

Outlaw Chronicles

Sappers clear the way!



February 15, 2013

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Outlaw 6 Sends: A “Hell Yeah!” Welcome



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Outlaws...when you get a chance, or you see the Triple Nickel command team out and about, make sure you give them a big “Hell Yeah” welcome to Regional Command South, Afghanistan. Colonel Nicholas Katers and Command Sergeant Major Kevin Bryan make up the command team for the 555 Engineer Brigade, TF Outlaw’s new higher headquarters, responsible for Theater Engineer operations here in Afghanistan. As I was visiting with Colonel Katers,

it became crystal clear that he likes to be where the “rubber meets the road – or in our case, more like where the rollers meet the moon dust”. I understand that Command Sergeant Major Bryan embraces that same philosophy. As a matter of fact, CSM Bryan was out on battlefield circulation meeting the Soldiers and the Company First Sergeants the day Colonel Katers visited TF Outlaw. Along with bringing a change of our headquarters, the 555 Engineer Brigade

brought new ideas and a renewed vision of task and purpose. As always and as Engineers, we will be out in front, clearing the way. As professional Soldiers and guardians of freedom, we will continue to support our brothers in arms. So when you see ‘em out and about, welcome Colonel Katers, CSM Bryan and the rest of the Triple Nickel team with a big “We got this, Hell Yeah!”

— LTC Jack Ritter



Task Force Outlaw



XO Foxhole

“As Seen Through the Eyes of the XO”

I wanted to take this opportunity to share an effort, or a goal, that TF Outlaw set out on when we started this deployment. Anyone that has read the *Outlaw Chronicles* “Outlaw 6 Sends” should have noticed that the Commander always ends his comments with a “Hell Yeah”. If you have visited the Valhalla compound, you may have seen the red arches that span the entry way to the Tactical Operation Center and with the words “TF OUTLAW” on one arch and “HELL YEAH” on the bottom arch. The TF Outlaw motto, “Hell Yeah”, is our personal interpretation of the Engineer official motto. The Engineer’s motto of *Essayons* has a French origin and translates into “let us try”. So, when we substitute “Hell Yeah” for “Essayons” or “yes”, or even “hooah”, we are simply stating



we’ll do it, we’ll try to do it, we got this, or we acknowledge the conversation. In our Engineer minds, the phrase is a derivative of our official motto. In no way, shape or form is the phrase meant to be disrespectful. Moreover it’s meant to be said with an enthusiasm that reflects the positive meaning behind such a powerful response. So our original goal was to get everyone in the Army to do away with “hooah” and go for “Hell Yeah!”, but I don’t think we’ll get every Soldier in the Army to make the change, but in TF Outlaw, we’re trying... Hell Yeah....

— MAJ Brian DeShazo
XO, 120th EN BN



Customs and Courtesies

Reminder:

When addressing more than one male officer, the proper term to use is “Gentlemen”, not “Sir’s”.

When addressing more than one female officer, the proper term is “Ladies”, not “Ma’am’s”.



Soldier Spotlight: 370th Engineer Company

SPC Benjamin Gerloff

- Hometown: Meeker, CO
- Years of service: 2 and a half
- Married : No
- Kids: No
- Family in the Service (or prior): I'm the only immediate family member in the military
- Why did you join: To serve my country, and I really didn't want to go to college.
- Deployment job: PAX Clerk and RTO
- Thoughts on the deployment: It's been pretty relaxed here so far. I'm learning a lot of operational things and processes.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I've learned how to receive and interpret mission sets at a higher level.
- What to want to take from this deployment? A better outlook on my military career and more options and opportunities to progress.
- Pets: None.
- How does this deployment compare to others: It's a lot better than my last deployment. Better location, fewer incoming rounds, time for laundry, and hot showers.
And I'm definitely enjoying my job a little better.
- Favorite food: Steak
- Favorite Sports team: Texas Rangers
- Vehicle you own: 1973 Int'l. Harvester Pickup and a 1985 Toyota Helix
- College: Spent some time at North-Western Colorado Community College.
- Plans to do when back home: Looking to reenlist, and possibly take a family level "Euro-Trip."



Soldier Spotlight: 84th Engineer Company

SPC Isidro Gonzalez

- Hometown: Ft. Richardson, Arkansas
- Years of service: 1 year
- Married? Jennifer Gonzalez
- Kids: 2 Kids
- Prior service family: I have Cousins in the Army, Navy, and Marines
- Why did you join?
It's something I always wanted to do, a dream of mine. A little late in the game (I'm 31) but I finally made it in.
- Deployment job: I'm a 12N, Construction Engineer filling the role of Ops Clerk.
- What do you want to get out of this deployment?
I want to grow as a person, and also serve. I want to fulfill my dream.
I would also like to write a book, an autobiography maybe, in some of the down time while I'm here.
- Something that you look forward to on this deployment:
I looking forward to gaining experience, and bonding with my fellow soldiers. You never really understand how much something means until you don't have it, so I think this will make me more grateful for my family and things back home.
- How does this deployment compare to others? This is my first Deployment.
- Favorite food: Spanish Food.
- Favorite Sports team: Chicago Bears
- Vehicle you own: 2009 Subaru Forester and a Volvo XC90 Station-wagon
- College: I have an MBA from Robert Morris University.
- Plans to do when back home:
Got to Airborne and Sapper Schools, and hopefully, if it's not too late, prepare my officer packet so I can go to Officer Candidate School.



Medical Corner: Giving Hearts



Thanks to the giving hearts of 120th EN BN we were able to raise enough money to buy the Warrior Recovery Center (WRC) some much needed physical therapy equipment. The money was collected for the BAM contest. The money raised was going to be split in three ways; the best and worst BAM and the WRC would each receive any equal amount of the money collected. Major Ali won the Best BAM, but decided to donate his winnings to the WRC increasing the amount of equipment that could be purchased. The equipment that was bought will help increase recovering soldier's strength and aid in their overall rehabilitation. 120th bought the WRC 3 JFIT Balance Pods, 1 JFIT Super High Density Foam Roller, and Foam Roller Workbook- step by step stretching instruction 3 Rolls of Kinesio Tape. Master Sgt Hawkins also had a boot drive and tennis shoe drive for the



WRC. He collected new boots and shoes to donate to soldiers that have been hurt as a result of training and actions that occurred fighting the war. The WRC mission statement is "To rehabilitate and facilitate the soldiers



health and recovery to help return them to the fight" the 120th has also gave back by running in the 5k charity runs buying the tee shirts to raise money for different causes such as "toys for tots". Way to go team!!!

By: Medic of the year "aka" SPC Osterloh

Disclaimer: I received a special one time approval from the BN Commander, LTC Jackie Ritter, to allow the content of this page. The current ban on newsletter content containing: hearts, bunnies, unicorns, dolphins, rainbows, butterflies, offensive shades of the color pink, or anything not reflecting the warrior spirit, is still in effect.

- CPT Wyckoff

Soldier Spotlight: 62nd Engineer Company

SGT Ian Polito

- Hometown: Boston, MA
- Years of service: 5yrs
- Married : No
- Kids: No
- Family in the Service (or prior): Father was a Marine.
- Why did you join: To carry on a family military tradition.
- Deployment job: Dismount team leader
- Thoughts on the deployment: Happy to be here, and just ready to get rolling!
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of:

We just got here, but I'm ready to start clearing routes.
- Dogs, or Cats? Prefer Dogs.
- How does this deployment compare to others: Way slower start pace than my previous two deployments were.
- Favorite food: Anything edible.
- Favorite Sports team: New England Patriots.
- Vehicle you own: Honda Civic S.I.
- College: Notre Dame.
- Plans to do when back home: P.C.S. to Hawaii or Ft. Hood.



Outlaw Sudoku

	1	6		2		4	9	
7		9		6		2		5
8	4			9			6	3
		4		7		5		
			2		6			
		1		5		8		
4	8			3			1	2
6		3		1		7		8
	2	5		8		9	3	



KNAPP'S NUGGETS

“When you are blessed with the gift of fire let it light your way, let it warm your soul. Nourish that fire with love for it is love in another form.”
~SGT Knapp

Guess the B.A.M.!

See if you can properly Identify the owner of this Task Force Outlaw Engineer's B.A.M.!!!



Leadership Corner

“As you begin changing your thinking, start immediately to change your behaviour. Begin to act the part of the person you would like to become. Take action on your behaviour. Too many people want to feel, then take action. This never works.”

~John C Maxwell



Hey Everyone!
If you want to see more photos and awesome events and happenings, check out the Task Force Outlaw Facebook Page!!!
www.facebook.com/TaskForceOutlaw

693rd Flag Football Tournament



In breaking with time honored tradition, the FOB MWR team saw fit to turn their annual flag football championship into a bi-monthly championship. Whatever. The 693rd was up to the task. At first, things looked grim as most of the Pioneers' December championship team was out on patrol. Quarterback and supply sergeant, SSG Michael Pules, quickly set things right, recruiting replacements from among the 693rd's ranks. He even found SSG Smitherman from the 120th Engineer Battalion Headquarters who was on special assignment at our FOB to commandeer Otis Spunkmeyer chocolate chip cookies as part of his Command Supply Discipline inspection. "I was a little worried about how well he would play seeing how he's on the window licking side of the Red River Rivalry," said SSG Pules, "But he played so well, you would have sworn he was from Texas."

the game while notifying only his BDOC team. While this helped make the game more even, it wasn't enough to push the Spartans



ner of the end zone. The center snapped the ball, and as Pules avoided the blitz he launched a ten yard pass to the end zone where SSG Smitherman leaped and caught the winning touchdown to put the Pioneers on top 35 - 28. After the game, Brawltime, Maryland native PFC Vincent Gray had this to say about the Spartan Staff, "I thought I was going to have to live up to my hometown's reputation in this game like I did against 4-23 IN, but the 1-36 staff have clearly bought into the notion of a kinder, gentler Army."

over the top. A second half interception hauled in by SSG Pules was enough to end any thoughts of a BDOC comeback as the 693rd went on to win 35 – 21. Running fingers through his finely conditioned hair, SPC Blake "Pantene" Bondie reflected on the game, "Playing against crappy teams like the BDOC is great because I don't have to focus as hard playing defense, and I can spend a little more time making sure I look good for the camera.

The win sealed the deal, and the Pioneers have now defeated two separate infantry battalions on the grid iron. When asked how he felt after winning the championship, PFC Carder stated, "I think we are getting championship t-shirts or something. That's good 'cause I'm running out of patches to clean the barrel of my squads Ma Deuce." CPL O'Donnell added "MWR really needs to step up the prizes here. First it was a stupid video game, and now it's a t-shirt. Seriously?! Is it too much to ask for some protein, maybe some branch chain amino acids?" Lackluster prizes notwithstanding, the 693rd is looking forward to the next FOB Azizullah football championship.

PFC Brett Mack



By virtue of their being the defending champions, the MWR directors offered the Pioneers a first round bye. This was the beginning of the end for the rest of the teams. In the second round of the tournament, the Pioneers faced the BDOC team from 1-36 IN, Task Force Spartan. The game was a see saw battle for much of its duration. On several occasions the FOB mayor changed the rules of

The second round win was enough to put the 693rd back in the championship game, this time against the Spartan Battalion Staff. To keep things interesting, the Pioneers played slack on defense for the first half and allowed the staff officers to feel like they had a chance. But as the game ran dangerously close to the evening company ops meeting start time, the 693rd buckled down so as not to let the game go into overtime. With three seconds left, SSG Pules called for a 32 belly option on 3 (whatever the hell that is). After seeing the staff officers were going to blitz, he audibled at the line for a Hail Mary pass to the left cor-



584th to 370th TOA

On 12 February, around 0700, CSM Raby and I traveled to preside over the Relief in Place (RIP) between the 584th Mobility Augmentation Company (MAC) and the 370th Engineer Company. The 120th Forward Support Company dropped us off at the FOB around 0800, and after a short bite to eat with Captain Joe Frederick, commander for the outgoing 584th, and Captain Craig Miller, commander for the incoming 370th, we took a short walk over to the makeshift “parade field” to conduct the symbolic act of “casing” the 584th guideon, signifying the relief of route clearance missions in the Kandahar area, and “uncasing” the 370th guideon, recognizing their assumption of responsibility for those routes. I took a few moments to welcome the 370th command team and their Soldiers to the TF Outlaw, and thank

Captain Frederick and 1SG Evans for the professionalism they brought to TF Outlaw. After the brief 15 minute pause in “daily operations” to recognize the

Outlaw Company to have a 12 months “boots on ground” deployment. During their deployment, the 584th excelled at every mission. They conducted clearance missions in and around Kandahar as well as “any other place they were needed”. CPT Frederick and 1SG Evans challenged their Soldiers to always do better than good enough...and they did. The 584th was nominated for, and was selected as the FORSCOM nominee for award of the LTG Emerson C. Itschner Award, an award that

recognizes the “best Engineer Company” in the United States Army.

— LTC Jackie Ritter



CPT Miller and 1SG Barker uncasing their guideon

significance of *that* moment, the formation was dismissed and the Soldiers got back to doing business.

The 584th MAC arrived in Afghanistan in February 2012, and was the last TF

Soldier Spotlight: 84th Engineer Company

SSG Joshua Jones

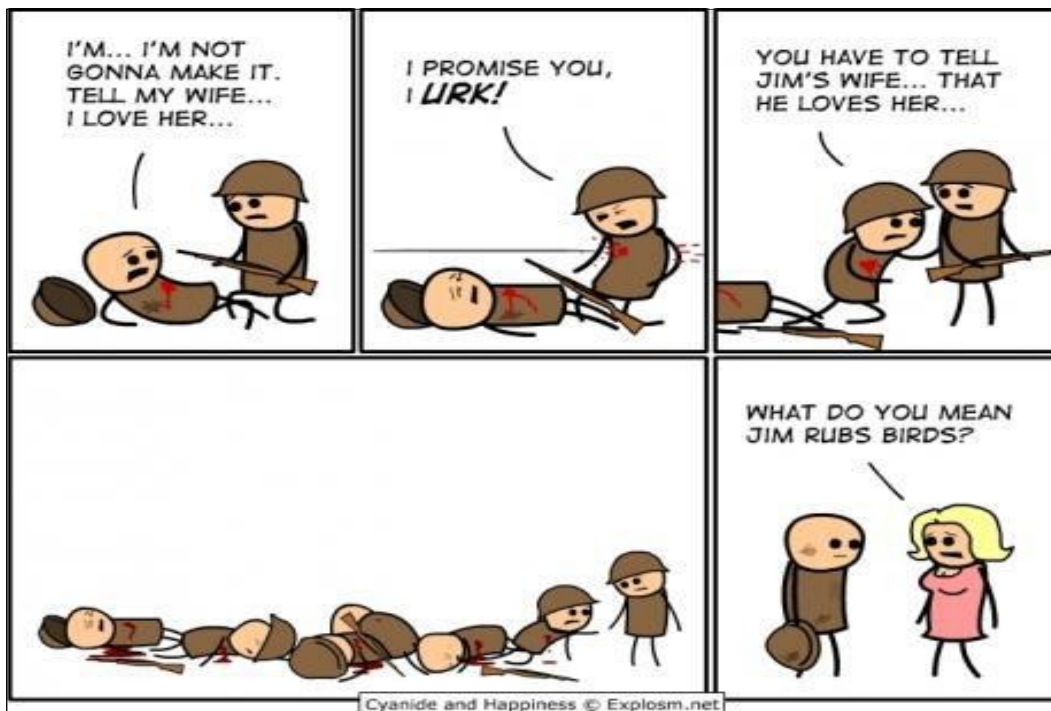
- Hometown: Kingfisher, OK
- Years of service: 8 years
- Married : Yes
- Kids: Four children
- Family in the Service (or prior): I'm the only immediate family member in the military
- Why did you join: I originally joined for college money and to take care of my family
- Deployment job: Company Intelligence Support Team (CoIST)
- Thoughts on the deployment: Just got here, but ready to get to our FOB and get started!

Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I've only been on ground here now for three days, but the training so far has been good.

- Pets: Prefer dogs over cats
- How does this deployment compare to others:
There are less resources available here than in Iraq, but we will work out any difficulties and drive on!
- Favorite food: Steak
- Favorite Sports team: Texas Longhorns
- Vehicle you own: 2008 Avalanche
- College: Majoring in Psychology
- Plans to do when back home: Spend as much time with my family as I can!



Humor In Uniform: Communication



Cupids Chase 5K



On 14 February, members of HHC and FSC 120th Engineer companies participated in the "Cupids Chase 5K", a 5K run to honor the families and loved ones at home. The Camp Bradley Smith Recreation Center sponsored the event and gave free T-shirts to the first 150 people to sign up. T-shirts ran out fairly quickly as the participation was high for this run. Those of us that got them were lucky to get the right size, but I think everyone who wanted one from the 120th Engineers was able to get one. SSG Manuel Castillo said, "This is the first run that has been

put on in a while due to the cold weather, but we are glad it is warming up enough that we can



attend more runs." "It brings us together and really builds unit cohesion" Castillo said.

SGT Daniel Mahan said

"The weather was great for this run. A slight rain the night before, cleared the air and the temperature was just right."

SFC Clay Thompson said "It was a great opportunity to get in a little extra PT." Over 10 Soldiers from HHC and FSC 120th EN participated, and completed the run. The 120th official running club is "Soles Up Run Club" and we excited that the weather is cooperating to allow more

5K's to be scheduled.

— CPT Paul Wyckoff

Soldier Spotlight: FSC, 120th EN BN

1LT Robert Schollenbarger

- Hometown: Old Cordell, OK
- Years of service: 16 years in March
- Married : Yes, to Mari Schollenbarger, for 1 year
- Family in the Service (or prior): Father served in the Air Force during Vietnam.
- Why did you join: I've always wanted to serve.
- Deployment job: FSC 120th, XO (It's a pretty big deal).
- Thoughts on the deployment: There seems to be too much "red tape" to get things done efficiently. We're winning hearts and minds, that's a good thing, and we're making a difference.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I'm proud of all my Soldiers and the hard work they do.
- Pets: Yorkshire Terrier, (1 each)
- How does this deployment compare to others: It's a lot more fun because I'm now in a leadership position and I get to run convoys.
- Favorite food: Tacos
- Favorite Sports team: OKC Thunder (THUNDER UP!!!)
- Vehicle you own: 2011 Road King, Police edition.
- Civilian Career: Oklahoma City Police Department (OCPD)
- College: South Western Oklahoma State University, BS in Business Management.
- Plans to do when back home: Have a baby (not me, but my wife).



Soldier Spotlight: 137th Engineer Company



1LT Casey Williams

- Hometown: Howell, MI
- Years of service: 3 years
- Married : No
- Kids: No
- Family in the Service (or prior): I'm the only immediate family member in the Military.
- Why did you join: To serve my country, to surround myself with influential leaders, and to lead Soldiers .
- Deployment job: Executive Officer, 137th "All or Nothing"
- Thoughts on the deployment:
Been here less than 30 days, and so far impressed with the 120th organization. Looking forward to a successful RIP with the 23rd Engineers and a successful deployment.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I'm proud to be a part of the advance party for my company and helping to set them up for success.
- Pets: Prefer dogs over cats
- How does this deployment compare to others: First deployment to Afghanistan and the 137th trained for 1 ½ years, working on combined arms and partnered operations.
- Favorite food: Anything warm
- Favorite Sports team: Michigan Wolverines
- Vehicle you own: Ford
- College: BA in business administration
- Plans to do when back home: Graduate Ranger school



Crisis Intervention Hotline

Reminder:

The Crisis Intervention Hotline is staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. If you have the need to talk to a counselor, you can reach them from any NIPR phone by dialing 1-1-1. You can also reach Crisis Counselors by Local National Phone. Dial 070-113-2000, (wait for tone) then 1-1-1

To reach Crisis Counselors by email, use the following NIPR address:

OEFCRISISHOTLINE@afghan.swa.army.mil

Chaplains Corner

However many years anyone may live, let them enjoy them all. But let them remember the days of darkness, for there will be many. Everything to come is meaningless. (9) You who are young, be happy while you are young, and let your heart give you joy in the days of your youth. Follow the ways of your heart and whatever your eyes see, but know that for all these things God will bring you into judgment. (10) So then, banish anxiety from your heart and cast off the troubles of your body, for youth and vigor are meaningless. —

Ecclesiastes 11:8-10 (NIV)



— 120th EN BN Chaplain Assistant
SPC Jacob Few



Empire and Triple Nickel Transfer of Authority



CSM Raby and I recently traveled to Bagram to attend the Transfer of Authority (TOA) ceremony between the outgoing 411th Engineer Brigade, JTF Empire, and the incoming 555 Engineer Brigade, JTF Triple Nickel. MG Mayville, 1st Infantry Division Commander and RC North Commander, was the presiding officer for the event. MG Mayville congratulated BG Weeks and the Empire team on a job well done and welcomed COL Katers and his team to the beginning of the “transitional” phase of the Afghanistan fight. BG Weeks recapped the 411th Engineer Brigade’s numerous accomplishments and thanked the Battalion Task Forces for the great work with moving the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) Engineers forward in their quest for independent operations. COL Katers stood tall and spoke firmly as he reaffirmed the 555th Engineer Brigade’s commitment to moving the ANA Engineers closer to the goal of sustainable, independent Engineer operations, as well as supporting the ongoing combat and

construction effects across the theater. The closing comments were followed by the Engineer song and the Army song along with the customary refreshments, handshaking and small talk. I noticed as CSM Raby said parting goodbyes to CSM Krom, what seemed to be a small tear swell up in CSM Raby’s eyes. When I asked CSM Raby about it later he simply stated, “I don’t know if it was because CSM Krom sported a pretty bad mustache, so I felt a special bond with him, or if it was because the heavy snow outside meant we were more than likely going to have to spend another day here in Bagram...either way, I guess I just felt a little sad”. I guess I too felt something. I mean, it had been snowing all morning, which meant that air travel was going to be challenging at best. And, the exit of the Empire team meant the departure of some newly established friendships; however, the arrival of the Triple Nickel offered the opportunity to establish more. In all, the TOA and introduction to the 555 team went well. The Triple Nickel is as professional as they come and are certain to bring a set of new ideas to the fight. TF OUTLAW stands ready, “willing and able” to continue to be the tip of the Engineer effort. Hell Yeah.

— LTC Jackie Ritter



**CPT Veiga’s
Seahorse fact
of the day:**

“Seahorses have no stomach, so their lives are spent mostly eating or resting.”

**Reminder:
To vote in Federal
and local elections
while deployed, use
the voting assistant
guide at**

WWW.FVAP.gov

**or find more
information at
[www.facebook.com/
ArmyVoting](http://www.facebook.com/ArmyVoting)**

Soldier Spotlight: 1433rd Engineer Company

SPC Herbert Merrell

- Hometown: Battle Creek, MI
- Years of service: 6yrs
- Family in the Service (or prior): Father was in the Air Force for 27yrs.
- Why did you join: Family Tradition. (All the males in our family)
- Deployment job: Gunner/Team leader
- Thoughts on the deployment: I've loved it. This is my second deployment, I couldn't wait to get back out here so I volunteered.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: Being in a leadership position has taught me more about leadership as a whole and has taught me how to properly treat Soldiers.
- How does this deployment compare to others:
- It's not as kinetic of an environment this time around, but we're still doing great work.
- Favorite food: Mac and Cheese
- Civilian career: ADOS at Michigan Youth Challenge Academy
- College: I'll be going to Grand Rapids for Psychology
- Vehicle you own: 1969 Dodge Charger
- Plans to do when back home: I'll get my own place, sleep, relax, and apply for EOD.



Soldier Spotlight: 1039th Engineer Company

SGT Michael Antonacci

- Hometown: Sherwood, AR
- Years of service: 12yrs.
- Married to: Jessica Antonacci
- Kids: Aaron, 10 years old; April, 8 years old
- Family in the Service (or prior): Father was a Captain in the Army.
- Why did you join: I missed a mechanic scholarship and this was my second choice. I had a family history of military service, so it just made sense. I actually picked this MOS by cutting up a book of MOSs, putting them on a dartboard and then literally throwing a dart and picking the job it landed on.
- Deployment job: ANA Mentor/Trainer
- Thoughts on the deployment: This is my 6th deployment. I honestly try not to think about it. I was told this was important, so it's important to me.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I'm really proud of the ANA company that we work with and all of their progress. They're leaps and bounds ahead of where I thought they would be.
- Pets: 2 year old bearded dragon, named Bubbles.
- How does this deployment compare to others: On prior deployments I've been more in a combat role. This time around I've had to take a step back and fulfill more of a trainer role. It's a little more challenging, but I like it.
- Favorite food: Apple Pie. And yes, I do consider desserts to be real food.
- Favorite Sports team: St. Louis Cardinals; and the Green Bay Packers.
- Civilian career: I work freelance as a carpenter and electrician.
- Hobbies: Anything and Everything with my kids.
- Vehicle you own: Chevy Lumina and a Toyota Camry
- Plans to do when back home: I'm goin' to Disney World!



1138th: Between Missions

When the Missourians aren't bracing for an explosion, they hang out in their compound of containerized housing units. It looks and feels like a two-story hotel along a highway, only there are blast walls, and everyone wears green and has a passion for guns and explosives.

Their ages range from 19 to 52. They are grandsons, sons, spouses, fathers and grandfathers.



"I just wanted to do something different," Pfc. Imaum Weakley, 19, of Sikeston, said of joining the Guard. His gun truck was hit by a bomb early in the deployment. "Growing up, I always wanted to be a leader."

He was only 8 when the Sept. 11 attacks happened and doesn't remember watching news footage of the Twin Towers falling over and over again.

Sgt. Jeffrey "Pappe" Stevens, a plumber from Winchester who often stokes a big cigar, is on the other end of the spectrum.

"I still got some fight left in me," said Stevens, 52, who is on his third deployment.



This time his son, Douglas, 29, of Manchester, has joined him.

"He's doing a darn good job," Stevens said. "Ever since the kid was little, it's what he wanted to do."

Two brothers, David and Jeff Vaughn, share the same room, rank, platoon, smoking habit and affinity to rile each other.

"I can outshoot him," said Spc. Jeff Vaughn, 40, who works at a Walmart automotive center in Sikeston.

"On days I feel like letting him," countered David, 38, a trucker from Cape Girardeau.

Spc. Vikas Singh, 29, originally from India, came to Cape Girardeau to go to school but wound up in the Guard.

"It kind of didn't work out for me," said Singh. "I didn't do good in college."

Now he works as a lead man on Mississippi River barges. In Afghanistan, he's a gunner.

Between missions, the men work out, and play basketball, dodgeball and hockey. They hunt each other with Nerf pistols. They rummage through the

latest round of care packages. They stay up in the wee hours challenging each other on video games such as "Call of Duty." The movie "300," about Spartan warriors, is a favorite.

One soldier had a collection of women's panties sent from home displayed on his wall. Another soldier listened to the recording of his unborn baby's heartbeat, while others watched their children grow up without them via Skype.

When supply Sgt. Kris Moore, 31, left Missouri, his son could put two or three words together.

"Now he's speaking in whole sentences and potty trained," said Moore. "He's quite the little man now."



— Jesse Bogan
St. Louis Post-Dispatch
Feb. 3, 2013



HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!



1433rd:

Jerry Gerldersma 02/18
Pfc. Daniel Foust 02/20
Spc. Tyler Vannoy 02/20
Spc. Brandon Deace 02/24
1Lt. Jason Wallner 02/24
Spc. James Wilson 02/24
Spc. David Maki 02/26
Pfc. Jacob McGinnis 02/26
Spc. Dawn Bennett 02/27
Spc. David Nelson 02/27
1Lt. Thomas Harkins 02/28
Sgt. Matthew Prevo 02/28

120th HHC:

Sgt. Erika Williams 02/15
Sfc. Denny Luna 02/19

120th FSC:

Spc. Tyler Foster 02/21

1138th:

Spc. Christopher Baker 02/17
Spc. Gene Reeves, Jr. 02/24
Spc. Caleb Wiltse 02/24
Spc. Jeffery Vaughn 02/27

1039th:

Spc. Kyle Barboza 02/21
1Lt. Patrick Byerly 02/21
Spc. Benjamin Bass 02/27

693rd:

Spc. Jordan Craig 02/17
Pfc. Douglas Postelwait 02/25

23rd:

Pv2 Devin Jarone 02/19
Spc. Reinaldo Santosrivera 02/23
Sgt. Brian Arey 02/24
Spc. Jesse Schimke 02/24
Ssg. Gregory Brazinsky 02/26
Pvt. Victor Zuniga 02/27
Spc. Shane Sargent 02/28

370th:

Spc. Timothy Wolters 02/17
Sgt. Paul McPhetres 02/25
Spc. Drake Johnson 02/27
Sgt. Christopher Noseworthy 02/27

Words From the TOP: The M11 Pistol

- **Clean assigned weapon**
- **Change out magazines**
- **Wipe down ammo**

Weapon Facts: SIG P226/228 (M11)

- Length- 7.7 in (226) 7.1 in(228)
- Width- 1.5 in
- Cal- 9mm
- Weight loaded-34oz (226) 29.1oz (228)

Some quickies...

“A (insert gun here) isn’t very accurate.” Unless you’re talking about a Hi-Point or a Lorcin the gun you have will most definitely shoot better than 90 percent of the people holding it. This is a fact that can be proven time and time again. Good ammo and a brand name gun will be a better shooting package than most of us out there can use, unless your name is JJ Racaza.

“Kneeling/Modern Isosceles/Monica/ (insert shooting technique here) isn’t comfortable.” WTF! IT’S A GUNFIGHT! I assure you that getting shot is a lot less comfortable. Is everything supposed to be comfortable and natural? If at all possible, sure, but the mission is to shoot him before he shoots you. End of story, suck it up!

“Guns need to be cleaned every time they are fired.” Ummm...No! Keep them well lubed like I’ve told you before and you will be just fine. Modern weapons run like sewing machines for the most part. My days of “white glove” inspections went the way of my dark brown head of hair.



— 1SG Scott Catlett

23rd Engineer Company: Medics Lead the Way



The medic position is one that is rarely highlighted, because often times it only when things are going wrong that their skill sets are put to full usage. But in the past eight months, the 23rd Engineer Company platoon medics have been an exception to this rule. They have shown incredible stamina, motivation, and dedication to their platoons and the company. They are continually setting an example of excellence in physical fitness, mental toughness, and academic achievement.

Since the commencement of their first deployment, SGT Woolard and SGT Fiscus have grown in their personal and professional skills as medics. They have participated in countless combat missions without tiring. These medics have participated in literally every mission the company has undertaken, to include several extended named operations, and are constantly prepared to do their job. Their expertise has helped train the company for reactions during a mass casualty scenario, and their involvement with the FOB Aid Station has built a terrific working relationship.



With minimal guidance, they became experts in administering the Military Acute Concussion Evaluation Exam (MACE). They consistently trained their platoons in critical medical tasks and recertified company CLS personnel to Battalion standard. SGT Woolard and SGT Fiscus both earned the rank of Sergeant during the deployment to culminate their hard work and dedication. SGT Woolard was also awarded the Combat Medical Badge while serving as the third platoon medic. The medic's esprit de corps and professionalism is greatly appreciated by the leaders and Soldiers of the 23rd Engineer Company. "To Conserve Fighting Strength"

— 1LT Alexander Blake and SSG Eddie Gurrerro

Soldier Spotlight: 584th Engineer Company

SPC Toa Thetadig

- Hometown: Ili'ili, Samoa
- Years of service: 2yrs.
- Married: No, no children
- Family still live in Samoa
- Why did you join: Fun and adventure, I passed the ASVAB test and decided to join!
- Deployment job: Gunner/RG driver
- Thoughts on the deployment: Good experience, I enjoyed learning my job. I think the deployment is better than I expected it to be, as well as the living conditions here are better than I expected.
- Something the deployment has taught you, or you are proud of: I've learned that you have to be careful with your workouts. I was injured by not being careful. I am proud of learning to be a gunner and learning the proper Escalation of Force. Being away from family has been difficult. I'll be glad to get home to see them again. I did get to go on R&R to Samoa and see family for a short time. My family has been very supportive of me.
- Previous deployments: This is my first deployment
- Favorite food: Chicken of any kind or recipe
- Favorite Sports team: Lakers basketball
- Vehicle you own: I don't own one yet, but I like the Dodge Charger
- Plans to do when back home: Take block leave to see family and my cousin in the U.S.



...The Last Word: Down Time



If you have been keeping up with this newsletter than you probably know that there are several different activities that Soldiers participate in to relieve stress and have fun during their down time. Some are trying to learn to play musical instruments, others watch movies, some play computer games, work out in the gyms, read books, etc. Recently I have found that one of our Soldiers has a very unique hobby that he has brought with him.

That Soldier, is SPC Timothy Parker. Timothy Parker was born and raised in Mississippi but moved to Talala, OK in 2005 and works as a banker for Capitol One Auto Finance. He was a 95B (Military Police) in the Mississippi National Guard for 6 years. After moving to OK he decided to get back in the Guard. When I asked him why, he said it was out of a sense of patriotism and that he felt he needed to deploy and do his part. He is now working in our S2 as an Intelligence Analyst. He is married and has four children.

So what is his unique hobby? It is the practice of primitive skills; making tools, bows, arrows, flint knapping, and brain tanning buckskin in the same manner (or as close as he can) as early Indian tribes and other primitive people.

He said he was always interested in old things as a young boy and learned some of his beginning skill from his father but mostly from trial and error and reading. As I talked to him he went through the different steps of making a bow: choosing the right wood (hickory or bois d'arc), shaping and seasoning the bow, making the bow string (from intestine), etc. SPC Parker said that he has successfully hunted with his homemade bows and has also taught himself how to knap arrow points, knife blades, and tomahawks from flint and chert. SPC Parker said learning how to knap was a lot harder than bow making.

In addition SPC Parker also practices and collects medicinal herbs from native Oklahoma plants such as white oak, bone-set, plantain, mullet, and jewelweed. He described how these are used to treat skin problems, flu, pain, upper respiratory infections, and poison ivy.

When asked what he has learned from this deployment or how it has changed his life SPC Parker said it has definitely taught him to be more patient with others and has strengthened his relationship and appreciation for his family.

SPC Parker said he wants to stay in the 120 Engineers and plans to go to an MOS producing school to be reclassified as an electrician, as well as finish his bachelor degree, and move into a district manager position at work.

— CSM Richard Raby





COMING SOON!!!

**MORE EXCITING
NEWS AND
EVENTS!!!**



Safety First, and then Teamwork:

Adhere to good network practices, keep our network security passwords secure and do not write them down where they can easily be seen. Information Assurance is a security measure implemented by DOD to manage risks related to the storage, processing and use of data and the systems that process that information. The department of defense has spent much time, money and effort in protecting personnel, information and equipment from any security threats or violations. Implementing rules on the proper use of computers, equipment and data with the use of passwords, CAC cards, security level clearance, and mandatory Annual Information Assurance training. A password is a secret set of characters and or letters used to identify and authenticate the user to gain access to certain resources. We use passwords to access computers at work, at home to access e-mail accounts, financial institutions, education, social media, programs, and data. All these are password protected for a measure of security. When a password is written down and stuck on your computer, under your keyboard, in your desk drawer (that has no lock) it offers as much protection as if there was no password to begin with. So practice good security and memorize your passwords or place it in your pin protected phone, or if you must write it down keep it in a secure location locked up. Another good idea is to change it often and never share your password with anyone. Fundamentally people have good intentions and want to do a good job. So practice good Information Assurance and protect yourself!

DO YOU LIKE WHAT YOU SEE IN THE NEWSLETTER???
DO YOU HAVE A STORY THAT NEEDS TO BE TOLD???
ANYTHING YOU'D LIKE TO SEE IN A LATER ISSUE???
IF SO, CONTACT US THROUGH YOUR COMPANY 1SG!!!

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!

