



Volume 1, Issue 3

WHITE CURRAHEE

3 MILES UP



3 MILES DOWN



December 2010



THIS MONTH IN THE CHRONICLE

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The Command Desk

Happy New Year from East Paktika, Afghanistan. As 2010 draws to a close its easy to see how much has changed in our area of operations since we arrived. We've built two new check points which enabled us to provide outreach to the local population. The check points also have made the surrounding areas much safer for the local populace and your Soldiers. We've also done major renovations at our smaller Combat Outposts (COPs), in particular Munoz and Margah. The work is still ongoing, but the quality of life for everyone has dramatically improved. Munoz now has a chow hall with a TV and Margah can cook and serve hot food. We will continue to work to improve the living conditions and security for our White Currahee Soldiers throughout this deployment.

Since the last Chronicle winter has arrived in East Paktika and temperatures have dropped considerably. Luckily your Soldiers were issued the latest in cold weather gear and uniforms to keep them warm. If you look through some of the pictures this month, you'll see some Soldiers sporting the new multicam uniform.

We also were fortunate to have a USO tour visit some of our locations. Notably, Robin Williams, Leeann Tweeden, Emily West, Kix Brooks and the Sergeant Major of the Army visited our White Currahees at COPs Zerok and Munoz, and Forward Operating Base (FOB) Orgun-E shortly before Christmas.

Again, we cannot thank you enough for your support. While it was difficult to be away from home, the care packages and letters sent from all of the families went a long way to make the holidays special. Happy New Year and CURRAHEE!



Sierra Maintenance at FOB Orgun-E.



Dog Company Soldiers at 10,000 feet.



Chaplain Vineyard gives a Christmas service at COP Munoz.

Dog Company



Dog Company Welcomes Sergeant Major of the Army / USO Tour and Celebrates Christmas

Merry Christmas from all of your Dog Company Soldiers this holiday season. During the month of December, Dog Company Soldiers continued to execute patrols, including OPN Nihaal, a 15-mile Air Assault mission which involved walking over 10,000 foot mountains. We also continue to improve both force protection and quality of life at FOB Tillman, COP Munoz, and Wali Was Border Control Point. On the 20th, SMA Preston and the USO Tour, including Leeann Tweeden, Keni Thomas, and Emily West, visited FOB Tillman. They sang songs, talked with the Soldiers and SMA Preston presented coins to several deserving Soldiers. Additionally, SGT Heisel (2nd Platoon) reenlisted for 3 years with his Platoon Leader, 1LT Lee presiding. On Christmas, Brigadier General (BG) Townsend, the Assistant Division Commander, visited COP Munoz. After promoting SPC Peckham to the rank of Sergeant, BG Townsend and his Personal Security Detachment took over security at all of COP Munoz's guard towers so the men of Dog Company could all enjoy Christmas dinner together. We all wish each and every one of you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



BG Townsend (Left) with newly promoted SGT Peckham on Christmas Day on COP Munoz.



1SG Ortega, SMA Preston, CPT Churchill



SPC Stein and SPC Jones in the festive spirit on Christmas at COP Munoz.



SGT Heisel reenlists with 1LT Lee giving the oath while Emily West observes.



Leeann Tweeden presents a gift to Dog Company

New Soldiers



SPC Depoyster
SPC Espino
SPC Marshall
SSG Chao

Newborns



November 9th- Daiven Daniel Hayes
December 4th -
Johannah Noelle Churchill

DOG CHRISTMAS AT COP MUNOZ



DOG SOLDIERS!

1SG Ortega, 1LT Sivanich with NCOs and Soldiers on Christmas Day at COP Munoz with all the Goodie Bags from The Dog Company FRG! Thank you all very much!

Easy Company



**Kix Brooks (from Brooks & Dunn)
singing to Easy Co.**

NEW SOLDIERS



PV2 Delbert Detray
PV2 Christopher Hudson
PV2 Raphael Nieves
PFC Jarel Jones
SPC James Hall
SPC John Ray



CURRAHEE KIDS

Carlie Lucille Neely
7lbs, 4 oz. Baby girl

From the Commander:

December has been a long, hard and cold month of patrolling for Easy Company. As the weather gets colder, the Soldiers have to adapt, which means carrying even more gear than normal. Easy Company is building a new Joint Combat Outpost at Mankanari, Check point, so the Soldiers are braving the cold and carrying out multiple day missions to get the COP built. Motivation is high, however, and the Soldiers are ready to get after it. Their hard efforts have made Zerok and the surrounding area much safer, going places and accomplishing things deemed impossible by prior units. Easy Company's Soldiers had some celebrity visitors on December 15. Robin Williams and Kix Brooks were among the people who visited. As Christmas approaches, the Soldiers are missing their families but enjoying all of the care packages that the company is receiving. Thanks for all you do and God bless.

CURRAHEE!



1st PLT Soldiers with Robin Williams.



**SSG Siefman with one of Easy
CO newest members.**



Easy Company all together.

Fox Company



Our Newest Team Member – Camille



REENLISTMENTS

CPL Blanton
SGT Edwards
SGT Ziegler
SSG Wright

PROMOTIONS



PFC Raak
PFC Walker
PFC Wilmot
SPC Furseth
SPC Lakner
SPC Moore
CPL Blanton
CPL Conley
CPL Lawson
CPL Tuttle

CURRAHEE KIDS



- SPC Brown's wife is due at the end of December
- SPC Martray's wife is due in the middle of January

Since last month's newsletter the men of Fox Company continue to stay busy fighting off the insurgency, building our Afghan military partners and helping the people of Bermel Valley in positive ways. In the four months since arriving into Theater, your heroes have done more than the last two companies in our area of operations combined. In the middle of December, Fox Company conducted an Air Assault mission using Chinook helicopters with Soldiers from both FOB Boris and COP Margah. Fox Company is now operating with three fully manned line platoons and one headquarters platoon. This increased strength will allow us to continue positively affecting our area by assisting the Afghan National Army (ANA) and the people of Bermel to rid themselves of the oppressive influences of the enemy.



Bermel Valley



Christmas Eve 2K Run

Christmas was celebrated like it can only be done in a combat zone. Our Afghan partners even got into the Christmas spirit by bringing us a tree from one of their patrols, and all sections on FOB Boris helped decorate it. The medics strung popcorn and cranberries and all the different sections from Artillery to Intel and Infantry made ornaments for our Afghan Christmas tree. On the 15th of December we held a tree lighting ceremony where we sang Christmas carols, lit the tree, and our resident Army surgeon led a performance of "The Grinch Who Stole Christmas." The evening was capped off with opening care packages from the Any Soldier organization and the Vietnam Veterans of our company. We miss you all very much and wish you all Happy Holidays and a great New Year!



Christmas Dinner

As we approach the New Year, we continue to be thankful for our extended family here in Afghanistan and the sacrifices our families back home are making for us while we are deployed. Our Soldiers continue their hard work – working to build up our combat outpost, its observation post, and working to bring stability and a measure of progress to our area of operations.



OP Expansion



Reenlistment Ceremony

Whiskey Company



From the Commander:

December has come and gone here at FOB OE, Afghanistan and the New Year is right around the corner. Big news on the horizon is the upcoming Platoon moves. The Company XO has been working day and night to ensure the rotation goes as smooth as possible. We will keep the families informed as the move takes place. We recently celebrated Christmas here in East Paktika. Although 1st Platoon remained at FOB Curry, 2nd and 3rd Platoons had a joint celebration at the ABP compound. The menu included prime rib, ham, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, vegetables, salad, and all kinds of cakes and pie. The guys have also been eating non-stop trying to demolish as many care packages as possible. Overall it was a good holiday, and although it may sound crazy, there is nowhere else on earth I would rather be. I couldn't ask for a better group of men to spend the holidays with. Our operational tempo remains extremely high. When we aren't on mission, we are planning one. It does take its toll on the men, but I am more impressed every day with the resilience and intestinal fortitude they display. Other than missions it is life as usual. 1LT Lewis continues to try and entertain us with his singing voice or by showing us he can play harmonica with his nose. SSG Jackson, SPC Hotzoglou, SPC Lincoln, SPC Sparks, and CPL Donnelly all reenlisted and we are so proud of them for continuing to serve. We remain one of the most active Companies in the Battalion. Please continue to pray for us as we strive to rid this area of evil men. Currahee! Stands Alone! Air Assault!



A UH60 lands at 5th ABP Compound to pick up members of 2/W for an air assault operation.



1LT Lewis reenlists SSG Tony Jackson.



Whiskey Soldiers PV2 Gonzalez and PV2 Butterman receive coins from the Sergeant Major of the Army.



(Top) SPC Sanders attempts to chase a cow off of a Helicopter pick-up zone moments before the helicopter is supposed to land.



Soldiers from 3/W and HQ enjoy Christmas dinner at OE ABP.

India Company



Re-Enlistments



- PFC Hill
- SPC Kozekwa
- SGT Barham

Promotions



- CPL Adams



New Soldiers

We Welcome SPC Wilson's wife Emy to the India Family

- PV2 Althamer
- PV2 Musselman and wife Kaleigh
- PFC Boccassinni
- PFC Wheland and wife Stephanie
- SPC Feller

India KIDS



We welcome the following Kiddo's to the India Family

- Layla and Kalden Blake

December brings more cold weather to Eastern Afghanistan. Many of us enjoyed Christmas day eating a wonderfully prepared meal thanks to Sierra Company's hard work. Though the temperatures are low, the skies are blue and we work to encourage each other and maintain good morale. It is hard for us to believe that like December, 2010 has come and gone. S-1 is working through awards for all the hard work already being done by White Currahee Soldiers. The TOC continues to develop the Battalion's Areas while simultaneously tracking current operations and planning for future endeavors. The S-4 shop has pushed Multicam out to the Battalion ensuring soldiers are prepared for the cold and able to fight harder, move further, and look better while doing it! White Currahee's continue to set the standard for the 4th BDE and the 101st being the first unit in the Division to receive and field Multicam in theater. The S-6 Shop (Commo) keeps us connected across the battlefield issuing new satellite communications equipment while managing digital systems for the Battalion as well. The Medics and Mortars continue to provide vital services at every location. The Scouts stay busy spending almost as much time outside the wire as they do in the gym.

S6 puts up Christmas decorations!

We know that this is a difficult time of year to be separated from our families. As we go through the holiday season, we look forward to being reunited with those we love. We hope you know that your support strengthens us. Thank you for all you sacrifice to keep our family strong. Though distance may separate us, our love and hearts are with you in this season.



Also part of India, Team Curry continues to develop relationships with the locals while working side by side with our Afghan counterparts. Curry also plays a key role in Battalion sized missions ensuring security and stability in Paktika. As 2010 comes to an end, Team Curry continues planning future operations.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from India Company!



Meeting with the local workers and Contractors on FOB OE!!

Sierra Company



**SFC Booker congratulates
CPL Harrington.**

Sierra Company Soldiers have been keeping themselves busy this holiday season. Distro platoon continues to support the BN in a variety of ways including executing Combat Logistical Patrols, receiving air drops of fuel and ammo, and conducting Force Protection on FOB Orgun-E. Maintenance platoon is still spread out all over the province in order to keep the BN up and running, especially our generator mechanics with the winter finally here!

The loyal support received by the Soldiers of Sierra Company from you back home has helped to make this difficult time of a deployment bearable. Hundreds of care packages from all over the country have made the holidays over here just a little brighter for everyone away from families.

One thing that helps anyone deal with a stressful situation is good food, and good people; and here in Sierra Company we have plenty of both. The holiday meal put on by SFC Springfield (Mess Daddy 7) and his crew of culinary experts truly went above and beyond to raise the spirits of our Troops far from home.

Sierra Company had a busy month in the way of Soldier advancement as well. We had four soldiers pass the board for their next level of career progression: SGT Biermann, SGT Billings, SPC Bultron, and SPC Williams. We had two reenlistments this month, SGT Chester reenlisted for stabilization in her MOS, while CPL Webb reenlisted for Cavalry Scout. We also had five promotions this month, SPC Harrington is now CPL Harrington, also PV2's Brackbill, Meier, Morrow, and Wilson are all now PFCs.

From all of us here in Sierra Company, thank you for your support and Happy New Year!

NEW SOLDIERS



Sierra Company welcomes two new Soldiers to the team this month:

SPC Barnes
SGT Butler

CURRAHEE KIDS



Happy Holidays to all from the XO and family!



**Left: CPT Hansen
reenlists
CPL Webb.**



**Right: 1LT Hernandez
reenlists
SGT Chester.**



**PFC Brackbill and PFC Meier do pushups
after their promotions.**



**SGT Hunnicut and PV2 Hildebrand before serving
Christmas dinner at COP Munoz.**

Chaplain Update

Let me start off by saying, Merry Christmas and Happy Holidays to all of our family members and friends in the rear! This Holiday Season has been very busy for the Battalion and I just want to thank you all for the countless boxes, packages, and presents that you have sent to our Soldiers all over the battalion – we have been truly blessed! I know that the Holidays can be a hard time to be separated from loved ones but our Battalion is really making a difference, so thank you for your continued sacrifice! God is still moving within our ranks, which is a blessing! We have been able to baptize three more Soldiers, with a few more coming up! Know that I pray for you all and your Soldiers daily, and again, thanks for what you do!

Chaplain's Corner



A New Year's Challenge

With the New Year just around the corner, what are some of your goals for the upcoming year? One of the challenges that I give many of the Soldiers, is to come up with three mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual goals. Goals that are possible to achieve and then make a plan for how you are going to complete them. This helps to not only better ourselves but give us a positive focus over the time deployed.

Helpful Deployment Verses:

2 Chronicles 15:2; Psalm 46:1-2;
1 Peter 5:7; and Joshua 1:8



**2-506th Family Readiness
Support Assistant**

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Family Readiness



Holiday Season is Here!

Even with our Soldiers gone, White Currahee Families found time this month to celebrate the Holidays and make sure our Soldiers were not forgotten.

Moving or Going Out of Town?

Please be sure to let us know if you are moving, changing phone numbers, or emails so we will have your current contact information.

If you are traveling out of town, please send Monica your travel dates and the address where you will be located, just in case of emergency.

**2-506th
Holiday
Party**



**Care
Packages
&
Holiday
Cards**

