

PHOENIX RISING

TASK FORCE PHOENIX NEWSLETTER

Painting The Phoenix Impact

By Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown

SPC Sabrina Posey, an intelligence analyst from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade/Task Force Falcon, recently put her artistic abilities into action when she completed the unit's mural - marking the positive influence TF Phoenix is making in Regional Command-East.

Posey has been interested in art for as long as she can remember, and has been avidly painting for about eight years. She was ecstatic when she was asked to paint the mural for the task force.

"I was so excited to do something artistic that was work related," said Posey, "Painting is a stress reliever and having the opportunity to do it in a war time environment was a win/win situation for me."

The completed mural serves as a reminder to TF Phoenix Soldiers of their important mission here in Afghanistan - from the lowest ranking Soldier maintaining the reliability of the unit's helicopters to the pilot who did not retire when he learned the unit was deploying.

"The mural symbolizes the collective work of Soldiers in Task Force Phoenix here in Afghanistan - marking the positive impact of our Soldiers helping the Afghan people in a time of war," said Posey.



TF Phoenix has been busy collecting and delivering supplies for local Afghan schools, the MEDEVAC crews have been extracting injured locals to fly them to hospitals to receive medical treatment, and some of the flight companies have even purchased soccer balls for local children to enjoy.

The task force works diligently every day to provide the best aviation support to help aid the Afghan people in building a safe, thriving country.

"The mural will serve as a visual reminder for Soldiers that we are Task Force Phoenix," said Posey, "We are making a difference in Operation Enduring Freedom. Born of Fire!"

*"The best way to appreciate your job is to
imagine yourself without one."*

~ Oscar Wilde



Task Force Phoenix Commander's Corner

Hello Phoenix Soldiers, friends and Families,

Well, spring is in full swing here in Bagram Afghanistan. On a daily basis, we are met with either warm, sunny days (reminiscent of Ft. Drum in July), thunderstorms or strangely windy days. Our tempo has also picked up with the weather and your Phoenix Soldiers continue to meet it all in stride to produce amazing results. With the changes of spring also come the moving of the headquarters to the east side as well as the moving of the companies out of their small wooden B-Huts and into our Large brand new K-span buildings. I can feel the energy around here and know everyone is excited to step up to better accommodations.

We also welcome to our Charlie 2-10 Warlord ranks, elements of B/1-168th (Steelhead) from Oregon and Washington National Guard. This group of Soldiers is already making huge positive impacts as our new CH-47 platoon while Colossal helps out the other Battalion Task Forces.

In keeping with the theme of spring and changes, our Headquarters Company (Hooligans) as well as our Charlie 1-10 Attack (Blue Max) have recently changed commanders.

CPT Phil Haemmerlein handed the reign of HHC over to CPT Charles Thomas after 20 outstanding months, two deployments and one year at home. Congratulations to Phil and thanks for your superior leadership.

CPT Jeremy Duff also handed over the reins of Blue Max to CPT Sean Reeves after 20 months of command to include a unit move to Ft. Drum and two deployments. Jeremy did a superior job and we are proud to have had him in our ranks.

As we approach the middle of this deployment, I just want to reiterate how impressed CSM Dvorsky and I are with the Soldiers of this Task Force. The tempo that they sustain on a daily basis is mind-boggling. Their extremely low discipline record is unlike anything I've seen during any deployment. As always, I am extremely proud to be among TF Phoenix's ranks.

“FEEL THE BURN”
LTC Dennis J. McKernan

*“While everyone I work with may not share my beliefs,
I have been surrounded by nothing but support.”*

~ Clay Aiken



CSM Corner

Dear Phoenix Family and Friends,

Task Force Phoenix Soldiers have been working tirelessly on moving their sections into their official workspace on the east side for the past couple of weeks. As we head into our six month mark, this new location will provide this deployment a fresh new perspective for Soldiers in TF Phoenix. It is almost like beginning a new tour here at Bagram Airfield – a welcome change.

I would like to take a moment to thank all of the Families, friends, and civilian supporters for all of your dedication to the unit. Without your commitment, our mission here in Afghanistan would not be as satisfying nor would we have those little bits of home from your packages and letters.

Thank you for your untiring support.

CSM Ron Dvorsky
Command Sergeant Major
Task Force Phoenix

“I really believe that everyone has a talent, ability, or skill that he can mine to support himself and to succeed in life.”

~ Dean Koontz

TF Phoenix supports largest air assault in RC-East



Fierce lightning shattered the night sky as a U.S. Army CH-47 Chinook helicopter's 350-pound blades sliced through the air producing a continuous rain of thunder over the otherwise quiet Galuch Valley March 25.

Crews and helicopters from Task Force Phoenix, TF Falcon, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade, 10th Mountain Division, provided air transport for a major air assault mission in Regional Command – East in support of Afghan National Security Forces and TF Red Bull operations.

TF Phoenix collaborated with Chinook crews from TF Shooter to complete their essential mission: to provide static load training to ANSF and conduct an air assault into the Galuch Valley allowing ANSF and TF Red Bull to remove enemy forces and speak with village elders.

“Static load training with (the ANSF) is absolutely critical to the success of our operations,” said U.S. Army Lt. Col. Dennis McKernan, TF Phoenix, TF Falcon commander, and a native of Haddon Township, N.J., “Operating around helicopters is extremely dangerous and any soldier from any country must be trained how to operate on an aircraft to include loading and unloading. The terrain is extremely rugged in Afghanistan. Off-loading soldiers into tight landing zones can be specifically challenging if the soldiers don't know what to do.”

To ensure everyone was prepared to off-load an aircraft even in unsatisfactory conditions, TF Phoenix and Shooter Chinook crews flew despite lightning.

The huge engines quieted their loud roar and the blades slowed to a halt as the crews landed in Combat Outpost Xio and stepped out into the thick darkness.

“Most of the (ANSF) have never been on a CH-47 before. Cold load training allows them to get used to the aircraft and efficient at exiting the ramp when we arrive at the landing zone,” said U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Daniel Snyder, Company D, TF Phoenix, first sergeant.

The training, conducted in complete darkness, is a simple, but crucial part of a successful air assault. It provides soldiers with familiarity of the aircraft and procedures used during a mission.

*“Being happy doesn't mean that everything is perfect.
It means that you've decided to look beyond the imperfections.”*

1st Sgt. Daniel Snyder provides guidance and instruction to the ANSF on the night of March 25 during the largest air assault in Regional Command – East.



Time is of the essence during air assaults with the challenges of rugged terrain, unpredictable weather, and the threat of enemy forces hidden in the shadows, said Snyder.

“You never know what kind of landing zone you will be flying into on a mission,” said Snyder, a native of Millington, Mich., “It could have hostiles present, or it could just be a difficult landing where we can only put the back two wheels on the ground. When that happens, there is a lot of stress on the pilots and crew.”

“The faster (passengers) exit, the less that can go wrong,” added Snyder.

The Chinook crews cycled through the groups just as efficiently as the ANSF absorbed the training.

When the training was complete, the ANSF and TF Red Bull Soldiers loaded into the aircraft and prepared to put all of their training into action during the air assault.

The ANSF and TF Red Bull Soldiers were all business when it came time to dismount the aircraft into the shadowy mountains surrounding the valley.

“I think it’s great that the ANSF are augmented with our forces,” said Snyder, “It lets them see what right looks like.”

The aviation crews worked diligently to ensure each landing into the mountains was done to standard and done safely regardless of the unique challenges presented by the terrain.

“The greatest hazards were unimproved landing zones that can have large rocks that could damage the aircraft, or steep slopes that are near impossible to land on, unpredictable wind gusts, and enemy personnel (concealed) in the mountain sides and ditches,” said Snyder.

With experienced crews manning each helicopter, the Soldiers were confident in the success of the operation.

“Our crews are the best. We purposely stack the crews to best complement each other,” said Snyder, “All of us on this mission had done (air assaults) before. It’s awesome when you use almost all of your training on one landing and the mission was successful. It’s an amazing feeling.”

In a matter of hours, the Chinook crews safely inserted all of the groups into the Galuch Valley with no issues.

As the crews returned to Bagram Airfield, they reflected von a successful joint mission. U.S. Army Sgt. John Colwell, a flight engineer with Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, TF Shooter, TF Falcon, 10th CAB, 10th Mountain Division, and a native of Phoenix, said he felt the ANSF were very motivated and ready for the mission.

“I feel that (Afghans) will soon be able to obtain their role as defenders in their fight against the forces threatening their country,” said Colwell.

*“You have your way. I have my way.
As for the right way, the correct way, and the only way, it does not exist.”*

~ Friedrich Nietzsche

In Honor of our Supporters



Thank You
St. Anne Catholic School
Houston, Texas

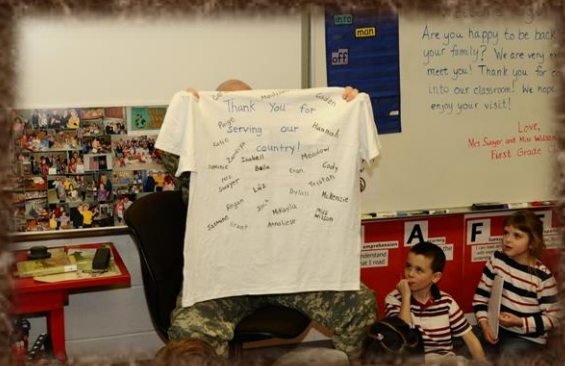


*"Four things support the world: the learning of the wise, the justice of the great,
the prayers of the good, and the valor of the brave."*

~ Muhammad

Thank You Belle Ann Elementary

Ortonville, Michigan



*“Appreciation is a wonderful thing:
It makes what is excellent in others belong to us as well.”
~ Voltaire*



US Americans support Soldiers, improves morale overseas

By Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown

Soldiers with Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade/Task Force Falcon, enjoyed care packages in February from Daniels Farm School in Trumbull, Conn.

The school has been busy supporting troops in Afghanistan – including a Special Forces MEDEVAC unit stationed in the south. *The Trumbull Times* published an article - in their January 6 newspaper - that informed their readers about their holiday efforts to support troops in Afghanistan.

Margy Dvorsky, TF Phoenix command sergeant major's wife, learned about Valentine's for Troops through a pre-deployment information meeting. She got in touch with the Newtown Military Assistance Club

project leader, Donna Randle, to ask some questions regarding their efforts with Valentines for Troops with the hope that they would support TF Phoenix.

Randle approached Cindy Altman, who works in the computer lab at Daniels Farm School, inquiring if her school would be interested in the job.

"I was delighted [to support TF Phoenix]," said Altman.

Altman coordinated the endeavor and the school began mailing the first group of boxes in February.

The children's letters and donated toiletries arrived in Bagram, Afghanistan just weeks later and were distributed. Soldiers read the all of

the letters they received from Daniels Farm School; some Soldiers took time out of their busy day to take photos with the colorful letters to show their appreciation. The hygiene items quickly disappeared in Soldier's hands – a smile on their faces.

"There is no profound way to express how much the Families felt (at Fort Drum knowing) that someone else cared enough about our Soldiers to reach out and send them packages from home," said Dvorsky, "Our Soldiers, not only feel connected to their families, but to Valentines for Troops - a group of Americans they have never met, but took the time to make them feel *connected* to the U.S."

Thank you, Daniels Farm School for your support!!

"As we express our gratitude, we must never forget that the highest appreciation is not to utter words, but to live by them."

~ John Fitzgerald Kennedy



Soldier on leave thanks Michigan first grade class for their generosity, patriotism

U.S. Army Sgt. Amanda Jo Brown

U.S. Army Sgt. Brian MacConaghy, a chaplain's assistant from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, Task Force Phoenix, 10th Combat Aviation Brigade/TF Phoenix, visited a first grade class in Ortonville Mich., March 3, during his mid-tour leave from Operation Enduring Freedom to show his appreciation for their support of Soldiers.

"I wanted to meet the young people who hold [Soldiers] so near and dear," said MacConaghy, "I wanted to let them see who and what a Soldier is, and to thank them for what they are doing back home."

In November, the BelleAnn Elementary school, in Ortonville, Mich., collaborated with The Desert Angel organization to support Soldiers in Afghanistan. The students and community worked together to provide donations for the boxes. When the project was complete, they mailed approximately 120 packages to Soldiers in honor of Veteran's Day.

"The kids were so excited to bring in their items," said Andrea Swoyer, BelleAnn Elementary first grade teacher, "Many families and teachers stayed after school to help pack the boxes."

Many of the classes wrote notes of encouragement to be included in these care packages. That is how MacConaghy received a holiday card from Swoyer's class.

MacConaghy, originally from Madison Heights, Mich., took an avid interest in the school because it was thirty minutes from his hometown. He searched online and found contact information for Swoyer.

"I wanted them to know that someone received their gifts and that they were appreciated," said MacConaghy.

Over the following months, MacConaghy corresponded with the class – sharing photos and information about being a deployed Soldier. The children fondly started referring to him as "Sgt. Mac."

So when MacConaghy informed Swoyer that he was taking leave in Michigan to be home for his son's birth and offered to see the class for a day – the class was elated.

"The kids were so excited they could hardly wait," exclaimed Swoyer, a native of Oxford, Mich., "Every day they would ask me when Sgt. Mac was coming to visit. We confirmed a date and began getting ready for his visit."

The class constructed patriotic projects for his arrival. They painted American flags and hung them from the ceiling in the classroom. The students made an inspirational book as a gift for MacConaghy where the children

*"The deepest principle in human nature is
the craving to be appreciated."*

~ William James

explained why they love America.

“The kids thought he should know that we really loved our country and that we appreciate him fighting for our freedom,” said Swoyer, “The class made a very cool t-shirt for Sgt. Mac by painting an American flag on the front and I used the kid’s thumbprints for the stars on the flag. On the bag, we signed everyone’s name with the message, ‘Thank you for serving our country!’”

On the class’ big day, all of the children dressed in patriotic colors and provided color themed snacks – red punch and star shaped cookies with red, white and blue sprinkles.

The eager children attempted to wait patiently for their adopted Soldier. He alleviated their anticipation when he walked into the classroom dressed in his Army combat uniform. Excited to have a visiting Soldier, a few of the boys in the class got down on the floor and immediately started doing push-ups.

“It was very funny,” said Swoyer, “When I asked them [why they started doing push-ups], they said they saw Soldiers on TV doing this and they thought he would like it if they did some too.”

MacConaghy gave the children an opportunity to ask him questions after they gathered around him on the floor.

“I think they realized that there really are Soldiers out there trying to protect our country and the American people,” said Swoyer, “Sgt. Mac talked about the schools that the Soldiers [serving in Afghanistan] are trying to get up and running. The kids expressed that they didn’t know that the soldiers are also helping people in other countries.”

Before leaving Afghanistan, MacConaghy planned on presenting each child a certificate of recognition and a 10th Mountain Division patch during his visit. It was his way of saying thanks for their support of the United States Army and a way to recognize them for being exceptionally patriotic young Americans.

He acquired their names from Swoyer and personalized each certificate. It was a surprise for the class when MacConaghy began presenting each of them with their own certificate and patch.

“They were in awe of their new patches,” said Swoyer, “Many kids said they would keep them forever.”

As they interacted, MacConaghy realized the children’s primary concern was every Soldier’s safety. He was inspired by the children’s sincerity and honest compassion.

“Seeing the children’s honest compassion reinforces my reasons for why I am serving my country,” said MacConaghy, “I am ensuring opportunities for future generations.”

It has been over two weeks since his visit and Swoyer’s class is still talking about the visit. They were very excited that he came in uniform and were fascinated with everything he told them about the Army.

“[MacConaghy’s visit] has been a highlight in the 16 years that I have been in the classroom,” said Swoyer, “I think it was such a positive, uplifting experience to go through with my first graders; considering all that is going on in the world and the American economy. It was truly touching to watch the kid’s faces when he walked through the door in his uniform. When Sgt. Mac went to leave, the kids went running to give him a hug. It opened my eyes to what our servicemen and women are going through to protect our freedom. I am so grateful for the sacrifices Soldiers make as well as the sacrifices that Soldiers’ families make for the rest of us Americans. Now that I have been through this, I believe I will always have the students in my class make cards and notes for soldiers every year.”

*“Kindness is more important than wisdom, and
the recognition of this is the beginning of wisdom.”*

~ Theodore Isaac Rubin



Thank You!

Girl Scout Troop 30889

Orchard Park, New York



Our troop has adopted a Platoon in Afghanistan. We are using profits from this sale to send letters and goods to the men and women stationed there. We are letting them know we care about them and remember why they are there!

Here are names of our soldiers:
 Joshua Dunn
 Bryan Martinek
 Gavin Warren
 Monica Dandy
 Kyle Skinner
 Brandon Watts
 Lloyd Timmons
 Andrew Lehmann

Here are the names of our soldiers:
 Austin Fox
 Jason Grandt
 Corey Butt
 Carl Orian
 Nicholas Porter
 Garin Ferrer
 Ryan Ray
 Robert Martel
 Randy Bartz
 William Hatfield

We will remember them and not forget what they are doing for our Country.



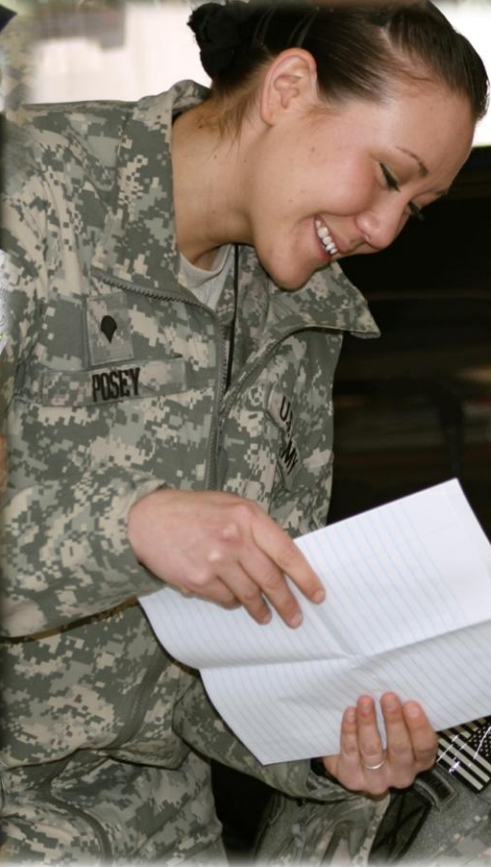
“By ourselves we can enjoy life, but to really appreciate life we must find companionship.”

SPC Sabrina Posey's Artwork



*"Be open to the amazing changes which are occurring
in the field that interest you."
~ Leigh Steinberg*













Headquarters and Headquarters Company

By SSG Daniel Gerhardt

Greetings Families, Friends, and Countrymen!

And so, another month rolls around and guess what? Oh yeah! We are still in Afghanistan. With that being said, we actually had a pretty busy month. Awards season is in full swing and I think we are all going to put in for CABs due to "Carpal Tunnel Syndrome"! We also had a Change of Command in which we ushered in the new CPT Thomas era and said goodbye to the great CPT Philip M. Haemmerlein. Thank heavens we can now actually spell our commanders name correctly!!! Also on tap was an awards ceremony, SPC Gonzalez's birthday and oh, did I mention awards?

As we hit April, we are keenly aware that summer is creeping upon us, bringing warmer weather and the satisfaction that half of the tour has been completed. SPC Zuluaga (male type) is keeping busy flying with Alpha Company and even demonstrated his courage and dedication to the Army resulting in him being recommended for the Combat Action Badge. Congrats Z! A real American Hero!

Also as April hits, we realize yet again that we are not moved into our new office or living quarters, leaving us wondering if we are ever going to move... What's that? April 15th... 22nd... May...? Ugh....Eventually we will get there. So, although

this edition is not as exciting or filled with tidbits of joy, we are doing well and looking forward to the end of awards season and whatever life in Afghanistan has to offer.



SPC Zuluaga, SPC Gonzalez, and SPC Kotelnicki say goodbye to CPT Haemmerlein after his Change of Command ceremony.



SSG Gerhardt receives April Fool's Day joke from his Soldiers.

*"Get the best people and train them well."
~ Scott McNealy*

A Company

Smugglers

By Capt. Brent Hilzendager

A Company has been work very hard this month. Operation Bull Whip has taken up the lion's share of work load. The Iowa National Guard, Task Force Red Bull organized the largest Air Assault this year. 4 CH-47 Chinooks, 5 UH-60L Blackhawks, 2 OH-58D Kiowa Worries, 2 AH-64 Apache Longbow Helicopters. The 2 lead aircraft in the Air Assault were A Company's!

After the Air Assault, A Co. flew various nights of resupply. A Company flew a vast amount of sling loads under night vision goggles up to several observation points located on mountain peaks at altitudes in excess of 6600ft. We also landed at these observation points. Half of these landing were one wheel or two wheel landing. This requires the Pilots and crews the balance the aircraft on one or two wheels holding the aircraft still while soldiers unloaded and loaded the aircraft. This feat was made even more demanding by the ever changing winds at that altitude in the mountains. With no roads to these locations, A Company kept the infantry soldiers of TF Red Bulls able to fight with food, water and ammunition. This was the most demanding mission A Company has completed to date. This undertaking pushed our helicopters and aircrews to their limit. All air missions were accomplished successfully. We supported the infantry on the ground with more than 155,000 lb of cargo air-lifted and many passengers flown in 9 days.

You should be exceptionally proud of you Soldier over here. They are working around the clock and doing amazing things.

Fantastic job, the 1SG and I could not be more proud!

Smuggler 6

*“Leadership is practiced not so much in words
as in attitude and in actions.”*

~ Harold S. Geneen

C Company

Blue Max

By ISG Tim Clay

Hello Families and Friends of the Blue Max. It has been a busy month here, in March, for the Soldiers of Blue Max. The weather has warmed and the snow is gone, even from some of the higher parts of the mountains around the base. The Soldiers of Blue Max are finally able to get some much needed sun and fresh air, and we are flying much more now.

In April, we are changing Commanders so the Soldiers have been busy accounting for property and making arrangements to receive the new leader. All the Soldiers have been working hard to ensure a smooth transition, while continuing to support the ongoing missions of maintenance and flying.

I will take this opportunity to thank the Blue Max 6, CPT Duff, for all that he has done for the Soldiers and families through his 2 combat tours and many months at Fort Drum and Georgia. As 1SG, I know that many of the

issues that he has dealt with have been transparent to the Soldiers, yet affected them in some significant way. I know that many late nights he troubled over decisions with thought and caring for the company and its people. I praise his loyalty to the team and its members, and his determination, and will always have the utmost respect for him. Thank you, Sir.

I also thank his wife Tracy, for her support of the company. Your heartfelt support has not gone un-noticed. I wish you both the very best in all that you do in the future. I wish you and your Family well.

Again, thanks to the Families who are enduring the deployment hardships along with Soldiers. We count on you for your support, and you have always been there for us. Thank you for all you do.

Blue Max 7



“To succeed, one must be creative and persistent.”
 ~ John H. Johnson

C Company Warlords



By CPT James Polk

Warlord families and friends,

Another month down! With the beginning of April becomes the beginning of another season. Spring is officially here! Well, for us anyway, I'm sure Fort Drum won't see winter end for another couple of months. The weather has been warming and we are starting to see more green and less brown as we fly around Afghanistan; which is always a welcomed sight. Unfortunately, as the weather warms the winds begin to pick up. We have seen some pretty strong wind gust the last couple of weeks, making for some bumpy rides through the mountains.

Your Soldiers continue to excel in everything they do, and have been working long hours to ensure the success of the mission. We have received accolades from several high ranking individuals about the stellar job they see your Soldiers doing. We know of course that they could not perform at their fullest potential without the love and support from all the families on the home front, and we sincerely appreciate all that you do. Keep up the good fight at home and enjoy some family time when your Soldier returns for R&R leave.

On a side note...we are halfway through the deployment!

*"Be who you are and say what you feel because
those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."*

~ Dr. Seuss

C Company

COALITION FORCES MEDEVAC



By Sgt. Damian Schwab

Mountain Dustoff works out of several Coalition FOBs, including the Polish commanded FOB Ghazni. Located in Ghazni Province, it is the Western-most FOB of Mountain Dustoff. With a good number of the injured being Polish forces, 1st Platoon Dustoff figured out how to better help these patients. Enter, the Special Operations Polish Medics of FOB Ghazni.

Most of these Special Ops Polish medics have gone through the U.S. Special Forces 18D (Medic) 2 year program, so they are trained levels far beyond most medics in the world. These Polish medics bring to the table many critical skills to Dustoff in the aid of patients; They speak many languages and help translate for our medics, provide a high level of medical when extra help is needed by our medics, and add one more armed weapon to the fight helping keep our crews that much more safe during missions. With the help of these extraordinary Polish Soldiers helping us save lives in Ghazni, the medical care provided at FOB Ghazni is greatly enhanced.



*“Change your thoughts and you change your world.”
~ Norman Vincent Peale*

D Company

It's All About Perspective!

By Dan Snyder

Hello everyone back home. The last time I wrote, I promised to talk about putting things into perspective. When I was a young Soldier it seemed as though the only way we could run two miles for a PT test was on a track. I hated it. Eight laps - around and around. It was only two miles but it was so boring that it was painful. I love to run, but when you put it on a track, no thanks. If you have ever seen National Lampoon's European Vacation, you know what I mean. Look kids Big Ben, Parliament.

So now you are wondering what this has to do with the deployment. Many of us call it "Groundhog's day" here, or, "every day is Monday." And it's true. Every day seems the same: same breakfast, same way to work, same way home, same dinner, and same room. You see the same faces that you may not necessarily want to see, every day. No trips to other towns or states. No visiting friends and family. It is the epitome of redundancy for some of us. Just like my two mile run on the track.

However, I came up with a way to make the run go by faster. I would break it down in twos and fours, instead of eight laps. For example, after my first lap, I would tell myself that I am over half way to half of a mile completed. Once I got to the half mile point (the first of four), I told myself I was almost half way done. I would come to perfect this through my years to make a two mile run on the track more like a run in the park - which is where I would rather be running anyways.

Now, don't get me wrong. A deployment is no run in the park. However, I have learned to break it down in fours. And by the time you read this, we will be half way done with the deployment. But don't look at it like it is six months left. We just have to make it for three months. Because, in three months we will start packing and getting ready to come home. The last three months will be easy.

The way I see it, we have already made it this far - just a half of a mile to go. Well, you know what I mean.

So, hang in there, it's almost over. The next time I will talk about preparing for the return.

Please remember to keep us in your thoughts and mail on its way.



*“Don't judge each day by the harvest you reap
but by the seeds that you plant.”*

~ Robert Louis Stevenson



E Company

As seen in the Executioner's Alley Newsletter

This past month was marked by a critical event in any deployment, a successful Pre Deployment Site Survey (PDSS). Members of the 82nd Combat Aviation Brigade visited all the areas currently occupied by our own unit. The majority of the time was spent on Bagram; however, trips were taken to each outlying Forward Arming and Refueling Point (FARP) at Methar-Lam and Morales-Frasier. To say the 82nd was impressed by our Soldiers would most definitely be an understatement. All members of the armed services who have deployed at least once knows that right around the half way point of a deployment can possibly become the most stressful point in time. A great number of Echo Soldiers are continuing through this delicate time with extremely high motivation and the company as a whole is constantly leaning forward with much enthusiasm. With this being said, the 82nd learned a great deal from the expertise and overall positive experience from speaking with Soldiers in every section. There are those who may say by virtue of being support, we do not have the most glorious of jobs in lieu of aviation mission we support. The mission of this company could change at any point and these excellent Soldiers will complete each task with a smile on their face. I am privileged to serve with these quality Soldiers surrounding me and with this PDSS hurdle out of the way, we are one step closer to returning home.

*"Happiness is not something you postpone for the future;
it is something you design for the present."*

~ Jim Rohn

Aviation Humor



“Even though I miss my family I know that they are waiting for me, supporting me, standing beside me and are proud of everything we are doing. My heart goes out to the families who won't have a loved one return home safely,” commented Sgt. Brian MacConaghy, chaplain’s assistant, and a native of Madison Heights, Mich.

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“Other things may change us, but we start and end with family.”

~ Anthony Brandt

www.tfphoenixrising.yolasite.com

www.flickr.com/tf_phoenixrising

www.facebook.com/TFPhoenix



PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Sgt. Brian MacConaghy, chaplain’s assistant, always carries Theodore around with him. Theodore was a gift from his daughter. He has seen a lot of Afghanistan with MacConaghy by his side.