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BUSHMASTERS BULLETIN



Company B 37th En Bn (C)(A)

Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340

Commander
CPT James De Lapp

First Sergeant
1SG Richard Smith

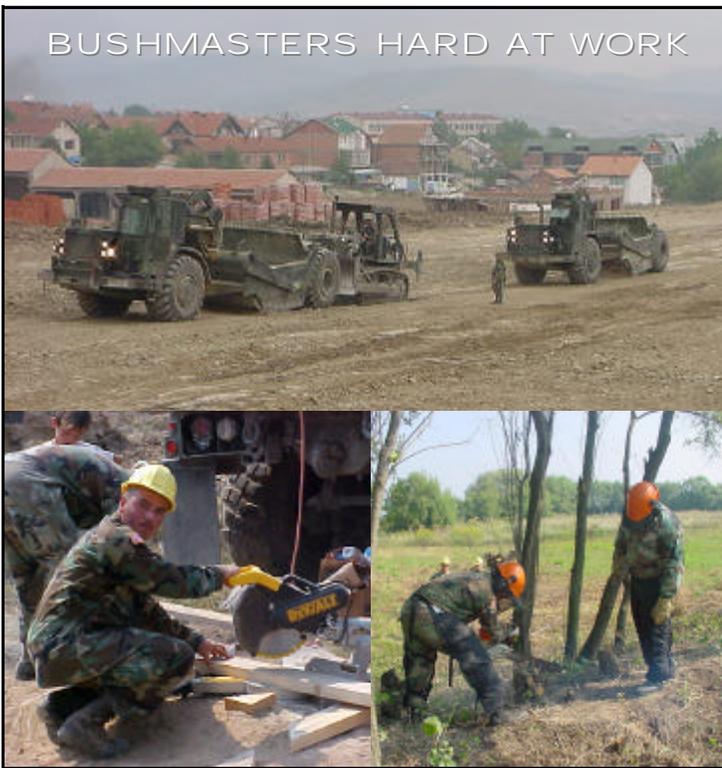


Commanders Corner

Hello to all of the Bushmaster family. Things in Kosovo are still going very well. The soldiers of B/37th continue to make drastic improvements to the area of operations. We are at the half-way point in the deployment and are looking forward to a busy second half. Since our last update we have completed upgrading four more outposts, began paving Prizeren Bypass, continued work on Vitina Basecamp construction, and finished all the major earthwork on Green Park. Over the next few weeks we will continue work on the Outpost and MSR campaign plans, pave the track at Green Park, continue to work on the 800 man basecamp in the town of Vitina, and break ground on a basecamp for a Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The Asphalt Platoon is nearing completion for their tour here with only ten working days left. They will complete the Prizeren Bypass road laying nearly 9000 tons of asphalt as their last major project. Maintenance continues to try to keep up with how fast LE breaks equipment. Currently LE is in the lead. Joking aside, the mechanics continue to do great things and keep us rolling out that gate everyday. The Bushmaster soldiers also continue to set the standard for professionalism. SGT Ascott and SPC McAmis won NCO and Soldier of the Month boards for TF 11E. We also promoted several soldiers this month. We are very proud of all their accomplishments and congratulate them on their hard work and dedication. We wish everyone well.

CPT De Lapp Bushmaster 6

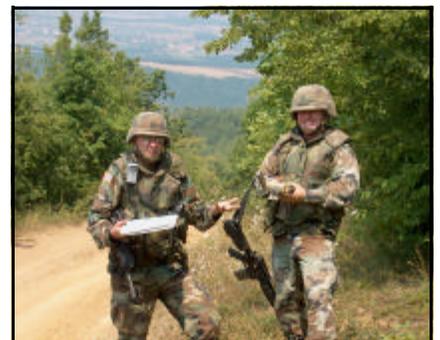
BUSHMASTERS HARD AT WORK



CMS Section

Time is flying very quickly here in Kosovo. We're already at the half-way marker—it's all down hill from here! Recently the CMS has been working hard on the construction of a new (but temporary) base camp for some Marines who are "visiting." SSG Hatfield has brought both CPT Templeman and SSG Patterson on wild trips down to the Macedonian border on reconnaissance missions. Speaking of the Staff Sergeants, they just returned from a little R&R in Bulgaria—be sure to ask them how it was. SFC Thomas has been designing a school for a small village named Bukovac, and SGT Hall has been leading the survey team of himself, and SPC's Gerebics and Ruluke on multiple surveys of Green Park, as well as checking out the Prizren paving project in the German sector. Things are busy, but that's what makes time fly. We're all looking forward to November, and seeing all of you again!

CPT Templeman/SFC Thomas



"Um, do you know where we are?" CPT Templeman and SSG Hatfield pose with Camp Bondsteel faintly in the background (top left). Here they are returning from a site reconnaissance on the Macedonian border. The roads were so chewed up and winding, that the drivers thought they would never find their way back home!

1st Vertical Platoon

Hello again to all the families and friends of the First Platoon Bushmasters. All of the men have been staying safe and working extremely hard in the sizzling Balkan sun. The beginning of August was kicked off with two outpost improvements in sector. SSG McHugh moved his squad out to Outpost Apocalypse on 2 AUG 2001 while SSG Perry and SSG Crockett moved their guys out to Vrbovac Command Post to begin work. Both squads showed tremendous perseverance in their building of numerous structures for the soldiers at these outposts. SSG McHugh led all of his guys in the construction of 2 pull-up bars, 2 picnic tables, 2 bookshelves, 1 flag pole, and a 12' X 20' building. SSG Perry and SSG Crockett motivated their men to complete four 6'X8' security platforms, 1 8'X8' storage shed, 1 flag pole, some dining facility improvements, 2 picnic tables, 2 bookshelves, and one entertainment center. Both squads finished on time and with 100% customer satisfaction.

On 6 AUG 01 SGT Cooke extensively prepared his men for a 2 hour convoy to his next work site in the town of Plavica near the British sector. While SGT Cooke was at Plavica, SSG Perry and SSG Crockett moved their men out to Zegra Base. While at Plavica, SGT Cooke showed his ingenuity and competence by making numerous dining facility improvements and bathroom upgrades. He was also able to put up one flagpole kit and make 8 tables for

the soldiers at Plavica. SSG Crockett and SSG Perry showed their technical engineer expertise and commitment to excellence by constructing a very labor-intensive 15'X35' structure over a twenty-five meter weapons range. These men also put up 2 flagpoles and built an 8'X8' multipurpose shed, 5 equipment racks, a



1st Platoon putting on finishing touches on Range Shed at Zegra CP

KFOR display board, 2 picnic tables, and a pull-up bar.

While the majority of the men were out working at these four sites in the last two weeks we also had two soldiers go to an M-249 weapons range. PFC Williams and PFC Tefft both shot expert at the weapons range. 1LT Marmon, SPC Pollock, SPC Amrhein, PFC Caccam, PFC Williams, PFC Kelsey, PFC Sloma, and PFC Tefft all received the Army Achievement Medal for their hard work done on the Pozharan sidewalk. The platoon was again recognized for its quality construction by CSM Lugo of the 502nd Infantry Battalion (Air Assault). CSM Lugo was very pleased with all of the quality of life upgrades that we have done for his men in the past two weeks. On 11 August all the men received a certificate of achievement from CSM Lugo for their hard work and dedication to mission accomplishment.

In closing, I just want to thank all the families and friends of those soldiers who you have supported us in last three months. Please keep all of the letters and care packages coming, they mean a lot to the men over here. Finally, we want to wish the best to all those families and friends of First Platoon.

1LT Marmon/SFC Page

2nd Vertical Platoon

Greetings and salutations from 2nd Platoon! We are officially half way there. Three months completed with three months more to go.

Since our last newsletter, we have embarked on the mother of all projects, "Vitina Base Camp Project." As previously mentioned, it is a joint construction project with Brown & Root Services (BRS) similar to the one we did at Cernica Base Camp except that we started on day 0. BRS can honestly say that we (BRS and 2nd Platoon) built Vitina Base Camp. It will be much larger than Cernica Base Camp but much smaller than Camp Bondsteel (CBS), but with all the "fixins" of CBS. On the Vitina Base Camp Project, we have cleared a field of bushes, hence the name "Bushmasters," for force protection and aesthetic purposes and have been working along side by side with BRS constructing the first of six sea huts. Each sea hut is about half the size of the building (#5757) that houses all the company offices (B Co, A Co, C Co, and S3-S4) back at Ft Bragg in the Battalion. We have had the honor and pleasure of being part of one of the first integrations of Serbians and Albanians in a joint work force with BRS. Recently the platoon was augmented with 7 non-English speaking Serbians for the day with no interpreter. The communication barrier was intense for the first couple of hours that first morning, but after lunch we seemed to have had everything under control. By the days end the integration of Serbians and Albanians, Serbians and US Soldiers, etc was a success. We all have a common goal and that is to get the Vitina Base Camp up and running. It is a great start and sign of better days to come for the people of the Province of Kosovo. It also



2nd Platoon soldiers and locals work on cutting board



Framing complete for first SEAHUT Vitina Basecamp

means US Troops wont be needed here in such large quantities in the future. That equates to less time away from their families and loved ones.

Congratulation go out to SFC Price on his selection for Officer Candidate School and to CPL Rivers and SPC Reed for placing first in Company and Battalion NCO and Soldier of the Month and Quarter Boards as well as fourth and third in NCO and Soldier of the Month and Quarter Boards respectively for Task Force Falcon. Great Job men!

Please continue to send your love, prayers, and morale boosters our way as we do cherish everything you all do for us. Until the next newsletter, you have all of 2nd Platoon's best wishes. Take care.

1LT McRae/SFC Price

Light Equipment Platoon

Happy mid-deployment to all friends and family reading the LE Platoon news. That's right, we are at the midpoint of our deployment. But don't get us wrong, we're not counting the days, we're making the days count. In various ways too. On 27 July, SGT Matteson took a few operators out to the 25 meter firing range we built for an infantry unit in Binac. We had to fix some effects that the weather had played on our project. From 30 July – 31 July, 1st Squad helped Brown and Root Construction (the US contracted construction company) in hauling rock to the new base camp being built in Vitina. From 1 August – 2 August, we sent a small contingent to OP Apocalypse in support of C/11th EN BN as they were tasked to fill HESCO barriers with sand. SPC Hostetter was the main effort as he operated the bucket loader. From 2 August – 3 August, 2nd squad sent a two man team to grade out another access road from the new base camp in Cernica. SPC Childress has learned much on the DEUCE and provided the main work force in clearing that road as the grader came behind and smoothed the road out. In fact, SPC Childress has become so good he declared to everyone, "My hobby will no longer be collecting cans but rather operating the DEUCE as much as possible." On 4 August, LE Platoon supported the 11th EN BN in the monthly Officer Professional Development Class and taught all the officers how to operate real engineer equipment. The platoon received a certificate of achievement. PV2 Cotton with helmet in hand stated, "I was glad to teach them so that in the future, they could use that knowledge to better employ horizontal construction equipment." On 7 August,



Scrapers, Dozers, and Grader working on Green Park 400m track

Cotton also supported 1st Platoon by operating the Bobcat and drilling holes for them to put posts into. Those holes otherwise would have taken days and 1st Platoon was very thankful. Cotton said, "I was happy to do it because otherwise it would have taken them FOREVER to dig those holes by hand." On 8 August, we also started another route upgrade on Route Chrome. Route Chrome runs from Gjilane all the way to the border of Serbia. The road is very deteriorated and will need a lot of attention. We are still working on it now. On 10 August, SGT Matteson and crew went to fix a road between the towns of Mogila and Vrbovac. It was a quick fix and only took one dump truck of gravel to fill the pot holes. And last but not least, for the entire past two weeks we have had a consistent effort of 2 squads out at Green Park Sports Complex in Gjilane. We are proud to say that 14 August will see the first asphalt go down on our sight. Once it is complete, our track will be the first regulation size track in Kosovo's history. All we will have left to do is import topsoil for the soccer field, plant some grass, and it will be ready for use. By the time you hear from us again, we'll have great pictures to show you. The man in charge on site, SSG Richards says, "PT has always been very important to me, I'm just glad these kids are finally gonna be able to derive the same pleasure from running in circles that I do!"

1LT Wohlfel/SFC Constantino

Maintenance Platoon

The rotation here in Kosovo has reached the three-month mark since the deployment started for maintenance platoon. During that time the platoon has been challenged in many ways, but continue to charge forward to accomplish the mission they have been sent here to do. The platoon has been staying gainfully employed during the time here by the amount of time put in working to a pass to Bulgaria for some rest and relaxation. As the time passes, the platoon continues to hold a positive attitude during the deployment.

Recently the platoon took a day from the work schedule and spent a day in the British sector up at the base camp Waterloo Lines. During the day, the platoon took the opportunity to



SPC Vincent hard at work ordering parts and dispatching

do some cross training with the British soldiers. Upon arrival the platoon received a warm welcome from the soldiers stationed at Waterloo Lines. At the start of the day everyone was shown the setup of the

British maintenance section and how operated. After having a tour of the compound, the platoon was taken to an area set up to where everyone received hands on the British vehicles. For dinner, the platoon was served a traditional British meal. Everyone had an enjoyable time and did not want to leave.

Just recently, the platoon has received several recognitions for their hard work and dedication during the deployment. PFC Henson received a coin from the 11th Engineer Battalion commander for outstanding work in the motor pool. SGT Knight and PFC Wilkes received Certificate of Achievements for their contribution of a mission conducted by the Special Forces. Just recently, SGT Babeu received the Logistics Hero Award from Task Force Falcon for the positive work he has contributed to maintenance. Congratulation goes out to SPC Tran who has been promoted to the rank of Sergeant.

The platoon overall continues to remain focused on the mission at hand and continued to give their best effort. Everyone has been staying gainfully employed allowing the time to go quickly from one day to the next. The moral has been remaining high and the platoon has kept a positive attitude during the time of the deployment.

2LT Henz/CW2 Madrigal/SSG Bolendar



SPC Tran assessing the situation down in the Motorpool.



Company B 37th En Bn (C)(A)
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 Commander
 CPT James De Lapp

First Sergeant
 1SG Richard Smith

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155th Asphalt Platoon



2nd Squad Begins paving at Prizeren German Camp



1st Squad puts down the black stuff at Clamshell 4

From the Ridge Runners

The Ridge Runners are working on their German speech skill this week. The Germans requested that the Ridge Runners come and pave the Prizeren Bypass in Southern Kosovo. We are Internationally Known for our paving expertise and the word is out. By the time the next article hits the press the Ridge Runners should be finished with the project. Our equipment schedule has changed and will leave Camp Bondsteel on the 7th of September. The platoon should still be at Fort Benning, Ga, on the 12th of September.

The 1st squad has been working on Camp Bondsteel again after several weeks of working in sector. The current projects for the squad include Clam Shell 4 (1000 tons) and CBS Air Refuel Point (1700 tons). The aviators have made sure that everyone that wanted to ride in a helicopter had the chance. I think everyone enjoyed it except our newest Corporal, Joey Zarzana. The 1st squad will finish up the tour working on a running track in Gjanie for the local population. Cpl Powell has volunteered to run the first 400-meter race with Kosovo's Olympic hopefuls.

The 2nd squad is working at the Prizeren Airbase for the German Army. The project will be 8000 tons and will take 14 days to complete. The bypass will be for military and civilian traffic. The squad is staying in Prizeren and the German Air force has been taking good care of them. The day starts at 0500 each morning and runs till 1300. The asphalt is being supplied from the Italians in Pristina, which is a 2-hour trip one way. The platoon has made some good friends with the Germans and we have been doing some training on both forces' equipment. The 3rd squad has supported both line squads by transporting the equipment to the worksites daily. They have also helped relieve the other squads during the hot weather during paving operations. The headquarters squad has been preparing for the platoon's movement back to the states. SSG Street has been working on all the paper work that is involved in moving a unit back to the states.

1LT Lacy/SFC Brooks