



Diligent Times

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SUPPORT FIRST!

701st Brigade Support Battalion

Features:

- *Battalion Article*
- *This Week in Pictures*
- *Featured Company: Panthers*
- *FET team highlights*

'Diligent' Battalion Enjoys a Resiliency Day in Afghanistan

By 2nd Lieutenant McKinsey Hulen

On September 1st, 701st Brigade Support Battalion, known as 'Diligent' Battalion, spent an afternoon recognizing Soldiers for outstanding performance and then coming together for a battalion barbeque and resiliency event. The afternoon began with a battalion awards ceremony, during which select Soldiers were recognized for above-standard performances during the first three months of deployment. Several Soldiers were also recognized for performing their duties in combat situations,



Command Sergeant Major Moore brings the battalion to attention before the ceremony

and were awarded with Combat Infantry Badges, Combat Action Badges and Combat Medic Badges, based on qualifications. LTC Carnahan, Battalion Commander, reviewed all of the battalion's accomplishments so far in the deployment, and motivated the formation with an in-depth look at what is to come. After the formalities, all Soldiers not on duty made their way to the barracks to spend an evening barbecuing and playing games with their fellow Soldiers.

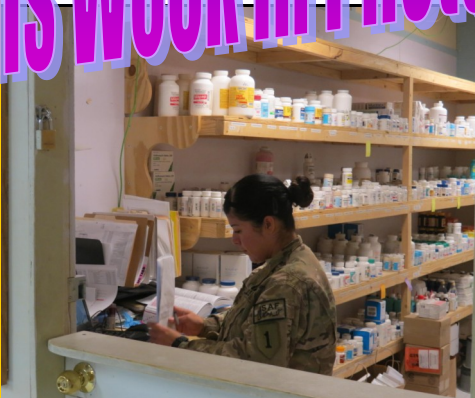


Captain Holub, C Co Commander, serves a hot dog to Captain Gandia, HHC Commander, at the battalion BBQ

After three months of hard work, this couple hours of down time was a welcomed opportunity to put work aside and enjoy the camaraderie of the battalion in a relaxed setting. Colonel Wawro, Fourth Brigade Commander, and Command Sergeant Major Hutchison, Brigade Command Sergeant Major, even stopped by to sit back and chat with 701st personnel. Soldiers could be found enjoying a hot dog, playing corn hole or smoking a cigar with their buddies. Although it was back the grindstone Monday morning, those couple hours of resiliency time ensured all of the Soldiers in 701st that their efforts are noticed and that hard work pays off over time.

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This Week in Photos



Corporal Fuentes manages the pharmacy at the Medical Treatment Facility at Charlie Company



Alpha Company conducts reenlistment ceremony for Specialist Bonine



LTC Carnahan shakes hands with Specialist Ridenour of Bravo Company



HHC Conducts a reenlistment for SGT Litim

Afghan Partnership: Intelligence Collection

By: CPT Gedaliah Scharold

On August 14th, Captain Scharold, Intelligence Officer for the battalion, traveled to Forward Operating Base Rushmore to conduct combined intelligence training with the Operations Coordination Center, Provincial (OCC-P), a section of the Afghan Government that coordinates government operations, like elections.

Captain Scharold conducted training with the Afghan National Police, Afghan Uniformed Police, Afghan Border Police and Afghan National Directorate of Security on how to establish estimates for enemy activity along routes in the area .

Captain Scharold also assisted the Afghan National Security Forces with developing information gathering requirement, so that troops on ground know what to look out while on patrol in order to most effectively gather intelligence on what their commander considers priority threats. He also with effective metrics for analyzing the battlespace from the perspectives of friendly forces, enemy forces, weather, terrain, and civilian considerations. A honed ability to pull all of these specifics together will enable the Afghans to more effectively analyze the area of operations and prepare for potential conflicts.



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Panthers

Diligent Soldiers Make History with Female Afghan Police

From September 1st to September 7th the Fourth Brigade 'Dragon' Female Engagement Team members traveled to Forward Operating Base (FOB) Rushmore to conduct training with new female members of the Afghan Uniform Police (AUP). In fact, the Afghan women who participated made history in Paktika by being the first female members of the police force in the province. Representing 701st BSB was Specialist Nasser from HHC, Specialist Bonine from Alpha Company, and Specialist Bendavid from Charlie Company.

The training was conducted in a classroom on the Afghan side of FOB Rushmore, just outside the gate. Each American Soldier was given an Afghan Police uniform for the duration of the training. The Afghan ladies were very eager to learn and were able to comprehend the information after hands-on training. They ran through a few scenarios after each lesson to solidify their understanding.

A total of eight Afghan ladies came to receive the training, which consisted of basic police skills the women would need for their job with the AUP. The classes ranged from the basics of searching women and room clearing, basic first aid, intelligence and media training, Improvised Explosive Device information and indicators and weapons familiarization. Although most of the training was conducted by the Dragon Female Engagement Team, AK-47 familiarization and pistol training was conducted by Polish Special Forces personnel.

The first day for weapons training was hands on in the classroom. It included how to take weapons apart, how to clear weapons, safety mechanisms and how to properly carry and handle weapons. For most of the women this was the first time they had ever touched a weapon— others, however, were very experienced.

The next day, Day 2, was a dry fire range. The Afghan women were taught how to maintain an aggressive, prepared stance with weapons, how to hold a weapon when firing, how to place the magazine in the weapon and how to charge it. After repetitive drills the women became comfortable for the next day's live fire. At the live fire range on the third day the women did remarkably well. Many of the ladies hit the target in the first few tries with the AK-47. When it came time for the ladies to shoot the pistols, they struggled some with aiming and handling the kickback, but by the end of the training they felt ready to join their fellow policemen on missions.

On September 5th and 6th, after the ladies completed training with the Dragon FET team, the Oath of Commitment was administered and these brave Afghan women were sworn into their Afghan Uniformed Police duties. A graduation ceremony was conducted to celebrate their momentous commitment. Many VIPs spoke at the graduation, including the Governor of Paktika. At the end of the ceremony, the Dragon FETs gave the females certificates and gifts for their hard work and dedication. The Dragon ladies, also, were shown appreciation. The General of the Afghan Uniformed Police presented them all with scarves to show them how much their hard work was valued and invited all of the American ladies to dinner at his house to further express his gratitude.

It was an exciting and remarkable experience for the Task Force 701 FET members to help train these Afghan women. The mission was a great success and opened up a new era in Paktika history. Al-



The Dragon Female Engagement Team poses with the first female members of the Afghan Uniformed Police in Paktika Province

Weekly Diligent Poll

Find our weekly poll on Facebook to add your input

This Week's Poll: What **College Team** Are YOU Rooting for this Year?

Only 14 people responded this week... "Like" us on Facebook and add your input next week!

1 UCLA
 1 Kansas State
 1 University of Florida
 3 Ohio State
 Alabama
 University of Minnesota
 3 University of Georgia
 Brigham Young University
 Army



701ST BRIGADE SUPPORT BATTALION
 8365 WELLS STREET
 FT. RILEY, KS 66442

WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/701ST.BSB

PLEASE SEND COMMENTS TO:
 2LT McKinsey Hulen,
 Battalion Public Affairs Officer
mckinsey.r.hulen@afghan.swa.army.mil

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