



# THE SWORD AND CASTLE

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## Task Force Sword



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Deployment is an opportunity for Soldiers to get into the best condition in their lives and make a positive change. The S1 shop wanted to increase the morale of the Soldiers and get in shape at the same time. **SGT Smith** the NCOIC of the S1 shop in concert with **SGT Lawrence** and **SGT Morris** designed the "Soldiers' Choice Physical Fitness Program." This program incorporates Frequency, Intensity, Time and Type (FITT) and section cohesion. **SPC Williams**,

**SPC Brandon**, **SPC Kee-Jones** and **SPC Volsky** decreased their run time by one minute and increased their endurance levels. The Soldiers were so confident in their physical abilities that they challenged **Mr. Harmon** to a five mile run. **Mr. Harmon** humbly accepted and showed the Soldiers what the Officer Corps is made of. This event fostered more than a competition between the Soldiers and the officers in the S-1 shop. This event continues to build upon teamwork and our corps competencies as Adjutant General Soldiers.



Teamwork is something that can make or break an organization. The word is frequently tossed around but rarely put into practice. During the past 60 days, the S1 Shop has taken the word "Teamwork" to a completely new level. All the Soldiers have taken full responsibility of their perspective sections and simultaneously helping each other out to accomplish the mission. Thanks to outstanding teamwork, the S-1 Shop

was able to process over 1000 awards within a three week time span, while also producing 400 identification cards, updating Soldiers records, and processing personnel actions across three geographical locations; Afghanistan, Kuwait and Germany. The Brigade Commander, **COL Paolozzi** said, "This is a marathon at a race pace," and the Soldiers continue to meet the intent of the command. "Defend and Serve."

## S2



As the weather gets cooler and we have acclimated to the altitude of the mountains, we continue to improve our rhythm. This rhythm dictates the flow of work we produce on a daily basis. As you may already know, your Soldiers have been working diligently to provide intelligence and geospatial analysis to support the Brigade's mission. Your Soldiers go above and beyond by also assisting sister units with same meticulous effort. While working in deployed environment, we often find ourselves working in positions in which we are not accustomed, a great example is **PFC Eric Jenkins**,





who was tasked to write intelligence analysis for the Brigade's Graphic Intelligence Summary. He has also taken up the duty so that our Senior Intel Analyst, **SSG Lee**, can better assist Brigade subordinate units.

Even with all the work that is completed, **SGT Walter**, **PFC Easton**, and **PFC Ulmer** competed in the NCO and Soldier of the Month board. **PFC Ulmer** won the Soldier of the Month for August and participated in the Soldier of the Quarter board; **SGT Walter** won the NCO of the Month for September. **SGT Voll**, flew this month to Bagram Air Field to participate in the NCO induction ceremony. The induction ceremony was presented to welcome the newly promoted Non-Commissioned Officers Soldiers to the Corp within the

past year. He was promoted this past November.

Even our worker bees need to get out of the office to have fun and there are a few things that your Soldiers do to relax. **SFC Rodriguez** not only attends college classes but plays indoor soccer. Basketball, volleyball, and football are other sports in which the Soldiers participate. Once a week, **SSG Lee**, **SGT Walter**, **SGT Voll**, **PFC Easton**, **PFC Jenkins**, and **PFC Ulmer** get together with other Warriors of HHC to play ultimate football. Other limited diversions such as reading and playing video games help time pass. Our section has pizza night where we get together with our civilian analysts (**John Burnette**-human intelligence Analyst, **Jason Antoniadis**- All-Source Analyst, and **Jessica Cook**-CIDNE Operator) to make pizzas and watch movies (a great break from the DFAC). Swords Up!

## S3



The S3 shop continues to buzz with activity. We sent our first two Soldiers off on some well deserved R&R leave this month, **CPT Pasqualucci** will be visiting his family and fiancé Katie in the states and **SPC Cruz** went sightseeing on the east coast with some friends. The shop is working hard to ensure that all of their responsibilities are being taken care of until they return. The shop has also started to play "where's Williams?" within the TOC. **SFC Williams**, the brigades chief of bridging has been all over Regional Command East and North inspecting bridges and ford sites, and constructing and deconstructing bridges. Needless to say, he is an elusive figure but he is making great impacts across Afghanistan. The officers have

been keeping fit as the S3 future operations shop participated in the "Hood to Coast Relay" hosted by our Task Force Gridley Soldiers. The twelve Soldier team completed 200 miles over a 24 hour period. It came down to the wire and the team took a honorable second place. We also received a new member of the team since our last update! **MAJ Loftus** joined the team from his recent completion of Intermediate Level Education (ILE). He is cranking away at our higher HQ in Kabul. He says he is working on his PowerPoint skills and catching up on the last season of "Jersey Shore."





The S4 is in full swing. We are doing everything from fielding equipment to ensuring maintenance is done in a timely manner on tactical vehicles throughout the Brigade. The past month has brought many changes to the S4 and Command Post – East, and we now are working side by side with our battalion counterparts and have welcomed the S8 as part of our section. Sadly, during the changes we lost **CPT Ryder** to the PAO section, but gained 2 outstanding officers: our S8, **2LT Hamilton**, and the Engineer Equipment Officer, **1LT Wilcox**.

**CW2 Reynolds** and **SPC Rubio** claim they are doing awesome. **SPC Rubio** provides all the goodies for CP-East, ensuring moral is high.

The Property Book Office has been running at full speed since taking over property book operations. They plan to keep up this pace while keeping a great attitude and optimistic outlook. They strive to ensure anyone who needs assistance from their office gets that assistance quickly so the mission is not hindered.

**CW3(P) Straughter**, **MSG Dillon**, and **PFC Cagle** as the brigade maintenance section. This month multiple route clearance platoons have received new equipment fielding, which has shifted the maintenance personnel's focus to ensure that the route clearance personnel receive the best equipment available to conduct their mission.

After some fall cleaning and elbow grease, all the offices at CP-East look great and each section is working cohesively with their battalion counterparts to provide the best service to each unit. We stay busy during the day, and round out every night with a group meeting in the conference room to knock out the "Insanity" workout program. We miss all of our families, appreciate you taking care of everything at home, and look forward to seeing you soon! Swords Up, Stay Sharp!







As usual the communications personnel who make up the Brigade Commo Shop (S-6) worked steadily this past month. There are many exciting things to report in this feature. A new addition to the Brigade family, local events here in Sharana, a soldier dominating the soldier of the month board, tactical communications missions, and much more occurred this past month.

**SGT Carter** and his wife Mandy are expecting a baby girl in mid-November. Despite his mission within the Brigade, **SGT Carter** found time to be the full-time bass guitarist for the Gospel service at the Davis Memorial Chapel located on FOB Sharana. On September 11, he performed alongside other band members including our own Chaplain, **LTC Terrence Hayes**, in the 1st Annual Gospel Celebration in remembrance of the people who lost their lives that day in New York.

**SGT Hamilton**, the Forward Support Signal NCO, showed his skills and expertise as he traveled to FOB Lightning in support of our subordinate units. He instructed and worked alongside the soldiers of 926th EN CO, teaching basic and advanced tactical radio protocol and procedures to help them complete their mission.

Showing off his knowledge and desire to join the ranks of the NCO Corps, **SPC Jamison** made us proud by taking the Company Soldier of the Month Board by storm. He performed extremely well and impressed his superiors not only with his tact, but with his dedicated study efforts. He is also training to run a full marathon (26 miles), which he hopes to complete in under 4.5 hours.

**SSG Soto**, our lead Automations NCO, continues to work hard to satisfy all the Brigade's network needs. Alongside him is newly promoted **PFC Rivera**. Together they strategically tackle all work orders and trouble tickets requested by our "seniors, peers and subordinates alike." The need for assistance with all things electronic is a never ending cycle, but with the leadership of **SSG Staley** and **MAJ Johnson**, our battle is coordinated and executed with precise action.

On a lighter note, the S-6 can always be found in the gym or out in the dirt roads with the Dusty Toes running group. **SPC Janssen** and **SGT Sinclair** continue to man the communication needs for CP-North and Bagram Airfield, respectively. Their constant and tireless efforts make our jobs here at the Brigade that much easier as they lighten the load and help our counterparts communicate effectively. Until next time.... "TALK HARD."





The Public Affairs Office section is changing again. **CPT Werback** is leaving to move on to the 243rd CMT, but is just moving right across the street from Brigade, so she's not really leaving. She is being replaced by **CPT Ryder**, previously the brigade's Engineer Equipment Officer in S4. **SGT Petrus** has managed to sneak aboard a few route clearance patrols. He says it's to take pictures, but we know he's trying to practice being Rambo after working in the gym so much. **SPC Huddleston** continues to work hard on the Brigade newsletter and he is ready to start hitting the books.





Salutations from the 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade Technical Headquarters Section. Another month has quickly transpired as we conquer the daily engineering challenges in Afghanistan. THS continues to provide superior technical engineering support to ISAF Joint Command priority missions. **SSG Bogacz, SPC Michelini, and SPC Vorous** are providing expert surveying skills in the construction of an all-weather ford site in Northern Afghanistan. **SSG Szambelan, SPC Johnson, and SPC Reyna** provided detailed designs for an Afghan Provincial Government Compound. **SGT Cooper and SPC Finholt** engaged in inspecting and providing solutions to improve the safety of multiple Ammunition Storage Areas across eastern Afghanistan. **SFC Young and SSG Szambelan** conducted a route reconnaissance for a major commerce road. **MAJ Volkman, CW2 SanMiguel, SFC Young, SSG Taylor, SGT Bonello and SGT Gibson** continue to keep everything on track ensuring the team has everything they need when they need it.

Congratulations to **SSG Bogacz** on his promotion from Sergeant. Additionally, the Department of the Army selected **CW2 SanMiguel** for promotion to CW3, and we look forward to his well deserved promotion in the coming year. **SGT Gibson** won the Non-Commissioned Officer of the Quarter board and will represent the Brigade in the Quarterly Warrior competition

THS has a common section goal to make a positive impact on others and ourselves. We will return home better than we left. For some that is wiser and smarter, for some that is stronger and faster, but for most it is both. We have been maximizing any down time by taking college courses and improving our physical fitness through rigorous exercise on the trails and in the gym. Our friends and loved ones remain ever present in our thoughts and hearts. Until next time, Sword's Up and Stay Sharp!



## JAG



As you can see, our brigade judge advocate, **CPT Hendrickson** indulges himself from time to time in a cigar and a non-alcoholic beer— Whatever takes the edge off Sir.



At around the same time, **CPT Newman** is working on that huge pile of paperwork! She refuses to go home, such a work-a-holic!

## Chaplain

Greetings from the Religious Support Team (RST) consisting of **Chaplain (LTC) Hayes** and **SSG Smith-Banks**. August flew by as we were busy visiting soldiers and other RSTs on outlying FOBs. We are actively seeking improvement in everything we do, which is why we've spruced up Davis Memorial Chapel (Sharana's Main Chapel) by adding a steeple and paint in the inside and out. We, also, had the First Annual Gospel Celebration, which commemorated on September 11, 2011, here on Sharana. This being the ten year anniversary of the 9-11 terrorist attack, we opened the program with a moment of silence. The day was filled with Christian fun and food. There was singing, Ugandan dancing, acting and even rapping (Christian rap that is). **Chaplain Hayes** even played his trumpet. We will continue to travel the Afghanistan countryside to offer soldiers support and greatly appreciate your prayers.





# Command Group

- **SPC King** continues to run a "one-man operation" out of Bagram, making endless trip to and from the flight line.
- **SPC Czernek** pursues his goal of making friends with any person who controls air assets in Afghanistan with the hope that it will make air travel easier for the command group.
- **SGT Wilson** accompanied **SFC Williams** as his personal security and junior bridge apprentice on a 2-day bridge mission that took three weeks.
- **SSG Flaherty** conducts regular MOS training for **SSG Simison** and other leaders during several BBQs designed to build the brigade team.
- **LTC Gaffney** continues to beat the Brigade staff into submission and ensure that the BDE standards are met.
- **LTC Drew** has developed a small following of Soldiers at the 370th gym who become spectators of his "highly-vigorous" ring workouts during PT.





On the three month anniversary of the start of 18<sup>th</sup> Engineer Brigade's Afghan vacation, the surgeon section celebrated with a night of cigars and (root)beers. The shop as a whole has continued to refine its coffee making/Keurig operating skills, and this causes more visits to the surgeon section's office than actual medical reasons. **SMSG(P) Simison** has finished his research project on diesel trucks for sale in the greater Atlantic and gulf coast region. He presented his report to the United States Automobile Association who met here on FOB Sharana at the end of September. **CPT Johnson** is slowly chipping away at the record for how many times someone can run the perimeter of FOB Sharana and not get bored. His last trips was for the Army Ten Miler in late September and next will be the Coast to Coast Marathon Series in early October. **CPT Johnson** also introduced a new candy with drug-like addictiveness to HHC called Happy Hippos. They are so delicious that his box of 50 disappeared in four days. (Don't worry---they are legal.) **Doc Watts** has assumed an alter ego called K-9 crusader, he spends his nights wearing a mask and finding really cute puppies in danger of being euthanized and guilts people in the US into adopting them. The surgeon section has greatly improved moral, if not their morals, by hosting Wednesday and Sunday night movies in front of the chaplains hut. They project the movie up on a concrete T-wall and watch comedies, comic book movies, and Guy Ritchie films. The whole section is looking forward to the six month anniversary of their Afghan vacation.

## FRSA

23 Aug – Mrs. Darlene Revell passed away. She was the mother-in-law of **MSG Kevin Bardy**, grandmother to Allyson Bardy, American patriot, and Army “Mom” too many of our beloved soldiers. She will be dearly missed by the Sword family.







