



THE DELTA DUKES

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DELTA COMPANY,
3-10 TF PHOENIX

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The Aircraft of Task Force Phoenix



Commander's Comments

Duke Family and Friends,

As August comes to a close, the Duke Soldiers continue to astonish and amaze! As the last few Soldiers trickle back to Afghanistan from leave, we are reminded of just how close we are to finishing the tour here. The hard work has certainly paid off and been well received around the Brigade and Bagram Airfield, to include SGT Felix Cedano getting a personal thanks from a General for just how well the Dukes are performing their mission.

This month we welcomed in new Soldiers from the Utah National Guard. It is great to have the new "Mustangs" as part of the team and know that they will continue to uphold the standard we have set once we depart. We also bid a fond farewell to our MEDEVAC brethren, who finished their tour and returned to Fort Drum, yet another reminder of how far we have come and how close we are to finishing.

The heat has not slowed us down and the Soldiers have found creative ways to stay cool whether it is SPC Ryan Avila parking his favorite camping chair in front of one of the 7-foot tall fans, SPC Charles Kim dousing SPC Richard Goldsberry with water as he works on a crane, or SPC Vincent Arakelian playing in his rainbow-colored kiddie pool. Cooler weather and a trip home are now right around the corner.

Take care, stay safe and God bless.

-CPT Michael Bales
"Duke 06"



First Sergeant's Update

Hello to everyone back home. Our days on this deployment are drawing to an end. The winds are all but over and the temperature is still in the high 90s. This deployment has definitely been a challenge. And now, what is probably the busiest time of the tour is going by faster and faster. The Blackhawk maintenance section is already folding aircraft to prepare them for their long trek across the globe to the US. Delta Company is constantly receiving accolades for the expediency and professionalism of the mechanics. The rest of the company is just waiting to get their respective aircraft to prepare for the long flight back. With all of this going on, we are still conducting maintenance as normal. The company just completed a CH-47 phase with two more on the way to be completed. We are all looking forward to getting home as the excitement continues to build. See you all soon.

1SG Dan "Top" Snyder



Maintenance Platoon

The maintenance platoon emerges through another month without the assistance of a single birthday celebration. We do, however, rejoice in two promotions for August: PFC Cline earned the rank of Specialist and SGT Harrington joins the ranks of the professional leaders as an NCO. Both Soldiers fulfilled their responsibilities well and will grow as leaders in their new duties.

The end of the deployment begins to rear its beautiful head as illustrated by some significant events which occurred this month. Firstly, the UH-60 mechanics, or 15 Tangos, have been "sweating something fierce" in the sun on the west side in diligently folding the MEDEVAC aircraft for redeployment. The next aircraft in queue are the Smugglers, followed closely by our very own aircraft. Second, the Utah National Guard placed boots on the ground this month and will be replacing the Smugglers. Furthermore, they bring additional bodies to beef-up the maintenance section and tool room as we begin to pack up ours for shipment home.

The first active Army replacements landed during this month as well when the 82nd MEDEVAC arrived with their HH-60M Blackhawks. Right out of the factory, their aircraft were even fielded with a "new car smell". Speaking of new, Delta Company welcomes 1LT Kuhlmann, Justin as company executive officer. He is as green as they come, but brings a level of energy most of us have not seen since the first part of the deployment. We look forward to harvesting his skills and welcome him into the unit, maybe even with a little hazing.

Lastly, one of our very own maintenance monkeys earns her bananas as the recipient of recognition for the not-so-smartest action of the month. SPC Beard decides that since she donned her Kevlar, PT belt, eye protection, and additional safety gear, it would be OK to emplace herself inside a large tire so the rest of the platoon could push her down the taxiway. Don't worry, Beard, I would have done the same thing except I would not have taken so long to put on the safety stuff, shoved off sooner, and consequently would not have gotten caught until after the ride. We are proud of you and appreciate the laugh.

Till next month...

CPT Pinter



HQ Platoon

The deployment is starting to wind down for HQ Platoon, we have people that are due to leave in less than 30 days marking the end to a long and successful deployment. As we start to pack up the company to return to Ft Drum we still have a couple of months before we can take a breath and relax knowing we have completed a successful deployment. The Soldiers in HQ Platoon are anxious to get back to their families and take some time off. Our replacements are slowly showing up, next thing you know we will be returning home!

SSG Miller



Shops Platoon

Hello again from SHOPS platoon,

The redeployment process is in full swing. Soldiers are packing up all of the things that they have acquired throughout the deployment. The morale has been improving as we all see the light at the end of the tunnel.

Our family has grown even bigger, even though I thought it wasn't possible for a platoon to be this large. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome the seven Utah National Guard Soldiers and NCOs who have joined us. All have quickly got involved into the day-to-day operations of the platoon. They seem to be a highly motivated group that will make the transition between us and the 82nd as seamless as possible.

As usual, it is always a privilege to recognize Soldiers who get promoted into the NCO Corps. SGT Galarza came to us shortly before we deployed. He continued to work hard to learn what it took to be an Avionics mechanic. His promotion to SGT will prove to be a great addition to the strength of our NCOs.

CPT Yampaglia continues to impress me with her dedication and genuine care for the Soldiers. She personally volunteered to pace PFC England on his PT test. After numerous attempts, PFC England continued to come up a little short. CPT Yampaglia never let PFC England quit, which ultimately led to him finally passing the APFT. Due to her never-quit attitude, PFC England will now be getting promoted to Specialist.

It has been entertaining to write each month, but all good things must come to an end. SSG Holley will be writing the final newsletter next month as I will be heading home to set everything up for the rest of the unit's return to Fort Drum.

See you soon!!!!!!

SFC Kyne



RE-ENLISTMENT AND PROMOTIONS

SSG DINE RE-ENLISTED ; PFC HRIVNAK PROMOTED TO SPC ; PFC ENGLAND PROMOTED TO SPC



SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 SGT CEDANO'S B-DAY
4	5	6	7	8 SSG HOLLEY'S B-DAY SPC GAGLIOTI'S B-DAY	9	10
11 SPC SALLEE'S B-DAY	12	13	14 SPC CIPRIAN'S B-DAY	15 SPC OWEN'S B-DAY	16	17 SPC AVILA'S B-DAY
18 SSG SPARK'S B-DAY	19 SPC FLORA'S B-DAY	20	21	22	23 SSG PLUMMER'S B-DAY	24
25	26	27 SGT BARTZ'S B-DAY	28 SPC FULLER'S B-DAY	29	30	



Pictures



