



Letters from the Commander

Greetings from the Commander,

Greetings Hooligan Families and Friends,

July has come and gone and the Hooligans are still performing at a remarkable level. This month will see our last few Soldiers depart for their well deserved R&R as the rest of the company slowly preps the battlefield for our fellow Soldiers from the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade. This month we also had the privilege of promoting 6 outstanding Soldiers. SPC Lardge and CPL Laughlin were both promoted to SGT. PFC Wilkerson was promoted to SPC and PV2 Williams was promoted to PFC. SPCs Amelia and Sebastian Zuluaga are currently spending time with their loved ones on R&R and will be promoted when they return. If we could all be so lucky! All of these Soldiers have performed at an incredible level and these promotions were much deserved. We continue to stay focused and motivated for the mission and look forward to returning to FT Drum in the upcoming months. – Charles

Born of Fire!

Captain Charles A. Thomas

S-1

By SGT Amanda Brown

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

Greetings once again from the S-1 shop!!

The month of July was a very busy for the illustrious paper-pushers who mentor and guide Soldiers in the right direction with writing awards, financial issues, and updating critical personnel information needed for Soldiers to advance in their career. They are the super heroes of the paper-pushing community - adored by many, but close to few.

The S-1 shop was handed a grand surprise when male and female SPC Zuluaga showed up on the promotion list becoming a rarity in the Army - a married couple, in the same company, being promoted to the same rank on the same month. The couple have not yet been pinned, however, because they are enjoying some well-deserved leave time with their daughter who is turning one this month. Congrats to both of them!!

The whole company participated in a round-robin safety day at the end of the month. Soldiers learned about fire and electrical safety, heat injuries, weapon discipline, and complacency. Later on that evening, the S-1 shop helped to organize the July awards ceremony in which over 30 Soldiers received awards that they helped to edit them and get the signatures needed for approval. Thanks to the Soldiers who helped organize one of the best ceremonies yet this year.

All in all, the month of July was a good, productive month for the shop. As the days pass by, the anticipation of the return home grows larger in each Soldier. But their discipline and dedication to their part in this mission keeps them focused on supporting every Soldier in the battalion with their administrative needs.

Thank you for all of the Families' support! Without you, this mission here in Afghanistan would not be so easy.

Respectfully,

Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown

S-2

By Capt. Sean Fullan

August has arrived, and it's coming heralds the end of yet another month of deployment. Back in the States, August heralds the beginning of the school year, the beginning of the fall season, and the slow shift to cool weather. For those of us deployed to Afghanistan, August is a crucial month. The end is in sight, and all of us are anxious to be back in the arms of loved ones. PVT Ingham has recently discovered a new social outlet: 5k's. Here at BAF, different units and companies sponsor 5-10k runs every month. Ingham has run 3 of them so far, and intends to continue to do so until redeployment.

Several members of HHC run the 5k's together, and Ingham enjoys running with the group that includes SSG Smith. Personally, he continues to enjoy skypeing/facebooking with friends and family, interacting with his co-workers, and bowling on the weekends. One of SPC Brown's many passions is poker. SPC Brown has found an apt student, a padawan for you Star Wars fans, in LT Moore. He and 1LT Moore go over the mathematics, strategies, and philosophy of the game, and 1LT Moore enjoys every aspect of the game. Personally, SPC Brown continues to enjoy reading about ancient history, listening to "Glee" soundtracks, and collecting Beanie Babies C. SPC Posey recently switched shifts so she is able to spend more time with her husband: SPC James Posey in A Company. Her most recent work of art (and my personal favorite), is a construction paper chain representing the time we have left in country. Every day a new link is torn off, leaving everyone a way to measure the countdown to redeployment. Personally she continues to enjoy art of any kind, online shopping, and participating in archery contests on the weekends. SSG Smith recently enjoyed going on a flight to Bamyan, one of the provinces in Afghanistan. She continues to run avidly, and by now has probably collectively run more miles here at BAF than I have my entire life. Personally she continues to enjoy reading the long letters her husband Tim sends her, reading mystery novels and the occasional round of golf at one of BAF resort's many pro-rated golf courses. As discussed earlier, 1LT Moore recently discovered a love for the game of poker. The analytical skills required for the game appeal to him, and he enjoys playing the game. He does not, of course, condone or participate in gambling. Personally, he continues to enjoy singing, skypeing with his lovely wife and young daughter, and participating in archeological digs. CPT Fullan doesn't do much other than occupy a position, but personally continues to enjoy skypeing with his lovely wife, reading whatever interests him, and perfecting his ice-sculpting skills. We all continue to look forward to our final ride in a cargo plane, and until that day, this is the TF Phoenix S-2 shop, signing off.

CPT Sean Fullan

S-3

By MAJ Hale, Michael B.

S3 Section Newsletter contribution

Hello TF Phoenix friends and family! I hope that this newsletter finds you all well, and I know that you are counting the days until your loved ones return. We have officially reached the point in the deployment where we can look up and see the finish line (although it is still a ways off). From my office here on the first floor of the TF Phoenix HQ (AKA “K-SPAN 1”), I can see the “mid-tour blues” starting to dissipate and smiles have appeared on the faces of the Soldiers, pilots and crews. We are pushing out our last few R&R personnel, and everyone else is assisting with day to day operations or focusing on the upcoming transfer of authority to our replacement units.

During the last few weeks we have had a couple of promotions. CPL Laughlin is now SGT Laughlin, and she continues to be a real asset in the TOC. This promotion is long overdue; she has been operating at the E-5 level for quite some time. SPC Lardge is now SGT Lardge, and he continues to be the steady hand on the tiller of Air Mission Request cell for the early morning hours. We also want to congratulate our Fire Support, Unit Movement and Air Mission Request Officer, 1LT Maloney. His dad made was here at Bagram and pinned on his Captains bars. Truly a very special day for all of our newly promoted Soldiers.

At this point in the article you may be wondering “who is the new guy?” Ladies and gentlemen, I am the newly appointed Task Force Phoenix Operations Officer (S3). Some of you may remember me. I have been in and around 3-10th Aviation Regiment for a few years now. I am a CH-47 Aviator, most recently the Brigade S4 (logistics guy), and a previous commander of B/3-10. I am married to Jennifer, and together we have three children (Luke, Jessica and Derek). We call Sackets Harbor home. I look forward to working with all your top-notch Soldiers as finish strong and then shift our priorities to resetting and training back in the North Country.

I will close this out with a heart-felt thank you for all the support you have provided your Soldiers. They literally could not remain effective over here without your support over there. God bless, and take care.

MAJ Michael B. Hale

S-4

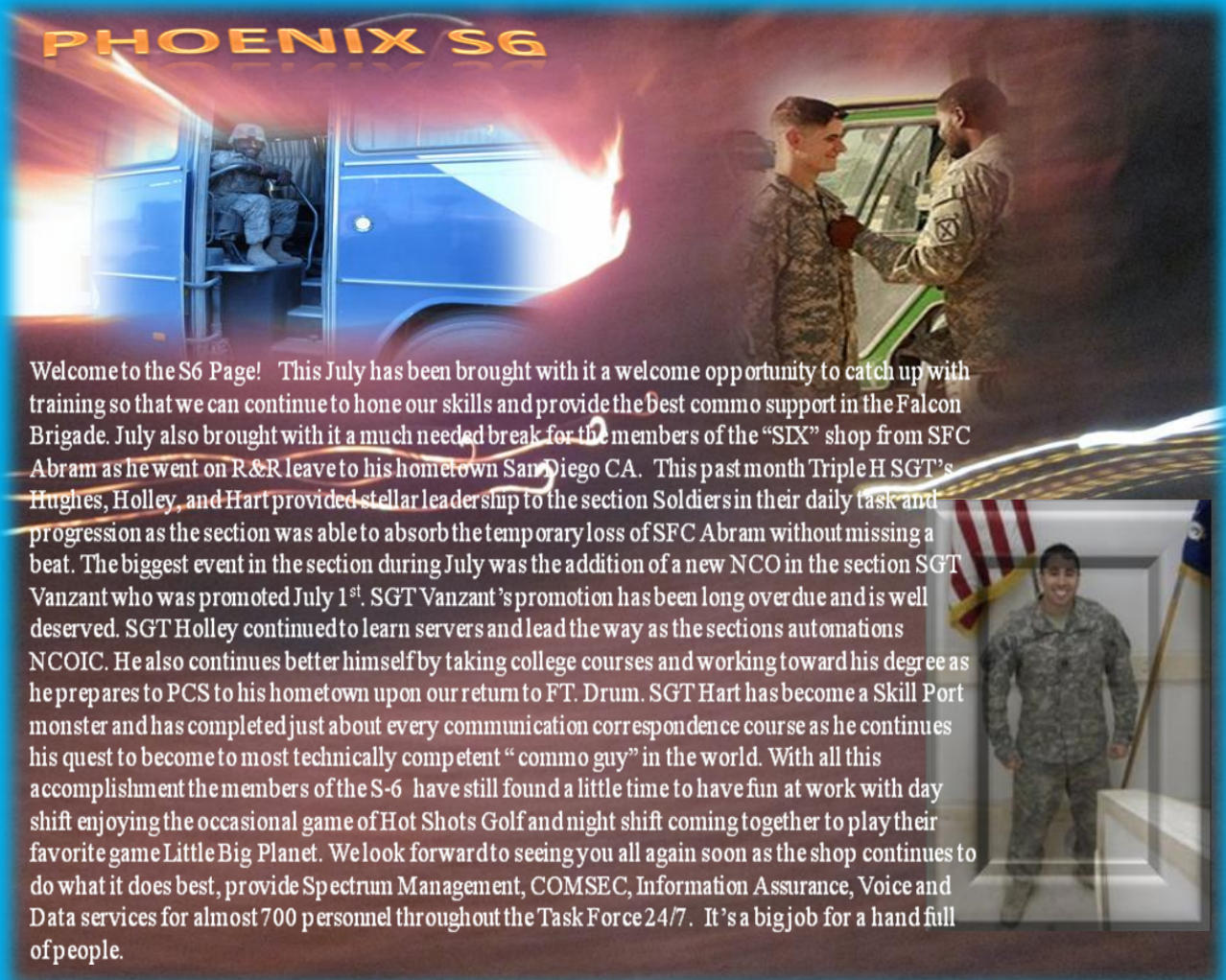
Written by SPC Matthew Watts

For the month of July, our NCOIC, SFC Barfield took her long waited but most anticipated R&R to see her family. SPC Meeks became the MAN (NCOIC) in charge. CPT Polk the OIC of S4, worked hard keeping all the companies informed for what's to come in these last few months and continued to fly to support the mission. We had a Safety Day for TF Phoenix, to prevent complacency because it's getting CLOSE to RIP/TOA ☺. During Safety Day, SPC Meeks was the instructor for weapon safety. The rest of the S4 clerks; SGT McGill, SPC St. Germaine, and SPC Watts escorted Afghanistan locals to finish laying down floor matting for our 2 k-spans.





S-6



Welcome to the S6 Page! This July has been brought with it a welcome opportunity to catch up with training so that we can continue to hone our skills and provide the best commo support in the Falcon Brigade. July also brought with it a much needed break for the members of the "SIX" shop from SFC Abram as he went on R&R leave to his hometown San Diego CA. This past month Triple H SGT's Hughes, Holley, and Hart provided stellar leadership to the section Soldiers in their daily task and progression as the section was able to absorb the temporary loss of SFC Abram without missing a beat. The biggest event in the section during July was the addition of a new NCO in the section SGT Vanzant who was promoted July 1st. SGT Vanzant's promotion has been long overdue and is well deserved. SGT Holley continued to learn servers and lead the way as the sections automations NCOIC. He also continues better himself by taking college courses and working toward his degree as he prepares to PCS to his hometown upon our return to FT. Drum. SGT Hart has become a Skill Port monster and has completed just about every communication correspondence course as he continues his quest to become to most technically competent "commo guy" in the world. With all this accomplishment the members of the S-6 have still found a little time to have fun at work with day shift enjoying the occasional game of Hot Shots Golf and night shift coming together to play their favorite game Little Big Planet. We look forward to seeing you all again soon as the shop continues to do what it does best, provide Spectrum Management, COMSEC, Information Assurance, Voice and Data services for almost 700 personnel throughout the Task Force 24/7. It's a big job for a hand full of people.