



# MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 10

JUNE 2011



**DEDICATED UNHESITATING SERVICE TO OUR FIGHTING FORCES**

**A true story of how the soldiers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon C/3-10 portray the idealism of DUSTOFF on one of the most critical missions of this deployment.**

At the end of May, the lead crew at Orgun-E (CW2 Soria, LT Renneisen, SGT Matier, & SSG Marcel) responded to the site of a helicopter crash. Due to their rapid response and critical skill set, the crews that day were nothing short of heroes. CW2 Soria and LT Renneisen guided the aircraft safely into a rugged and uneven two wheel landing inside the valley adjacent to the crash site. Once positioned, SGT Matier and SSG Marcel egressed the aircraft, and battled the rough terrain to respond to the crash site. Due to the uneven terrain SGT Matier returned to the helicopter while SSG Marcel continued on to the downed aircraft site. SSG Marcel performed rescue extraction of the pilots without regard for his own safety and immediately started life saving procedures to both pilots. Due to the terrain, the patients could not be moved by foot. SGT Matier flawlessly started hoist operations at a hover held by the pilots of over 125 feet above the valley floor. SSG Marcel repositioned the patients and prepped them for extraction by hoist. Between SGT Matier and SSG Marcel, they performed three combat hoist iterations to rescue both pilots and then to extract SSG Marcel from the crash site. Enroute SGT Matier and SSG Marcel continued life saving measures all the way to the FST at Orgun-E. The unhesitated response, combat experience and expertise of the crew that day, resulted in the saving of an American life, and the fulfillment of what C/3-10 AVN is all about, DUSTOFF!



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## *Commander's Corner*

June has proven to be an eventful month. We continue to execute our mission with a precision and pride that is hard to put into words. We had to send home one of our best flight medics, SSG Pelkey, after being wounded during a combat hoist mission. We will link up with him before we know it, back at home station. July is upon us and soon we will see our replacements. The 82<sup>nd</sup> will have some tough shoes to fill, as we have set a standard in Afghanistan MEDEVAC that will be hard to match. We all look forward to being with our families again and thank you all for all of your sacrifice while we are away.

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## *First Sergeant's Update*

June is the month to pin some promotions due to the hard work and motivation of your Soldiers! Congratulations to SSG Marcel, SGT Shipp, SPC Comstock and SPC Lester for achieving your new ranks. All of you worked exceptionally hard and are deserving of your new ranks. I would like to thank the Soldiers of 1<sup>st</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Platoons for their hospitality shown to me while visiting in June. SFC Walker and Jordan, your Soldiers are working tough missions and setting a high standard for those that come after. Keep up the great work and I look forward to seeing Sharana again in July, DUSTOFF!



**MAJ McFadden**



**Above: 1<sup>st</sup> Platoon Shank Posing  
Below: SGT Shipp and SGT White display their hard earned awards**





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## ***1<sup>st</sup> Platoon: FOB Shank***



Summer is upon us, and although it feels hot, we are positively ecstatic to be living at a high altitude where it only reaches 90 degrees! We have been busy, but occasionally find time to lie down on the job, as SPC Hetherington demonstrates at left.

We have the privilege of working closely with Polish medics on some of our missions. They taught us (eager monkeys that we are) a little about rope ascensions and descents, and working with climbing equipment. That was a great break from the routine!



As we're continuing to accomplish the mission day after day, ya'll at home are our motivation. Thanks for being there for us; we're looking forward to getting home!

-CW2 Plummer



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## ***2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon: FOB SHARANA/ORGUN-E***



Sharana MEDEVAC inbound  
for landing

Greetings to all from the Soldiers at Sharana. As the summer months come upon us, the Soldiers of 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon remain hard at work as the days get hotter, in some of the worst terrain and weather Afghanistan has to offer.

As we are slowly closing in on the remaining two months left of our own deployment, 2<sup>nd</sup> platoon continues to experience change as Task Force Gambler leaves country to go home, and we welcome Task Force Attack from 1<sup>st</sup> CAV to Sharana.

It has been a rewarding month for some of the Soldiers of 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon as well. SFC Powers joined the ranks of the other aviators of C/3-10 by attaining his RL 1 status and began flying on combat missions.

The commander visited the Soldiers at Sharana and presented the basic aviation badge to SGT Williams, SGT Harris, SGT Greve, & SSG Marcel. The senior aviation badge was awarded to CW3 McCafferty.

Congratulations to newly promoted SSG Marcel, who after enduring a long awaited and anticipated promotion was finally pinned the rank of SSG. The delayed promotion as a result of an audit by the Army was concluded and SSG Marcel will receive his back dated effective date of rank. Congrats!

As the platoon continues to plunge forward into the last leg of this deployment, it's all they can do to keep the anticipation of returning to family and friends at bay, as we begin preparations for the arrival of the incoming unit in the coming months.



SSG Marcel stands proudly during  
promotion ceremony



Medics train on medical skill sets with  
nurse and pilots



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## ***3<sup>rd</sup> Platoon: FOB Bagram***



The weather has definitely started to warm up here at Bagram. With each passing day, we know we are getting a little closer to home. Everyone here at Bagram has been busy helping with backseater progressions and numerous APARTs while still maintaining the normal MEDEVAC posture. The “Winds of 120 Days” are upon us, providing us with a heaping dose of high winds and blowing dust on a daily basis. Our own SPC Shipp was recently promoted to SGT. We would like to congratulate SGT Shipp on his promotion and we welcome him to the team as a maintenance NCO. Two of our other crew chiefs, PFC Lester and PFC Comstock, were promoted to SPC on June 20<sup>th</sup>. Congratulations to both of them! Our resident chefs, CW3 Allan Mace and CPT Joleen Pangelinan, are planning a 4<sup>th</sup> of July BBQ for the MEDEVAC team here at Bagram. We look forward to celebrating Independence Day with some great food and camaraderie. On behalf of everyone here at Bagram, we would like to wish everyone a happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July and we will see you really soon!





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## ***4<sup>th</sup> Platoon: FOB Jalalabad***



Another month has come and gone out here in Jalalabad! The month of June is our first full month in the double digit count down until our return home.

Despite the long days spent in the 120+ degree weather and high humidity, the spirits remain high with talks of plans for when we get home; and with only one soldier left to depart for R&R, we are truly seeing a growth in the light at the end of the tunnel!

This month we have focused on training the new ground elements on proper MEDEVAC procedures, from sending accurate and timely 9-lines, to correct and safe patient loading and unloading with the UH-60s. Thus far, we have sent two flights to forward sites for hands-on training and interaction with the DUSTOFF crews, and plan to continue at other sites.

We also congratulate Flight Medic, SGT Julia Bringloe, and Crew Chief, SPC Todd Demery on superbly executing their first combat hoists in theatre! We welcomed back both CW3 Terry O'Brien and SGT Johnny Reyes from their much needed R&R, as CW3 Aaron Michaud prepares to depart for his leave.

4<sup>th</sup> Platoon continues to execute its missions safely and effectively. Our operational tempo remains steady, and our flight crews and operations personnel continue to step up and meet every challenge.

1LT Stephen T. Bonney





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## ***FRG: On The Homefront***