



Tien Bien Times

VOLUME 2, ISSUE 5

MAY 1, 2008

Afghan National Army Begins MEDEVAC Missions

Story and photos by Spc. Gregory J. Argentieri, 173rd ABCT Public Affairs

Pilots and medics with the Afghan National Air Corps conducted air medical evacuation (MEDEVAC) training and coordination with Task Force Bayonet April 28 on Jalalabad Airfield.

The Combined Air Power Transition Force working in conjunction with Task Force Eagle Assault soldiers are training ANAC medics in order to stand up an ANAC MEDEVAC Air Ambulance program.

Task Force Eagle Assault began training ANA pilots and medics in December. The ANAC MEDEVAC team flew their first joint mission Jan. 31, according to Navy Cmdr. Joey Swartz, 48, Senior Medical Advisor for the Afghan National Air Corps.

"Do you want ice-cream? Do you want MEDEVAC? Who's going to say no?" said Swartz. "This MEDEVAC training is [a]



Afghan and U.S. medics train together practicing MEDEVAC procedures transporting a simulated patient from a U.S. Army ambulance to the Afghan MEDEVAC helicopter April 29 on Jalalabad Air-

top priority for the ANA Air Corps, right after their first priority, presidential transport."

According to Swartz, this is a welcomed evolution for the ANAC, enabling Afghans to take care of Afghans. Whether the casualty is an Afghan Soldier, police, or civilian personnel, the ANAC will soon be capable of flying independent MEDEVAC missions.

In conjunction with the MEDEVAC training taking place Swartz established initial coordination with the doctors of Charlie Med, 173rd Brigade Support Battalion, and the Jalalabad Airfield air tower that the ANAC MEDEVAC helicopter is airborne and available for missions.

"The message being delivered today is we have to get this going," said Swartz. "When

they can take care of their own, it will have a powerful impact and make the ANA a legitimate military unit.”

A total of eight ANAC flight medics will receive three weeks of individual hands on training and instruction by TF Eagle Assault medics and pilots. Currently ANAC medic, Sgt. Hussain Ahmad Rezai, 20, is participating in the flight medic training.

Rezai is with the 377th Helicopter Kandak, ANAC and has been a medic for two years.

“Once I learn the MEDEVAC job from the U.S. flight medics, I think I will be a good flight medic trainer for other ANAC medics,” said Rezai.

ANAC helicopter pilot, Cpt. Qimuddin, a pilot for 20 years is happy to be learning new MEDEVAC techniques from the U.S. pilots and medics, and extremely excited for the official formation of a full-time ANAC Flight MEDEVAC Unit.

“Because of this training I will be in charge of my own flight MEDEVAC Unit, and instead of relying on the U.S. Army, the Afghan army will stand on their own feet,” said Qimuddin.

“Another benefit of the ANA MEDEVAC mission is to



U.S. service members prepare to move casualties from an Afghan National Air Corps MEDEVAC helicopter April 29 at Jalalabad Airfield in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. This MEDEVAC mission followed a suicide bomber attack at in Nangarhar’s Koghanyi District. It is the first point-of-injury MEDEVAC conducted by the ANAC’s 377th Helicopter Kandak. (Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Robert Perez, 173rd ABCT)

take the injured Afghans out of the hands of U.S. and put them in their own, Afghan medical system,” said Maj. J. Steven Birchfield, 41, Task Force Bayonet Brigade Surgeon. “30 percent to 40 percent of the patients seen at FOB Fenty Aid Station are ANA casualties and local nationals, and many are critically injured.”

During a second day of training on April 29, a real MEDEVAC mission was called in. A suicide bomber had attacked the Koghanyi District Center in Nangarhar Province killing sev-

eral and wounding dozens of civilians and policemen. The ANAC crews immediately responded by conducting their first point-of-injury MEDEVAC mission since standing up the program. Their efforts were flawless and potentially saved several lives.

“This is a huge win for the ANA, the Air Corps, and specifically MEDEVAC. For the first time, the ANA has rapid medical evacuation capabilities,” said Birchfield. “The lives they save today is just the beginning of a very bright future.”



Commander's Corner

May Commander's Corner

To the Paratroopers, family and friends of Task Force Bayonet:

As we move into the month of May and the final days of our deployment, I want to reiterate how proud I am of the Soldiers in this organization, the missions they have conducted and the progress that has been made in this area of operation. Your sacrifice of time, sweat and sometimes blood *is* making a difference in this region. I personally have been deployed to this country three times now and I can *see* the difference in N2KL from the beginning of the deployment to now. This is the first time I can honestly say that I have seen visible progress in an AO during the tour.

Task Force Bayonet has an absolutely sterling reputation with the Army, the interagency, and the Afghan people. Your efforts have been noticed by commanders at every level. I have received laudatory comment from ISAF, CJTF-101, the Department of the Army, the embassy, and the Department of State. This is all due to your efforts on the ground. The paratroopers of TF Bayonet have made a difference in this country. As close as you are to the situation, dealing with the same villagers, policemen, Afghan Soldiers and govern-

ment officials day in and day out, you may not see it, but significant progress is being made. We clearly have momentum going and all can see it. The challenge is how to make our momentum irreversible. We have succeeded in furthering the tremendous reputation of the 173rd that was built by the veterans of the Vietnam War. We must continue to build on that reputation and protect it in the honor of those that have fallen during their service as a Sky Soldier. We have to remain focused till the very end.

Speaking about the end, it is about the time to talk about redeployment. We have begun to plan our redeployment. However, all must realize NO ONE knows when we will fly as the redeployment conference will not set up the airplanes until late this month and we will not know the exact dates until the end of May. Until I can get that information and publish it we must protect our Soldiers and our families from the continued rumors that surround our redeployment. Be mindful that it is sensitive information directly related to Operational Security and the safety of our Soldiers.

In the coming weeks, timelines will be announced by me and we will begin the long journey home by sending back equipment and personnel. The only accurate information about redeployment timelines will



Col. Charles A. Preysler
TF Bayonet Commander

come from me and the Rear Detachment Commander, not from conversations with other Soldiers, emails or phone calls back home. Your families will learn the dates and times from the Rear Detachment Commanders. We will constantly adjust and update actual flight schedules and manifest to let the right people know what is happening.

Trust your commanders to give you the information you need, when you need it so that we can all stay focused on the mission at hand.

Sky Soldiers,

COL Preysler
Bayonet 6



Tien Bien Times

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The Tien Bien Times monthly newsletter is an unofficial publication of the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team and the U.S. Army

authorized under the provisions of AR 360-1.

The newsletter is published and distributed monthly in an electronic format. The newsletter can be viewed on the 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team website at <http://www.173abnbde.seta.army.mil>. This newsletter is a command information product that places emphasis on missions, events and activities occurring throughout the 173rd ABCT's deployed area of operations.

Information and photos included in this newsletter are acquired from sources that highlight events, programs and activities in Nangarhar,

Nuristan, Kunar, Laghman and Paktika Provinces of Afghanistan.

Dates, times, locations, and the events themselves might change or be cancelled without prior notice.

To be added to the Tien Bien Times distribution list, please email: Jacob.caldwell@us.army.mil.

This address can also be used to submit photos or information on upcoming events, or you can reach the 173rd ABCT Public Affairs Office by calling DSN 318-831-6028.

Contact your Voting Assistance Officer today



The upcoming election year is upon us. During the year of 2008 we will decide who will be given the honor of heading our nation for the next four years and the command wants to ensure you have the opportunity to let your voice be heard in the upcoming federal, state, and local elections. Although U.S. citizens are not required to vote, citizens will be afforded the opportunity to participate in all federal, state, and local elections with the help of unit voting assistance officers (VAO). These VAOs are specifically designated by the command to assist you in requesting your absentee ballot by helping you fill out the Federal Post Card Application (FPCA), sending in your FPCA to your local election official in order to receive your Absentee Ballot and cast your vote per guidelines set forth by your state or territory. For more information please contact your unit Voting Assistance Officer.

**TF Bayonet VA Project
Mgr
SSG Marcus Dandridge**

**TF Headhunter
SFC Alfredo Woods**

**TF Rock
CPT Carlos Ramos**

**TF Diamondback
1LT Michael Keebaugh**

**TF Saber
1LT Tom Pae**

**TF King
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CPT Jennifer Carr**

**Nangarhar PRT
2LT Trevor Rafferty**

**Nuristan PRT
CPO Kyra Maillard**

**Kunar PRT
CPT David Feldner**

**Mehtar Lam PRT
MSgt Bernadette Gregory**

Easy Company keeps battalion from falling apart

Story and photos by Sgt. Henry Selzer,
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

Soldiers of Echo Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (ABN) provide maintenance of all types to keep the paratroopers of Task Force Eagle in the fight. Their hard work literally keeps the battalion from falling apart.

"The maintenance platoon is very valuable to the success of the mission of the battalion," said Sgt. 1st Class Gary Donald, 41, of Honea Path, South Carolina, the Maintenance Control Sergeant for "Easy" Company's Maintenance Platoon.

The Soldiers of the maintenance platoon support the fight in many ways including, adding extra armor to the battalion's vehicles, and maintaining all of the battalion's weapon systems by making sure they are all fully functional and ready at all times.

"We are constantly doing things to improve our vehicles, like adding steel to the inside of the turrets for extra armour, and double weapon mounts inside of the turret," said Sgt. Robert Smith, 39, of



Spc. Leighton Jones, 24, of Fort Monroe, Virginia (left) holds a piece of steel in place as Sgt. Robert Smith, 39, of San Antonio, Texas (right) cuts it to the needed size to add to the turret of a vehicle March 31 at Forward Operating Base Orgun-E. Both Soldiers are assigned to Easy Company, 1st Battalion, 503rd Parachute Infantry Regiment.

San Antonio, Texas, a welder in the platoon.

Whether it's an M-2 50-caliber machine gun, an M-4 assault rifle, or a pair of night vision goggles, Task Force Eagle Soldiers can count on the maintenance platoon's armament shop to keep all the weapons in the battalion arsenal operational and ready for the fight.

They can maintain anything from changing the smallest pin, to completely restoring a weapon system, according to

Sgt. Ambjor Anderson, 22, of Maddison Link, Minnesota, the Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge of Echo Company's armament shop.

It's a big task for a small shop with only a handful of Soldiers.

"We support four bases and three combat outposts, including over 1,000 weapons systems," said Anderson.

Despite the nickname of their company, keeping their task force in one piece is no "Easy" task.

New Nangarhar PRT team hits the ground running

By Capt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt
Nangarhar PRT Public Affairs

After more than two months of combat skills training at Fort Bragg, Airmen from around the world and Soldiers from Pennsylvania, Texas and Virginia arrived in Afghanistan in early March to improve the lives of the people of Nangarhar Province.

After two months on the ground, the team has gotten their bearings and is working to build strong relationships with the community.

"Seeing smiles on the faces of the Afghan children is by far the most rewarding experience, and knowing that our team is working to provide a better future for the kids is tremendously important to me," said Lt. Col. Paul Donovan, Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team commander.

The team of 85 includes



Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Donovan, Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, renders aid to the director of the Disabled and Martyred facility following an accident where the man slipped and cut his foot open April 15. Donovan is an MC-130H Combat Talon navigator. He is currently serving in Afghanistan to oversee reconstruction, and enhance security and governance through partnerships and mentoring with provincial leadership.

a handful of civilians from the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Agency for International Development and the Department of Agriculture. Together the group focuses on reconstruction, security and governance for the Nangarhar Province, a 7,700-square-kilometer area.

“Each service brings unique skill sets to the fight, and when you combine them

into one organization with great people and dedicated leadership, you get a much more effective organization,” said Donovan.

The PRT operates along three lines of operation: security, governance, and reconstruction.

The nucleus of the group is civil affairs, a small team of ten reserve Soldiers. With ex-

perience and training, they research and propose projects that will enhance the government of Afghanistan as the country regains its strength and solidarity after more than 30 years of war and struggle.

The main focus for projects is building and rebuilding infrastructure that helps the whole of the population and not

Continued on page 8



Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Donovan, Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, shakes hands with disabled men during the ribbon cutting for the Disabled and Martyred dormitories April 15. More than 200 disabled men will be housed in the dorms.

just a few. Projects include: dams, bridges, roads, power stations, schools, medical facilities and civic meeting facilities.

"We are mentoring them to manage their own affairs. It is rewarding to see capacity building ... to see improvements versus destruction in a country torn by war," said Maj. Bob Minton, civil affairs officer. "The only way we will go home is to help them take the lead."

The mission of the group goes far beyond just physical projects; however, relationship building is the most critical piece of the puzzle. It is imperative that strong relationships be forged quickly so that mentoring and fostering of good governance and security can be enhanced via the partnership.

"The PRT mission is unique because it spans the tactical, operational, and strategic continuums," said Donovan. "The uniqueness of the PRT mission helps folks focus on mission



Air Force Lt. Col. Paul Donovan, Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, addresses a crowd during the ribbon cutting for the Disabled and Martyred dormitories April 15.

accomplishment."

The civil affairs team is also responsible for ensuring fair business practices when it comes to competing and monitoring projects.

"As stewards of the American taxpayer's money, we will ensure federal policies are followed," said Donovan.

"It's imperative that all projects have Afghan ownership in design, build and quality inspections; our job is to provide assistance and oversight," said Donovan.

The team ensures fair business practices via open conferences with competing contractors, generic statements of

work, and by choosing the best contractor based on multiple criteria and not just best price. For example, local hires are mandated whenever possible in the bidding process to enhance the local economy as well as the infrastructure.

The muscle for the team is the security forces element, made up of Pennsylvania National Guardsmen. This group provides the civil affairs element the ability to move from point-to-point in potentially hazardous areas. These folks train and work day-in and day-out to ensure not only the safety of the team when they are out, but also the security of the team when they are back at base.

However, the security team also finds time to build relationships when opportunities arise, whether it is a friendly soccer game with the neighborhood children or passing out pencils to school children.

1st Lt. Robert Boyd, a

former scout, and currently the security forces platoon leader for the PRT, explained that this is a different type of mission than the team is use to. "We can let the people come right up to us."

"We are helping rebuild a country by providing safety and security for our team to operate," said Boyd.

"We are actually making a difference in their lives; we can see progress," said Boyd. Boyd works with inner-city children back home in Montandon, Penn.

The daunting mission of rebuilding a nation in a situation where the basic necessities are a struggle to obtain is one that this team takes seriously, according to the commander.

"Isolation is the greatest challenge for the Afghan people. If we can connect the dots with roads and communication, then we can stand back and watch them progress," said Capt.

Timothy O'Donnell, civil affairs officer.

"Commerce will happen naturally – they will be able to transport and sell their own goods vs. importing from others," he continued.

"I am here to help the Afghan people stand on their own after years of suffering so that my son is not here in 15 years doing the same mission," said Maj. Clifton Cornell, civil affairs officer.

More than \$15 million and 50 projects were completed last year.

Of those, 25 kilometers of roads were paved on the major highway between Jalalabad and Kabul.

"This mission is unquestionably the most important one I've accomplished in my career," said Donovan. "We're helping people out of some pretty dire straights and helping to rebuild a country. We're making history."

Post deployment mobilization respite absence

In April 2007 the Office of the Secretary of Defense implemented a post deployment/mobilization respite absence program which provides days of non-chargeable administrative absences to Soldiers who mobilize for deployment with a frequency beyond established rotation policy goals.

What is Creditable Time?

- Deployment to IRAQ
- Deployment to Afghanistan
- Deployment to other qualifying countries

How do I prove deployments?

- Travel Claims
- TDY Orders
- LES
- TCS orders
- Deployment Awards



When can I use PDMRA?

- During R&R
- PCS travel
- Block Leave
- Regular Leave

How many days am I authorized?

- 1 Day Absence per month for months 13-18
- 2 Days Absence per month for months 19-24
- 4 Days Absence per month for months exceeding 24

Important facts about PDMR.

- Does not carry a cash value
- Will not carry over to the next assignment
- Tracked by the Battalion S1
- Company Commander is the approval authority
- DA Form 31 is not turned into Finance
- DA Form 31 filed and kept for a one year
- System works off a 36 month rolling window
- Maximum number of days absence authorized is 36

For more information

Contact your S-1

319th Field Artillery Gathering

Join Your Fellow Paratroopers
In Myrtle Beach SC, September 11th Through September 14th
All Registered Participants will receive a A Shirt Hat And Coin.
All 173rd ABCT Sky Soldiers Are Invited

To Register Please Visit: <http://www.skysoldier.org/artysur.php>

Prices To Be Determined



Medic recognized for actions during battle

Story by Army Staff Sgt. Brandon Aird, 173rd ABCT Public Affairs

Army Sgt. Kyle S. Dirkintis, a medic from Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), also known as "The Rock", was awarded a Bronze Star for valor, April 1, for his actions at Ranch House Outpost, Kunar province.

Aug. 22, 2007 Dirkintis, a Racine, Wis., native, woke to the sound of gun fire, something he hadn't heard during the first three months of his deployment at Ranch House, a remote outpost defended by 25 Soldiers.

Minutes after the first shot, roughly 20 insurgents breached the outpost's perimeter.

"We were pretty surprised," said Dirkintis. "We didn't know what was going on. It was the first time we had been in contact out there."

Dirkintis and the rest of 1st Platoon, Chosen Company, put on their gear while Soldiers manning the perimeter exchanged gun fire with the approaching insurgents.

As Dirkintis headed toward the fight, a volley of rocket-propelled grenades and small-arms fire hit the aid station and tactical operations center. The insurgents had taken up positions at the Afghan Security Guards' post.

The fleeing ASG left half the perimeter unguarded, which allowed the insurgents to breach the wire.

ASG are a privately owned Afghan security company.

"Post 4, post 3 and post 2 had all called in and said they



Col. Charles Preysler, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team commander, pins a Bronze Star for valor on Army Sgt. Kyle S. Dirkintis, a medic attached for Chosen Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment (Airborne), April 1 on Forward Operating Base Fenty, Nangarhar province. Dirkintis was recognized for his actions during fire-fight at Ranch House Outpost, Kunar province. (U.S. Army photo by Maj. Nicholas Sternberg)

had made contact," said Dirkintis. "At that point in time, we sustained our first casualty in the fight. Our forward observer received some shrapnel to his face."

Dirkintis treated the Soldier's shrapnel wounds while insurgent fighter's approached 40 meters south of his position.

"I exchanged weapons with him (for the Soldier's M-4) and ran down to the TOC to let the guys know what was going on with the casualty. Rounds were skipping by me. I was seeing rocks explode every where. You could hear RPG after RPG exploding. I kept thinking is this really happening?"

After moving to the TOC to inform 1st Lt. Matthew Ferrara about the injured Soldier the building was hit by a RPG.

"I remember the lights came down from the ceiling and it got really dusty in there," said Dirkintis "I can't remember if the radios had gone down or not, but the antennas had gotten blown off the roof and turned into a bunch of twisted metal."

After the RPG hit the TOC, Army Staff Sgt. Eric Phillips ran inside and informed Ferrara and Dirkintis that post 3 was under heavy attack and a Soldier had been shot at post 2.

"I grabbed my aid bag and went outside with Phillips," said Dirkintis.

Tactically moving toward post 2, Dirkintis and Phillips took cover behind post 2's living quarters where they were pinned down for 15 minutes by machine-gun and small-arms fire. Unable to advance, both Soldiers stayed put and returned fire. The fighting between the forces was escalating and Phillips told Dirkintis to get inside the building.

"Rounds started coming through the building so I went back outside and got behind some sandbags," said Dirkintis.

Once outside, Soldiers manning post 2 yelled down that insurgents were maneuvering around the living quarters. Phillips threw hand grenades around one corner while

Dirkintis wheeled around to fire down another corner. down another corner.

"As soon as I kneeled and looked around the corner I took a shot to the chest," said Dirkintis. "At first I didn't know I had been shot. My vision had gotten real blurry. It was difficult to breath. My entire body felt really, really numb."

The force of bullet knocked Dirkintis to the ground and punctured a lung.

"I tried to crawl to all fours and to get up, but that's when I started coughing up blood," said Dirkintis. "I just couldn't get up. It hurt really bad."

Dirkintis continued to try to get up and get back in the fight. Unable to stand, he was dragged by Phillips 30 meters to the mortar pit. While the battle

raged on, Dirkintis helped Soldiers find medical supplies in his aid bag and struggled to keep conscious.

For the next hour and a half, Soldiers used hand grenades, claymore mines, small arms and heavy weapons to repel the attacking Taliban.

A-10 Warthog jets strafed a section of the base occupied by insurgent fighters. By the end of the fighting, 11 of 25 Soldiers defending Ranch House Outpost had suffered injuries.

Dirkintis was medevaced to Germany where he recovered and, against doctors advice, volunteered to come back to Afghanistan.

Dirkintis now works in the pharmacy on Forward Operating Base Fenty, Nangarhar province.



Command Sgt. Maj. Iuniasolua Savusa (Left) The USAREUR Command Sergeant Major, shakes the hand of Staff Sgt. Karnickey (Right) a Squad leader with 4th Platoon Havok Company, 1st Battalion 503rd Infantry (ABN), during his trip to Combat Outpost Zerok on April 17th.

Saber Soldier awarded Bronze Star for Valor

By Army Pfc. Christina Sindors
RC-East PAO

A Bronze Star with "V" device for valor was awarded to Army Sgt. Ryan P. Inabnet, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), at Fire Base Naray, Kunar province, April 24.

Brig. Gen. Mark Milley, CJTF-101 deputy commanding general of

operations, awarded the medal to Inabnet and presented him with a coin for excellence.

Inabnet was recognized for his actions in combat July 27, 2007, when he saved more than a dozen Soldier's lives during a combat operation in Kunar province. The Quick Reaction Team he was on was called out to re-enforce International Security As-

sistance Forces engaged in combat with insurgents.

"We first set out after receiving word that four casualties on the ground were injured and two of them were serious," said Inabnet, a wheeled vehicle mechanic. "Once we arrived we got the four injured in the vehicles and dropped them off at the medevac site."

Shortly afterward, Inabnet provided first aid to a wounded Soldier from his QRT.

"Once we had all the equipment and personnel, we started to head back," said Inabnet. "That's when we started taking [rocket propelled grenades] and small-arms fire."

As the group tried to break contact, several Soldiers were wounded and put into Inabnet's vehicle.

"My main goal was to get these guys back to the helicopter landing zone so they could survive," said Inabnet. "I ended up staying up for hours until we got all our guys back inside the [forward operating base]."

"That day will be with me for a long time," he said. "I would like to thank the Lord above and all my brothers who were in that fight with me."



Army Brig. Gen. Mark Milley, CJTF-101 deputy commanding general of operations, awards and pins a Bronze Star for Valor on Army Sgt. Ryan P. Inabnet, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment (Airborne), April 24, at Fire Base Naray, Kunar province. Inabnet was recognized for saving more than a dozen Soldier's lives while acting with a Quick Reaction Team re-enforcing International Security Assistance Forces battling insurgents. He provided first aid to several wounded Soldiers and transported numerous casualties to a medevac point.



Afghan National Army Soldiers lead from the front during Operation Mountain Highway II in Nuristan Province Afghanistan April 27. The ANA, Afghan Border Patrol, U.S. Army and Marines worked together during the operation to rebuild an ABP check point at the Gauardish Bridge, which was partially destroyed by insurgents last summer.

By Chaplain "Pappy" Nelson

This month and next we celebrate Mother's and Father's Day. With that in mind, I would like to address the parents of our soldiers at this time. I became a teenager in the 1960s and was caught up in all the rebellion against the establishment that stereotyped our generation. I remember very well how our parents and most everyone from their generation use to bemoan what kind of country this is going to be when we grow up and take over and worse yet what our children would be like. They seemed to have a pretty dismal view of the future. Of course considering the way most of us were acting, including me, I can't blame them.

Well a few decades have gone by since then and we have grown up and so have our kids. Now that many of us are grandparents I think that it is a good time to reassess our parent's vision of how our children would turn out. I have heard this generation being accused of being lazy, selfish, and lacking any sense of gratitude. An X box generation that only exercised their thumbs and no clue what was going on in the world and didn't care to learn. Well I have been living with your kids now for the last year in some pretty austere conditions and I must say you must have done something right in raising your children because what I see is just the opposite of what I hear every one accusing them of.

I see very hard working young men and women who don't give up until the job is done. I see them going out on constant almost daily patrols and resupply convoys from early in the morning to late at night and sometimes for many days at a time. They spend the day in a cramped very uncomfortable armored vehicle looking for the enemy, carrying much needed supplies or clearing roads of mines. They stay up all night pulling guard duty so others can sleep. They walk for hours up the side of some of the largest mountains in the world to get to an observation post that is smaller than the infield on a baseball diamond and then they live

Chaplains Corner

up there for days or weeks at a time.

They are constantly going on long foot patrols with more weight on their back than any man was designed to carry. They travel from base to base to deliver goods and services, sleeping at a different forward operating base every night, only coming back to their home base to refit and go out again. And even after working all those long hours seven days a week many are studying for a college course or even trying to learn a foreign language. They have been shot at, rocketed, mortared, and bombed. They have held their wounded and sometimes dying buddies in their arms and with what ever level of medical training they had, they tried tirelessly to put them back together again, and usually succeeded. After all this, they don't give up. They don't quit. They still get up the next day and go back to work.

And I can't help but think also about your kids that are back on the home front. These young families are going it alone. They are separated by thousands of miles from both spouse and parents living in a foreign country in Europe. But they too are finding strength in each other, helping each other and many of them are raising and caring for your grandchildren alone. They are showing a character all on their own. Instead of selfishness they help each other out. Instead of laziness they are volunteering in community services. And I don't see them taking life for granted.

I'm not trying to say that these kids are perfect, none of us are, not even our parents. I'm just trying to say that all the accusations are undeserved. I don't see a bunch of lazy selfish kids here. I see very hard working young men and women. They have char-

acter, true character that doesn't just come with the job; they had to bring it with them. Somebody had to put it there before they got here or they wouldn't make it here.

You can know, Mom and Dad, that you did it right. These kids are good people and I for one admire them. They are contributing to something bigger than themselves. And they know it. These people here in Afghanistan, they see it. They see your young soldiers, young Americans that are hard working, disciplined, well trained and yet people who care about them and help them. Their country is being built back from so many decades of war, strife and oppression. And they see who is doing it. Your kids are.

Their grandparents would be proud. You know by logical conclusion that your parents must have done something right too because if they didn't you would not have been able to raise you children as well as you did. So if your parents are still around, give them a pat on the back for me and tell them I said, "Job well done."

I hope you have a happy Mother's Day and Father's Day, you deserve it.

Chaplain "Pappy" Nelson
TF Bayonet Chaplain



FOB Fenty (JAF) Chapel Schedule

Protestant Services

<i>Prayer-borne Ops</i>	<i>Daily</i>	0330Z / 0800L
<i>Traditional Protestant (Beginning July 8)</i>	<i>Sun</i>	0430Z / 0900L
<i>Contemporary Protestant</i>	<i>Sun</i>	0630Z / 1100L
<i>Gospel</i>	<i>Sun</i>	1430Z / 1900L
<i>Bible Study</i>	<i>Wed</i>	1400Z / 1830L

Point of contact CH (CPT) Hart at DSN 318-831-2330

Roman Catholic Services

<i>Mass</i>	<i>Sun</i>	1230Z / 1700L
<i>Weekday Mass</i>	<i>M-Th</i>	0700Z / 1130L
	<i>Sat</i>	1230Z / 1700L
<i>Confession / Reconciliation</i>	<i>Walk-In</i>	

Point of contact CH (CPT) Kanai at DSN 318-831-2329

Latter Day Saints

<i>Worship</i>	<i>Sun</i>	0800Z / 1230L
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The FOB Fenty Chapel remains open for personal prayer, worship, and meditation for all faith traditions.

For more information, contact Chapel Office at DSN 831-2330 or 831-2329.

"But they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up as with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint." - Isaiah 40:31

Medal of Honor Recipient Pfc. Milton Olive III

**Pfc. Milton L. Olive III,
Company B,
2nd Battalion, 503rd
Infantry Regiment
(Airborne)**

**Republic of Vietnam
October 22, 1965**



Olive was a member of the 3d Platoon of Company B, as it moved through the jungle to find the Viet Cong operating in the area. Although the platoon was subjected to a heavy volume of enemy gunfire and pinned down temporarily, it retaliated by assaulting the Viet Cong positions, causing the enemy to flee.

As the platoon pursued the insurgents, Olive and 4 other soldiers were moving through the jungle together when a grenade was thrown into their midst. Olive saw the grenade, and then saved the

lives of his fellow soldiers at the sacrifice of his by grabbing the grenade in his hand and falling on it to absorb the blast with his body.

Through his bravery, unhesitating actions, and complete disregard for his safety, he prevented additional loss of life or injury to the members of his platoon. Olive's extraordinary heroism, at the risk of his life above and beyond the call of duty are in the highest traditions of the U.S. Army and reflect great credit upon himself and the Armed Forces of his country.

ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE MONTH EVENTS

31 MAY

Aloha Run: Meet 0515L at Flag poles

*Volleyball Tournament: See 1SG Quiones,
HHC 173d, To sign up @ 831-2138*

Luau with guest speaker and dancing

DFAC at 1900L