



209th RCAG SPANN FREE PRESS

CORPS TEAM CHIEF
COL SIMSUNDARETH
TAN

August 2006

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR
CSM ALAN CALLANAN

News Headlines

TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY FROM THE 196th FA BRIGADE TO THE 209th RCAG

On 28 June 2006 Camp Mike Spann in Mazar-E-Sharif shifted authority from the 196th FA Brigade to the 209th RCAG, under the leadership of COL Simsundareth Tan.



WHAT IS THE 41ST PROUD HISTORY AND HOW DID IT GET ITS' LOGO "JUNGLEERS"?

In FY 2006, as part of the Army's transformation towards a modular force, the 41st Infantry Brigade (Light) (Separate) was redesignated the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team. The organization of the unit was also adjusted to reflect this change.

The state mission of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team is to, on order of the Governor, or the local commander, unit mobilize and deploy in response to emergency situations in the State of Oregon. Its federal mission is to, on order, mobilize, deploy to theater of operation, occupy assembly area, conduct

combat operations, redeploy, and demobilize. The history of the 41st Infantry Brigade Combat Team can be traced back to 1887 when the Summers Law established the Oregon National Guard. In 1917, the 41st Infantry Division was formed (Named the Sunset Division). Oregon National Guard infantry, field artillery and cavalry units were sent to Camp Green, North Carolina, where, together with other National Guard units from the northwestern states, they were formed into the 41st Division. Some units changes were made as they processed into the 41st Division. The Third Oregon Infantry became the 162nd Infantry Regiment. The Oregon Field Artillery helped form the 147th Field Artillery Regiment which later was armed with the lethal "French 75" cannon. Since no real role existed for cavalry units in World War I, Oregon's cavalry troops were disbanded. Many of the men and officers went to the 148th Field Artillery Regiment which did have horse-drawn 155mm GPF cannons. The two artillery regiments, along with the 146th Field Artillery, made up the 66th Field Artillery Brigade -- the organic artillery of the 41st Division.

After months of hard work, training, reorganizing and re-equipping for war, the Division moved to Camp Mills, New Jersey, for shipment overseas. The first divisional units departed the United States on November 26, 1917. Within sight of the French coast, tragedy struck. Two torpedoes from a German U-boat ripped in the "TUSCANIA" which was carrying, among the others, men of the 66th Field Artillery Brigade. Fortunately, French fishing boats were in the area and pulled survivors from the freezing waters thus avoiding a great loss of life.

In France, the 41st Division received a major disappointment. It was designated a replacement division and did not go to combat as a unit. The majority of its infantry personnel went to the 1st, 2nd, 32nd and 42nd Divisions where they served throughout the war. The 147th Field Artillery was attached to the 32nd Division and saw action at Aisne-Marne, Meuse-Argonne and other areas. The 146th and 148th of the 66th Field Artillery Brigade were attached as corps artillery units and participated in the battles of Chateau Thierry, Aisne-Marne, St Mihiel and Meuse-Argonne.

After World War I, as after the Spanish-American War, further changes came to the Oregon National Guard. In 1921, the designation of the 41st Division was allocated to Pacific Northwest states, and each state was instructed to form certain divisional units. Oregon received the 162nd and the 186th Infantry Regiments, comprising the 82nd Brigade of the Division, as well as the 218th Field Artillery Regiment. Other divisional units were to be furnished by Washington, Idaho, and Montana.

In 1940, the 41st Infantry Division was inducted into Federal service for WWII. It became the first American Division sent overseas after Pearl Harbor, the first American Division trained in Jungle Warfare. It spent 45 months overseas (longer than any other Division), and earned the title of "Jungleers". The unit deactivated in 1945 in Kure, Japan.

As the international situation worsened in the 1930's, the intensity and urgency of training in the 41st Division increased. In 1937, the Division paired with the US 3rd Division for Corps Maneuvers at Fort Lewis. The 1940 summer camp at Fort Lewis witnessed the Division training with maneuvers at regimental level. One month after annual training in 1940, the 41st Division, along with the 249th Coast Artillery and State Headquarters, was called to active service. During the 14 months prior to the beginning of the World War II, the Division underwent intensive combat-type training and was equipped with the latest, most modern equipment available. By December 7, 1941, the 41st Division was ready. It continued the series of "firsts" by being the first United States Division to deploy to the South Pacific.

The 41st Division first stopped at Australia for even more training and then proceeded to New Guinea. This time, the 41st Division became the first American division to meet the Imperial Japanese Forces, not in defense, but in an offensive operation. Places with the strange names of Buna, Gona, Sanananda, and Salamaua became Oregonian battlegrounds in a war with an enemy during which no quarter was given or taken. The Division fought for 76 continuous days in combat against the Japanese at Salamaua. For 26 days only canned "C" rations were available. At the end of this campaign, Tokyo Rose, in her propaganda broadcasts, referred to the 41st as the "Butcher Division" because, among all the records established by the 41st, it established a record for taking the least number of Japanese prisoners-of-war in the entire Pacific theatre. This was the result of an incident early during the New Guinea campaign when the bodies of captured American soldiers were found to have been dismembered by their captors and the meat later discovered amongst Japanese prisoners carefully wrapped in large green leaves for preservation.

After the New Guinea campaign, the 41st Division returned to Australia for rest and re-equipping. In a few weeks, the Division then made another thrust to the north. Hollandia and Aitape, coastal communities on New Guinea's eastern coast fell, along with the islands of Wakde and Biak. The road continued into the Philippines where more bitter fighting occurred at Palawan, Zamboanga, and the Sulu Archipelago. After the fall of the Philippines, the Division began training for the attack on Japan itself, but surrender came first. The Division did move to Japan where it occupied the island of Honshu for a few months. Soon after, it was deactivated and the men returned home.

The 41st Infantry Division reformed in Oregon in 1946. It was reorganized in 1965 as the 41st Infantry Brigade. In 1968, the 41st Division was inactivated, but its heritage remain with Oregon. The traditions and spirit of the Division passed to the

41st Infantry Brigade which proudly wears the Sunset patch and bears its colors. And in 1976, the Brigade had the distinction of being designated a roundout brigade for the US Army's 7th Infantry Division.

In 1975, the 41st Separate Infantry Brigade became "Roundout" to the 7th Infantry Division. It was designated in 1994 as "Enhanced".

The unit was selected as one of the ESB's to form the Integrated Division in 1998.

In June 1998, the 41st Separate Infantry Brigade spent two weeks at the JRTC, the Joint Readiness Training Center, the Army's advanced academy for light infantry, at Fort Polk in central Louisiana.

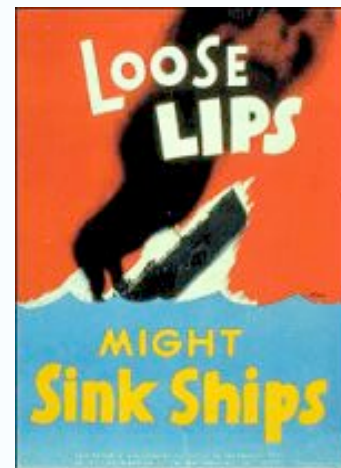
THE 41ST MISSIONS

In 1999, 136 members of C Company, 1/162 INF, were called up to active duty to protect Patriot Missile batteries in Saudi Arabia. This was the first activation of Oregonian National Guardsmen to federal service since 1941.

Following the second Gulf War, 2/162 INF deployed as part of the 39th Enhanced Infantry Brigade (Arkansas National Guard) to Iraq. The Battalion served in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq, suffering a number of casualties while conducting stabilization security missions. During the same time, a handful of personnel were sent to train foreign soldiers in Afghanistan.

In September, 2005, in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Brig. Gen. Doug Pritt commanded the majority of the brigade as part of Task Force Oregon in relief and security efforts near the French Quarter in New Orleans, LA. By the end of the month, when Hurricane Rita wreaked havoc again on the Gulf Coast, the 41st was put in charge of the newly designated Joint Task Force Rita to assist in all disaster-related needs in Texas and Louisiana.

In the spring of 2006, Gen. Pritt and the brigade joined the personnel already in Afghanistan making the total force approximately 950 soldiers marking the first major deployment of the brigade to a combat zone since World War II.



Remember OPSEC !!!

Promotions

WHILE YOU WERE SLEEPING

Congratulations to MAJ James Wyatt Davis on his recent promotion!



COL TAN promotes MAJ Davis and is assisted by CSM Callanan

CONGRATULATIONS ALSO EXTENDED TO THE FOLLOWING PERSONNEL ON THEIR PROMOTION:

*1LT Jason Ainslie
SFC Wycliffe Jangdharrie
SSG Jeffrey Hipsak
SSG Zackery Phillips
SGT Travis Aplet
SPC Stephanie Blackwell
PFC Brian Miller*

Before the crack of dawn until long after the sun sets the KBR DFAC crew are supporting the 209th RCAG soldiers. Jason Aardahl – the DFAC Supervisor stated that breakfast prep begins at 0330 and clean up ends at 2000. Although it is not moms cooking the DFAC crew tries to give the soldiers as broad of a variety as possible. Aardahl explains that most food comes in UGR's (Unitized Group Rations) made to feed 50 people. The staff takes these UGR's and divide them up or combine them to increase the selection. There are 4 cooks that create the dishes, 7 food service handlers, and 7 Host Country Nationals. All food is obtained from a government approved source. No food is purchased from the local economy.



Jason Aardahl (left) is seen here with his Forman David Thibeault planning menus



KBR responds to the increased numbers of personnel by improving laundry turn around time. Lover Smith III seen here runs the laundry service. Laundry may be dropped off in the AM from 07-0900 and picked up from 17-1900.



Daniel Draper a KBR cook who has been in Afghanistan for 15 months prepares dinner. He said "As long as we keep the soldiers happy and fed I guess we are doing our job".

Community Service

NEW SCHOOL BRINGS NEW HOPE



Photo by SKCS George Volkl

The Walisar Secondary School turns a new page in history for Afghanistan.

By SKCS George Volkl

“I was here for the laying of the foundation, and I am very happy to be here for the dedication” Mr. Qanon, the Deputy Minister of Education for Balkh Province, announced to the crowd. “It took a lot of hard work to build this school and it will take a lot of hard studying to build a brighter future.”

The school was built by the joint efforts of the Afghan National Army and the United States Army’s 209th Regional Assistance Group. The US Army, using the Commanders Emergency Response Program, was able to fund this critically needed school identified during joint patrols with the Afghan Army.

Speaking to the crowd, Major General Taj Mohammad, Commander of the 209th Corp said “Our facilities are broken by over 25 years of fighting. The Government of Afghanistan from President Karzai to the district education offices are all working towards a better education system. But we can not do it all by ourselves, it is not the United States responsibility to do this, they are doing it to help our communities and the ANA.

“I see a lot of happy faces today” said Chemtal District’s Minister of Education Haji Rafat “several years ago it was not the same. Things are getting better every day and this school is our bridge to the future. We can turn darkness into light with this facility and your education”

Said Mohammad, the principle of Walisar secondary school, noted that this school will serve 635 females and 675 males from the surrounding villages and that it could not come at a better time because school starts for Balkh province in ten days.

Deputy Minister of Education for Balkh Province, 209th Corp ANA Major General Taj Mohammad, and the 209th RCAG Commander, Colonel Simsundareth Tan prepare to sign papers dedicating the Walisar School to the Minister of Education.



Photo by SGT Richard Hunter



Senior Chief Volkl is seen here with a group of Army and Navy volunteers sorting school supplies for a future HA drop. He heads up the CERP projects and HA drops. Interested personnel who want to get involved in the community are always needed. This is an opportunity to make a difference in the villages as well as promoting a positive image of the US military. If you have free time on your hands and want to get involved Senior Chief Volkl's office is in the G6 shop.



SFC Jangdharrie seen here assisting Navy personnel at mail call after receiving donated clothing from Navy Marine Corps Relief Society in Sigonella Italy, to support the local communities.



Oh, Oh, the batteries just died on our GP5.
Anyone bring a compass?

Oh, oh! Les piles du GPS viennent de nous lâcher.
Quelqu'un a pensé à apporter une boussole?

FREEDOM CHAPEL WELCOMES OUR NEW CHAPLAIN



"If you haven't already met me, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Chaplain McCorkle. My assistant SGT Hunter and I had wheels touch ground 22 July 2006; from there we rolled into Camp Mike Spann. My first impression was given by Sec For and how they made sure we were safe and acclimated to the camp before setting us up in our hooch. For over 300 years the Chaplaincy in the US Army has had the mission to provide and perform religious services for soldiers. Soldiers just like the ones who met us at the airport and drove us in. What a privilege it is to partake in the traditions here in Afghanistan as we meet the soldiers of not only the US Army but now a coalition. We have all heard that the military is changing and with all these changes we see going on around us it is comforting to find that the US Chaplaincy has remained consistent, ensuring every soldier the right to the expression of their religion. This is our intent as a UMT.

Freedom Chapel is open 24 hrs. a day. Feel free to come in the back door after 2100 and find a place to pray or meditate. Sunday at 1900 is our main Non-denominational service but we also have Wednesday Bible study, Thursday Gospel service, Friday fellowship and Tuesday Prayer all at 1900. Come one and come all and see, the waters fine”.

TEAM SEC FOR

SECURITY IS NOT FREE

1st LT Kent brags on his guys in SEC FOR and rightfully so! He stated “they are the hardest working, most disciplined group of soldiers on Camp Spann. As a group they have the most demand placed on them each day. They consistently rise to the occasion. My job is easy because my guys have a lot of heart and great NCO’s”

As the Platoon Leader for SEC FOR 1st LT Kent is tasked with providing security protection for all US and Coalition Forces here at Camp Mike Spann. Some of the duties that he and his team provides for each of us are: perimeter security, entry control, escorting local nationals and contractors, convoy escort, reactionary events in and around the camp, and collaboration with S2 to remain current on threat levels.



On a hot summer day CPL Carl Clark (left) along with SPC Michael Fox provide protection at the gate.

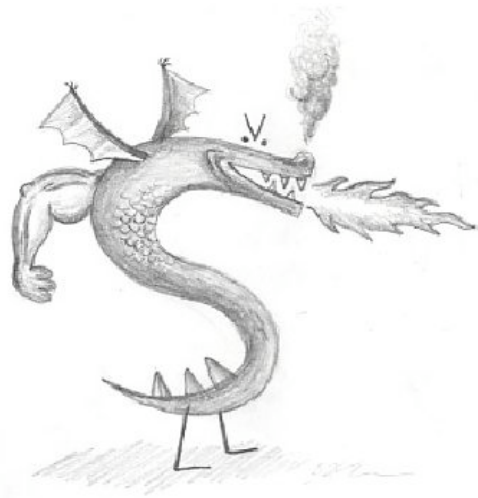


Do you want to recognize your staff or an event in your local newspaper?

Send all write-ups and pictures to

LCDR Hulbert at:

shari.hulbert@us.army.mil



Sec For Mascot “Trogdor”



SPC Jordon Varmette (left) along with PFC John O’Keeffe search a vehicle prior to it passing through the gate.



PFC Franklin on the Norwegian Compound standing guard over the vehicles

US WORKS ALONG SIDE ANA, ANP, AND LOCAL NATIONALS TO BUILD A NATION

As Embedded Training Team members and KBR staff we work with the Afghan people to strengthen their infrastructure, increase their skills, improve their economy, build confidence, and pride in the spirit of this nation. This takes time and commitment. In the end we will all have a great deal to look back on and reflect upon. Here are just a few of the events happening at the 209th Corps.



LT Dwight Taylor (left) teaches and installs a computer for Dr. Shah Mohammad at the Garrison Medical Office.



KBR staff work along side Local Nationals to improve the DFAC facility. KBR staff works to educate the local people on construction and commercial building. KBR carpenter Donnell Hood (left), followed by his 2 Local Nationals; Yasi (front), Najee Bullah (back). Mohammad Saadeq, who is learning heating and airconditioning. In the middle KBR staff electrician Louis Vargas, next to him Isa Khan, and last KBR staff HVAC Romie Soriano.



1st LT Jason Ainslie and SFC Steven Buck are in the process of assessing and salvaging parts on the old Russian tanks at Camp Shaheen in hopes of restoring some with their ANA Mechanics



KBR DFAC staff member Craig Northe (left) works along side of 2 Local Nationals Shah Mohammad Joma Khan, along with KBR staff member Valente Sanchez.

LTJG BUNT AND HIS LOCAL NATIONAL CARPENTERS BUILD A MAP OF NORTHERN AFGHANISTAN FOR THE MAZAR-E-SHARIF ANP



THE ANA 209TH CORPS CAMP SHAHEEN HAD ITS' FIRST COURT MARSHALL 24JULY2006



Here an accused ANA soldier (in white) stands to face his sentencing after being accused of shooting and killing two ANA soldiers on 25MAR06. He was found guilty and sentenced to 17 years in prison. His lawyer LtCOL Mirwais stands on the left awaiting the verdict. In the audience was two US lawyers with their interpreter to ensure the proceedings went smoothly.

ALL WORK AND NO PLAY.....WILL MAKE FOR A LONG YEAR....SO THE 3RD, 4TH, &5TH KANDAK DECIDED TO SPRUCE THINGS UP A BIT!

The 3-5th Kandak has started what many hope will become a tradition on Thursday nights. For the last three Thursday's they have had cook outs, played cards, and listened to some tunes with all their peers. They have extended the invitation to all. Many from the camp have joined in the fun and food.



Assessing the finished product at the Mazar-E-Sharif ANP local headquarters.



The DFAC needs to hire this guy! CPT Hinojosa serves a steak to SSG Hudson, cooked to perfection!





They must be nice they even let COMMS go! From left to right SPC Bigelow, 1LT Ressel, and TSgt Marshall.



SPC Simpson from the FLE waits patiently for some food off the grill!



MAJ Hanson and 1st LT Kent pose for a mug shot.

“UP COMING EVENTS”

- Every Thursday –Movie Night
- September 4 COL Tan will have Army Combat Patch Ceremony
- September 11 Day of Remembrance
 - Double Movie Night
 - Soccer
- September 11 DFAC Dedication
- September 15 Weight Lifting Tournament

**The great French Marshall Lyautey once asked his gardener to plant a tree. The gardener objected that the tree was slow growing and would not reach maturity for 100 years. The Marshall replied, 'In that case, there is no time to lose; plant it this afternoon!'
John F. Kennedy**

Donations of clothing or school supplies from family, friends, or churches may be sent to:

Commander
209th RCAG N Mazar-E-Sharif
Camp Mike Spann
APO AE 09318

If you want to send a copy of this paper to your family back home go to the share drive under work groups then Spann News Letter. If you do not have access to the share drive request a copy from shari.hulbert@us.army.mil

