



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



Outstanding "Service to the Line" Continues...

Derek S. Smith

LTC, OD, Commanding

Tropic Lightning, soldiers and families! As the calendar days tick by, we are growing busier and busier throughout Afghanistan. Our missions are expanding, our soldiers are becoming busier each day, and we are enjoying ourselves more and more. This past month we have increased soldier and service support to many areas outside of our area of responsibility, including missions supporting the local Provincial Reconstruction Teams, maintenance support to Special Operations forces, and much more. We also continue to support a Forward Operating Base in Ghazni with a revolving maintenance team that fixes everything from vehicles and radios to Howitzers. With 725 providing logistical support in Kandahar, K2, Salerno, Mazar-E-Sharif and Bagram, there isn't a unit in the coalition that doesn't benefit from our soldier's hard work each day.



In other news, May was Asian-Pacific American Heritage Month. Here at Bagram, we threw a luau to honor the influence that Asian-Americans have brought to Hawaii. I can certainly say that we all had lots of fun. 6 soldiers performed many different Polynesian dances, and some sang Hawaiian songs. We also enjoyed a great Asian buffet in our MWR center, and relaxed to the sounds of Hawaiian music at the end of the night. Our Korean and Polish coalition partners also enjoyed our event, and we look forward to inviting them to others in the future!

As we close our fourth month in Afghanistan, some of the soldiers who arrived early February have already had the chance to take R/R leave. Commanders are working hard to let soldiers take advantage of the opportunity, as long as the mission is still accomplished here in country. As our work continues, some soldiers may have to be flexible about their leave times; we simply ask your patience.

In the meantime, we have some great opportunities to keep your families closer together. We have scheduled a block of time in our Video Teleconference Room here in Bagram, and we will be able to link in with our soldiers' families back at Schofield Barracks. If we are successful, we will look to expand this to Kandahar and to the home stations of our soldiers from other posts. I hope that you will all give this a try and "see" your loved ones back at home!

Many of our soldiers continue to dedicate themselves to our Humanitarian Assistance Program, with the help of all your generous donations. Some of our soldiers have been receiving care packages from the rear that include donations of school supplies, used shoes, and more. We will continue to donate these items to those children in need around Bagram, and both they and I appreciate your continued support.



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



Speaking of dedicated soldiers, I want to recognize some soldiers that we depend on daily here at Bagram to ensure our safety and maintain discipline within our areas of responsibility- our Guard Force. They have been doing an outstanding job of ensuring our Force Protection and keeping our interactions with the local nationals safe and efficient. These are the soldiers that guard our supplies and most importantly, soldiers. They are a professional group of soldiers from each company in 725 MSB that has come together with amazing results!

In other news, the LTF 725 will soon have a new coin! We decided to capture both the spirit of aloha and the deployed warrior spirit here in Afghanistan on one coin- I think you will enjoy it. As I visit our soldiers around our camps, I will be sure to give them out to the hardest working soldiers I see.

I know that as we all become experts about our areas of responsibility, and I encourage everyone to stay vigilant about Force Protection, standards and discipline. With our NCOs enforcing all of these, we will make sure that our mission continues to go smoothly, and that we all make it home safely. Service to the Line!



HQ/A supports the fight at Kandahar Airfield

By CPT Rob Soltis

Aloha from Kandahar Airfield (KAF), Afghanistan where the pu pus are Power Bars, and the Mauka showers are non-existent. Many family members have read all about the great things 725 soldiers are doing in Bagram, now it's time for Kandahar's debut. The 138 soldiers that make up Team Ohana LTF (-) in KAF are from HQ&A, Bravo, Charlie and Delta Companies, 725 Main Support Battalion (MSB). The workload is tremendous and the experience, dedication, sense of pride, and teamwork exuded is un-comparable. The 725th Main Support Battalion is the backbone and foundation for the 3rd Brigade Combat Team (BCT). Team Ohana LTF (-) maintains the momentum of the brigade by supplying fuel, water, rations, supplies, and construction material; maintenance support for all vehicles, weapons, electronic equipment and missile systems; medical care via Optometry, Mental Health and Preventative Medicine; and finally troop transport and equipment haul. I know everyone is more interested in seeing their loved ones at work instead of reading a lot of commentary, therefore I will let the photos tell the stories with the help of some small captions.



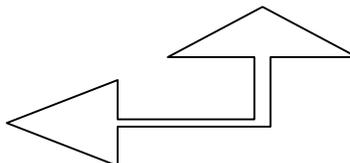
725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

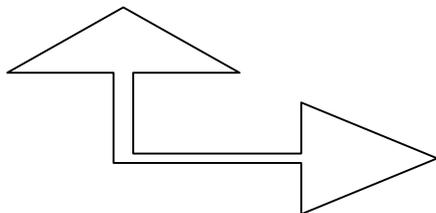
Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



On the road, the Delta Dawgs are all business. Outside of the cab, they find time to share some laughs with LTC Smith, while maintaining their combat readiness.



PV2 Terry, as always, working extremely hard to maintain the operational readiness of the Reverse Osmosis Water Purification Unit (ROWPU) that purifies KAF's drinking water.



(above from left to right) Fuelers PFC Colbath and PFC Morris cross-train with the Water Dawgs by filling up a 3,000 gal water bag for one of eleven daily distribution pushes



(above from left to right) SGT Acevedo, SSG Bonus and SGT Molina take a break from day-to-day warehouse operations to drink a Gatorade and throw out a "shaka".



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



(above from left to right) When not repairing the Brigade's missile equipment, MSG Teats, SGT Fox, SSG Pope and SGT Steed-Ingram build their shop's office. This is one of the many on-going "area improvement" projects soldiers undertake in their "downtime".



(above) Preventive Medicine SGT Grovner analyzes one of the many 4" spiders also calling Kandahar home.



(above) Optometry's PV2 Lawrence assists a 3rd Brigade patient

I hope these photos provide a little insight into our day-to-day operations here in Kandahar. Even though the workload and weather remains extremely high, our morale, sense of pride, teamwork and devotion grows daily. We would all like to wish our loved ones a belated Happy Memorial Day and a Happy Father's Day! The Officers, NCOs and lower enlisted of Team Ohana LTF (-) all send our love! Keep the surfboards waxed and the pu pus warm.



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



LTF 725 welcomes a new Ammunition Company

By SSG Charles Briddick
221st Ordnance Company
BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan



Members of the 221st Ordnance Company (Army Reserves) arrived in Afghanistan about a month ago, with high expectations and mission focus. The unit is just the newest addition to the Logistical Task Force 725, and is being utilized in multiple locations to provide customer support and distribution of ammunition within the Combined Joint Operations Area. The transfer of authority of the ASP took place 5 May 2004, with CW2 Rodney Bearman taking over as the Ammunition Supply Point Accountable officer. The OIC is CW2 Madeline Lothamer, and the NCOIC is SFC Jerald Frost. "The last month has been a challenging transition with units coming and going home", according to OIC CW2 Lothamer. "The soldiers have kept up with the workload and are instrumental in the improvements needed at the ASP to handle increased workloads." One of the many true challenges during transition with the outgoing 395th OD Co was the additional duty of serving as Military Police augmentees for Entry Control Point guard force. It gave the unit a sense of what is on the outside of the wire." said CPT James Carmichael, Company Commander. "That's just one of the additional challenges that have welcomed us to Bagram and to Afghanistan". With such highly motivated "citizen soldiers", CPT Carmichael says that the company will achieve mission success in the next year!





725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



Four months down!

Dawn D. Hayman

CPT, TC, Commanding

Aloha, Ohana and Friends,

As of today we have been here in Bagram for 111 days, and many changes have taken place. One of the biggest changes is our First Sergeant, 1SG Green, has officially taken over as the LTF 725 Command Sergeant Major. 1SG Canteen is officially the new Delta Company 1SG. Although goodbyes to 1SG Green were bittersweet, he is not far from us. We were thankful to have him as long as we did. 1SG Canteen came into the company in his usual fashion of "Go big, go hard, or go home." We are all excited and honored to have him as our 1SG, and wait with anticipation of what the future will bring.



Our company has also grown since my last newsletter; we gained 7 new rigger soldiers, 3 new maintenance soldiers, a new class IV Accountable officer, and a new supply sergeant. We have been busy integrating them into our team and they are doing fabulous. I am impressed daily by our soldiers' abilities and dedication.

The Army has also retained some great American soldiers recently. We have reenlisted 4 soldiers to date; SSG Lane, SGT Fox, SPC Fleshman and SPC Vidal. I couldn't be more pleased to know that these fine NCOs and soldiers will be sticking around a bit longer.

Promotions have also been occurring quite quickly here. SGT Fox, SGT Moser and SGT Nicasio have joined the long, proud line of the NCO corps. It gives us all a feeling of security knowing tomorrow's Army will be lead and trained by the best.

So far we have pushed out 2 groups of soldiers on R/R leave, and will continue to do so as long as the mission allows. I understand how important the leave time is to the soldiers and their families. I can assure all of you, I have been working diligently on the plan to rotate as many soldiers as I can out on leave. However, the specific dates must remain flexible in order to do that. In good news, I realize that many of you may see some changes in your soldier when he/she arrive home on leave! We have a new gym that we have all been using, and soldiers have been testing each piece of equipment every morning and some evenings. You may notice bigger muscles or leaner thighs, and some may even have a SIX pack!

Last Sunday we celebrated Asian Pacific month with a performance by our very own soldiers. SPC Matautia and SGT Orden sang 3 beautiful songs as well as one they wrote on their own. Then some traditional Polynesian dances were performed by SPC Matutia, SGT Orden, SGT Key, SGT Conner, PFC Diaz, PFC Samita, MSG Faniel, and SPC Falautusi. PFC Samita's Tahitian hip shaking was a definite crowd pleaser. In fact, we have all signed up for lessons!



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



Again, thank you all for your continued support. The terrific care packages you have been sending are making the soldiers extremely happy (especially the ones with cookies in them). I wish you all health and peace.

Chaplain's Corner

It is important for soldiers to stay spiritually fit whether they are deployed or not. For families that keep the home fires burning, it is also equally important. A strong faith gives one hope and keeps them focused on the big picture as they strive to live up to their commitment to God and others.

Here in the LTF, we have a number of activities for our soldiers to keep them spiritually focused and fit. Of course there are numerous worship services that reach out to many communities of faith, but there is much more going on. Small study groups have sprung up all over Bagram and LTF 725 as well.

Currently we have 3 study groups being sponsored by the camp. Two are all-male groups, and one all female group both address spiritual issues unique to each of the sexes. The title of the studies are, "Every Man's Battle" and "Every Woman's Battle", which focus on how to scripturally deal with sexual temptation. Our own 1LT Jennie Wunderlich is leading up the women's group while I am leading the men's. The 8 week study has been a blessing to everyone involved.

Our third group is a Bible Study being headed up by SGT Fowler. As a leader in our guard force, he had set up a study that meets the needs of our soldiers working there who have varied schedules. His excellent study has challenged and strengthened many of our great soldiers.

Wherever you are at, I encourage you to make the most of this deployment and improve yourself spiritually. The dividends of growing closer to God are huge especially when we are going through the challenges of a combat deployment. Together with my assistant PFC Byrd, we are committed to the spiritual care of your loved ones here. Please continue to pray for our 725 Ohana, and we will be praying for you!

God Bless,
CH Crossfield



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



Conserving the Fighting Strength

CPT Joseph Narvaez

Charlie Company Commanding

Greetings one and all,

It's been almost two months since we arrived in theater, and I can honestly say that we are starting to feel at home here. Due to the fact that we, as a company, are scattered throughout the country of Afghanistan, I am finding it more and more difficult to get personal feedback from each of your soldiers. So I am leaning on my Lieutenants to provide me soldier updates. However, I will begin visiting all the soldiers on a regular basis very soon. As you continue to read this you will realize that Charlie Rock is truly making a difference here. The following section is a direct quote from 2LT Miller on the soldiers in Camp Stronghold Freedom at Karshi-Khanabad (a.k.a. K2). I think you all will enjoy it:

"The sun comes up, the fighter jets soar above, and some of us crawl out of our beds while others are just crawling in. It is another day at Camp Stronghold Freedom in K2. Charlie Company 725 Main Support Battalion works day and night to man the hospital. As dayshift comes in to relieve the nightshift, sick call begins and soldiers file in for their aches and pains. We run two sick calls, morning and evening, Monday through Saturday. Sunday is our more lax day of just one sick call, and a bit of personal time.

Each day mirrors the next, and we find another week, or month, has already passed us by. The soldiers are taking every opportunity they have to broaden their minds, enhance their knowledge, and practice their skills. When taking over the hospital, SSG Mansfield's organizational habits immediately kicked in. He had the hospital reorganized and cleaned before we knew it. Of course the dust blankets everything within days and we clean it once again, but it is this kind of work that teaches us to respect ourselves and the area we work in.

The soldiers have been busy taking care of patients as well as furthering their own education. On any given day SPC McMahon and PFC Zephier can be found doing correspondence courses over the internet, or SPC Benavente and PFC Bach could be over at the airfield covering jumps. MAJ Carroll and LT Sheets have been busy with sick call.

They have been getting a lot of help from the "providers", and have been having a great time showing medics such as SPC Niwa and SPC Brennan how to take care of various medical conditions. SPC Brotherston did a great job stitching up the back of an Airman last week.

One of the most important jobs, but sometimes thankless is the laundry detail. SPC Bull, SPC Ingram, and SGT Abdelwahed not only manage the supplies for the entire theater but twice a week they collect our laundry, take it to the laundry ladies and then pick it up and return it to us later that day. We would be hurting without them, not to mention really smelly.

Everyone has remained busy. PFC Rein and SGT Mooe get called into the hospital at all hours of the day and night to perform x-rays, run labs and give out medications. LTC Brewer and SPC Valenzuela are tending to all dental needs for the entire camp. Our mission would be very difficult to do well without all of them.

It is amazing the amount of people who do care and do want to be a part of Operation Enduring Freedom. We want to thank all of you for being so patient, caring, and loving of what we do each and every day. But most of all, we want to thank you for what you do and what you sacrifice, to support us."



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



The following update hails from 2LT Chabot, Ambulance Platoon Leader:

Soldiers from Charlie Company, 725th Main Support Battalion have integrated themselves actively in the Bagram way of life on 28 April 2004. They started off with two weeks of working along side their counterparts, learning their duties expected of them over the next year. Then it was time to say goodbye to Task Force 44th MED and forge paths of their own.

Treatment soldiers have been assigned to two main areas. PFC Adrian Neal, PFC Kenneth Crisostomo, and PV2 Christopher Casey work with the 450th Military Police. Their main mission is to care for Local Nationals. These soldiers have the responsibility of ensuring these personnel have proper medical care, which include pulling sick call and administering medications.

SGT Andrew Burnette and SPC Timothy Laynor have been assigned to Kabul, the capital of Afghanistan. They have the responsibility of assessing and planning the opening of a new clinic in that area to provide medical care to soldiers and people in the surrounding area.

Evacuation soldiers, 2LT Lisa Chabot, SFC James Brown, SGT Jaime Davalos, SGT Shamica Mallory, SGT Baltazar Perales, SGT Guadalupe Ramos, SGT April Simmons, SGT Robert Hatch, SPC Jason Behel, SPC Micah Boyd, SPC Chaffee Cohen, SPC Gary Nelson, PFC Iosefo Tupua, PFC Willie Walden, and PFC Steven Wiechert, support Task Force 325 Combat Support Hospital and are responsible for the transport of patients (American Forces, Coalition Forces, and Local Nationals) as well as guardians that accompany Local National (LN) minors and females within the Bagram Air Field area of operations. In addition, they perform daily vehicle/equipment maintenance and provide personnel for Camp Lacy compound duties.

LTC John Farley has also integrated with Task Force 325 Combat Support Hospital and is waiting to perform his duties as the gynecologist. His clinic should be finished within this week and in the meantime, he has been working sick call with the 450th Military Police. His assistant, SSG Alma Alexander, will be helping him with patient care.

The soldiers have effectively picked up where the soldiers before them have left off. They have been able to accept the tasks at hand and perform the duties of the combat medics they trained to be.



725th Main Support Battalion

Quarterly Newsletter

Volume 2, Dated 30 June 2004



As for the soldiers in Salerno???? I can only say that it is a little more "rustic" here. However, the soldiers are continually raising the bar in Combat Health Service and they all have a high sense of job satisfaction. 2LT Gallagher, SPC Boyce, PFC Fonneman, , SGT Shanks, SGT Trevino, and SFC Valentine all deployed to Salerno Firebase on May 18th as the advance party for the rest of the Charlie Rock soldiers due to arrive soon. The services they provide (Biomedical repair, medical supply, pharmacy, and mental health) made an immediate impact in "conserving the fighting strength". PFC Fonneman and SFC Valentine have been working with soldiers in managing combat stress control. SPC Boyce repairs and maintains medical equipment that is essential in saving soldier's lives. SGT Shanks is in the process of establishing and running a top-notch Pharmacy. SGT Trevino has improved the medical supply areas by adding much needed organization. 2LT Gallagher, my hard-core XO, is making all the necessary arrangements for deploying the rest of the team and equipment to Salerno.



My goal as the commander, as it has always been, is to ensure that every Charlie Rock soldier returns a Better Soldier!!! As far as I'm concerned, the goal has been accomplished. As you can see, Charlie Rock is doing their part in this war on terrorism. We all miss our families and friends very much and we are looking forward to the greatest reunion of our lives. You should all be very proud of the hard work your soldiers have done and the selfless commitment they have for their country. Hooahh!!!!