positive, even after going through something so tragic."

The Nov. 9th re-enlistment will be the last for Beem as he entered his indefinite stage, making him a career Soldier.

"From the time I enlisted in 1998, I knew I was a career Soldier," Beem said with a smile. "It's not about the paycheck. It's about the profession."

The sacrifice of Staff Sgt. Beem and the resiliency to recover from the devastating injury are two traits that he says most Soldiers possess. Although he would never accept being called a hero, he is often recognized as just that. Many people who have met Beem will say that it's not his actions on Oct. 10, 2006, or Nov 9, 2011, that set him apart, it's his loyalty to a higher cause that distinguishes his service as selfless.



Increasing Morale...One Cup at a Time



The combined effort by these groups is being dubbed by Soldiers as 'Operation Morning Brew' and these programs have uplifted the daily lives of many Soldiers.

"When you have 24-hour mission planning and operations out of the wire you need to be awake and on top of your game at all times," said 1st Lt. Stephen Leader, intelligence officer with 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1/25 SBCT. "Through the gracious donations by the people and many different support groups back home we can now enjoy hundreds of different brews."

The supply of coffee and coffee brewers arrived just in time for the winter months, here, in Kandahar Afghanistan.

"It keeps me awake and warm on the chilly nights that we have been having," said 1st Lt. Robin Epperson, Civil Military Operations Center chief with Bravo Company, 489th Civil Affairs Battalion, deployed out of Knoxville, Tenn., and attached to the 1/25 SBCT.

"It makes enjoying coffee easy when everything you own is made out of plywood and the 'communal office kitchen' is non-existent," Leader said.

Authorized programs like these are an exception to the Joint Ethics Regulation's gift policy, playing an important role in fulfilling a coffee craving and they also improve morale.



by Sgt. Thomas Duval

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan - For Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan, a morning cup of coffee helps them get through the long hard days.

A lack of resources often causes Soldiers to resort to less traditional approaches to get their daily coffee kick.

Soldiers often use Dixie cups or cut up water bottles to drink coffee found in the unfavorable meals-ready-to-eat which rarely tastes or looks like the traditional or desired 'cup of Joe'.

For the Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, the days of MacGyver-like techniques to make coffee are over.

For the past six months large shipments of Keurig® coffee makers and bags of popular coffee brands have poured in from various different organizations such as Kuerig®, AdoptAPlatoon® and ©Operation Gratitude.

RUNNING WITH THE PACK



Stryker Brigade Soldiers complete 50 km run for wounded warriors

by Sgt. Thomas Duval

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan -- Finding spare time during a deployment can be a difficult task for Soldiers. Deciding to spend that time running is even more difficult, unless it's for a good cause.

On Nov. 19, 1st Lt. Brandon Carius and 1st Lt. Luke Reece, Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan with the 3rd Battalion, 21st Infantry Division, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, found a good cause as they completed a 50 kilometer run to help raise money for the Wounded Warrior Project.

"I didn't really start off to do this for any type of fundraiser. But, then someone mentioned to me that this was a good opportunity to help out a good cause," said Reece, during an interview with the WWP. "We were going to run anyway, so why not give it more of a purpose?"

Reece said the run hit close to home as a couple of Soldiers from their battalion were wounded in combat and now utilize some of the services the WWP provides.

Carius echoed Reece's sentiment adding "no amount of respect, remembrance or charity is enough to give those who are severely injured while serving their nation."

Although the two agree running for wounded Soldiers added a significant amount of motivation to complete the challenging feat, there was also a lot of time spent preparing.

"I had done a marathon back in March and was running into April, up until we deployed," Reece said.

Reece's run routine, dramatically changed as the Brigade began deploying and at one point almost completely stopped.

It wasn't until the two arrived at Forward Operating Base Zangabad, Afghanistan that they refocused their efforts to running.

"The first time I finally got out and ran, I could barely run a lap," Reece said.

"My legs felt like Jell-O."

After getting back into a daily routine the Army officers, began experiencing a different type of challenge.

In Zangabad, the roads are mostly gravel, sometimes making even the simplest tasks, like walking, difficult.

"A good run can be judged by how many times you roll or twist your ankle," Carius said. "A 'good' run is when I only roll my ankle once every 100 meters or so."

After learning how to run on gravel there's the challenge of battling the extreme temperatures.

"It's super hot here in the summer," Reece said. "The temperature can climb as high as 115 degrees, but it feels hotter than that."

To battle the climate and the ankle-threatening run route, the two began running at night and made sure to have plenty of shoes on hand to replace the shoes damaged from the gravel.

In the end all the hard work and preparation paid off and to help put in perspective how far the two ran for their fellow battle-buddies; a runner at the Boston Marathon will only run 43.6 kilometers to complete the 26.2 mile race.

"There are no excuses or regrets, and running or walking any amount of distance is something that a few of our comrades cannot do right now or will ever do again," said Reece

Together, Carius and Reece helped raise more than \$3,000 dollars for the WWP.

The WWP is a non-profit organization that relies on enlisting the public's aid for the needs of wounded service members.



Veterans Day Brings Cavalry Soldiers Together

by Sgt. Thomas Duval

FORWARD OPERATING BASE FRONTENAC, Afghanistan -- Growing up in Westwood, Calif., U.S. Army Spc. Riley Miller enjoyed playing chess, loved reading and never thought twice about raising his right hand to join the military.

For Miller the closest he ever came to understanding the military growing up was through the stories his grandparents told him on rare occasions.

Every year on Nov. 11, Miller said he would watch his grandfather become quiet and keep to himself as others celebrated Veterans Day.

“When I think about Veterans Day I always think back to my grand dad and how he would become quiet,” Miller said. “I knew I would never know what he went through so I just gave him space and respect.”

Thousands of miles away and on the opposite side of the United States in Birmingham, Ala., Spc. Jason Harris spent most of his holidays clinging to pictures of his dad.

Unlike Miller, Harris enjoyed sports and excelled at school when he could. Because Jason’s dad was in the 5th Special Forces Group from Fort Campbell, Ky., he didn’t get to spend a lot of time in one place. Like many ‘Army brats’ the demands of everyday life were made a reality early.

For Harris, Veterans Day, was a holiday chalked up to his dad being gone, and although he missed his dad he said he grew to understand why he chose to serve.

“I was always proud of my dad and Veterans Day took on a special meaning for me,” Harris said. “He’s the reason I joined and the reason I will continue to serve.”

Miller, 21, is an information technology specialist while Harris, 24, is a cavalry scout.

One is 6 feet tall while the other just 5 feet 10 inches on a good day.

On paper the two are complete opposites with completely different backgrounds and different ways of remembering past Veterans Days, however, as the upcoming holiday approaches and Americans all over the world celebrate the sacrifices of all the men and women serving in the military, both past and present, the loner from Westwood High School and the popular southern boy have found themselves sharing one thing; they are both part of the many

service members who can call themselves veterans.

The two are both Soldiers deployed to southern Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom with the 5th Squadron, 1st Cavalry Regiment, 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team.

“I have a better understanding than I did before,” Miller said. “Although what I am doing is nothing compared to what my grand dad went through, I feel like maybe in a small way I know why the holiday meant so much to him.”

When you look at all the veterans, Harris said “there’s nothing that distinguishes them from everyone else it’s just an internal drive to do something not many people can do.”

“When you go to war your past is thrown out the window,” Harris said. “Your priorities become the safety of your battle buddy and how you were raised doesn’t matter anymore.”

They both agree that being veterans holds a very special meaning that only other veterans understand.

“It’s great to be honored but at the same time I didn’t join for celebrations and the parades,” Harris said. “It’s special to be included in a group of people that includes grandparents and other family members throughout the years.”

“I’m proud to represent my family and serve,” Miller said.

The two have embraced the bond that they will forever share and have made a promise to themselves to focus on the sacrifices made by those who came before them.

For Miller it’s for the solemn grandfather while for Harris it’s for the loving and caring father who fought to raise a son who would become a young Soldier.



Spc. Riley Miller, a Westwood, Calif., native and Soldier assigned to the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, poses for a picture after coming off of a mission in southern Kandahar, Afghanistan.

THANKSGIVING



Soldiers focus on suicide prevention

by Sgt. Thomas Duval

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan— Senior non-commissioned officers and commissioned officers alike, deployed to Southern Kandahar Afghanistan, are diligently working to defeat an enemy that continues to take the lives of Soldiers, both in and out of war zones.

Soldiers of 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, recently spent a week training more than 4,000 Soldiers on the signs and symptoms of depression and suicidal tendencies during a suicide awareness and prevention re-emphasis period.

U.S. Army chaplain, Maj. Herb Franklin, said he believes making Soldiers more aware of the suicidal signs in themselves as well as their battle buddies can dramatically lower the number of suicides and suicidal attempts.

Capt. Jungu Lee, chaplain for 25th Brigade Support Battalion, 1/25 SBCT, agrees with Franklin and added that the combination of increased awareness and caring from battle buddies can significantly affect whether a suicidal thought turns into a suicidal action.

Suicide awareness and prevention has been a concern that has caught the attention of Department of Defense officials.

"Suicide prevention training and awareness are vital components of the Army's health promotion and risk reduction efforts against the tragic occurrence of suicide within our ranks," said Lt. Gen. Thomas P. Bostick, the Army Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, in an Army release earlier this year. "It is a priority that deserves our full attention and continued emphasis by all leaders. Junior leaders and first-line supervisors can be especially effective in assisting those in a moment of crisis."

Franklin agrees with Bostick and said one of the most common misconceptions among Soldiers is that seeking help will hinder or put an end to a Soldiers' career.

"The biggest misconception about getting help is that getting help is a sign of weakness," Franklin said. "I truly believe seeking help is a sign of strength."

Army commanders are tackling suicide head on by increasing the awareness of signs and symptoms through increased training and awareness programs like the Army's Ask, Care, and Escort, recognized more commonly as the (ACE) program.

Governed by Army regulation 600-63, the ACE program provides Soldiers with simple steps to intervene and help fellow Soldiers who may struggle with suicidal thoughts.

"The 'ACE' program is a great means of offering help to those struggling," Franklin said.

"We collaborate extensively with other Federal and national programs to assure we remain abreast of the very latest research and best practices." Bostick said.

The Army has also dedicated a wide range of resources to mitigate the risks. Some of the popular programs include virtual behavioral healthcare, military family life consultants and transitional assistance management programs (TAMP).

The virtual behavioral healthcare allows Soldiers with behavioral health issues to seek and receive outpatient treatment online. This option allows Soldiers to get the help they need where they are most comfortable.

Military family life consultants work closely with the Army Community Service program to provide non-medical counseling services to help Soldiers and their families cope with stressful situations.

TAMP is a service that allows certain Soldiers to receive military health benefits after they have transitioned out of the Army.

An Army release in September is evidence that these programs combined with advancements in research and practices being set forth by the Army are working.

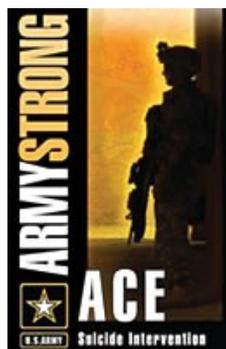
According to the September report, the number of potential suicides among Active duty members was 19, down from 22 in July. Investigations are still pending for many of the potential suicides with only three confirmed in August and five confirmed in July.

Although the numbers are considerably lower than the national average, Army commanders, chaplains and senior leaders are still taking the steps necessary to prevent any unnecessary deaths.

Franklin and Lee agree with Bostick that the Army's suicidal prevention programs are making a considerable difference and both agree that it takes more to save a life than just an increase in training.

"The key is caring about each other and taking steps to put that caring into action," Franklin said. "The key to saving a life is a caring relationship."

According to Lee and Franklin there's only one goal at the end of the day and the leaders will continue to do everything within their means to accomplish it.



Home Away From Home

by Spc. Gary Chessa, 1st Battalion, 5th Infantry Regiment

Any service member who has served a short amount of time will agree that the definition of home tends to be slightly different than what the average person would define it as. With multiple deployments as well as spending anywhere from weeks to months in foreign countries for simple training exercises, “home” becomes more of an idea rather than an actual geographical location.

Over time service members adapt the area around them into something that resembles a home whether it is photos of loved ones or perhaps something as simple as a collection of books.

Spc. Tabetha McKenzie, an Emporium, Pa. native deployed with the 1st Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division to Afghanistan, has arranged her living area to make herself feel more at home. “I have a collage on my wall with pictures of my family and artwork that my son made for me.” She said.

Much like McKenzie, Sgt. Matthew Clark, from Anchorage, Alaska, has pictures of loved ones and also a photo slide show of his family on his laptop’s screensaver.

In no time at all the small area given to service members begins to resemble a small apartment. Though, it’s their temporary place of peace it will never be home.

One of the most important things to most service members is social interaction. Whether it is a game of basketball or hamburgers and a movie with the entire battalion staff, people have a natural need to be around others.

A lack of social interaction can have a negative impact on a person’s health, for example depression as well as other psychological impacts that can be easily avoided with team interaction.

Service members have many ways to pass the time while deployed. Some use their time doing college courses, others such as Sgt. Joshua Meader, from Pittsfield, Main, and Cpl. Travis Hott, from Crandall, Ga., enjoy playing video games on the systems provided in the Morale Welfare and Recreation tents throughout Afghanistan.

Pfc. Matheau Sloan, of Worcester, Mass., like many others enjoys, going to the gym on a regular

basis, while the service members assigned to the battalion intelligence section gather together at least once a week for a movie night. The battalion as a whole gathers together every week or so for a bar-b-q and either a movie or card tournament in an effort to build esprit de corps.

Whether they are a Soldier, seaman, airman or Marine most will agree that one thing that helps with being away from home is the care packages sent by family and friends back home.

The contents of the package generally do not matter much, especially on a small outpost in the middle of Afghanistan. A simple note, piece of artwork from a child, or a box of snack crackers can make a world of difference to a service member’s morale.

Family members also play a key role in reducing the perceived distance between here and home and the idea that someone is thinking about the service member, is what makes it important.

Airman First Class Travis Hunt said the biggest piece of advice he can give to future deploying service members is “to keep a good attitude.”

Staff Sgt. Bryan Fenn said “It is important to keep in contact with family members whether it is by email or phone... it’s important to make the call once or twice a week so it is something to look forward to.”

All service members tend to agree it’s good to have some sort of activity or hobby to keep yourself occupied during these long tours of duty. And while these techniques work, most agree that there’s no replacement for the love and support from family members as well as a good ‘battle buddy’.



STAY WITH THE PACK

Selective Reenlistment Bonuses (SRB) and Reenlistment Options are designed to act as tools to allow the Army human Resources Command (HRC) to manage the Army's total force end strength. SRBs are normally utilized as an incentive for Soldiers to reenlist sooner than later within the reenlistment eligibility window and to nudge Soldiers with shortage Military Occupation Skills (MOS) to reaffirm their commitment for continued service to the Army and away from the call to private sector jobs.

The Army Retention Program has seen a lot changes in the last few years as the end strength has ballooned well above the target. Bonuses have been reduced to slow down the rate of reenlistments and the current trend suggests that the big bonuses of the past are gone. Reenlistment options have been restricted and the reenlistment window has been divided into two separated phases. The window has been narrowed and we are currently well within the first phase. In order for a Soldier to be eligible to reenlist right now they must have an ETS before September 30, 2012. Soldiers in the first phase have an eligibility end date of January 31 or ninety days from their ETS; whichever comes first. Once a Soldier passes their eligibility end date they will be forced to ETS. Phase two is for those Soldiers with an ETS between October 1, 2012 and September 30, 2013. The phase two window will not open until sometime in early 2012 as determined by HRC.

It may be easier to think of it as a supply versus demand model. Since the supply of Soldiers has filled the ranks with more Soldiers than are needed, the demand for those positions has dropped making your choices (or leverage to negotiate) diminish as well. It is important to also understand that these changes to policy are not set in stone, they are cyclical, and will change as

the needs of the Army change. Soldiers who desire to stay in the Army are going to have to be flexible and patient as we all wait to see what will happen during the next phase. If you have any questions about the recent changes or what to expect in the future see your career counselor and we will do our best to help answer your questions.

1/25 SBCT Re-up

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Sr. Career Counselor
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November Re-enlistees

BTB

SPC Delbert Rensberger

1-24IN

SSG Scott Camp
SPC Morgan Hudnall

1-5IN

SPC Chad Blake
SPC Sandy Esteves
SPC Everado Ochoa

25th BSB

SGT John Cross

2-8FA

SPC Reggie Roberts
SSG Jaroslaw Markiewicz BTB

5-1CAV

SSG Brian Beem





NAME: PFC Aaron Cline
UNIT: C BTRY, 3rd PLT, 2-8 FA
DUTY POSITION: Centaurs Operator
HOMETOWN: Buffalo, NY

Soldier of the Month October 2011

PFC Cline has been a great asset to his section as well as his platoon. He works timeless hours within his section and performing force protection for the firing base without any complaint. As a centaurs operator he was able to receive a call for fire and compute the missions accurately in the absence of the FDO and Firing Direction Sergeant. This enabled timely and accurate fires. PFC Cline presents himself in such a professional manner. He developed a program to utilize with the integration of newly arriving section members. This program enabled new section members to process safe and accurate fire missions in less than 30 seconds. PFC Cline is consistently called and looked upon to perform duties above his pay grade. He has been selected above his peers to perform duties of the Firing Control Sergeant a 13D20 level task. He is ever willing to take initiative in the absence of orders.



NAME: SGT Auvinen Jacob
UNIT: 73rd Engineers
DUTY POSITION: Squad Leader
HOMETOWN: Layton, Utah

NCO of the Month for October 2011

SGT Auvinen has proven himself as a competent squad leader time and time again by his countless hours spent on operation Assassin Plow in the Horn of Panjwa'i. His ability to run the D7 bulldozer has substantially contributed to the overall success of the mission. SGT Auvinen has found 15 IED'S while on missions with Assassin company and keeps Assassins safe as a result. SGT Auvinen plowed the way to an 82mm recoilless rifle and an HME grinder that was destroyed in a Hellfire strike. He constantly looks after his Soldiers and ensures their safety.



SGT Auvinen constantly ensures his Soldiers are well trained on the operation and maintenance of the all their equipment. He constantly shows his leadership ability and his job knowledge by always informing the company commander of his equipment capability. He shows unwavering fear constantly by blazing the trail for any mission that Assassin Company is challenged with.



NAME: 1LT ALEX CAPASSO
UNIT: A CO, 3-21 IN
DUTY POSITION: Platoon Leader
HOMETOWN: Nashua, NH

Officer of the Month for October 2011

As a line Infantry platoon leader, 1LT Capasso has shown exemplary leadership and tactical skills that greatly surpass that of his peers. 1LT Capasso has planned, developed, and executed multiple partnered platoon missions that have severely impacted the insurgent freedom of movement in the company area of operations. Additionally, he planned and executed the mission that resulted in the capture of an elusive 82mm recoilless rifle that the insurgent forces had been using freely. Furthermore, 1LT Capasso is a leader that ensures his troops are taken care of, whether that is ensuring the mission is properly planned or ensuring they have the needed down time. He is a leader who's personality draws peers, NCOs and Soldiers alike to him. 1LT Alex Capasso is a dedicated leader and a incredible officer who is a credit to the Arctic Wolves.



1/25 SBCT PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

Maj. David Mattox

PAO OIC

MC1 FARRUKH DANIEL

PAO NCOIC

Sgt. MICHAEL BLALACK

PRINT JOURNALIST

Sgt. THOMAS DUVAL

PRINT JOURNALIST

Pfc. ANDREW GEISLER

BROADCAST JOURNALIST

Unit Public Affairs

Representatives

*2-8 FA: Capt. Angela Chipman

*1-24 IN: 1st Lt. Mathew Rogers

*3-21 IN: Capt. Chad D. Wriglesworth

*1-5 IN: Spc. Gary Chessa

*5-1 CAV: Capt. Mike Newman

*BTB: 2nd Lt. John Conway

*BSB: 1st Lt. Stephen T. Leader



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