

1/25th SBCT Receives their Combat Patch



PFC Cross and PV2 Spradlin give LTC Adams and SGM Darbison their "combat patch."

On May 27 2011, Soldiers of the Brigade Troops Battalion (BTB) received their combat patch as a visual reminder of their war time service. To some it is just one more "patch" to add to long list of combat deployments and to others it is their first. Regardless, the members of the Battalion are now part of a long and proud legacy of combat veter-

ans that goes back to World War II. Due to battalion's mission several patch ceremonies were planned to ensure everyone participated, without affecting the mission. The ceremonies were held across FOB Lagman, from the helicopter land zone, UAS flight line, to motorpools and company areas to indicate how busy and diverse the organization is. As part of the ceremony two of youngest Soldiers were selected to present the Battalion Commander, LTC Adams and the Battalion Sergeant Major, SGM Darbison with their 25th Infantry Division combat shoulder sleeve insignie. This honor was given to Private First Class (PFC) Cross, from 176 Signal Company and Private Spradlin, from Headquarters, Headquarters Company. After receiving their patches LTC Adams and SGM Darbison placed the combat patch on each of the Company Commanders and First Sergeants. Who in turn

presented combat patches to the Platoon Leaders and Platoon Sergeants. Several short speeches were given by the leadership thanking everyone to include their families for their service and sacrifice. CPT Bath, the Headquarters and Headquarters Company Commander, explained the significance of the combat patch to his Soldiers, "The combat patch is a symbol of the sacrifice that you have made for your country. While other people sit home on couch eating 'Cheetos' and drinking beer, you are making a contribution to your country's security that no one will forget."



HAPPY 4TH OF JULY

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING SOLDIERS FROM 73RD ENGINEER COMPANY WHO WERE RE-ENLISTED BY GEN PETRAEUS

- CPL BERRY
- SPC DREHER
- SPC IVY

The Combat Action Badge was Awarded to 11 Engineer Soldiers

The following Soldiers were awarded the CAB for their actions.

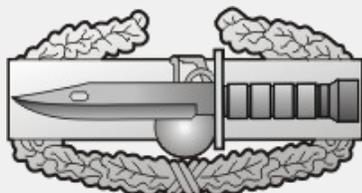
PVT Arteaga	SGT Bauhm	2LT Bauler
PV2 Byrd	PV2 Dirisio	SGT Lorek
SPC McDonald	SPC Melton*	PFC Pressley*
SPC Ross	SPC Schoellkopf	SGT Schwartz
SPC Shunk	SPC Toney	PVT Tucker*

* posthumously

Commander's Corner

To everyone on the home front, happy 4th of July! Your Soldiers have been doing an outstanding job in supporting the Brigade and have faced all challenges head on. The leadership and Soldiers have shown continued high levels of motivation and hard work. We are establishing operations in yet another area of Southern Afghanistan while constantly demonstrating great skill and professionalism. Our Soldiers are spread across two provinces in several different Forward Operation Bases (FOBs). Some of these bases are almost like a small city back in the states and some are very primitive, but improving daily. Every day the Sergeant Major and I are impressed by the personal characteristics your Soldiers demonstrate as they meet our mission. Their selfless service in working to complete all required tasks is making us tremendously proud of them. No words can make up for the sacrifices that the Families are experiencing over another missed holiday away from loved ones, but rest assure our sacrifices are having a positive impact on the people we are helping. I am amazed with the great attitude and outstanding work everyone is doing. The missions are difficult and the days are long, but it helps the time move by rapidly. The battalion started rotating Soldiers 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



HHC BDE COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

The months of June and July have been filled with moves. HHC BDE has been steadily sending Soldiers to different locations to accomplish our mission. The Staff Sections have been working in three different locations to support all of our ongoing operations while the Military Police Platoon has been split into two locations. The MP's and BDE TAC have been doing great work with moving the Brigade Commander around the battlefield to both see our Soldiers and meet with local Afghan leaders. These two groups are constantly on the move and continuing to impress those they encounter. HQ Section has been split into two locations where they are slowly transitioning control of one Forward Operating Base (FOB) to another battalion and building another FOB for future operations.

We have had many promotions over the last two months: SFC Barber of the PMO Section and SFC Crist of the Reenlistment Section have both been promoted to Master Sergeant, SSG Pagan of the S6 Section was promoted to Sergeant First Class, SGT Robinson of the HQ Section and SGT Lambert of BTB HQ were promoted to Staff Sergeant, CPL McMonigle of the MP Platoon, SPC Hess of TOPO Section, SPC Dawsey of MP Platoon, and SPC Webb of

S2 Section were promoted to Sergeant, and PV2 Rone of the S1 Section was promoted to Private First class. CPT Zerbst of the S3 will shortly pin on the rank of Major, and the announcement was made a few days ago that MAJ Walter has been selected for the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. Congratulations to all of these HHC BDE Soldiers.

The R&R leave program has begun for some of our HHC BDE Soldiers. In the months to come all of us will rotate home for our much needed, two week vacations with those that we love. Many of you have special occasions planned for your Soldiers R&R while others plan to just "be normal" for two weeks. No matter what the plans are, we are all very excited to see our families and spend a little time with those that we dearly love.

Please continue to send your care packages and letters to your Soldier. These small pieces of home go a long way for our Soldier's morale, and make us feel connected to the real world. Mail may take a little longer than normal to reach your Soldier due to the constant moves and out-of-the-way locations, but it will get there. Just know that the sight of mail bags coming off of an aircraft at our locations is always a big event in our Soldier's

day. Any word from home, either by mail, email, Facebook, phone, or Skype, is something we all treasure.

We have been posting pictures on the HHC BDE Facebook page for all at home to see. Please join the page as we will continue to post pictures and provide stories from all of HHC BDE. FRG events and local community calendars are also posted on the page to keep you all informed.

As many of you may know, Christi Marcinick has stepped down as the FRG Leader. She and her family are moving on to another duty assignment. Thank you to her for her efforts with our FRG, and good luck in the future. We currently are without a FRG Leader, so if anyone is willing to volunteer their time it will be greatly appreciated by the HHC BDE family. If you are interested, please contact Mrs. Raydene Wolney at the BTB Headquarters.

Thank you to all for your support of HHC BDE. We all look forward to accomplishing our mission and coming home to you all.



MAJ Rodriguez (left), MSG Barber (center) and CSM Knight (right) pose for a picture following MSG Barber's promotion



SGT McRae (left) and PFC Rone (right) giving a speech following his promotion to PFC



184 MICO COMMANDER'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Afghanistan,

The 184th MICO has been at it in Afghanistan for two months now and is settling in nicely. Two weeks ago we sent an advance party from FOB Lagman to FOB Masum Ghar to set up what should be our home for the rest of the deployment. 1LT Bobrowski and SFC Seroka were given the task to lead that effort and from the feedback we have received everything is coming along just fine. The soldiers are living off bologna sandwiches and competition for the three functioning showers is intense, but each day their quality of life is improving. On a positive note, they do have functioning air conditioning in their offices. For those of you with family members already at FOB Masum Ghar be sure to keep the much needed, and much appreciated, care packages coming. For the rest of the family members you can expect your soldier to be at FOB Masum Ghar sometime in the next 45 days. The entire company, with the exception of one rotating soldier at FOB Zangabad and another at Kandahar Air Field, is expected to remain at FOB Masum Ghar for the duration of the deployment.

Life on FOB Lagman is fairly good by comparison. A small group of MICO soldiers recently put together a volleyball team at the last minute to compete in the FOB Lagman volleyball tournament. They were bounced out of the tournament after one game, but before departing they managed to get one or two balls over the net for a few points. The important thing is that they enjoyed themselves. They also deserve credit for their willingness to play in the middle of day in 100 degree plus temps. WO1 DeLeon and 2LT Francis have started workout groups that involve Cross Fit in the morning and Insanity in the evening. These workouts dominate conversation in the ACE (where the analysts work) and border on an obsession. Even 1SG Gilbert has become a disciple of Insanity. The soldiers are working 12 hours or more each day 7 days a week so they enjoy getting out of the office, competing against one another, and of course these are great and fun ways of staying in shape.

Work is going well and the MICO is functioning as a team. The HUMINT and CI soldiers have been doing a great job producing intelligence reports which help to prevent imminent threats as well as feed the analysts in the ACE with the information they need to create finished intelligence products that are ultimately briefed to COL Wood, the brigade commander, and widely disseminated throughout Afghanistan in the GRINTSUM, or graphic intelligence summary.

We ask that you keep us in your thoughts and prayers as you are certainly in ours.

CPT Chris Cramer
184th MICO Commander



MESSAGE FROM THE “ARCTIC SAPPERS” COMMANDER

Hello Arctic Sapper Families and Friends! These first two months in Afghanistan have been busy and very productive. When we first got to FOB Lagman we were met with many challenges. Each Soldier demonstrated extreme persistence and met each challenge head on. Our Company has recently made a transition from FOB Lagman to FOB Lindsey and FOB Masum Ghar. Our Company has already completed our relief in place for the Engineer operations on our new area of operations. Our new living areas are austere but should improve as we develop our areas as our own. The mail system is starting to catch up with us and Soldiers are receiving their mail on a regular basis now. Please be patient as we are trying to get all of the systems in place for your Soldier to be able to communicate with you. The computers and connectivity are sparse, but it will improve. Some of the big events in the past couple of months include 1SG Brown changed out with 1SG Wolter, SPC Dreher reenlisted and was promoted on the Army's Birthday, four Soldiers passed the promotion board, the Company celebrated Independence Day with a BBQ, and three Soldiers reenlisted with GEN Petraeus. Multiple Soldiers also attended courses in Afghanistan so we are able execute our missions more effectively. I will publish a newsletter every couple of months so you can see all of the good things your Soldiers are doing. Thank you for your support.

Current Address:

Name (no Rank)

73rd EN CO, BTB, 1-25 SBCT

FOB Lindsey or FOB Masum Ghar (which ever FOB your Soldier is at)

APO AE 09355

LEVI M LEWELLYN

CPT, EN

Commander



MESSAGE FROM THE “ARCTIC SAPPERS” FIRST SERGEANT

Family and friends of the Arctic Sappers, let me start out by expressing what an honor it is to serve as the First Sergeant of the 73rd Engineer Company. The Soldiers of the 73rd never cease to amaze me with their dedication, discipline and commitment to excellence. These are some of the finest Sappers that I have seen in my 18 years of service, and it is a privilege to be called their First Sergeant.

A little about me:

On May 29th I assumed responsibility of the 73rd Engineer Company from 1SG Derrick Brown, who has served with distinction as the company First Sergeant for the last two years. I may be new as the First Sergeant, but I am no stranger to the company. I have been assigned to Ft Wainwright since January 2004 and have served as a Squad Leader, Platoon Sergeant and Operations Sergeant with the Arctic Sappers. I am married to a wonderful wife, Tracy, and have two great daughters, Jenifer and Julie.

I would like to thank you, the family and friends of the 73rd Engineer Company. Thank you for your prayers and the support of your loved ones during this deployment. Each deployment brings new challenges, which are made easier to face and overcome with your continued encouragement. Until next time, take care and enjoy the Alaska summer.

1SG Christian M. Wolter



US Army

TASK FORCE GREY WOLF NEWS

JULY 2011

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

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 Soldiers 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
D/52 IN DRAGOON 6
Commanding "NO SLACK"



MESSAGE FROM THE "DARKHORSE" COMMANDER

Darkhorse Family,

I hope everyone had a great 4th of July. The Soldiers have been extremely busy this past month with all the moves that are currently taking place. Things are a little hectic to say the least; however, the Soldiers are taking everything with stride and performing outstandingly as they always do.

I am sure that you all are aware that the CBRN platoon has completed their move to FOB Masum Ghar. They are currently working with BDOC to help provide security for the FOB. Their living conditions are not as luxurious as they were at FOB Lagman but the CBRN platoon is making the best out of it. There is continuous work on improving the living conditions at FOB Masum Ghar but it will take some time before systems will be operational. The Brigade is currently working on establishing an APO address so that mail can be sent directly to FOB Masum Ghar; but for the meantime continue to send mail to the KAF address for Soldiers currently at Masum Ghar. I want to take a minute and congratulate SPC Westmoreland on his promotion. He has proven to his Chain of Command that he is ready for the responsibilities that come with his new promotion. All in all, the CBRN platoon is doing well and meeting all expectations.

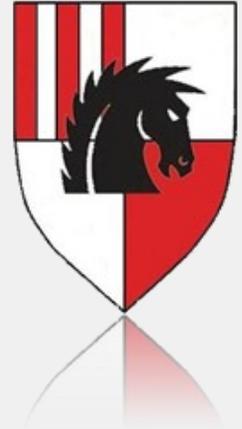
This month has been especially busy for the UAS platoon. Half of the platoon has moved to and setup operations at FOB Pasab. The other half of the platoon is maintaining operations at FOB Lagman. The Soldiers at FOB Pasab are working diligently on emplacing equipment and establishing living/working areas. I am currently with the Soldiers at FOB Pasab and have witness first-hand all the hard work that the platoon has accomplished thus far. The platoon is putting in long hours to ensure that the Brigade is setup for success. Once again, the platoon has proven themselves and exceeded all expectations. The platoon is doing a great job and all are well at both FOB Lagman and FOB Pasab.

As you all know, the SIGINT platoon is currently spread out across 5 different FOBs in RC South. They are working with different Battalions to ensure that the Brigade is being provided with the upmost support from the SIGINT side. They too are doing an excellent job. It is difficult to talk about their actual mission set due to the sensitivity of their job. However, I am sure that this is nothing new to the SIGINT families. Their leadership is taking care of the Soldiers and all are in good health and spirit.

The Headquarters platoon is for the most part still located at FOB Lagman. They are currently working on ensuring that the platoon's are being supported during this time of transition. The Soldiers of the Headquarters platoon too have proven their hard work and dedication to Delta Troop. They are doing well and I will continue to update you on their status.

I want to thank the entire Darkhorse family on their unwavering support for Delta Troop. I know that with all the moves that are currently taking place it is a little unnerving in regards to communicating with your Soldier. However, I assure you that the Brigade is working meticulously on establishing the systems to enable you to receive updates on your Soldier. I will continue to update you on a monthly basis with the status of each platoon. Again, thank you for your Support and for holding down the fort while we are gone.

Respectfully,
CPT Kenneth W. Hahn



“ARCTIC LIGHTENING” SOLDIER HIGHLIGHT

SGT ANDREW A. PAYNE



When visiting Soldiers from Joint Network Node Team 06 from 176th Signal Network Support Company, one from the outside would see a highly motivated “well-oiled machine” of confident and competent Soldiers, proud of their performance of the jobs they do. What makes JNN 06 function this way? They would all proudly give much of the credit to their Section Chief, SGT Andrew A. Payne.

A native to Rochester Hills, MI, oldest of three, and engaged to a local girl from his home town, SGT Payne began his Army career after finishing a Bachelor’s degree in Plant Science from Michigan State University. He trained to be a SATCOM operator (MOS 25Q), and once training was complete, SGT Payne immediately joined 1-25 SBCT’s tour in Iraq at FOB Warhorse. Within 18 months of being in the Army, he was promoted from Specialist to Sergeant, the shortest allowable time to receive this promotion. Along with that, SGT Payne has extended his Signal expertise by learning the job of a JNN operator and supervisor. But besides those minor details, SGT Payne also continues his education working on a Master’s of Science (Exercise Science and Health Promotion) with a specialization in Wellness and Fitness, while also demonstrating his expertise by consistently being a top performer on his Army Physical Fitness Test.

SGT Payne constantly proves to be an effective and trustworthy leader as the “Noncommissioned Officer in Charge” of a section of Signal Soldiers in places remote from the general Company Leadership. His supervisors are always impressed with the performance of his Soldiers and their morale. When called upon to leave for Afghanistan with a small team a month early on Strat-Air to set things for the company in motion. He accepted this mission with no reservation, and he lead with a contagious positive attitude, seen in his accompanying Soldiers as they happily left to serve their country. When it came time to validate Signal equipment for the company, circumstances lead to his team validating communication equipment for all of the battalions in the brigade.

His Soldiers are impressed with his attitude, humility, trustworthiness, and ability to teach effectively. His teaching is a two-tier model. Tier one focuses on the Signal technical skills, and Tier 2 focuses on basic Soldier skills. His teaching is planned and calculated so effectively, his Soldiers are more than confident in their retention of skills they have learned from him. SGT Payne interacts with his Soldiers constantly, always seeking lessons to teach. When problem situations happen, he uses them as teaching opportunities as he interacts with his Soldiers while solving and fixing the problems. Each day there is a learning objective to be met. His presentation of materials is calculated and organized, and the reception of each lesson taught is clear and understood by his Soldiers. Some of his Soldiers even feel like they could take over SGT Payne’s job if an emergency happened that took him away for a time.

So what is in the future for SGT Payne? Well, as one might suspect, the teaching and management continues in the civilian world as he becomes a certified personal trainer of National Academy of Sports Medicine, while also participating in Health and Wellness Management. Given the experience and demonstration of SGT Payne’s leadership and technical skills, shown thus far, one can only see a great success in whatever he endeavors to do in his life.



NEWS FROM THE "ARCTIC SAPPERS"



CPL Berry, SPC Dreher and SPC Ivy all pose with GEN Petraeus following their Re-enlistment ceremony on the 4th of July



73rd Engineer Company celebrates Independence Day in Afghanistan





JUNE BIRTHDAYS and PROMOTIONS

Birthdays

176th Signal Company

• SPC Samsill- 30 June
184th Military Intelligence Company

- SPC Cortes- 10 June
- SGT Miller- 18 June
- SSG Daugherty- 22 June
- 2LT Francis- 27 June
- SSG Purma- 27 June

73rd Engineer Company

- 1LT Smith- 6 June
- SFC Conti- 7 June
- SPC Grigory- 10 June
- SGT Jackle- 22 June
- SGT Cherish- 30 June

Battalion Staff

- MAJ Bragg- 9 June
- SSG Nelson- 12 June

Brigade SFA

- MSG Banuelos- 13 June

Headquarters Company

- SGT Dalton- 2 June
- 1LT Hafera- 2 June
- CPT Goodman- 4 June
- SPC Garza- 8 June
- PFC Taylor- 9 June
- CPT Wethington- 9 June
- SPC Gabourel- 11 June
- SSG Smitley- 12 June
- 1LT Powell- 15 June
- PFC Black- 16 June
- CPT Wang- 18 June
- PV2 Bradley- 20 June
- PFC Alexander- 21 June
- SGT Canale- 21 June
- CPT Derossett- 21 June
- SPC Johnson- 24 June
- PVT Berg- 25 June
- SFC Snider- 25 June
- PFC Boothe- 27 June
- CPL Gallagher- 28 June
- MAJ Pritchett- 28 June

Birthdays (continued)

D-52

- PFC Bernadella- 27 June
- SPC Esparza- 20 June
- SSG Runkel- 29 June
- SPC Mata- 13 June
- SGT Williams- 10 June
- SGT Tice- 4 June

D 5-1 TRP

- SGT Boe- 15 June
- SSG Martin- 30 June
- SGT Meunier- 5 June
- SGT Ungs- 7 June

Promotions

73rd Engineer Company

- SPC Berry- Corporal
- SPC Mejia- Corporal
- SPC Morning- Corporal
- SPC Pressley- Corporal
- PFC Dreher- Specialist
- PFC Avalos- Specialist
- PV2 Tidwell- Private First Class
- PVT Elliott- Private Second Class
- PFC Taffe-Specialist
- PFC Magnan-Specialist

184 Military Intelligence Company

- PFC Orona-Specialist

Headquarter Headquarters Company

- PV2 Bach- Private First Class
- PFC Kindel-Private First Class
- PV2 Spradlin- Private First Class
- PV2 Stascak-Private First Class
- PFC Garcia-Specialist

Births

- Madison Lynn McCauley Born on 5 May to SPC McCauley and Stephanie McCauley
- Annaleigh Renee Bauler born on 16 May to 2LT Bauler and Sara Bauler
- Dominic Donald Skidgeborn on 4 June to SSG Skidgel and Mr Skidgel

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

