



# Maine Army National Guard



## 1136th TC (SECFOR) FORCE PRO

*From our lives here in Afghanistan; half way across the world back to our families.*  
**Well trained soldiers make for true heroes.**

**Volume IV, Issue I**

**August 2010**

*Special points of interest:*

- **A soldiers story I**
- **A soldiers story II**
- **JVB meets Adm Mullen**



*CPT Pete C smiling outside the office next to the Company Gideon*

Five months have passed since we left Maine in March. It has been a long five months for all of us. I know all the Soldiers miss being in Maine in the summer. We all miss the fresh air. The unit has been extremely busy this past month. We have starting thinking about the return to Maine and that is

a good sign! I am sure that all of you are aware of the situation in Afghanistan and are worried for your Soldier. We have trained hard for this mission and your Soldier is doing everything he or she can to stay safe. As their commander, I'm doing all I can to ensure their safety. Please know that

they are true heroes. I know I will look back on this deployment with pride because I served and commanded such remarkable Soldiers. The people of Afghanistan will soon be conducting an election. With every election this country holds it takes a step closer to freedom for all Afghan people. The unit will play a part in the security of those elections and that gives me a great sense of pride. Over the next few months, improvements to all locations are coming and will make it very difficult for us for awhile. We will have Soldiers moving around as improvements are made to many of the living and work areas at all three locations. Thank you for the support you've shown your Soldier and your continued support of the 1136<sup>th</sup>! My thoughts are with you during this very difficult time. Thank you.

Your Soldiers Rank and Name  
1136th TC (SECFOR)  
Camp Eggers  
APO AE 09356

*Or for your soldiers in  
Second Platoon/NKC ...*

Your Soldiers Rank and Name  
1136th TC (SECFOR)  
New Kabul Compound  
APO AE 09356

Editor and Publisher  
SFC Bethanie Mazzaro



*ISG Craig B alongside Coalition Force "CPT Bat" from Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force.*

### TOP Kick

I get the question from many friends and family, what do you need? What can we send you? I always enjoy receiving notes and packages because someone took the time to put it together and mail it to me. Getting back to the original thought, I always find it hard to tell them what they could send me because I have

a lot here. The things you can't send, hugs, smells, home cooked meals, laundry folded the same way, just cannot be sent. We have developed some routines here, Friday night karaoke, workouts at the gyms, going to get a coffee at Green Beans or going to meetings. Plenty of meetings to attend. I would like to introduce you to CPT Bat (the picture has

his full name). He is a valuable member of the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force (METF) here on Camp. He is very eager and persistent. CPT B is very proud to tell of his countries rich heritage. He often translates for us since he can speak English fairly well and we don't speak Mongolian. The METF has helped the 1136<sup>th</sup> immensely with the se-  
*Top Kick continued on page 2*

## TOP Kick (continued from page 1)

curity of the Camp and just their presence, I think deters many from even thinking of attacking the Camp. Many of the Soldiers, including myself have learned some valuable lessons not only from the Mongolians, but also from the Afghans.

Preparations have begun to coordinate getting things ready when we have to leave Afghanistan and return back to the great State of Maine. If you do not plan, you can plan to fail. We all appreciate the great life we have back home and we look forward to being back home sooner than later.

It has been said freedom is not free; someone has given their life so we can

enjoy those freedoms. I have not given my life, but we have given up much in being away from friends and families and have missed important events, to protect those freedoms from those who would like to take them away. I encourage my Soldiers and I will encourage you to vote this November, do your part to make a difference. God Bless!

*Out on the range for weapon familiarization...the view is spectacular!*



## A Soldier's Story I —Outcast on the Outpost - By SPC Joshua T.

The Outcast Squad has completed another month on the outpost known as, Bala Hissar. The squad has been busy performing missions inside the compound as well as through the congested roads of Kabul city.

Moral is at an all time high since the outpost gained the internet. The Soldiers now have computers with internet and phones. This has made life out at Bala Hissar a lot easier now that the soldiers can talk, Skype, and message their loved ones back home on a regular basis.

This past month we have also been around the city handing out bags of goodies to the children around the city. The bags have included paper, pens, pencils, colored pencils, drink packages, and candy. This was thanks to SGT Joshua H. who received these bags from his wife Heidi who worked very hard at home to make them.

Our Soldiers are also looking forward to leave now as well; many of us still have leave to look forward to, which keeps our hopes up here at the outpost.

Well that is some of the excitement we have had in the last month.

Thank all of you for your support and encouragement for us Soldiers. We are proud to be helping in Operation Endur-

ing Freedom and enjoy our jobs. We appreciate all that you are doing at home to support our families and us.



*SGT Josh H. is handing out candy to local children. SGT Derek P. watches nearby.*

## *A Soldier's Story II—A Drivers Perspective - By SGT Michael S.*



*From left to right: SGT Brandon M, SPC Rory P and SGT Michael S*

The people of Afghanistan are truly amazing. None have lived in peace. Hard living and warfare make 40 something old. Despite this, the people of Afghanistan smile often and are happy to see us when we get there. They will frequently invite you in for chai (tea). Many of us have had the privilege of sitting down for a cup. Personally, I have never sat for less than three cups! Many of the Afghan people are extremely happy that we are helping them to build a better future, and showing them what it means to be free. At the end of the month we had an opportunity to go out into the community and assist in the delivering of supplies such as; blankets, cloths, food, and toys for the kids. These missions are some of the most rewarding that we have been a part of in our short stay in Afghanistan. It's important to remember that the work here is not easy, nor is it fast. Most of what we take for granted in America, police protection, the fire service, a good meal and clean water, are luxuries in Afghanistan. Helping these people to bring their standard of living up and teaching them how to provide for their own security and infrastructure takes time and effort. We the Soldiers of Bear Squad, 1136<sup>th</sup> TC are only a small part of this large picture, but we are a part of it. Soon we will be home with all of you, but for now we will keep doing what we do, one mile at a time. Thank you for all the support and well wishes! God Bless.  
SGT Michael S

### 1st PLT

I hope this newsletter finds you all well. By now some of you have had the pleasure of seeing your loved ones come home for a bit of a break. Life here in Kabul, goes on. Time for us at the PLT HQ level has continued to speed by. SFC P. has finally locked me in the office so that I get some paperwork done. Our Squads have also been keeping busy. Recently, the MRAP crew has been helping Maintenance move into their new digs. Our new home on base should be completed by the next time we talk. As always thank you for the loan of your Soldiers, we'll continue to do our best to take care of them while they're ours, and complete the mission given to us.—1LT Nicolas P



*The MVACIS Crew from left to right: Top SGT Glenn G., William K, SPC Philip M, and SPC Adam H. Bottom: Dog Trainer, SPC Dustin T, SSG Dale B and SPC Kevin C.*

Greetings to all our friends and family from the VACIS crew, we are thinking of you just as much as we are sure you're thinking of us. Some of us are very excited and can't wait to go home on leave. Every day we work with the general public and local security force. We've made friends with most of the bilinguals; some of them are even trilingual! Usually they teach us about their culture, traditions, and language. As we do the same for them. One of us even taught one bilingual how to do the robot dance move! It was really funny. Though, we are kept very

busy. 12 hour days often turn into 20 hour days. However, we have adapted and learned to make the best of it. For an example, an Military Police came down and brought his K-9, "Cesar" and his bite suit that's used for training. He allowed a few of us to try on the bite suit and rehearse some of their drills. The dog attacked and bit us; it was incredibly terrifying but also a ton of fun! We were all very impressed on how well trained and disciplined the dog was. Lastly we'd like to say thank you all back home for your support and everything you do for us, we really appreciate it.

*The following photos are soldiers training with the Military Police Dog, Cesar.*



## *New Kabul Compound (NKC) - Horseshoe*

Hello everyone from Calas Det, it is a pleasure to write to you all once again. Well this month has been an extremely busy one. Time has flown by and it just seems as if the days roll into one another. We continue to work hard, accomplish the mission, and ensure the safety and security of everyone here on our installation. Your soldiers are making great strides to interact with the different security personnel that they work with and they have formed great friendships with these individuals. Many of them are also becoming very versed in Dari and try to speak to the local national guards and the Afghan people in their own language. This brings much respect to use. The people see that we are taking the time to better understand their language and culture. On the 11<sup>th</sup> of August the Holy month of Ramadan began. During this time Muslims are not allowed to eat, drink, or smoke during daylight hours. This is a big sacrifice and is very hard on these individuals. Our soldiers, out of respect of them, have been trying to refrain from doing this in front of them. This is another way that we have learned to respect their culture and beliefs. This month we promoted two very deserving individuals: Private First Class M to Specialist and Specialist B to the NCO Corps. Congratulations SGT B, keep up the good work. SGT B is the Information Management Officer for the platoon. He ensures that all the computers, radios, and phones that the old and decrepit NCOs like SFC W and SFC F break are fixed and put back into operation. He fixes electronics with ease and he always manages to do so in calm manner without swearing. It has been very quiet here the last few weeks as SSG F has been on leave. People here on this installation look to him to keep them entertained. It seems like all are out of place without him here. Also this past month we were lucky enough to get spoiled by our BSS Local National security company to an Afghan traditional meal. They had their wives prepare food and they brought it to the base to feed us. They had beef

and lamb kabobs, rice, bread, chicken, and a variety of traditional dishes that I don't know the name to. The food was great. Your soldiers really appreciated this and it was a lot of fun.

Well as summer continues and your soldiers go home on leave remember to enjoy them while they are home.

Soon enough we will be back at home with all of you ready to enjoy our lives with the people we love most. Until then, continue to write, send packages, and ensure that your soldiers are keeping in contact with you. Communication is key during deployments like this.

If you have any problems at home please contact the Family Readiness Group and they will then contact us. We are here to help and always remember that we are taking care of your soldiers.—LT P and SFC Jason W



*From Left to Right: Blue Hackle Guard, SPC Stephen N. BH Guard, SGT Theodore C, Interpreter, SPC Katie S, SFC Kevin F. BH Guard and (Bottom) Interpreter*



*From Left to Right: (Top) BH Guard, SPC Robert W, BSS Guard, BH Guard, SPC Stephen L, Interpreter and Interpreter and (Bottom) BH Guard, Interpreter, SFC Kevin F and BH Guard*

# The JVB

These pictures are from a visit from the Chairman of the Joint Chief of Staff, ADM Michael Mullen. The JVB team protected and assisted the Chairman in his stay here in Kabul. The coins were a token of his appreciation for a job well done. The Chairman is the Highest ranking military person in the US Military.

## **A HISTORY OF ADMIRAL MICHAEL MULLEN**

*Admiral Mullen was sworn in as the 17th Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on October 1, 2007. He serves as the principal military advisor to the president, the Secretary of Defense, the National Security Council and the Homeland Security Counsel.*

*A native of Los Angeles, he graduated from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1968.*

*He Commanded three ships: the gasoline tanker USS Noxubee (AOG 56), the guided missile destroyer USS Goldsborough (DDG 20) and the guided missile cruiser USS Yorktown (CG 48).*

*As a flag officer, Mullen commanded Cruiser-Destroyer Group 2, the George Washington Battle Group and the U.S. 2nd/Fleet/NATO Striking Fleet Atlantic.*

*Ashore he has served in leadership positions at the Naval Academy, in the Navy's Bureau of Personnel, in the Office of the Secretary of Defense and on the Navy Staff. He was the 32nd Vice Chief of Naval Operations from August 2003 to October 2004.*

*His last operational assignment was as commander, NATO Joint Force Command Naples/Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Europe. Mullen is a graduate of the Advanced Management Program at the Harvard Business School and earned a Master of Science degree in Operations Research from the Naval Postgraduate School.*

*Prior to becoming Chairman, Mullen served as the 28th Chief of Naval Operations.*



*SPC Aaron W shakes hands with Adm Mullen*



*SPC Justin C shakes hands with Adm Mullen while SPC Michael M moves forward after receiving his coin*

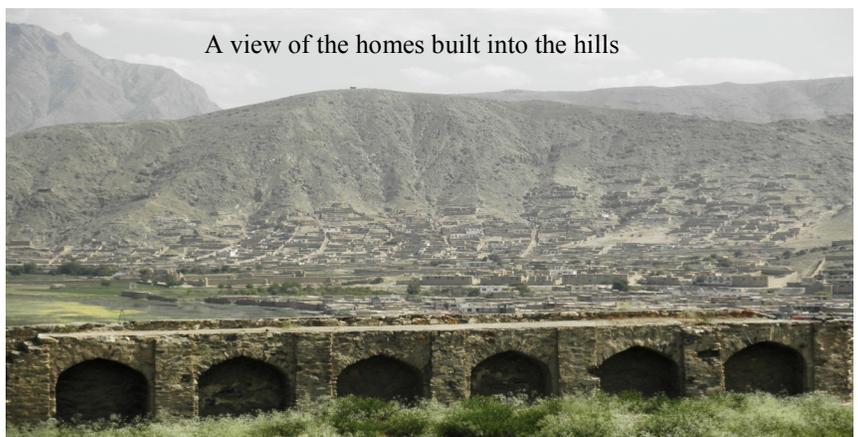


*SSG Jason C shakes hands with Adm Mullen*



*SSG Toby P shakes hands with Adm Mullen*

From the Soldiers of the 1136th we would like to thank all of our family and friends for supporting us during our deployment. We have been inundated with supplies that will help keep our spending at the AAFES/PX down to a minimum. The goodies (our favorite) have always disappeared like wildfire amongst the troops. We love receiving whatever you send. It's like a holiday with gifts to open. The Bazaars here are a fantastic experience to shop and I am sure that all of you at home have seen a variety of items sent your way. The Afghanistan culture is rich with tradition and the goods that they sell offer us a piece of that tradition as well as assist the local vendors with and opportunity to sell their wares. It is exciting to be able to "dicker" with the vendors for lower prices and we do get great values on merchandise. Some of the items we buy are jewelry, scarves, videos, wood products, traditional clothing, brass trinkets and much more.



*A view of the homes built into the hills*