



The Seahorse Standard

19th Engineer Battalion
Kandahar, Afghanistan

Volume I, Issue X

February 28, 2010



“Bridle and Reins—Stand Tall!”



The Commander’s Column



Family and Friends – Greetings again from Afghanistan! I just returned from a five day trip and visited with most of the units in the Battalion. We are less than 60 days out from rejoining you and I must say that morale is still high and probably the highest it has been since we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel. I stressed two points during my visit: (1) I want everybody to sprint to the end – working hard on all our projects and get them closed out before our replacements arrive and (2) Safety – continue to do things the right way, wearing our proper gear and doing our risk assessments, I do not want to send a Soldier home because he got hurt in these last two months. Out at FOB Deleram 2, the group from Team Blade is quickly finishing up their construction tasks and will soon be reunited with their company headquarters at FOB Price. They are all in good spirits and are looking forward to getting back to Price. At Leatherneck, 502E was grinning from ear to ear having returned from emplacement of 3 bridges supporting the Marine Operation in Marjah. They lived out in the middle of the desert with no amenities or showers and yet they still had very high morale and were proud of their contribution to the mission. The 655th Asphalt Team is down to their last 30 days. I am so proud to have been associated with this team and to call them a 19th Engineer Subordinate unit. No other unit in the battalion has accomplished so much with so little. We wish them well as they return to their Families in Texas and Pennsylvania. At FOB Price Team Blade (15E) is doing an extraordinary job with the expansion effort. The Infantry Commander and CSM are very pleased with the effort and are proud to have your engineers as part of their team. At FOB Ramrod Team Jungle Eaters (60E) is working so fast that it’s difficult to keep materials in their hands to keep projects going. They were rejoined with 3rd platoon coming out of Deleram who has jumped right into the work schedule. Ramrod is expanding rapidly due to the efforts of these great engineer Soldiers. Team Hammer (76E) just finished up their great work at COP Terminator and before that Howz-e-madad. These troopers endured 45-60 days of hard living to make both of these COPs a better place to live and increasing the force protection for the Soldiers living there. They should be very proud of their accomplishments. As always, HSC and FSC are doing an outstanding job supporting all the units from KAF. If it were not for their efforts, the Battalion would fall flat on its face. A great job by all!



LTC Heath C. Roscoe
19th EN BN Commander



Insides This Issue:

<i>BC's Page</i>	1
<i>CSM's Page</i>	2
<i>502nd MRBC—Bridge</i>	3
<i>15th EN CO—Road Dogs</i>	4
<i>60th EN CO—Jungle Eaters</i>	5
<i>76th EN CO—Steel Hammers</i>	6
<i>HSC—Warriors</i>	7
<i>FSC—Reinforcers</i>	8
<i>72nd Survey and Design DET</i>	9
<i>Battle Desk</i>	9
<i>Chaplain's Corner</i>	10
<i>Alpha CO—Gators</i>	10
<i>FRG</i>	11



SGT Foulks conducts combat patrol brief prior to Battalion PSD rolling out

BRIDLE AND REINS!!!

SEAHORSE SIX



Editor-in-Chief: CPT Jaime M. Miller





SH 7 and 1SG Dye observe promotion ceremony



15TH & 60TH doing it best at Ramrod



CW4 Brewer gives guidance to his mechanics

SEAHORSE FAMILIES!!!! Can you believe we are under 60 days? Your Soldiers continue on a daily basis to improve the quality of living for the US Forces deploying into theater. They are nasty and extremely tired. They are motivated by knowing they have the greatest friends and families in the world awaiting their return home safely. I've visited most of our Soldiers, they continue to stay motivated and focused on the prize. As the boss and I continue to travel, we hear how much your Soldiers are appreciated here in theater. Honestly I am very proud of the team I serve with and along side everyday. As we enter the count down, we ask that you say a special prayer for all of us. Attached are some photos from the month of February that I care to share with you. **Command Sergeant Major's Advice:** No matter what we have left to do over here, please remember, our continued success is partially dependent on you back there. **Please** continue to remind your Soldiers of how much you support and appreciate what they are doing. This is definitely needed motivation from the home front. **CSM's words of the month:** We see the light at the end of the tunnel.



THE CREW



BN Medics test their Carpentry skills



SFC Fifley standing Guard



Chrenshaw promoted to Sergeant



FSC Mechanics doing what they do best: FIX IT!!!

Commander's Corner

Dear Families,

February has been an extremely busy month for the Soldiers of the Deuce. Both line platoons have spent a considerable amount of time training and honing their bridging battle drills. First Platoon earned the distinction of putting in the first Dry Support Bridge in Afghanistan; doing so during the initial assault on the highly volatile Marjah. Deploying from FOB Leatherneck (LNK) with three bridge systems, they displayed steadfast perseverance and provided mission critical canal crossing sites, facilitating resupply and greatly increasing coalition forces freedom of maneuver. Second Platoon executed the journey from Kandahar Airfield (KAF) to LNK, joining the rest of the company with all their personnel and equipment. The Soldiers of 2nd Platoon are content that the cramped conditions and unkind odors of KAF are now a distant memory. 2nd Platoon quickly joined the fray of the company's high operational tempo, organizing a crew of Soldiers to execute rafting operations on the Helmand River as it rose from an onslaught of early February thunder storms. The crew arrived to FOB Payne at 0600 hours and two hours later they found themselves on the river rescuing two Marines perched precariously on the top of their vehicle after it became stuck in the swift current of the rising Helmand. Rafting operations have proven to be difficult, however, the Soldiers are epitomizing the company's "Never Quit" motto. The next few months, historically produce the highest water levels and the company is preparing for enduring operations on the river. Soldier from the Support and Headquarters Platoon have been sliced out to support the missions and conduct reconnaissance missions at bridge sites. Their professionalism and technical abilities are force multipliers for the company and absolutely critical to the line platoon's success. Multiple bridging missions are in the hopper for execution and the Deuce finds itself in a dead sprint as we arrive at the mid-way point for the deployment. We're making great strides to bridge the gap and provide the technical expertise where needed. On behalf of CPT Lucas, thanks for all your continued support and well wishes.

Bridge 5 — CPT Handy

Top Right: 1LT Tinnin displays a handful of hail that accumulated after a storm on FOB LNK
 Middle Right: PV2 Dawn Curatolo operates the Dry Support Bridge during training
 Bottom Right: SSG Kramer, leads his MRAP during the initiation of Movement from FOB Leatherneck



Commander's Corner

The days are quickly coming to an end. The homecoming we have all been waiting for is just around the corner. I would like to thank all the family members and friends of the 15th Engineer Company for their dedication. Team Blade has moved numerous times, changed addresses, been without MWR and PX facilities and worked long days. Through it all, spirits have remained high and work rates have been above expectation. YOUR Soldier has been an integral part of the Team. If you plan to move back to Fort Knox, you need to be making plans now. The waiting list is growing for on post housing. The redeployment calendar is being worked for our return. More to follow about important dates next month. Block leave dates are set for 28 May to 20 June. Thanks to the FRG for all their hard work over the deployment. Thanks to members of 3/60th for their dedication and hard work has part of Team Blade. During this month, 3/60th was returned to their home company.

Blade 6 — CPT Fairel

This deployment is almost in the bag and I couldn't be more proud of the dedication and hard work Team Blade's warriors are continuing to put forth. This month a call was made to build yet another base for forward deployed infantry units on the ground and they have answered the call with a fury that I am grateful to be a part of. I can tell you that the days can't move quick enough for us to be reunited with our loved ones and there is a running countdown proudly displayed that gathers more attention than a Danish Dining Facility Day (Inside joke you should ask a Soldier lucky enough to be at FOB Price about). Remember that the cutoff for mailing your Soldier is February 28. After this deadline, please do not mail anything else or you will risk it never catching up to the recipient. See you soon.

Blade 7 — 1SG
Quillin

Right: PFC Carder is operating the dozer, cross ripping the convoy staging area.

Bottom Right: SPC Herron and SPC Racho are fixing the generator light set.

Below: FOB Price Company TOC



Above: SPC Knoblauch is preparing to fix a trailer





Commander's Corner

Jungle Eater Families and Friends,

It has been another busy but exciting month for the Jungle Eater's. We are still getting settled into our new FOB but continue planning for the redeployment and big trip back home. We have also welcomed back 3rd PLT from the 15th EN CO to assist in the vertical construction and build up of the FOB. Recently we were able to experience the rainy season of Afghanistan and learn the importance of checking the overall drainage plan of the FOB. All of the platoons are becoming very busy with the construction of a new expansion area that will provide living and work space for incoming units.

1st Platoon continued forward with their project of constructing tent floors for the large expansion that is planned for FOB Ramrod. They have also begun mission planning and preparation for their next construction mission, a 32'x120' company TOC building, including pre-fabricating key pieces in order to quickly assemble on site once the ground preparation is complete.

2nd Platoon also continued with the tent floors, placing, leveling, and sheeting them as quickly as the Horizontal platoon can prep the ground. The platoon also assisted the 3/17 Field Artillery by constructing an underground bunker to enhance the living conditions of their Soldiers as they stay at the ready on the gun line. The design that the Soldiers created was noticed by the 5/2 BDE Engineer Cell and recommended to be recreated across their area of operations.

3rd Platoon executed a unit move from the 15th EN CO at Delaram back to the 60th and immediately got to work, constructing tent floors for the FOB's temporary housing. They have also begun initial planning and coordination for their next two projects, two company TOCs for the incoming units.

2nd platoon, 15th EN CO continued their split operations between Ramrod and FOB Frontenac. Here at Ramrod, they continued to make great strides towards completing the task of preparing the ground in the Life Support Area. By driving forward with this mission, they set the stage for the vertical platoons to move in and complete the tent pads and company buildings as the FOB prepares to receive the incoming units. At FOB Frontenac, they completed the resurfacing of the UAV air strip and are closing in on completing the northern expansion with the new Ammunition Holding Area and Helicopter Landing Zone. Once complete, they will move back with the company and begin a new expansion for the next UAV strip.

The headquarters section has continued running current operations while devoting a lot of time to future planning. The most exciting part of this is the coordination for packing up the entire company and the movement back to Ft. Benning. The beginning of this was sending out the first of the shipment containers and talking with the Rear Detachment and the 11th EN BN staff to plan out our return.

We appreciate all of your continued support as we continue with our mission and begin the planning to coming back home. Your Soldiers have done an excellent job in balancing all the responsibilities that they take on every day and we couldn't do it without you all. Thank you again.

Jungle Eater 5 — 1LT Sanders



Right: 2nd PLT sheets tent floors in Life Support Area #3



Above: The Company area gets a little taste of the rainy season.

Right: 1st Platoon Soldiers PFC Cantwell, SGT Norton, SPC Stander, PFC Desselle, and PFC Ramos prefabricate tent floors.

Commander's Corner

Team Hammer Families,
HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!!!

Team Hammer, for the seventh month in a row, have continued to make FOB Spin Boldak a great place to live and work. Weather hasn't even been able to slow us down. We've had a week and a half of high winds and rain and the platoons remain positive and hard working.

1/15th has been working hard to finish our longest running project since we've been out here, the ammo storage area. 1/15th's dedication to duty and technical knowledge has proven to be vital in this project. The leadership on the ground at the project has been able to identify possible problems with future drainage and took the initiative to fix it and do the job right, the first time. Great job guys! The platoon is also working on a new gun line for the field artillery section out here. That project is going great and is almost done.

2/76th has been working on their third 50ft x 90ft building since they have been at FOB Spin Boldak. With all the experience that they've gained on the other two this one is going up in record time! This project takes up the whole PLT and keeps them busy the whole day. Keep up the good work guys!

3/76th is a new addition to the Team Hammer. They have been working hard on Kandahar Airfield and have come down here to FOB Spin Boldak to help us finish out the rest of the deployment. They're going to be building a very important facility here on FOB Spin Boldak, the aid station. This project will be able to treat everyone here on the FOB. Welcome 3/76th, we're proud to have you.

To the Team Hammer Families; thank you for your dedication and support through all of the Holiday Seasons and Valentine's Day, this month. We all cannot wait to be home and spend these special events with our family and friends! We have been watching the news and have seen that most of the US is getting beat up with winter weather. Drive safe, stay warm and God bless.

Hammer 6 — CPT Riesel



Above: 2nd PLT building trusses for a 50x90 building.

Top Right: Soldier cutting lumber for a 50x90 building.

Bottom Right: Soldiers stretching HESCOs for force protection.



Commander's Corner

Greetings to all the Warrior Families back home! Well, February was a big month for the company. We had quite a storm and a lot of moving pieces here around KAF. It has been anything but boring. We managed to weather the storm and get our missions accomplished. We are all getting our stuff ready for the big move to come home and there are a lot of pieces involved in it.

In the HSC Operations realm we've picked up a new Executive Officer, 1LT Chris Disponett. He has hit the ground running and is already making positive changes. It's a kind of reunion because he worked with the company at NTC. SSG Dubose went and inspected some of the containers at the outlying FOBs. SPC Barnes and SPC Tsinnijinnie held down the fort while he was gone. Our supply team has been doing great and is making great strides towards getting us home.

The PSD under 2LT Enriquez have been busy as usual keeping our equipment and personnel safe on the road. They have been all over the place this month and are taking the Battalion Commander on his battlefield circulation.

3/76th has returned to the 76th with the exception of a squad headed up by SGT Loar to finish a few projects around KAF. Soon all of them will be back with their parent company. They have been with us for the whole deployment up until now. Thanks for the great job and we'll see ya when we get on the plane.

1227th and 538th have been busy with concrete missions down by the air strip. They have been improving the maintenance areas for the aviators. The aviators were so anxious to get out of the dirt they didn't even wait for the project to finish before putting their tents on the concrete. Lucky for them it was dry. SSG Smith has done a great job with his Soldiers and they are definitely making a big difference here on Kandahar.

The aid station has been keeping us all up to date with our seasonal flu shots and taking care that no one gets pneumonia after the big flood. Doc Wampler and SGT Plunkett are also leaning forward in the saddle to get our redeployment health screening squared away. Everyone is definitely on board with getting us home again in the easiest way possible.

Still the busiest bunch of folks is the S1. 1LT Smith and SSG Hall have been hard at work processing all the personnel issues. SPC Stringfellow and SGT Vega put in some long days taking care of people's awards and NCOERS. With so many people moving around when we get back there are a lot of things that need to happen. S1 has been doing a great job of keeping up on it.

CPT Miller, SSG Mills, SSG Stokes, and the S4 team have been working hard. The logistics requirements for the battalion haven't slowed down and with the additional task of tracking the redeployment the S4 section has been busy. CPT Miller and his team produce miracles everyday in order to keep the battalion running.

That's about it for us in the month of February. Happy Valentine's Day to all the families back home! Best wishes to all and try to stay warm!

Warrior 6 — CPT Wittmeier



Top Right: CPT Wittmeier drying his feet after the flood.



Bottom Right: SSG Dubose and PVT Blackwell working outside.



Left: SPC Barnes conducting supply actions in the HSC TOC.

Commander's Corner

Reinforcer Friends and Families:

I am proud to say that another month has come and your heroes have continued to do whatever is asked of them in order to keep the Battalion sustained and get the company redeployed. Your Soldiers have started packing up their respective early connex in order to have gear when they redeploy back in April. I would like to take the time to give LT Kim her due farewell. She has been a tremendous asset in her role as Platoon Leader for the Distribution Platoon. She even contributed as the acting Executive Officer for her last month with the Company. Thanks for everything and I wish you the best. I had the opportunity to promote now SPC Caudill and SPC Lockhart. They are two of the hardest working Soldiers in Maintenance and they truly make a difference in the Battalion's Engineer effort. SPC Brown, Nomi won Soldier of the Month during the Company Board and even earned her promotable status. SGT Rodriguez and SPC Lo were awarded the APFT Badge for physical training excellence. SSG Souza has brought needed leadership to the Headquarter Platoon in order to continue tracking all the logistics.

We have another two months before you will be able to hug and kiss your heroes when we hit ground back in Fort Knox. Know that your loved ones are truly counting down the days until they will be able to see you again. Continue your love, inspiration and dedication as your Soldiers truly need it. Know that they are making a difference everyday to make Afghanistan a better place to live in the future.

Reinforcer 6 — 1LT Bosch

Left: SGT Dawkins organizing a redeployment container

Right: CPL Amant escorting a host nation truck.

Bottom Right: SGT Heiman and SGT Combs loading essential supplies on a host nation truck.



SGT Heiman preparing for an upcoming convoy.



Commander's Corner

First of all I want to say congratulations to SGT Petrus and SPC Janka on their promotions. Also, SPC Bogacz went to the promotion board and is now promotable.

We are now well on our way with just a short time left on this continent. We are all anxious to get back to our loved ones as you all are looking forward to us returning safely. Morale is still high and everyone continues to push to the very last day. The teams on the outlying FOB's, including the KAF Team, are moving forward with their busy schedules. In addition, we've had a team hopping from FOB to FOB conducting surveys. At FOB Delaram, a berm and a RCC lay down yard was staked out for the Marines. At FOB Price, a drainage survey was the tasking. The KAF Team is currently engaged in a joint service venture with the FET (Air Force) conducting a survey of a residential area composed of US contractors and US Troops. At FOB Spin Boldak, much is going on. They are involved in a boundary extension, road stakeouts, LSA stakeouts and as built drawings. At FOB Ramrod, the team there continues with as built drawings, topographic surveys and stake-outs.

Everyone is doing a great job, and I am extremely proud of all of the guys.

Laser 6 — CW3 Johnson



Words from the Battle Desk

Dear Seahorse Family and Friends,

We hope that everyone had a wonderful February even with all the snow in Kentucky. The days are winding down here and the weather is warming up, but only after the largest rainstorm since the Battalion has been in Afghanistan. The Battalion staff is working diligently getting everyone prepared for redeployment. We are scheduling medical briefs, safety briefs, and an End-of-Tour Awards Ceremony prior to redeployment. We are expecting the 864th EN BN ADVON to arrive in Afghanistan mid-March and we will welcome them with open arms ready to share our experience and knowledge.

I want to make a correction the previous newsletter with the note concerning mail to your Soldier. Mail will not be destroyed if it is received after the February 28th, it is just not guaranteed to reach your Soldier before redeployment. All mail received after redeployment will be forwarded back to Fort Knox or to sender.



Here are a few key dates for family and friends:

- Battalion Golf Tournament — 13 May 2010
- Battalion Ball — 27 May 2010
- Block Leave — 28 May 2010 thru 20 June 2010
- Battalion Welcome Home Connection— 26-27 May 2010
- Flyer for Battalion Ball and Welcome Home Connection will be in next months news letter.

Left: From left to right CPT Miller, CPT Conrad, CPT Lively, SSG Stokes and 1LT Hug take a break from shopping at the bazaar for a group photo.



19th EN BN Primary Staff

BN Executive Officer
MAJ Daniel Segura



BN Operations Officer
MAJ Joseph Lehman



BN Adjutant
ILT Brandi Smith



BN Intelligence Officer
CPT Megan Conrad



BN Logistics Officer
CPT Troy Miller



BN Signal Officer
ILT Thomas Lopez



February is at a close now and our missions are beginning to wind down throughout the Battalion. Of course I do not have to tell you that our time here is growing shorter and shorter. You, our spouses, and family who are awaiting the return of their Soldier, have the calendar marked for the day(s) of our return. Many of you even have a mental count and if asked could recite the days, hours, and perhaps minutes of this deployment.

Here are a few tips for sanity while we anxiously cross off those remaining days on the calendar.

1. Pick up the phone: Keep all lines of communication open and constant!
2. Hold off on major problem solving: This is not yet the time to solve major conflicts in your marriage! The purpose of this deployment is not to achieve the Nobel Peace prize in your marriage or with the kids. There will be a time for that once we reunite. Keep problem solving down to a minimum (like who's going to sleep on what side of the bed).
3. Plan the return, together: Stop focusing on the fact that your soldier is not home NOW. Instead, plan the return with your Soldier. Make time for each other, for the kids, for the extended family and friends in that order. Perhaps this is the time to look at rearranging/replacing the bedroom furniture. Talk about what you want and what your Soldier wants and then make a plan. This will help the time go by faster.

Finally, look forward to the return and reunion. Keep the end of the race in sight and run for the prize. Our prayers are with you and we ask that you keep us in your prayers as well. Good bless and we will see you all soon.

Chaplain McDonald

Rear Detachment Commander's Corner — Alpha Company Gators

The Alpha Gator team is kicking it into high gear, working hard with the Families, 16th Cavalry Regiment, Fort Knox staff and agencies, and even the local community businesses in order to prepare for our Soldiers' return to Fort Knox. We remain motivated and focused on the mission of receiving the unit safely home, even if it calls for long hours; we want to get every detail right. In addition to this, we want to ensure our Soldiers here at Fort Knox reach fit to fight standards; a weapon's PMI, an M-16 range, and a company APFT are planned for next month.

Despite all the hard work we have made time to build esprit de corps within the detachment. Now with football season coming to a close, the Gators decided to initiate our first annual Ultimate Football Mud Bowl. No Soldier walked away without a little dirt on them to show their effort! Not to be out done to show their unit pride, a few of the spouses attended this year's Armor Ball. Mrs. Roscoe, Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Segura, Mrs. Gross, Mrs. Goodnite, Mrs. Lehman, Mrs. Hayman, and Mrs. Hudalla all represented the Seahorse Battalion well! To continue this motivational force a Soldier Day and Right Arm Night are in the planning for next month. Keep up the great work!

Gator 6 - CPT Amy Hutter



Right: Mud Bowl 2010

**19th Engineer Battalion
Kandahar, Afghanistan**



Seahorse Ladies at the Armor Ball 2010



Ami Lehman and Tina Gross presenting La Grange Elementary Volunteers with a plaque of appreciation.

Upcoming FRG Meetings:

HSC—March 23, 2010

1800-1930hrs

Battalion Classroom

FSC—March 11, 2010

1800-1930hrs

BN Conference Room

15th EN CO—March 11, 2010

1800-1930hrs

Battalion Classroom

76th EN CO—March 25, 2010

1800-1930hrs

Battalion Conference Room

502nd MRBC—March 11, 2010

1800-1930hrs

McDonald's in Radcliff

Steering Committee Meeting

March 04, 2010

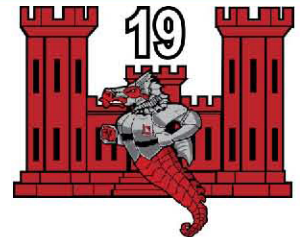
1800-1930hrs

BN Conference Room

Bake Sales

FSC March 01, 2010

HSC March 15, 2010





THE SEAHORSE STANDARD



First Platoon plus attachments from Support Platoon after completion of initial bridging operations