



Congratulations to the BTB Soldiers of the Month for May and June

The Leader of the Unsung Heroes

Story By: 2LT John Conway, BTB



Chief Johnson head of the BTB maintenance

Has your car ever broken down and you told yourself, "I wish I could have a team of mechanics that could fix my car." The BTB has a crew of unsung heroes that fix every military vehicle (within the BTB) that breaks down; they are known as the Combat Readiness Team. The man who

leads this team of unsung heroes is an Atlanta, GA native, Chief Johnson. Chief Warrant Officer Two Johnson is in charge of making all of the vehicles within the BTB capable to run for missions and is responsible for reporting the status of every vehicle to the Battalion

Commander. This requires making a schedule for regular and irregular maintenance, tracking all of the parts/oils that come in to the maintenance depot, and managing the dispatches for all of the BTB vehicles that go out on missions. The BTB vehicles that are most frequently in need of

maintenance are the route clearance vehicles. Route clearance equipment takes precedence over all other military equipment because it is used to ensure the roads are free of IEDs and safe for all military and civilian vehicles to travel on. Keeping the route clearance vehicles on the road is important to the counterinsurgency fight as it allows for local Afghans to feel safe about the roads within their own country. If they feel safe about traveling on their roads it will increase the economic growth of Afghanistan, allowing it to become a more peaceful nation. Unfortunately for the BTB, Chief Johnson has been promoted to a job with 3-21IN. Congratulations Chief!

BTB NCO & Soldier - May
SGT Schwartz & PVT Byrd (73 EN)



BTB NCO & Soldier - June SSG
Mendoza & SPC Magnan (73 EN)



Rewarding Job of Mail Delivery

Story By: SGT Victor Saucedo, BTB S1 NCOIC

Every day at Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan, Soldiers from the Brigade spend anywhere from four to six hours sorting mail at the Brigade mail pitch point. Mail is sorted by each Battalion mail representative and then transported to each Battalion's mail holding area. After spending these long hours in the heat sorting mail, these Soldiers then further breakdown mail by the location based on where the addressed Soldiers are located. Their next task is sometimes the most difficult, getting the mail to its final location. Air transportation frequently gets cancelled, convoys get filled with other essential items such as food, fuel and ammunition and the Soldiers have to do their best to find alternative methods to get mail to the Soldiers addressed on the boxes and envelopes from loved ones. Each time mail is transported it has to be stored in a specific manner, boxes have to be built and weighed to transport this mail and these large boxes of mail, some weighing 50—75 pounds, have to be moved to their mode of transportation which isn't an easy task. Many times these Soldiers will even travel with the mail to its final destination to ensure each Soldier gets their mail. The Soldiers then go back to their other daily duties knowing that tomorrow will be a long day of sorting more mail, coordinating transportation and escorting mail because just like the US Postal Office in the United States "Neither rain, Nor sleet, Nor gloom of night" the Soldiers do this here 7 days a week 365 days a year. All the hard work ensuring Soldiers get their mail is worth it when comments are made like the one from 1LT Antonette Deleon, of HHC stationed at Masum Ghar, "Receiving a package is a pleasant surprise that definitely makes your day."

Engineers Teach Afghan Soldiers First Aid



SGT Magers supervises during a hands on casualty evaluation by an ANA Soldier on 13 July 2911

73rd Engineer Company Soldiers CPL Berry, SPC Zidek, and SGT Magers trained eight Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers on how to evaluate a casualty and transporting a casualty. There were some difficulties with this training due to the language barrier, requiring two interpreters to communicate with the ANA Engineer Soldiers. The training was well received by both our Soldiers from 73rd Engineer Company and the ANA Soldiers. This is another step closer to having the Afghan National Army take control and lead their country.





Message from the Grey Wolves Commander and Command Sergeant Major

It is hard to believe it is August already. The time has flown by as we have been incredibly busy over the last month. We are finishing up this round of moves and are beginning to consolidate the team at one location. The Soldiers are doing great as we transition the Brigade headquarters from FOB Lagman to FOB Masum Ghar. Early August we will finish transitioning some of the Brigade's mission to a National Guard headquarters element allowing our "family" to reunite at one location for the most part. Your Soldiers have been doing an exceptional job in supporting the Brigade and have faced all challenges with a high degree of professionalism. The hard work and enthusiasm can be seen daily as I watch our new home away from home improve. The BTB is a team of teams with the mission to provide combat enablers to the brigade and this has been demonstrated with this move. Whether it is Soldiers in HHC, MICO, and Signal companies stand up the new Brigade Tactical Operation Center (TOC) or the Soldiers from 73rd Engineer Company clearing routes and building the new infrastructure or D Troop getting the new flight line up and running for the Shadows. Their hard work and sweat does not go unnoticed. Your Soldiers have shown continued high levels of motivation and demonstrate selfless service daily while completing all required missions. You should be very proud of what they are accomplishing.

To the friends and families of the Battalion, thank you for all of the support that you have shown us over the past few months. Your support is greatly appreciated and makes a positive impact on every Soldier. I also understand that words cannot make up for the sacrifices that you and your family are experiencing with the deployment. Our Soldier's hard work and personal sacrifices are having a positive impact on the people we are helping. The missions are demanding and the days are long, but it helps the time to go by quickly. The Battalion's Soldiers have been rotating out on R&R and I know your Soldiers are looking forward to seeing you very soon. Thank you all for your efforts and sacrifices. Until next month, Strength through Unity!

Grey Wolf 6
Grey Wolf 7



Grey Wolf 7, SGM Darbison



Grey Wolf 6, LTC Adams



HHC BDE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

HHC 1/25 SBCT Company Update:

We have continued to be very busy over the last month. The Company should be finishing the move from one FOB to another early next month, but for now, we are mainly split up in three different locations, with a small contingent of MPs at a fourth. The work load has been heavy, as we are preparing to turn one FOB over to a new unit while building up our new location. Even though we have been working long hours in extremely hot temperatures, our morale is still strong and we look forward to the challenges in the months ahead.

Thank you for all your support and especially for the packages and letters that you send, and I know that the Soldiers would always appreciate a kind word or a timely care package. You are always in our thoughts, and we can't wait for the moment when we return to Alaska and see everyone again.

CPT BATH
HHC Company CO



184 MICO COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Hello friends and family of the 184th MICO. By the time you read this all but a couple of Soldiers from the company should be at FOB Masum Ghar. Mid-tour leave has kicked off so it's only a matter of time now before you Soldier is home for two weeks. I encourage you to enjoy this time with your Soldier, but please remember to be safe.

The highlights for the month of July include the birth of Sophia Green Hollis to Specialist Hollis and his wife, the promotions from Private First Class to Specialist for Specialist Long and Specialist Torres, and finally Sergeant First Class Green, Private First Class Cuzick, and Private Jacobs have joined the company here in Afghanistan. The 184th MICO has also changed its name from Phantoms to Wolverines. Prior to 2008 the MICO had been known as the Wolverines, consistent with many other unit call signs that reference our Alaskan heritage.

CPT Chris Cramer
184th MICO Commander



MESSAGE FROM THE "ARCTIC SAPPERS" COMMANDER

Hello again Arctic Sapper Families. Your Soldiers continue to amaze me with their professionalism and dedication to duty. This month has been full of hard work and long days. Headquarters keeps acquiring the tools necessary for the platoons to execute their missions. They deal with the rat race at KAF every day to get their mission done. First Platoon is doing great things for the Brigade at Masum Ghar. They are tearing down old buildings, preparing the ground to build new living quarters, and upgrading the force protection for the Soldiers stationed there. Also, they are used to conduct rapid crater repair on the roads in and around the Brigade area of Operations. Second, Third and Fourth Platoon are conducting Route Clearance through out the area of operations to ensue the routes are passable for Coalition Soldiers and the locals. In addition, Third Platoon has recently begun to train the ANA route clearance company on basic Soldier skills. They recently completed training on basic medical tasks. The company will continue to train and develop the ANA. In the future we plan to conduct joint missions with the ANA to help facilitate the on the job training. Some of the Soldiers mentioned that it is difficult to keep your train of thought because the ANA have a mix of Pashto and Dari speakers. When you say something in English you have to wait for both translators to relay the information in their perspective language. Seeing all of the great things these Soldiers are doing makes me proud to be their Commander.

LEVI M LEWELLYN
CPT, EN
Commander



MESSAGE FROM THE "DRAGOON" COMMANDER

To the Dragoon Families,
01 JUL 2011

The company is doing well here in Southern Afghanistan. Our Soldiers have been working hard here conducting Counter Insurgency Operations. We are now attached to Task Force Automatic, also recognized as 2-8 Field Artillery Battalion, and will be working with them in the Daman District, Kandahar Province. Our three platoons currently spend three days here at the Forward Operating Base (FOB) and six days out at our Combat Outpost (COP). Living conditions at the FOB are very good, and it has one of the best rated Dining Facilities in Afghanistan. Living conditions at our outpost have improved exponentially. All Dragoons now have tents to sleep in with Air Conditioning and we are working on setting up a kitchen. Our current mission is to conduct partnered operations with the Afghan National Police (ANP), follow and support them. While we are still ready to conduct kinetic operations against the insurgency if necessary, our main goal is to train the ANP to be self sufficient. We must ensure that they can maintain what we have fought and paid so dearly for, once we are gone. I encourage all of the Spouses and family members to be involved with our Family Readiness Group. If you are reading this and know of a Soldier's family member that is not aware of the FRG please inform them. We also have a D/52 IN FRG Facebook page. These are the best ways for me to get information about Soldiers back to the families, as well as for me to receive information about the questions and concerns of the families.

Our Soldiers are doing a great job here and you should all be very proud of them. Also on 16MAY2011 we received a new baby dragoon to the D/52 IN family. SSG Brady and his wife Orasa welcomed their new baby boy Aeson into the world. We miss you all very much and can't wait to see you all again.

Very Respectfully,

CHRISTOPHER L. HANES
CPT, AR



MESSAGE FROM THE “DARKHORSE” COMMANDER

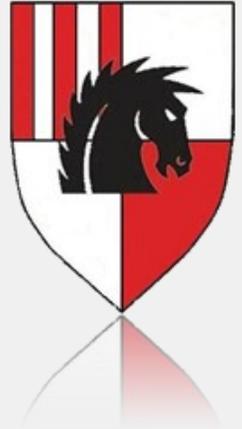
Darkhorse Family,

August is here already, these last few months have gone by fast. Life has kept us all very busy; making time fly by. The R&R process is under way and our Soldiers are counting down the days until it is their turn to come home and visit their loved ones.

Most of us have made the transition to our new “homes” and are making final preparations for the rest of the Troop to make the move. The CBRN platoon is hard at work with base operations at FOB Masum Ghar, helping keep everyone safe on the FOB. The SIGINT platoon continues to provide support to each of the respective Battalion Command Teams to ensure they get timely and accurate information to aid them in succeeding here in Afghanistan. The UAS platoon has been putting in many long hours flying and maintaining their aircraft over the last month. Their unique skills are playing a key role to the success of the Brigade’s mission. Our Headquarters platoon is finishing up at FOB Lagman and looking forward to rejoining the Troop at our new “home.”

Thank you Darkhorse family for your continued support of Delta Troop. Please continue to be patient with us as we are transitioning around the battlefield and rest assured that though communications may not be the best right now your Soldiers are always thinking about you. I will continue to update you each month in the BTB newsletter and in the 5-1CAV newsletter on the status of our Troop. As always, thank you for taking care of things back home while we are gone and thank you for your Support.

Respectfully,
CPT Kenneth W. Hahn
“Darkhorse 6”



“ARCTIC LIGHTENING”

Commanders Message



Greeting s Arctic Lightning Family,

1SG Oliver and myself would like to extend a heartfelt thank you for your support and dedication to 176th Signal Network Support Company (NSC). Thank you for the Father's Day and 4th of July Banners! High spirits and motivation continue to flow thru the Lightning Company. We continue to move forward tackling new missions weekly. All will be amazed at the growth and initiative that your Solider has taken head on each day. Our Soldiers continue to strive for perfection to extend each war fighter the communications needed to keep focus on the mission at hand. We continue to be ready to attach ourselves to any unit within TF Arctic Wolf.

The 176th NSC is spread out across TF Arctic Wolf's area of operations. We have SGT Aponte's JNN Team 05 in charge of connectivity for the BDE and it's separates at FOB Masum Ghar. SGT Furlong's Retransmission Team also at FOB Masum Ghar used to extend the frequency range and relaying message for the BDE throughout the area. SGT Payne's JNN Team 06 is in charge of connectivity for the Brigade Support Battalion in Kandahar. SSG Chapple's, Retransmission team is in SP Edgerton near Kandahar extending the frequency range for the BDE within the 1-5 IN Regiment area of operations. We also have satellite sites at Shamulzai (SGT Joehnk and PFC Schunn), Mescall (SPC Louis), and Atghar (SGT Berki and SPC Gray, N)

I look forward to keeping our families updated with issues 4, 5, and 6 of the "Lightning Chronicles". Each issue will identify an outstanding service member for the week and major events within the company. The "Lightning Chronicles" is just a snippet of what your loved ones are doing to keep our country safe. We will continue to keep full color photos and updates weekly with each issue. The Leave schedule has begun and some sooner than others will be able to enjoy their loved ones once again. Please remember with our constant movement there will be times your loved ones may not be able to contact you on a continuous basis. Because of our mission to support the Brigade with continuous frequency radio retransmission and voice and data connectivity, we always have moving pieces. Thank you all for the continued support and care packages.

Happy Anniversary Jacqueline Lair and Nicole Aponte
Happy Birthday: Stephanie Bingler, Heather Hucks, Madison Samsill, Nathan Aponte, Donovan Brown, Drake Guigley!
Congratulations PFC McIntosh on the new nuptials!

CPT Casey Carter,
176th Signal Network Support Company Commander





NEWS FROM THE "ARCTIC SAPPERS"



SSG Markiewicz posing as the strongest man during a husky recovery.



SGT Ruiz and PFC Folsom building some facilities at Masum Ghar



SGT West and SPC Bowersox enjoying themselves at Masum Ghar





JULY BIRTHDAYS and PROMOTIONS

Birthdays

176th Signal Company

- SPC Smalls– July 3
- SSG Romannegron– July 12
- PFC Cross– July 23
- PFC Gonzalez– July 23
- PFC McIntosh– July 26
- PFC Rivera– July 26

184th Military Intelligence Company

- SGT Grose– July 1
- SPC Strizhevskiy– July 2
- SPC Freeman– July 4
- SSG Zarelli– July 8
- SGT Smith– July 11
- SSG Dye– July 15
- SSG Guerrero– July 21
- SFC Green– July 23
- SPC Crist– July 27

73rd Engineer Company

- SPC Valenzuela– July 2
- PFC Henry– July 3
- PV2 Walker– July 3
- SPC Toney– July 9
- SPC Schoellkopf– July 11
- SGT Schwartz– July 16
- SGT Brooks– July 17
- SPC Shunk– July 17
- SPC Meneley– July 18
- PV2 Summers– July 18
- SPC Roseman– July 19
- PFC Benedict– July 24
- SPC Farley– July 24
- SFC Alvarez– July 27
- PV2 Nunn– July 29
- SPC Roberts– July 29
- SPC Perry– July 30
- SPC McCauley– July 31
- SPC Phetphouthay– July 31
- CPL Presley– July 31

Brigade SFA

- SFC Streeper– July 1
- SFC McDonald– July 26

BTB Staff

- SPC Brown– July 9
- SSG Adkins– July 19
- 1LT DeLeon– July 27

Birthdays (continued)

D/52 IN

- SGT Altherr– July 8
- PV2 Packer– July 8
- SSG Caraballo– July 23
- PFC Zaragoza– July 27

D Troop, 5-1 CAV

- SPC Brady– July 9
- SGT Miller– July 14
- SPC Cisneros– July 26

Headquarters Company

- PFC Casey– July 2
- WO1 Fatty– July 2
- CPT Kaer– July 4
- SPC Clements– July 7
- SPC Jones– July 7
- SGT Jimenezmercedes– July 8
- SSG (P) Butler– July 11
- SPC Carrillo– July 11
- SFC Bockert– July 14
- CPT Osborne– July 15
- PFC King– July 18
- 1LT Lopez– July 20
- SGT Robinson– July 20
- CSM Knight– July 21
- SFC Russell– July 24
- SSG Stevens– July 24
- SGT Balack– July 26
- CPL Davis– July 29
- CPT Roberts– July 29
- SFC Oh– July 30
- SGT Wood– July 10

Promotions

73rd Engineer Company

- From PV2 to PFC Arteaga
- From PV2 to PFC Bryd
- From PV2 to PFC Clark
- From PV2 to PFC Dirsio
- From PV2 to PFC Hopper
- From PV2 to PFC Lychik
- From PV2 to PFC Nunn
- From PV2 to PFC Walker
- From PV2 to PFC Wilson
- From PFC to SPC Correa
- From PFC to SPC Dreher
- From PFC to SPC Gray

- From PFC to SPC Folsom
- From PFC to SPC Magnan
- From PFC to SPC McGuire
- From CPL to SGT Lorek
- From 2LT to 1LT Bauler

184 Military Intelligence Company

- From PV2 to PFC Eddings
 - From PFC to SPC Biles
 - From PFC to SPC Carter
 - From PFC to SPC Hodge
 - From PFC to SPC Long
 - From PFC to SPC Lopez
 - From PFC to SPC Meza
 - From SGT to SSG Jungjohan
- #### **Headquarters Company**
- From PV1 to PV2 Chen
 - From PV2 to PFC Casey
 - From PV2 to PFC McKinney
 - From PV2 to PFC Murray
 - From PV2 to PFC Newman
 - From PV2 to PFC Siddall
 - From PV2 to PFC Vanderpoel
 - From PV2 to PFC Young
 - From PFC to SPC Allen
 - From PFC to SPC Apostolos
 - From PFC to SPC Black
 - From PFC to SPC Brown
 - From PFC to SPC Cooper
 - From PFC to SPC Mascote
 - From SPC to CPL Buffington
 - From SPC to CPL Jones
 - From SPC to CPL Kandel
 - From SPC to CPL Linderman
 - From 1LT to CPT Kunz
 - From 1LT to CPT Wang
 - From CPT to MAJ Zerbst
 - From W01 to CW2 Warsing





JULY PROMOTIONS Continued

Promotions (continued)

176 Signal company

- From PV2 to PFC Gonzalez
- From PFC to SPC Cross
- From PFC to SPC Gossett
- From PFC to SPC Filippini
- From PFC to SPC Norman
- From PFC to SPC Taffe

D/52 IN

- From CPL to SGT Berry
- From CPL to SGT Gonzalez
- From CPL to SGT Thomas
- From 1LT to CPT Hulst

D Troop, 5-1 CAV

- From PFC to SPC Westmoreland

Re-enlistments

184 MICO

- SPC Menke
- SGT Aponte

Births

- Sophia Green Hollis to Specialist Hollis and Ms. Hollis
- Aeson Brady to SSG Brady and his wife Orasa

* Please accept our sincerest apologies if we forgot to mention any births

