



WHITE CURRAHEE

3 MILES UP



3 MILES DOWN



Volume 1, Issue 8



May 2011

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From The Command Desk...

OPERATION DRAGOON. Bring it on! Insurgents have no idea what's going on in East Paktika except that they can't get anywhere they want to go! The priority operation for the month of May was OPN DRAGOON, which resulted in a new Afghan Border Police Checkpoint in Niamatabad, roughly 50 km south of COP Curry. The operation began 29 April and was completed 27 MAY. This massive effort, led by Team India with great contributions from Team Sierra, Team Whiskey, Route Clearance Package 10, and the 649th Engineer Company, rolled out of FOB Orgun-E with over 150 personnel and 80 trucks. Niamatabad is simply an awesome checkpoint at a key insurgent resupply location just west of the Pakistan border, and it is totally frustrating insurgent plans to move through East Paktika. Soon after Team India departed for Niamatabad, Team Fox kicked off a company air assault in eastern Bermel District that showed Insurgents that we know where they are hiding, and when we find them, we will destroy them. Upon hearing of Team Fox's success, the rest of Task Force White Currahee was eager to display their dominance...and it came via the largest combined Task Force Air Assault operation in the 101st Airborne Division. Dog Company, with the Scout Platoon and a platoon from Fox Company, secured key terrain just north of their battle space and along the Pakistan border to deny enemy safe havens in the region. Meanwhile, Team Easy secured the high ground to its north, while Team Whiskey cleared the center valley region between them and Easy Company, thereby completely disrupting insurgent operations in the area. The companies are out all hours of the day and night maintaining security so that the citizens of Afghanistan have the ability to see what a strong central government can do for them.

Unfortunately, on the 30th of May we lost a hero. PFC Nunn was killed in action during a patrol in the Naka District. Although new to the unit, PFC Nunn made a lasting impression on all those he met, and will be greatly missed. In his honor, we will work even harder to push beyond what we think we are capable, and continually remind ourselves that although the end is near, we can't lose focus, and must sprint through the finish line. Currahee! Stands Alone!



Before (top) and after (bottom): The Niamatabad Border Checkpoint grew from nothing due to the hard work of White Currahee Soldiers



Dog Company



SSG Jourden prepares to move during a dismounted patrol with 1st Platoon



PFC Gaskin and PFC Miller are awarded Division Coins from Brigadier General Uberti for excellence during a division mission

Promotions

SSG Brandon England
SSG Joshua Maynard
SGT Gary Coleman
SGT James Kolsinski
SGT Alan Vogel
SPC Layth Krashan
SPC Jeffrey Perez

As Dog Company marks one more month off the calendar, May has brought with it longer days and hotter temperatures.

In addition to participation in a Division Air Assault and conducting daily patrols, Dog Company Soldiers and NCOs have continued to mentor their Afghan partners. The Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and Afghan Border Patrol continue to make large improvements and become more self-sufficient. It has truly been a privilege to work with them.

As in April, Dog Company's patrols focused on the nearby border with Pakistan. Dog Company's dismounted patrols and Air Assaults into this region have greatly limited the enemy's ability to bring men and supplies into Afghanistan. Dog Company Soldiers continue to improve security around their COPs, and set the conditions for the upcoming change of units.

Along with maintaining a stringent patrol schedule, Dog Company has been busy continuing preparations for the closure of COP Munoz. Due to the hard work of Soldiers and NCOs of Dog Company, we are close to getting this major project completed.

May was a great month for Soldier progression in Dog Company, with five NCO promotions and two lower enlisted promotions as well. Congratulations to all the Soldiers and NCOs who got promoted on June 1st!
Currahee! Stands Alone!



Dog Company patrol into a small village on the border of Afghanistan and Pakistan. The patrol finished its clearance of the town and moved up into the mountains to continue to overwatch several infiltration routes.

Easy Company



★ NEW SOLDIERS ★



SFC Riordan
SPC Ball
SPC Bradish
SPC Perryman
SPC Szelezniak
SPC Woodall
PFC Allmon
PFC Landis
PV2 Tamesis
PV1 Scott

From the Commander:

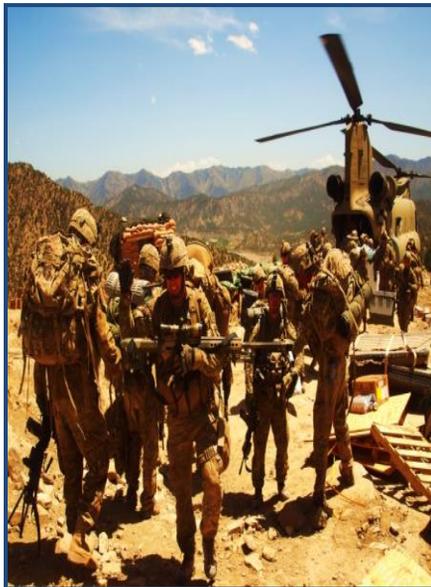
May has been an active month for Easy Company. We have taken advantage of the warm weather to expand our influence into an area that has not had a consistent Coalition presence for years. We have been actively engaging the population along with our Afghan partners and aggressively patrolling the surrounding mountains. Platoons continued to average over 100 kilometers of dismounted movement every month. Currahee! Stands Alone!



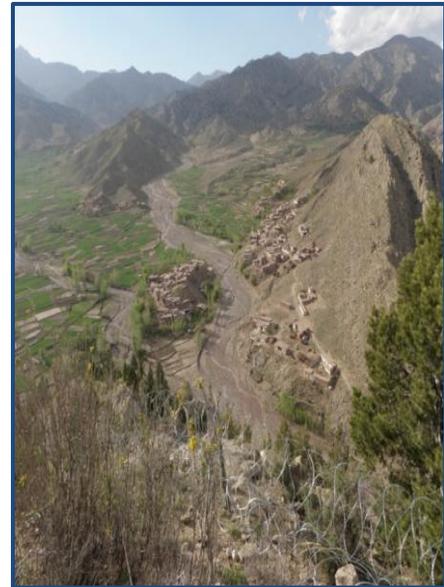
1st Platoon soldiers on a Chinook preparing to fly to Manskanari Check Point.



Afghan Army and Police leaders engage the local population in Naka District.

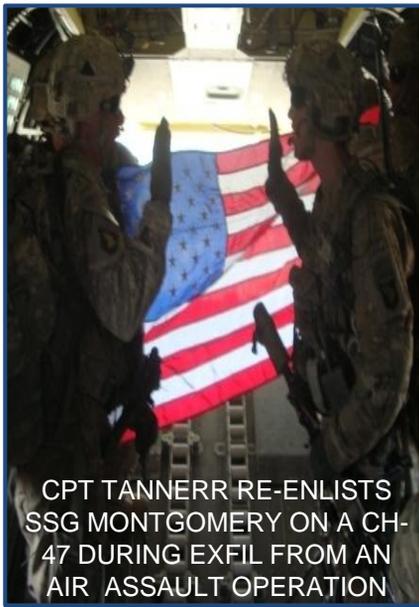


SGT Steigmeier waves as 3rd Platoon relieves 2nd Platoon at the OP.



A bird's eye view of a town in Naka District.

Fox Company



CPT TANNERR RE-ENLISTS
SSG MONTGOMERY ON A CH-
47 DURING EXFIL FROM AN
AIR ASSAULT OPERATION

In the final stretch of Fox Company's deployment to the Bermel Valley of East Paktika, and with preparations started for our redeployment home, the Soldiers of Fox Company continue to bring credit upon 2-506th Infantry Battalion, the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), and the US Army! Despite two months remaining, the pace of operations has only increased, and our operations have given momentum to the Coalition's goal to strengthen the Republic of Afghanistan. Fox Company's successes have also brought well-deserved attention. We had visits from CNN, CBS News, the British Broadcasting Corporation, and *Wired* Magazine. We were also privileged to host the battlefield promotion of SSG Donald Starks. The ceremony was conducted by the Sergeants Major of the 101st Airborne Division, ISAF, and Central Command. Fox Company Soldiers, thinking about their future, and the accomplishments made here to date, continue to re-enlist. There is still much to be done before we return home, but we look forward to rejoining our friends and family soon. Currahee! Stands Alone!



FOX COMPANY AIR ASSAULT!



1SG ESPELAND, 1LT KOHTZ, MG CAMPBELL,
THE COMMANDING GENERAL OF THE 101ST
AIRBORNE DIVISION, AND CPT TANNER

PROMOTIONS

SSG STARKS
SPC PEREZ
SPC RAAK
SPC TOMLIN
PFC RICHARDS



REENLISTMENTS

SSG MONTGOMERY
CPL AGUADO



NEW LITTLE CURRAHEES

CONGRATULATIONS TO:
SGT & MRS BLANTON
SGT & MRS DRIVER
SGT & MRS LOVINGOOD
PFC & MRS SCHLUND



SOLDIERS AT COMBAT OUTPOST MARGAH OPEN CARE PACKAGES

Whiskey Company



SPC Romero, a fan of architecture, admires the fanciest house in the village



1/W in the town of Orgun



They earned this break!



CPT Conley completes a shura with the new Sarobi Sub-Governor

In the U.S. April showers bring May flowers, but in Afghanistan, they bring May heat. The Soldiers of Whiskey Company don't mind though, because it just means they can ditch their sleeping bags to lighten their packs. Once again, Whiskey proves itself to be the most versatile company in the Battalion; flying, driving, and walking through whatever weather there is to accomplish the mission.

With two months left, Whiskey stays as busy as ever. 1/W and 2/W keep hiking in the mountains East of FOB Orgun-E. 3/W got plenty of bonding time down south, spending most of May overseeing the construction of the Niamatabad Border Checkpoint.

Washers continues to be the outside activity of choice, and combined with SPC Swebilus's grillin', sometimes the Soldier's forget they are in Afghanistan. Once the sun goes down games of NBA 2K11 kick off. The competitive yells of SSG Skillin and the boasts of 1SG Chaney fill the entire command post into the wee hours of the morning.

The Company welcomes its new Soldiers: SPC Vega and SPC Smith. We also welcome the return of PFC Meritt. and SPC Quintero. Whiskey Company soldiers might look tough, but they showed their soft side in the month of May for the moms. The computers were filled with Soldiers for the first two weeks, making sure that flowers would arrive in time for Mother's Day.

It's hot out, and its going to get a lot hotter before they go home, but nobody doubts Whiskey Company is going to continue to push forward and continue the mission.

Currahee! Stands Alone!

NEW SOLDIERS



SPC Vega – 3rd PLT
SPC Smith – 2nd PLT



1LT Helbig stumps Afghan children with his flashy hand tricks

India Company



India Company and all from the 2nd 506th Infantry Regiment continue to work diligently and live up to our legacy. As we continue operations, we are also working to ensure our FOBs/COPs are in great shape for our replacements while packing containers to go home. We can't wait to see all our loved ones. Team Curry had a busy month seeing an entire deployment's work coming to fruition while building the new Niamatabad Afghan Border Checkpoint. We would like to give a special thanks to the Scout Platoon, 1st, 3rd, and 4th Platoons from Whiskey Company, Distro Platoon from Sierra Company, 649th Engineers, and RCP 10 for their contributions in making this possible. See you soon! Currahee! Stands Alone!

Promotions

★ ★ ★

CPT Yost – India 5

New Currahee

★ ★ ★

SPC Long S-6



Left: Sun sets behind soldiers in Southern Gomal after the more than 20 day long operation



Right: Battalion PA CPT "Doc" Barker always takes the time to train his soldiers when they are not saving lives



1LT Yost is promoted to CPT in the field by BG Uberti and BG (ABP) Atrophi during their inspection of the new Border Compound



1LT Casares and 2LT Dimiero fly down to the new Compound in Niamatabad

2nd Bn, 506th Infantry Regiment

CPT ROBERTSON	SFC COOK	SSG TALLON	SSG WHITFIELD
SGT GARRETT	SGT THOMAS	SGT WESTON	CPL ARMijo
SPC BOWEN	SPC BRICE	SPC DENNEY	SPC DUPRE
SPC HOLLIS	SPC MATTHEWS	SPC SOSEBEE	SPC THONG
SPC WHITE	PFC BONE	PFC FORNEY	PFC SHAW
CURRAHEE COMMO			
OEF	CPT LAAKSO	SFC COOK	SSG TALLON
X-X	SGT DA YE	SGT ELLERBEE	SGT ENGLAND
	SGT HUNTINGTON	SGT MCCORMACK	CPL ADAMS
	SPC BALL	SPC HYDEN	SPC ROWLAND
	SPC LONG	SPC PDHL	SPC ROGERS
	SPC SIKEN	SPC THONG	SPC WILSON
	PFC BORTONE	PFC ELLISON	PFC REYNOLDS

The S-6 shop has left their mark in Afghanistan before and leaves it again, with some repeat offenders on both lists!

Sierra Company



PFC McDermott after he came back from an emergency recovery mission



Sierra Soldiers receiving Battalion coins from LTC Preston the 801st BSB Commander

May has seen Sierra Company as busy as ever. We could not be prouder of the job our Soldiers do every day in support of the White Currahee Battalion! Our Distribution Platoon has spent the entire month of May down at COP Curry in support of the Niamatabad Border Checkpoint build, and they have done an outstanding job. The HLZ crew has been extremely busy supporting all of the battalion's operations along with the Class I (Food), III (Fuel), and V (ammunition) sections. Our Maintenance Platoon continues to keep the White Currahee Battalion up and running. Congratulations to former SPC Kenthe received a well-deserved battlefield promotion to SGT. PFC Hawthorne and PFC McDermott were promoted to SPC, and PV2 Culpepper, PV2 Bursack, and PV2 Hildebrand were promoted to PFC. June promises to be our busiest month yet as we pack up all of our things in preparation for our return back to Fort Campbell. Sierra Company will also travel to all of the other COPs and FOBs in the White Currahee area of operations to pick up their equipment for movement back to Fort Campbell as well. Sierra Company is in high spirits, motivated, and looking forward to returning home. We will see you all soon, Sierra 5 out.

Currahee! Stands Alone!



CPT Aguigui and Distro Platoon out at the Niamadibad check point build

Chaplain's Corner



Chaplain Update

I don't know about you but the month of May has definitely flown by. Part of this is due to our busyness over here! Operationally we have been working harder than ever and as always it has been a blessing doing ministry for and with your Soldiers. On the spiritual front we have been able to baptize several more Soldiers adding the total baptism count to 25. We have conducted services in all sorts of different locations such as MWR rooms, chow halls, a gym, and once even in a bunker! But God is good and we are reminded that "He who dwells in the shadow of the Most High will rest in the shadow of the Almighty." (Psalm 91:1) Know that as ministry goes on here, we daily lift you up in prayer over there! Also know that your Soldiers continue to do amazing things each and every day!

To Stress or Not to Stress...

Stress, what is stress? Physically, stress is when you apply a force or pressure to something. Emotionally and mentally it is when pressure exists on the inside. Deployments can definitely be stressful times for all involved (on both sides of the ocean). The question is not... are we going to have stress (we are), the question really is... what am I going to do about it? Biblically speaking, we are not designed to handle stress alone. God has created us to need relationships to ease our pressures. The Scriptures tell us, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me... and you will find rest for your souls." (Matthew 11:28-29) God tells us to give our stress to Him, His shoulders are bigger than ours and He can carry more than we can. We also need to reach out to loved ones who can help carry whatever load we are struggling with. The bottom line is that I have a choice when it comes to stress, I can either hold it in or let it out! My prayer for each of you is that as we get closer to the 'finish line' that you might not allow stress to control you, but that you might control it and by doing so find the joy that comes in every day that we have been given!

Helpful Deployment Verses:

1 Thessalonians 5:16-18





2-506th Family Readiness Support Assistant

Monica Ruggley
270-412-4854 office
931-472-5652 cell
monica.ruggley@us.army.mil

IRIS test calls will begin on no later than **25 June 2011**. They will take place every Saturday from 1:00pm till 3:00pm (Central Time) until you've been notified of your Soldiers return date. If you do not receive a call and were expecting to please email me at monica.ruggley@us.army.mil.

For more information on Welcome Home ceremonies please visit the Fort Campbell website www.campbell.army.mil and select the "welcome home ceremonies" link towards the bottom of the page.

OPSEC REMINDER

While we are all very excited about our Soldiers returning home please refrain from posting welcome home ceremony dates and times on social networking sites.



IRIS Questions and Answers

Q – What is IRIS?

A – It is an automated call system that the Battalion will use to notify Families of the return flights home.

Q – If I am already being contacted by the FRG will I automatically get contacted by the IRIS system for return flights?

A – Not necessarily. Each Soldier is responsible for submitting the names and numbers of the individuals he wants contacted. This process is separate for the FRGs.

Q – Can we have some type of verification that every Soldier is on the contact roster?

A – The flight form went out as an OPORD, therefore requiring all soldiers to fill the form out. A soldier has the right not to have his family contacted and we have to accept his/her wishes. It does not matter if that family was contacted the entire deployment. We have to honor what the soldier wants. If he/she chose not to fill this form out, then we can not use what is on the FRG Roster.

Q - Who is double checking the numbers to be sure that the person who input the numbers is inputting the correct number?

A - No one. When we do the calls, we will look at the results, and then scrub them against information provided by the Soldier and make corrections if necessary. Our test calls will work out any bugs in the system.

Q - I imagine that those Soldiers who were in transit from their R&R did not get inputted into the system correctly as this list was compiled while they were gone, what happens then?

A - The FRSA's are cross referencing with Unit Personnel Accountability Reports. We are checking off those received and still requesting those that are missing so we have 100%. If we do not receive a form, we are using the FRG Roster to contact that family.

Q – How do we know that the correct number was submitted?

A – Some soldiers have entered the incorrect number for the spouse/family. But, if that family member is on the contact form, then we are allowed to update the information. Our test calls will help with this also.

Q – How do we know if our soldier indicated us on the form?

A – The family member can call the FRSA to verify that he/she is on the form. If they are, they can verify their information. If they are not, then we cannot verify anything for them and we cannot tell them who is listed on the form. Rear Detachment will then have to take the call. Legally, we cannot give out information to someone not on the form.