



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 9

JUN 2011

TEAM MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF: Army 10 Miler

Mountain Dustoff steps up to the challenge by participating in the annual Army 10 miler race in Washington DC. Each year tens of thousands of runners and spectators come to Washington, DC to join in this race classic. Produced by the U.S. Army Military District of Washington, the Army Ten-Miler proceeds support Army Morale, Welfare and Recreation, a comprehensive network of support and leisure services designed to enhance the lives of Soldiers and their families. The race starts and finishes at the Pentagon, passing by DC landmarks including the Lincoln Memorial, Washington Monument, and the Capitol Building.

24 members of Mountain Dustoff have signed up for the challenge. The Dustoff team is comprised of 4 sub teams which include 1 competitive team and 3 fun run teams. Team Mountain Dustoff is lead by team captain SGT Schwab and assistant team captain SGT Bringloe. The race will be Oct 9 and will kickoff the company's block leave. Racers have already been training for the event to prove to the rest of the Army that Mountain Dustoff has the best Soldiers in the Army!

Teams are as follows: A-Team (competitive team), Maj McFadden, 1SG Peplinski, 1LT Brisson, CW3 Beltz, CW2 Jarc, and MSG Koser.

Dustoff Team-1, CW3 Greenlee, CW2 Sherrill & Wiese, SFC Walker, SSG Romero, SGT Schwab, and SGT Bringloe.

Dustoff Team-2, CPT Gilbert, 2LT Coon, SFC Garcia, SSG Prouty, SPC Hagen & Weiland.

Dustoff Team-3, CPT Wilson, CW2 Do, SGT Marcel, SGT Harris, and SPC Burt.





MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 9

JUN 2011

Commander's Corner

There is no greater calling than to save the life of another, and the soldiers of the Mountain DUSTOFF do this better than any. Though our time here is theater continues to grow shorter, the unit is focused and continues to be the saving grace for the fighting soldiers in Afghanistan. We could not do any of this without the support of our families back home...thank you!

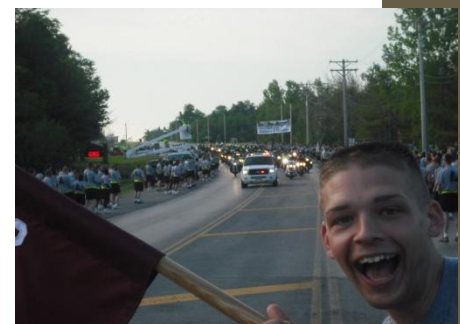
DUSTOFF 6

First Sergeant's Update

Your Dustoff Soldiers are well over the hump in our Afghan deployment and plans are looming for reuniting with Family and Friends with well deserved block leave plans in the forge. Many Soldiers are planning on participating in the Army Ten Miler and the trip is open to all that would like to participate or provide their support in our Nation's Capital Washington DC. There will be over 30,000 runners and DC will be closed to vehicles allowing a rare opportunity to explore the city on foot without congestion. Hope to see you all there, DUSTOFF!



MAJ McFadden





MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 9

JUNE 2011



DUSTOFF 43 begins its' climb away from FOB Ghazni as SSG Romero keeps a watchful eye out for other traffic.



SGT Schwab instructs local Soldiers on aircraft loading during a training session on FOB Shank.

Continuing our efforts to provide the best training to other soldiers in the Task Force, SGT Schwab and other 1st Platoon personnel conducted load training with an Engineer company. The load training is used to simulate the high stress environment experienced during a MEDEVAC operation.

1st Platoon: FOB Shank/Ghazni



CPT Gilbert, SFC Walker, SPC Valencia and SGT Schwab enjoy lunch under some shade...SFC Walker declined to have his face pictured due to the ice cream being spooned into it!

Welcome to 1st Platoon's Update for June 2012.

Nearing the closure of this deployment, 1st Platoon has been moving to organize and pack equipment for the redeployment in a few months. With the excitement of seeing our efforts here drawing to a close and the responsibility passed, we have started planning for the big move home with packing, conducting inventories, and thoughts of the future to occupy the day. Being ever focused on the mission we continue to provide the best support possible for the Coalition Forces local nationals.

The increasing temperatures in our area have provided some much needed sun and relaxation to our crews. Cabin fever had crept upon us during the winter months, but in full remission we now spend our free time enjoying the porch and shaded area. Laughter and joyful conversations can always be heard from the area pictured above.

SFC Walker was quoted as saying "life is like...", before he could finish he was dragged away by the flight surgeon to receive his "over 40" physical. He never was able to finish the statement, but we all presume he was going for "I am only 39 and don't need that exam"!

Special thanks to CW2 Schieffler for the design of the DUSTOFF coin. -SPC Hagen



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 9

JUN 2011

2nd Platoon: FOB SHARANA/ORGUN-E

This month I would like to focus on the Lifeblood of our Platoon: The Aircraft Maintainers/Crew Chiefs.

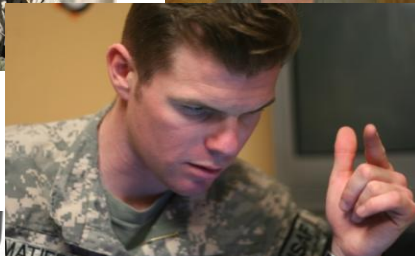
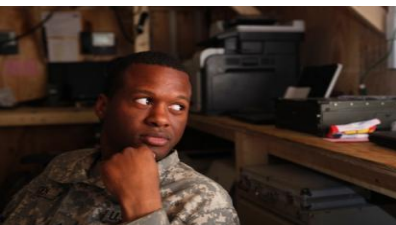
Simply put, the mission of our 7 Aircraft Maintainers, led by SGT Rodney Kitchen, is to keep up with not only the vigorous mission OPTEMPO that a forward deployed MEDEVAC Platoon deals with on a daily basis, but to fix whatever maintenance problems arise with our (4) aircraft at a moments notice without degrading the mission here in the Patika Region.

We have had several maintenance challenges this month to say the least. Two Aircraft coming in and out of Phase (very in depth maintenance where the helicopter is essentially stripped down to its frame and rebuilt) and 1 damaged aircraft that required some very direct coordination and guidance from our Crew-Chiefs to ensure the mission didn't lapse a single minute in the 2nd Platoon Area of Responsibility.

To make a long story short, SGT Kitchen, SGT Matier, SPC Hill, SPC Enriquez, SPC Packard, SPC Hogan and SPC Anderson are the indispensable parts that make our mission successful. Without them, our aircraft don't fly, plain and simply put. The hours that these seven stellar Soldiers put in weekly, is humbling.

I just wanted to let the families back home know that the unsung heroes of 2nd Platoon are working hard daily to ensure the aircraft we fly are as safe and ready as humanly possible, which directly contributes to the safe return of every Medic/Aviator and Crew-Chief.

SHAAFT!





MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 9

JUN 2011

3rd Platoon: FOB Bagram



Getting ready for a flight

Can you believe it's almost June? Time has been flying by for us here at Bagram and even though the heat is pretty intense these days we don't mind at all, at least it's not as hot here as it is at JAF! Thankfully things haven't been too busy around these parts but we did manage to get SGT Valdez his first couple of flights the other day so I have no doubt he'll be RL1 in no time. In case you haven't heard our very own SSG Richardson was just selected for promotion to SFC! It shouldn't be too much longer until she gets pinned but in the meantime 1LT Brisson has been selling tons of Dustoff paraphernalia so don't be surprised if you see our patch floating around the states. Well that's about it for us, Happy Memorial Day from Bagram and we're almost there!

-CPT Keller



CW3s Hall and Mace sitting in the MTP office



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 9

JUN 2011

4th Platoon: FOB Jalalabad

Well...the month of May is coming to a close. Our calendars are almost full of X's, our last R&R leave has packed and repacked his bags, and the heat is bordering unbearable.

However, very little has changed. We still find bird nests in our aircraft, masterfully constructed over night. Our training has remained at a steady state. Our biggest focus is keeping a rhythm and remembering the basics. Oh...and finding little fun everyday; as you may see in our pictures.

As our time here slowly ticks by it amazes me how tight knit we are here. Even as a 4th platoon member coming back from BAF I can see the tangible cords of individuals bound together by extraordinary events. We are all set on our two tasks. Complete the mission and come home to our families.

SPC Hinrichsen



CW2 Sabiston, SSG Pelkey, CPT Lall, SGT Reyes, and CW3 Langa receiving their Stetsons.



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 9

JUN 2011

FRG: On The Homefront

What were our DUSTOFF Families up to this month?



Will Mingus at the Syracuse zoo..."shhh, the swan is sleeping!"

Heather and Paisley Benton at the Black River Drive In



Well, May has brought loads of rain to the Fort Drum area. The Black River is roaring, the grass and trees are lush. Now we just need some sun and warm temps!

The DUSTOFF FRG did not get together in May. However, the Brigade sponsored a Halfway There BBQ in the middle of the month. All the 10th CAB families were invited to attend this day of fun, food and friends. They took a human ribbon photo with each task force in a different colored tee. Our folks were in red!



SGT Marcel's son Luke playing on the beach in Florida

The FRG is getting ready to meet and make our plans for the welcome home which will be here before we know it! If you are interested in helping, please contact me. Watch your email for more updates.

Jacob and Kim Derouin at Old McDonalds Farm in Sackets



PLEASE NOTE...it is very important for ALL DUSTOFF spouses to let me know if you are travelling away from home. We need to have an address if you will be away for more than 24 hours. This is very important. Just shoot me an email!



Human Ribbon at the Brigade's Halfway There BBQ

We are really winding down in this deployment, but the FRG continues to be available for assistance and information in any way! I look forward to any ideas or input from you.

~Shery McFadden
Evac_wife1993@yahoo.com