



# 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 Holiday Season is near.

### CPT Pete C

### Volume VI, Issue I

### November 2010



back home and the support you have shown your Soldier. The combined strength of the “1136<sup>th</sup> Family Network” has been amazing. I am also thankful for having such a fine bunch of Soldiers in my Command. The

tradition that Soldiers from the area of Maine have upheld for over 300 years.

We have this month awarded Combat Action Badges (CAB) to several of our Soldiers. These Soldiers have been in harm’s way and did not waver. I am proud of their actions and the actions of all of the Soldiers here.

The holiday season I am sure will be hard for all of you back home. Please hang in for a while longer. Our mission here is not over but the end is in sight.

In closing, as always; thank you for the support you’ve shown your Soldiers and your continued support of the 1136<sup>th</sup>! My thoughts are with all of you during this very difficult time. Have a wonderful holiday season to all the 1136th Family and Friends.

Thank you.

#### *Special points of interest:*

- *A Soldiers Story I An Early Farwell*
- *A Soldiers Story II Barbell's For Boobs*
- *A Soldiers Story III The Colossus of Kabul*

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

To the Families and Friends of the 1136<sup>th</sup> - Greetings from Afghanistan!

As Thanksgiving approaches, I am sure that all at home long for their loved one’s return. In the spirit of Thanksgiving, I am thankful for all of you

success of any combat mission does not rest in the abilities of the unit’s commander but in the abilities of the Soldiers he or she commands. I have been blessed in this aspect. The Soldiers of 1136<sup>th</sup> have upheld the high military

### From the desk of the 1SG

Fall has arrived in Afghanistan with the leaves falling from the trees and the crisp evenings. We did not have the spectacular foliage of bright colors as we are accustomed to in Maine. Do not fret or worry, your Soldier will be able to have a nice Turkey Thanksgiving dinner

either at lunch or at dinner time. I know I will miss the smell of fresh baked pies just waiting to be consumed after the turkey and fixings settle in my stomach.

Time is approaching where Soldiers and Families will be together again and the re-integration process will begin. Realize that your Soldier has changed, and you have  
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**From the desk of the 1SG (continued from page 1)**

changed too. You cannot make up all the time you have been apart right away, it will take some time.

Be patient. Communication will be the key. Some Soldiers will want to talk about their experience here in Afghanistan and others will not say anything about their time here. Funny thing about being a human is, you cannot predict what they will do.

Well, the election has come and gone in Maine. We were afforded the opportunity to vote by absentee ballot by requesting the State and municipality ballot via the internet through the Secretary of State's website. I found the process rather easy. Many of us voted, exercising the one political activity Soldiers can participate in.

I know we all look forward to seeing you all very soon. God Bless.

*The Schützenschnur—LT Nic P awards soldiers of his Platoon the German Weapons Qualification Badge. A Badge they will definitely wear with pride on their dress uniform.*



***A Soldier's Story I —"An early farewell to SGT Joshua R." dedication by SGT Michael S.***

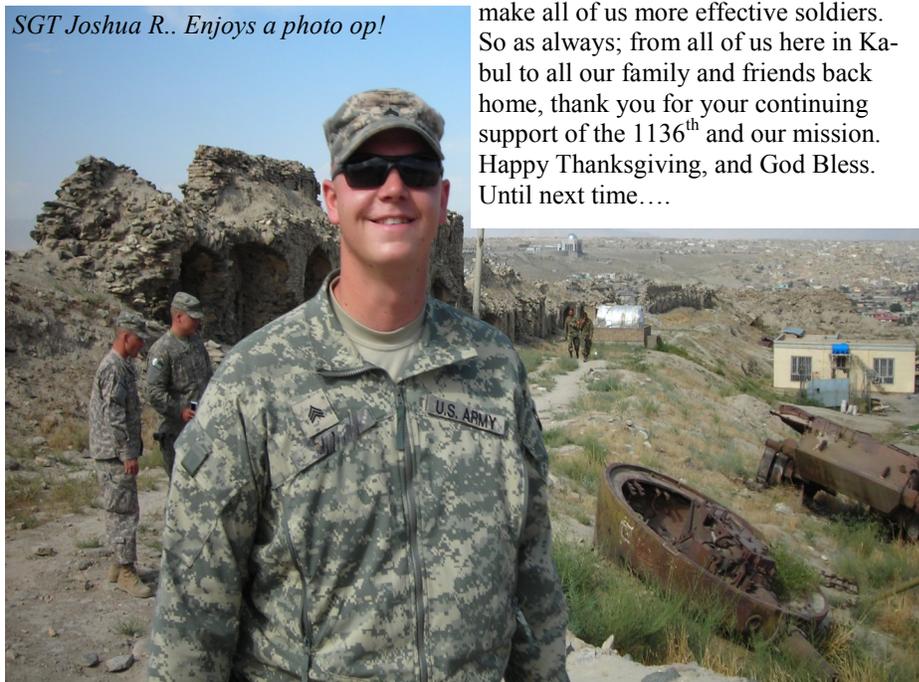
THE FIRST DAYS OF NOVEMBER saw Bear squad saying goodbye and farewell to one of our own. SGT Josh R. is back in Maine for his scheduled R&R, after which he will be staying in Maine, because of a minor medical issue, nothing serious but something that should be taken care of sooner rather than later. SGT Josh R. was an important part of Bear squad, as team leader and truck commander his experience from a previous deployment in Iraq was brought forth in his role with Bear squad. His knowledge, leadership and his friendship will be missed by all of us. Before returning home SGT Josh R. made sure to train his replacement as all good NCOs are charged to do. SGT Scott M. will be taking over for Josh. We will miss having you around Josh, and thank you for all you did and continue to do in support of the mission of Bear squad and the 1136<sup>th</sup>.

Recently, Bear squad had an opportunity to qualify on German Army weapons, making many of us eligible for the much sought after German Weapons Qualification Badge, the Schützenschnur. It was rewarding to pick up a weapon that most of us had never seen before, and qualify. Marksmanship fundamentals are the same no matter which

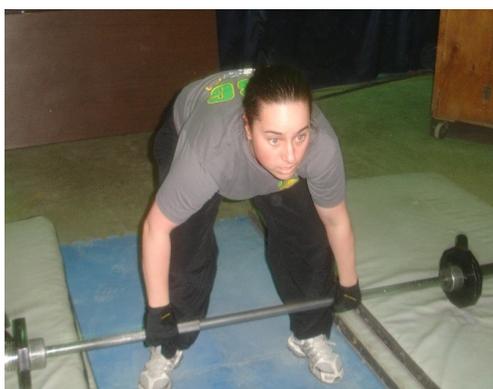
weapon you use, and many of us proved that by qualifying. The award itself is one of the few awards from a foreign military that can be worn on the U S Army class A's, with no prior authorization required for the recipient.

Having the opportunity to train and work with other NATO nations has been one of the most educational parts of being stationed at Camp Eggers. Learning first hand the practices and the training of our allies has been an eye opener for many, and the lessons learned will certainly make all of us more effective soldiers. So as always; from all of us here in Kabul to all our family and friends back home, thank you for your continuing support of the 1136<sup>th</sup> and our mission. Happy Thanksgiving, and God Bless. Until next time....

*SGT Joshua R.. Enjoys a photo op!*



*A Soldier's Story II  
"Barbells for Boobs"  
A Tribute to Breast Cancer  
Awareness Worldwide  
—By SGT Sara R.*



*SGT Sarah R. lifts for Breast Cancer Awareness in a competition called "Barbells For Boobs". She won overall women's competition.*

Barbells for Boobs was a fundraiser for our CrossFit Team. Amazing "Grace" (grace being the name of the actual workout) began as a small, local fundraising event to help fund mammograms for the young women of Southern California who couldn't afford one themselves. Thanks to a ton of support (and sweat!) from our local CrossFit community, we were able to raise \$4000 and fund our very first mammogram. Mammograms In Action is a non-profit organization located in Lake Forest, CA. Our mission is to provide funding for qualified women who need screening and/or diagnostic procedures in the prevention of breast cancer. By supporting MIA you help low-income and uninsured women. 100% of the proceeds of Amazing "Grace" will be donated to Mammograms In Action. Soldiers in Afghanistan as well as other locations worldwide recognized October as Breast Cancer Awareness Month. SGT Sarah R did 30 reps of 50lbs in 2min 45 sec. She came in second place out of the women who participated.

Hooray For SGT Sarah R!

*Base Defense Operations Center (BDOC)—By SFC Blaine M.  
The Unsung heroes of the 1136th TC (SECFOR) perform their  
mission on a 24/7 operations cell.*

In the BDOC - we are the information vacuum! Operations run 24/7, that's 24 hours a day 7 days a week. We track all unit movements in and around the Kabul area of operation. We communicate with other military units, local nationals, Non-Government Agencies, and Joint Task Forces on a daily basis. We produce clear, concise, and accurate reports to the Kabul base cluster. We routinely work with base force protection, Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force and other coalition forces to protect Camp Eggers and ensure the safety of all who live and work here. We have a staff that uses various computer systems to analyze, validate and confirm all information before it evolves into intelligence. We also communicate with state of the art radio/satellite communication equipment to talk to other units so we can coordinate missions and secure the safety of all who transit through our area of operation. Our mission is to support the main effort and work behind the scenes. Here at the BDOC we are innovators of our profession and we strive to make operations run smoother, more efficient, and user friendly. We don't make the problems, we make the problems easier to solve. Sometimes our work is thankless but we all know that what we do is very important. This is not a one person show, we all must work together so we can give the people of the Kabul Base Cluster / Afghanistan the very best service we can provide. Hooah!

*The BDOC Staff share the responsibilities to keep the Kabul Base Cluster Safe 24/7!  
From Top Left to Right—SSG Tyson T, SSG Dan T, SFC Blaine M.  
Center Left to Right—SPC Ross C, 1LT Jasmine C, MSG Scott H  
Bottom Left to Right SPC Steven M, SPC Zachary S and SSG Scott M*



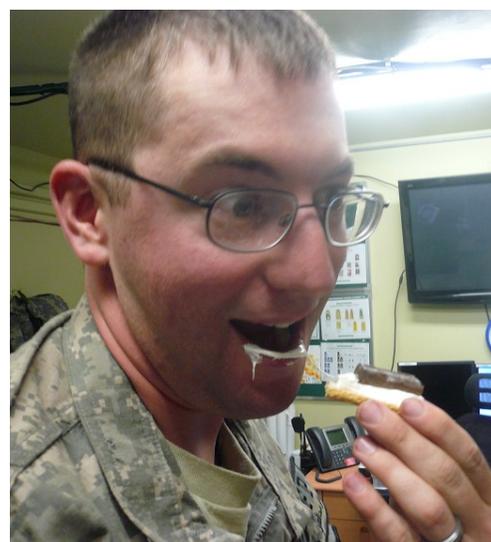
**A Soldiers Story III—  
“The Colossus of Kabul”  
by SPC Josh T.**

Greetings from Kabul. We have been keeping moderately busy doing various missions. Everyone is doing fine, though most of us would rather be home than here. All those that go home on leave have returned safely and a few more have been sent out to whatever fun awaits them. Just to get a taste of some of the more amusing events that go on here; there is a little story to go along with each and every one...we were coming back from a mission and were about seventy yards from the gate when we were passed by an ANA pickup truck. In the bed was a “humungous” sheep! Almost as soon as it passed our lead truck there was a call on the radio, “that sheep is a mutant!” Two of us mistook it for a small cow at first. The next day some of the soldiers saw it again on the side of the road next to an ANA person who stood about 5’9”; the sheep was as tall as his waist! From that point on we dubbed the sheep “The Colossus of Kabul” Whether or not it is grazing somewhere or has been eaten up by some Afghan, it remains to be unseen. However, the Colossus of Kabul will definitely be a story remembered.

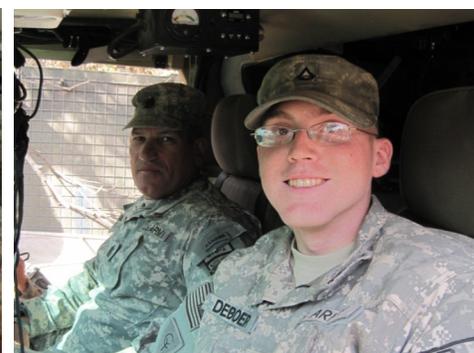


*The Colossus of Kabul rises high above his peers.*

**1ST Platoon—  
By 1LT Nic P**



*1LT Nic P and SGT Michael S enjoy a “Combat S”more before Staff Call Meeting at the BDOC. Crazy...yes!*



*Left: SPC Sarah C and PFC Alby D work on installing a light set.  
Right: PFC Alby D sit in an MRAP with Command Sergeant Major Beam.*

Dear family and friends of 1st Platoon 1136th, WE MISS YOU! But of course that was obvious, on another note, we're rolling along over here nothing too new to report, which is not to say that our guys and gals aren't doing some amazing things over here, but they've been doing that since Day 1 so there's no change. SSG John B's squad working closely with SSG Travis S.'s and SSG Barth D.'s squads had the honor and privilege to coordinate and plan security for the NTM-A anniversary recently. This event drew everyone who's anyone in the Kabul Area, and had national coverage. Your Soldiers did an outstanding job, in fact they were doing so well that there may or not have been times when I found myself with nothing more to do than put my feet up and play games on my iPod. Special kudos to SGT Brandon M. and SPC James G. for their extra efforts for this event. As always we love and miss you all, and can't wait to see everyone sometime in March.

## The JVB—By SPC Michael M.

JVB started their busy season this month. It started off with the CIV-MIL ROC drill or Rehearsal of Concept drill. This is a biannual meeting of the minds to discuss the wars progress. We were tasked with the transport and protection of many high level VIPs at once. VIPs like Gen Mattis the US Centcom Commander, Ms. Flournoy the Undersecretary of Defense for policy, Gen Conway the former Commandant of the Marine Corp, and others. With this many high priority missions at once we stayed very busy. The drill itself lasted only two days but the preparation took quite a deal longer. For weeks we prepared by servicing vehicles to make sure that no preventable breakdowns would occur, cleaning and preparing the DV's quarters, and coordinating with the point of contacts of the DV's to fine tune the movement plans. The drill went off without a hitch. Hopefully by the next Rehearsal Drill we will all be home.

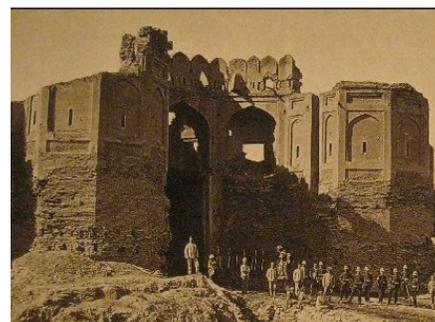


General Ahmad  
Shah Massoud



A busy street in Kabul, 1977.

King Amanullah and  
Queen Soraya in  
Paris, France enjoy-  
ing a tour of the city.



Bala Hissar during the British Occupa-  
tion in 1880

## Afghan History

By SPC Steven M

- From the 1930s to 1970s Kabul was known as "the Paris of Central Asia"
- King Amanullah was the first monogamous king, breaking the tradition of multiple wives
- King Amanullah and Queen Soraya were given honorary degrees from Oxford University
- Repression of female citizens has decreased significantly since the initial fall of the Taliban in 2001
- Prior to Islamic Revolution, Soviet Invasion, and Taliban takeover, Kabul was a fairly westernized city
- National hero Ahmad Shah Massoud prior to his death aided Afghans in the fight against the Soviet occupation and later the Taliban before his assassination in September 2001
- In the year 330B.C Alexander the Great conquered Afghanistan after defeating Darius the 3<sup>rd</sup> of Persia
- There were 3 Anglo-Afghan wars, the first from 1839 to 1842 and the second from 1878 to 1880, and the third Afghan War in 1919
- Bala Hissar was estimated to have been built in the 5<sup>th</sup> century AD and has been used as a barracks, palace, and fortress, surviving over 1600 years of violent history

## NKC - Horseshoe

Hello to all 2<sup>nd</sup> Platoon families and friends. I would like to start out by first saying happy Veterans Day to all who are serving and who have served. Job well done! I would also like to take a moment to thank all who did not sign on the dotted line but are behind the scenes i.e. wives, husbands, Mom, Dad, etc. Without your love and support we could not accomplish our mission here. For your sacrifice I commend you and thank you from the bottom of my heart. With loved ones back home taking care of what needs to be taken care of; it makes our job here that much easier.

With October now behind us, and November well on its way we are finding ourselves starting to look forward to the end of the year. Christmas is right around the corner. The soldiers have started to pack things up and are getting ready to deploy back home. I ask that during the Christmas season, you try not to send too many bulk items into theater due to the fact that it may need to be sent back home by mail.

The soldiers here at NKC are, as usual, doing an outstanding job. I could not ask for a better group of soldiers. Our mission is never ending with new things coming up all the time. The soldiers react and respond to the issues very well; they improvise, adapt, and overcome to all obstacles.

The weather here is starting to turn colder at night and warming up a little during the day. According to the locals, there should be snow on the ground by the first of the year. So I know it will only be a matter of time before I find soldiers sliding down the mountains on makeshift sleds or building snowmen.

I look forward to writing to you all next month. Once again I thank you for your service to your loved ones over here, and we will be seeing you all before too long. Until then, take care.

SFC Jason W & 2Lt Jacob P



*While on post SPC Christopher E is in charge of the biometrics system that matches local nationals who are on a watch list. Two such locals who were on the list attempted to enter NKC. SPC Christopher E matched them to the watch list and, followed the SOPs and training apprehended them with guidance from the SOG and the BDOC, the two local nationals were turned over to CID. This is just another example of the hard work being done by the soldiers of the 1136<sup>th</sup>.*



*A photo from home. Mr Peter M thanks the spirit of the Deer Gods for providing him with a wonderful 8 "point-a" on opening day. He was so proud of his catch that he sent his daughter this photo to share with all the hunters in Afghanistan.*