

The Spartan Scroll

Vol. 1



AIRBORNE

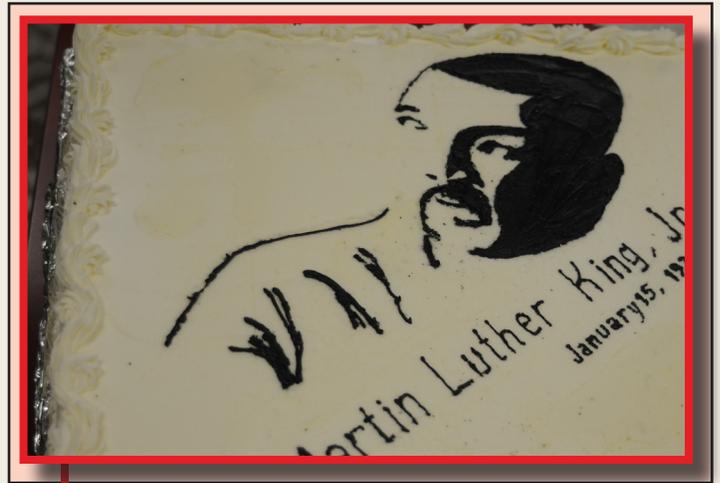


SPARTA LIVES

FEBRUARY 2012

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A cake is displayed for the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance held at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Jan. 16. The 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan Equal Opportunity Team hosted the observance.

Looking for the Spartan Brigade?

Follow us @



<http://www.usarak.army.mil/4bde25th/index.html>



<http://www.facebook.com/pages/4th-Brigade-Combat-Team-Airborne-25th-Infantry-Division/185124454857165>



<http://vimeo.com/user7388116>



4th ABCT on DVIDS: <http://www.dvidshub.net/units/4BCT-25ID>

Javed Dardman, left, and Wakil Ahmad Hamdar prepare for their broadcast to be aired on Caravan Radio in Paktya Province, Dec 29. The radio station provides timely and accurate information to provincial residents.



(Right) Paratroopers from the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division are officially presented their unit's shoulder sleeve insignia or combat patch on January 16th at Forward Operating Base Salerno



(Left) Farook, an Afghan child, receives medical care after suffering an asthma attack. He was medically evacuated to the Forward Operating Base Salerno hospital for further treatment Jan. 8.



On the cover: 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan officially assumes responsibilities from 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke Dec. 31. (Photo by U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson.)

Spartan Press Pool



Editor-in chief:
Capt. Chase Spears

Managing Editor:
Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson

Staff Writers and Photographers:
Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson
Spc. Eric-James Estrada

Contributors:
1st Lt. Cammie Quinn
2nd Lt. Michael Blanchard
Staff Sgt. Ian Anderson
Mr. Kenny Loggins

Layout and Design:
Spc. Eric-James Estrada

For questions, or comments contact us via email at: charles.spears@afghan.swa.army.mil, or jason.epperson@afghan.swa.army.mil, or call 851-0534 (NIPR), 851-5133 (DSN).

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Commander's Memorandum

By Col. Morris Goins
Task Force Spartan

In January the Spartan team took the next step in our storied history, taking responsibility for the mission

of neutralizing our enemies in the provinces of Khost and Paktya. Throughout the country, improvements are being made to secure this nation.

Many who once fought against us and the people of Afghanistan are choosing to reconcile. Those who choose to fight are doing so from a defensive position. We have the momentum and will maintain it. The enemies of the people of our nations embrace an ideology of hate. History has

shown that such ideology can be overcome.

Last month we joined the nation in honoring Dr. Martin Luther King. In a culture of violence and hate, he stood firm and refused to adopt the tactics of a twisted ideology that resulted in hatred against countrymen and discrimination. He overcame hatred with his God-given intellect and knowledge. Wanting more than to end discrimination, he sought to make the world a better place for all people. His message continues to echo through generations.

Dr. King had a dream, and so do most of the Afghan people. They dream of peace, stability and a country where their children will grow and thrive without fear. These are the same things that we all want for our loved ones. Let us continue carrying the torch forward, setting the example for those we serve with.



CSM's Report

By Command Sgt. Maj. Terry Gardner
Task Force Spartan

It's hard to believe that we arrived to RC East's area of responsibility over one

month ago. In that time the mighty team of Task Force Spartan has continued moving forward aggressively, forcing the enemy to remain on the defensive. This is an incredible organization with great talent and energy for the mission. We can't take that for granted.

We have no doubt that the summer fighting season will

be intense. Missions will be challenging. So it's important that you take the time to rest and reset when you're inside the wire. Even though we're in an active combat zone, quality of life is still important.

Leaders are responsible for the health and welfare of their Paratroopers. It is a leader's responsibility to know the conditions that our Paratroopers live in. Don't ignore a living or hygiene facility that needs repair. Take the time to be aware, and bring problems that affect the health and welfare of our team to our attention. Look out for your teams at all times, not just when you're preparing for a mission.

Take care of your Soldiers, and they will take care of you.

Chaplain's Message

By CH(Maj.) Ken Bolin
Task Force Spartan



Settling In

Do you have a routine that you follow? I know some people that have a set PT plan or routine that they habitually follow, because it works for them. I know some people, though, that hate the thought of having a routine, because it makes them feel as though they aren't really living. No matter what your background is, though, chances are good that the combat zone here in Paktya and Khowst is not the norm for your life. For all of us here in TF Spartan, we've now been here anywhere between 1.5 and 3 months. Some of you are experiencing what's affectionately known as "groundhog day", when every day feels exactly like the one before, and you cease to even

care what day of the week it is, except to know what they are serving in the DFAC. Some of you are experiencing new things every day on different patrols, mounted or dismounted, occasional TICs, shuras, or Key Leader Engagements with village elders. No matter which group you fall into, everyone needs something solid, something stable to anchor themselves on.

Different people turn to different things. I know people that use movies, video games, food, or sexuality as an escape from the reality that we live in right now. An escape, though, is not a refuge, it's not something that you can anchor yourself to. It's fun for a little while, and that's okay. But don't let

yourself become dependent on any of these things. As you really get settled into your rhythm for this deployment, take a little time to think about what helps you to really feel at peace. It's the kind of peace that makes it easier to make it through your patrols, or through your briefings and presentations, if that's the stressor for your MOS. We as chaplains recognize that every person's combat stress is going to be different. For some, it's the stress of being out on the RCP, knowing that they could encounter an IED any time on any day. For others, it's the stress of being the one that's going to work on the casualties, whether outside the wire or back at the CSH, or even in the morgue.

I would like to encourage you to take some time in silence daily...complete silence. Maybe it's before you go to sleep at night or when you first wake up. No matter what your faith background, silence is precious, and it's something that can be strangely comforting when your daily life is filled with chaos. May you be comforted today.

TF Spartan paratroopers rescue Afghan child

Story and Pictures By
Spc. Eric-James Estrada
Task Force Spartan, PAO

Paratroopers from Task Force Gold

Geronimo assisted in the rescue of an Afghan child Jan. 8. Early Sunday morning, a combat arms unit from Task Force Gold Geronimo was approached by the father of three-year-old Farook while on patrol in Paktya province of Afghanistan.

Farook was suffering from an asthma attack and was taken to the Forward Operating Base Gardez medical facility. There, the medics determined that Farook would need to be evacuated by helicopter to Forward Operating Base Salerno. "Our physicians took over care and we were able to treat him appropriately with steroids and airway treatments," said U.S. Army Col. Peter Gould, 352nd Combat Support Hospital commander at FOB Salerno. "Now he's calm and able to breathe on his own and with that care he's ready to go home."

Childcare constitutes about 10 percent of patient care at the Salerno hospital. That 10 percent has to meet a certain criteria in order for the doctors here to help them. "Unless kids are injured by us, they are not what is called [Medical Rule of Eligibility] positive," U.S. Army Lt. Col. Matthew Dupree, 352nd CSH officer in charge of emergency medical treatment, "Most of the time when we admit children it's a life, limb, or eyesight issue. This was obviously a life issue."

The doctors at Salerno do their best to service all of those who come seeking medical attention, according to Dupree. "A lot of times the parents just want to bring their kids here because they want them to get better care. We can't take all of them, but we certainly take the ones who fall into the three categories," said Dupree. Although the Salerno hospital is capable of taking care of children, the facilities are equipped more toward adult patient care, Dupree said. "We have to make due and get a little creative using what we have to work with kids."

Farook's uncle, Shah Saied, from Paktya province, Afghanistan, who accompanied his nephew to the Salerno hospital, expressed his gratitude for the care the hospital was able to provide for his nephew. "Absolutely this is a good hospital, when I took my nephew to a local clinic in our district they were unable to care for him," Saied said. "Then I brought him to the base here in Jaji [and] they called an ambulance and were very helpful. If I did not bring him here, he would have died."



Farook, an Afghan child, receives medical care after suffering an asthma attack. He was medically evacuated to the Forward Operating Base Salerno hospital for further treatment Jan. 8.





U.S. Army Lt. Col. Christopher J. Cassibry (left), a native of Gulf Shores, Ala., and commander of the 1st Squadron (Airborne), 40th Cavalry, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division uncases the unit "colors" with U.S. Army Sgt. Maj. Kalen Dringman (right) at Camp Parsa, Dec. 22.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Frank Stanco (above), commander of 2nd-377th PFAR, from York, Pa. and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Cedric Moore, command sergeant major of the 2nd-377th PFAR, Huntsville, Ala. uncase their colors as they assume responsibility from TF Centaur Dec. 24



U.S. Army Lt. Col Patrick J. Ellis (right), commander of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Blue Geronimo, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Kirk E. Johnson, unfurl their battalion colors at Forward Operating Base Salerno in eastern Afghanistan Dec. 27.

TRANSFER OF
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OPERATION ENDURING



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Frank Smith, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Keith Devos uncasing the colors as they assume responsibility from 3rd Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, Dec. 24.



E AUTHORITY

ORNE



G FREEDOM XII - XIII



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Brad Hinson, commander of the 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Brian Morrison uncasing the colors as they assume responsibility from 3rd Brigade Support Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke.



Afghan DJs broadcast peace to more than 300K Listeners

Story and pictures by Air Force 1st Lt. Cammie Quinn
Provincial Reconstruction Team Paktya PAO

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan- In an area with an illiteracy rate of approximately 70 percent, radio communication is critical when sharing news and current events in Paktya Province, Afghanistan.

Team Paktya recently partnered with local DJs in the unveiling of "Caravan Radio," an Afghan-run radio station on FM 95.5, focused on providing timely and accurate information to provincial residents.

Alwal Jan Taniwal, Latifullah, Wakil Ahmad Hamdar and Javed Dardman are Caravan Radio's DJs, a station which has grown in popularity since first airing one month ago.

"Our most popular program is a call-in segment, with more than 500 callers each night," Alwal Jan said. "We receive endless song requests, poetry submissions and general questions from our listeners."

The DJs use a radio system provided by coalition forces, known as a 'radio in a box.' The RIAB is an organic, self-

sustaining radio station complete with the necessary components to transmit voice and music at 300 watts.

"The coverage of the station is dependent on the terrain of the area," said U.S. Air Force 1st Lt. Eric Ozburn, PRT Paktya information operations officer from Rowland Heights, Calif. "Despite the rugged mountains prevalent in Paktya, the DJ's voices can be heard across a 50-kilometer radius."

"In the coming months, a new tower is scheduled to be erected, expanding Caravan Radio's reach even farther," Ozburn added.

During Taliban rule, all music was restricted from radio stations. Now, playing music for Afghans gives a sentimental joy for one DJ, as he recalls the first time he and his brother heard music playing from a radio.

"It was exciting. My brother and I were surprised, happy and laughing," Latifullah



Latifullah, a Caravan Radio DJ, uses a radio-in-a-box to schedule songs to play during 24-hour broadcasts in Paktya Province, Dec 29. The RIAB is an organic, self-sustaining radio station complete with the necessary components to transmit voice and music at 300 watts.

said. "Since that day, we no longer are in fear of listening to the radio; the Taliban can no longer keep music from us."

The DJs said their goal is to maintain a positive message of peace for their audience, in order to counter the negative, threatening words the Taliban release.

"Our messages focus on peace and reconstruction," Latif said. "Through our radio station, Afghans

learn peace is attainable through cooperation and support of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan."

BY THE NUMBERS

The Army owns more than 15 million acres of land across the United States, or about 24,000 square miles. If the Army was a state, we'd be the 42nd largest.

For a 72-hour mission, today's infantry platoon, consisting of 30 Soldiers, carries 400 pounds of batteries to power their equipment.

During World War II, supporting one Soldier on the battlefield took one gallon of fuel per day. Today, we use over 22 gallons per day, per Soldier.

Facts courtesy of ASA IE&E

This Month in History

February 6th, 1935 - Monopoly board game goes on sale for the first time

February 8th, 1910 - The Boy Scouts of America was founded by William Boyce in Washington D.C. modeled after the British Boy Scouts.

February 10th, 1942 - The first Medal of Honor during World War II was awarded to 2nd Lt. Alexander Nininger (posthumously) for heroism during the Battle of Bataan.

February 11th, 1990 - Nelson Mandela released from prison

February 23rd, 1945 - The U.S. flag was raised on Iwo Jima



SPARTAN BATTLEFIELD CIRCULATION



(Left) U.S. Sgt. Joshua Stevens, a parachute rigger with HHC, 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), Task Force Centurion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan prepares to hook up a sling load to a Russian Mi-8 helicopter at Forward Operating Base Salerno Jan 3. Stevens, a native of San Antonio, is part of TF Spartan which recently took over responsibility in Paktya and Khowst Provinces. (Photo by U.S. Army Chief Warrant Officer 2 Michael Morris, Task Force Centurion)

(Bottom) U.S. Army Spc. Vincent Hauser, a native of Columbus, Wis., from 1st Platoon, Apache Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division pulls security outside Zambar Village in Khost Province, Afghanistan Jan 1. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Michael Blanchard, Task Force Blue Geronimo)

U.S. Army Pfc. Jonathon Harbin of Chicago, assigned to the 2nd Platoon Blackfoot Company, 1st Battalion 501st Infantry Regiment, 4th Airborne Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan gives medical attention to a local child in Khowst province, outside of Combat Outpost Bak on Jan. 1. Afghan nationals, partnered with American forces, conduct operations and patrols together for regional safety. (Photo by U.S. Army Spc. Phillip McTaggart, 982nd COMCAM)



Please submit your action photos to Task Force Spartan Public Affairs. Be sure to include a caption detailing who, what, when, where, why, hometown of the subject and who took the picture.



SPARTAN BRIGADE

ASSUMES AUTHORITY

Story and pictures by Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson
TF Spartan, PAO

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, based out of Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, Alaska, officially assumed responsibility and operations of Forward Operating Base Salerno, and the Khowst and Paktya Provinces from the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, Task Force Duke, stationed at Fort Knox, Ky., in a transfer of authority ceremony Dec. 31.

The TOA marks the official start of Spartan's mission in Afghanistan. It is also the start of the brigade's second deployment in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the ceremony, U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Daniel Allyn, Regional Command East and Combined Joint Task Force-1 commanding general, showed appreciation for the effort and commitment that Task Force Duke showed during its tour in Afghanistan.

"For the past year, the combined team of Afghan [National] Security Forces from 1st Brigade 203rd Corps and national and border police supported by Task Force Duke, served as an unshakable cornerstone along this historic and strategic stretch of Afghanistan's eastern border," Allyn said. "Task Force Duke exemplified total commitment to partnership, with both security force and local governance teams."

"Today we welcome the men and women of Task Force Spartan," Allyn said. "The 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division hailing from Fort Richardson, Alaska."

Allyn acknowledged Spartans' advantage being from an arctic region.

"One thing is certain," Allyn said. "The winter weather here won't intimidate these hardened troopers. The weather today feels like Miami, Florida to the Spartans. In fact, the weather in Anchorage, Alaska is two degrees above zero."

U.S. Army Col. Morris Goins, Task Force Spartan commander, thanked the Duke Brigade for 'rolling out the red carpet'.

"You've shared the good, the bad and the ugly with us since our first [pre deployment site survey] trip here in April of this year," Goins said. "The sharing of information and the professionalism you showed allowed this [relief in place] mission to be the easiest."

Goins assured his Afghan counter-parts; the Spartan Brigade is willing to do what it takes to succeed in the mission and is able and willing partners.

"We did not deploy to your country to sit idly by. We came here to do what the Spartans did at the Battle of Thermopylae," Goins said. "We will make a difference. We as Spartans ... will conduct this campaign with you Shana-Ba-Shana or shoulder-to-shoulder in your country."

Goins quoted an Irish prayer for the Duke Brigade as they head home.

"May the road rise up to meet you," Goins said. "May the wind be always at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face; the rains fall soft upon your fields and until we meet again my friend, may God hold you in the palm of his hand."



SPARTAN BRIGADE

PATCH CEREMONY



U.S. Army Capt. Thomas Sacchieri, Charlie Company Commander, 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry, Task Force Gold Geronimo, presents the unit's shoulder sleeve insignia or combat patch to fellow paratroopers of Charlie Company on Jan. 4th.



U.S. Army Lt. Col. Patrick J. Ellis (right), Commander of TF Blue Geronimo affixes a combat patch on the right sleeve of 2nd Lt. Patrick Nguyen (left) during the I-501 deployment patch ceremony on FOB Salerno, Jan 1.



U.S. Army Capt. Joe Howard, Mercury Company Commander, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion (Airborne), Task Force Warrior, presents the unit's shoulder sleeve insignia or combat patch to fellow paratroopers of Charlie Company on Jan. 4th.



U.S. Army Col. Morris T. Goins, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division commander presents the unit's shoulder sleeve insignia or combat patch to U.S. Army Capt. Derek M. Reeves, Headquarters Company commander. Reeves, a native from Edmond, Okla., is serving his second deployment to Afghanistan. He has two previous deployments to Iraq.





Highlights

(CNN) - The captain is still in charge. No matter how technologically advanced a cruise ship may be or how modern its safety procedures or how strict the web of international regulations, passenger safety still depends on the captain's ability to make good decisions. It's not clear what difference more stringent regulations would have played in the decisions of Captain Francesco Schettino, who allegedly deviated from a set route, abandoned ship after the disaster with passengers still aboard and did not return to the ship to lead rescue efforts when ordered by local port officials, according to transcripts between authorities and the captain.

Jerusalem (CNN) - Israel's Defense Minister Ehud Barak said Wednesday that a decision on whether to strike Iran's nuclear program was "very far off."

(CNN) - Guatemala's new president has called on the military to help "neutralize" organized crime in the Central American nation. A day after he took office, President Otto Perez Molina appeared to be making good on his campaign promises to fight rising crime and violence with an "iron fist."

AF sergeant maintains vehicle operations at PRT

Story and pictures by Air Force 1st Lt. Cammie Quinn
Provincial Reconstruction Team Paktya PAO

PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan—U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Corrie Walden, a vehicle maintainer from Bothell, Wash., spent eight months of her first two years assigned to Shaw Air Force Base, S.C.

The other 16 months, Walden trained to deploy, deployed, and returned from deployments in support of Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

Currently, Walden is assigned to Provincial Reconstruction Team Paktya, where she works as a vehicle maintainer. She is one of a two-person shop, supporting more than 70 service members and several Mine Resistant Ambush Protected armored vehicles and equipment.

The maintenance shop is responsible for fixing most systems on the up-armored vehicles, Walden said.

"Any broken part on MRAPs, not related to communication, falls within vehicle maintenance's line of work," Walden said. "This includes everything from electrical systems to brakes and chassis."

Although she has been in the Air Force for more than eight years, Walden said her deployment in Paktya Province is unique to her previous military experiences.

"I find myself doing much more than turning wrenches here," Walden said. "I use

Army systems to send maintenance reports and work orders, attend daily meetings, all the while focusing on the primary task, repairing anything that comes up broken."

"All the different fields typically found in a vehicle maintenance shop back at home station are rolled up into one, here," she added.

Adding to her challenge, Walden traditionally specializes in fire engine repair, whereas with the PRT, she works on armored vehicles.

"There are definite differences when working on MRAPs as compared to fire engines," she said. "Though the diesel engines and chassis are similar, sub-systems unique to the MRAP as well as the physical limitations the armor presents are a challenge."

Not one to turn from difficulty, Walden said she relies on the thorough training she received prior to the deployment.

"We had several months of hands-on training with the Army, allowing us to not only familiarize ourselves with the vehicles, but Army systems as well."

Walden also provides immediate support as PRT members conduct outside-the-wire missions.

"I am also a qualified vehicle operator



U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Corrie Walden, Paktya Provincial Reconstruction Team vehicle maintainer from Bothell, Wash., inspects a vehicle in Paktya Province, Jan. 6.

for the PRT," she said. "If something happens to a vehicle in the convoy, I'm there, on-scene to repair it. It's less time on the ground in one place, ensuring the team is safer from an attack."

Convoys are a joint mission for the PRT, with drivers and security predominantly provided by the team's security forces team.

"Providing security would be impossible without support from the vehicle maintenance shop," U.S.

Army Staff Sgt. Salvatore

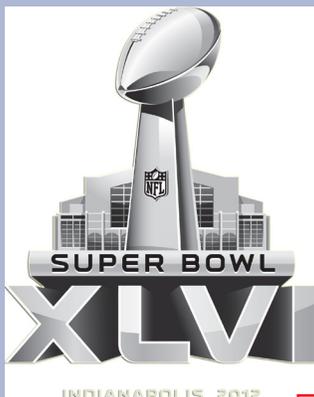
Demarco, the Paktya PRT SECFOR platoon leader from Everett, Mass., said. "They keep us safe and our vehicles in good, running condition while we conduct our missions."

With all the differences in the deployment, Walden said she'll redeploy with a better understanding of her job, how the Army works and of a different culture.

"I have worked with Iraqis before and have seen poverty, but it's on a completely different level here," she said. "It's tough to see, but it helps you appreciate what you have, and what we all work for."



New York Giants



New England Patriots



Stats

Total Offense (YPG)	404.7
Passing (YPG)	287.3
Rushing (YPG)	117.3
Total Defense (YPG)	321.0
Passing (YPG)	200.7
Rushing (YPG)	120.3

Stats



419.5	Total Offense (YPG)
298.5	Passing (YPG)
121.0	Rushing (YPG)
325.0	Total Defense (YPG)
195	Passing (YPG)
130.0	Rushing (YPG)

Which team is going to take home the championship?



Spc. Roberto Seda, 82nd Wolfpack, Human Resource Specialist from Brooklyn, New York

"They have that winning streak going for them and when they get that streak, they take it home"



Pfc. Rogelio Hercules, 2-377th PFAF, 25B, from New York City

"The Giants are going to win because we're from New York."



2nd Lt. Michael Blanchard with TF Blue Geronimo, from Selah, Wash.

"The Patriots will win because their offense is unstoppable."



Capt. Kevin Tobey, ADT Nebraska National Guard, Veterinarian, from Fairfax, Vermont.

"They have the best offense and pretty good defense so I think they'll take the Superbowl"





Retention

By Staff Sgt. Ian Anderson
TF Warrior Career Counselor

The TF Spartan Retention team would like to take this opportunity to welcome you to Afghanistan, and thank you for your service to our country and the people of Afghanistan. Know that your contributions to the mission over the next 10

months WILL make a difference to the people of our nations.

We are pleased to announce that all servicing Career Counselors are in country, and our offices are open for business. Whether you are looking to reenlist, DEIP or separate after the deployment, the most important thing you can do is talk to your Career Counselor. Our mission is to serve YOU the Soldier, and we will be more

than happy to do so.

Currently only Soldiers with an ETS date before September 30th, 2012 are in their window to reenlist; however, if you are interested in participating in the BEAR program we can process those 24 months out from ETS.

The new Reenlistment window should be published sometime between 1 February and 1 March 2012.

Alaska Permanent Fund Dividend (Military Eligibility)

The Alaska Permanent Fund is an investment account funded by a set percentage of proceeds generated by sale or royalties of state owned oil and mineral assets. The existence of the fund is mandated by the Alaska Constitution. It contained approximately \$38 Billion as of October 2011. Every year the Permanent Fund Dividend (PFD) is paid out to all eligible residents of Alaska. The amount has varied from \$331.29 in 1984 to \$2,069.00 in 2008 (not adjusted for inflation).

To apply for the PFD, an Active Duty Military member, ALL of the following statements must be true:

- You were an Alaska state resident for the entire 2011 calendar year (1 January 2011 to 31 December 2011). Changing your residency with a military finance office prior to 1 January 2011 is required and your Leave and Earnings Statement (Block 44) must show "AK" for tax purposes. The State of Alaska does contact the DOD to confirm your state of residency.
- You must intend to remain an Alaskan state resident at the time of filing.
- You did at least one of the following prior to 1 July 2011:
 - oObtain an Alaska driver's license.
 - oRegister to vote.
 - oRegister a vehicle.
 - oLease or purchase a home (on post housing does not apply).

Military spouses and children are eligible for the PFD. All of the above requirements apply except for the LES requirement for spouses and the license, registration, lease/purchase requirements for children.

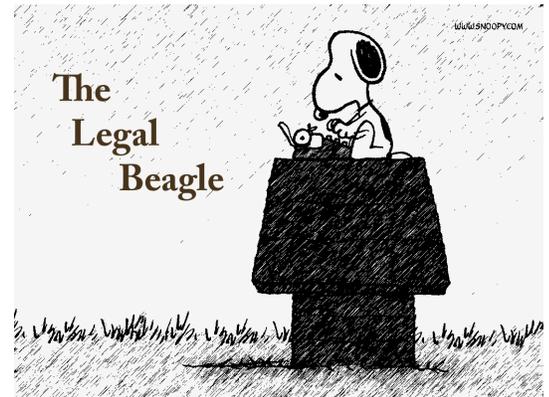
To apply you must submit a complete electronic, or paper PFD, application with an original birth certificate,

passport, or naturalization papers. Those filling for the first time online will also need to mail in the signature page generated during the online filing process. If you choose not to file online, you may file by mail or obtain a Power of Attorney authorizing another person to file on your behalf.

While the deadline for application is 31 March 2012, any military member deployed and receiving hostile fire pay may wait to file up to 90 days after last receiving such pay. Submission of an LES will be required to prove the receipt of hostile fire pay and this extension does not apply to a spouse or child.

To file for your PFD go to WWW.PFD.ALASKA.GOV.

*Persons found guilty of PFD fraud may be sentenced to jail, fined up to \$3,000, or both. They may have to repay all the Permanent Fund Dividends ever received, and forfeit the right to all future dividends.



Rollovers continue to be a hazard for deployed U.S. Forces in Operation Enduring Freedom XII. After only one short month in country, Task Force Spartan has already experienced four rollovers resulting in two Soldiers evacuated to the CSH and many thousands of dollars in damages. The bottom line is that the risk of rollovers remains high. The terrain in Afghanistan is just not suited for the bulky MRAP vehicles, especially in the mountainous regions. The narrow un-surfaced road edges just can't handle the tremendous weight, which leads to the majority of rollovers in country. But given the option for survivability, the risk of injury in a rollover is far less than the risk of traveling in a less-protected vehicle.

Since the trend indicates that we will not eliminate rollovers, we must adapt to reducing these hazards as best we can. For instance, one excellent example is after the Spartan Commander and CSM heard the reports of numerous rollovers occurring during limited visibility while driving with black-out drive and NVDs. Spartan 6 and Spartan 7 decided to think outside the tactical box. We decided to try a new approach; driving at night with headlights on. Let's face it, we never surprise insurgents with vehicle convoys. It's not like MRAPs have stealth engines. With the slow speeds, and difficulties that drivers had staying in the tracks of vehicles to their front while wearing night vision with limited illumination, they wandered onto the shoulders, which cannot support the weight of our larger tactical vehicles. By changing it up, we have not encountered another rollover. Driving with headlights on has made it much easier for our

Safety with

Kenny Loggins,
TF Spartan Safety Manager



Soldiers to clear IEDs at night. This mitigation, though possibly temporary depending on enemy actions, has been an effective risk reducer.

We also have the most positive control measure in preventing injuries once these rollovers happen: leaders enforcing the standards prior to exiting the wire. It is paramount that leaders ensure every vehicle crew continues to rehearse rollover drills. Check serviceability of restraints and secure loads prior to movement. Even a loose M4 magazine could ruin someone's day if their vehicle goes over. Once movement begins, leaders must also ensure that gunners are riding at name tag defilade, meaning that the nametag on your uniform should not be above the hatch, at all times. With these continued controls and effective leadership, we can drastically reduce the number of rollovers and eliminate rollover injuries entirely.



U.S. Army Col. Morris Goins, commander of the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan, was the guest speaker during the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Observance held at Forward Operating Base Salerno Jan 16. Goins believes King's use of knowledge is what made him a great man.

tive from Blue Springs, Mo. from the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment, U.S. Army Sgt. Kaitlyn A. Ashby, of the Indiana National Guard's 4-19th Agri-Business Development Team sang the national anthem.

The Salerno Gospel Choir then sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" by James Weldon Johnson.

U.S. Army Col. Morris Goins, the Task Force Spartan commander, was the guest speaker.

He said, 'in his humble opinion', that the greatest message Dr. King was giving us was 'Change what is harm in the world. With knowledge and you will always win'.

Goins also cited Dr. King's use of knowledge as part of what made him a great man.

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Teresa Diggs, the supply NCO in charge with 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), Task Force Centurion, and native of Raleigh, N.C., said the observance was a great way to remember Dr. King's accomplishments.

"[The observance] brings out the history about where we've come from and where we are now. [It's also] the appreciation of what was done in history to bring us here. It's been awesome. It's about Dr. Martin Luther King calling out the documents that were already in place."

U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Daniel L. Rhodes, TF Spartan Equal Opportunity advisor, narrated the event.

"Conducting Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observances teaches people young and old the importance of human rights," Rhodes said. "That we are all equal regardless of race or color. It shows us how one man with a dream could change the lives of millions of Americans."

Remembering the dream

Story and photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Eperson
TF Spartan, PAO

KHOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, Task Force Spartan, Equal Opportunity Team, hosted a Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. observance at Forward Operating Base Salerno's main dining facility, Jan. 16.

After an invocation from U.S. Army Chaplain (Capt.) Logan McCurdy, a na-





Photo of the Month:
Sgt. Coty Lang, a paratrooper assigned to 3rd Battalion, 509th Infantry, Task Force Gold Geronimo, performs combat patrol in the Paktya Province of Afghanistan. (Photo taken by Spc. Daniel McDonald, Task Force Gold Geronimo)

