



PUBLISHED BY ARCHANGELS...

Bagram Air Base, OEF XI

Alpha Company Task Force Phoenix



Guardians of Freedom

...AN AVALANCHE PRODUCTION

Commander & First Sergeant Corner

Bagram Airbase

Another hot month down and we are within 10 weeks of sending our first wave of ArchAngels home! July was a big month for the ArchAngels in that we proudly promoted two of our most promising Soldiers to the rank of Sergeant. SGT Ricardo Caletz and SGT Andrew Gonzalez are two of our newest Non-Commissioned Officers and we look forward to their continuing contribution to the excellent tradition of leadership within the ArchAngels. As we start the process of redeploying we will rely on our NCOs to make it happen, with their leadership, they always do.

I hope everyone's 4th of July was a successful, safe and memorable break from work or just a time to remember the great nation we are all so fortunate to call our own. As one of my favorite holidays, it is always a little sad to spend it away from the smell of fresh cut grass, the excitement of fireworks, picnicking with loved ones and reminiscing on the front porch. As I write this, I am so very humbled to work with such patriots and professionals that the sacrifice is worth the cost and we will all enjoy the holiday next year all that much more.

This July saw an unprecedented break from the norm in the form of a Task Force Safety Stand Down Day. I say unprecedented as in my previous tours, the time is not afforded for this most important Aviation tradition. The ArchAngels attended Battalion and Company led classes for the duration of the day, touching on weapons discipline, aircraft fundamentals and FARP safety. Thank you to all of the instructors, CW2 Whitten, CW2 Busch, CW3 Botto, SPC Kelley, 1SG Serrano, CW3 Abramo, and SPC Blile, for their educational and informative classes.

Continue to support each other as you have so diligently supported us. We are truly grateful for such loving and supportive families and friends. Take care, enjoy the summer and we will be home to watch the leaves change colors with you.

Contact Us!



1. Virtual Family Readiness Group (vFRG) Website

- Go to www.armyfrg.org
- Top of the page (click on 'Find an FRG')
- Bottom of the page (click on 'New York')
- Scroll down and select ('3-10th GSAB/Task Force Phoenix New York, UIC: WHNRTD')
- Fill out your information, (your sponsor is your Soldier)
- If you have any questions please contact the Task Force 3-10 FRSA, Ms. Lisa Kadaraitis at 315-774-1274 or email at lisa.kadaraitis@conus.army.mil
- Complete the registration and wait for an email reply from the Sponsor

2. Facebook

- Log onto www.facebook.com
- Search ('ArchAngels A/3-10') for the company page or ('3-10 Task Force Phoenix')
- Request to join the group

3. Flickr

- Log onto www.flickr.com
- Search people "Amanda Jo Brown" or type in http://www.flickr.com/photos/tf_phoenixrising/

4. Newsletters

- Log onto <http://tfphoenixrising.yolasite.com/newsletter.php>
- Scroll down to the ArchAngels Newsletter and select a month

Sincerely,

CPT O'Dell

& 1SG Serrano

ArchAngel Newsletter

Editor: CPT Charity O'Dell

Publisher: the hardworking folks of A/3-10 GSAB

Photos provided by the pilots, crew and operators of the ArchAngels

Contact the editor to submit pictures, make corrections, or receive a digital copy of the monthly newsletter charity.sodell@afghan.swa.army.mil

Another Awards Ceremony to commemorate the Task Force's collection accomplishment to date. The Arch-Angels represented with 1SG Albert Serrano, CPT Charity O'Dell, SPC Patrick Rayburn, and SPC Amanda Smith receiving the Combat Action Badge; SPC James Posey and SPC Norman Clark received the Air Medal for Achievement; SPC Troy Blile received the Army Commendation Medal for heroism of actions during the El Madre rescue of a downed AH-64 in Colorado last year.



CREW CHIEF OF THE MONTH



SPC Norman Clark was selected as the Alpha Company Crew Chief of the Month for July! Not only is SPC Clark the crew chief whose efforts are most admired and appreciated by the chain of command; he has diligently served as the Ground Motor Sergeant in addition to his duties as a crew chief. His attention to detail in ordering the correct parts for the MGators has kept the aging fleet up and running. SPC Clark received the Army Achievement Medal in recognition of his efforts.





By SGT Brian VanSant



SHOW OF FORCE IN THE PESCH

“Down in JAfrica”, as the song goes. Referring to the aircrew of the Army Airborne Command and Control (A2C2S) aircraft 556. For a week now, A co 3-10 Archangels have supporting their regular missions in addition to giving up a crew and aircraft to provide mission support to the ground forces of the 25th Infantry Division, led by COL Kim. By showing support to Afghan troops, the ArchAngels provided ‘show of force’ to allow an Afghan convoy in RC East to reach their destination while providing COL Kim an aerial view of the progress. The mission turned out successful as the 20 mile convoy in one of the most dangerous areas in RC East, “The Pesch Valley” was completed with every vehicle and Afghan soldier accounted for.

Archangels are excited to welcome back the one and only, the man, the myth, the legend, CW3 Nate Brown. Archangels missing piece of the puzzle has been recovering from extensive knee surgery since late March. While having the option to finish out the deployment in the comfort of his own home, Mr. Brown will return to help the Archangels complete their mission and oversee the shipping of our fleet home in good condition. CW2 Nate Halpin has kept the fleet fully mission capable during his absence and could use the extra pair of hands to help tie up any loose ends.

With that door opening, one steps in, while two others step out. Safe travels to CW3 Jake Mondragon and PV2 Justin Rupe, who volunteered their time away from friends and family two months prior to the rest of the Archangels. They helped our sister Company, C “Dustoff”, get their mission started back in August of last year. The effort they put forth was greatly appreciated and Archangels look forward to catching up to them back at the house. As difficult as it was being the first ones out here, it can only mean they are the first ones home, and I’m sure they don’t mind the latter.

Speaking of C Company, “Dustoff”, congratulations to CW3 Rachel Hall and Alpha companies own SGT Joshua Hall. Proud parents to be of the newest “Archangel” 9 months from now. Mrs. Hall is busy making plans for the couples’s new arrival back home, all the while; Alpha Co will see to it that Dad gets home safe. As with the rest of us. Until next month, Archangels Soar!

Sgt Van Sant



Who says washing aircraft isn't fun?

It doesn't take much imagination to see how the base task of washing aircraft quickly disintegrated into a battle royale of power wash the warrant officer. CW2 Peter Erb was quietly minding his own business (read as: picking on the crew chiefs) when the crew chiefs decided that it was time to initiate the 'MTP in training' to the group. Led by SPC Troy Blile, SPC Norman Clark and SPC Matthew Last, and SPC Kevin Brunner; CW2 Peter Erb was dutifully hosed on both sides by SGT Michael Sewell. All in good fun on a hot day out on the flight line.

After CW2 Peter Erb sought drier locales, the crew chief took turns soaking each other...or in SPC Patrick Rayburns' case, he accidentally sopped suds on himself by dropping the brush into the bucket suddenly, don't worry that is why we wear eye-pro.



Greetings from Afghanistan,

Another month has come and passed here in lovely Afghanistan. With the beginning of August I can confidently say the light at the end of tunnel is finally glowing much brighter. You can sense a certain optimism and upstep in the crews of Alpha Company. Everyone has been eagerly talking about all the things they are going to do when they get back home and how much they are looking forward to seeing their loved ones.

I for one am humbled everyday by the dedication and work ethic that is pervasive throughout the company. Everyone here gives 110% everyday no matter what. Many of our crew chiefs are so dedicated that I have had to slow them down so I can make sure they get enough rest for the next day.

This past month saw the promotion of two of our finest to the rank of Sergeant. SGT Caletz and SGT Gonzalez are the newest Non-Commissioned officers in Task Force Phoenix. Hopefully before the end of the deployment we will be promoting two of our senior Sergeants to Staff Sergeant.

If you stepped out on the ramp right now you would see a welcome sight. The arrival of the 82nd's medevac aircraft. Brand new mike model UH60's. As always this is a welcome sight. In addition we have been working on our early return containers and the members of alpha company have been bringing in boxes and bags to ship home.

Despite the thought of going home our crewmembers remain focused, driven and most importantly professional and safe.

Please continue to provide your support, love and understanding as we push through the last of this deployment.

Kyle Eberly
CPT
Archangel 16

Family, Friends & Furrries



Above and Below: The cutest and newest Arch-Angel, Conner Blile. (Correction, in the June Newsletter Conner Kennedy was mistakenly called Collin (we have two Conners in the Company). Right: USFORA ISAF Headquarters in Kabul International Airport, Desert flowers bloom on the Salerno HLZ, Awesome 4th of July sign by our FRG patriots...Thank you!





2nd Platoon

Is it that time already? Sure enough, with July down we're left with almost no time at all before we start heading back home! The arrival of July itself brought with it a less than enjoyable heat wave as we have been seeing daily temperatures well into the 90's along with a mid-day average into the 100's. Taking it in stride, we Archangels have continued to out-perform the rest of the task force in both our attitude and work ethic.

July was yet another month full of accomplished missions and plenty of flight time to be had. Of course, with the abundance of flight time comes the extraordinary amount of helicopter maintenance. Our crew chiefs and maintenance test pilot have been doing an outstanding job at ensuring all of our aircraft are kept in the fight. This month we have not had a significant amount of unscheduled maintenance issues arise (knock on wood!) and have been completing all scheduled maintenance issues in a timely fashion. All of us here in Alpha Company definitely owe a debt of gratitude to the outstanding efforts of our fine mechanics. Without their hard work we would not have been able to maintain our tremendous track record!

Hello August,

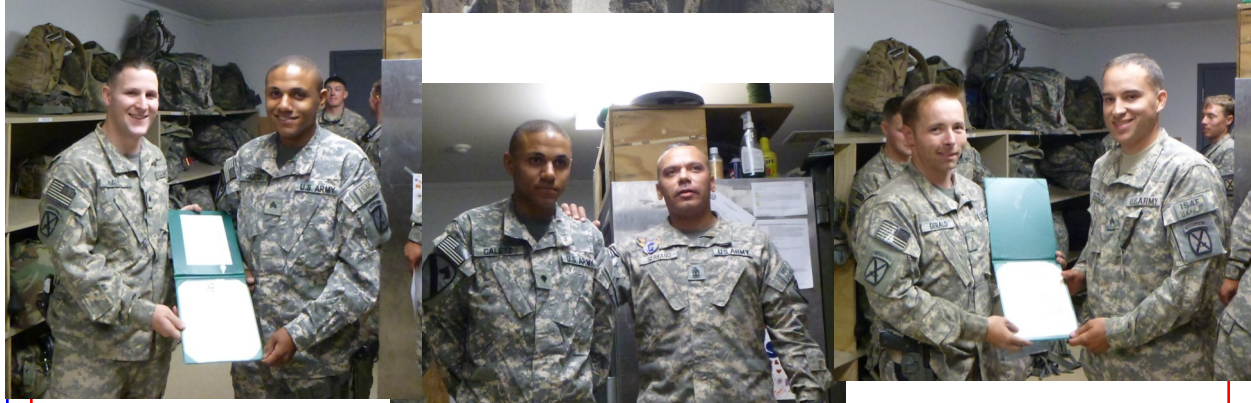
CP7 Kyle Wilhelm



PROMOTIONS



Salang Mountains



The ArchAngels proudly promoted two of their finest to Sergeant this month! SGT Ricardo Caletz and SGT Andrew Gonzalez are now wearing the age honored "buck" Sergeant rank. Clockwise: SGT Joshua Hall present SGT Ricardo Caletz with his promotion orders, 1SG Serrano speaks about SGT Caletz potential for increased responsibility, SGT Clifton Gerald present SGT Andrew Gonzalez with his promotion orders, SGT Gerald promotes SGT Gonzalez, CSM Dvorsky congratulates his newest NCOs, SGT Hall promotes SGT Caletz.



Parting Shot

All Powerful God,
We honor today those men and women—
Our sons and daughters,
Husbands and wives,
Fathers, brothers, sisters, mothers—
Who have laid down their life for their country.

Whether weary or emboldened, quiet or defiant,
Vulnerable or ready when You called them home,
Their sacrifice is too humbling for words
except these uttered in prayer.

Loving Lord, bless them forever in Your eternal peace.
Let the sounds of strife, the cries of battle, the wounds of war
be calmed for all eternity in Your loving and endless grace.
Let these great warriors find rest at last,
Ever reminded that we who are left behind
Cherish their spirit, honor their commitment,
send them our love,
and will never forget the service that they gave. Amen.

