

This newsletter is an unofficial publication and does not express the views of the United States Army

BUSHMASTERS BULLETIN



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

Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340

Commander
CPT James De Lapp

First Sergeant
1SG Richard Smith



Headquarters Platoon

Commanders Corner

All the soldiers of headquarters platoon have been staying on the go the last few weeks. Their most recent significant feat was organizing the Bushmaster Beach Blast '01. All the headquarters personnel pitched in with their unique elements of "mission essential" support. The all-star team of SSG Simmons & SPC Hicks coordinated for the food, while communications sergeant SGT Jordan arranged for the use of a "kickin'" sound system. The operations element, composed of SFC Bullock & SGT Kellum, were on hand early and late to make sure all loose ends were taken care of. Most importantly though, they coordinated with the Camp Bondsteel Fire Department so that our Olympic-size kiddie pool was filled up with high quality H₂O! The executive officer, 1LT Countess, donned his non-regulation-but-OSHA-certified hardhat and supervised the food serving line to make sure lollygagging was kept to a minimum. CPT De Lapp, who provided the overall vision for the event, and First Sergeant Smith sat back and relished the fact that the Bushmasters had again set the standard for Task Force Falcon. In the end, a good time was had by all, and the event provided a much-needed genuine day off for all the Bushmasters.



When they're not throwing beach parties, the headquarters element maintains a brisk pace to keep up with all the platoons and coordinates the necessary support so that all tasks are done to standard. God bless and farewell.

1LT Countess/SFC Bullock

Since our last update, the Bushmasters have continued working hard and playing hard. We kicked off July with some great 4th of July activities. The Dallas Cowboy Cheerleaders came to Camp Bondsteel to see the troops, and we had several days of sporting activities: 5K Run; soccer game; softball game; and a fireworks display rounded out the days events. Soldiers participated in marksmanship training with the Germans on several weapon systems. Our platoons have continued to make significant improvements throughout sector. Everything from beginning to pave the entire Camp Montieth to constructing sun shade shelters for the outposts. We had our first Video Teleconference (VTC) with the families back at Fort Bragg. Having the opportunity to see each other and talk (although very brief) was great. Every soldier walked out of the room with a very big smile on their face. The Bushmasters also held their first of two company party's during our six month rotation. Going with the theme of a beach party, the "Bushmaster Beach Blast" was a great success. Food, volleyball, horseshoes, music, and even swimming were all part of the VERY relaxing day. Finally we want to welcome our new Battalion Commander LTC Moon and Command Sergeant Major Gutierrez to the Eagle Battalion, and look forward to their visit here in the future.

CPT De Lapp
Bushmaster 6

CMS Section

The Construction Management Section has learned over the past few weeks what it means to build bridges! On Route Amber, down in the Chicken Leg area of Multi-National Brigade (East), the CMS helped C/11th EN construct a concrete slab bridge when the last bridge developed a hole in the deck. CMS also helped design the steel stringer bridge on Route Pewter, way up in the Central Mountains between MNB (E) and MNB (S). Meanwhile, the CMS is working closely with the Swiss contingent from MNB(S) on the construction of a bridge at the town of Vrbovac. Of course, CMS isn't all about bridges.



Talk about dedicated! SPC Ruloked measuring the width of the Creek for a Bridge.

We've been continuing our work with B/37th on the sidewalk in Pozaranje, the base camps in Vitina and Cernica, paving on Bondsteel and Montieth...the list goes on. And in their spare time, the CMS has been able to participate in some of the opportunities on Camp Bondsteel. SFC Thomas is really involved in the Choir and Gospel services. SSG Patterson and SPC Ruloked are taking Geography and Spanish classes, SSG Hatfield is taking a class in Criminal Justice, and SPC Gerebics is taking FAST class, and CPT Templeman is teaching Project Planning classes to the TMK (Kosovo Protection Corps).

CPT Templeman/SFC Thomas

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 hot Balkan sun. A 5-Kilometer race and a Task Force Run helped kick off the beginning of the month. These two events helped build camaraderie and esprit de corps within Task Force Falcon. PFC Sloma, SFC Page, 1LT Marmon, SSG McHugh, and SPC Petroski represented the mighty First Platoon in the 5-Kilometer race. SPC Petroski finished in the top ten of the 5-kilometer race and showed that the Bushmasters always lead from the front. PFC Williams was able to hone his outstanding marksmanship skills by attending a Special Forces range. SPC Martin, SPC Broussard, and SGT Hawkins participated in a German marksmanship range and at the end of the day all three soldiers were trained on four different German assault rifles. SPC Martin won the Task Force Soldier of the Month Board and proved once again that 1st Platoon leads the way. SSG McHugh attended another joint exercise with the Special Forces. SSG McHugh finished this rigorous two-day training event and became very proficient in close quarter's combat.

First platoon also continued work on the Pozharan Sidewalk and Bus Stop Project. Finishing up the project with the 155th Asphalt platoon paving the bus stop.

On the 13 July, many distinguished guests showed up to witness the ribbon cutting ceremony. PFC Hill was selected to help the Mayor cut the ribbon due to his hard work and commitment to mission accomplishment. Following the ceremony, the town Mayor had refreshments to thank all the soldiers for their hard work in the construction of the sidewalk. The entire sidewalk and bus stop covers two city blocks. The sidewalk and bus stop will help keep the pedestrians out of the main road and the kids will now be able to walk safely to school. The project took 31 days and with the price of troop labor, materials, and equipment hours the entire project totaled just under \$100,000. The final product was outstanding. Everyone in the town was very happy with this great project.

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



Group photo before ribbon cutting ceremony



Locals enjoy the new Bench before ribbon cutting

1LT Marmon/SFC Page

2nd Vertical Platoon

Tungjatjeta edhe një herë të gjitha familjeve dhe shokëve të Platonit 2-Bravo Kompani, Bataljonit 37 të inxhinjerisë (C) (A) prej kampit Bondsteel, Kosovë.

That is Albanian for "Hello once again to all the families and friends of 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 37th Engineer Battalion (C) (A) from Camp Bondsteel, Kosovo." We have come to the two-month mark for our time here in Kosovo. Time flies when you're having fun. We have enjoyed many great successes with our campaign projects (Outpost Improvements) in sector. Our latest projects were SSG Hendricks' squad quality of life and force protection improvements at a monastery in sector. SSG Walls' squad improvements at command posts in the towns of Debelde and Klokot included shelf and table construction, as well as reconstruction of a dining facility tent floor. SSG Strohl's squad built a rather large shed to house a M3 Bradley Fighting Vehicle, in addition to a mailbox, pullup bars, and dip bars for the soldiers at an out-



Putting up a new Guard Tower at Cernica Camp

post in sector. The work out at Klokot Command Post (CP) was the temporary conclusion to our campaign project construction. Everywhere we worked the soldiers we helped were very appreciative of the great job the soldiers of 2nd platoon were doing for them.

We have since redirected our platoon efforts to work side by side with Brown & Root Services (BRS) constructing, from the ground up, two new base camps in the towns of Cernica and Vitina. These Base Camps are similar to, but significantly smaller than, Camp Bondsteel on which, as you know, we now reside. Working with BRS on Cernica and Vitina Base Camps is something we have been looking forward to and we are excited to be working on these large-scale projects. Soldiers who come to Kosovo long after we depart will live and work out of these new camps.

Si Gjithmonë në ju dërgojmë deshirat me të mira te gjithë shokeve tone dhe të dashurve në shba.

"As always we send our best wishes to all of our friends and loved ones back in the states."

Thank you for all of your love and support from home. It is needed and much appreciated. The more the better. Until next time.



LT McRae w/BRS Contractor by new tower

1LT McRae/SFC Price

Light Equipment Platoon



Grader working on road in town of Dobrcane

Dear friends and family of LE Platoon, the saga of our KFOR support continues with the addition of a few new projects. Since the last newsletter, we have assumed four new missions, while also putting the finishing touches on some others. Finally finishing the Pozoranje sidewalk/ bus stop project was rewarding as we saw the concrete being laid. We were glad to see the fruits of our labor evident in the townspeople as they began using the sidewalk immediately. On the June 28th we trained members of the Kosovo Army (TMK) on our construction equipment in hopes of giving them enough experience to assume our role when KFOR withdraws from Kosovo. Since then we have

also incorporated them in construction on the Freedom Field sports complex we are building in Gjlane. The projected finished date for that project will be in early September. We built a 500 meter long access road for another new 300 person KFOR base camp in Vitina. The KFOR commander BG David used our road to hold the groundbreaking ceremony for the new base camp on July 2nd. July 4th provided us a day away from the project sight in order to conduct safety classes reiterating to the platoon the importance of safety. Later in the day, we celebrated Independence Day with a stimulating USO show and a 7 minute firework display. July 5th to July 7th we fixed 3000 meters of farm access roads in the mountains. The roads we smoothed out allowed local farmers to truck out approximately 700 acres of their summer grain harvest. We are currently working on a main KFOR route road upgrade through the town of Dobrcane. This route is highly traveled by KFOR and local merchants. Its potholes are so numerous that traffic congestion has become a problem to the town and everyone passing through. Our work will alleviate much of the congestion.



Roller compresses gravel in town of Dobrcane

1LT Wohlfeil/SFC Constantino

Maintenance Platoon

The deployment to Kosovo has reached a complete two months in theater here at Camp Bondsteel for maintenance platoon. Ever since day one, the days have been long and enduring for the mechanics. Everyone in the platoon is doing the best to their ability in order to achieve the missions' goals. Over the recent weeks, the mechanics have received several missions for recovery of vehicles or contact missions. The teams that had been set out were able to react in a timely manner and accomplish what the mechanics were tasked to do.

The most difficult mission that maintenance had received, was the recovery of a bucket loader that went into a river, which had to be retrieved. SGT Babeu and PFC Henson were given the mission and both were able to safely recover the vehicle from its difficult position. A great amount of time and effort was put in by the two mechanics and had conducted the mission in an outstanding manner. SPC Manners successfully accomplished a contact mission involving a grader with a bad airline for the emergency brake. SPC Manners was able to fix the part out in the field keeping the vehicle fully operational. PFC Wilkes accomplished a major task for maintenance as well since our arrival. PFC Wilkes had successfully obtained one hundred percent fluid samples from each vehicle assigned to the company and

turned in to the Army Oil Analysis Program lab here on Camp Bondsteel. He was the only soldier to achieve this task out of Task Force Falcon.

Besides just missions, maintenance had the opportunity to send soldiers to Combat Life Saver course. Just recently SPC Vincent and SPC McAmis had successfully completed the four-day course.

In closing, the soldiers in maintenance platoon have been doing an outstanding job while here in Kosovo and continue to do so. Everyone in the section has been keeping safe and staying occupied during the rotation here. The platoon has remained high-spirited and continues to execute the mission each day.



SGT Babeu and SPC Henson work to recover a Bucket Loader

2LT Henz/CW2 Madrigal/SSG Bolendar



Company B 37th En Bn (C)(A)
 Camp Bondsteel, APO AE 09340
 Commander
 CPT James De Lapp

First Sergeant
 1SG Richard Smith

FREE MAIL

BUSHMASTERS

Place Address Label Here!



155th Asphalt Platoon

From the Ridge Runners

The Ridge Runners continue to make things black in Kosovo for MNB-E. The tempo for the platoon has increased for both line squads. Both are engaged in paving or route repair. Since the last issue we have moved the 2nd squad to Camp Montieth for paving most of the roads located inside the camp. The 1st squad has continued with the route repair projects. The 155th and the Tennessee National Guard tradition continues as we make the history that the Volunteer State is known for.

The 1st squad continued with the route improvements on Amber and Chrome. The squad paved a section in the town of Zegra located in the area nicknamed the “Chicken Leg”. The asphalt will cut the dust inside the town and allow KFOR units in the area to reach the Zegera outpost completely on asphalt. It seemed that the whole town turned out to watch the event. Once again the Ridge Runners are working their way into the hearts and minds of the Kosovars.

The 2nd squad finished up SSA Road on Camp Bondsteel. The SSA Road was 1,300 tons of asphalt laid in two 2” layers. SGT Douglas Bibee, SSG Kenneth Perry, and CPL Josh Hughes helped the Light Equipment Platoon with Freedom Field by running scrapers and dozers. The squad also did route improvements on the southern unpaved portion of Route Amber with SPC Michaels from LE. The 2nd squad has taken the lead on the Camp Montieth project. CMT will be 8000 tons and will take two weeks to complete. The 3rd squad has supported both line squads by transporting the equipment to the worksites daily and supporting the LE Platoon on several missions. The headquarters has been busy traveling the routes located in the American sector. The asphalt platoon is preparing a road improvement plan for the American sector that we will leave for the next pavers to come in country.



Putting down the Black Stuff at Camp Montieth

1LT Lacy/SFC Brooks

Beach Blast Pictures



Sappers enjoy a day off with Food, Horseshoes, Volleyball, and a Pool side Party. Note the T-10C silk providing shade and the Engineer Flag Flying High!