



The Holiday Season with Task Force Phoenix

By Spec. Amanda Brown

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – The holiday season is upon Task Force Phoenix and even though its Soldiers are currently deployed their spirits are high and in the holiday spirit.

Many Soldiers have taken it upon themselves to make their work areas look like home. Spec. Sabrina Posey, Headquarters and Headquarters Company S-2 clerk, partakes in what she calls “arts and crafts.” She has made paper snowflakes, decorative snowmen out of new white socks and colored pipe cleaners, and hung festive decorations around her work space.

D Company has hung stockings on their balcony inside one of their hangars. Tinsel, candy canes, lights, and other decorative items are strewn through offices. Christmas trees are scattered throughout Bagram Airfield from Soldier’s rooms to their office spaces.

Soldiers have been spotted wearing Santa hats, antlers, and elf hats in their offices keeping this holiday season alive within all those they work with on a daily basis.

Care packages have been flowing into Soldier’s hands like water. From the kindness of people who have adopted Soldiers and from the love of their Family members, every Soldier has felt love from those who are in the States – grateful for each Soldier’s sacrifice. There are smiles everywhere you go as care packages are opened.

Santa Claus even came to visit TF Phoenix with all of his jolly laughter on Dec. 25. His presence made Soldiers laugh in a time that is hard on many. Without a doubt, even Santa remembers the sacrifices of Soldiers.

There is no mistaking that the holiday season is upon TF Phoenix. Even as Soldiers wear a smile this holiday season – making the best of being deployed – they are still missing all of their friends and Families waiting for their return back home. □

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Aviation Life Support Shop Ensures Safety

By Spec. Amanda Brown

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Aviation Soldiers can perform their job on a daily basis without concern that their life saving equipment is fully functional thanks to Task Force Phoenix’s aviation life support equipment shop at Bagram Airfield.

“The best thing about our job is that in the end we save lives,” said Sgt. Buck Atkin, D Company, Task Force Phoenix, ALSE non-commissioned officer in charge.

All Soldiers who are selected to perform duties in an ALSE shop must first travel to Fort Rucker, Ala. to receive a six-week course on all the skills and knowledge they will need to properly manage all of the safety equipment. Soldiers learn how to sew; how to service flight helmets, vests, flotation equipment, and high altitude gear; learn about the survival kits; and much more.

Once Soldiers complete the course, they return to their unit as certified ALSE maintainers. It is their mission to ensure aviation Soldiers know how to properly utilize their equipment and make certain all equipment issued is inspected at their proper intervals. TF Phoenix’s

ALSE Soldiers are extremely thorough with the maintenance of their gear because it is like holding a Soldier’s life in their hands.

“We hope the gear never gets used because it is the worst case scenario for an aviation crew - so we are paranoid about our gear,” said Atkin, a native of Loveland, Colo.

Atkin has been leading and perfecting ALSE office operations since 2007. The shop has an inspection every 120 days – all of them never receiving a score lower than 92% since he took control. The ALSE shop is responsible for knowing where to find information within 89 manuals, keeping track of six classes of supply items ordered, and inspection management of all aviation gear.

“Being subject matter experts is difficult,” said Sgt. Phillip Wigglesworth, an ALSE non-commissioned officer and a native of Lenexa, Kan. “We have to be confident we are giving the right information to Soldiers.”

Your ALSE Team

Aviation units could not function safely if it were not for the hard work and dedication of the Soldiers within TF Phoenix’s ALSE shop. Through their dedication, our Soldiers can fly without fear of their gear not being functional. As a team, TF Phoenix Soldiers perform their missions safely and proficiently

Info Regarding Your ALSE Team

Atkin—The stern one

Wigglesworth— The accountable one

Sgt Jett— The patient one

SPC Flora— The one with unlimited energy



At Bagram Airfield, the ALSE shop sustains 24-hour operations with four Soldiers rotating through shifts. Not only does TF Phoenix support non-Army service members, but they also support coalition aviation troops. They have already assisted Korean, British, Macedonian, and French aviators with their knowledge and tools. This unity of mission accomplishment emphasizes the Army's old saying, "One team, one fight," as TF Phoenix's ALSE shop ensures aviators have the gear to complete their mission as safe as possible during Operation Enduring Freedom XI.

Working in the ALSE shop presents unique challenges that must be overcome. Acquiring items from the supply system often presents itself as an issue that must be conquered quickly to ensure Soldiers have the proper equipment. When TF Phoenix runs out of items that are necessary for the mission, they must find alternative means of acquiring them. It is not uncommon for the TF Phoenix ALSE shop to trade items that are needed at another ALSE shop in theater for the ones they need.

"We have not failed yet at completing our mission," said Wiglesworth.

Wiglesworth created a database which allows the office to track expirations for the medications they issue.

"We have not failed yet at completing our mission," said Wiglesworth, NCO in TF Phoenix ALSE shop.

their inspections, and repairs. This allows the shop to complete quick reports to let TF Phoenix commanders know what is overdue within their unit. Wiglesworth has even included information in his database that will allow the shop to know which Soldiers have specific items in the event of a product recall. There is no official database like this within ALSE just yet. Once perfected, Wiglesworth hopes to release it to other ALSE shops so they may have an efficient way of tracking their daily needs.

"When aviation Soldiers go on a mission, the only thing they have to ultimately keep them alive is their ALSE gear," said Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Dvorsky, TF Phoenix command sergeant major and native of Trumbull, Conn., "Our ALSE Soldiers ensure that the gear is properly serviced and that they are available whenever they are needed. I have seen an aviator have an issue with their helmet minutes before they were to go on a mission. Thanks to our ALSE shop Soldiers, they fixed the dilemma and were able to promptly get the aviator's gear functional which allowed the crew to leave for their mission on time."

The importance of ALSE's well-maintained shop can only be seen during the event of a worst case scenario when Soldiers use the gear. All service members can be rest-assured when they utilize TF Phoenix's ALSE shop that they will receive knowledgeable advice and properly maintained life saving equipment so they can complete their crucial mission here in Afghanistan. □



Family Readiness Group

The Task Force Phoenix Ladies practiced their Flag Football skills hard in November. There were many tired, sore and a bit bruised FRG members. Over-all it was an exciting day and the ladies felt prepared for the big game the following week. Unfortunately, the Fort Drum weather did not hold out; the game was cancelled. What could follow a cancelled game? A huge Thanksgiving Feast! The tables were set and everything looked magnificent. The Task Force Phoenix hangar had never smelled so good. Smiling faces and laughing children soon filled in carrying even more delectable foods. Our Rear-D Soldiers had done an outstanding job supporting the FRG and enjoyed a feast. The gathering proved to bring Soldiers and Families even closer.

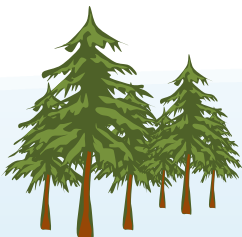


Task Force Phoenix stepped up to the plate to host the first monthly 10th CAB Movie Night. All of the essentials were set: movies were selected, classrooms were cleaned, projectors were set, popcorn was made and juice pouches were provided. Arriving in pajamas, carrying sleeping bags and favorite stuffed animals many Families were excited about the opportunity to watch a movie with fellow brigade Families.

The first Phoenix FRG Meeting was well received. Families had the opportunity to learn about safe winter driving and asked some really great questions about general winter safety. As the Families left, they felt more empowered to handle some of the additional stresses that living in the North Country brings.

Thank You!!!

Charlie Blue Max would like to give a big thank you to Miranda Cassell, Casey Varnadore, Noreen Van Loan, Anne Bachmeyer, Mindy Richards, Sharon Wojasinski, Amanda Badgley and Jackie Gordon for donating time and gifts towards holiday stockings. Also Sarah Finn for making homemade fleece blankets for the single Soldiers.



Task Force Phoenix Commander's Corner



Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to our Phoenix Soldiers, Families and Friends. We spent a busy and relatively peaceful day on 25 December 2010 here in Bagram and Eastern Afghanistan. We transported multiple dignitaries, VIPs and even our own Phoenix Soldiers who have spouses in different Bases. We re-supplied our fellow Soldiers and continued to keep the enemy on his heels. We pumped gas, fixed vehicle and transported the injured. We did manage to take some time off to celebrate the day. Our very own Aviation Dining Facility produced a superb dinner to include ham, turkey, prime rib, roast, chicken and all the fixings. I personally saw Santa on the Flight Line as well as one of his elves.

Overall, 25 December 2010 was one of the most peaceful days we've had.

I'd like to thank all the families and friends of TF Phoenix for keeping us rolling in packages and boxes. I'm certain that every Soldier in this Task Force received at least one package in December. We also enjoyed the CD that the FRG put together. The Shout-Outs and Powder Puff Football Game videos were especially entertaining.

I'd like to paraphrase a quote from our 10th CAB Commander COL ALMEIDA that rings true, especially during the holidays. I've shared this with our Soldiers and Leaders, "Although our Soldiers miss their families/friends dearly, especially during this time of year, we must take consolation in the fact that we are truly making a difference in this fight, during this defining year in Afghanistan. WE must all realize and understand this fact. We can also console ourselves knowing that we are all in this together as we share this time with outstanding people."

Happy Holidays, best wishes for a great 2011.

PHOENIX 6



Be sure to wish your favorite Soldier a happy holiday season!



Korean-American serves in search of American dream

By Spec. Amanda Jo Brown

PARWAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – U.S. Army Spc. Jayson Lee is a unique Soldier serving in the United States Army. The 29-year-old currently serves in the U.S. Army in support of Operation Enduring Freedom XI, but unlike most Soldiers, he has also had the opportunity to serve in the Republic of Korea Army.

“I joined because I want to go aviation fields,” said Lee, “I desire to learn English more, then go to college to get master degree - kind of American dream.”

Lee was born in Texas in 1981 where he lived with his father, who worked in a management position in the Daewoo Corporation, his mother and older sister. He lived there for only five years so he does not remember much from that time. There are a few American favorites he can recall enjoying – ice cream trucks playing music and selling icy cold treats, Kentucky Fried Chicken, and Cheetos. Lee’s Family lived in Texas until November 1985, when they decided to move back to South Korea to be closer to relatives who live in Seoul.

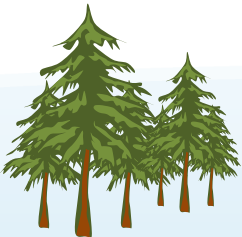
As a child, Lee spent his days like a typical kid. He played Nintendo and air gun games. He also enjoyed reading his favorite comic books – Dragon Ball Z. Lee graduated high school in February 2000. There was no debate when he decided to attend Myung-Ji College in Korea for four years where he earned a bachelor’s degree in Advanced Science and Material. He also took on a minor degree in Mechanics. While he was working on his degree, Lee joined the Republic of Korea Army to serve his mandatory two years of service.

He left for basic training Dec. 17, 2002. The ROK Army’s basic training consists of tasks very similar to those of the U.S. Army. Some of the tasks that have to be completed are chemical training, marching tasks, a combat life saver course, and weapon qualification with the Korean K-2 rifle. The Soldiers complete all of their necessary tasks in six weeks before they are assigned to their first unit.

The first unit Lee was assigned was 2nd Division, near the Korean Demilitarized Zone. His job consisted of providing surveillance for his artillery unit. They trained for

Quick Notes about Spec. Jayson Lee

- Born in Texas in 1981
- Moved to Seoul, Korea when he was five
- Earned a bachelor’s degree in Advanced Science and Material and a minor in mechanics
- Served two years in the Republic of Korea Army from 2002 to 2004
- Joined the United States Army on Sept. 22, 2009
- Proud to be serving in U.S. Army and plans to retire
- Desires to work in aviation field as a civilian



threats by climbing nearby mountains to do recon surveillance of the area beyond the DMZ.

“One of the most interesting things I saw was North Korean Soldiers – young, maybe 14 or 15. They carried weapons as big as them,” said Lee with a smile.

A story that Lee gloomily shared was when he was pulling guard duty near the DMZ for civilians who were trying to build a road. As they were constructing the road, Lee witnessed a few of the civilians come into contact with an unmarked mine that detonated.

After just a couple short years, he completed his service with the ROK Army on Feb. 9, 2005, and continued working on his college education. When he completed his bachelor’s degree, Lee contemplated what he was going to do with his future. That is when he decided to go after his dream and raised his right hand to join the ranks of the U.S. Army.

Lee joined the U.S. Army as an air traffic control operator while he was still living in South Korea, Sept. 22, 2009,. He reflected on some of the enjoyable things he would leave behind in South Korea such as reliable public transportation, convenient Internet, camping in the valley, and affection between people. However, his pursuit of the American dream was strong on his mind. After going through another basic training

“I am proud of what I am doing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom,” said Lee.

and technical school, Lee was sent to Fort Drum, N.Y., as his first duty station.

When Lee raised his right hand to join, he was well-aware that it would be likely that he would deploy to either Iraq or Afghanistan – especially in the aviation field.

“I really worried about deploying,” he said. “U.S. Soldiers are going to deploy to hazardous area. I felt a little bit afraid of it.”

However, his ambition to obtain his dreams dominated over any fear he had inside about deploying. It is one of Lee’s goals to make a career out of the Army. His ambition lies in taking the aviation experience he is gaining from the Army and transferring it to a civilian job after his 20 years are completed.

Lee enjoys just about everything in the Army and is proud of supporting Operation Enduring Freedom XI. He plans on reenlisting as soon as his window opens.

“I am proud of what I am doing in support of Operation Enduring Freedom,” said Lee, “Because in the 1950 Korean War, if there were not U.S. military support, [South] Korea might be communism. Now, we are living and enjoying democracy life.”



Headquarters and Headquarters Company Hooligans

By Captain Phil Haemmerlein

Greetings Hooligan Families! I hope you all had a wonderful Holiday Season and are settling into 2011! I wish you all a belated Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

In this edition we have stories from the staff sections on how they celebrated the Holiday Season. They are all happy that they received so many calls, cards, packages and presents from back home. All of those things raised their spirits immensely.

As we embark on a New Year we get that much closer to returning home. You will start seeing your Soldiers coming home for a well deserved two week R&R. Enjoy that time. I recommend that you continue to communicate with your Soldier and stay engaged with the FRG. Thanks for keeping the home fires burning for our Soldiers. Have a great month! □

A Company 1-69 Smugglers

By Captain Brent Hilzendager

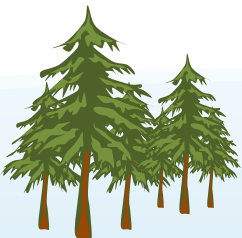
A Co arrived in theater in the early morning hours of 2nd of Nov. We were greeted by CPT White of the Delaware Army National Guard. Delaware did an outstanding job of handing off the mission to us. Within a few days we started to run missions on our own. We have now done more than 100 missions without any issues. I am very proud of all our soldiers and their families. We are representing the Army Reserves very well. The first month we were here we flew more hours than all the other companies in the task force.

The food here is good, although it's not like home cooking. We have several Chow halls to choice from. We even have a barbeque chow hall a mile away. On Friday nights they serve surf and turf which featuring steak, lobster, shrimp and crab legs.

Thank you all for the mail we have gotten more mail this year than all the other times I've been deployed. Each soldier in the company has received packages for Christmas and mail. And you families are to thank.

My wife April and I have been "skype"-ing. This is a free system that allows you to talk and see your soldier at the same time using you computer and webcam. This is worth a try if it is something you are interested in.

I want to take this opportunity to wish you all Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays. This is the time of year that families and friends gather and you can bet we would like nothing better than to be there with all of you. Please have a toast and or a moment to thing about us as we will be doing the same on Christmas Day for all of the loved ones we have left behind. □



B Company Colossal

By Captain Michael Farrel

Happy Holidays to everyone back at Ft Drum New York! I can't believe but the month of December flew by even faster than the previous two months! The Soldiers continue to amaze me with their tireless work ethic and great attitude! They have achieved so much in such a short period of time during this deployment. From the everyday re-supply missions to the rare but high visibility Secretary of Defense mission and lastly all of the miscellaneous short notice missions we seem to get on a daily basis. The Soldiers handle each type of mission with enthusiasm and professionalism.

I do not think any of this would be possible without the great show of support from the FRG and families of Bravo Company! We have received so many notes, cards, cookies, candies, and packages this holiday season that we could not fit it into our company building! Actually 1SG Howard and CPT Wlasniewski took over an hour to move it all into a spare room right next to our offices, there was so much! The Soldiers of Bravo are truly grateful to everyone for taking the time to send them these care packages and cards.

There are too many people to thank for everything we've received, but I wanted to take a few moments and thank a few people who really went above and beyond to make all of the Soldiers feel special this holiday season. First off I want to thank SSG Scott's wife, Ngoc Scott, for the lovely tins of cookies and Christmas cards. Also I want to thank the Residents of Providence Mount St. Vincent for sending each soldier a personalized Christmas Card. I would like to thank CW2 Ramirez's wife Amanda Ramirez and mother Kelly Powell for the delicious handmade trail mix. Additionally, I want to thank CW2 Ramirez's Aunt Deb for sending each Soldier a Christmas card and a bag of goodies for them to enjoy. This outpouring of support was really tremendous and it really made the entire company feel like they were at home for the holidays instead of 2,000 miles away.

When the Soldiers weren't busy eating all of delicious treats, they celebrated the holidays in many different ways. CW2 Mcgrath wore his Boston Red Sox themed Santa hat to work. CW2 Cruz went a more traditional route by wearing a Santa hat embroidered with, "Season's Greetings." All in all Bravo company had a pretty good holiday season considering that they were thousands of miles away from friends and family. I hope everyone back home at Ft Drum enjoyed the holidays and has a fun New Year! ☐

C Company 1-10 Blue Max

By 1SG Tim Clay

Blue Max, Charlie Company 1-10 Attack, TF Phoenix, is finishing up our second month and preparing for the Holiday Season. We continue to make this place home, by converting the old coffee break room into a Learning Room (with coffee bar). All the Blue Max Soldiers will be able to complete correspondence, college and technical certification courses from this room, and work toward their civilian education goals. This will provide Soldiers the opportunity to study and research in a great learning environment. Many Soldiers have internet capability in their rooms, thanks to the hard work of several dedicated Warrant Officers who set up a civilian satellite system for families to stay in touch and surf during their down time.

CW2 Steve Badgley has been working to enhance the gym with a combatives pit and boxing ring complete with professional training equipment. As a professional boxer with support from our Command Team, CW2 Badgley is creating the ultimate gym where instructors from within our unit, who are U.S. Army Combatives qualified, will foster a safe learning and training environment for both Army combatives and boxing, with a little help from CW2 Badgley, the professional boxer and CW2 Locke, U.S. Army Combatives Instructor.

Thanks to our Family Readiness Group, individual families at home, and many Soldier support groups that sent care packages to us. We appreciate all of your support and we will continue to work hard and finish our deployment on a high note.



Blue Max would like to congratulate SPC Joshua and Mrs. Skylar Bragg on the birth of their daughter, Isabella, on December 17, 2010. Both Mom and baby are doing well. ☐

C Company 2-10 Warlords

By Captain James Polk

Warlord families and friends,

Two months down! We have been busy over the last several months with the transition of operations from the unit we replaced. We have begun to settle into a routine, much like; I know all of you probably have. Christmas was celebrated in traditional American style with lots of good food, dessert, and friends gathered around the table. Although, it must have been difficult this year with an empty place at your family table, I am humbly grateful that I had the opportunity to enjoy the holiday in the company of such fine Soldiers.

The weather so far here has been a blessing and could be considered a much appreciated break from the harsh winter's of Northern New York. I'm sure all of you that remained around the Drum area have probably seen your first snow fall of the season; we are still holding out and hoping that it won't come anytime soon.

I know many of you are settled throughout the United States and are enjoying the year with family and friends. Remember to stay connected with the FRG for the latest information and updates. Shannon will do her best to keep you informed monthly, but if by chance you have a concern or question feel free to contact her anytime. As well, my email is always available if you have any questions and concerns. (james.b.polk@us.army.mil).

Thanks for all that you do and will do over the next several months holding down the home front. Your role in building and maintaining a solid foundation at home is key to our success here, and for that I am grateful for your service. □

Air Assault!

C Company 3-10 Dustoff

By Major Michael McFadden

Another holiday has come and gone in Afghanistan and the soldiers of DUSTOFF made it the best we can. I want to thank the FRG, families, and loves ones for making this Christmas as festive as possible through the sending of Christmas trees, packages, and your thoughts. The Company continues to perform remarkable under these extreme conditions. Though the missions are beginning to slow, our readiness to respond to the soldier on the ground has not. This unit will continue to be one of them most dedicated, cohesive, and responsive forces in all of Afghanistan. □

DUSTOFF!

By Sgt. Damian Schwab

Happy Holidays from your Soldiers here at Dustoff. The weather here in Afghanistan hasn't made it seem like the holiday season, but the Spirit has definitely been there. Soldiers have decorated their hangers, common areas, rooms, and even helicopters. Soldiers in Bagram, drew names at the beginning of December for a secret Santa gift exchange. Many of the Soldiers put great thought in to what they got one another with a \$30 maximum limit.

The holiday support for Dustoff Soldiers has been outstanding! We have been getting massive amounts of holiday care packages every day. We have sincerely enjoyed and appreciated every single one of them. We would like to thank everyone at home for your support and prayers during this great holiday season. *Dustoff!* □



D Company Dukes

By Captain Michael Flint

Hello again from Bagram Airfield! First, I want to wish SPC Ryan Martinez a speedy recovery. Ryan was in an accident recently and had to be sent back to the U.S. for recovery. My memory is foggy but he was either saving a fire from a baby or working on a Chinook when the accident happened. Knowing Ryan and his heroic personality, I'll bet it was the former!

We have been very productive here and our Soldiers have settled into a routine. We've had many great successes so far in the deployment. We've promoted several Soldiers to the rank of SFC which is the hardest rank to reach in the Army.

Our Soldiers, primarily on their own accord, decided they'd had enough of the mess left behind by all of the units before us and executed area beautification projects that tremendously impacted our work environment in a positive way. I continue to be amazed by the amount of work our Soldiers can handle.

Finally, I'd like to wish everyone back home a very happy holiday and a safe New Year. □

E Company Executioners

By Captain Tim Davis

Family and Friends,

I hope everyone had a safe and wonderful Holiday Season and I hope you were able to communicate with your Soldiers in one way or another during that special time as well. Things are staying steady here on Bagram and I can honestly say that Echo company is making a reputation for themselves as a unit that can be trusted and called upon to accomplish any mission. Echo company was called upon to help Task Force Shooter (6/6 CA V) with one of their Forward Arming and Refueling Points (FARPs) that is located in Jalalabad (JBAD). We sent five Soldiers down to JBAD to help conduct refuel operations. From speaking to the Soldiers that were selected to go down for the mission, they are enjoying their time down there so far and like having the opportunity to conduct their wartime missions.

The Soldiers out at our two FARPs are doing an outstanding job performing refueling and aircraft arming missions as they arise. There are minor issues that they are having to deal with regarding meals and other life support elements that we are working towards making better for them out there, but there are no issues when it comes to both locations accomplishing their missions. The Distribution platoon back here at Bagram is doing an outstanding job performing on call defuel operations and cold refuel operations as they arise. A group of us were sent out to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan, to support President Obama's visit to Afghanistan this past month but it was cancelled due to weather at the last minute. The Ammunition section, led by SSG Vrbisky, is the busiest section here on Bagram. They are busy each day performing scheduled and on call missions. They run the entire Task Force's ammunition, both here at Bagram, and at our two FARP locations at outlying forward operating bases (FOBs). They have to inventory the Task Force's inventory of Ammunition each day, in addition to loading up the aircraft pads, sending critical ammunition out to the outlying FOBs, and forecasting and ordering new ammunition as it gets low. Additionally, they are enforcing the safety standards for ammunition out on the aircraft pads and back on the West side of the Bagram when performing operations. The Maintenance platoon has been doing a great job of performing scheduled and unscheduled maintenance as they arise. They have made a 100% improvement over what we fell in on upon our arrival to Afghanistan.

We also have many additional taskings that have risen up since our arrival to theatre, including being in charge of the Task Force Arms Room, which is ran by SSG Pearson, helping facilitate the Brigade mail room with SPC Singleton, and providing door gunners, ECP guards and OCF guards for security.

We had tried to keep the moral high here in Afghanistan, with mustache month, our December 27th Christmas party, and the visits by President Obama and the USO tour featuring Robin Williams and Lance Armstrong. Additionally, we have had great support from several sponsors back in the states that have volunteered to help support all of us during this year long deployment. Thank you to all of our Soldier's sponsors that have supported us thus far through care packages, letters, cards and pictures. We greatly appreciate the support, especially during the Holidays. I hope each of you have a wonderful January. □









JF Phoenix



*Holiday
Cheer*



Happy Holidays



Military Christmas Poem

Written by Lance Corporal James M. Schmidt in 1986.

**'Twas The Night Before Christmas,
He Lived All Alone,
In A One Bedroom House
Made Of Plaster And Stone.**

**I Had Come Down The Chimney
With Presents To Give,
And To See Just Who
In This Home Did Live.**

**I Looked All About,
A Strange Sight I Did See,
No Tinsel, No Presents,
Not Even A Tree.**

**No Stocking By Mantle,
Just Boots Filled With Sand,
On The Wall Hung Pictures
Of Far Distant Lands.**

**With Medals And Badges,
Awards Of All Kinds,
A Sober Thought
Came Through My Mind.**

**For This House Was Different,
It Was Dark And Dreary,
I Found The Home Of A Soldier,
Once I Could See Clearly.**

**The Soldier Lay Sleeping,
Silent, Alone,
Curled Up On The Floor
In This One Bedroom Home.**

**The Face Was So Gentle,
The Room In Such Disorder,
Not How I Pictured
A United States Soldier.**

**Was This The Hero
Of Whom I'd Just Read?
Curled Up On A Poncho,
The Floor For A Bed?**

**I Realized The Families
That I Saw This Night,
Owed Their Lives To These Soldiers
Who Were Willing To Fight.**

Soon Round The World,
The Children Would Play,
And Grownups Would Celebrate
A Bright Christmas Day.

They All Enjoyed Freedom
Each Month Of The Year,
Because Of The Soldiers,
Like The One Lying Here.

I Couldn't Help Wonder
How Many Lay Alone,
On A Cold Christmas Eve
In A Land Far From Home.

The Very Thought
Brought A Tear To My Eye,
I Dropped To My Knees
And Started To Cry.

The Soldier Awakened
And I Heard A Rough Voice,
"Santa Don't Cry,
This Life Is My Choice;

I Fight For Freedom,
I Don't Ask For More,
My Life Is My God,
My Country, My Corps."

The Soldier Rolled Over
And Drifted To Sleep,
I Couldn't Control It,
I Continued To Weep.

I Kept Watch For Hours,
So Silent And Still
And We Both Shivered
From The Cold Night's Chill.

I Didn't Want To Leave
On That Cold, Dark, Night,
This Guardian Of Honor
So Willing To Fight.

Then The Soldier Rolled Over,
With A Voice Soft And Pure,
Whispered, "Carry On Santa,
It's Christmas Day, All Is Secure."

One Look At My Watch,
And I Knew He Was Right.
"Merry Christmas My Friend,
And To All A Good Night."



Gumby has Been Kidnapped!!



Be sure to follow the storyline on the TF Phoenix "Feature" section of our website!!
<http://tfphoenixrising.yolasite.com/feature.php>

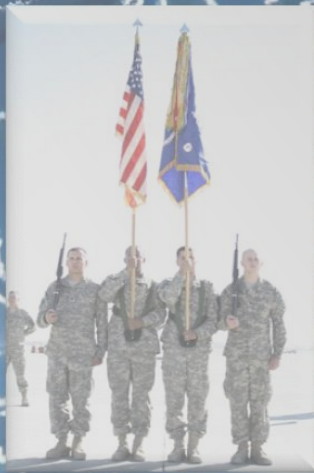




Soldier of the Month



Happy Holidays from 3-10 GSAB



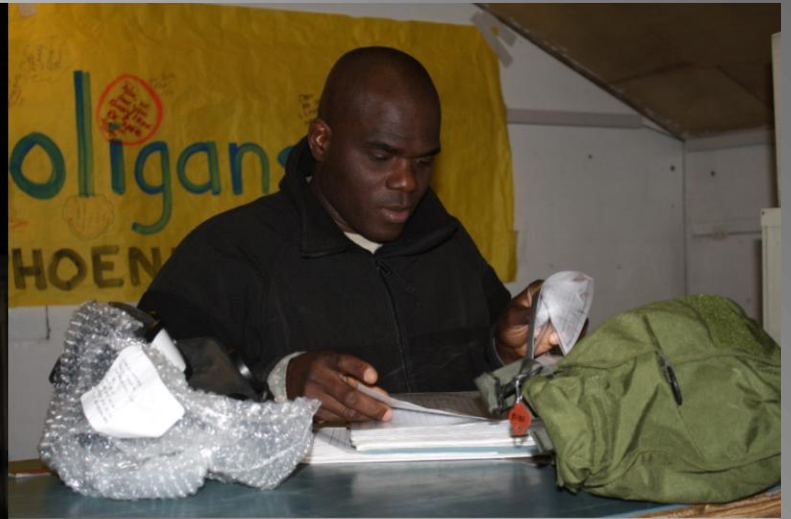
Bagram, Afghanistan







Reenlistment



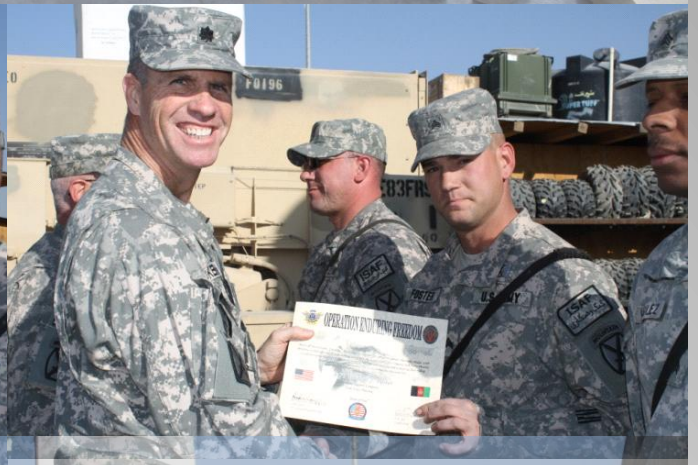
1EA CHEESE SANDWICH
AOG P/N: SW-I-SS







Executioners Get Mechanic Badges





E Company Executioners earn mechanic badge

Congratulations to all of the Soldiers who have earned their mechanic badge!! For E-5 and below, this means you have five more promotion points!! This can make all the difference. Again, congrats!!

- SSG Stephen Hall from Benson, VT
- SGT Michael Foster from Greenwood, SC
- SGT Miguel Vasquez from Jersey City, NJ
- SPC Luanthony Green from Buffalo, NY
- SPC Patrick Hankinson from North Tonawanda, NY
- SPC Clarence Moore from Washington, NC
- SPC Dustin Motes from Van, TX
- SPC Jose Rojas Diaz from Waldorf, MD
- PFC Bradley Addington from Placerville, CA
- PFC Kenneth Locklear from Pembroke, NC
- PFC Eliza Madrigal from San Marcos, CA
- PFC Weston Wigginton from Decatur, IL





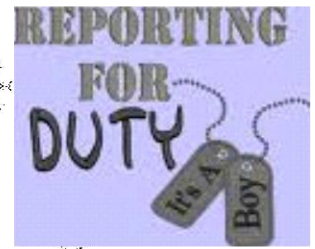




New Task Force Phoenix Babies



We would like to welcome the newest Task Force Phoenix Family Members



- Headquarter and Headquarters Company— Graelyn Ann Billingsley born on December 16th.
- Alpha Company - Conner Alan Kennedy born on November 18th.
- Charlie Company Blue Max - Isabella Noel Bragg born on December 17th.
- Echo Company - Lucas Benson Fortner born on December 21st.



Remember Those
in the Military

