WHITE CURRAHEE

3 MILES UP 3 MILES DOWN

★★★★★★

Volume 1, Issue 5

February 2011

THIS MONTH
IN THE CHRONICLE
★ ★ ★

Dog Co News	2
Easy Co News	3
Fox Co News	4
Whiskey Co News	5
India Co News	6
Sierra Co News	7
Family Readiness	8

The Command Desk

It's a Winter Wonderland in East Paktika, Afghanistan. Well, maybe not a wonderland but it is definitely winter. February brought record snowfall and limited the number of operations, and amount of supplies and mail received. Mother Nature is the great equalizer, yet the enemy was still surprised in many instances to see us out and about. Our 7 layers of issued extreme cold weather gear were put to good use this month. We truly are the best outfitted Army in the world and can still get out after the bad guys despite the conditions.

Dog Company finished their improvements to the Walawas Border checkpoint (CP) at the start of the month and successfully turned over permanent manning of the CP to the Afghan Border Police. Easy Company stirred things up in typical enemy safe-havens, while denying the enemy safe passage at Manskanary. Fox, along with their Engineer teams, are finalizing base and outpost improvements. They have dramatically changed the quality of life in their area of operations (AO), making it easier to conduct combat operations in force. Whiskey conducted numerous air and ground assaults and continue to be one of the most versatile units in the AO. India at Curry conducted some interesting off-road operations with good success. India at OE continues to effectively support the Battalion with effective plans, communications and support. Finally, the great logisticians in Sierra Company have become experts at winter driving and vehicle recovery. They still make things happen despite the limitations inflicted by weather and terrain.

Overall, the Battalion continues to perform tremendously. We continue to draw outside attention on our actions and represent "what right looks like" to those who visit the AO. You should be very proud of your White Currahees. We are proud of you back home!

CURRAHEE – STANDS ALONE!

Sunrise at 8,000+ feet, temperature=12 degrees

Congratulations to "Bonecrusher" Battery at OE & Boris Field Artillery's "Best Battery in the Army - 2010"

PROMOTIONS

★ ★ ★

SGT Terry

Dog Company

As our tour of duty surpasses its halfway point, Dog Company has continued aggressive patrols, FOB improvements, training, and the reception of the long anticipated snow.

The Walawas Border Checkpoint, built in October, was successfully handed over to our Afghan allies at the beginning of this month and with the assistance of Dog Company, this vital staging area will continue to stifle insurgent activity in Dog's area of operations. The company continues to log numerous miles in every direction, covering all corners of the Gayan District. Dog Company Soldiers continue to mentor our Afghan allies and their capabilities increase with each passing day.

Training over the last month has included small arms marksmanship, 60mm hand held mortar familiarization, medical training, and treatment for cold weather injuries.

As February rolled in, it has brought with it the much anticipated winter weather. In one night alone, COP Munoz received nearly one foot of snow!

Congratulations to SSG Burke and SSG Fraley who, as a result of their hard work and dedication, have received the opportunity to serve as Platoon Sergeants in Fox Company and Whiskey Company, respectively. Also, congratulations to SPC Terry on his promotion to Sergeant. He was pinned by DOG 6 (CPT Churchill) at FT Campbell prior to his return to Afghanistan. Currahee…Stands Alone!

SPC Vogel (top) and CPL Kolasinski (bottom) enjoy a patrol in the snow around COP Munoz

SSG Becker and SSG Jourden (lower right) supervise Soldiers from 1st Platoon conduct weapons training at FOB Tillman.

NEW SOLDIERS

★ ★ ★

SGT BARHAM

PROMOTIONS

★ ★ ★

1LT HYMAN
SGT SPENCER

Easy Company

From the Commander:
Greetings from COP Zerok. With winter upon us, Easy Company has kept up the fight despite all the recurring snow.

Trudging through waist-high snow, Easy Company continued its rigorous operational tempo and kept the enemy at bay throughout the month of February. Pathfinders and Air Assault qualified White Currahees utilized their skill-sets while improving the Manskanari Checkpoint, and each platoon continued to average over 80 kilometers of dismounted movement every 30 days. Easy company welcomes back 1SG Chandler who came back to Zerok from leave. Also Easy company received a new mortar man this past month with SGT Barham joining the ranks of our Easy Rider element. Promotions this month saw 1st platoon's platoon leader 2LT Hyman pinning on 1LT and our Armorer/Ammo NCOIC, CPL Spencer pinned on Sergeant stripes. Both soldiers are well deserving of this honor. Also Easy Company had 2 reenlistments SPC Darnel Jones and SPC Christopher Gross. Both reenlisted to go to Germany when they get back from the deployment. Overall an awesome month for Easy Company!

CURAHEE! STANDS ALONE!

SFC Cardwell, SSG Baker & SPC Kinnamen display their sling-load skills to onlookers in MATV's.

SSG Ruiz and SPC Funaro transporting the M240B up near-vertical terrain.

SPC Berk takes a break from patrolling to get a "high-and-tight".

Fox Company

CH-47s land after a winter snow storm at FOB Boris

Fox Company, despite a late and snowy winter, has kept the pressure on the enemy with two Air Assault missions along the Af-Pak border, disrupting Taliban operations in our valley. Expansion at our Combat Outpost Margah continues at a breakneck speed and our aggressive daily patrols will ensure the next unit will inherit an area with better security and greater stability than when we arrived six months ago.

Members of 3rd Platoon: SGT Boehms, 1LT Wright, Medic SPC Farrar

FOB Boris Medical Team: Surgeon LTC Guidry, Company Medic SGT Heron Platoon Medic PFC Quintero

Fox Company is preparing for Spring Operations. The boys are doing extremely well and staying motivated since we've hit the half-way point of this deployment.

The Fox-Company "Band Of Brothers" continues to fight hard through the harsh winter conditions and terrain. Your Heroes continue to walk all over the Bermel Valley.

Your homefront support is greatly appreciated and makes every 'bird' special knowing that care packages are coming our way! Thanks for everything you do to make it easier for us!

Currahee! Stands Alone!

NEW SOLDIERS

★★★

Welcome
SFC Espeland
and SSG Burke,
FOX CO'S New 1SG and
2nd PLT SGT;

Farewell to
1SG COLON,
who is now the
OPS SERGEANT MAJOR
for BSTB and to SFC Rijos,
who is now the BN
SCOUT PLT SGT

★★★

PROMOTIONS

PFC LAGEORGE
PFC SABBAH
SPC JACKSON
SPC MOREHOUSE
CPL LOVINGOOD
CPL SKINNER

SSG Dolan leads soldiers off Chinooks after a successful Air Assault mission on the Af-Pak border at elevations over 9,000 ft

NEW SOLDIERS

★ ★ ★

1LT Chartier
SSG Fraley

Whiskey Company

Dearest Friends,

February turned out to be the month of snow. Starting at the beginning of the month there was hardly a day that didn't involve at least an inch or so of snow fall. However, that didn't keep Whiskey Company from executing operations from the most northern portions of our area of operations all the way down to the south. To battle the snow and cold, all Whiskey Company Soldiers are equipped with the extreme cold weather system (ECWS.) This includes our thick marshmallow top and bottom, our waffle top and bottom, and silk weight thermal top and bottom. Using this system allows us to operate in any type of weather, keeping our presence and influence constant. We expect this adverse weather to last well into late March before all the snows melt and never come back. As much fun as snowball fights are we look forward to the days of only wearing one layer of clothing. The guys are doing fine though. We welcomed SSG Fraley and 1LT Chartier into the Company recently. We are happy to have them as members of the team. Well friends, that's about all I have for this month. Please continue to pray for our Soldiers who fight so very hard every day they are here. Currahee! Stand Alone! Air Assault! - CPT Mike Hess

SPC Hambrick, SPC Romero, and PFC Malvaney pose for a picture after the construction of Fort Whiskey.

Another Whiskey Company cold winter's patrol at dawn

Snow can't stop these two W Co trucks being driven by SPC West and PFC Wolf.. In truth, both trucks got severely stuck shortly after this picture was taken.

No need to be afraid of the snow when you have the amazing marshmallow suit as 1LT Hahn and PFC Butterman demonstrate.

India Company

From front to back are SPC Pohl, CPT Laakso and SPC Ball. Bringing 21st Century communications to the wilderness.

The month of February finally brought the weather that had been expected in December and January. Heavy snowfall mixed with sleet and rain transformed our FOBs and COPs into snow forts and mud pits.

The Battalion Staff and respective specialty sections continued their phenomenal work in conducting operations and supporting the outlying stations. The S1 shop worked diligently to review and submit End of Tour awards for Battalion. The S4 section conducted a "FLIPL Rodeo" with all of the Supply Sergeants in order to account for our property that never quite made it to East Paktika. Their hard work will set the Battalion up for success in the months to come, especially when we prepare for our successors to assume responsibility of the area.

The Mortars, Medics, FECC, Commo PLT (S6) and S2 Intelligence Analysts continue to do great work supporting the Companies to whom they are attached.

NEW SOLDIERS

★ ★ ★

The Scout Platoon welcomed SFC Rijos and 1LT Lewis who backfilled SFC Dekaye and 1LT Makecha. SFC Dekaye moved up to serve as a Battle Captain in the TOC while 1LT Makecha redeployed to the States where he will prepare for the Ranger Assessment and Selection Program and a follow on assignment to Ranger Regiment. We wish him the best of luck in his endeavors.

Team Curry continues to make great progress in the Gomal District and is happy to have Law Enforcement Professional (LEP) Bo Franz joining the team. The month was spent conducting reconnaissance operations and assessments for the construction of a new check point, which will be manned by the Afghan Border Patrol.

1SG Gallagher and I want to thank all of the friends and families who continue to offer their love and support. Currahee! Stands Alone!

-India 6

CHAOS, also known as the BN Mortars "continues their impeccable efforts towards the war on terrorism by supporting with indirect fires."

– SFC Riordan.

NEW SOLDIERS

★ ★ ★

SPC Jenkins

CURRAHEE KIDS

★ ★ ★

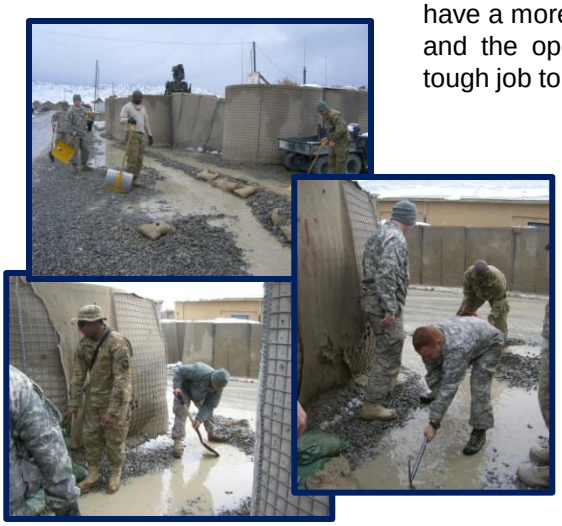
Landon Carter Moore

Sierra Company

Let it snow, let it snow! Sierra Company has had a very white February this year, as all of the holiday snow has finally decided to arrive. February saw a lot of new changes for the Sierra team in the way of officer additions and moves; 1LT Timothy Ott joined the Sierra team as the platoon leader of our new 4th platoon to help to better distribute the workload of our mission in East Paktika. We are also getting two new other officers into the company, 1LT Deanna Love is coming to take over the distribution platoon, and 1LT Charles Walton will be coming on board to replace 1LT Hernandez as the new Executive Officer.

February not only brought snow to Afghanistan, but it also brought us to the half way point in our deployment. When you reach the half way mark of a deployment it makes you think of what you have accomplished thus far, but reminds you that you still have a long way to travel.

As we look forward to the long road ahead of us during the remainder of the deployment we must realize that as the weather gets warmer we are going to have a more demanding road ahead of us. With all of the locations we support, and the operational tempo increasing with the warmer weather, we have a tough job to do, but we will make it happen. Currahee! Stands Alone!



The HQ Section had to dig a trench to keep the office from flooding after the 1st snow melt!

Our new 4th Platoon takes a trip up to Zerok in the snow. The route was bad enough that they ended up stuck for 3 additional days waiting for a break in the weather!

SGT Vasquez saves a 5,000 gallon fuel tanker from rolling over during his second week as a White Currahee. Not a bad start- we need that fuel!

SPC Hughes prepares to single handedly pull a vehicle from the snow on a recovery mission!

Chaplain's Corner

Chaplain Update

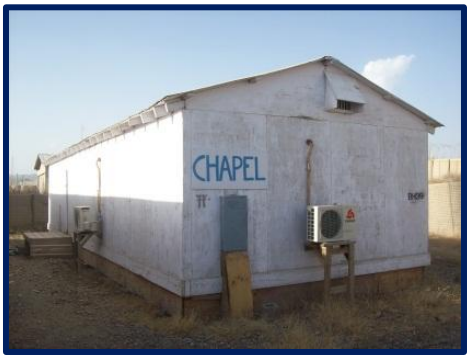
Hello again from 'over the hump' of the deployment (that is past the half-way mark)! I hope that this newsletter finds you all well and staying busy. Some of you may have heard of my "extended R & R." I broke my foot while at home, but will be back 'in the fight' in a few weeks. I will say that this has reminded me that HE and not we are ultimately in charge. While back I have been able to start thinking through some of the redeployment details, do some counseling, and get to do a baptism next week (praise God)!

Back in Afghanistan the winter has definitely set in and brought lots of snow (and coldness). SGT Birdsong has been doing a great job of 'holding down the fort' (and building a snowman here and there). The battalion definitely continues to stay busy while preparing for the warmer weather. As always please continue to pray for the safety and focus of our Soldiers as they continue to make you and their nation proud!

Chaplain V's 'Wheel of Wellness'

SGT Birdsong with a disciple

CH Vineyard suffering through intense pain



The FOB Boris Chapel

The FOB Orgun-E Chapel

A Continued Challenge… As I have briefed many of the Soldiers in the battalion over the past months, I have used my 'Wheel of Wellness' (picture to the left). I challenged you back in December to set some goals related to your mental, physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. If we do this it helps us to 'roll' correctly. So let me ask, how are you 'rolling?' That is how are you doing with these goals? If you don't have any goals, it is never too late to start! I will be posting my article about the 'Wheel' on our BN Facebook account for anyone who might be interested in reading more. God bless!

Helpful Deployment Verses

Proverbs 3:1-8, Joshua 1:8, Jeremiah 29:11-13, & Amos 5:14

A beautiful view of the snow covered mountains taken from the top of the Orgun-E Chapel

CH Frosty made the rounds

Family Readiness

2-506th Family Readiness Support Assistant

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

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.

CSM Menton meets with a White Currahee spouse after the meeting

Battalion Family Readiness Group Meeting with CSM Menton

This month White Currahee Families had an opportunity to meet with CSM Menton while he was home on R&R to discuss everything our White Currahees are doing. After thanking the FRGs for their positive impact on our Soldiers, he talked a great deal about the care our Soldiers receive. The Command Team travels to every FOB and COP to see our White Currahees. Our Soldiers are making a difference, training the Afghan National Security Forces and interacting with locals. Their job is demanding being in a high altitude environment and mountainous terrain. To provide some downtime for the Soldiers the Brigade and Battalion developed a program where White Currahees are flown to larger FOBs and given the opportunity to relax, talk to family and not have to do any work for a couple days at a time.

The Battalion has two focuses for this deployment to make sure our White Currahees are taken care of. A lot of effort goes into logistics and resupply, ensuring Soldiers have food, water, and ammo to carry out their mission. Mail is also a high priority, but with the recent bad weather, put some delivery of the mail behind.

CSM Menton explained the significant quality of life improvements each FOB and COP has experienced. When the Battalion first took over operations some of the FOBs had things pretty rough. Since then each FOB and COP has showers, television (Armed Forces Network), and phones. Some have even been outfitted with a dining facility so Soldiers can enjoy hot chow daily.

In wrapping things up, CSM Menton asked us all to stay positive and stay involved in the FRG. He asked that families reach out to the Company FRG, the BN FRSA and Rear D for assistance. He said we should be expecting our White Currahees to begin returning to Fort Campbell mid to end July. And finally, the Battalion Chain of Command appreciates the sacrifices that all White Currahee families make on a daily basis.

Laura Ott helping sell White Currahee swag. Like to get your hands on some? Check out www.peaksale.net under White Currahee (new items will be added 1 March.

A special **THANK-YOU** goes out to Jessica Kilburn and Candace Ziegler. Both volunteers were recently awarded a Deployment Coin at the Division Volunteer Awards Ceremony. We appreciate all the hard work our volunteers do!