



WHITE CURRAHEE



3 MILES UP



3 MILES DOWN

Volume 1, Issue 4



January 2011

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The Command Desk

Greetings and Happy New Year from East Paktika, Afghanistan. The month of January was another good one for the White Currahees. The month allowed the Battalion a slight breather in our otherwise aggressive, high tempo operations schedule.

Every Company in the Battalion continues to ensure we keep the high ground, thus keeping the enemy stay-behinds at bay. Our primary focus this month was on force protection and improving our key strongholds.

Dog Company has done a tremendous job improving their Walawas Border Checkpoint, with the support and approval of the local populace. It has truly been a game changer and the locals enjoy the security Dog and their ANSF partners provide in that key area. Easy Company is no different. They continue to improve both their COP and Mankanary Checkpoint at an astounding clip. Fox and India Companies were the latest to conduct Air Assault operations, going in areas the enemy didn't expect. Whiskey Company completed a platoon rotation that will pay big dividends to their area of operations (AO). Not enough can be said about Sierra Company. They continue to perform their support missions superbly and our White Currahees know Sierra is constantly focused on improving the quality of life throughout the Battalion AO. The White Currahee Team continues to do great and you should be very proud.

We have reached the halfway point of our deployment and continue to think of our courageous families back home. We recognize your sacrifices and appreciate your dedication to our mission over here. All of our efforts, as well as the efforts of our partners and their families, will benefit the people of the United States and Afghanistan for generations to come.



**A Big Gun and some professional reading.
WC6 would approve SSG Smith!**



**View from Whiskey Company's CP
after our First Snow-Fall.
There was no two-hour delay.**

CURRAHEE & HAPPY VALENTINES DAY!

New Soldiers



1LT Derbin

2LT Stevens

Newborns



January 20 – Twins Neorah and Moriah to 1LT Sivanich and his wife Andrea

Dog Company



Dog Company Rings in the New Year

Happy New Year to everyone back home. During the month of January, Dog Company continued to aggressively patrol throughout the Gayan District and East Paktika Province. The highlight of the month was the transfer of authority of the Waliwas Border Control Point from a combined coalition base to a completely Afghan Border Police controlled location. The transfer of authority is the result of a continuously improving partnership that has developed between Dog Company and the Afghan Border Police units stationed at Forward Operating Base Tillman. Dog Company Soldiers have also been working closely with the Afghan Uniformed Police at Combat Outpost Munoz. Their abilities have improved as Dog Company continues to train them on patrolling techniques and all aspects of soldiering. Dog Company also received a late Christmas gift during the month of January in the form of new uniforms. Multi-cam uniforms were finally issued to the Company this month and will be worn for the rest of the deployment. We wish all our friends and family the best during the New Year and look forward to 2011 and all the challenges that lie ahead.



SFC Trueblood promotes now Corporal Coleman at COP Munoz.

CURRAHEE!

STANDS ALONE!

AIR ASSAULT!



SSG Westcott (L), SFC Petrone (R), and 1SG Ortega (back) with one of our donkeys.



Dog Company Soldiers and our Afghan National Army partners fill seven foot HESCOs with shovels during the Walawas Border Control Point expansion at the end of January.

Easy Company



From the Command Team:

January continued to be a rigorous month for Easy Company. The unit continues to improve the Manskanari Checkpoint and witnessed its first dusting of snow for the season. The bitter cold and rugged terrain continue to be daily challenges, but Soldiers' spirits are high and everyone remains motivated to see our mission through to completion. Thank you for all the support!

CURRAHEE!



SSG Baker pulls security on patrol

NEW SOLDIERS

★ ★ ★
2LT Cooke
2LT Hyman
SPC Armstrong
SPC Brown
SPC Hill
PV2 Hilderbrand



Snow cover on the summit from Zerok



3rd Platoon rehearse room clearing operations



CPL Guffey (l) and SPC Jones (r) get caught up in White Currahee history reading *Beyond Band Of Brothers: The War Memoirs of MAJ Dick Winters*

Fox Company



Weapons Squad, 1st PLT on the Company Air Assault mission

PROMOTIONS



PFC Hanson
PFC Landis
PFC Molina
PFC Munoz
PFC Oikarinen
PFC Olsen
PFC Rabenda
PFC Walker
SGT Blanton
SGT Ruggles

CURRAHEE KIDS



- SPC & Mrs. Brown had a healthy baby girl.
- SPC & Mrs. Martray had a healthy baby boy.

Fox Company and FOB Boris rang in the New Year with an Artillery Fire Mission that shot over one-hundred rounds of 155mm Artillery rounds. Not exactly the kind of fireworks that ring in a New Year back home, but nevertheless a good way to start 2011 with a bang. Fox Company was very fortunate in 2010 and we plan on the same success this year. Fox Soldiers continue to put pressure on the enemy and our efforts are directly contributing to making America a safer place. The end of January marks our half-way point in this deployment. Best wishes to all Fox Company families!



Doc McDowell on Mission with 2nd PLT

1st Platoon has assumed combat operations in the COP Margah area and continues to drive the enemy across the border into Pakistan. On days off, Team Margah continues to improve and expand the living areas on the COP. 3rd Platoon has begun combat missions out of FOB Boris. Fox Company recently conducted Operation Fox Hunt in mountains on the Af-Pak border at over 9,000 ft. The severe elevation and terrain is getting us in great shape. The views from these areas are amazing. The weather is starting to get cold, however, not as cold as our Range 52 days last year at Fort Campbell, KY.



3rd PLT Trains Afghan Soldiers

Fox Company continues to coach and mentor our counterparts in the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF). Fox Company NCO's have conducted weapons ranges and patrol techniques classes, while CPT Schulz and Platoon Leaders have coached ANSF officers on troop leading procedures, mission planning, and the logistical aspect of combat operations. ANSF at FOB Boris and COP Margah continue to mature and show themselves capable of planning and conducting independent operations in the Bermel District.

CURRAHEE!



SSG Sanborn on Mission

Whiskey Company



1LT Beach shows his gratitude to an *Adopt a Soldier* Family that sent women's pajamas and a do-it-yourself balloon animal kit!

From the Command Team:

Happy New Year! January has flown by here in East Paktika. This month we slowed down our operations a bit to accomplish a platoon rotation which moved each of our platoons to a new location. The Soldiers are getting settled into their new surroundings and are anxious to get back into the mountains. Bad weather kept us close this month but allowed us the opportunity to train our Afghan National Army counterparts on the use and employment of their weapon systems. SPC Blanton spearheaded this effort; training 15 ANA NCO's on how to use the M203 Grenade Launcher. Third Platoon supported the Afghan Training Initiative (NCO Academy) by teaching a class on Pre-Combat Inspections and weapons classes on the M-4 Rifle and M240B Machine gun. We also were especially proud this month by the commitment that Whiskey Company continues to make to the Army through the promotions of SGT Donnelly, SPC Moore and PFC Mowry and the reenlistment of SSG Roush.



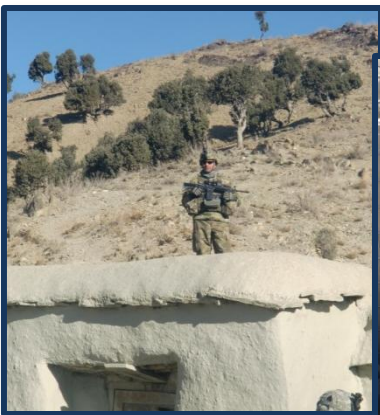
1LT Helbig reenlists and promotes SGT Donnelly

January has not been all fun, we continue to disrupt the enemy by patrolling in villages long ignored by Coalition Forces, bolstering local national support for the Government of Afghanistan. Additionally, we want to congratulate SPC Scott Sanders who became a father this month, SGT Gendron and his wife on the birth of their third child and PFC and Mrs. Zachary Smith for their recent marriage. Thank you all for your unwavering support and continued prayers. We all anxiously await coming home, but continue to work tirelessly to improve our area and look after one another.

CURRAHEE!

STANDS ALONE!

AIR ASSAULT!



SFC Espeland watches as his platoon clears a Qalat compound while on patrol



CPT Hess takes a break while out on patrol to remind everyone how "tubular" he is



**Go Braves!
They sent us the hats.
Tomahawk Chop!**

India Company



Promotions:

SGT Mears (left)
SGT Harbert (middle)
SGT Van Someren (right)
SPC Mountes

Reenlistments:



SGT Gibson

New CURRAHEEs



CPT Doyle
CPT McInnis
1LT Lemming
PFC Vasa



India Company wishes you all a Happy New Year! 2011 has started off cold, and we've begun to see snow in the mountains of Eastern Afghanistan. We spent the holidays in good cheer and are looking forward to being home for the next holiday season. The various sections continue to support the fight, both at the Battalion TOC and at the outstations. S-1 welcomes CPT Weaver to Orgun-E, and we know he'll stay busy tracking personnel moves and awards. Maintaining good digital, FM, and satellite communications in an austere mountainous environment remains a daily challenge that the S-6 Commo Crew take in stride. The Medics continue to provide excellent services to the sick and injured, concentrating on training Afghani Forces on Medical Treatment.

The Mortars are preparing to move various NCO's to and from different locations in order to ensure the most effective indirect fires are provided to our White Currahees. The Scouts are happy to have 6 brand new trucks for mounted operations. The Scout Platoon was also reunited with India Headquarters at COP Curry to conduct Route Reconnaissance and Company Air Assault missions. It's cold on the helicopter!



CPT Laakso and CPT Dyer fly to the outstations

India Company Headquarters element wishes a fond farewell to our Team Curry partners. 1st Platoon, Whiskey is moving to Orgun. We look forward to working with 3rd Platoon, Whiskey. We've continued to operate in vast and barren areas and recently conducted a large Air Assault Mission with Team Curry, Scouts and Afghan Forces. We also continue to spread the influence of the Afghanistan Government in remote places never before visited by US and ANSF Forces.

Though the weather is cold, we continue to conduct operations and plan for future missions. All of us miss our families and look forward to getting past the halfway mark of the deployment. We look forward to being reunited soon!

CURRAHEE!

STANDS ALONE!



TM Curry, Scouts and ANSF exfil by CH-47 Chinook after another successful mission. AIR ASSAULT!

Sierra Company



SFC (P) Booker hoards his delicious hamburger at the latest Maintenance BBQ.

NEW SOLDIERS



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

PV2 Thomas Nunez
SGT Jonathan Vasquez

CURRAHEE KIDS



SPC Craft and his wife Sabrina welcomed their son Jacob Craft last month!

SPC Weatherspoon and his wife, Readell, had a little girl named Asia this month!

From the Command Team:

With the end of January fast approaching, it's remarkable to think that we are at the halfway point of our deployment. In just the past six short months your Soldiers have traveled to every FOB or COP in East Paktika province in an effort to improve the force protection, quality of life, and sustainment operations at each location. All three platoons in Sierra Company have had a direct impact on each base in the White Currahee Area of Operations (AO). The maintenance platoon has kept the battalion running (literally), with a special shout-out to the generator section who keep the heaters pumping. Without SGT Torrelli and his crew, there would be a lot more cold nights this winter. The Headquarters and DFAC Platoon continue to be the most popular Soldiers in the battalion. I couldn't count the number of compliments I've heard about our cooks from people all over the AO. We are now cooking hot chow at every FOB and COP, which is a major improvement from when we first arrived in Afghanistan. Finally, the distribution platoon has logged countless hours on the road delivering critical supplies to the units in the battalion. Every FOB and COP has lumber to construct new buildings and fuel to heat their rooms because of distro platoon.

Here at Orgun-E, the Sierra Helicopter Landing Zone crew has moved thousands of pounds of supplies via air. The fuel section has distributed approximately half a million gallons of fuel, and the ammo section has accounted for eight million dollars worth of bullets and mortars. Sierra Company Soldiers at OE and across the AO have dedicated their days to supporting the fight here in Afghanistan. During our down time, the Soldiers have been hitting the gym hard, challenging each other to bench press 300 pounds (I'm not quite there yet).

Amazingly, we are still well-supplied in snacks and other goodies which are leftover from the holidays! Our loved ones back home take such good care of us, we are swimming in candy canes, popcorn, and other treats out here. We can't thank you enough for your tireless support. Have a Happy Valentine's Day! CURRAHEE!



SPC Hunt, SSG Dober, SFC Broner, and 1SG Pope head down to the front gate for a Force Protection inspection.



A Soldier examines a little boy's arm at the front gate before he is treated at the Orgun-E clinic.

Chaplain Update

Happy New Year (a little late)! I don't know about you but I can't believe that the New Year has come and gone! I pray that you are all doing well and keeping busy. Sometimes the 'winter-time blues' have a way of creeping in on us and getting us down as the holiday season passes. But I hope that you are all sticking with the goals that you made at the beginning of the year or maybe at the beginning of the deployment. The battalion is just as busy as ever, although tempo has slowed slightly because of the winter. It has been such a blessing to continue circulating and seeing everyone scattered all over the area. God is still on the move and we have been able to have three more baptisms! As always, know that I am praying for you all, keep praying for us!

Chaplain's Corner



A 'Half-Way' Challenge

With the deployment being almost half-way through, it can be a stressful and trying time for marriages. My challenge for you this month is to spice up your marriage a bit and REALLY focus on your marriage. Make a goal to write that special letter, to send some pictures, to talk on the phone about your family's goals and dreams, but the bottom line is to make some effort and strengthen those bonds even though we are still apart. This will pay huge dividends when we return!



Helpful Deployment Verses:

Psalm 42: 11; Romans 5:3,4;
Galatians 6:9 and James 1:2-4



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

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

Family Readiness



New Technology Presents New Set of Problems

Many of us have a new smart phone, or at least know of someone that does. We update our Facebook status, post pictures and instant message with our Soldiers downrange. This serves as a great way for us to stay in touch with those who are important to us. However, the recent addition of “geodata” being automatically embedded into files taken from these smart phones enable almost anyone to know where you are. In an article published by *Wired Magazine* in 2009, a reporter had this to say, “I ran a little experiment. On a sunny Saturday, I spotted a woman in Golden Gate Park taking a photo with a 3G iPhone. Because iPhones embed geodata into photos that users upload to Flickr or Picasa, iPhone shots can be automatically placed on a map. At home I searched the Flickr map, and score – a shot from today. I clicked through to the user’s photostream and determined it was the woman I had seen earlier. After adjusting the settings so that only her shots appeared on the map, I saw a cluster of images in one location. Clicking on them revealed photos of an apartment interior – a bedroom, a kitchen, a filthy living room. Now I know where she lives.” As you can see, privacy and security are not the same anymore. Geotagging, the process of adding geographical identification to photographs, video, and websites, allows people to know when and where you are. And while this presents new Operational Security (OPSEC) concerns for our Soldiers, it can also put Families at risk. A simple and quick way to avoid displaying too much information is to disable the geotagging function on your smartphone. Take this small step now and help safeguard your Family.

Moving or Going Our 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.

Did you know 4th Brigade Combat Team maintains its own media site? It contains news articles, videos and photographs from our Soldiers in Afghanistan. You might even see your Soldier on there. The site is:

<http://www.dvidshub.net/units/4BCT-101ABN>

To read the full story from *Wired Magazine* visit this website: <http://bit.ly/bJqYmm>