



WHITE CURRAHEE

3 MILES UP



3 MILES DOWN



Volume 1, Issue 7



April 2011

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From The Command Desk...

We can sum up the month of April in two words... "Operation Overlord." Enemies of Afghanistan we can and will go anywhere to find you. April showed the insurgent forces that TF WHITE CURRAHEE owns the high ground. This past month the BN executed the largest Air Assault of the deployment, invading Naka District and establishing a permanent Afghan Government and Security Force presence. Led by Team Easy, with Fox, Whiskey, Sierra, Scouts, Sappers and the 649th Engineers, we conducted a fourteen-day operation to destroy insurgents in the Naka District. The operation concluded with the establishment of a joint platoon

Checkpoint on the dominant terrain in the Naka District, which will eventually be fully manned by Afghan National Security Forces. We are currently waiting for the provincial governor to arrive in Naka and officially recognize it as a district. Subsequently, Fox conducted a 48 hour company Air Assault along a key insurgent avenue of approach in the Bermel Valley, reminding the enemy that we can and will go anywhere to stop them. Undoubtedly as a result of this operation, insurgents are looking elsewhere to cross the border. Dog Company continues to pound the mountain tops, integrating direct, indirect, and Apache helicopter support to reign terror on the insurgents trying to infiltrate into Paktika from Pakistan. The Lwarra border crossing area has proven fruitless for insurgents, and continues to be owned by Dog Company. Dog has made it difficult - if not impossible - to move within Lwarra and Gayan without fierce resistance. Furthermore, India Company continues to push operations south in Gomal to the Pakistan border from Combat Outpost Curry, disrupting insurgents attempting to move into central Paktika by finding numerous weapons caches and detaining key players in the insurgent IED network. Sierra Company continues to own the roads, paving the way to deliver much-needed supplies to further improve force protection at Combat Outpost Zerok and now to support Team India on operations to establish a presence closer to the PAK border.

CURRAHEE! STANDS ALONE!



PFC Poorman takes the fight to the enemy during April's Operation Overlord



PVT Malvaney conducts overwatch during sunrise in Naka during Operation Overlord

Dog Company



One of the several force protection towers Dog Company Soldiers have built by hand, one sandbag at a time.



2nd Platoon climbs yet another steep mountain in Gayan District while on the way to Walawas Border Check Point

As April comes to a close, Dog Company's tour of duty is getting shorter. Dog Company Soldiers are remaining vigilant with an aggressive patrol schedule and continuous force protection improvements.

SPC Wang and PFC Glenn-Camden, both wounded on an Air Assault in March, continue to heal from their wounds and will make a full recovery. Both Soldiers are currently at home with their Families and doing very well.

With more than 25 patrols in the month of April, Dog Company continues to close with and destroy the enemy. Since Dog's arrival to Gayan District, the Company has logged over 2,000 miles of dismounted patrols over the toughest of terrain. The last month has seen a large focus on border interdictions on the Afghan-Pakistan border.

New to Gayan District is the Sub-Governor, Shasta Khan. He, along with the newly arrived Afghan National Army Company have proven themselves valuable partners in the establishment and development of the government in Gayan District. The Walawas Border Checkpoint, built in October, continues to be manned solely by Afghan forces with plans to move the District Center there as well. As we fight together, the Afghan security forces continue to be successful in their fight against the Taliban.



(L to R): SFC Bearden, CPL Coleman and 1LT Derbin share a traditional Afghan meal with the Afghan National Army leaders.

NEW SOLDIERS



SGT Stern
SGT Jarvis
SPC Cummings

Easy Company



SPC Berk & 1LT Eaves stand in a 9ft. crater created by an IED that detonated just hours earlier.



1SG Chandler ensures the Soldiers of Easy Company stay hydrated while working to improve their fighting positions.

From the Commander:

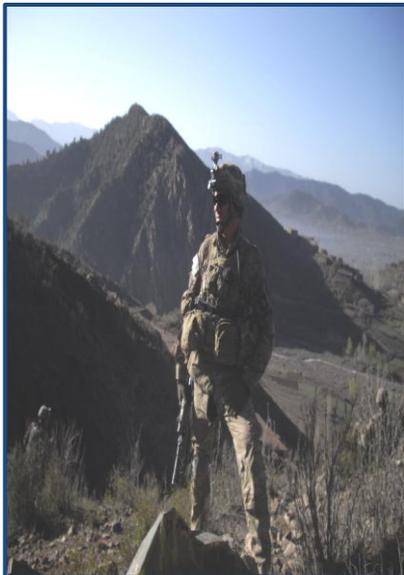
Drawing from the lineage of their WWII forerunners, Easy Company executed Operation Overlord during the month of April. The company again displayed a remarkable performance in projecting combat power into one of the most contested and important population centers in the Brigade Area of Operations. Battling severe weather, in addition to insurgents, the “Band of Brothers” relentlessly pursued the enemy in addition to establishing a foothold so that Afghan National Security Forces can continue to build relationships and expand the influence of the Afghan government. While shaping and conducting Operation Overlord, Easy Company was fortunate to have the New York Times along to document our efforts. Ray Rivera’s article can be read online at: <http://www.nytimes.com/2011/04/22/world/asia/22outpost.html> Following our Soldiers on patrol, correspondents were able to witness the challenges, complexity, and gravity of the conflict at hand.

In addition to Operation Overlord, Easy Company congratulates SPC Choi (FET), SPC Rivera (FET), PFC Martin (3d Plt) and CPL Brown (2d Plt) on their promotions during this month. All four continue to display resilience, dedication and focus as we enter the last quarter of our deployment. Easy Company also welcomed our newest White Currahee; SPC Kimble (3d Plt) welcomed his second child in April. Finally, we thank everyone back home for their continued support through packages and messages. CURRAHEE!



SGT Stegmeier (orange VS17 panel on helmet) guides in a CH-47 helicopter to resupply 3rd Platoon during Operation Overlord.

Fox Company



SSG Brubaker enjoying the view

Even as the Soldiers of Fox Company approach the final months of the deployment, they remain vigilant in their daily fight with the enemy. As the weather continues to improve, White Currahees are taking advantage of the ability to take the fight to the enemy and deny him the ability to reestablish himself in Bermel. Fox Company Soldiers have also been busy packing away their winter items and preparing for the summer months and the return home.



SPC Barnes re-enlists at COP Margah



David Axe reporting on 2ND PLT



1ST Platoon conducting 60mm handheld training

CPT Tanner officially assumed command of Fox Company and has hit the ground running to continue the tremendous progress Fox Company has made in the past months. Fox Company has also been extremely proud to have four of its Soldiers extend their commitment to the U.S. Army and continue their invaluable service to our great country. Fox Company also had the great privilege of promoting four Soldiers, marking the Army's acknowledgement of their hard work and display of leadership.

PROMOTIONS

**PFC CHEZE
PFC FLOYD
PFC REED
PFC WILLIAMS**



REENLISTMENTS

**SSG MONTGOMREY
SGT MAHON
SPC BARNES
SPC COOMER**



1SG Espeland and CPT Tanner at CPT Tanner's Change of Command Ceremony



★ NEW SOLDIERS ★

CPT Conley- Commander
SSG Etheridge- 1st PLT
SPC Nall- 1nd PLT

Whiskey Company



PFC Butterman assumes RTO duty during a short power outage on FOB Orgun-E



SGT Donnelly remains all smiles during patrol despite rainy days.



LEFT: SSG Frailey after climbing a mountain to high ground, don't let him fool you he is out of breath.



LEFT: LT Chartier hoping that storm coming up the valley will pass by the mountain 1st PLT is on.... It doesn't.

April proved to be another busy month for the Soldiers of Whiskey Company. As the spring season begins the Soldiers continue to push forward and make significant contributions to the Battalion's efforts. A rare opportunity presented itself when all three Platoons united for operations led by the new company commander, CPT Ryan Conley, in support of the Battalion's effort to expand security to Naka District of East Paktika.

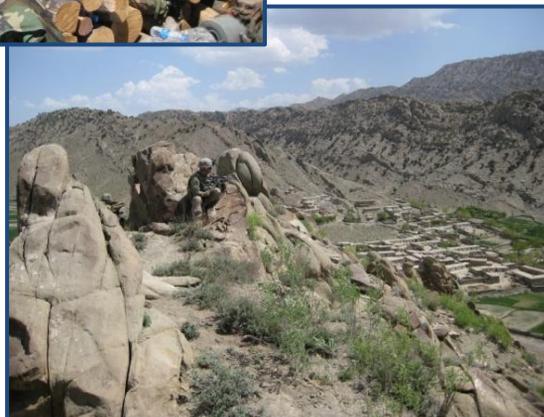
The months fly by as we continue to approach redeployment, not that anyone is keeping track! 1/W and 2/W stay busy in Orgun and the surrounding areas while 3/W conducts operations in Gomal from FOB Curry in order to set the conditions for the incoming unit's success. The spring season has intensified the Company's competitive nature with the addition of a new dart board and "Washers." SSG Pingle maintains a dominating presence on the dart board while the Washer champions are currently debated.

The Company is happy to welcome CPT Conley, SSG Etheridge, SPC Nall, and the arrival of SPC Perkins. The Company also celebrates the birth of SGT Donnelly's son, Liam. April has been full of afternoon thunderstorms, steady rain, and chocolate.

The Easter Bunny was able to pay us all a visit and certainly replenished our chocolate supplies. Luckily, climbing mountains allows us to work all those sweets off. As the last of the snow melts off the mountain tops, the Soldiers of Whiskey Company continue to persevere and work hard. Currahee! Stands Alone!



LEFT: W Co worked with the Afghan Army and 2-506 IN Medics to conduct a medical clinic and aid distribution in Naka



A W/Co Soldier working on a sunburn as he is overwatching a town in the Charbron Valley.



India Company



SSG McFall re-enlists at the Wall of Heroes on FOB Orgun-E. India Company is proud of all our soldiers' reenlistments. Thank you for all who volunteer to serve



India Company had a busy month of April participating in the largest Air Assault operation in East Paktika's history. The temperatures are on the rise and April brought rain. The medics are staying busy ensuring soldiers are taking malaria pills and conducting hot weather training. India Company soldiers are still displaying discipline and motivation, many volunteering for reenlistment. We are well underway in redeployment planning and will soon be moving equipment back to Fort Campbell ahead of the Soldiers. India Soldiers continue to live up to LTC Hill's famous challenge... "Don't count the days, but make the days count!"

The Mortar Team wishes SFC Riordan good luck in Easy Company as a line Platoon Sergeant. The Scouts are excited to field their new Sniper Weapon System, remaining one of the best equipped and most dynamic units in the Army. The S-4 is becoming one of the busiest Sections in the Battalion, working constantly to ensure much needed supplies are pushed to the COP's and FOB's while working diligently to prepare for redeployment. Team Curry is ramping up for our biggest operations to date. Much of April was spent in support of Battalion operations and in preparation for



Afghan military secures an HLZ for an emergency resupply during TM Curry operation

May's operations in and around Curry. We are happy to have 1SG Gallagher joining us out at Curry for a short time and 1LT Yost is waiting impatiently to get Captain rank pinned on. We are all excited about the next several months and expect to make a lasting impression on Gomal and all of East Paktika. We can't wait to show you pictures of next month as it has been officially dubbed "Motivational Mohawk May!" We will continue our hard work and look forward to seeing you at the Fort Campbell Airfield very soon. India Company Stands Alone!

Promotions



CPT Rogers
1LT (P) Yost – India 5
SGT (P) Birdsong
SPC (P) Morgan

New Currahees



We welcome our new SFA Team from Brigade to Curry including:
LTC Woolfolk
MAJ Lemieux
MAJ Potter
CPT Cooper
The 4 shop welcomes
2LT David Pfaltzgraff



Scouts training on new Sniper Weapon System

Sierra Company



CPT Aguigui and SSG Kaster (above) and SFC Collins hold a Company formation (below).



April has been a busy month for Sierra and we have a lot of exciting information to cover. Let's start with new Soldiers to the unit. If you have not heard Sierra has a new Commander, CPT Jake Aguigui. He arrived 1 April and took Command. CPT Aguigui and his wife also had a new baby girl; congratulations to them! Other new arrivals to Sierra include 2LT Jose Hernandez, SGT Valdez, SPC Jones, PFC Delagarza, and PV2 Garcia. Sierra is losing three Soldiers from theater: 1LT Love, SSG Saucedo, and SPC Daniel. There have been several promotions this month starting with two new NCOs, SGT Stewart and SGT Ralph. We also have had several promotions to specialist this month to include; SPC Mackey, SPC Nero, SPC Crim, SPC Rivera, and SPC Choi. Congratulations to all of the newly promoted Soldiers. April has seen Sierra company moving supplies and equipment all over East Paktika, providing force protection on FOB Orgun-E, cooking for over 1,000 Soldier and civilians daily, maintaining a fleet of over 100 vehicles, running the helicopter landing zone (HLZ) with over 20 flights a day, and running the fuel and ammo points. With less than 100 days remaining Sierra is working hard and looking forward to returning home to be with family and friends. Until next month Sierra 5 out.

Below: 1SG Pope promoting SPC Mackey



SGT Stewart, SGT Ralph, SPC Mackey, and SPC Nero at the promotion ceremony.



(Above) Sierra Soldiers enjoying an Easter BBQ. Good times were had by all!

Chaplain Update

Spring has definitely kept the battalion busy and the same goes for SGT Birdsong and I. We have been able to visit with each of the companies and all of the locations where our Soldiers live and work this past month. I even had the opportunity to reenlist SGT Birdsong at the top of one of the observation posts at FOB Tillman as well as to baptize one of our Soldiers at OE, which is always a blessing. Additionally, in April, we were able to celebrate one of my favorite holiday's – Easter! We had some great Easter services at OE and around the AO that were well attended. The season always reminds me of the passage in John 15:13 which says, "Greater love has no one than this, that He lay down his life for his friends." The verse also reminds me of our heroes who are deployed over here for their friends and families. As always, thank you for what you do and continue to keep us in your prayers as we continue to keep you in ours!

Chaplain's Corner



A Reminder...

'Don't count the days but instead make the days count!' Sometimes it can be hard to remind ourselves that today has a purpose and is not just a place holder for tomorrow. As our time in Afghanistan continues to draw near, ask yourself 'Am I making the most of each and every day, am I enjoying the present with its blessings or am I overly focused on the future?' The Bible says, 'Don't grow anxious about anything...' but instead live well today! I challenge you to reach out to a friend, to talk to a family member, and talk to God! The old adage is true, 'Today is a gift, that is why it is called the present!'

Helpful Deployment Verses:

1 Corinthians 13:4-8, 13;
Galatians 5:22-23; and
Philippians 4:13

2-506th Family Readiness Support Assistant

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Family Readiness



Celebrating Volunteer Appreciation Week

This month we would like to recognize the hard work that our White Currahee Volunteers do to support our Soldiers and Families. From 10 – 16 April 2011 it is officially Volunteer Appreciation Week and we couldn't let this opportunity go by without thanking our volunteers. Their time, dedication and selfless service have helped to ensure our Battalion has a successful deployment. So the next time you are at a Family Readiness Group meeting, participate in a fundraiser, or get a phone call from your Point of Contact take a minute in helping us say **"THANK YOU"** to our wonderful volunteers!

Fun volunteering facts:

- The estimated dollar value of a volunteer's time is **\$21.36** per hour.
- People who volunteer are **42%** more likely than people who don't to say they are **"very happy"** with their lives.
- Since August of 2010 White Currahee Volunteers have served an estimated **3,000 hours**.
- Why do people volunteer?**
Top three reasons are:
 1. They feel compassion for people in need.
 2. They feel needed.
 3. Volunteering gives them a new perspective on their community

**Source: Independent Sector*



Congrats to
Jessica Lee
&
Tiffany Reimer.
These Dog
Company
volunteers were
recognized during
the 101st Division's
Volunteer
Recognition
Ceremony.

2-506th Family Readiness Group Leadership Team

