

**541ST COMBAT  
SUSTAINMENT SUPPORT  
BATTALION NEWSLETTER  
FEBRUARY 2012**





# LTC CAIN



Dear Family and Friends of the Pacesetters,

I hope everyone had a very Happy New Year and is enjoying 2012. 2012 will be the "Greatest Year" yet for the Pacesetter Family!

We have executed numerous short fuse taskings that have influenced operations from the Strategic level to the Tactical level over the past month. We developed and executed the Army's first Redistribution Property Assistance Team Academy in support of operations in OEF. In order to accomplish this, we developed an entire curriculum, prepared instructors, and were able to effectively train over 55 Soldiers to prepare them for their deployment within seven days of notification. These Soldiers understand property accountability and will provide OEF with the skills required IOT make the mission a success. In this sense, the Pacesetters have been able to influence operations in Iraq, Kuwait, and Afghanistan despite our short time in theater.

Another important process we are currently engaged with has been the integration of the 98<sup>th</sup> Maintenance Company from Fort Richardson, Alaska into the deployed Pacesetter team. They arrived in late January and will take over many of the duties and responsibilities from the 227th Quartermaster Company. Our staff has been aggressively planning all the steps required to assist the 98th become fully operational in support of our mission.

Additionally, we continue to clear the remnants of equipment left behind after the enormous drawdown from Iraq. We have been able to plan and execute the movement of over 2,000 vehicles from the Camp Virginia yard, which is ahead of everyone's expectations. The logistics prowess

of our Pacesetter team has been evident to everyone since our arrival. Our ability to move so many pieces of equipment in such a short time re-emphasizes our team's ability to accomplish feats that many felt were impossible a few months ago.

Morale remains high among the Pacesetter Soldiers. Although none of them want to be away from the comforts of our Families and homes, they remain committed to preparing for whatever mission comes our way. This commitment and the support provided by our loved ones is what keeps us going.

I hope the Families around the Fort Riley area have been able to participate in the monthly Family Readiness Group (FRG) meetings. We have many volunteers within the organization who have made the FRG very strong. Please take advantage of the information provided at these meetings and use it to develop some camaraderie among other military spouses who may be experiencing many of the same hardships you may be going through. Please feel free to contact 1LT Matthews for additional information concerning upcoming FRG dates and locations. Also, take the opportunity to check out the 541st Facebook page at <http://www.facebook.com/#!/541stCSSB> for additional information to keep you informed of Pacesetter activities.

I want to thank all the Families and friends for all that you continue to do for our Pacesetter Soldiers. If it weren't for your dedication and sacrifice, accomplishing our missions would be next to impossible. Remember that myself, Command Sergeant Major Witzel, the Company Command Team, and 1LT Matthews as the Rear Detachment Commander are always here for you and your Soldier. Please don't hesitate to contact any one of us if you need assistance. We will do everything within our power to assist you.

We are the Pacesetters, and life is good! No mission too difficult, No sacrifice to great. Duty First!

Sincerely,

LTC Bill Cain



# CSM Witzel



## Pacesetter Family-

January has been a whirlwind of activity for the Battalion. We remain actively engaged in supporting the mission here in Kuwait, maintaining our partnership with the Paxico schools, caring for Families and deployed Soldiers and working FRG events. I am proud and deeply honored to be

associated with the professionals and caring Families of this great unit.

I wanted to express my sincerest gratitude and appreciation to those who assisted my family during a time of need. I told my wife, Kathy, the other day that it is so awesome to see the FRG in action. We have witnessed first-hand both functional and dysfunctional FRGs. It is truly refreshing to see such a dynamic group as we have found in the Pacesetter family. The cohesion, synergy and electrifying nature here is inspiring. This is what it is all about. Thank you!

As LTC Cain stated, the Battalion has achieved quite a bit and has earned a reputation of consummate professionals that can get any job done. We are excited with the addition of the 98th Maintenance Company to the Pacesetter family.

The command identified the “Four Ps” that lead to success—People, Performance, Pride, Pacesetters. I wanted to take a few minutes to elaborate on this.

People are our greatest resource. Without people nothing will be achieved in the Battalion or any team for that matter. As with any resource, care must be exercised to maintain the resource. Taking care of Soldiers is a part of any leader’s responsibility. Taking care of Families

is equally important to ensure a ready and capable force. Looking after the welfare and needs of people demonstrates partnership and engenders respect. This tenet encompasses all aspects of social growth: professional aspirations, personal aspirations, financial stability, emotional well-being, growth and development, spiritual fitness and teambuilding. Without people nothing will be accomplished, however, with a stable, balanced and motivated team of individuals anything can be accomplished. Having a developed and well trained team leads to pride.

Pride is essential. Take pride in the work at hand and do the very best, always. Why settle for second when coming in first is achievable. Mediocrity marks the team that has no vision or purpose. Those without pride watch others rise to the top and wish they could be as good. Those with pride know that they are great and nothing is insurmountable. Take pride in your team. Knowing that you are a part of a great organization provides the self satisfaction of being a part of something greater than yourself. You feel better, hold your head higher and may even swagger a bit. And why not, you have achieved success. Taking pride in accomplishments leads to superior performance.

Performance leads to meaningful achievements. Setting goals, identifying objectives, establishing a plan and motivating the team leads to a well performing, synchronized and dynamic organization. When everyone is pulling at the oar no mission is too great. An organization without good performance will falter and fail. Discontent will breed in the ranks and even the simplest of tasks will become burdensome. An organization with great performance and a defined purpose will always shine brightly and provide a sense of accomplishment and satisfaction within the team. Synergy will be generated and all team members will be successful.

“Pacesetters” is the summation of the four Ps and is the embodiment of success. This single word identifies a tremendous team that remains out front leading the charge. The Pacesetters show others the courage, discipline, professionalism and determination to be the very best. We are in it for the long haul and have the stamina to remain out front, never faltering---setting the pace.

No mission too difficult, No sacrifice to great. Duty First!

CSM Bryan Witzel  
Pacesetter 7



# RAP WITH THE CHAP



“Because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance.”  
James 1:3 (NIV Version)

We continue to serve our great nation at Camp Virginia. It is a humbling experience to serve our God and our nation simultaneously. Although this experience is one that we, as professional Soldiers appreciate, time away from our Families can cause relationship struggles. These struggles often become more evident as time apart continues grow. I encourage all Soldiers and their Families to reflect on 1 Corinthians 13: 4-8 which states, “Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It is not rude, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, and it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, and always perseveres. Love never fails. But where there are prophecies, they will cease; where there are tongues, they will be stilled; where there is knowledge, it will pass away.” I use this verse to encourage Soldiers and their family member to remain steadfast in their love and commitment to one another. Remember, this deployment is almost half way over and families will be reunited once again very soon.

Although Operation NEW DAWN is quickly coming to an end, our Pacesetter Soldiers remain in order to finalize all tasks before returning home. Although times can be challenging, the Pacesetter team continues to impress everyone they encounter. I am honored to serve as the Pacesetter Battalion Chaplain and thank God every day for the opportunity to work with such professional and hard-working Soldiers. I look forward to whatever our future brings and thank God for allowing me the opportunity to serve the Pacesetters and their families.

Isaiah 41:10 states, “so do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” (NIV Version) I frequently rely on these words from God as it is never easy to be away from your loved ones, but always remember that the Lord is with you, to strengthen you and hold your hand through whatever challenges life brings. Rely on His strength to get you through these troubled times.

I continually enjoy visiting our Soldier at their workplaces. I will never stop visiting giving them encouragement. What do you think about the tests come forward to you? Do you allow them to consume you in depression? No, do not allow the tests. Kick them out because God is always upholding you. I hope that you have answered with this word “I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.” Do not allow Satan to harm your faith and joy.

Please continue to pray for us and our mission as we continue to pray for our families and their difficult mission and sacrifices they make as well. Through prayer we will continue to remain strong.

May God continue to bless each and every one of you!

CH Joung, Yong  
At Camp Virginia in Kuwait  
[ch.young1238@gmail.com](mailto:ch.young1238@gmail.com)



2LT Smith, CH Joung, 1LT Boykins and SSG Anderson all placed in the Camp Virginia Black History Month 5K.



# HURRICANES



This past month has been amazing! Already claiming the wonderful titles of being Husband, Soldier, and Company Commander of the best unit I've ever been in, I can now add Father to that list. Being able to be there for the birth of my son, Jayden, immediately made its way to the top of my list of best moments in life ever.

This new experience has shed a new light on deployments for me, and definitely makes me appreciate time with my family even more. Deploying and having to leave a spouse or grown children behind is difficult, but manageable, as you know they are able to physically take care of themselves.

But having to leave behind a newborn baby that is completely dependent on you for everything, where you just want to protect and keep him safe is definitely a new experience; and in my experience makes deployments even more challenging.

I've known so many Soldiers that have had children born while they were away on training or deployments, with the after affect being that they missed many of the "firsts" – laugh, rolling over, crawling, walking, speaking, school day, etc. But now that I have my own experience to look upon, I have a bit more understanding about why these Soldiers continue on in the military and give up being there for all these "firsts."

It is because this wonderful new bundle of joy and happiness in your life makes you strive to work even harder to protect him/her.

Hurricanes!



CPT Cook with his wife Liz  
and their son Jayden.



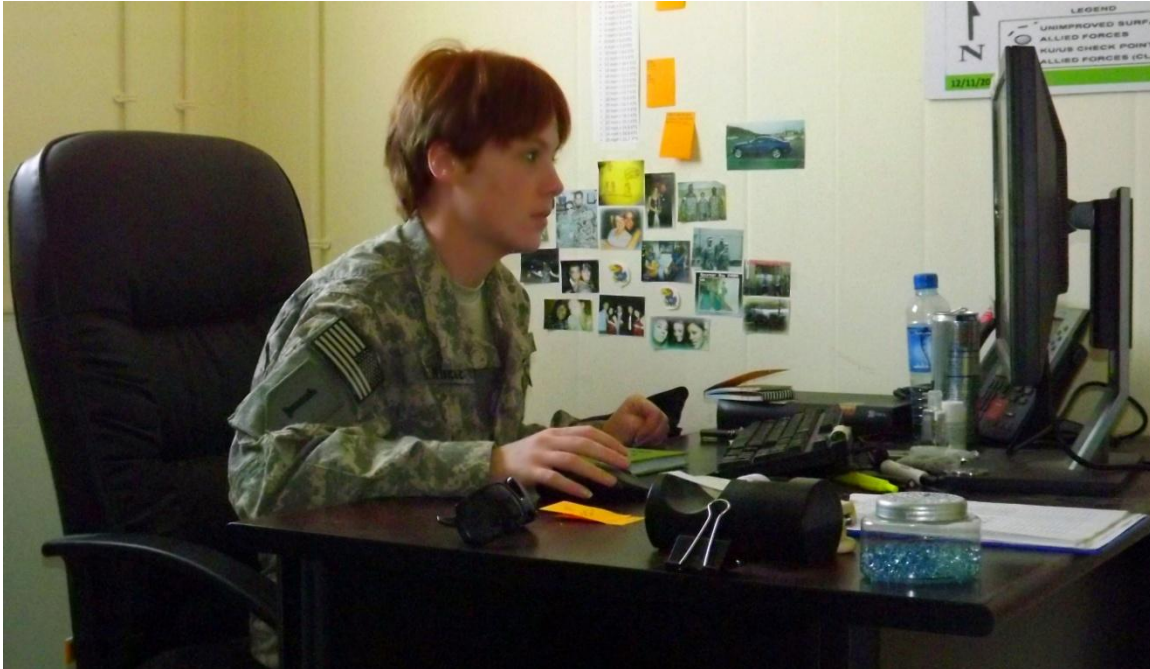
SGT Perez with his daughter  
Kaylee.





Throughout the month the S1 shop has kept a very steady workload. Missions such as updating records the SFC Promotion Board, conducting Promotion Boards, numerous awards for the RPAT Academy and the 227th Quartermaster Company as their time starts to dwindle down, as well as in-processing the 98th Maintenance Company as they come on board to take over for the 227th. PV2 Williams was tagged to move down to Arifjan to help support the Brigade Public Affairs Office.





As the S2 Intelligence/ Security Cell moves into the New Year, SGT Maendele continues to sustain the current fight by providing support as an augmented Intelligence Analysts for the 402nd Army Field Support Brigade as well as their four subordinate battalions. In a highly demanding position and a high OPTEMPO environment, SGT Maendele continues to set the pace, producing a phenomenal Daily Graphical Intelligence Summary (GRINTSUM). Her prodigious efforts assist the Commanders with the decision-making process for current and future operations and most importantly all Soldiers, DA Civilians and DoD Contractors.

On a daily basis, SGT Maendele has an impact on war fighting functions directly affecting the brigade and subordinate units on their capabilities and significant events as well as with enemy significant activity associated with active terrorist threat groups. Her mission is time consuming and developed with a high standard and attention to detail.

In addition, SGT Maendele provides personnel oversight for the brigade personnel by assisting with security clearance verifications, discrepancies, and ensuring all personnel are in compliance with necessary security level required for classification levels of information. In the last month, she has ensured that the security clearances for more than 18,000 PAXs were in scope with required timeframes as outlined in the personnel security regulations. SGT Maendele continues to display her 541st CSSB Pacesetter pride and knows the importance of providing substantial amount of assistance and guidance to her subordinates as she ensures high success for mission-essential tasks and operations.

In addition to meeting continuous mission requirements, the 541st Combat Sustainment Support Battalion provided Soldiers the opportunity to improve their promotion points, as well as sharpen their marksmanship skills. This month, Soldiers participated in an M16 Qualification Range coordinated by the Battalion S3 staff. In addition to meeting the daily battle rhythm requirements, the Range Officer in Charge (OIC), 2LT Jeremy Bruegger, and the Range Non-Commissioned Officer in Charge (NCOIC), SFC Sean Cook made sure the range was a success.



2LT Bruegger calls Range Control to occupy the range.



After much planning and coordination, the range proved to be one of the many successes the 541st has achieved in its short time here in Kuwait. To show their support, the 541st CSSB Commander, LTC Cain and the BN Command Sergeant Major, CSM Witzel visited the range to assess training and visit with Soldiers.



By the end of the day, more than 74 Soldiers were able to qualify and improve their scores for promotion points, build weapons confidence and overall have fun. The 541st completed another successful mission and as always set the pace.



The S-6 takes a breather this month and completes some much needed time to further their education which in return will benefit the unit. This month four of the BN S-6 Soldiers 1LT Oates, SSG Aguirre, SPC Andrews and PFC Mardoyan completed the fiber optic course at the Signal University located at Camp Arifian Kuwait.





# 227<sup>TH</sup> Quartermaster Company

# BULLDAWGS

227<sup>th</sup> QM CO. has made history yet again, processing the last vehicle out of Iraq. It's been a real stressful but rewarding last few months; making sure the draw down units of Iraq were relieved of their equipment. They successfully processed over 2,306 rolling stock and 24,500 non-rolling stock. SSG Peterkin (NCOIC) was determined to go beyond his job description, at times he would roll up his own sleeves and process equipment. His passion for soldiers and his drive for excellence are truly humanitarian. SPCs Pollauf, McGraw, and PFC Sanchez each served in an NCO position as yard bosses. Of course 541<sup>st</sup> couldn't just sit back and watch. MAJ Moore and LTC Cain were at Camp Virginia RPAT daily assuring that 227<sup>th</sup> RPAT team accomplished its goal of processing all units by December 18th. Camp Virginia is currently transporting rolling stock and non-rolling stock, with a completion goal of February 15th. 227<sup>th</sup> QM CO is known for its ability to "Shut it Down" so much that its very own: SFC Wipperman, SSGs Baxton, White & McBride, SGTs Stewart, Milner, Roberts, Oliver & Thomassaint, CPL Blackwood, SPCs Buchanan & Lesaisaea developed a ten day curriculum that is being taught in a forum called "RPAT Academy." The instructors will train units deploying to Afghanistan in support of RPAT & MRPAT Operations. The first class graduated on 25 JAN 12.



## CAMP VA RPAT

### NOTE FROM 1SG:

**As 227th mission draws down and Soldiers are preparing to conduct a battle hand off to the incoming unit. Safety must be a priority to combat complacency. In everything that goes on during the draw down, remember our families are awaiting our return. Therefore, stay focus and diligent and let continue to take care of one another.**

**I SAY HOAH  
-1SG HOBBS-**

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**FEB. 19**

227<sup>th</sup> QM CO Black History Month Program, 1300-1500 hrs, Dusty Room, Camp VA, Kuwait

### QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"Our lives are not determined by what happens to us, but how we react to what happens; not by what life brings us, but by the attitude we bring to life.*

*A positive attitude causes a chain reaction of positive thoughts, events and outcomes. It is a catalyst a spark that creates extraordinary results."*

**-- UNKNOWN**

### JANUARY PROMOTIONS:

SPC THOMASSAINT TO SGT

PFC PHAM SPC

PFC MANNEH TO SPC