



Maine Army National Guard



1136th TC (SECFOR) FORCE PRO

From our lives here in Afghanistan; half way across the world back to our families.

The Captain Enjoys Haircut Day. Why?

To the Families and Friends of the 1136th - Greetings from Afghanistan!

The Soldiers of the 1136th have been performing admirably over the past month. Some of our Soldiers have received awards and challenge coins for their efforts. I am extremely proud of everyone over here.

I am pleased to report that the last month here has been calm and we can only hope that it will remain that way. We have started the planning phase for returning to Maine. I am extremely excited to think that we have made it to that point in the deployment. We still have a long way to go but our reunion with our families gets closer every day. It is the small events over here that give us hope that we will be home soon. I enjoy hair cut day because it means another week has past. I had one Soldier tell me the other day that



CPT Pete C and Retired COL Oliver North shake hands. "The Shredder"

we have less than twenty more Friday night seafood meals left. I know my Soldiers cannot wait for the day they eat their last shrimp in Kabul!

I have been working on the Yellow Ribbon planning for our return. If you have any ideas for those events; please contact SSG Bates. His office phone number is (207) 735-

1051 and his cell phone number is (207) 620-6105.

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.

Volume V, Issue I

October

Special points of interest:

- *A soldiers story I— Training with the ANA*
- *Safety with SGT "Mitch"*

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
APO AE 09356

Editor and Publisher
SFC Bethanie Mazzaro

From the desk of the 1SG



PFC Albee D salutes after being promoted. Good Job on the APFT

I would like to thank Girl Scout Troop 66 from Hallo-well, St Anne's Episcopal Church from Calais and VFW 6977 from York Beach for all the Girl Scout Cookies. The Soldier's have eaten lots of cookies, and that in itself has gained us popularity here on Camp Eggers. As of my latest count we have received over 700 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies.

The Thin Mints and the Peanut Butter Patties are our favorites.

The Base Camp also has a Bazaar held every Friday. You can find some bargains, but you better be ready to haggle over the price. I think when I get home I will try to talk down the price of a medium Dunkin Donuts coffee from \$1.85 when I left to say *continued on page 2*



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

\$1.50, maybe they will throw in a donut since my negotiating skills have improved. The vendors sell some nice items, they also sell some not so nice items. Some I would not even take if it was free.

I tell the Soldier's only buy it if you like it or someone back home will enjoy it. You can purchase suits, jewelry, knives, sunglasses, carpets, DVD's, watches just to name a few.

As each day passes by all of us have thoughts of being back in Maine, to breathe fresh air, to see our loved ones and to resume our lives. The adventure so far has taught us patience and on some levels, kindness. Most will enjoy being back home, but a few will miss the routine, structure and friends they have made here. I am fortunate to have a wonderful family and home to go

too, but others will be starting a new life when they get home. I would encourage those of you back home to support organizations that help Soldier's when they return back home. The Department of Labor and many Companies back home are looking into programs and jobs that some of the Soldier's from the 1136th could do when they return. Many do not have a job to return too. Either they were unemployed before we left, or sadly enough some quit or the organization went out of business. As we get closer to going home this will weigh upon them. We will be working with them with the Dept of Labor.

SGT Josh R and SGT Meghann R show us what a "real gun show" is all about.



A Soldier's Story I—Training with the Afghanistan National Army (ANA) by SSG Michael S.

During the week of September 13, select members from 2ND Platoon conducted training at a nearby Afghan National Army base. SFC Jason W., SSG Michael S., SPC Stephen L. and SPC Katie S. trained several ANA officers on the techniques of searching a person and of a vehicle in order to enhance the ANA's security at their Entry Control Points (ECPs). An Afghan Brigadier General requested specialized training for his soldiers and turned to 1136th Force Protection for assistance.

The block of instruction was given by SSG Michael S. of the 488th MP Co., and assisted by SFC Jason W. 1136th TC. The ANA officers were taught how to search a person in a low level threat environment as well as how to react when the threat level increases. A few restraint and control techniques were also demonstrated to the ANA officers. Each ANA officer was given the opportunity to practice these techniques after a discussion and demonstration was given. The ANA officers learned quickly the importance of a thorough search and how to systematically search both a person and a vehicle.

SPC Stephen L. and SPC Katie S. not only assisted with the block of instruction, but

were volunteers to be searched by the ANA.

Over the course of a few days, the ANA were able to demonstrate that they were able to accurately perform a search of a person. The ANA officers are now charged with training the soldiers under them and supervise their performance during the regular operations. SFC Jason W. and SSG Michael S. will be returning to the ANA compound to oversee future training as well as monitor the actual operations at the ECPs.

This small, yet important experience has enhanced the relationship between the ANA personnel and the United States military at the New Kabul Compound. Working together, the two entities are building stronger bonds and more secure bases to protect the soldiers and citizens who work there.

SPC Stephen L practices physical search drills with the ANA.



Maintenance with the Boys and Girls under the Hood

October is here and many of us are trying to stay as busy as can be to keep from thinking of all we are missing at home. It's nice to imagine every now and then the cold crisp air, the beautiful fall foliage, and the wonderful preparation for hunting season that we would all be preparing. Here in Afghanistan there is little sign of the changing season except for the slight change in temperature during the early morning and late evening.

The easiest way for us to get through the hard times is that we have to stick to our routines that we have set for ourselves. Our maintenance team is working as hard as ever. The on going joke amongst the guys is "we finally get one vehicle up and running, just in time for two more to come in".

No time for days off when the teams going out on the roads need a vehicle they can depend on to get them back safe every night. This is at the heart of every person on our team and it is what keeps us driving to do what we do as well as we do. It gives us a sense of pride knowing that our good reputation has surpassed even the small compound where we live. Our small team is providing maintenance not only for the multiple units on our compound, but also for many other compounds that do not have any maintenance support.

When we first started nobody even knew that there was a maintenance support team here and now every day we have new groups stopping by asking for help. Every person on our team has shown dedication and commitment to our Unit through their selfless service.

The unit that we replaced basically told us "you can not possibly do it and there is no way". Our actions and outcomes truly have proved that theory wrong.

Right: SFC Gilly T and SGT William K work on an M1151 to keep the boys and girls safe on the street by continuing to maintain many vehicles that come in on a daily basis. They have worked long and arduous hours maintaining the fleet at a rate of 12 hour days 7 days per week. Despite a few bumps and bruises they march on.



Left: SGT Holton H likes it under the trucks. That is where you can find him on a daily basis. SGT H is one of a small crew with a big work order. As a matter of fact, I think you can find a bunk under there too. Seems that he has been living there these days. Long days and nights keep the trucks rolling along.

Below: These are "Girls unda da Hood" They keep the work orders and paperwork for maintenance dress right dress!



Above: SGT Brian D...I don't know what he's up to?

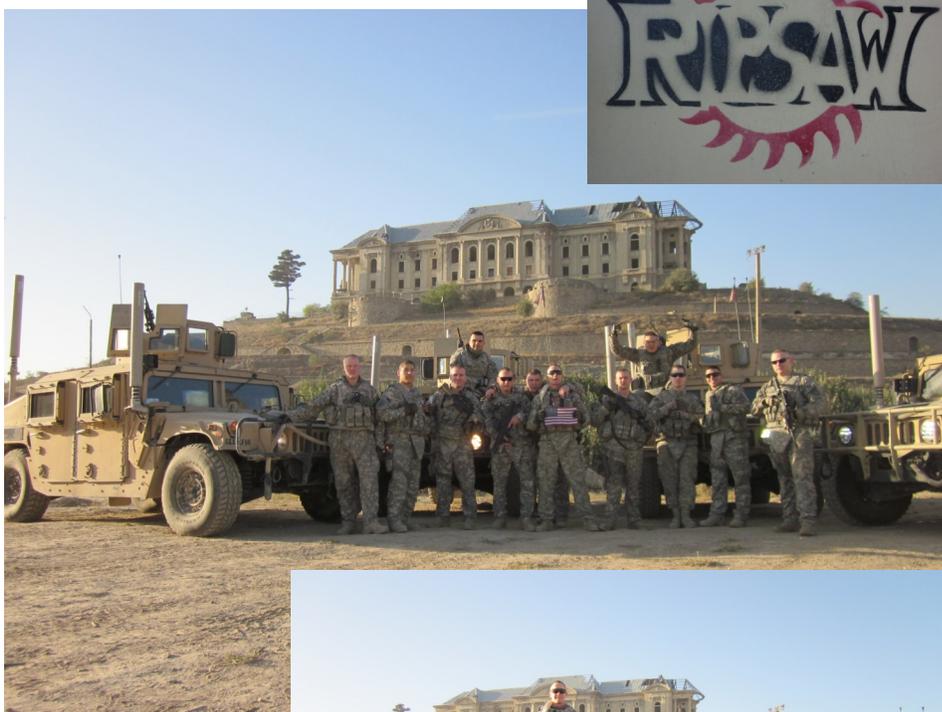


Left: SPC Johnathon D is yet working on another M1151. The Boys and girls under the hood keep the wheels turning.

1st PLT

Well after surviving being eaten by a bear, and SFC Polky having a GIGANTIC HEAD!!! we are back for another exciting round of NEWSLETTER AWESOMENESS! So this month we've been rolling along; we're in the full swing of things, and so far still sane, which in itself is a triumph of immense proportions at this base. LOL. All your Soldiers are doing an outstanding job, and as their glorious leaders they make our jobs here at Camp Eggers fairly easy. As I'm sure they've all told you there's been a lot of construction going on around the base, causing the circus here to be 10 times as fun. As always we love and miss you all, and can't wait to finish our mission here and come back to you.

Ripsaw



Photos are of RIPSAW. They took a trip to Dubbs where you can see the Queens Castle in the background. The trips are beautiful especially when you can watch the sun rise.



MRAP Boys



SGT Shane B from Cally an IRR attached to our unit and SGT Brandon M were quite a team supporting the three star general, LTG Caldwell by providing security during a three day conference in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The JVB—LT Skidg

In the past few weeks, several soldier have joined us, and with the high operational tempo, and the increased threat due to the elections, their initiation can only be described as a trial by fire. With minimal time to adjust, they were able to perform effectively through teamwork and dedication. The seasoned 1136 soldiers, still part of JVB, worked diligently and played a crucial role in bringing the new soldiers up to speed and contributed to the overall success of the JVB team. After an overwhelming stretch of non-stop missions, dignitaries, and high profile civilian/military visitors, JVB was finally able catch its breath with a highly anticipated break in the action. The days slowed, and the focus has shifted to effective training. That focus extended beyond the workplace though, as the JVB soldiers took time to catch up on rest, call home, take online college courses, and hit the gym.

The break was short lived, however, and again with the influx of several new members, those who were just introduced to the unit have now found themselves in mentor roles. So the cycle continues, as the tempo once again picks up, and we drive on.



Ssg Jason C is wondering how to “up armor” his new ride.

NKC - Horseshoe

Hello family and friends of the Calais Det. This month as usual, has been an extremely busy. It never seems to slow down here. This past month was the Afghan Parliamentary Elections.

The planning and coordination for these events kept the leadership busy, while implementing all these additional measures kept the Soldiers busy. The team works very hard every day and I am proud to be the leader of such a great group of Soldiers. The US-FOR-A Command regularly complements our team for our continued dedication to the mission. This month, the Base Defense Operations Center staff was awarded a Certificate of Appreciation from the Medical Clinic for all the hard work they have done to support their staff on NKC. Great work SSG Jody F, SGT Michael B, SPC Otto O, CPL Robert M, SPC Jacob M, and SPC Matthew L for all your hard work!

This month all soldiers competed against one another for the highest score during the PT test. The competition was close but the top score was held by SPC L and a close second by SPC E. At these elevations of around 6000 ft and the horrible air quality, it is the run that was a challenge for all. This month our team has made a new friend and former Mainer, MAJ V. In the past, he has served in the Maine Guard with both the FA from the County, and the Mountain Co. He was excited to meet a group of fellow Mainers. Many soldiers from the platoon got together with him to take a picture. It's like they say, "It's a small world."

More and more people have been cycling through leave and it seems as if the team is finally getting a bit of a break. It has allowed them time to relax and spend time with their families. It is through distance and time apart that really makes you realize what is important in life and how much you cherish the little things. It is pretty funny to see soldier's reactions when a box comes in the mail and

there are Humpty Dumpty BBQ chips, or bags of Dunkin Donuts coffee inside. These little things that all Mainers love can be quite the morale booster in themselves. Please continue to send care packages, especially during the upcoming Holidays. We all wish that we could be home for Thanksgiving and Christmas however; we have a mission to accomplish and only a few will be fortunate enough to make it home during that time frame. We must all continue to work together through this deployment. Don't start the countdowns yet, it is still too early. Soon enough, our lives will all go back to normal and we'll all be home, spending time with all of you, in the good old State of Maine.



NCO's of NKC pictured with CPT Pete C and MAJ V who served with the Captain in the Mountain Company from Maine. It's a small world.

Safety—SGT "Mitch"

The 1136th selects one Soldier per quarter for the Unit Safety Award. Soldiers from each section are nominated for contributing to safe practices and winners are chosen by the commander. The 1136th Safety Soldier of the quarter is SGT Allen R from the Maintenance Section. He earned a gift card to the PX, a certificate and a coin of excellence from TF Rushmore. SGT Allen "Mitch" R continually demonstrates a commitment to safety. Since joining the Maintenance Team, SGT R has greatly contributed to safe operations at the Camp Eggers Motor Pool. He is diligent in following safety procedures while repairing equipment and enforces safety discipline among the other mechanics. SGT R stepped up to instruct all 1136th Soldiers on weapons safety over 3 days, totaling



15 hours of instruction. Classes covered weapon clearing, disassembly, assembly, safe cleaning procedures, functions check and use of buddy teams. SGT R ensured all Soldiers understood the material by conducting a hands on evaluation and taking time to answer questions and pointing out additional safety information from his own experience. SGT R is a positive influence to the Soldiers and greatly contributes to the 1136th TC.