



# Executioner's Alley

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ECHO COMPANY,  
3-10 GSAB

## SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- Deployment
- Support
- Platoon updates
- Phoenix Rising Website

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## Spades

During 2LT Latham's visit to Morales Frazier she bore witness to one of the greatest triumphs in all of competitive gaming. As the hole in one is to golf, the Hail Mary pass in football and the  $\frac{3}{4}$  court desperation heave to beat the buzzer in basketball, no accomplishment is greater in the game of Spades as running a Boston.

The tradition of Soldiers playing the card game known as Spades spans generations and eras. The game is well known for its ability to humiliate lesser competitors, many of which disappear in the annals of time, never to play the game again. The game is played by two teams of two players who, after the cards are dealt, determine how many books they are able to take with the cards they are currently holding. Once each hand is played, the score is multiplied by ten to give an overall score and games are usually played until a team reaches 500 points. However, teams that bid ten books and collect those ten books are rewarded with doubling their score and multiplying by 100 points. Going, "ten for two," as it is affectionately referred to, is quite a feat in and of itself. However, no feat in the game of Spades is greater than running a Boston.



The Boston is a term used in Spades referring to a team taking every single book in a hand. Alluding to the Boston Marathon, an American tradition for decades, it is known worldwide as the measuring stick for endurance and perseverance. Running a Boston is a feat so rare, that the odds of hitting a Royal Straight Flush or such of a kind in Poker are greater than that of running the Boston. The Boston is four an astounding feat that the rules of the game denote that any team able to pull off such an incredible feat automatically wins the game. Furthermore, the opposing team is then subject to untold humiliation imposed by the winning team. 2LT Latham, newly introduced to the game of Spades, witnessed the greatest of all occurrences on 23 May 2011.

SSG Wilson teamed with SGT Brackbill to take on the team of SGT Stevens and SPC Jones. After only one hand, the team of Wilson/Brackbill was dealt a monstrous hand. They knew they had a "ten for two hand, however, what unfolded was a massacre. At 2240 hours local time SSG Wilson and SGT Brackbill wiped the team of SGT Stevens and SPC Jones from everyone's memories for all time. SGT Stevens and SPC Jones have since refused to play on the same team and were banned from talking smack for a period of 13 days, symbolizing the 13 books that SSG Wilson and SGT Brackbill had taken from them. Wilson/Brackbill will forever remain in the haunted nightmares of Stevens/Jones.



Written by: SGT Brackbill

# Commander's Corner

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This will be my last newsletter as the commander of Echo Company. Being Echo's commander has been an amazing experience and I have had the opportunity to lead and learn from some of the best Soldiers, NCOs and Officers that the Army can provide. You should be very proud of what each and every one of your Soldiers has accomplished over the last 18 months. With such a short amount of time between their deployment to Iraq and our deployment to Afghanistan in support of OEF XI, we have accomplished a great deal as a company. Your Soldiers have gained invaluable experience and many of them have been promoted and have moved on to great roles within the company with greater responsibility.

I would like to thank each and every Family Member for the support they have given to their Soldier and Echo Company. The Family Readiness Group (FRG) has done an outstanding job of keeping families informed and reaching out to those in need of assistance. Thank you to all of those who volunteered, both as a member of the FRG, and those that volunteered with the many fundraising events we had back at Fort Drum prior to our deployment. I appreciate the sacrifice and volunteer hours you have given to help make your Soldier's company that much better.

Redeployment is coming up very quickly. Within the next few months, the 82nd will be arriving into Afghanistan to replace your Soldiers and they will begin the process of redeploying back to Fort Drum. Plan on a block leave tentatively scheduled from around December 10—January 8. Prior to that, there will be a mix of 1/2 days and liberal leave dates to help each of you reintegrate with your Soldiers and maximize family time together. I'm looking forward to this and so are your Soldiers. Hopefully it gets here quickly.

CPT Floyd will be replacing me as commander on July 28th. She is very excited to take command and I have been very impressed with her up to this point in the change of command process. She enjoys being around Soldiers and I have full confidence that the welfare of your Soldiers and each of you will be at the forefront of her mind when making decisions. Best of luck to CPT Floyd as the new commander of Echo Company.

Finally, I would like to thank each and every Soldier within Echo company. I am very proud to have led such an outstanding group of not only Soldiers, but human beings. Echo company really is a great organization that is a close knit family. When you look at the issues going on in other Forward Support Companies throughout the Brigade, those issues are not present in our company. I think this is because of the outstanding leadership of ISG Stevens and all of the NCOs enforcing the standards, leading by example and holding Soldiers accountable. The Soldiers within this company work hard and have been some of the best Soldiers I have been around in the Army. I can honestly say I will miss every one of you. Best of luck to each of you as you progress through the ranks of the Army or move on to the civilian sector. I know each of you will succeed.

~ Executioner Six



# First Sergeant's Update

Greetings to all.

Well this month we are busy with the change of command between CPT Tim Davis (outgoing commander) and CPT Joni Floyd (incoming commander). The Soldiers of Echo Company are working hard to make it a smooth transition ensuring inventories, documents, and Soldier qualifications are updated and complete. This will be the first female commander that Echo company has had since its inception in 2005. We will be making history in Echo company and the Soldiers and I are looking forward to it.

I want too let all of you know back home that all of your Soldiers are thinking of you and as time goes on our hearts grow fonder the longer we are away. The anticipation is starting to build a bit now as we focus on transitioning into the redeployment phase of the deployment. Before you know it we will be home again and enjoying much needed time together with our loved ones and friends. I want to thank all of you back in the states for your support and commitment to your Soldiers and their way of life. Behind every Soldier is a foundation of support from family and friends that makes a world of difference in the morale and spirit of our Soldiers. Thank you.

Last month I said goodbye to CPT Davis as our commander and this month I would like to welcome our new commander CPT Floyd and her family. All of us Executioners look forward to serving with you throughout your command and we will do our best to make your job an easier one. CPT Floyd, you are being given a great organization filled with professional Soldiers and I know that you will not be disappointed. Welcome Executioner Six! Executioners!

~ The Rock! The Diamond! Executioner Seven!



## HQs Platoon

As this newsletter reaches you, there will be only two HQ Soldiers left to go on R and R. PFC Fleisch will be going this month and I will get my opportunity in August. This is the end of CPT Davis' time as our commander with his change of command still scheduled for 28 July. Change of Command inventories have been going smoothly so far and are almost complete. This ease in the transition has been made possible thanks to the awesome efforts of SGT Fortner and SPC Morales. SGT Fortner began this month on the fourth day of June by getting up early to run in the Dam to Dam 20K race. SGT Fortner and I were the only two representing the company on the 20K "fun" run. SGT McPherson has been especially busy this past month continuing to process Soldiers leave and incoming orders. Thankfully for SGT McP, the month has been a relaxing one without a doubt in part due to SPC Rojasdiaz being on R and R. Just kidding Rojas, we look forward to your return! Everyone can continue to sleep soundly at night, PFC Fleisch continues to guard the gate when he is not in the office performing all of those thankless behind the scene administrative duties. We are prepared to run through July with Soldiers from Echo Company supporting the scheduled MWR events coming up. There will be a 5K/10K run on the Fourth of July in the morning followed by all kinds of activities throughout the day to include a gator parade, I for one would like to see this. If I am not on mission, what else would there be to do. Chief Pfeiffer made up a flyer, SGT Fortner and I posted thirty copies of it all over BAF and will be signing people up for the next week. Everyone here wishes to be back home, however if we must be here, we are determined to be productive while we are here. With less than four months remaining, we now more than ever are looking forward to the day of redeployment and being back home. Thanks for doing what you do and as always we eagerly are anticipating our day to be reunited.

~ CPT Stephen Macumber

## Distribution Platoon

Greetings Friends and Family,

This month has been full of great successes, experiences, and fun. SGT Brackbill has been awarded NCO of the month. His hard work and dedication has not gone unnoticed. This month he went head to head against two other NCOs for the title. The deciding factors consisted of PT and a visit to the board. He destroyed his competitors with his knowledge professionalism. He is the first NCO from Echo Company to be recognized in a very long time! Maybe ever.

Also this month, female members from Echo Company were offered the opportunity to be apart of a Female Engagement Team. Females from the Distribution Platoon were the only ones to step up to the plate. SPC Singleton, PFC Kalahar, and myself volunteered for a small humanitarian mission to distribute supplies and speak to young girls at a local school. The supplies we distributed will help close to 400 young students pursue their dreams in education.

This month came to a close with a successful task force organizational day. Soldiers enjoyed burgers, hot dogs, sumo wrestling, bench press contest, horseshoes, dunk tank, and the ancient art of karaoke. Here in Afghanistan, the world unveiled the talents that Distro. platoon is really hiding.

~ 2LT Jamie Latham



**Above: SPC Sauve and SPC Singleton perform "I got you babe"**



**Right: SPC Orozc, SPC Ortiz, and PFC Martinez bring salsa night back.**



**2LT Latham, SPC Singleton, and PFC Kalahar with Administrators of the school and the unit in the area.**

# Maintenance Platoon *Go Ordnance!*

Hello, Family and Friends! As we prepare to shift gears and get ready to pack it up and head on home, we wanted to share with you some of these ‘mug shots’ from our day to day routine in the Motor-pool. Congratulations to SGT Hardy for his promotion in June! The Platoon is always working hard, making more happen with less, and keeping their humor intact. It’s great to see them receive rewards and awards, but we know they miss you on the home front. For most of the section, they have already rotated out on leave, so this last push may be trying for them. Keep us in your hearts and thoughts, and know that we could always use another can of Spam.

**Gotchas!** From top right corner to bottom left we have SSG Hall using the little broom to clean house. SPC Vitello and PFC Guererro taking the guess work out of electrical faults with the 5 Ton. The Lorain crane—SPC Green did it, ‘nuff said. SGT Desarmo and SGT Strupp help out our aviators. LT Betancourt and SPC Madrigal conduct inventories. SPC Locklear works on a Bobcat and then takes a moment for himself with some care package items. SGT Mason, SPC Cotterman, and SPC Hankinson wait in front of the company to be presented with awards, and then receive them from 1SG and the CO. SGT Smith gives some automotive advice and shoots the breeze with more of our flying friends.



## Promotions and Awards

Congratulations to the following Soldiers for their promotions during the month of June/July:

- SGT Hardy—June 1
- SPC Mensah—June 1
- SPC Sauve—June 1
- SGT Green—July 1
- SGT Hankinson—July 1
- SGT Rojas Diaz—July 1
- PFC Canez—July 4

Congratulations to the following Soldiers for receiving awards:

- SGT Mason—Army Achievement Medal
- SGT Hankinson—Good Conduct Medal
- SGT Rojas Diaz—Good Conduct Medal
- SPC Cotterman—Good Conduct Medal
- SGT Colbert—Certificate of Achievement
- SPC Meyers—Certificate of Achievement
- SPC Sauve—Certificate of Achievement
- PFC Kalahar—Certificate of Achievement



# Pictures



Clockwise from bottom left; CPT Floyd smiles during a flight; ISG Stevens jams out on the guitar; SGT Green poses with the guidon; CPT Davis presents SGT Mason with an AAM; SGT Mason, SPC Cotterman, and SPC Hankinson await awards; SPC Ciminelli grabs the right tools for the job.



**Clockwise from bottom left: SGT Fortner puts on a smile; SPC Stanton and SGT Givian say goodbye as we fly off of FOB Methar Lam; SGT Grabowski and SPC Stanton relax in a pool they received in a care package.**

# Pictures



**DAY JOBS:** Don't quit them boys.....don't quit them.



**Clockwise from bottom left:** SGT Parker and SGT Desarmo walk back from the dining facility; SGT Hall, CPT Davis, ISG Stevens, SPC Seidel and SGT Richards rock out; landscape of Afghanistan.



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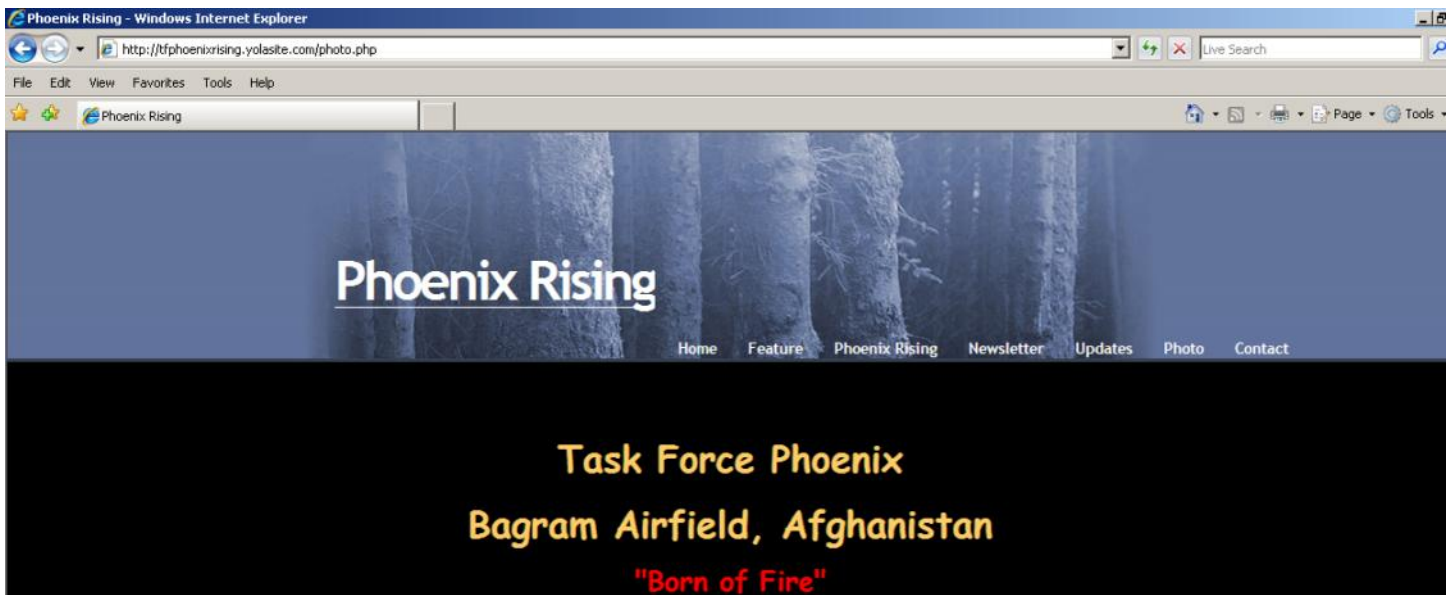
We are always looking for volunteers to help support the Family Readiness Group (FRG). Please contact CPT Davis or Brenda Davis with any questions regarding volunteering as a key caller or for special events and fundraisers. We look forward to working with you towards the greater good for our Soldiers and Family Members.

### MISSION STATEMENT

Echo Company, Task Force Phoenix rapidly deploys worldwide to provide logistical support to Task Force Phoenix and other units within RC-East.



## Phoenix Rising Website



During our deployment to Afghanistan, our Task Force will be using the Phoenix Rising website to keep families updated on what is going on over here. There will be pictures, articles and each company's newsletter (including Echo's) will be available to view and download.

I encourage each of you to check the website. There is no requirement to sign up or login and password. You can simply go there anytime to find out updates on your Soldiers. Here is the link: <http://tfphoenixrising.yolasite.com/>