

19th Engineer Battalion Kandahar, Afghanistan

> Volume I, Issue V September 28, 2009



"Bridle and Reins—Stand Tall!"





The Commander's Column

Greetings Family and Friends! The weather here in Afghanistan finally seems to have broken for the better; our first day of being less than 100° F happened in early September and we have not crossed above that line since. The temperature is dropping rapidly and we actually dipped down into the 50s as a low a few nights ago. This is a great reprieve to all of your deployed Soldiers that work outside during the day on SEA-Huts, engineer equipment, maintenance and other necessary tasks to keep the battalion running. Late last month our higher headquarter changed from the 25th Naval Construction Regiment (NCR) to the 30th NCR, commanded by CAPT Kelly Schmader, and stationed out of Port Hueneme, California. They bring a wealth of combat and construction experience to the fight and we are excited to have them on the ground. As we enter into the 5th month of the deployment, I am still amazed at the motivation and great attitudes of the members were recognized in a Seahorse Soldiers. Conditions continue to improve each day at the outlying FOBs with respect to force protection, mail delivery, MWR support and life support. Your Soldiers are a major reason for these improvements as they con-

struct facilities and earthworks to support the infantry, aviation and other enablers on the team. This month we redeployed the 31st Engineer Concrete Detachment back to Fort Polk, Louisiana and received their replacement the 1227th Engineer Concrete Detachment from the South Carolina National Guard. The 31st did a great job supporting the battalion and passing on techniques that they had learned in Iraq, and I am confident that the 1227th will pick up right where the 31st left off. Also of great significance to our Fort Knox Families and the battalion, we received the 502nd Engineers. It was good to meet them at the airport and finally have the battalion all together again. The deuce has already jumped in with both feet and started working—they will be a great asset to the theater. I read in the Fort Knox Turret that many of our FRG leaders/ ceremony in August for their outstanding volunteer service to the unit. I want to personally thank you for your efforts; they are truly making a difference. FRGs - please keep those care packages coming...it is a very big



LTC Heath C. Roscoe 19th EN BN Commander

morale boost for the Soldiers to get a note or package from a loved one, friend or a caring American citizen. The Rear Detachment continues to impress me with training and pushing Soldiers and critical equipment to Afghanistan. They are also doing a great job with receiving our redeploying Soldiers and ensuring they are being well taken care of. To all of you, I am truly honored to be part of this great organization which certainly includes our FRGs - thank you for your service to our unit and to our great Nation.

BRIDLE & REINS!

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Soldiers of the 502nd arrive in Afghanistan, from left to right: PFC Hammond, PV2 Adame, SGT Green, SGT Hewitt, SGT McArthur, SPC Turner, SGT Frazier, PV2 Chase, SPC Epps Top Right: SFC Main









Command Sergeant Major







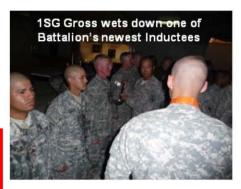
CSM Darrell L. Dixon
19th EN BN CSM

















Seahorse Families!!! The month of September has been full of sadness and history making. Sadness because we honored and remembered the fallen of September 11th 2001. History making because some of your love ones were inducted into the NCO Corps on September 11th. I've never been prouder of our NCO Corps, as when our nine individuals had their stripes wet by their 1SGs. If my eyes were not playing tricks on me, one of our 1SGs had tears in his eye, too include myself. Families, as I travel all across this theater, your Soldiers continue to improve the quality of living for the Incoming Forces. From the time we hit the ground, compared to now, their lives are three times better. As for our quality of life, it's getting better as well. We have five months under our belts and seven more to go. Our equipment and tools are here; this is really a morale booster for the Seahorse Battalion. With this major accomplishment behind us now, we are complete engineers again. Please know that I am proud of everyone of you back on the home front. Enjoy these photos from the month of September of some of your love ones. **Command Sergeant Major's Advice:** Please remember, our success over here is partially dependent on you back there. **Please** continue to write your Soldiers, send emails/cards, goodies, and constantly remind them of how much you support and appreciate what they are doing. This is MOTIVATION to the highest degree. **CSM's words of the month:** HONOR and PERSERVERANCE

Commander's Corner

We've finally made it to OEF. I'd like to thank the FRG and families for the great send off, and rear detachment for a smooth transition to theater. Your Soldiers are looking forward to being gainfully employed.

As we work toward getting everyone settled into our new environment, the Soldiers are staying busy with theater specific training designed to help them accomplish their mission. As many of you have heard, our company will be split between two bases over here; one platoon will operate out of Kandahar, and the rest of the company will relocate to Leatherneck. One of our top priorities is to get all the great support. Soldiers to their intended location before the end of September. The company will still retain the same reporting structure, so all company elements will still report through the 502nd.

The Arrival of the 502nd MRBC has been greatly anticipated over here. We've already scheduled three reconnaissance missions and four inventory missions. Like the rest of the BN, we'll be waiting a while to get our equipment, so full bridging missions won't be taking place for a month or so. However, since we're the first MRBC in theater, there is a lot of preliminary work that needs to be done. We'll need to get some level of control over the bridge assets, get bridge parks up and running, gather data on the current bridges in theater, and myriad other tasks. There is a lot of demand for our services over here, and the Soldiers are excited to apply their expertise to the fight. Keep us in your thoughts, and keep up the

CPT Stephen Lucas



SSG Gonzalez and PV2 Engilish before being rolled over in the MRAP trainer

Around the Company

It has been quite a month for Ist Platoon. Our departure from Ft. Knox was a sad farewell for all with neither Soldiers or family wanting to part ways. The trip to Kandahar was as smooth as air travel can be. We transferred from commercial to military in Tajikistan for the final leg into Afghanistan. When we stepped off the plane onto the Kandahar Airfield, a blast of heat hit us and we immediately began soaking in our own sweat with our full battle rattle on. The first week here was very calm and uneventful. Most took the opportunity to catch up on sleep, adapt to the heat, check out the MWR, and of course contact family and friends back home to let them know we had made it here successfully. Unfortunately, our time here has not been without issue. The entire company – I doubt a soul escaped - became ill with various bugs. Most had nasty colds including myself while others

were unable to keep anything down. Thankfully, despite how bleak it seemed, everyone has recovered. The dust here is pretty bad because of how dry it is, which leads to daily congestion for most. Other than all those medical problems, the platoon is fine. Right now we have to wait for our gear to arrive since it takes so much longer for it to send than it does to get us here - it is on a ship somewhere. Still, we keep busy with various training either the sergeants put together or company provides us. Word has come down that the Marines have projects lined up for us so we will definitely be busy. This place is not too bad and our permanent FOB should be getting better as we are there. However, it will never be home and in less than a year we will all be back. We miss you all and ask please send us your best - prayers, letters, and care packages.

2LT Sullivan 1st Platoon Leader



<u>Left:</u> SGT Shaffer, PV2 Stenke, SSG Bozeman, and SPC O'Niel enjoying the bus ride to **RSOI** training Right: SSG Coachman sitting in the hot seat of a 502nd MRAP

Friends and Families, since our departure from Fort Knox and the globetrotting that ensued thereafter, Second Platoon has been transitioning to life in Afghanistan and more specifically life here at Kandahar Airfield (KAF). Being that our platoon will remain here at KAF while the rest of the company pushes out to Camp Leatherneck, we have had the luxury of establishing ourselves here since our arrival. Now nearly a month into our deployment, we continue to train on theatre specific tasks while simultaneously inventorying over fifty conex's of Mabey Johnson Bridge components. We are also surveying prospective bridge parks where we will store, preassemble, and stage our bridges prior to missions. Being the first, and soon the only, bridge crewmembers at KAF much of our work over the next few months will be to assemble everything necessary at this location to successfully prepare and execute future bridge missions. In many ways, we are essentially starting from scratch. However, the higher echelons of the Army have already identified and tasked us with specific missions critical to the success of coalition forces in Afghanistan. As we spent the 8th Anniversary of 9/11 in the place where the attack on our nation was planned, it is obvious to all of us how critical our success is here. Please continue to support us throughout our deployment.



Commander's Corner

The 15th can now move on with the remainder of the horizontal projects. 3/15th has only a small amount of work at the ECP. 15th will focus on the BLAHA, sling load pad, and the retention ponds until they are complete. The cut and fill continues in the BLAHA as only HESCOs need to be placed and filled for the sling load pad.

BLADE 6 - CPT Rob Fairel





<u>Top Left:</u> PV2 Addison receives a free hair cut from SGT Mellott. <u>Top Right:</u> Soldiers from the 3/60th aking a break from the hot sun!

Around the Company

Soldiers of 1/76th continue to drive on building up the Engineer Compound. The facilities they are constructing will have many uses, daily operations, TV/game room, platoon operations, storage just to mention a few. They have also dug trenches for fiber optic cable to be emplaced for the hospital as well as us. The Company TOCs are slowing down for required manpower. However they have gone to outlying patrol bases to assist our brothers in arms with construction. They built showers, latrines and guard towers. They will start building tent pads out of wood here on the FOB.



All in all the Soldiers of 1st platoon are hanging tough. With the successful completion of the ECP minus beautification work EM will push on with their other projects. The earth work in the BLAHA will commence and be yet another project complete. 3rd platoon is multi tasking many projects. The HESCOs around the sling load pad has been finished and now they are left to fill them with a Bobcat, slow go. The retentions ponds continue to be dug to help trap the water shed we are going to incur this spring. EM has also sent Soldiers to surrounding bases to assist in construction of expansion and earth work. It is a dirty job and they continue to drive on sometimes working around the clock to complete their mission.

3/60th has come to a standstill with the 50' x 90' building due to the lack of electrical BOM. They continue to build and hang doors, and put trim up where they can in the building. However the Soldiers of 3rd platoon have constructed a heavy duty guard tower for the ECP, working around the specific requirements need for the tower. They have taken special pride and

dedication to construct furniture for our maneuver brothers. 3/60th is now building tent floor for the hospital unit, with specific requirements to meet on it as well. 3rd platoon has run a couple convoys to the rear to pick up material for projects, either to be completed or to start. On their return they even grabbed the mail for the company, Great Morale BOOSTER!!

Our Wrench Turners are well employed fixing the downed equipment and supporting the other units here as well. Maintenance has replaced engines, transmissions, and various other broken or worn out parts on the equipment. They continue to be the back bone of the company missions and support of the platoons. Our supply SGT continues to struggle to replace, order, and ship materials need here at the FOB. Being in a different location poses issues and obstacles for them to overcome. The process is slow but it works. Keep the orders coming!

Top's Text

The retention ponds have a lot of cut to meet the guidelines given to 3/15th. 3/60th and 1/76th continue to divide and conquer the vertical mission as they are tasked. They have built our company headquarters, and have started on the floors for the Field Hospital Unit here on Wolverine. When it is time for business the 15th Engineer Soldiers execute and when they have down time the play hard.

BLADE 7 - ISG Timothy Thompson

Above Left: Blade 6 promotes Blade WO. CW2 Hayman did a great job with Team Blade.

Below: SPC Bouren, PFC Hudson and SPC Kolbek put the roof on the 3rd TOC





Above: SPC Krause gets some sun on the guns while SSG Rapp contemplates his next move



Commander's Corner

Jungle Eater family and friends,

What a great month for the Jungle Eater team. We worked together to further improve FOB Frontenac, KAF, and FOB Wolverine. During this month at FOB Frontenac, the Jungle Eater team moved into CHUs, we erected our gym, and the Dining Facility and PX opened on the FOB. Also, six Soldiers were promoted this month. Congrats to SPC Vculek, SPC Amirault, SPC Griffin, SPC Johnson, PFC Deselle, and PFC Espinosa on their promotions.

This month, Ist Platoon emplaced four large concrete pads for the Strkyer Motorpool. This project provided the Soldiers with a great opportunity to learn how to emplace concrete. It was great to see many of the Soldiers fine tune their skills as the project

continued through out the month.

2nd platoon, 15th EN CO completed constructing the permanent burn pit and began construction on a landing strip. The landing strip project will be the lengthiest project for 2/15 to date. This project will greatly benefit the Soldiers in our area of operations. This great platoon's dedication will continue to shine as they construct the landing strip and future upcoming projects.

An exceptional job this month as 2^{nd} platoon constructed the Company TOCs for FOB Frontenac. Their solid work ethic and constant display of teamwork enabled 2^{nd} Platoon to demonstrate their knowledge and skills to all at FOB Frontenac.

3rd platoon continues to provide outstanding support on FOB Wolverine. Their unceasing effort continues to provide a positive impact on the Warfighting ability and quality of life for all units operating out of FOB Wolverine.

Headquarters section and PSD section remain constant in supporting the company no matter what the task. Specifically, PSD did an exceptional job this month ensuring the safety and security for all occupants at FOB Frontenac. Many of the PSD Soldiers started to learn Pashtu and gained great cultural awareness through daily interaction with the local populace. Headquarters section continued educating the NCOs of this company by instructing a class on leadership counseling.

As you can see, Team Jungle Eater continues to strive for excellence in all we do. The Soldiers in this great company are positively impacting the ability of US and NATO forces to win the "War On Terror." Thank you for your sup-

Regards,

Jungle Eater 6 - CPT Vanessa Stolzoff



Left: PFC Young (1st PLT) finishes concrete for the BN TOC generator pads

Right: PFC McClay (1st PLT) prepares the rebar for the motor pool concrete pads



Left: SPC Amirault (2nd PLT) nails in a brace for the trusses

<u>Center</u>: SPC Vculek(Maintenance) receives a handshake from the commander congratulating him on his promotion to SPC

<u>Right:</u> SPC Sarlitto (2/15) operates the grader with great skill and attention to detail as he prepares the ground in preparation for the motorpool pads.







Commander's Corner

Hello to the Warrior families out there.

HSC Inc. has been busy as ever getting the missions of the battalion completed. PSD has been keeping busy escorting the battalion commander around the battlefield and moving much needed equipment and supplies to our outlying FOBs. The 31st and 269th Detachments did a fantastic job on preparing the battalion motorpool/work area and we have actually begun moving all of our equipment into the motorpool. The 31st completed their 15 month deployment and we bid them a fond farewell when they departed for home. The 31st proved to be a great asset and it was a pleasure to be able to work with them for their last months of deployment. The 1227th National Guard from South Carolina picked up where the 31st left off and have already proven to be of great value. The 538th completed their support mission at Wolverine and have moved back to Kandahar. All of the detachments have been keeping busy helping us move all of our equipment into the new motorpool. They have also been hard at work constructing our new

company command post and battalion aid station. SFC Drayton has been spending long hours in the motorpool giving the detachments guidance on the construction projects. Everything is looking great and we can't wait for when we will finally be able to move into our new work area. The 655th has continued providing outstanding support to the Navy out at LEATHERNECK. They have taken the lead on numerous projects while the new Navy unit has moved in and established itself. The TOC is still keeping us all straight. They have been continuously improving our foxhole updating all the commo and fighting for us and our missions. The ALOC has been as busy as ever ensuring leave packets are good to go as the soldiers have been preparing for well deserved R&R. The new mailroom has worked out nicely and has remained busy sorting through all of the mail you have been sending. The packages and letters are a great morale booster so please keep it up. The TAC has moved out to Leatherneck and is preparing for supporting missions out in their new area. HSC Ops continues to be busy tracking and resourcing all of our detachments as they execute battalion missions. We continue to be busy and we have accomplished a lot to date. The soldiers are all doing a great job and continue to exceed

command expectations on a daily basis.

Thanks again for all the support from the Families and friends from back home. Without you guys supporting us this would be a lot harder on the Soldiers. Your Soldiers are doing great. They are executing their missions and contributing to the fight here in Afghanistan all across the country. We'll do everything we can to keep them safe and return them to you as soon as we are mission complete.

"Warriors First!"

Warrior 5—CPT Ryan Knott



Above: PFC Lee from 538th works on CO TOC while PFC Rivera watches.

Left: SPC Guptil checks a scope prior to a mission.

Conton: SPC Voga stands outside of the

<u>Center:</u> SPC Vega stands outside of the BN mailroom





Left: SGT
Carter and
PFC Hall
from PSD
swinging
hammers in
the new
motor pool.
Right: SGT
Turner
from 538th
assembling
furniture
for the new
BN TOC.



Commander's Corner

Friends and Family of 76th:

I hope by now that everyone has adjusted from the summer pace of entertaining the kids to the fall pace of juggling school schedules. We have also changed our pace a little here; with the Strykers fully integrated into life on the FOB, the pace of projects has slowed to a more manageable speed. Additionally, the weather is not so hot! Since our FOB has a low altitude (compared to Blade and JungleEater), we had the hottest summer. Out here at FOB Spin Buldak, the weather has cooled as...to the point that we shivered last week when we woke for some PT and it was 65 degrees!

Life support has continued to grow. 2nd Platoon helped get the PX container operational with some shelves and A/C as well as a mailroom for the FOB. The Stryker temporary MWR added AFN television to their DSN phones. They are still waiting on the SPAWAR system to show up. Later this month, there should be a barbershop, and the new DFAC will be up-and-running.

For Team Hammer, Headquarters spent the last two weeks setting up a tent and

building a new TOC so we can have better communications. This also enabled us to turn our old TOC into a company MWR with AFN. We have too many NCAA football fans in Team Hammer to let the season pass us by.

The platoons have been pressing forward at an incredible pace and making due with the limited resources that are inevitable halfway around the world. I/15th has been pushing hard on the joint project between SSG Flores of Blade I and SGT Martin of 2/76th of building out the new ECP. Every day for the last month dumps, dozers, and loaders moved dirt and gravel, and filled the Hescos to complete the ECP. Blade I has also built an ammo storage area for the FOB, an ammo point for the howitzers, a 300m road, and another motorpool. To paraphrase the Stryker chaplain, he is thankful for every pile gravel that I/15th spreads and compacts throughout the FOB.

The Strykers have also realized that 2/76th is full of smart guys and recently asked them to advise them on generator and FOB development at an outlying outpost. SGT Gerstemeier and ILT Disponett provided the technical advice on both issues. SGT Sheppard took charge of the electrical team on the 50'x90' SEA

-hut installing all the lights, A/C, and outlets for the Stryker TOC. And while the squads were completing the roof, ceiling, and intricate interior trim for the 50'x90', SGT Trimble steppedup as Safety NCO. The platoon is coming very close to finishing two major projects – the Stryker TOC, and the main ECP – and their teamwork with 1/15th is making life better daily at Spin B.

Maintenance is busy with the variety of the vehicles we now have. Hammer Maintenance has fixed MRAPs, loaders, dozers, and trucks in the last month to keep us going. Recently they started services to keep everything on a regular repair schedule. It is not unusual to see civilian contractors, local Afghani workers, and Strykers consulting our mechanics after breakfast.

The FRG is adding events to the calendar and gets current information from TSG Mejia and I. Team Hammer will be the first company to do a VTC with Ft. Knox on September 24th. Please stay in contact with the FRG so we can keep you informed!

STEEL HAMMER 6 - CPT Scott Williams



Above: ILT Wolgemuth congratulates SFC Walker, motor sergeant, in front of the Team Hammer TOC after his promotion to SFC on September 1st.

Below: ILT Disponett, 2/76th Platoon Leader, promotes PV2 Lopez and PV2 Clukey both to PFC during a company formation in the early morning.





<u>Above:</u> SPC Strebe of I/I5th and SPC Hamilton of Maintenance receive coins from the FOB Commander, LTC Clark. <u>Below</u>: SGT Gerstemeier and SGT Brand take a break together in the 50'x90' Stryker TOC while PVT O'Sullivan takes measurements (in background).



Commander's Corner

Reinforcer Friends & Families:

It has been another very productive month for the Reinforcers. Our conditions are steadily improving, as we continue to increase our capabilities to support the battalion. We have completed work on our company Command Post (CP), and have moved the majority of our equipment into our new and permanent motor pool. Both of which have drastically improved our efficiency and effectiveness.

We could not have accomplished all that we have without the tremen-

dous support of our Families and Friends. You have truly been an integral part of our mission success. Your sacrifices and support for us, and our unit has given us the capability to focus on the mission and tasks at hand.

As always, thank you for your continued support of your deployed Soldier and the company. I am truly proud to serve with each of you.

REINFORCERS!

Reinforcer 6 - CPT Matthew Brown



SPC Tillman poses with a local citizen

HQ PLT

The last month has been a busy one for the Soldiers of Headquarters Platoon, Forward Support Company. The platoon was given a series of tasks that they knew would be arduous given the small number of Soldiers within Headquarters. Despite those numbers, Sergeant Kinney assembled a small team and work began on building our new Command Post (CP) from the ground up. For several days, Sergeant Kinney, Private First Class Kannenberg, Specialist Chiupka, and Private McDuffy, as well as Soldiers from other platoons worked to complete the floor and walls of the CP project. At the beginning of September, however, Sergeant Kinney left theater for his midtour R&R leave, leaving Specialist Hall to take over the team in charge of the project. Within three days the project was completed; electricity had been run, furniture set up, and all of the Company effects transferred from the old temporary CP. During nights, Specialist Moseley and Specialist Chiupka (replacing Specialist Hall after Sergeant Kinney went on leave) maintained operation of the CP.

The workload that was constantly maintained by the Soldiers of FSC resulted in wear and tear of Army Combat Uniforms and desert boots. Soldiers with worn uniforms and boots were able to trade them in for new sets. With close to one hundred Soldiers in the company, Headquarters was grateful for the local issuing facility and their help in the numerous

direct exchanges (DX) the platoon was required to perform. Fortunately, towards the end of the past month, Sergeant Tomassi stepped in to fill Sergeant Kinney's shoes, temporarily replacing him as the Assistant Operations NCOIC. With Sergeant Tomassi and Specialist Hall coordinating the efforts of the Soldiers of Headquarters, any task that has arisen has been dealt with in a speedy and efficient manner

SPC Quentin Hall

SPC Chiupka running the Reinforcer Quarry



Maint. & Distro

The maintenance platoon, FSC, 19th EN BN has learned so much in the past month. SPC Mahaffey, SPC Green, SPC Rose and PFC Lockhart learned about construction when they helped construct the new FSC Command Post (CP). They not only helped with the construction, but they also helped install the generator and air conditioning units. The soldiers put a lot of hard work into the CP and it looks great in our new motor pool!

SGT Trevis has also been hard at work welding a new Guidon stand for outside the CP and he also constructed a part that we were unable to order which helped out the Battalion a great deal.
SPC Singletary and SGT Treves

trained SFC Williams on welding and cutting metal and now they can't keep her away from the welding trailer! Perhaps a MOS change is in her future?

SPC Martinez and PFC Caudill have been hard at work ordering and receiving parts all month. SPC Davis J., SPC Stewart T. and PFC Lockhart have stepped outside of their MOS's and have learned how to work on and repair concrete modules!

SGT Keedy and SPC York recently went out on our first recovery mission and have learned the roads of Afghanistan. PFC Mercier has learned how to replace an entire engine this month! Watch out Auto Zone! Good Job Maintenance! Your family members have been doing a great job and working extremely hard! They are the best Maintenance team in the Army!

Distro's current tasks are using their two assigned Engineers (SGT Jackson and Neiderheser) to help draw TPE (Theater Provided Equipment) from the TPE yard. These pieces of equipment are separated by Company and are sent out to their respective FOB via Jingle Truck. Some of the

equipment has crew systems on it, so Distro has begun Convoys with the PSD Platoon. They drove several LMTVs loaded with lumber and building materials out to one of the FOBs. The platoon is anticipating running more logistical convoys in order to push out the remaining



SPC Stewart getting his hands dirty keeping vehicles operational



72nd Survey & Design Detachment

As we move into our sixth month, the R&R rotations are in full swing. The guys are getting a well deserved vacation. We are still going strong on the FOBs. The Detachment has surveyed over 500 acres on the four locations, and designed many construction projects, with more still to come. Morale is still high, and everyone is looking forward to R&R and seeing their families.

"SURVEY AND DESTROY"

LASER 6 - CW2 Rodney Johnson



SPC Justice loaded up ready to go to his new FOB



SGT Galbreth outside of tent after promotion

Although all promotions are important, the promotion from Specialist to Sergeant is the most significant in the Enlisted Soldier's career. This is the time when one is no longer a Junior Enlisted Soldier, but joins the ranks of the Non-Commissioned Officer Corps. With this step in rank comes an awesome responsibility to one's self and to the Soldiers placed under the Sergeant.

This month, we have added a new Sergeant to the ranks of the Detachment. Congratulations to Sergeant Jan Galbreth. I know he is ready for the responsibilities, and will step up to the challenges faced by all Non-Commissioned Officers

SSG Jason Machen

FSC Maint. & Distro Continued

equipment for the other Companies.

Distro has been heavily engaged in Escort Missions. There has been an increasing amount of lingle trucks coming onto KAF. The platoon is responsible for receiving these trucks and loading them with vehicles, equipment, and supplies for the Companies in the outlying FOBs. They have an SSA team, which draws three Companies' supplies and loads them into containers in the Motor Pool. From there, when the platoon receives a jingle truck, they use forklifts and bobcats to load oils, lubricants, engine parts, and equipment. The ECP team is responsible for driving out to the two ECPs (Entry Control Points) to receive the jingle trucks and their drivers and deliver them to the SSA yard or Motor

Pool. Some of the trucks that receive vehicles or Engineer equipment are taken to a specific loading area where they use ramps to load up vehicles like Dump Trucks and Graders onto the back of the 40ft flatbeds and lowboys. Once a jingle is loaded with either a vehicle or supplies, the platoon processes the paperwork and sends the truck back out the gate. The truck then may take a few days to get to its destination, where the Companies download the equipment and use it for the Battalion's mission.

The platoon has now sent out three different fuel teams (SGT Delgado and Hughes, SGT Dawkins and Green, and SGT Ballad and Perez). These teams perform fuel operations for different FOBs to help support construction efforts. The platoon has also re-

SGT Mitchell and SPC Hughes getting ready to go on a mission



ceived more personnel to help with on KAF missions. Distro is heavily tasked with Battalion support missions other than the initial SSA pick ups and Escort Missions. They also help load and unload building materials for the Logistics shop; this to include receiving roofing material for the new Battalion TOC, also helping coordinating for loading and shipment for different Companies containers.

ILT Jo Kim & SFC Williams



I 9th 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 Megan Conrad



BN Logistics Officer CPT Troy Miller



BN Signal Officer ILT Thomas Lopez



Chaplain's Corner

As we close in on the half way mark of this deployment, I cannot help but think about the challenges that God has placed in each of our lives. The challenges have been physical and spiritual not only for the soldiers but also for our families and loved ones back home. Many have begun their Rest and Recuperation to reunite for a brief time before getting back in the game for the final half.

This final half will have its own hurdles to overcome. SPC Raymond and I travel frequently to visit all of the soldiers of our unit at the various locations throughout our area of operations. In our travels we experience the diverse living and working conditions that the soldiers must endure. Now that the heat is slowly giving way to cooler weather (slowly), we will soon have to

re-dimatize. Our companies have worked hard at building with new projects filling the queue. Routines shift gradually with the rotation of personnel and construction tasks.

Now, more than ever, we need support. We need the support of our loved ones - the letters, the videos, the pictures, the emails - and our loved ones need the support of their soldier just the same. We need the strength to endure the rest of the way. Continue to rely on each other with trust and hope, continue to rely on God in faith through prayer and personal reflection, and continue to rely on our leadership to carry us through to the end!

Bridle and Reins!

Chaplain Peter McDonald

Seahorse Showcase

<u>Co.</u> Name From <u>To</u> RAYFORD LEE **HSC** PV2 **PFC** RICARDO RIVERA **HSC PFC** SPC SFC **HSC** SSG **GERALD MARK** PV2 **BRENDON CAUDILL** FSC PVT DAVID LOCKHART **FSC PVT** PV2 MATTHEW HUGHES **FSC PFC** SPC **CLAUDE COMBS FSC** SPC SGT 15TH STEVEN BELLOVICH PV2 **PFC** 15^{TH} **PFC** RICHARD JEFFERSON SPC 15^{TH} CW₂ SPENCER HAYMAN WOI 76TH SFC LANCE WALKER SSG 60[™] PATRICK CRAWFORD PV2 **PFC** 60[™] PFC **JEREMY HERNANDEZ** PV2 60[™] PFC SPC CHRISTOPHER PEASE 60[™] **PFC** SPC **DERIC AMIRAULT** 60^{TH} **PFC** SPC WILLIAM CANTWELL 60[™] **PFC** SPC **GENE GRIFFIN** 60[™] **PFC** SPC GARY JOHNSON 60[™] **JULIUS JOHNSON PFC** SPC 60[™] PFC SPC JASON VCULEK 72ND CPL SGT JAN GALBREATH

Promotions











Family members waiting outside the VTC room. Left to Right: Jonathan, Jess, and Gloria Mejia; SSG Willy Leggett; Macy and Mandy Stokes; Lisa Williams

Alpha Company Gators

The remainder of August was consumed by the 502nd MRBC deployment. I want to personally thank all of the agencies and leaders on Fort Knox and in the community who made that event run as smoothly as possible. To the Families of the 502nd, thank you for your professionalism and dedication during the month of August. The 19th Engineer Battalion Rear Detachment is here to serve you and the other Families of the Seahorse Battalion.

In the upcoming months the FRGs and the Rear Detachment will provide the families with some extra opportunities to stay entertained and keep your mind away from missing your loved ones. Coming up we have the Spouses Appreciation Day and Trunk-or-Treat in October and numerous events to welcome the holiday season. I ask that you support these events if you can and spread the word to your friends. Thanks for all that you do!

Gator 6 - CPT Paul Turbe-

UPCOMING FRG MEETINGS:

Steering Committee: October 6th 502nd FRG: October 13th **Battalion Trunk-or-Treat:**

October 30th

SGT Gerstemeier speaks to his wife Jennifer and son Brayden through VTC



19th Engineer Battalion vFRG Website: www.armyfrg.org

Click on "register" or "log in" if you already have a user account to access the 19th EN BN FRG site. If logging in for the first time, create a user name and 🖕 password, you will need the last four of your sponsor's SSN. Locate our FRG by clicking on the state of KY on the map. Scroll down to Ft. Knox and click on the 19th EN BN link. This will take you to the site where information, pictures, and news will be posted once it becomes available. The Army FRG site also offers many tools and resources to family members back at home. Here are some additional helpful websites we encourage you to explore:

www.militaryonesource.com www.tricareonline.com

www.uasjobs.opm.org www. usa☆

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THE SEAHORSE STANDARD



