



The PHOENIX PATRIOT

“...From the Ashes...”

6th. Edition, Volume I

Official Publication of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V

Nov. 20, 2006



Corps Commanders Stress Recruiting and Retention

Story and Photos by CMDR Chad Snee 205th RCAG PAO

KABUL, Afghanistan – Corps commanders and other senior leaders of the Afghan National Army (ANA) gathered at Camp Shir Zai Oct. 30th and 31st for an informative conference that highlighted ANA accomplishments and challenges ahead for the nation’s fledgling army.

President Hamid Karzai joined the conference via live video feed from Kabul to address the leaders of his na-

tion’s army. Karzai said love of country should be the prime motivator for joining the ANA.

“A prosperous future for this nation requires the patriotism of every citizen,” Karzai said.

Karzai stressed the importance of education, training and taking care of Soldiers to make the ANA a stronger force. He made it clear that his country still needs the assistance of U.S. and Coalition forces, however, he emphasized that reconstruction should be the responsibility of every Afghan.

“Ultimately the ANA should become strong enough so that no enemy would think of penetrating the country’s borders,” Karzai said. “This should be the effort of every ANA member.”

Overall, the conference affirmed how far the ANA has come while providing practical guidance for how best to address some of the obstacles that stand in the way of the ANA reaching its full potential.

Commanders discussed important topics such as upcoming operations, re-

See **Commanders** on page 3

INSIDE THIS ISSUE



Afghan Doc Learns from Americans
pg. 3



Konduz ETT’s Re-build In 209th Corps
pg. 4-5



School Opens in Remote Bamian
pg. 6



On Point w/ the CSM

Jungleers,

Complacency.

We are coming up on the mid point of our tour here and there are some things that I feel I need to address to the Task Force in this column.

Last night in our Command and Staff meeting the Commanding General

and I were confronted with some statistics that really caught our attention. Capt. John Hirte recently conducted a check of seat belt usage at the front gate as our warriors were leaving Camp Phoenix. The reported numbers over two days of checks were 30% compliance.

Well let's get something straight. The use of seat belts is not optional. It is a requirement not only as a Task Force Phoenix policy, but a Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, Combined Forces Command - Afghanistan, and Central Command policy. It makes the Commander and I very concerned because this is strictly a leadership issue. If we are not enforcing this standard, what other standards are we not enforcing? The last thing any of us wants to happen is that we lose a warrior to a preventable accident. We are already in a dangerous line of work without us lowering the odds more by sacrificing safety.

In this war, we rarely get first shot. The enemy usually chooses the time, place, and method of engagement. We must be prepared and ready to respond. We must survive the first contact so that we can bring accurate and controlled fire upon him when he finally shows his face. We cannot afford to lose any combat power to an avoidable accident. We as a command team ask that leaders at every level battle complacency. We ask that you all make the hard choices to ensure that all of our warriors get home to their loved ones.

Do not let complacency win!!!

Brunk Conley
CSM, USA
Command Sergeant Major



General Guidance

Warriors,

For the US members of the Task Force Phoenix team, Thanksgiving is a special time that affords us the opportunity to give thanks for many blessings we receive as citizens of a free and bountiful nation. Thanksgiving a special time to be with family and friends. This Thanksgiv-

ing takes on a new meaning as we are separated from the family members we miss and love the most.

This Thanksgiving is meaningful however, because we have developed new friendships, forged in a combat zone, far away from the comforts of home. The unique location and environment that surround us makes this Thanksgiving important. If we ever need to refresh our memories on how truly fortunate we are to live in a land of abundance, the poverty that exists throughout Afghanistan provides that constant reminder.

This Thanksgiving, reflect upon the willingness of the Afghan people to share all that they have with strangers from a foreign land. I have been fortunate to visit Afghans in their homes and see how genuine they are in their hospitality to Coalition Forces. Their culture extends every consideration to visitors including their last bit of food; even if it means going hungry themselves.

I have learned a great deal from the Afghans, and one of the most important lessons is to be more thankful. Thankful for all the great friendships, experiences and special people I have met; thankful for the the kindness you have demonstrated to the people of this nation; thankful for the smiles you generate on the faces of thousands of children because of your unselfish acts.

I am proud to serve with you. You represent the very best our nation has to offer. Your professional approach to every mission, event and task makes me thankful to serve with you. On this unique Thanksgiving I hope you will give a special thanks to those that work and serve with you. You are indeed special people making this assignment in Afghanistan a meaningful and rewarding experience. Thank You.

Douglas A. Pritt
BG, USA
Commanding

Warriors,

Most of us are nearing the halfway point for our deployment. Some of us are just getting started and others have been here a long time. This is the most challenging time in our deployment. The initial excitement of our mission may be wearing off and the excitement that comes with going home seems a long way off.

For some of our warriors, there is never enough time in the day. You work tirelessly with no breaks. You are always on mission or on duty. For others

there does not seem to be enough to do and boredom and complacency become enemies that must be overcome.

Your efforts may seem to go unnoticed, but rest assured, people are noticing the work we are doing. You never know how your smallest actions may affect those around you whether you are interacting with local nationals or you fellow Soldiers. You have the power to make or break this deployment, for yourself, and for those around you.

If have not seen the extreme gratitude the people here have for our work, get off the FOB and look around you. No-

tice the women walking in public, uncovered, in freedom. They are probably on their way to work, something they could not do five years ago. Notice the children walking to school, boys and girls, receiving modern educations instead of fundamentalist teachings.

The small things that we take for granted are monumental markers of successes made by our work and achievements here. We are on a long, hard tour, but at the end of it, I hope you look around you and feel that your work and the sacrifices of your family at home are worth it. The people here think so.

The Phoenix Patriot is the official publication of Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix V, authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1. The views and opinions expressed in *The Phoenix Patriot* are not necessarily those of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government, or the departments of the Army, Air Force, or Navy. *The Phoenix Patriot* is a bi-weekly publication distributed to deployed Soldiers, Airmen, Sailors and Marines all over Afghanistan with a circulation of 3500. *The Phoenix Patriot* is happy to publish photos and articles from the field and we encourage readers to submit original material to the CJTFPHX V Public Affairs Office. All contributions, questions, comments and suggestions should be submitted via e-mail to: amanda.m.straub@afghan.swa.army.mil.

Editor in Chief/ Writer/ Photographer - First Lieutenant Amanda M. Straub - Content Manager
Writer/ Photographer - First Lieutenant Cathrin Y. Fraker - Public Affairs Officer
Writer/ Photographer - Sergeant First Class Tom Roberts - Public Affairs NCOIC
Writer/ Photographer - Lieutenant Janette M. Arencibia - Marketing Officer

There Is A Doctor In The House

Story and Photos by
Lt. Janette Arencibia

KABUL, Afghanistan – Dr. Yama Musleh, and Afghan National Army (ANA) doctor, completed his medical training two years ago at the Kabul Medical University. Since then he opened a private practice in Kabul working in primary care medicine. Musleh said he enjoys the opportunity to volunteer and bring healthcare to local villages that do not have access to regular health services.

Recently Musleh volunteered as a healthcare provider during a medical assistance mission sponsored by Task Force Phoenix. He is pleased to work alongside his American counterparts, especially his mentor, Captain Marylynn Bernard. Bernard mentors Dr. Musleh and five other physicians for the ANA medical section. She began mentoring in September 2006 with the goal to get physicians organized and educated to handle the screening process for new recruits.



An Afghan woman waits for her prescription after seeing Dr. Yameh Musleh at a recent Task Force Phoenix medical assistance mission.

Bernard's Afghan counterparts are enjoying the opportunity to learn from her.

"Captain Bernard is a champ and motivates others," Yama said.

The relationship between Bernard and Musleh affords the opportunity for them to share various concepts of care. Due to Bernard's influence, Musleh has adopted the practice of utilizing gloves which serve as barriers and prevent the spread of common and easily preventable diseases such as Hepatitis B.

Hepatitis B is one of the most common diseases being spread unnecessarily throughout Afghanistan because medical providers do not understand the importance of prevention when delivering health care services. The use of protection and universal precaution can prevent diseases such as Hepatitis B.

Musleh loves his profession, but is concerned about the minimal pay for Afghan healthcare providers.

"Many of our doctors find that once they complete training, they are not paid as well as interpreters and therefore begin to seek other forms of employment that would bring them increased wages," Musleh said. "Many of our trained physicians now work as interpreters."

Musleh says it is not uncommon for well trained physicians to make only \$60.00 a month.

Musleh feels that healthcare is improving in Afghanistan with the Afghan government distributing vaccinations to providers to support disease prevention. But, he worries that there is corruption in the medical field because of the lack of governmental control for medication distribution. His American friends demonstrate the ability to accurately track medical supplies and utilize equipment efficiently. Bernard says that she is excited to



Yama Musleh, an Afghan Doctor, assesses a villager at a medical assistance mission in Wasal Abad, just outside Kabul, Afghanistan.

be a part of the process creating a corruption-free Afghan healthcare delivery system.

Bernard is working diligently to enroll Muleh in a program in San Antonio at the International Language Institute where Musleh can study English and develop his skills in trauma and preventative hygiene. Muleh is in the process of getting General Yaftili, the Health Service Director, to approve his trip to the United States for continued education. Muleh will take a placement test on Nov. 15 to determine his eligibility for the U.S. training program.

Corps Commanders Gather at Shir Zai

Commanders *Continued from page 1*

cruiting and retention in the ANA, improving the quality of life for Soldiers, personnel and legal issues, as well as proper utilization of the ANA Inspector General and Morale Welfare and Recreation Programs.

ANA Chief of Staff, Lt. Gen. Bismullah Khan, stressed that improving the capabilities of the ANA remains a top priority.

"Heavy weapons will be added, new commando battalions will be established, new and modern equipment will be distributed, and the modernization of the ANA operational and combat elements, including the air corps, will continue," Khan said.

Khan reminded attendees of the good news that Soldiers' salaries were recently increased. However, he acknowledged that there is room for progress,

particularly in the area of personnel welfare.

"We are trying and doing our best to remove all shortcomings and improve our daily performance and correct all mistakes," Khan said. "Looking after the Soldiers is a very important point."

"We should continue to recruit new volunteers and at the same time try hard to retain our soldiers and encourage them to re-enlist," Khan said. "We must help them."

Maj. Gen. Robert E. Durbin, Commander, Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, pointed out that Soldiers going absent without leave (AWOL) is the biggest problem facing the ANA. He stressed that competent, motivated leaders are the best antidote for fighting high AWOL rates.

"Good Soldiers stay in the army if they have good leaders," Durbin said. "I have seen tremendous growth in the competence and professionalism of the ANA. The future of Afghanistan is in the hands of the great leaders of the ANA."



Gen. Bismullah Khan, Chief of Staff of the Afghan National Army, addresses key leadership at the ANA Commander's Conference in Camp Shir Zai.

ETT, Afghans, Germans Rebel

Story and P
1st Lt. Ama

Signs of co
everywhere.
green cover
cans. A new

“My executive officer has more combat experience in his little pinky than I have in my whole body,” Capt. Edward Perez of San Antonio, Texas said. “He is one of the best fighters I’ve ever seen.”



the oldest A
kandak in Af

Seven Am
here with the
team (LST).
Afghan logis
fighting for
but their mi
more. The tr
ghan leader
with the AN
area remains
completing p
improving th
diers.

“We have
in five month



“The little things mean so much to these guys,” Capt. Chris Warren of Le Grande, Ore. said.



“Everything is for the Afghan National Army,” Maj. Timothy Smart of Gresham, Ore. said.

Build Oldest Kandak In Konduz

Photos By
Linda Straub

Construction and rebuilding are fresh paint in red, black and signs signposts, gates and trash chow hall is under construction a few meters away from the recently completed interpreter village. Just down the road pegs and yellow caution tape mark the boundaries of a new traffic control point that will keep rows of fresh b-huts safe from unannounced, unwelcome intruders. Welcome to Konduz, 209th Corps, home of the Afghan National Army (ANA) in Afghanistan.

American embedded trainers live with the ANA in the logistical support. Their primary job is to mentor Afghan technicians to create a sustainable force in northern Afghanistan. The mission encompasses so much more. Trainers continue to mentor Afghan soldiers and foster relationships with the ANA. Rebuilding in the Konduz is a top priority with the team working on projects for local civilians and improving the quality of life for ANA Soldiers.

"I've done a year's worth of work in a few months," MAJ Timothy Smart, LST

Commander, said.

First Kandak recently transferred to Konduz in June, 2006 and there is a lot of work to be done to make the Kandak comfortable and stable. The American LST has completed or started nearly \$100,000 worth of projects since June to prepare ANA Soldiers for winter, beautify the Soldiers' facilities and build pride in the organization.

"Everything is for the ANA. That is my focus," Smart, of Gresham, Ore., said.

The job of the LST is to teach, mentor and coach the ANA through the creation of logistical plans and operations. Capt. Edward Perez, San Antonio, Texas, says ANA Soldiers are some of the fiercest, best fighters he has ever seen, but the Afghan Army has never been a united organization like it is now and long-term planning for food, supply and transportation is a new concept to most Afghan leadership. Instilling a logistical mindset into the Afghan warriors is often an ETT's greatest challenge.

"My executive officer has more combat experience in his little pinky than I have in my whole body," Perez said. "He is one of the best fighters I've ever seen."

The 209th corps of the ANA is the first to successfully transition to International Security Assistance Force mentors leaving a small contingent of Americans in place as logistical support teams (LSTs).

The American LST maintains close ties to the ANA infantry Soldiers. Capt. Chris Warren, Le Grande, Ore., says he visits the ANA Soldiers at least two times a week to see how they are doing. Over hot Chai and a game of cards that Warren is destined to lose, the Soldiers tell him they are very happy with the new pay scale for the ANA.

"It's important to interact with the Sol-

diers," Warren said. "It shows we care. The little things mean so much to these guys."

Many of the Soldiers Warren talks to have been in the army since the Mujahadeen. Warren says 60 of their Soldiers just re-enlisted. Reenlisting Soldiers is a bench-mark of success in the 1st Kandak. As the oldest Kandak in the ANA, the reenlistments are a sign of things to come throughout the country.

1st Lt. Mohammed Naim, executive officer for 1st Company, is amazed at the improvements he has seen in his country in the last five years.

"In the last five years we have built an army and a police force," Naim said. "I don't know if Americans understand how important this is. It's lots of progress."

German forces now have the primary mission of mentoring the ANA at the nearby German PRT and running the airfield. The Americans work closely with the German's and say they are great neighbors. Periodically they meet at the range to shoot each other's weapons and earn foreign weapons training badges and qualifications.

The Bundeswehr Schutzenschnur Wea on Qualification is a German shooting competition requiring Soldiers to shoot expertly with at least two weapons, a machine gun, rifle, or pistol, to qualify for an award.

"For us it is a very big deal to earn sharpshooter on the American rifle. Just like it is an honor for the Americans to earn the Schutzenschnur," said Capt. Lambert.

Together the Coalition Forces in Afghanistan are helping the Afghans secure peace and stability for their country. The Soldiers here may come from diverse places and cultural backgrounds, but they are all serving with honor.



"... it is an honor for the Americans to earn the Schutzenschnur," Capt. Lambert of Germany said.



"We all help each other around here," Sgt. 1st Class James Andrews of Kaizer, Ore. said of his seven-man LST."

Remote School Makes Learning Accessible

Story and Photo By
Lt. Janette Arencibia

BAMIYAN, Afghanistan – No back to school celebration would be complete without brand new book bags for eager students at the Zarsang school near Bamiyan. Crowds of people from the Bamiyan village lined the single street leading to their brand new school to welcome dignitaries who joined them for a ribbon cutting

and harassment of the local people. In her closing remarks, Suraby expressed that the Afghan National Army (ANA) is playing a key role in deterring this corruption.

The ceremony included remarks from some of the teachers and songs and poems from the students. They welcomed guests including the ANA 201st Corps Commander, Maj. Gen. Monir Mangal, and his American counterpart, 201st RCAG Commander, Col. Steve Vitali.

Vitali addressed the crowd of over 100 proudly thanking them for their welcoming smiles and saying, “The future of this country is in the boys and girls of Afghanistan.”

While war may have devastated the area for nearly 40 years, coalition forces are happy to support the province by rebuilding facilities like the school.

Maj. Gen. Monir Mangal, 201st Corps Commander, echoed the sentiments of Vitali and emphasized the importance of support provided by the ANA protecting the nation so that peace and prosperity can exist throughout Afghanistan. He encouraged the young people to gain knowledge and benefit from an education that they can apply to the success of the nation of Afghanistan.

“We must not forget the past. We have rehabilitation plans for the future of Afghanistan,” Mangal said.

After all the grand speeches and grateful remarks Mangal and Vitali cut a ceremonial ribbon on the school together. School is now in session for the children of Bamiyan.



Two students proudly sing songs of thankfulness and recite poems as part of the ribbon cutting ceremony for the all girls' school in Bamian.

ceremony and tour of their new school. The Zarsang school is an all girls secondary school. Until now, the students had no facility for learning and often were exposed to the harsh elements of the rugged, cold country during classes. Currently there are two schools where 23 more are needed to house 1200 students and 530 teachers in the province.

While there is celebration and support for the new facility, the concern still exists among the people of the province that some police establish illegal check points which fosters corruption.

“Unfortunately there is propaganda against us and to create national solidarity, they need to implement all of the orders in the province,” said Habiba Suraby, the female governor of the province and an honored guest speaker during the opening ceremony.

While she expressed her concern for continued support of the local police to deter crime, she also emphasized her gratitude and amazement at the completion of the school within only three short months. Suraby asked that local police discourage the establishment of illegal check points in the area and discourage behaviors that propagate corrup-



Colonel Smith, the new Commanding Officer for the 201st RCAG distributes book bags to a crowd of young female students at the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new Zarsang school near Bamian.

ANA Transportation Soldiers Learn First Aid

Story and Photos By
Capt. Doug Traversa,
CMA ETT

KABUL, Afghanistan - For the first time ever, U.S. medical personnel conducted advanced first aid training at the Central Movements Agency (CMA), an Afghan National Army (ANA) transportation unit in Kabul. All CMA personnel are trained in convoy procedures and participate in convoys throughout Afghanistan. CMA convoys take enemy fire on numerous occasions, and first aid training is essential for all CMA personnel.

1st Lt. Conway Harvard, U.S. Air Force, and



Sgt. Sherri Richards shows Afghan National Army Soldiers how to bandage an extremity wound.

Sgt. Sherri Richards, U.S. Army, from the Camp Phoenix medical clinic, conducted the training. The eight-hour course covered bandaging, splinting, tourniquets, and stretcher and non-stretcher carries. Nasal pharyngeal tube use (to assist in breathing) was scheduled, but because of Ramadan, the Soldiers could not use the required lubricant, and the demonstration had to be

cancelled.

Initially there was concern that the Afghans might not want a female instructing men, but the CMA leadership was completely supportive, and the 61 male students were not offended at all. According to Richards, they were very receptive, willing and eager to learn.

In fact, whenever techniques were demonstrated, such as making a splint, many of the students pulled out cell phones to take pictures. Both she and Harvard plan to return and conduct further classes and also hope to teach IV use and chest decompression.

“This one of the best experiences I’ve had here,” said Richards. “The students were great to work with, and we never lacked for volunteers. The hardest part was learning to break my instruction up so the interpreters could translate, but the class was very successful and everyone was able to participate.”



Afghan National Army Soldiers practice splinting a broken leg at a First Aid Class.

Afghan Flags For Afghan Fallen

Story and Photo By
1st Lt. Timothy Merritt

KABUL, Afghanistan – They told me to remember two things while I was in training for our deployment to Afghanistan: first, progress moves slowly here, and second, the mission would require a lot of patience. I am learning that both of those lessons are true.

The campaign to raise funds to purchase Afghan flags for Afghan Soldiers killed in battle is going amazingly well. I have received donations from all over the country and wonderful letters from American citizens who feel sympathy for the terrible sacrifice these Soldiers have made. I find myself feeling tremendously proud of my country and my fellow citizens who are so willing to reach out and help the grieving people of this distant land.

As the Aide to Brig. Gen. Douglas Pritt, Commander of Task Force Phoenix, I hear reports about combat operations happening all over Afghanistan. I pay special attention to the casualty figures of the Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers. I cringe each time because I know there are still Afghan Soldiers dying who will not receive the symbol

of respect and appreciation a coffin flag represents.

With Brig. Gen. Pritt’s help, I arranged an appointment with Lt. Gen. Bismullah Khan, the Chief of Staff for the ANA and the third highest ranking officer in the Afghan military. The day I went to see him, I was a bit nervous and it took a while for the meeting to finally roll around to my flag project.

After I explained what I was trying to do, the atmosphere in the room suddenly changed. Khan and Maj. Gen. Wardak became tense and very business-like as they held up my flag to inspect it. They promptly decided that the flag I was showing them was too small for a funeral flag.



Afghan Bismullah Khan (left) and Major General Mangal (center) consider what size an Afghan coffin flag should be.

I could not imagine why the mood changed in the room. My interpreter assured me that they were impressed by my idea and that they were pleased with it.

After reflecting on the meeting, I think my proposal struck a raw nerve with the leaders of this fledgling military force. Perhaps they were embarrassed that a foreigner was offering this kind of help or advice. I wondered how a U.S. commander might feel in the same situation.

Of course no one makes bigger-flags around here, so my interpreter continues his quest in the city of Kabul attempting to find a company that can make flags in this new size. Alas, you must have patience in Afghanistan.

I’m confident now that this project will come together soon and bring an important change to this country, thanks to the Americans who have placed their trust in me and sent money for the flags.

Donations may be sent to:

Afghan Flags for Afghan Fallen Project
c/o Kamiah Community Credit Union
P.O. Box 68
Kamiah, ID 83536
Tim’s email is: [timothy.x.merritt@afghan.swa.army.mil]

Featured Patriot - Specialist Evan Jones

Story by 2nd Lt. Jeffrey Fullmer
1st BDE, 205th RCAG

Photo By SGT William Anthony

“Let no man grow old without a story to tell,” could easily be the motto of Spc. Evan Jones of Portland, Ore. His mother was an English teacher, and he inherited the heart of a storyteller.

“I didn’t want to grow old, having to tell my children and my grandchildren that I had not served when my country needed me,” he says with a puff of smoke under the canopy of a starry autumn night.

Young men often have a penchant for adventure, and Jones is no different.

An assistant signal specialist assigned to 1st Brigade, Headquarters, Jones is glad to be in Afghanistan working with the Afghan National Army (ANA) and teaching Afghans how to be disciplined, motivated soldiers.

It’s been said that you should be careful what you wish for, because it might come true. Such has certainly been the case for Jones.

In the brief months he has been in Afghanistan, he has seen more than most men experience in a life time.

His most memorable experience was the first major rocket attack he felt, which literally made his teeth rattle.

Each new experience gives him something to remember, and each day is a new tale, full of adventure.

Jones’ civilian life is as interesting as his military career. He’s lived in three countries: the United States, the Grand Cayman Islands and China.

He’s traveled around the world so that he could have a story to tell.

Why does Jones place such importance in his stories? So that he, taking a chapter from the life of Henry David Thoreau, would not come to the end of his life and discover that he had not lived.

It may come as a surprise to some, but Jones was once a race car driver. He was working as a technician at a BMW dealership when he had the opportunity to drive one of the vehicles.

He beat the dealership’s driver in a race, the dealership fired their driver, and Jones took his place.

After all this excitement, Jones sees peace and a normal life in his future.

He wants only to serve his nation and then retire to a simple life, a steady job, and a beautiful wife and kids.

Surely his dreams of the future will come to fruition.

At 23, Jones still has his entire life ahead of him. The Army has contributed to his life experience, and for that



Spc. Evan Jones is happy to be the turret gunner on a recent convoy between Shir-Zai and Tarin-Kawt, Afghanistan.

he is grateful. However, he says he will probably get out when his contract is up.

Jones enjoys Afghanistan because it is hard. That might shock some, but he relishes an environment in which everything he does has an impact and is meaningful.

One thing is clear: Spc. Evan Jones is here to serve his nation. And he is doing a fine job.

Sound Off - What Are You Thankful for This Year?



“I’m thankful for my military family. It’s the only family I’ve got left.”

**Sgt. 1st Class
John Giliberto
HHC, 41st BCT
KAIA LNO
Medford, Ore.**



“I guess I can be thankful we’re not in Iraq. That’s how I sold it to my wife anyhow.”

**Sgt. Donald Ryan
HHC, 41ST BCT
COMSEC
Custodian
Gresham, Ore.**



“I’m thankful to be alive. I can’t wait to go home and see my little guy.”

**Sgt. Caterina Luna
A CO, 141 LTF
SSSC Asst. NOCIC
Portland, Ore.**



“I’m thankful for the people who send us stuff out of the kindness of their hearts to make our lives more comfortable here.”

**Staff Sgt. Timothy Wiedermann
316th Civil Engineer Squadron
Mechanic/ Driver
Ocean Springs, Miss.**



“I’m thankful for being here and still alive. I’m also thankful for my wife and kids back home.”

**Spc. Josh Trammell
C CO, 1-180 IN
SECFOR
Lindsay, Okla.**