



# THE 18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT BATTALION'S Warhammer Times

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE 18TH CSSB

ISSUE 2

SEPTEMBER 2012

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Left: Gen. John Allen, the commander of the NATO International Security Assistance Forces learns how to create a Materiel Release Order (MRO) from Spc. Natalie Melvin of the 1462nd Transportation Company. MROs are the key part of shipping re-circulated items, to indicate the critical information to identify the item. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

# 18th CSSB Command Team

## Lt. Col. Michelle M.T. Letcher



Greetings to all members of the Warhammer Battalion and their Families!

Fall is upon us, well maybe not all of us as we continue to face blistering heat and desert-like condition here in Afghanistan. September brings more than cool weather and another month closer to redeployment; September is a month of remembrance and carries a theme- *Patriotism*. This is the month that Francis Scott Key wrote the National Anthem, it is the month that hosts Patriot Day and National Day of Service and Remembrance, and the third month of our headquarters serving as the mission command element for the CENTCOM Materiel Recovery Element and the month that B/113 returns to Kuwait. These are all historical moments, a day or moment in history that changed or is changing our future course.

The Star Spangled Banner was written almost 200 years ago during the War of 1812 (but really in 1814) by Francis Scott Key. It

was in the early dawn, after being bombarded that he saw the American flag still flying and was inspired to write "Defence of Fort McHenry", which he published in the *Patriot* on September 20<sup>th</sup>, 1814. He was inspired by the strength of US Forces.

On September 11<sup>th</sup>, I had the privilege and honor of attending the promotion and reenlistment of several Soldiers from B/427 BSB. This unit had members who were inside the World Trade Center on the day of the attack, this unit has members who were the first responders following the attack, and now today their Soldiers continue to serve and remain committed to fight for our freedoms. It was not only humbling but inspiring to see these young Soldiers, young Patriots, raise their right hands and reaffirm their commitment to our nation on Patriot Day.

As history continues to write itself, so does the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB as we complete our third month

deployed. Now the battalion here in Afghanistan has multiple units deploying and redeploying at different times. We are about to bid farewell to B/113 as they return to Kuwait and prepare for their redeployment back to North Carolina. Their service has been exceptional and their dedication to this mission has been the standard. I couldn't have been more proud to serve alongside these Patriots. We thank them and wish them well as they begin a new chapter of their unit's history.

In the end, we all have a history, are making history, and have the ability as Patriots to truly change history. It's Hammertime! We Forge Ahead!

WARHAMMER 6

Please join us on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/#!/18thCSSB>



## Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin

WARHAMMERS!

I have noticed that days having been flying by here in Afghanistan lately. As we go on with our daily business let us take the time to realize that one of our units is about to move on. We are about to say farewell and safe travels to the 113<sup>th</sup> who have done an exceptional job down in the retrosort yard and the overflow yard. This team came in and embraced the mission that they were given, and then made the yards a lot better. Great work 113<sup>th</sup>, you should be very proud of your accomplishments. Not long after



the 113<sup>th</sup> leaves we will also be saying farewell and safe travels to the 1462<sup>nd</sup> as well. They have done a tremendous job in Bagram and they too should be proud of their accomplishments.

This month I also have to recognize the WARHAMMER of the month and the NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer) of the Month, they are Spc. Ortiz and Sgt. Santiago. Both did an outstanding job. I would like to congratulate all participants for a job well done. Speaking of good Soldiers, I also got the privilege to be around when Lt. Col Letcher awarded Spc. Ruiz, from 1462nd an impact AAM for his work in Salerno.

Today we have an NCO (Non-Commissioned Officer Developmental Program), in reference to 9/11. Bravo, 427<sup>th</sup> is leading that forum today. Let us not forget what we are here for and may we never forget the tragedy of 9/11. Be safe, look after your battle buddies and always stay vigilant. WARHAMMER 7



(FROM LEFT) Spc. Alyssa Leggat from B/427<sup>th</sup> BSB of the New York National Guard, Spc. Bobby Ortiz of the HHC 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB, Command Sgt. Maj. Ian Griffin from the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB, Sgt. Miguel Santiago from the HHC, 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB and Sgt. Ronald Thomas of B/427<sup>th</sup> BSB. Spc. Ortiz won the Soldier of the Month board and Sgt. Santiago won the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Month board.

## The Commander of the International Security Assistance Force visits the Retrograde Yard in Bagram

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – NATO ISAF Commander, Gen. John Allen visited the Soldiers of the Bagram Airfield (BAF) Retrograde Sort (Retrosort) Yard on July 27th, 2012.

As the headquarters for the CENT-COM Materiel Recovery Element (CMRE), the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) provided the senior commander an overview of the most mature redistribution and retrograde operation in Afghanistan.

The 10th Sustainment Brigade established the yard in December 2011 and transitioned the responsibility to the 18th CSSB in June 2012.

Soldiers of the 10th Sustainment Brigade from Fort Drum, NY, the 18th CSSB of Grafenwohr, Germany, the 1462nd Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard and the 427th Brigade Support Battalion from the New York National Guard work together to execute the highest grossing Retrosort Yard in Afghanistan.

The Joint Sustainment Command-Afghanistan Commander, Brig. Gen. Kristin French recognized four Soldiers from three organizations and praised their efforts as “truly remarkable”.

The 18th CSSB Commander, Lt. Col Michelle Letcher, retrosort yard Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge, Master Sgt. Archie Belton and Platoon Sergeant, Sgt. 1st

**“We can all be hugely proud of the terrific work of so many of our young soldiers and their Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and officer leadership working 24/7 to clear the theater of our excess.”**



**Above:** Gen. John Allen is shown how items flow through the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard by Sgt. 1st Class Edward Dowd of the 427th Brigade Support Battalion. As the Non-Commissioned Officer In Charge of the Bagram Airfield Retrosort Yard, Sgt. 1st Class Dowd deals with the daily operations and flux of government materiel. (U.S. Army photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

Class Edward Down escorted Gen. Allen and his staff through the yard.

The general began his visit with an overview of the complete process and was followed by the journey of excess equipment. As the items or containers arrive to the retrosort yard, the Soldiers separate the items and process them for redistribution, retrograde, or disposal.

The ISAF Commander walked through the yard witnessing the disposal of vehicle engines, hazardous chemicals, welding cylinders, damaged weapons and training manuals.

The Soldiers of the 1462nd Transportation Company then demonstrated the opening, identification, and sorting of a container for the ISAF commander.

At the end of the tour, Gen. Allen praised the efforts of our service members. He recognized the Soldiers as good stewards of the nation’s resources and highlighted their efforts to “save the taxpayers’ dollars”. Additionally, he noted the visit as an “eye-watering experience” due to the high amount of sand and wind. The ISAF commander stated that, “we can all be hugely proud of the terrific work of so many of our young soldiers and their Senior Non-Commissioned Officer and officer leadership working 24/7 to clear the theater of our excess.”

18th CSSB, HQ and HQ Co.

# Warhammers in Bagram, Afghanistan

By Sgt 1st Class Kirby Cannon, Noncommissioned Officer In Charge, Bagram Airfield, HHC, 18th CSSB

Edited by 2nd Lt Henry Chan 18th CSSB, Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – On June 9, 2012 the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB FWD element arrived to a humid and dusty FOB not knowing what to expect or who to turn to for help, a team of 13 Soldiers were preparing themselves for one of the biggest missions they have ever faced.



Cpt. Christian Nomba

surrounding. I encourage everyone to utilize MWR and USO facilities to stay active, to grow their faith and to stay in touch with their love ones at home in Germany and/or the United States. I thank the volunteers of our beloved FRG family for the tremendous and unconditional support that they continue to provide to the deployed Soldiers and their families. The month of August 2012 has been very successful and rewarding for the

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“Soldiers were placed into positions outside of their previous experience, but excelled in almost every aspect.”



The mission required the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB) Bagram Airfield Logistics Task Force (BAF LTF) to manage redeployment logistics in the Regional Command-East, Regional Command-North and Regional Command-Capital in Afghanistan. The BAF LTF stayed in large 16-person military tents for three weeks. Living quarters were harsh. Soldiers fell asleep to high winds slapping tent flaps, F-18 afterburners and unreliable air conditioning. Despite so, Soldiers started doing vehicle roll-over drills

training and IED (Improvised Explosive Device). The BAF LTF was soon given a base location. At this old wooden structure, the BAF LTF soon met their counterpart subordinates, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard. The headquarters building required a lot of repairs. The building was a storage shack for other units. It was filled with broken desks, chairs, cabinets and miscellaneous office sup-

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Soldiers from the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB BAF conducting Improvised Explosive Devices (IED) and land mine training in Bagram. Soldiers learn of the different types of improvises explosive devices, how to identify certain land marks that could be camouflaging the devices and what procedures to take when they identify them. (US Army photo by 2nd Lt. Henry Chan 18th CSSB Public Affairs)

## The First Sergeant's Blurp



1st Sgt. Charles Odom

As another month pass by another begins, but not just any month. This month is a month to remember, to embrace, to cherish for this is why we (Soldiers) the sons and daughters of our great country are here in Afghanistan. September 11 marks an anniversary that no American will ever forget; it marks the day that tyranny fell upon New York and the people of the United States. As we fell victim to a group of extremist and their ideological ways, we are a nation made up of immigrant from all around the world prevailed and has taken the fight to them so this shall never be bestowed upon the weak or the poor. So I ask everybody who's eyes shall fall upon this scripture to take a moment of silence to remember those who perished that day and all those who made the greatest sacrifice thereafter for not for glory or hatred but for FREEDOM.

This has been a wonderful month filled with great achievements and surprises. The Soldiers in our Retro Sort Yards have turned the tides and shifted gears as they not only achieved the goals set by our higher but by surpassing them with astonishing results. Results as these never go un-

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## ISSUE 2

## 113th STB, Bravo Company

### 113th STB commander visits troops in Kandahar

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. David Bradford  
Unit Public Affairs Representative, Bravo Company  
113<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion  
Edited by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan  
18<sup>th</sup> CSSB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan- Lt. Col. Martin Peele, commander of the 113<sup>th</sup> Special Troops Battalion (STB) of the North Carolina National Guard and Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Michael Scott, the CSM of the 113<sup>th</sup> STB, visited Soldiers of the 113<sup>th</sup> STB on Tuesday, August 21<sup>st</sup> 2012. Lt. Col. Peele and Sgt. Maj. Scott traveled from Camp Arifjan Kuwait to Kandahar Air Field (KAF) with the battalion chaplain, Capt. Doug Windley, and Sgt. Herbert Wells of the BN S3 section.

*"It is a testament to your NCO leadership, your dedication, and hard work"*

*-Lt. Col. Martin Peele*



The 113<sup>th</sup> STB command group focused their trip on the Kandahar Airfield Retrograde Sort Yard (KAF RSY). Many of the 113<sup>th</sup> STB Soldiers work relentless hours in the KAF RSY under the 110 degree sun. Lt. Col. Peele first toured the "receiving yard", where Soldiers had cleared out hundreds of square meters of land space, processed out over 3,000 cardboard 45 cubic ft "triwall" containers, countless crates, and emptied out over 100 of the long 40ft shipping containers- all accomplished while still receiving excess retrograde materiel.

As the 113<sup>th</sup> commander met with his Soldiers at the KAF RSY, he exclaimed that, "it is a testament to your NCO leadership, your dedication, and hard work".

KAF RSY Day-Time Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Jeffery White, says that Sgt. Raymond James had come up with the masterful plan on getting this accomplished. Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class White stated that, "Sgt. James really deserves all the credit for this. I just gave him the support needed. I'm impressed".

The commander's visit continued onto the "main yard." Lt. Col. Peele further observed Soldiers conducting sorting, processing and customs packaging operations. Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Scott stated that he

## The Captain's Corner!

Dear 113<sup>th</sup> STB Soldiers, in less than two months we will be going home. Before we left North Carolina, I told you all that this deployment would be like no other deployment, well it has definitely lived up to that. For most of you this is your first deployment, you have seen a lot more than most other Soldiers in the 113<sup>th</sup> from Kuwait to Afghanistan, you have watched each other's back, comforted each other in loss, and



Cpt. James Jacobs

kept each other laughing.

We may have started out as Soldiers and but when we get home it will be as family.



(Above) Sgt. Raymond James receives a newly minted battalion coin from Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Scott for his outstanding planning and leadership in the Receiving Yard of the Kandahar Retrograde Operation.

"couldn't be any more proud of these soldiers," as he witnessed the daily toil.

As night fell, Lt. Col. Peele and

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## The First Sergeant's Blurp

### Duty.

As we wind down our time here in KAF (Kandahar Airfield) we need to reflect on why we serve and why we are here. It is so easy to say, "two more weeks and we are done." However, we are not done until we ETS. I am fond of saying "you are always somewhere." We cannot develop a short timer attitude. We are paid each day, have tax free status, and are getting hardship and combat extra pay. Our mission here in KAF was very specific, assist in The CMRE mission of returning

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1st Sgt. Ronald Grosvenor

## 427th BSB, Headquarters Company Exceptional Courage

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt Thai-Bao Ngo  
HHC 427<sup>th</sup> BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative  
and 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan  
18<sup>th</sup> CSSB Public Affairs Officer

BAGRAM, Afghanistan- Four members of the Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion (HHC 427<sup>th</sup> BSB) of the New York National Guard were awarded the Combat Action Badge (CAB) on Saturday, August 18<sup>th</sup> 2012.

The HHC 427<sup>th</sup> BSB is currently working under the operational command of the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion in Bagram, Afghanistan.

Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hugo Jimenez-Uribe, Sgt. Courtney



Cpt. Gregory Pforter

the first time. Base Closure Assistance Teams and Mobile Container Assistance Teams are still on track and meet their mission goals each month as well. The unit also supported the Four Corners mission from 03 Aug through 01 Sep 12 which facilitated the redeployment of personnel and equipment for the 1/82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne

HHC has experienced no injuries or  
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## The Captain's Corner!

Dear Families and Friends,

The month of August has passed and is archived in the history books. Headquarters and Headquarters Company (HHC) keeps plugging along adjusting and adapting to the mission at hand. All the Soldiers, regardless of the position or section that they are assigned or where they are located within the country, continue to have a positive impact on the mission. Soldiers are seeing results from their hard work and long hours especially in the Retro-Sort Yards (RSY). During the month of August, the Bagram RSY reached its monthly goal of processing at least 400 Twenty-foot Equivalent Units (TEUs) for



Lt. Col. Stephen Bousquet, battalion commander of the 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) of the New York National Guard, pins the "Combat Action Badge"(CAB) onto Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hugo Jimenez-Uribe for actions taken against hostile enemies at FOB Sharana in June 2012.

"I'm proud to see our guys running towards the explosion to help the fight when everyone else is running away."



Tenentes, Cpl. Egbert Rhoomes and Spc. Daniel Rothnell received the CAB from their Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Stephen Bousquet on a sunny day at the assembly area of the 10<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Brigade at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.

According to US Army regulations, the Combat Action Badge is, "given to any Soldier... who is personally present and actively engaging or being engaged by the enemy... in accordance with the prescribed rules of engagement."

The 427<sup>th</sup> soldiers are being awarded the CAB for their ac-

tions to repel an attack at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Salerno on June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2012 while performing logistical retrograde support operations under fire.

Insurgents used Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIEDs), or "car bombs", to breach the base perimeters. Enemy fighters then attacked the base dressed in camouflage uniforms, wielding small arms and wearing suicide vests.

"Soldiers were resting in their B-huts (temporary wooden houses), some were doing laundry, I was in

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## The First Sergeant's Blurp

Friends and Family,

At the Bagram Airfield (BAF) Retro Sort Yard (RSY), Staff Sgt. Williams, Cpl. Depape, Spc. Wise and Spc. Pratt received impact Army Achievement Medals from the 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Commander, Lt. Col. Letcher, for outstanding performance from 7th Aug through 31st August. Their efforts were instrumental and directly contributed to the BAF RSY processing over 400 Twenty-Foot Equivalent (TEUs) during this time period which is a major milestone.

Master Sgt. Lampkins, Sgt. 1st Class Shay, Sgt. Vandermeid, Spc. Sherman and Staff Sgt. Stickney conducted the Four Corners mission on BAF and finished on 03 Sep 12. This event facilitated the turn-in and redeployment of the 1-82<sup>nd</sup> Airborne Battalion. At FOB Sharana the RPAT leadership, Capt. Miles and Staff Sgt. Vanorden, along with the customs agents, Sgt. Andujar and Spc. Persons, are doing an outstanding job operating the third largest RPAT yard in Afghanistan. Meanwhile at FOB Salerno, 1st Lt. Leon and his RPAT crew are performing their duties and are often visited by distinguished guests almost on a regular basis.



1st Sgt. Robert Vergith

1st Sgt. Robert Vergith

427th BSB, Bravo Company

# Reorganization

By 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Jennifer Speeckaert  
 Executive Officer, B Company 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion  
 Edited by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan  
 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB Public Affairs

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – B Company, 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) arrived in Afghanistan four months ago, but the mission continues to change.

B Company was initially organized into six types of teams – Deployment/ Redeployment Operations (D/ROPS), Base Closure Assessment Teams (BCAT),



Cpt. Maurice Amaya

to start writing to you about our redeployment to the great state of New York. B 427 has initiated our 90 days out redeployment planning. Yes, 90 days, but with this said, I want and need all of the Soldiers of Bravo 427 to continue to stay focused and aware, because the mission

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*“I liked what I was doing at Phoenix, it was pretty cool, but its nice to come back and actually be with B Company”*

*-Spc. Ian Yannantuono,*

Customs and Agricultural Clearance Team (C&AC), Mobile Container Assessment and Accountability Team (MCAAT), Mobile Redistribution Team (MRT), and a headquarters element.

The mission was a simple and yet complex idea: reorganize and redistribute material from American military bases all over Afghanistan. The MCATs originated from two sister companies, B Company 427<sup>th</sup> BSB and Headquarters and Headquarters Company 427<sup>th</sup> BSB and were located all over Afghanistan.

B Company continues to field these teams, but requirements continue to change. Experience

has taught decision makers what works, but most importantly, what doesn't work.

The problem arose that in order to determine what bases needed MCAT assistance, someone had to assess the bases.

The BCATs were not synchronized MCATs. As a result, both the MCAT and BCAT teams were com-



(Left to right) Capt. Robert Etheridge from the 62<sup>nd</sup> Engineer Battalion, Military BCAT OIC Maj Edward Cappellano Officer-in-Charge of the Base Closure and Assistance Team (BCAT) and civilian BCAT Leader Mr. John Preston discuss movement plans at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Apache. (US Army photo by Staff Sgt. Timothy Lamagra)

*(Continued on page 16)*



1st Sgt. David Evans

## The First Sergeant's Blurp

The most dangerous time of deployment starts now. Soldiers are contemplating return to home and their families. While this may seem a pleasant thought it is also a distraction.

Let's face it crossing a road or motor pool on KAF can be dangerous. Soldiers need to remain focused on the tasks at hand, stay vigilant and keep an eye on their battle buddies. Going home safe and sound is the desired end state.

We have more organizational changes in the works. As the mission refines itself changes are required. The solutions that we help develop and implement here and now are setting the mission and follow on units for success. Take pride in the fact that you are doing that work.

All that being said Soldiers need to begin thinking of the tasks they need to complete in preparation to redeploy. There will be packing and turn ins that will need to be performed. Are you accountable for your personal gear? Are you tracking on the equipment that will be turned in at the mobilization site? Are you prepared?

## The Captain's Corner!

# 1462nd Transportation Company The Essence of the Yard

By Spc. Alicia E. Smith  
1462<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company, Michigan National Guard, Unit Public Affairs Representative  
Reviewed by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan

BAGRAM, Afghanistan- It is another hot day at the Bagram Airfield Retrograde Sort Yard (BAF RSY). Sweat beads roll down one's nose within seconds of walking under the Afghan sun. Yet Soldiers toil here day and night.

The BAF RSY takes all the excess materiel from US military installations in the Regional Commands-East, North and Capitol for re-issue and re-distribution. The yard determines the fate of materiel, whether it

*"...it's an enabler in bringing our Soldiers home...And our part we play is just a material part of it"*  
-1st Lt. Glenford Rose



Sgt. 1st Class Ray Ruzzin

goes to Kuwait, other parts of Afghanistan, the United States or for local disposal This mission proves to be a great and yet unpredictable task. The BAF RSY may receive nothing one day and multiple convoys the next day.

Forklifts, container handlers and Soldiers of all sizes, no matter the rank all file to and forth to process everything that comes through this yard.

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion (CSSB), based out of Grafenwoehr, Germany, the 1462nd Transportation Company

(TC) of the Michigan National Guard and the Headquarters and Headquarters Company of the 427th Brigade Support Battalion (BSB) of the New York National Guard are the driving force behind the BAF RSY.

With the strengthening Afghan National Security Forces, US re-deployment efforts rely on retrograde sort yards to deal with the logistical challenge of re-circulating US Military property.

The BAF RSY "Officer in Charge" (OIC) 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. Glenford Rose of the Headquarters and

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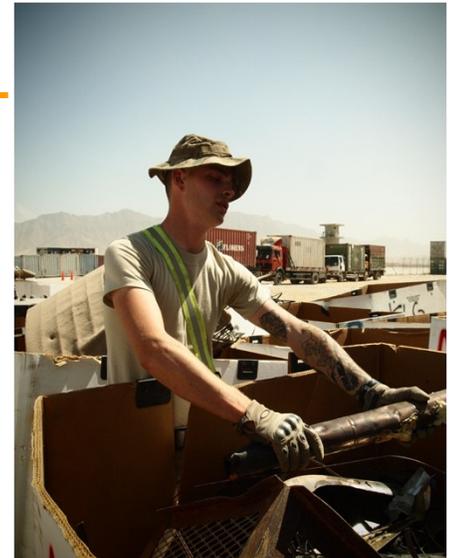
Dear Soldiers, Families and Friends,

Great things, these Soldiers have done. I could not be more proud of our Soldiers that did get a chance to further their career by going to the Warrior Leaders Course. Congratulations to our warrior, Sgt. Hodari Brown who made the Commandants list at Warrior Leadership Course. The 1462nd is full of great, smart, and professional Soldiers, and I firmly believe that every Soldier is important and vital to our mission. We had some distinguished visitors recognize just a few Soldiers. Though, I wish everyone could receive a coin, or award, unfortunately there is just not enough to do that. However, I do congratulate Spc. McGee, and Sgt. Cooley, who received Army Achievement Medals for their dedication to the mission from Col. David Jones, from the 113th Sustainment Brigade. Col. Jones came to visit the Retro Sort Yard operations, and visited our Soldiers in Camp Pratt. He was very pleased with everybody he got the chance to talk to, and was disappointed he could not stay longer. Also visiting our Soldiers here in Afghanistan was Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Bolduc for the 316th ESC. CSM Bolduc also received the chance to walk around and talk with the troops. He received some very good feedback from our

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1st Lt. Anthony Malenfant



Spc. Trevor Riddle from the 1462<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard processes a box full of vehicle parts in the bulk sorting area. (US Army photo by Spc. Alicia Smith, 1462<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company Public Affairs)

## The First Sergeant's Blurb

Hello from Afghanistan.

I don't always deploy, but when I do, I represent Dos Griffins. Soldiers of the Michigan National Guard are hard workers with great spirits. You all have made yourselves shine, and have shown the NCO support channel that you can do a great job. Command Sgt. Maj. Griffin, 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion and Command Sgt. Maj. Bolduc, 316<sup>th</sup> Sustainment Command (Expeditionary) were very impressed with how you're performing, and are working very hard to take care us. Even the Soldiers up in Camp Pratt, you Soldiers, I know are away from the main element, but you are doing a fantastic job up there. I was very pleased with my visit and getting to see your faces and all the improvements that you had made. I am working to find out a date of when I can expect your return with the main element, and when we all are going to close the book and say another mission complete. Thank you for your hard work Soldiers, and stay safe.

Sgt. 1st Class Ray Ruzzin  
First Sergeant

# 18 TH CSSB German War Graves 5K Fun Run/Walk BAGRAM AFGHANISTAN

**Date: 10/20/12**

**Time: 0530**

**Pre-register by: 10/20/12 at the Clam Shell Gym**

Entry fees:

•No Cost For Runners/Walkers

The run will begin at the Clam Shell Gym at 0530. Registration and sign up will be between 0500-0530 on 10/20/12. There will be two water points. One at the start point and one at the turnaround point.

For more information or to register call: 310-481-5607 or [lee.s.schroeder@afghan.swn.army.mil](mailto:lee.s.schroeder@afghan.swn.army.mil)

**Point of Contact: 1LT Schroeder, Lee**



**18TH COMBAT SUSTAINMENT  
SUPPORT BATTALION**



**GERMAN WAR GRAVES  
COMMISSION**

Run Bibs will be provided for participants

## Casualties, war graves, prisoner of war graves

Today, it looks after about "827 military cemeteries in 45 countries with about 2 million dead" and its work is carried out today by "almost 10,000 honorary and 536 full-time employees". Now that the Cold War is over, the Volksbund has access to Eastern Europe, where the bulk of World War II German casualties occurred. In the last few years, 190 World War I cemeteries and 300 World War II cemeteries in eastern, central and south-eastern Europe have been reconstructed or rebuilt. About 32 cemeteries are currently under construction or renovation and about 584,000 bodies have been buried in new graves. Germany and Croatia signed an agreement on German war graves in that country in 1996.

## Warhammers in Bagram, Afghanistan. (Continued)

*(Continued from page 4)*

plies.

Within 3 weeks, the team removed parts and repaired equipment. The “storage shack” transformed into a fully operational “Tactical Operations Center” (TOC).

A team of 13 Soldiers led by Major Pagan had the team ready for incoming units and supporting any issues that came to the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB BAF TOC.

It was made clear to the Soldiers in BAF that they would have very little time to prepare and train in their new duty positions and that failure was not an option. Soldiers were placed into positions outside of their previous experience, but excelled in almost every aspect.

Everyone was dedicated to the team and accomplished daily goals. Soldiers also worked in the BAF Retrograde Sort Yard to alleviate the personnel shortage. The Soldiers in BAF are part of a great organization and will support the retrograde mission to the best of their ability and help manage the retrograde drawdown in theater.



The Bagram LTF qualifies for the M4/M16 series weapon at the Bagram Airfield weapons range in August, 2012. At this point, the Bagram LTF is well situated. (US Army photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan, 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

## 113th STB Commander Visits Troops in Kandahar (Continued)

*(Continued from page 5)*

Sgt. Maj. Scott returned to the KAF RSY to see the soldiers assigned to the night shift.

“I am absolutely impressed with what you guys have done here”, Lt. Col. Peele said to his fellow comrades, “you can certainly hold your heads high and with dignity when you walk away from this mission. You have honored the 113<sup>th</sup> STB, North Carolina National Guard and more importantly, you have honored yourselves and your families.”

Lt. Col. Peele and Sgt. Maj. Scott continued to visit other members of the 113<sup>th</sup> STB working in different areas of Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



Soldiers from the 113th Special Troops Battalion of the North Carolina National Guard huddle up for prayer with Chaplain, Capt. Douglas Windley. 113th STB Soldiers welcomed their Chaplain from Camp Arifjan Kuwait to bring them encouragement and morale. (US Army Photo by 1st Lt. David Bradford, 113th Special Troops Battalion Public Affairs)

## Exceptional Courage (Continued)

*(Continued from page 6)*

the chow hall,” said Sgt. Tenentes, “the explosion threw tables and chairs in the air... we were on the ground.”

Spc. Daniel Rothwell was in his B-hut when the attack happened, “the explosions blew all the doors out,” Spc. Rothwell said, “I walked outdoors and found that the Spc. Ruiz and Spc. Clark’s Gator [small tactical vehicle] was flipped.” The three gathered their ammunition and quickly rushed to the scene.

The New York Guradsmen took up fighting positions and provided security around a bunker full of civilian contractors taking refuge. They engaged the enemy with direct fire at close range while receiving attacks from

automatic weapons, explosions from rocket propelled grenades, and enemy self detonation with suicide vests.

After an hour-long firefight, the members of the HHC 427<sup>th</sup> BSB and other US Soldiers repelled the attack, neutralizing all ten insurgents. Their efforts effectively stopped the enemy element from gaining traction within the base.

Footage from a security camera later revealed the actions of the HHC 427<sup>th</sup> BSB.

“It didn’t hit home until we saw this footage,” said 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Robert Vergith of HHC 427<sup>th</sup> BSB, “It’s awesome to see them back. I’m proud to see our guys running towards the explosion to help the fight when everyone else is running...”



(From left) Sgt. 1<sup>st</sup> Class Hugo Jimenez-Uribe, Sgt. Courtney Tenentes, Cpl. Egbert Rhoomes and Spc. Daniel Rothnell, from the 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard, stand ready to receive their “Combat Action Badge” (CAB) on Saturday August 18, 2012.

## The Essence of the Yard (Continued)

*(Continued from page 8)*

Headquarters Company 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard said that, “the retro-sort yard is one of those enablers of the war we are fighting”, he says, “it’s an enabler in bringing our Soldiers home...And our part we play is just a materiel part of it.”

“There are several others [retrograde sort-yards], KAF, DDII, Camp Pratt”, Lt. Rose said, “but BAF takes the majority. It’s a massive operation... We have to just execute this mission!”

Soldiers in the BAF RSY left their friends and families from all over the world to help our efforts in Afghanistan. They share the common goal of assisting the retrograde mission.

When asked if he likes his job here

in the BAF RSY, Spc. Trevor Riddle from the 1462<sup>nd</sup> TC simply states, “I miss my wife and daughter...” and he added, “but I love my Job & I love my Country!”

Sgt. Thomas Devine from the HHC 427<sup>th</sup> BSB simply said, “I love the fact that I’m serving my Country and I feel I am making a difference for the people of Afghanistan.”

It could be said that the essence of the BAF RSY are the Soldiers whom are serving daily in such harsh elements; Soldiers whom have taken their commitment to their Country and our People; Soldiers who have gone above and beyond to give everything they could to make the world a better place.



HHC 427<sup>th</sup> Brigade Support Battalion of the New York National Guard works on Materiel Release Orders (MROs). (US Army photo by Spc. Alicia Smith, 1462<sup>nd</sup> Transportation Company Public Affairs)

## HHC 427th BSB Captain's Corner (Continued)

(Continued from page 6)  
safety incidents over the course of the last 30 days and everyone remains in good health. Continued emphasis on safety by first line supervisors and leaders is paramount. I would like to thank all Soldiers and leaders for their hard work, dedication and effort to strive toward mission success and their continued emphasis regarding safety.

Three more Soldiers have been promoted since the last publication. Sgt. Richard Ralph was promoted at Bagram Airfield, Sgt. Petersen Dorsainvil was promoted at FOB Sharana and SGT Mark Yorrick was promoted at Camp Pratt. Promotion into the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) Corp should not be taken lightly or for granted. As NCO's they are expected to be proactive, take initiative and do what's right in the absence of guidance or supervision. These Soldiers have proven they are ready for the next step. It is always a privilege and honor to promote and recognize the accomplishments of well-deserving, young Soldiers.

## B 113th 1st Sergeant's Blurb (Continued)

(Continued from page 5)  
materials that the Americans Taxpayer have paid for. To that end each Task you should perform and assist in the accomplishment of that mission. If you are spending a lot of your time on personal things or staring at Facebook, then you are just one of the many on this post that are just marking time until it's time to move on to your next assignment. Most likely you will end up doing the same thing and your next assignment. Don't Be *That Soldier*. Be a good steward of tax dollars and end each day with the thought that you have earned your paycheck *and* are a value to the taxpayers and each other.

ISG Grosvenor

**Duty** is the sublimest word in the English language. – General Robert E. Lee

Sgt. Landon Haskins and Sgt. Jason Brockway extended their service to the New York Army National Guard last month by signing a 3-year and 6-year extension respectively. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to duty. Other activities depicted in the pictures and captions below include Combat Action Badge presentations for the Forward Operating Base Salerno event on 01 Jun 12, promotions, and Soldiers performing their day-to-day jobs. Also illustrated is the new Camp Pratt RSY that was transferred from Deh Dadi II over the course of the last month.

HHC is on the downward slope of the deployment and most are ready to return to Camp Shelby and begin the demobilization process but we are not there yet!! There is still no official change to the redeployment date. Your continued patience regarding this matter is very much appreciated.

"Hammer Down" HHC.

Capt Gregory Pforter

## 1462nd TC Capt's Corner (Cont'd)

(Continued from page 8)  
Soldiers about the mission, and some concerns. He was very impressed with everyone he talked to. He could not say anything but good things about the Soldiers of the 1462nd Transportation Company. Our current focus is redeployment back to Kuwait. Our hard work and dedication definitely shows in our results. With that being said, many don't want to let us go, and others want us to come back from Afghanistan. Whatever the outcome, I have faith that we will continue to do good things, and will be taken care of. The command team continues to press for the most recent, accurate information available about when the contractors will come in. The families and friends of Soldiers are definitely getting anxious to see their hero's again. As we push to find out more information of when we leave, no definite date has been released for our exit from theater. Keep calm and Soldier on!

1st Lt Anthony Malenfant

## The Morale Mill



## B 427th BSB Capt's Corner (Continued)

*(Continued from page 7)*

is only half way done. We cannot stop accomplishing our retrograde mission until the last day of Boots on Ground, safely and with 100 percent accountability. Further, I would like to acknowledge SGT Conception, SGT Taylor A and SGT Krytaf, as they have earned the promotion to E5, or better yet, they have earned the title of a Non-Commission Officer. All in all, as always I want everyone to remember to "Keep the Faith" and keep doing your mission safely.

Capt. Maurice Amaya

## HHC 18th CSSB 1SG's Blurb (Continued)

*(Continued from page 4)*

noticed as we have received numerous high profile visits to all of our Retro Sort Yards to include Maj. Gen. Kurt Stein, Commander of the 1<sup>st</sup> TSC, Brigadier General Kristin K. French, commander of the Joint Sustainment Command for Afghanistan (JSC-A), CSM Tobin (1<sup>st</sup> TSC), CSM Roberts (JSC-A) and CSM Taylor (593<sup>rd</sup> SB). But because not all achievements have such visibility does not make it any less special for during this month the company watched three of our Soldiers progress to the next rank; SGT Skilling, SPC Davis and SPC Thompson; SSG Guzman was recognized for his outstanding performance on his Physical Fitness Test by scoring a 322 on the extended scales and SGT Santiago and SPC Ortiz B but let's not forget those spe-

cial events that only arise once a year and gracefully turns our mortal souls but another year old, HAPPY Birthday: MAJ Pagan, CPT McGurk, ILT Nixon, SFC Cervantes, SPC Bennett, SPC Augustine, PFC Harmon and PFC Madison. Last but not least are our reenlistments; SSG Clement signed his reenlistment contract on the 30 August 2012 for six more years.

Lastly let me say Thanks to our Family Readiness Group for all they do for our families as we embark on this journey, for the light in the tunnel grows stronger as we put more time in our past and more predictability in our future.

**HEADHUNTERS: HEADS WILL ROLL!**

## HHC 18th CSSB Captain's Corner (Continued)

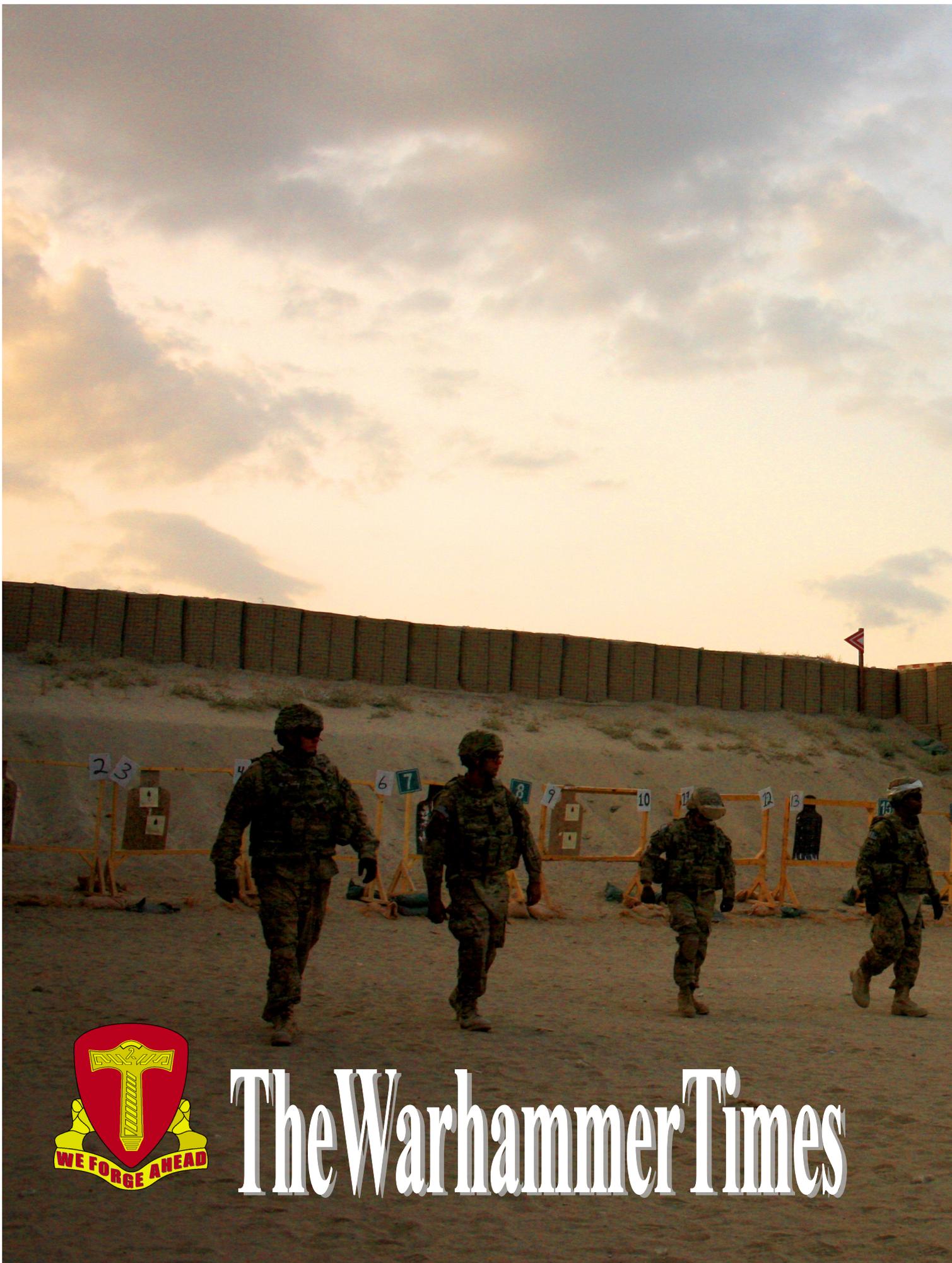
*(Continued from page 4)*

Soldiers deployed to Afghanistan to support our nation's war on terror under the Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF). Soldiers have worked very hard with determination and the conviction that no task is too hard for Soldiers of the 18<sup>th</sup> CSSB HHC. The three retrograde sort yards have immensely increased their productivity to the point of exceeding the weekly productivity target during the last two weeks of the month. It is a real joy and a great privilege to witness the resolve of our Soldiers to excel and literally set new highs in this unique wartime mission.

The Headhunters family will kick off this month with the preparation of a special barbecue event to show off the Bavarian traditional Oktober Fest that will remind the

Soldiers of the home station in Germany. It will be a great time and a good opportunity to relax. Soldiers continue to sign up and complete college courses to better themselves and prepare for the future; I want to send reiterate my support to the five Non-commissioned officers (NCO) who are preparing for a special professional board known as the Audi-Murphy Board, while I congratulate SGT Santiago and SPC Bobbi Ortiz for the display of excellence by winning respectively the NCO and the Soldier the quarter board ahead of Soldiers from four other companies. I want to send a "kudo" to the four Lieutenants who recently made the selection list for promotion to Captains: ILT (P) Jean-M Patry, ILT (P) Andrew Thornsley, ILT (P) David Ennis and ILT (P) Lee Schroeder. This month of September has also

seen the promotion of the following Soldiers with their new ranks: SPC Nikki Thompson, SPC Garrick Davis, and SGT Skilling; congratulations to all four Soldiers! During the month of September 12, our soldiers will continue to strive for excellence despite the fact that very few of them work in their traditional military occupation specialty (MOS). You should be proud of your Soldiers for the excellent job done so far. I know that Soldiers here are very proud of family members and friends who continue to provide the unconditional love and support that we need and cherish so dearly to continue to strive downrange. Happy Labor Day and may God continue to bless America!



# The Warhammer Times



Soldiers of the 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Bagram Logistics Task Force march back from their targets at the Bagram Airfield weapons range during an M4/M16 qualification day. (US Army photo by 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. Henry Chan, 18<sup>th</sup> Combat Sustainment Support Battalion Public Affairs)

## Reorganization (Continued)

*(Continued from page 7)*

bined into a slightly larger teams and relocated to different sectors of Afghanistan at the same time.

“I liked what I was doing at Phoenix, it was pretty cool, but its nice to come back and actually be with B Company” said Spc. Ian Yannantuono, a Soldier working directly for senior officers in BCAT 13. Spc. Charles Malican stated “It’s nice to be on Kandahar with [additional resources], instead of just a 3-man team.”

427<sup>th</sup> BSB Soldiers show great resiliency, and are eager to complete the mission. As the Afghan security forces continue transition, the needs and focuses of B Co will adapt and react to the needs of the units trying to transition the country smoothly, easily, and at the lowest cost to the US Government.

# Happppppy Birthday!

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Lt. Col. Michael Hannon</b><br>Sep. 3             | <b>Sgt. Michael Sargent</b><br>Sep. 19             |
| <b>Staff Sgt. Alicia Bryant</b><br>Sep. 3            | <b>1st Lt. David Ennis</b><br>Sep. 20              |
| <b>Spc. Simeon Taylor</b><br>Sep. 3                  | <b>Pfc. Nikki Thompson</b><br>Sep. 20              |
| <b>Sgt. 1st Class Charles Peuser</b><br>Sep. 7       | <b>Sgt. 1st Class Christopher Reese</b><br>Sep. 21 |
| <b>Pvt. Schaila Reyes</b><br>Sep. 7                  | <b>Sgt. Landon Haskins</b><br>Sep. 21              |
| <b>Sgt. Collin Rickson</b><br>Sep. 9                 | <b>Sgt 1st Class Lashawn Frazier</b><br>Sep. 22    |
| <b>Spc. David Frank</b><br>Sep. 11                   | <b>Sgt. Pedro Quinones</b><br>Sep. 22              |
| <b>Cpt. Timothy Neild</b><br>Sep. 12                 | <b>Spc. Rodrick Curtis</b><br>Sep. 24              |
| <b>Staff Sgt. Craig Thomas</b><br>Sep. 15            | <b>Maj. Todd Balog</b><br>Sep. 26                  |
| <b>Chief Warrant Officer Robert Lopez</b><br>Sep. 16 | <b>Spc. Bobby Ortiz</b><br>Sep. 27                 |
| <b>Sgt. Travis Snyder</b><br>Sep. 18                 | <b>Spc. David Smith</b><br>Sep. 28                 |
|  | <b>Sgt. Roberto Loreanzo</b><br>Sep. 30            |



KANDAHAR Afghanistan— A large vortex forms outside of the Kandahar Retrograde Sort Yard., Such vortex are strong, well-formed, and relatively long-lived whirlwind, ranging from a couple feet to more than 30 feet wide with varying heights. A swirling updraft under sunny conditions that picks up dust and small particles are the main ingredient to these vortex.  
(US Army photo by Spc. Isaac Adams, 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion, Public Affairs Specialist)

# Upcoming Events



## Army Ten-Miler Shadow Run



*Sign up on the Board walk  
Starting September 26th  
Mon, Wed, Fri  
1800 to 1930*

POC : SSG Joel Blackburn Jr.  
joel.blackburn@afghan.swa.army.mil

1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> place plaques for  
Men and Women Finishers

Register to Run  
Kandahar Air Base

The first 500 runners get a  
T-Shirt

Show up @0545  
Start time @0600

All Finisher's will receive a  
finisher medal

6 OCT 2012

Army Strong



Run Army

"I'm proud to have served with these guys. I couldn't imagine working with a better team." Sgt. Jonathan Dunn, B 113th Special Troops Battalion

Fueler turned supply clerk, Spc. Jeremiah Cortes would like to shout-out to: my son Lil Jerry and my mother Ada Cortes, and last but not least, all the families that have someone overseas. "Keep The Faith"

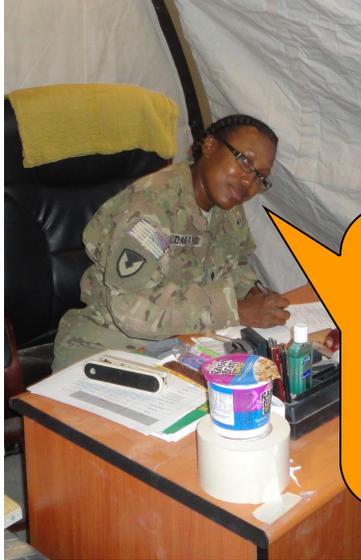


From Left to right, Specialist Timothy Poulus, Sergeant Jonathan Dunn, Specialist Oziel Pleitez, Sergeant Kevin Chandler, and Specialist David Wooten. At Camp Shark, Afghanistan





SPC Nikki Thompson, an 88H Cargo Specialist from Winston-Salem, NC, stationed out of Grafenwoehr Germany, "I just want to give a shout out to my daughter and parents letting you know that I love you and I will be home soon."



SpC. Elma Darmand of HHC, 427th BSB, from Tobyhanna PA, says to family and friends, "I miss you and can't wait to see you!"



"To my Kenzie... I love and miss you VERY much!! Can't wait to be home with you!!"

Sgt. George S. Conkey from Howell, Michigan of the 1462nd Transportation Company of the Michigan National Guard operates a Rough Terrain Container Handler.

## Team Pratt

Team Pratt is having fun without the sun. After a very hot summer temperatures are cooling off and there are finally clouds in the sky. The team has been enjoying the cool weather by having a weekly horse shoe tournament. Staff Sgt. Guyette and Chief Warrant Officer Renwick are the undefeated champions but there is a lot of competition. The team is also preparing for a very rainy and cool winter and is ensuring they have all the gear they need.

An MWR (Morale, Welfare and Recreation) tent is now set up in Camp Pratt. You can expect your love ones to call home from 3:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Eastern time due to the hours of the MWR.

Everyone talks about home and particularly how much we miss family foods. We miss you guys!!

"Don't forget to feed my cats!" says SpC. Julia McCleod from Brighton, Michigan. SpC. McCleod is a Motor Transportation Specialist from the 1462nd Transportation Company is a sorter at the Camp Pratt Retrograde Sort Yard.

"Babe, Wish I could be there, but mission first." says Sgt. Philip Saccenco from HHC/427th BSB. Sgt. Saccenco is a Cavalry Scout from Syracuse, New York working as a processor at the Camp Pratt Retrograde Sort Yard.



# The Warhammer Times

## The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion



**Website:**



<http://www.eur.army.mil/21tsc/16sb/18cssb/index.html>

**Facebook:**

[www.facebook.com/18thCSSB](http://www.facebook.com/18thCSSB)

**E-mail:**

[18thCSSB@googlemail.com](mailto:18thCSSB@googlemail.com)

**Mission Statement:**

The 18th Combat Sustainment Support Battalion rapidly, and safely, deploys worldwide, providing expeditionary logistics; command and control over the full spectrum of sustainment operations as part of a Battalion, or Theater Sustainment Command operation as directed; on order support of U.S. Army Europe deployment and redeployment operations.

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HHC 18th CSSB Unit Public Affairs Representative ..... **Spc. Andrew Bohn**

B 427th BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative ..... **Pfc. Brandon McMullen**

HHC 427th BSB Unit Public Affairs Representative ..... **1st Lt. Ngo Thai Bao**

1462nd TC Unit Public Affairs Representative ..... **Spc. Alicia Smith**

B 113th STB Unit Public Affairs Representative ..... **1st Lt. David Bradford**