



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 8

MAY 2011

COMBAT LIFE SAVER

Combat Life Saver (CLS) skills are the most basic set of medical skills in the Army. Here at Mountain Dustoff we train every single crew chief, pilot, and flight operations person in these critical medical tasks. Every Soldier at Dustoff needs to know these fundamental life saving steps to be able to render first aid, especially in the event assistance is needed for in flight care. It also enhances the Pilot's and Operations Personnel's Situational Awareness about what is happening in the back of the aircraft. Saving lives sometimes means a flight medic needs an extra set of hands and our CLS crew chiefs are just those extra hands.

CLS skills learned are: tourniquet application, combat gauze application, manual airway, simple airway, advanced airway techniques, CPR, IV administration, needle chest decompression, and much more. These courses have also inspired some Crew Chiefs to pursue additional training and a possible future career in the medical field.

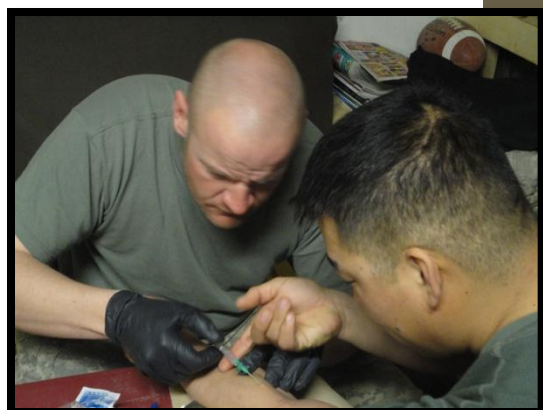
-SGT Schwab



**CW2 Sherrill performs an IV
On SPC Mick.**



**CW3 Greenlee performs an IV
on CW2 Wiese.**



**SGT Speth performs an IV
On SGT Fuji**



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 8

MAY 2011

Commander's Corner

As the company rounds the corner of the 8th month, it shouldn't come as a surprise that the soldiers of Mountain DUSTOFF continue to exceed everyone's expectations. I couldn't be more proud of the soldiers and families of this unit. Leaders at the highest levels of our Army recognize the contribution this unit brings to our mission here in Afghanistan. We will continue to support the soldier in the fight, and along with the support of our families, we will finish this tour with same professionalism and honor as we started. DUSTOFF!

First Sergeant's Update

The Army's 37th Chief of Staff (CSA) General Martin Dempsey recently dropped by Bagram Airbase and recognized some outstanding Dustoff Soldiers. CW3 Ernst, SSG Cammack, 4th Platoon and SSG Romero, 1st Platoon personally received Air medals With Valor devices for heroic deeds performed in the Line of duty. Later the CSA honored Dustoff by stopping by our Hangar and saying some personal words of praise to all of our Soldiers and the things they do everyday. Congratulations to SSG Romero for her promotion to SSG and SSG Richardson for her selection to the rank of SFC. A very loud Hooah also goes out to SGT Hamilton, SPC Capps, SPC Scott and PFC Lester for achieving Readiness Level 1 Status and becoming Bona Fide "Back-seaters". Dustoff!



MAJ McFadden



SSG Cammack, 1SG Peplinski, CW3 Ernst and SSG Romero display their awards



GEN Martin Dempsey Speaks to Dustoff Soldiers



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 8

MAY 2011



1st Platoon: FOB Shank and FOB Ghazni

Happy Easter to everyone from 1st platoon at FOB Shank and FOB Ghazni. We are all happy to be on the second half of the deployment. This month 1st platoon welcomed a new FST crew at FOB Ghazni. We also had the opportunity to train Polish ground forces in Medevac procedures. Now that the weather has warmed up, our missions have increased. We are all prepared for the missions and challenges we will face in the last few months of this deployment.

Congratulations.....

....to SSG Romero who was promoted to Staff Sergeant on 1 April and also received an Air Medal with Valor on 21 April 2011 for her actions during an urgent medevac mission in Kunar Valley on 7 November 2010.

....to SPC Robinson who will be promoted to Sergeant effective 1 May 2011.

Birthday wishes.....

....to CPT Gilbert, SSG Romero, and SPC Robinson who both celebrated their birthdays this month.

MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 8

MAY 2011

2nd Platoon: FOB SHARANA/ORGUN-E

A very Happy Easter to one and all from the 2nd Platoon family. As April draws to a close, the summer months come upon us, and how quickly the summer weather has joined. It has been bright, warm, and sunny, in the high elevations of the Sharana and Orgun-E areas. With the change in weather 2nd platoon is seeing the work load pick up quickly as the crews have been busy at both locations with the increasing demand , missions, and hours.

A special note and job well done to CW2 Do and SGT Marcel who both performed flawlessly under pressure when called to an urgent medevac hoist mission under night vision goggles in the middle of the night outside of Orgun-E. Both are congratulated on their first hoist operation while at Sharana/O-E.

CONGRATULATIONS.....

...to SGT Matier and wife on the up coming birth of their new baby girl, we are all wishing you well and all the best!

...to SPC Hill for his performance at the SGT promotion board, we look forward to adding a new NCO to the corps in the near future.

....to newly promoted SPC Anderson, well deserved and great accomplishment.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY.....

...to CW2 Soria and CW2 Pettit who both celebrated birthdays this month.

As the days get longer and busier, we also prepare for the upcoming departure of TF Gambler and will soon welcome a new Task Force to FOB Sharana.



Return to Sharana : Mission
Complete



Orgun-E MEDEVAC



SGT Marcel gearing up for a
mission



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 8

MAY 2011

3rd Platoon: FOB Bagram

Wow how time has flown! It seems like just yesterday that we spent most of our mornings shoveling snow and now the weather is getting hotter by the day. The big news in Third Platoon these days is that some of our newest crewmembers have reached RL1 status and are ready to start flying missions. Our congratulations go out to SGT Hamilton, SPC Scott, and PFC Lester who learned that progressing to RL1 in Afghanistan is more than a full time job! Also as some of you may or may not know our very own 1LT Brisson ran the Boston Marathon "Shadow" run here in Bagram and placed 14th out of 300 runners! Well that's about it from Bagram, we wish everyone well back in the states and the summer will be here before you know it!



MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 8

MAY 2011

4th Platoon: FOB Jalalabad

Coming off one of the biggest operations in RC East, 4th platoon entered April with high spirits. We welcomed the arrival of SPC Demery to our family here at JAF. He has become a great asset to our team, our mission, and has stepped up as a mentor to the younger crew members in the platoon. SPC Capps began his hoist progression and is well on his way to becoming an RL1 crew chief. His motivation and dedication has greatly helped the maintenance side of things here at JAF. Along with the op-tempo picking up, the increase in temperature and humidity is evidence of the arrival of the summer season. We saying goodbye to a member of our family here at JAF with the departure of SGT Cutsinger as he heads back to Ft. Drum to begin his transition out of the Army. He was a great crew chief, a mentor to younger soldiers, and an integral part to the success of our team. He is missed by everyone here and is irreplaceable. LTC Downey and CSM McGuire awarded SGT Cutsinger with gold combat spurs before he left, signifying his deployment with the Six Shooters.

We would like to thank the families and members of the FRG for your support and dedication. Your personal messages and holiday gifts have given us all the feeling that a part of home is still with us out here. Your loyalty is greatly appreciated and is a vital part to the success of every mission we do.

SPC Ryan Blomquist & SPC Daniel Fittos





MOUNTAIN DUSTOFF NEWS LETTER

ISSUE: 8

MAY 2011

FRG: On The Homefront

Greetings from the DUSTOFF FRG,

We are finally thawed out...no more snow for Fort Drum...for at least five months! The daffodils are blooming, the leaves are popping out...Spring has definitely sprung!

The FRG will soon be starting some serious fundraising to help pay for our welcome home celebration this Fall. We have a couple of ideas in the works, but would LOVE to hear your creative ideas. Please feel free to share your thoughts with me or your Key Caller.

SAVE THE DATE: our reintegration briefing will be held WEDNESDAY, JULY 13th at 6PM in the ACS Ballroom. There will be a session for spouses/parents and a separate group session for the children. Watch for more details on this. But, please put the date on your calendar now.

As the end of the deployment draws near, I know many of you are anxious to hear "when are they coming home??" As SOON as we know any specific dates, we will be sure to share them with you all. As you know, we just need to remain flexible and patient!

I wish ALL of our DUSTOFF friends and families a wonderful May. Wherever you are, you are in my thoughts. Please never hesitate to come to the FRG for information or assistance. We are here for you!

~Shery McFadden
Evac_wife1993@yahoo.com

DUSTOFF Spouses
Night Out at the
Comedy Club



Mountain DUSTOFF
Families hard at
work on an Easter
craft for the soldiers



Cayden Pelkey
looking cute!

