



Maine Army National Guard



1136th TC (SECFOR) FORCE PRO

From our lives here in Afghanistan; half way across the world back to our families. As we celebrate 9/11 here in Afghanistan

Volume VI, Issue I

September 2010

To the Families and Friends of the 1136th - Greetings from Afghanistan!
September 11th was a very meaningful and moving day here in Kabul. Both NKC and Camp Eggers had ceremonies that the Soldiers of the 1136th participated in. Most of us reflected on the events of September 11th 2001 and the years that have passed since then. We remembered fallen comrades and the victims of the terrorist attacks. This year we found ourselves involved in the most lasting endeavor that Americans undertook post 9-11. The struggle for stability and lasting peace here in Afghanistan is perhaps this generation's most important undertaking. It is comparable to the undertakings that so many US military members have done in the past. Their sacrifices have made the world a better place and I am sure that our sacrifice will in the end have a lasting posi-



CPT Pete C stands by proudly as two of his soldiers (SPC Sarah C and SGT Brandon M) post guard at the flagpole in honor of those who lost their lives during the tragic events of 9/11.

itive impact here and throughout the rest of the world. A stable Afghanistan must be achieved for the good of the people living here and the

safety and security for the rest of the world. I take pride being a part of this mission and realize that it is not a *continued on page 4*

From the desk of the 1SG

September has arrived and is almost half-way done when you get this newsletter. The weather is getting cooler each day and it feels like Maine. Focus is a key feature to any successful endeavor and I try to keep the Soldier's focused on the mission. Complacency is an enemy that I try to keep far from the unit, so all

of us will return to Maine. Busy hands and minds also make the time go by quicker. I would like to highlight the awesome work the Maintenance section is doing. We initially thought we would only have to fix the tactical vehicles assigned to the Company, but the mission has grown. The amount of tactical vehicles has tripled since we arrived here. Also during

this time the new Maintenance shop was completed and we moved the whole shop in three days. We increased the number of mechanics and clerks to help with the influx of work. It was great to promote SGT Earl D. to Staff Sergeant, who has been in valuable to the shop and its operation. We have made changes and *continued on page 2*

Special points of interest:

- *A soldiers story I*
- *A soldiers story II*
- *Pick Apples on the 25th*

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

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

Your Soldiers Rank and Name
1136th TC (SECFOR)
NKC
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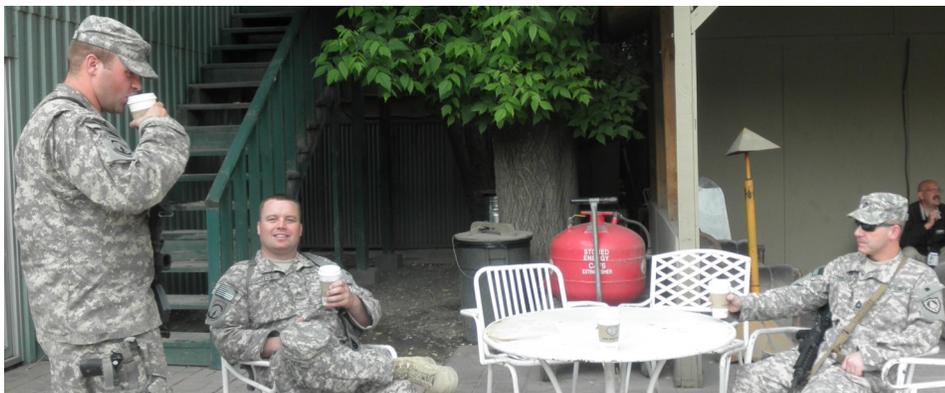
SPC Aaron F plays frisbee

From the desk of the 1SG (continued from page 1)

improvements to how we operate here and we continue to learn how immense the mission the 1136th TC has been given. Every day the unit and its Soldier's deal with Coalition Forces, contractors, local Afghans, and service members from every branch on so many matters. The unit has had to become more international in its way of thinking and getting things done. Patience is needed, many of the people we work with do not operate on the "instant/microwave" mentality. Americans want it to be done then move onto the next thing. It is a pleasure to get to know your Soldier and to find out many things about them. I am truly blessed to have so many dedicated and hardworking individuals within the unit, who can be counted upon to do the right thing. You should be

proud of the service they are performing here in Afghanistan and the service to their country. As we take pride in what we do as soldiers; we could not do it without the support and love from our families and friends at home. God Bless.

Coffee from the Green Bean...ahhhhh! So nice to relax out on the veranda. SSG JoJo D, SSG Peter J, and MSG Scott H. enjoy a well earned break after hours of work.



A Soldier's Story I—The Motor Pool is Behind Iron Bars—by SFC Gilly T.

Our Maintenance Team has been as busy as ever. New accommodations for work have helped spirits a little. The move was hard, but it was worth it. Gone is the dirt floor that flooded when it rained, gone is the rotten ceiling, & last but not least gone is the lack of space. We are in a brand new building & we were even able to pull in a couple of additional assets to our team. We full heartedly welcome SGT Allen R, SGT William K, & PFC Felicia B. SGT William K. has taken on the job of Welder not only for our maintenance needs, but also for the entire Camp Eggers. Everyday he has more job requests & you can already start to see the results of his hard work through out Camp Eggers. SGT Allen R has been allowed the privilege of getting down & dirty with the boys. His maintenance knowledge has proven to be very valuable. He fits right in with his ability to put in the long hours & hard work needed from all of us. PFC Felicia B has finally made her way back home to us here in maintenance. Her hard work ethics made her a hard asset to attain. She is working in the Maintenance Office and has been forced to learn a lot in a very short period of time. To explain her job simply, everything that comes or goes

from our maintenance facility (i.e. vehicles, parts, etc.) requires a paper trail & she has learned how to keep accountability of all of it. She has proven to be irreplaceable. We also would like everyone to congratulate SSG Earl D. on his recent promotion. He has earned the respect and camaraderie from everyone

here on the Rogue Maintenance Team & we were all pulling for him. He is one of those guys that seemed to slip beneath the cracks, but he has finally received what he has worked so hard for. We could not have done what we have done here without him.

The Rogue Motor Pool—Below



A Soldier's Story II—Building is the Order of the Day - by SGT Michael S.

BUILDING IS THE ORDER OF THE DAY here at the AIB. It was decided a while back that as winter set in a porch would be nice so that we can still sit outside but in traditional New England fashion remain out of the weather. The addition to our building is pretty good size and basically puts a roof over the existing patio. SGT Josh R is heading up the project, with lots of help from the other members of the squad, only just a few of us (myself included) are onlookers. The guys and gal are doing a fine job and should be finished today with the addition of screening to protect future users from the summertime insects. Don't think that we have nothing better to do, but there are times when circumstances require that we not take to the streets as is the case this weekend. At such times projects to make our lives a little more comfortable are the order of the day.

The atmosphere in Kabul is a little unsettled these last few days and indeed in the days to come. I would like to say to all the readers of this newsletter, not to get to hung up on the news, the press loves shock value, after all it sells copy. We all will continue to do what we came here to do and that is help the people of Afghanistan to build a better future for themselves. Sometimes things happen that no one could foresee and we deal with each challenge as it comes along. We all are in good spirits and things are well.

The weather is starting to become more seasonable. The temperatures are coming down at night, making things like PT and sleeping a little bit more comfortable.

This is the half way point the time when everyone starts to say things like, 'almost done', or won't be long now'. That is all true. It is also the time, in this deployment anyway, when we have pretty much settled into a routine and thus the time is passing quickly. The support from home continues. A big thank you to Mr. & Mrs. 'P' for their gift of moose jerky and red bull. That red bull really helps at the end of a mission when it's time to get back to camp! The moose jerky was an excellent reminder of home, thoughts of camp and

hunting season all came to mind with the wonderful taste of moose meat from Maine. As with every article I write a big thank you from all of us to all those who support us with letters and packages from home. We all appreciate your support.

Well I'm going to go and see how that roof is coming along and get ready for dinner. As Red Green says, "keep your stick on the ice". God Bless.



Top left to right: SPC James L and SPC Sarah C. Bottom left: SGT Shane B build an outdoor porch for seasonal respite.



As we celebrate (continued from page 1)

given. Someday the people of Afghanistan will be able to choose their own destiny without the external pressure of the Taliban. The people of Afghanistan will be conducting their election this weekend. With every election this country holds it takes a step closer to a stable and strong government that can support and care for its citizens.

The unit has hit a very important milestone in its deployment – the halfway mark!! We are now closer to the end of the deployment than the beginning. This is a great feeling.

We still have a long way to go before we return home to you but every day brings us closer to that long anticipated reunion. I look forward to the day when I stand before you again and release your loved one back to you. I know that everyone is feeling the strains of deployment by now and that it seems like this deployment will never end.

Please hang in there and ask for help if you need it. The Maine Army National Guard and US Army have many programs available to you if you need them. Feel free to contact the Yellow Ribbon Staff at 1-207-430-5772/1-207-430-5775 or online at <http://www.me.ngb.army.mil/Family/yellow-ribbon.php>; if you have any issues. Military One Source is a great site for assistance as well and its web address is www.militaryonesource.com.

It is hard to believe that school has started and the summer is over. I always hated September as a child. I wish all of our students the best in the upcoming school year. More importantly, good luck to the parent who is trying to get the student off to school in the morning.

In closing as always; thank you for the support you've shown your Soldier and your continued support of the 1136th! My thoughts are with all of you during this very difficult time. Thank you.

1st PLT—Fuel

September is setting in and fall weather is coming quickly, for those of you who didn't know here in Kabul it actually



The Fuel Team proud of their heritage display their love of the State of Maine

snows. Last year the first snow storm was on Thanksgiving day. In order to prepare for these colder temperatures we have completed courses on cold weather medical training, and driving classes to include the use of tire chains. Along with the change of seasons we have welcomed SPC Jason C and SPC Steven D to the team as two members were passed along to other parts of the company due to their technical knowledge in other areas.

I can't thank you enough as family member for your support to your soldiers. You hear many leaders speak on how proud they are of their soldiers and it seems like a common trend. I can honestly say the soldiers in our squad bring more experience than years of military courses could provide, and everyone is willing to learn from others at any level.

1st PLT— LT Nic P

Hello Again Family and Friends of 1st Platoon! Another month bites the dust, and as you can imagine we're as happy about that as you all are. The more we deal with the other entities occupying space on this base, the more I realize how lucky we are to have your Soldiers. I never have to worry about them not knowing the basic Soldier skills, or how to follow directions. Leave seems to fly

by, and as it does more of you get to see our smiling faces. We've been getting a lot of interesting taskings of late, which I'm sure your Soldiers have passed onto you. Some have provided great opportunities like, CPL William B and SPC Steven T of SOG get coins from the Secretary of Defense for standing guard over the very sensitive material he carries, and some... well we just do them because if we don't no one else will. But as I've said before the professionalism of our Soldiers is among the best, and no matter the task they always make Maine Guard shine. Recently we honored those who died during 9/11, and SOG supported the Chaplains in providing a sentry to stand vigil next to the two flags they posted. SGT Sarah R, our day dispatcher, lead the charge, ensuring that there was a sentry posted at all times.

We love and miss you all, and can't wait to come back home. *Continued page 6*



NKC - Horseshoe

Hello family and friends of the Calais Det. This month has been an extremely busy month for all our soldiers. It has been the season of Ramadan, which is a holy time for all Muslims.

Everyone here has attempted to adapt to the differences around the camp because of it. All Muslims must pray 5 times a day, avoid smoking, and refrain from drinking and eating to only in times of darkness. This can be extremely difficult on our Local National guards, especially on really hot days.

Your soldiers worked really hard to maintain the security of the base during this time. Many of the soldiers also learned the culture and celebrated the holiday with the locals as much as possible. It was not an unusual site to see SGT Theodore C, SGT Andrew B, and I eating large feasts of Afghan food and tea after the sun went down. Surprisingly enough, we haven't been sick and it definitely beat the chow hall food.

The experience has been amazing and along with the good food we have built great friendships.

The soldiers continue to get recognized by our leadership on a daily basis. They complement us on our professionalism and work ethic. Unlike most jobs in the Army, our soldiers do not have the luxury to have days off. We have definitely worked together as a team to meet the needs of mission.

Also this month, our Third Country National and Local National friends also got recognized for their hard work by our superiors.

As time rolls on here in this deployment, more and more people are getting the chance to see all their families and friends. Leave is a wonderful time, enjoy it! As the beginning of the fiscal year comes around the corner, it is once again time to take the Army Physical Fitness Test. Our soldiers have been working hard to get those 6 packs that we know are hiding under there somewhere. This can be quite challenging here in Afghanistan, due to the poor air quality and high elevations. Your soldiers have been working extra hard to battle these hurdles to stay in shape and

to do the best they can in all 3 of their events: pushups, sit-ups, and the 2 mile run.

As fall approaches and the weather cools the job here will hopefully get easier. We look forward to handing out all the great school supplies that so many people have donated to our cause.

We will include pictures in the upcoming newsletters of the delivery of these supplies.

I want to thank all families and friends for being supportive throughout this deployment. Know that we are taking care of your soldiers and soon we will be back with you enjoying life as we know it, like true Mainers.



Pictured here in the front row are FP Personnel that work with us daily. They are receiving awards from Major General M. for a job well done. From left to right: Interpreter, BH Site Security Manager, BH Team Leader, BSS Deputy director, BSS Guard Force Commander, BSS General Supervisor, and 2LT P. applauding in the background.



BH Site Security Manager receiving an award from Major General M.



BSS Guard Force Commander receiving award from MG M. and CSM H.

The JVB—LT Skidg



SPC Casey S receives a coin from General Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps

Hello all back home! Well, the JVB is definitely taking care of business here in Afghanistan. We are halfway done our deployment and working hard on the last six months. We have provided protection/security for some of the most influential people in our government including the Secretary of Defense, Robert Gates.

Others that have had the privilege of our services are General Mattis, and Commandant of the Marine Corps, GEN Conway.

One of the unique aspects of our job is not just the opportunity to meet these influential people but the aspect of meeting the local nationals, especially the children in the area where we serve. This is a rare treat for our soldiers however; due to the busy schedule we keep, the chance doesn't present itself enough.

The JVB—continued from page 5

This month, after a long six weeks, we are taking time to get caught up with our training. We have spent the better part of two weeks at the ranges, getting vehicles fixed and all other maintenance that needs to be taken care of. It won't be long before we are back into the swing of our normal missions and taking care of business.

Everyone is working hard here and I know they enjoy hearing from all their loved ones back home.

Please keep writing, Skyping, Face booking and calling. Once again, we are halfway through our deployment and moral is high. Hearing from home is greatly appreciated.

I know you are proud of your soldiers and you should be. They have been doing a fantastic job and many people have noticed this as well. I know I am proud to be serving with them.

**1st PLT— LT Nic P
(continued from page 4)**

SGT Sarah R. stands vigilant during the guarding of the flags at the 9/11 ceremony at Camp Eggers.

****Please remember that November is voting month and that time is right around the corner. Take the time to research and follow the candidates as you make your decisions voting determinations. It is important to the citizens and Soldiers of the State of Maine to take the time to vote. Remember that one cannot express protest about who is elected into office unless one has taken the time to make the difference by voting. You can and will make a difference. See you at the polls.****



**September 25 • 1:00pm - 5:00pm
Rowe Orchards
Route 7
Newport, ME**

Rowe Orchards' owner Ed Buzanoski will be hosting a family day for the 1136th Transportation Company! There will be free pick-your-own, tractor rides, t-shirts, BBQ, band and Nokomis Broadcasting will be available to record messages to send to your loved ones in Afghanistan!

Please spread the word to all of the families and feel free to bring your flat soldiers along! Even flat soldiers love apple season!

For more information, ...call 368-4777 and directions are available on their website www.roweorchards.com

Anyone on leave regardless of timeframe during this fall can go to Rowe Orchards' and have themselves a "pickin' good time". Feel free to enjoy a memorable event while on leave with your family and friends.

Please take the time to say hello to SGT Meaghann R's Mom and SGT Joshua R's Mom-in-law.