

It has been 18 months since the

Battalion Colors were deployed to

Iraq and only 13 months since the

return of the 76th Engineer Com-

pany from Afghanistan – but when

the call came, everyone answered

proud of how the unit leadership

without hesitation. I am extremely

getting the unit prepared to deploy on such a short timeline. The Bat-

talion is forward deployed in sup-

port of President Obama's renewed

focus on the war effort for Opera-

tion Enduring Freedom. The mis-

sion of the 19th Engineer Battalion

- provide general engineering for

struction/repair), force protection

(perimeter berms, guard towers,

bunker construction), life support

(tents, South East Asia (SEA)-huts,

showers, latrines) to allow the In-

fantry units the ability to do their

jobs interacting with the Afghan

mobility (bridging and road con-

and that of it's subordinates is broad

The Seahorse Standard

19th Engineer Battalion Kandahar, Afghanistan

> Volume I, Issue I June 25, 2009



"Bridle and Reins—Stand Tall!"





The Commander's Column

people and fight the enemy. As it stands today, the 15th Engineer Company with elements from the rest of the Battalion have already occupied Forward Operating Base (FOB) Wolverine and have begun construction missions. The rest of the Battalion is in and Soldiers rose to the challenge in KAF (Kandahar Airfield) preparing to move out to their FOBs in the near future. The training, planning and coordination of these moves is significant and the BN Staff and unit leaders have done an amazing job working out

> I would be remiss if I didn't mention that the accomplishments of the Battalion could not have come to fruition if it wasn't for the support of our Family Readiness Groups, Sea Horse Boosters and the Spouses/Family members of our Soldiers. For this I am truly grateful and want to publicly thank you for your

the details.



LTC Heath C. Roscoe 19th EN BN Commander

support. I also need the mention the great work of the 19th Engineer Rear-detachment, which has completed every mission asked and have been doing a stellar job in preparing Soldiers to deploy and taking care of Families. Thank you all for your service to our nation and this unit.

BRIDLE & REINS!



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Command Sergeant Major

Greetings Seahorse Families!! I want to let you know that I couldn't have asked for a better group of Soldiers, NCOs, Officers, and Family members to be in charge of. Family members, you are just as strong as your Soldiers. You are handling business back on the home front, walking dogs, paying bills, doing the maintenance on the house/cars, taking care of the kids' every need, and numerous other things. We miss and love all of you dearly, knowing that you miss and love us just as much gives us energy to answer the Nation's call to duty. All is well here in Afghanistan. It's not the

twin cities of E-town and Radcliff.

We are surrounded by 17 different think of. It's extremely hot here, countries; this is an adventure in itself for all of us. It's a very educational experience knowing that we are the heavy hitters of the world and our brothers and sisters from other nations are fighting this fight with us. This tour has been a reunion for some of your love ones reuniting with Soldiers they served with in the past. It's hard to believe we've been here going on two months. Time will really begin to fly when our equipment arrives and we start our mission sets. Your Soldiers look forward to receiving mail, care packages, cookies, cupcakes, brownies, and about everything else you can

we drink tons of water. When the day ends, your Soldiers head home, to the gym, watch movies, play sports, and whatever else they can think of to pass the time. I've said enough! The battalion is highly motivated and doing well. We are trying to make the best of the situation until we see the home front team again.

Command Sergeant Major's Advice: No matter what we're going through over here, "we will endure." Our success is partially dependent on you back there. Please continue to write your Soldiers, send email/cards, goodies, and constantly remind them



CSM Darrell L. Dixon 19th EN BN CSM

of how much you support what they are doing. This is definitely MOTIVATION!!

CSM's word of the month: PATIENCE.





The Seahorse Standard

Business is picking up here, as the material roles in. The ECP has been our main focus here. We have received HESCOs and wood in preparation for the building of the ECP. Our survey and design team is quite busy with the ECP. As 3/15th pushes forward flattening the ECP, you can see the survey team ahead of them setting stakes and preparing data for the ground work. The dozers and scrapers have a lot of dirt to cut and fill for this area. 3/15th also has constructed a culvert in the wadis to allow water to continue to flow past the roads within the ECP to prevent erosion. Wild life is apparent and everyone is looking for them. 3/60th



3rd Platoon's Dozers and Scrapers working hard on the ECP.



Culvert installation project to improve drainage.

has finished the first of many additions planned to the guard towers. We have also started a Class 4 yard to accommodate the material arriving every day. The surveyors have recently started the HLZ. 2/15th has begun work on the HLZ while conducting recons of convoy staging area and finishing force protection improvements.

BLADE 6 - CPT Rob Fairel



A group of Road Dogs take a break during a busy day of construction.



A team of Soldiers builds a set of stairs at the fuel point.



15th Soldiers use their carpentry expertise to build a guard tower.



Commander's Corner

Jungle Eater Families and Friends:

I send my many thanks to you for your continued love and support of your Soldiers during the first two months of our deployment. You have helped sustain us through the always tough first few weeks of separation from home and have helped to keep our morale high as we have adjusted to deployed life.

There is no doubt that engineers are at the forefront of the effort in Afghanistan, and our Soldiers are and will continue to make a significant contribution in the service of our nation. Yet, for most of the 60th Engineer Company, May and June have been signified by one word, Kandahar. We have been actively collecting our equipment as it arrives from Fort Benning, receiving theater equipment and combat vehicles, and training on that equipment to prepare us for the missions ahead. These have been necessary and

time consuming tasks, and yet the Soldiers of our company have taken on these tasks and more.

Ist Platoon was the vanguard of the 60th Engineer Company, accepting a priority mission to build a runway, refueling station, and parking pads for rotary aircraft at a Forward Operating Base (FOB). They began with a training mission at Kandahar to learn the techniques involved in installing specialized aircraft matting. In mid May, Ist Platoon headed out and began building this critical infrastructure. Their efforts have been received with great praise and they are doing a fantastic job representing the company and battalion. This mission has a large scope and will continue to be a focus for them. Ist Platoon is also preparing to build life support and office spaces for US Forces that will be stationed there in the future.

3rd Platoon was assigned the mission of joining the 15th Engi-

neer Company and becoming part of the battalion's mission at FOB Wolverine. They were the first platoon to receive their combat vehicles and conducted and extension train up with them. By the end of May, 3rd Platoon was re-located at FOB Wolverine and involved in the arduous task of helping Team Blade (15th Engineer Company) run an entire FOB while simultaneously building necessary life support and force protection infrastructure.

2nd Platoon has been the workhorse of the company at Kandahar, becoming the main combat effort as we prepare to move forward. 2nd Platoon began demonstrating their vertical construction expertise to fabricate a tactical operations center for an aviation unit at Kandahar. They have been instrumental in the effort to receive all of our equipment and have trained for our upcoming missions.

The company headquarters has remained busy directing the many activities of the company and supporting 1st Platoon while

they are operating forward. Those Soldiers who make up our personnel security detachment (PSD) have been training extensively on the operation of our combat vehicles and supporting the company at Kandahar. The company headquarters will very soon be on the move to establish the Jungle Eaters at our new FOB and begin operations that will provide life support and operations centers for our company and other US forces.

While we are busy and will continue to become more involved in helping to establish US forces in southern Afghanistan and bringing security to the Afghan people, you all remain in our most constant and fondest thoughts. Thank you again for all you do and for all your support.

Jungle Eater 6 - CPT Dan Andrews



A 60th Soldier drives home nails on a framing project, below a platoon lays matting on the airfield at Kandahar.





ISG Jefferson calls the company to attention.



ISG Jefferson and CPT Andrews congratulate SFC Stewart on her promotion to Sergeant First Class.



Jungle Eaters prepare to deal with a brown-out while working on the Airfield matting project.

The Seahorse Standard

Commander's Corner

Friends and Family of 76th:

The last month for Team Hammer has been a great opportunity to build the team through tough training and team sports. The two most recent accomplishments cover both aspects of our current life at Kandahar Air Field: a hard-fought volleyball tournament among the squads, and a compliment from a Dutch Colonel that the Soldiers were the best he has seen on the Counter-IED course in months of running training for new units in Kandahar. I am sure by now your spouses have mentioned that they are always driving

around in "MRAPs." I want to take the time to describe what exactly that means for all the Soldiers in Team Hammer. The last deployment for most of us meant we drove around in armored Humvees like you see at Fort Knox. However, this tour, the two platoons, maintenance, and headquarters sections for Team Hammer all have Mine-Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicles (MRAPs) as our primary means of ground travel. As construction engineers, we spend most of our time on the jobsite, but the MRAPs give us the best technology available when we need to get to a jobsite by ground. Upon each squad receiving their MRAP, driv-

ers attended a one-week certification course on the technology in the vehicle. The MRAP model we received comfortably seats six and some of the best air-conditioning in Afghanistan. The equipment and vehicles for Team Hammer have started to arrive at Kandahar, and we are preparing them for the construction missions we will start later this month. We are all looking forward to moving to a more permanent home, which becomes more of a reality as our tools and vehicles continue to arrive.

STEEL HAMMER 6 - CPT Scott Williams

ISG's Thoughts

The Soldiers of 76TH Engineer Company have been filling time by training on their new vehicles and equipment, warrior tasks and drills, and convoy operations in preparation for movement out to the Forward Operations Base (FOB). All of the classes and training started back at Fort Knox and has continued on the ground here in Afghanistan,

which will give the Soldier's the necessary tools to accomplish the unit's mission. Currently the company consists of the Head-quarters Platoon, Maintenance Platoon, Blade One (15th EN CO), and Second Platoon. First Platoon has moved out to FOB Wolverine with the 15TH EN CO and Third Platoon is executing vertical missions on Kandahar with the Headquarter Support Company. We are happy to have Blade One, headed by

2LT Hudalla and SSG Fregiste, on board with us. They are welcome members of the team. I'm confident in saying that the Soldiers are well prepared and ready to go execute their construction missions in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

STEEL HAMMER 7 - ISG Jeremy Gross



Team Hammer assembles at the "boardwalk" after a hard week of training. The shops and sports fields along the boardwalk allow us a chance to relax, as well as observe and interact with the soldiers from other nations.



SGT Barrientos, a squad leader with Blade I, is congratulated by ILT Wolgemuth, 76th EN CO XO, after re-enlisting at KAF.



SGT Sheppard works with SPC Williams and SPC Herring during a construction planning session reading blueprints.



72nd Survey & Design Detachment

I must begin by saying how proud I am to see my Detachment perform on the battle field. All of the preparation, training and planning has already begun to pay off. Within three weeks time, CPL White's team has been extremely busy at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Wolverine. They have completed six surveys totaling over 88 acres, as well as working alongside the vertical engineers to prepare the FOB for expansion, improving the living conditions, and strengthening security. The Lasers have also completed three building designs. SPC Rogers' team has also kept busy at Kandahar Airfield (KAF) with two surveys totaling over 374 acres, and two building designs to improve the conditions

there. The other teams are eagerly waiting for their chance to move into action and start work on their respective FOBS. They have been training extensively everyday in preparation for their upcoming missions. In closing, the Lasers have proven to be a tremendous combat multiplier and continue to impress me with every mission that the Lasers are given. The morale is high and we are staying busy. Congratulations to the newly promoted CPL White and PFC Lewis!

"SURVEY AND DESTROY"

LASER 6 -CW2 Rodney Johnson



PV2 Aleman places rebar to mark the corner point for a Hesco line during one of the Detachment's many projects.



SPC Petrus surveying the Mustang Ramp on KAF.



Team 2 staking out the Hesco lines on the Mustang Ramp.

31st, 538th, and 655th EN Detachments

. The 538th Concrete Detachment has been working with the 4th Engineer Battalion on fixing a damaged bridge. They are also cross training with some of the other Concrete Detachments that joined the company to ensure that everyone is on their A game when they go out to execute missions.

We picked up some new additions to the Warrior Company. The 31st Concrete Detachment, from Fort Polk, was reassigned from Iraq to help us here in Afghanistan. They have hit the ground running and ready to work. Lead by SSG Roach they are already helping out with projects here around KAF. The 655th Detachment, a reserves unit with Soldiers from Texas, California,

and Pennsylvania, has recently joined us and are getting settled in before they start their own missions. It adds up to a full house but ISG Mejia is keeping them all straight.

"Warriors First!"

Warrior 6 - CPT Sean Wittmeier



The 538th Detachment, currently led by SSG Smith, stands tall at the BN Promotion Ceremony.

The Seahorse Standard

Commander's Corner

Well the Warriors have hit the ground running here in Afghanistan. We have set up operations and are running 24 hours a day. It's an interesting place and full of new experiences for all of us. Even the veterans who've returned to Afghanistan have learned a thing or two. Our missions are diverse and important not just to the Battalion but to the other units that we support as well. The Warriors are truly helping to reshape Afghanistan and make it a safer place.

While reshaping Afghanistan is part of the battalion's mission, the Warrior mission of supporting the battalion hasn't changed since we left Kentucky. Everyday there is a never ending stream of problems ranging from supply to personnel that require our folks to work around the clock. CPT Miller has taken over the S4 (logistics) and supported by his NCOs and soldiers they are making miracles happen in a system that is at time choked with shortages. The S3 (operations) section is steering the battalion ensuring that we are kept on course. The make sure missions are planned out and executed the right way the first time. They've sent small elements out to some of the smaller FOBs to assist in managing the construction projects. S2 (intelligence) is studying the bad guys and keeping everyone informed on their latest tricks. They are doing a great job mining through virtually dozens of different gathering agencies and information dumps. They have been spot on in their analysis and are truly a combat multiplier for the battalion. SI (personnel) is grinding their way through the thankless tasks of ensuring that everyone's leave, mail, and pay are straight. It's a tough job especially when they have to work with agencies operating stateside some eight hours behind S6 (communications) has had perhaps the toughest job of all. Undermanned and stretched thin these digital warriors are busting their backs to ensure that the battalion is able to talk to each other across the expanses of Afghanistan.

They've learned about new equipment and are doing everything in their power to get the battalion up on the information networks that are pervasive through today's army. HSC OPS are continuing to track and manage all the moving pieces. With all the projects and personnel moving with the company, ISG Mejia and the XO, newly promoted Captain Knott, are always moving and squaring things away. They definitely make my job of being the commander a lot easier. The medics have been taking care of the battalion and have set up an Aid Station with Doc Wampler at one of our FOBs. It's always great to have top notch medical folks around and we are truly lucky in this department. They've taken excellent care of us and are keeping us in the fight. All in all it's a lot of work that never seems to stop. The Warriors are up to the task and are making things happen.

You can be proud of what your Warriors are doing here in Afghanistan. We deployed knowing that we would be put to the task here. We are up to the challenge and have not missed a beat. There is no let up in sight because of all the work that we still have to do. Don't worry about your Soldiers doing their part. They are professionals and we have a good team built up around us. We take care of each other but we can't do it alone. That is why the Families back home are so important. Motivating words from loved ones can do amazing things for Soldiers. We'll take care of them while we are over here and try to get them the best of everything. Keep the home fires burning and remind your Soldiers that you love them and are proud of what they are doing.

"Warriors First!"

Warrior 6 - CPT Sean Wittmeier



SGT Binkley re-enlists in front of the stink pond on KAF as CPT Knott does his best to recite the oath while simultaneously holding his breath.



LTC Roscoe and CSM Dixon unfurl the Colors at the Uncasing Ceremony in South Park.



SPC Goodnite reenlists in front of the castle, 2LT Krebsbach served as the re-enlistment officer.



Commander's Corner

Reinforcer Friends and Families:

FSC has settled into our "homeaway-from-home" at Kandahar Airfield (KAF). The Soldiers are temporarily residing in tents until our more permanent living quarters are finished. We've also occupied a temporary motor pool area where maintenance and distro platoons are conducting their operations. Headquarters platoon is currently sharing workspace in a tent with HSC. Despite the temporary status of our work and living accommodations we are continuing to improve upon them in order to

make life at little easier for us all, and increase our abilities to accomplish our mission. The unit's capabilities are continuing to increase as equipment arrives, allowing us to better support the battalion to accomplish its construction mission.

As always, thank you for your continued support of your deployed Soldier and the company.

REINFORCERS!

Reinforcer 6 - CPT Matthew Brown



Reinforcers pose for a picture during MRAP rollover training, the event helped to familiarize the Soldiers with their new vehicles, as well as build their confidence in it.

Distro Platoon

After sending three Soldiers on Advanced Party a week early, the main body of DISTRO departed for combat. They quickly moved into permanent party lodging, where the Company had its own sleeping accommodations, laundry facility, and dining facility within close proximity of each other. Within 24 hours of arriving in Afghanistan, the unit received mandatory in-briefings and started training for their future missions. Training included: equal opportunity classes, IED defeat

training, first aid training, suicide prevention classes, and Local National escort training. After completing training, Distro Platoon has been increasingly busy. In the past month, the platoon has picked up its escort mission (arranging and coordinating transportation from Kandahar Air Field to the Forward Operating Bases where our sister companies reside). The actual transport of supplies to the FOBs is done by local Afghans from the surrounding community. Arrangement of the transportation consist of placing the order for the Afghan drivers, loading their vehicles (AKA "Jingle Trucks"), and escorting them off of the base. The Distro Platoon definitely has their work cut out for them for the duration

of this deployment; however, the Soldiers feel confident and ready for what lies ahead.

2LT Kim



Maintenance PLT

The deployment has started out with high morale in the platoon. Despite the fact that Soldiers and families are separated, spirits are still high as we maintain focus on our mission. The flight into country was relatively comfortable and expedient. There were the routine stops allowing for the proper refit of the aircraft, and allowing Soldiers to get off of the plane and experience some aspects of different cultures. After a short stay at Manas Airbase, we were flown into our current location. We are currently living in tents and are keeping platoon integrity (everyone lives with their own platoon). We are not without basic amenities and even have

some of the basic creature comforts of home, to include Subway, Pizza Hut, and Burger King. We are grateful to be stationed where we are, because other occupied areas are not as developed. Our workload has been progressively increasing. We are actively supporting the battalion in all of its logistical needs allowing the other units maximum time to perform their missions. Although each of the three platoons has very different missions, collectively we are supporting each other in an effort to achieve mission success. We have had some key events happen in the past month. We have had two of our own platoon members get promoted: PFC Mercier and SGT Treves. We have also had

one of our own, SSG Ruiz, take the plunge into an indefinite reenlistment. SGT Treves and SPC Kraft have also reenlisted for another term. It has been a very productive month for careers here in theater. Remember that we keep each and every one of our family members in our thoughts and ask that you do the same.

ILT Brown





19th Engineer Battalion Kandahar, Afghanistan

19th EN BN Primary Staff

BN Executive Officer **MAJ** Joseph Lehman



BN Operations Officer **MAJ** Daniel Segura



BN Adjutant 2LT Brandi Smith



BN Intelligence Officer CPT Andrew Peppard



BN Logistics Officer CPT Troy Miller



BN Signal Officer ILT Thomas Lopez





CSM Dixon prepares to release the companies to the ISGs after the BN colors were uncased in South Park.



ILT Lopez "pins" newly promoted PFC Crippen, both are from the BN Commo Shop.



Newly promoted SPC Barnes proudly wears her hard earned rank.



Chaplain's Corner

To our support back home and all our loved ones, we are here! It has been just over a month since our arrival, and several elements have already pushed out to other FOBs to begin construction missions. As engineers, we build! And we don't stop until the mission is complete. This is also true in our relationships with you (our greatest support). You are the spouse who copes with absence. You are the family who endures change. You offer us hope over the many miles of sand and ocean that comes between us. Keep it up! Just as we don't stop building until the job is done, our marriages and family ties should not cease or pause during our absence. Cards, letters, emails, phone calls, and care packages offer us much more than encouragement. They close the physical gap of distance and bring us one step closer to home. You are in my prayers, and I ask that you keep us in yours. May God continue to bless.

- CH Pete McDonald

Promotions & Re-enlistments

Name	From	To	Co.	Vincent Switzer	PV2	PFC	76 [™]
Paul Treves	SPC	SGT	FSC	Ronald Williams	PV2	PFC	15 [™]
Emily Barnes	PFC	SPC	HSC	Steven Bellovich	PVI	PV2	15^{TH}
Samuel Canet	PFC	SPC	76 [™]	Arnoldo Terrazas	PVI	PV2	76 [™]
Michael Kratz	PFC	SPC	76 [™]	Zachary Chiupka	PFC	SPC	FSC
Justin Mazzullo	PFC	SPC	60 [™]	Grant Marshall	PFC	SPC	76 [™]
James Mizelle	PFC	SPC	60 [™]	Jared Dearing	PFC	SPC	76 [™]
Ryan Runes	PFC	SPC	60 [™]	Bryce Krause	PFC	SPC	76 [™]
Timothy Becks	PV2	PFC	15 [™]	lan Sarlitto	PFC	SPC	15 [™]
Richard Carter	PV2	PFC	I5 [™]	Daniel Nivala	PV2	PFC	76 [™]
Joshua Crippen	PV2	PFC	HSC	Todd Wile	PFC	SPC	76 [™]
Jason Lewis	PV2	PFC	72 ND	Ebony Johnson	PV2	PFC	60 [™]
Austin Mercier	PV2	PFC	FSC	Krestice Stewart	SSG	SFC	60 [™]
Justin Mosley	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Andrew Black	SPC	SGT	HSC
Arturo Romero	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Chris Disponett	2LT	ILT	76 [™]
Skyler Rose	PV2	PFC	76 [™]	Ryan Knott	ILT	CPT	HSC
Jacob Anderson	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Kevin Franke	ILT	CPT	HSC
Chad Asmus	PV2	PFC	15 [™]				
Matthew, Beard	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Seahorse Re-enlistments			
Paul Clements	PV2	PFC	60 [™]				
Termaine Davis	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Benoit Fregiste	SSG	I 5 th	
Bryan Knoblauch	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Brandon Jolley	SGT	15 th	
Chauncey Mccoy	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Vicente Barrientos	SGT	15 th	
William Paupst	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Jeremy Capps	SPC	76 th	
Vikhilesh Prasad	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Brett Bocock	SPC	76 th	
Darvin Springfield	PV2	PFC	60 [™]	Kevin Kraft	SPC	FSC	
Joseph Weatherfo	rd PV2	PFC	15 [™]	David Ruiz	SSG	FSC	
Robert James	PV2	PFC	15 [™]	William Rollins	SSG	HSC	
			4 A TI I				



lacob Sellnow

Matthew Smith

Christopher Landis PV2

Vincente Melendez PV2

PV2

SGT Thurber congratulates SPC Canet from the 76th EN CO during the ceremony.

ILT Franke congratulates SSG Barron after his reenlistment. SSG Barron transferred from the BN S3 to the 72nd DET a few days. later.

PFC

PFC

PFC

60[™]

60[™]

60[™]

60[™]

Steven Barron

Richard Binkley

Daryl Carter



SSG

SGT

SGT

HSC

HSC

HSC

Alpha Company Gators

As many of you may have seen in the latest issue of the Turret, the 19th Engineer Battalion has received some press for helping to organize the first ever Fort Knox Kid's FRG. The event was spearheaded by Mrs. Anna Hoop from ACS. Its purpose was to give children with deployed parents a forum to discuss the feelings they are experiencing. Mrs. Campbell and Mrs. Teeples represented the post headquarters at the event and it turned out to be a huge success. A special

thanks goes out to all those who sup-

ported and participated in the event.

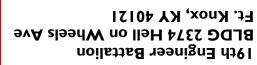
In other news, the rear detachment has been staying busy supporting the families and the unit in Afghanistan. So far, the experience has been rewarding for all of the leadership in the Rear Detachment. We appreciate all of the support we get from volunteers and families and we could not do our job alone.

Gator 6 - CPT Paul Turbeville



Kids from the 19th EN BN make crafts during the 1st ever Kids' FRG event on Ft. Knox.









THE SEAHORSE STANDARD

