

TOMAHAWKS

January 2019



CLOSING THE GATES

06. **Aztec**
10. **Brave**
14. **Crazyhorse**
20. **Hawkeye**
24. **Ready Force**
28. **Reaper**
29. **Sentinel**
30. **Care Bears**
32. **Task Force Leopard**

22. Extending Thanks

26. Steps to Afghanistan

**34. The Command Teams
of FOB Fenty**

**36. Casing of Battalion
Colors**

38. Tomahawk History

40. Faces of Fenty

41. Retention



4-5

A MESSAGE
FROM
THE
COMMAND
TEAM

*FACES
OF
FENTY*

40

36

Tomahawks Case Battalion Colors

28 - 29
299
BRIGADE
ENGINEER
BATTALION

TOMAHAWK COMMANDER



» LTC Barnett

TASK FORCE TOMAHAWK FRIENDS, FAMILIES, AND LOVED ONES,

Serving as the Task Force Tomahawk Commander over the past nine months while deployed to combat in Afghanistan has been the greatest honor of my military career. With the transfer of authority to LTC Jackels and CSM York (1-108th CAV, 48th IBCT) complete and all TF Tomahawk Soldiers returning home to Fort Carson, this chapter in the great history of the 2-23 Infantry Battalion is closed. Despite the most challenging of mission requirements, I could not have asked for a more professional, dedicated, and disciplined group of America's finest men and women to serve alongside with. Throughout all the difficulties faced in Afghanistan; the Tomahawk Friends, Families, and Loved Ones remained just as dedicated to supporting the mission as their deployed Soldiers. With-

out their countless late nights, volunteer hours, and dedication to supporting one another the Task Force could not have accomplished its mission as effectively as it did. Their commitment was proven as their "Steps to Afghanistan" resulted in over 15,000 miles in total, taking them to Afghanistan and back. Transitions are always difficult; saying good bye to our NATO partners and our Afghan counterparts that we have served alongside the past nine months. We will always remember the good times, the difficult times, and the many successes we shared while conducting operations together. I could not think of a better Command Team to hand the mission over to, and I wish LTC Jackels and CSM York the best of luck as they continue to answer the Nation's call in Afghanistan. "We Serve"

Ryan D. Barnett

TF Tomahawk Commander

TF TOMAHAWK

➔ issue #07 January 2019

CONTACT US

f [facebook.com/tomahawkscarson](https://www.facebook.com/tomahawkscarson)

t twitter.com/tomahawkscarson

i [instagram.com/tomahawkscarson](https://www.instagram.com/tomahawkscarson)

TF Tomahawk:

LTC Barnett

CSM Kirkham

Hawkeye:

CPT Kelly

1SG Harris

Aztec:

CPT Rowcliffe

1SG McDonald

Brave:

Brave 6

1SG Stalinski

Crazyhorse:

CPT Bowlus

1SG Seifert

Care Bears:

1LT Wilkinson

SFC Fuqua

Reaper:

CPT Young

1SG Kelley

Sentinel:

CPT Lawson

SFC Minor

Cerberus:

CPT Henry

1SG Abitua

War Pigs:

1LT Copple

SFC Gentry

Spartans:

1LT Leach

SFC Dupertuis

Tomahawk Ready Force:

CPT McKague

1SG Morrow

Images and Stories

Images and stories are submitted by all companies. Images that do not appear in the issue, will be posted on 2-23 IN's social media sites. Please contact the TF Tomahawk PAO on the following Facebook page:

Facebook/TomahawksCarson

Follow the Tomahawks

ON FACEBOOK

2-23 Infantry Regiment:

@TomahawksCarson

Aztec:

@AlphaCo223

Brave:

@BraveCompany223

Crazyhorse:

@Crazyhorse223

Hawkeye:

@HHC223

Tomahawk Chaplain:

@TomahawkChaplain

@RaiderChaplains

Reapers:

@CharlieCompanyReapers

Sentinel:

@DCo299BEB



Contributors

SPC CHRISTOPHER BOUCHARD

DESIGN, PHOTOGRAPHY, STORY

COMMAND SERGEANT MAJOR



» CSM Kirkham

TO THE FRIENDS AND FAMILIES OF TASK FORCE TOMAHAWK,

With the Task Force Tomahawk formation finally reunited back at Fort Carson, I want to personally thank and congratulate each and every Soldier for their dedication, perseverance, professionalism, and steadfast motivation, all of which led to the successes of our diverse mission sets in Afghanistan. Coming home marks the closing of an important chapter in the Tomahawk Battalion's distinguished history. From the battlefields of the American Civil War, to the Philippines, the trenches of Northern France, the Ardennes Forrest in Belgium, the cold mountains of Korea, and Iraq; this chapter of the Tomahawk story high-

lights the versatility of this Battalion, and its ability to adapt to the demands of the ever evolving landscape that is Afghanistan. Coming home also signals the beginning of a new chapter. Tomahawks will continue to train, both physically and through job specific training that will showcase the expertise of each Soldier individually. I know this Battalion will meet the coming challenges as it has done in the past, only exceptionally, and will remain fit, inspired, and disciplined in preparation for what is to come. "We Serve!"

Lance C. Kirkham

TF Tomahawk CSM

AZTEC

CPT ROWCLIFFE

1SG MCDONALD

The final month has come and Aztec company continues to support the mission with a few final operations and integrating the new unit into our mission set. 1st Platoon Savages began training and helping 3-121, our replacement counterparts, learn what daily life at COP Blackfish is like. There's a lot to hand over from ongoing projects, how to keep the COP healthy, safe, functioning properly, and the day to day tasks that are essential to allow occupants to focus on the greater overall mission. 2nd Platoon "Jokers" have conducted medical training, house clearing, basic rifle marksmanship, advanced rifle marksmanship, and posturing for the Expeditionary Task Force, a mission which put them on two hours' notice to support operations anywhere in Afghanistan. While handing over the Guardian Angel mission to our 3-121 counterparts, the Jokers received several weeks of non-stop snow in the Kabul bowl, sometimes making it difficult to navigate hills of Camp Morehead. 3rd Pla-

toon "Sad Dogs" split their forces for the first time during the deployment and occupied a new outpost in Farah, Afghanistan at FOB Thompson. The platoon being separated instilled a drive to finish strong through multiple operation sand preparing the outstations for handover. Sad Dogs started receiving their replacement which provided them the opportunity to reflect on their time in Afghanistan and pass on their lessons learned. Across the country Aztecs conducted their Award's Ceremonies, reflecting on their great work and accomplishments in country, and proud to display their newly earned awards on their uniforms. Aztec morale is high knowing that they will be home before the Superbowl as they prepare to redeploy from all across Afghanistan. Proud of their actions and impact on their missions, Aztecs look forward to getting home and seeing their friends and family, integrating back into the United States.







BRAVE

GUARDIAN ANGELS



BRAVE COMPANY SOLDIERS PROVIDE
GUARDIAN ANGEL SUPPORT DURING
ADVISORY MISSIONS.

FENTY & MISSION SUPPORT SITES



BRAVE FAMILY AND FRIENDS,

Brave Company is preparing to return home to you. The entire Company is excited for the prospect of returning to you and getting some much needed R&R on block leave. Be sure to not let your Brave Soldier slack off on leave though - Expert Infantry Badge and Ranger School preparation training begins in earnest as soon as block

leave ends. The Incline will be Brave's favorite off-post physical training location in the months to come so enjoy the time off in moderation and and come back to work in March refreshed and ready WIN! Rangers Lead the Way,

B6/B7

BRAVE CO COMMAND NOTES





CRAZY HORSE



Command Team

CPT BOWLUS

1SG SEIFERT

This month Crazyhorse said goodbye to TB Gamberi, and hello home front. Crazyhorse Company has received end of tour awards, ripped out with the 48th IBCT and 1/108th CAV, and headed home after an honorable and challenging deployment. Crazyhorse is always ready to fight and ready to complete the task at hand. PFC Mosqueda won Soldier of the Month after displaying his impressive knowledge during the board. January has been a busy month as passing off a deployments worth of knowledge is not a small task, but Crazyhorse Company was prepared and able to set the successful conditions for 48th IBCT and 1/108th CAV of TB Gamberi for success in TAAC-E during their deployment. Hoka Hey!





HAWKEYE

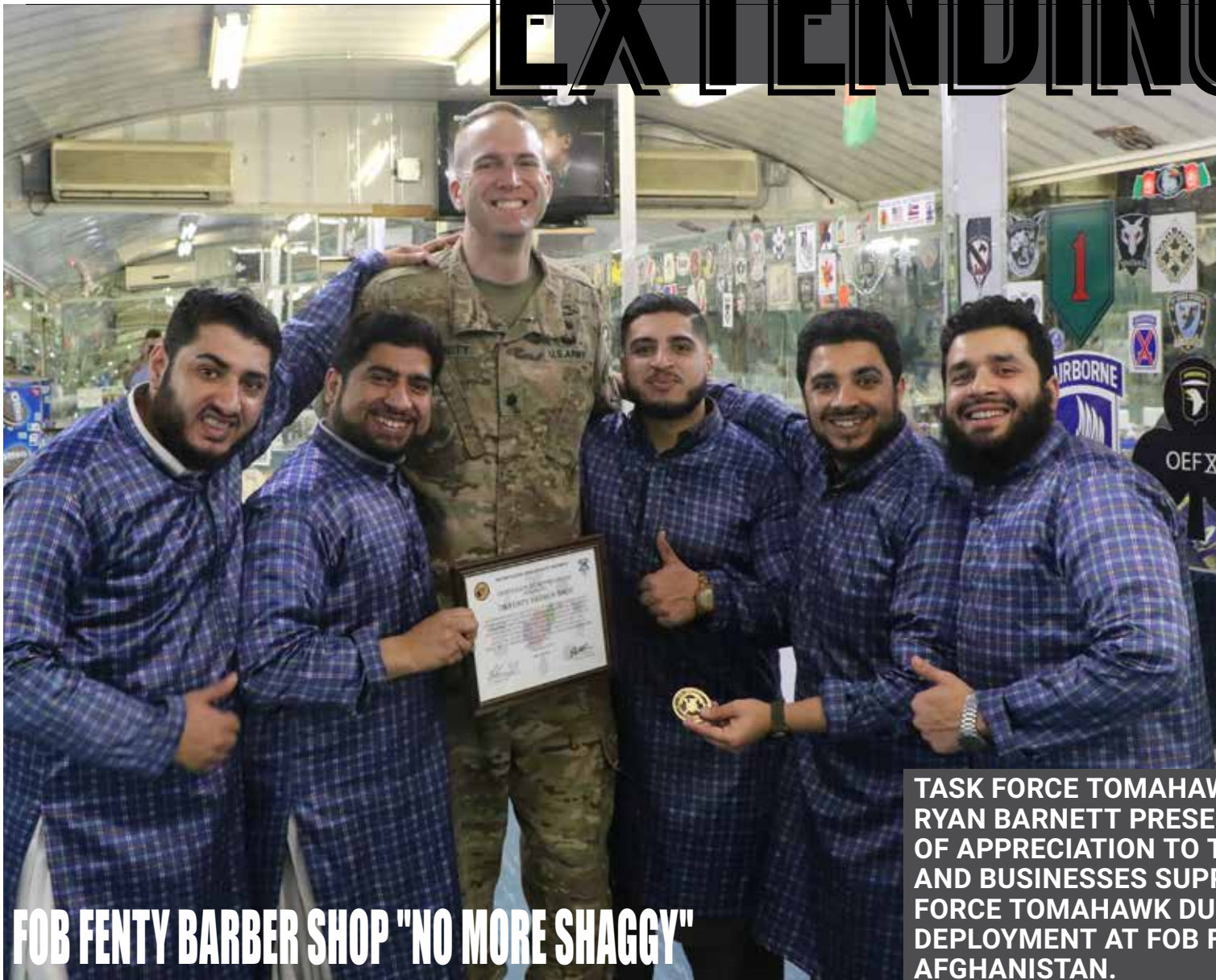
CPT KELLY 1SG HARRIS

Thank you, Hawkeye friends and families, for all of your support during this deployment! Your Soldiers served with excellence in Afghanistan and accomplished their mission. We are proud of all they did to secure Afghanistan and deny safe haven to America's enemies. We remain thankful for all of your support, and we celebrate your reunions with your loved ones as our Hawkeye Soldiers return home.





EXTENDING THANKS



FOB FENTY BARBER SHOP "NO MORE SHAGGY"

TASK FORCE TOMAHAWK COMMANDER LTC RYAN BARNETT PRESENTED CERTIFICATES OF APPRECIATION TO THE VARIOUS GROUPS AND BUSINESSES SUPPORTING TASK FORCE TOMAHAWK DURING THE 2018-2019 DEPLOYMENT AT FOB FENTY, JALALABAD AFGHANISTAN.



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE: FOB FENTY



GREEN BEANS COFFEE



FOB FENTY LAUNDRY SERVICES



25TH SIGNAL CORPS

TOMAHAWK READY FORCE

CPT MCKAGUE

1SG MORROW

In January, the Tomahawk Ready Force welcomed home the main body flights of deployed Soldiers. Families received redeploying Soldiers in the Special Events Center on Fort Carson, a special moment for all those reunited. Tomahawk Ready Force looks forward to integrating fully with Task Force Tomahawk after the block leave period in February - March 2019. With all Tomahawk Soldiers reunited, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment looks forward to what exciting new challenges might lay ahead, including Expert Infantryman Badge (EIB) training and certification.



STEPS TO AFGHANISTAN 14,777 MILES!!

Tomahawk families have accomplished their goal of walking 14,777 miles over the duration of the Task Force Tomahawk deployment in Afghanistan. Displaying serious motivation and determination to complete this challenge, families from across the Tomahawk formation embarked on a journey to symbolically travel the distance to AND from Afghanistan where 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment was deployed for nine months in 2018 and 2019. Taking advantage of events held at Fort Carson and the greater Colorado Springs area, deployed families showcased their FIT, INSPIRED, and DISCIPLINED initiative during this time. Also showcased through this challenge were the fun, family freindly events unique to living in the Mountain Post area!

#MOUNTAINPOSTLIVING Final Score!

HAWKEYE: 8,343 MILES

HELLRAISERS: 166 MILES

CRAZYHORSE: 4,303 MILES

HHC BRIGADE: 40 MILES

BRAVE: 1,649 MILES

AZTEC: 3 MILES

299 BEB: 411 MILES

MISC: 92 MILES

Special mention goes to the following groups and individuals who led the way in the standings by racking up the most miles:

MCDONOUGH/MCRAY: 1,274 MILES

KELLY BRENDAN: CRAZYHORSE

L.I.F.E. GROUP: 530 MILES

CRAIG BAUM: BRAVE

DONIPHAN MIDDLE SCHOOL: 486 MILES

BREA HUSEMAN: BRAVE



REAPER

CPT YOUNG

SSG SOTO



This month, we received our replacement signal company to hand over expeditionary tactical network support operations in TAAC-E. Tomahawk 6 and 7 recognized the company for their efforts and impact to the overall mission in TAAC-E during the deployment at the company End-of-Tour award ceremony. As an attached unit from the 299th BEB, 1SBCT, It has truly been an honor to serve in Task Force Tomahawk during this deployment. The professionalism and support from the Soldiers and Families in the rear and forward has been unparalleled. Our mission in Afghanistan wouldn't of been successful without your support. We look forward to finishing the deployment strong and reintegrating with our Families and the company back at Fort Carson.



SENTINEL

CPT LAWSON

SFC MINOR

Sentinels closed out the deployment working to fulfill collection requirements up until the last hours of the Task Force Tomahawk and TAAC-East mission. It is with great satisfaction that I would like to thank the entire MICO formation, both deployed and not deployed Soldiers and Families, for their dedication to the mission and flexibility throughout the deployment to changing requirements. As we move forward as a united formation, continue to grow from your individual experiences and improve the organization. EVER VIGILANT!!



CARE BEARS

C/MED, 4th BSB, 1SBCT, 4ID 1LT WILKINSON SFC FUQUA



A MEANS TO AN END

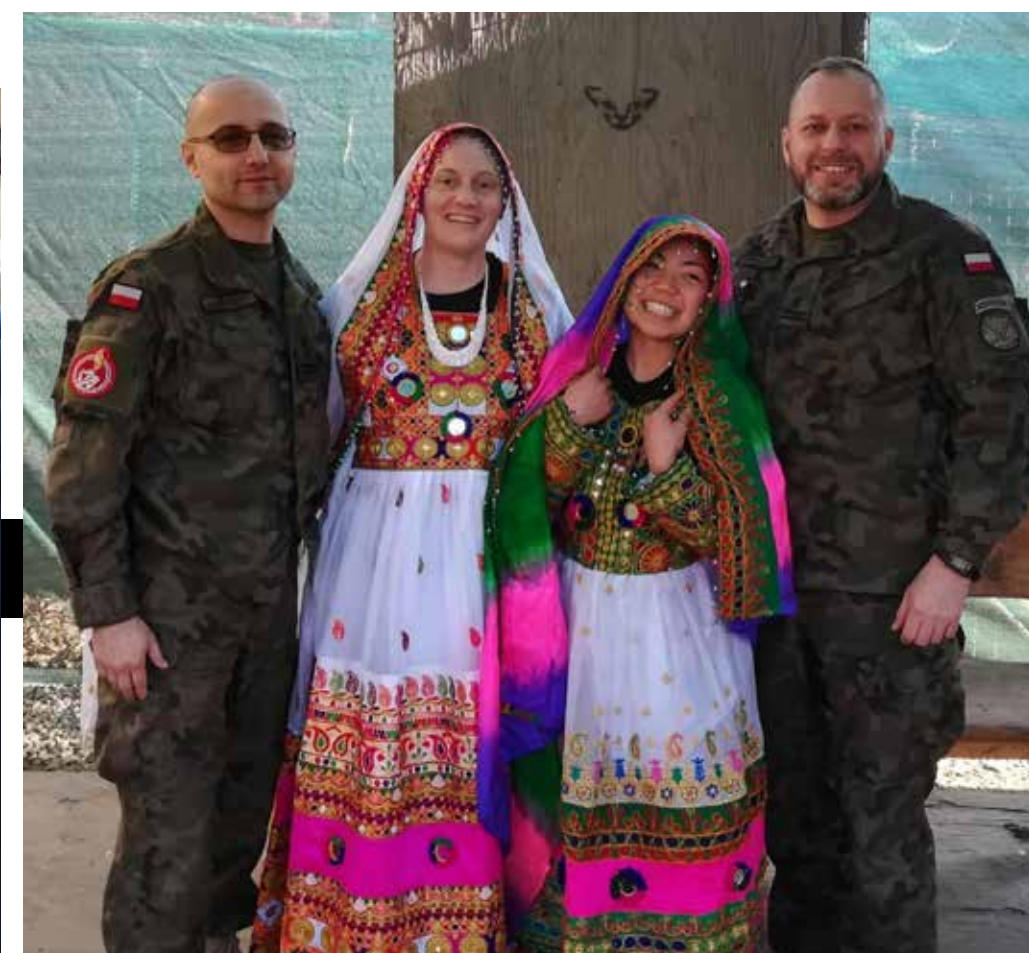
As the New Year begins, the deployment slowly comes to an end for the members of the Fenty Role II. The patient load at the Role II has slowed down as we settle into the winter months which allows the members of the Role II to sharpen their skills and prepare to hand of the clinic to the Incoming unit. As the incoming personnel begins to dwindle in the Role II has begun to prepare the clinic for their arrival as well as train to make sure that the clinic and the TAAC-E Area of Operations are left in good hands. Although the personnel of the Role II are looking forward to redeployment we also see it as an honor and privilege to serve TF Tomahawk and the soldiers of TAAC-E.

-SGT Jacob Coughlin

Charlie MED, 4th BSB listen attentively while being addressed at their end of tour awards ceremony at the Role II at FOB Fenty, Jalalabad, Afghanistan.



TASK FORCE LEOPARD POLICE ADVISORY TEAM



LOOKING BACK: THE COMMAND TEAMS OF FORWARD OPERATING BASE FENTY



TASK FORCE SPARTAN
3RD BRIGADE, 10TH INFANTRY DIVISION
FEBRUARY 2006 - JUNE 2007
COL JOHN NICHOLSON - CSM JAMES REDMORE



TASK FORCE SLUGGER
3RD SQUADRON, 89TH CAVALRY REGIMENT
OCTOBER 2015 - JUNE 2016
LTC GREGG HALEY - CSM ANTONIO LEJA



TASK FORCE BAYONET
173RD ABCT,
JUNE 2007 - JUNE 2008
COL CHARLES PREYSLER - CSM ISAIA VIMOTO



TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN WARRIOR
4TH BCT, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
APRIL 2012 - DECEMBER 2012
COL JAMES MINGUS - CSM KEVIN GRIFFIN



TASK FORCE LONGKNIFE
4TH SQUADRON, 3RD CAVALRY REGIMENT
JUNE 2016 - FEBRUARY 2017
LTC RYAN HOWELL - CSM MATTHEW LADD



TASK FORCE DUKE
3RD BCT, 1ST INFANTRY DIVISION
JUNE 2008 - JUNE 2009
COL JOHN SPISZER - CSM RONALD OROSZ



TASK FORCE BASTOGNE
1ST BCT, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
DECEMBER 2012 - SEPTEMBER 2013
COL J.P. MCGEE - CSM THOMAS EPPLER



TASK FORCE BUFFALO
4TH BATTALION, 17TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
FEBRUARY 2017 - SEPTEMBER 2017
LTC DUSTIN MITCHELL - CSM DERECK CLIFTON



TASK FORCE MOUNTAIN WARRIOR
4TH BCT, 4TH INFANTRY DIVISION
JUNE 2009 - MAY 2010
COL RANDY GEORGE - CSM CHARLES SASSER



TASK FORCE WILD BOAR
2ND BATTALION, 30TH INFANTRY REGIMENT
SEPTEMBER 2013 - MARCH 2014
LTC ALAN BOYER - CSM JOSEPH SINGERHOUSE



TASK FORCE GERONIMO
1ST BATTALION, 501ST PARACHUTE INFANTRY REGIMENT
SEPTEMBER 2017 - MAY 2018
LTC JAMES UPTGRAFT - CSM JONNY RESSUGUIE



TASK FORCE BASTOGNE
1ST BCT, 101ST AIRBORNE DIVISION
JUNE 2010 - MAY 2011
COL ANDREW POPPAS - CSM KEVIN BENSON



TASK FORCE FIRST STRIKE
1ST BATTALION, 502ND INFANTRY REGIMENT
MARCH 2014 - JANUARY 2015
LTC ARIE RICHARDS - CSM BRIAN MEISNER



TASK FORCE TOMAHAWK
2ND BATTALION, 23RD INFANTRY REGIMENT
MAY 2018 - JANUARY 2019
LTC RYAN D. BARNETT - CSM LANCE KIRKHAM



TASK FORCE BRONCO
3RD BCT, 25TH INFANTRY DIVISION
MAY 2011 - APRIL 2012
COL RICHARD KIM - CSM ANDREW SPANO



TASK FORCE WAR
1ST SQUADRON, 33RD CAVALRY REGIMENT
FEBRUARY 2015 - OCTOBER 2015
LTC JASON CURL - CSM GERARD HATLEY
CSM STEVEN CAMPBELL



TASK FORCE ROUGHRIDER
1ST SQUADRON - 108TH CAVALRY REGIMENT
JANUARY 2019 -
LTC SCOTT JACKELS - CSM JASON YORK

Task Force Tomahawk's TRANSFER OF AUTHORITY



On January 17, 2019, Task Force Tomahawk closed out an important chapter in the history of the 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. LTC Ryan Barnett and CSM Lance Kirkham cased the storied Battalion Colors marking the end of the 2018-2019 deployment in Afghanistan. The Tomahawk Battalion wishes the best of luck to their successors on FOB Fenty, and resishes in the many memories and successes of the unit during this time.



Task Force Tomahawk left FOB Fenty with an adequate reminder of their successful deployment. The Tomahawks' crest is adorned on the PAX Terminal Gazebo, greeting anyone who visits the FOB.



Tomahawk History: IRAQI SURGE

2007 - 2008

BY SPC CHRISTOPHER BOUCHARD

In April of 2007, 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment, assigned to the 4BCT, 2nd Infantry Division from Fort Lewis, Washington, deployed to Iraq in support of the Iraq Surge Strategy, under Operation Iraqi Freedom, also named "The New Way Forward," by then President George W. Bush. The mission was to overwhelm and suppress the growing insurgency of that time, that had resulted in countless civilian, Iraqi Security, and U.S. Military deaths. The Iraqi Surge Strategy called for the deployment of an additional five Brigades to the areas near Baghdad. Assigned to the "Dragoon Raiders," Brigade, Tomahawks were part of the first deployment ever to utilize all ten variants of the Stryker Vehicle. The Tomahawk Battalion was assigned to utilize full spectrum combat ops to provide security, and clear out Al Qaeda in Iraq (AQI), Islamic State of Iraq (ISI) and other Shia militia groups from Diyala Province and the Northern Belt; to the North and East of Baghdad. Notable involvements include the Battle of Baqubah, and Operation Arrowhead Ripper during June 2007, where 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment assisted in the gaining control of the city from insurgents, liberating the citizens from the extremist rule they had been subjected to. Throughout the deployment, Tomahawk Soldiers performed dismounted patrols from their Stryker Vehicles, clearing Al-Qaeda from the province and preventing them from securing any additional strongholds near Zaginayah and other areas. Operation Tomahawk Thrasher near Qubah, saw 2-23 Infantry, Iraqi Police, and Iraqi Army forces working together to fight the enemy during joint operations. During these operations a firefight resulted in suspects of AQI being detained and others killed, resulting in the rescue of 2 kidnapped victims who were being held and tortured in an underground chamber. First Sergeant William Linares of Crazyhorse Company described working with Iraqi Forces; that as a result of Tomahawk Involvement, Iraqi Police and Iraqi Army were working well in their area of operation and gaining trust in the local population, as citizens began to feel more

secure seeing Iraqi Forces working alongside of U.S. Forces. In January of 2008, Colonel Jon S. Lehr, Commander of the 4BCT, described the combat tactics used during the Iraq Surge Campaign, "Three words, deny, hold, build. Deny safe haven to Al Qaeda, hold hard fought areas, and build economic governance and essential services people need in Diyala Province." In December of 2007, Crazyhorse Company, again worked alongside Iraqi Forces in a night time raid on the town of Bodija. Tomahawk Soldiers using night vision cleared and secured the outskirts of the town, setting up a perimeter in which Iraqi forces could conduct their Air Assault into the town. Soldiers cleared IEDs and weapons caches allowing the 60 Iraqi troops to launch their raid. The joint mission highlighted U.S. strategy of enabling Iraqis to gain experience, take ownership of their fight against insurgents, and fight for their country. On February 8th, 2008, a team from the HHC Company Scout Platoon was ambushed by insurgent gunmen. The team repelled the ambush and began to pursue the attackers despite resistance from AK-47 and rocket propelled grenade fire. Corporal Luke S. Runyan was leading his team by fire until he was mortally wounded. Another Soldier, Specialist Rodney Yefune continued the attack, single handedly assaulting the enemy position, wiping it out. He was able to maintain his position, and aid and assist his wounded teammates. For their actions, Corporal Luke Runyan was awarded the Bronze Star Medal with Valor posthumously, and Specialist Rodney Yefune received a Silver Star. While deployed to Iraq, the Tomahawk Battalion contributed to the nine Brigade level operations and the 550 Battalions and Company level missions completed by the Dragoon Raiders. They were responsible for killing over 600 insurgents, detaining 1,700, clearing 1,295 IEDs, and 550 weapons caches. Despite their successes, the Brigade lost 54 Soldiers over the 15 month deployment, many of which came from 2nd Battalion, 23rd Infantry Regiment. The Battalion was awarded a Meritorious Unit Commendation for its support during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

PHOTOS PROVIDED BY 4BCT, 2ID PUBLIC AFFAIRS



1



3



2



4



5

1 A Tomahawk Soldier provides overwatch from the top of an Iraqi Compound.

2 A Soldier from 2-23 Infantry looks inside a mud shack for potential threats during a patrol near Zaginayah Iraq.

3 A Soldier stands next to the captured underground bunker where two kidnapped victims were held and tortured in February 2008.

4 A Tomahawk Soldier clears buildings during night time operations ahead of a joint U.S. and Iraqi operation clearing the town of Bodija, Iraq.

5 A Soldier from Crazyhorse Co. 2-23 Infantry provides security in a palm grove during a patrol near Zaginayah Iraq.

FACES OF Fenty



Follow the Tomahawks ON FACEBOOK

2-23 Infantry Regiment:

@TomahawksCarson

Aztec:

@AlphaCo223

Brave:

@BraveCompany223

Crazyhorse:

@Crazyhorse223

Hawkeye:

@HHC223

Tomahawk Chaplain:

@TomahawkChaplain

@RaiderChaplains

Reapers:

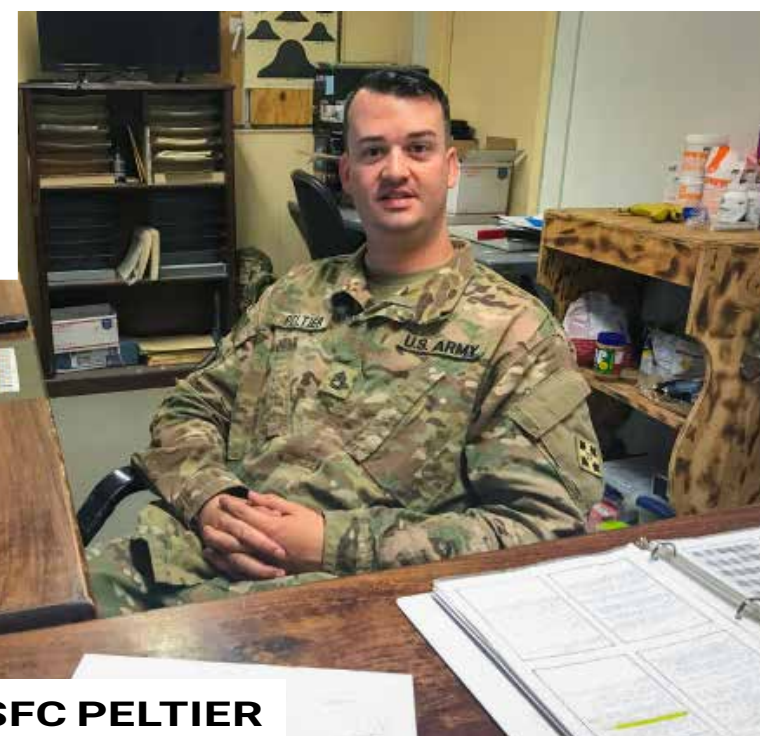
@CharlieCompanyReapers

Sentinel:

@DCo299BEB



REENLISTMENT NCO



»» SFC PELTIER

Hello Tomahawks. This deployment is coming to an end and I am looking forward to getting back to Fort Carson and starting the next chapter. With that being said, the window to get your reenlistment bonus tax free is closing quickly. If you were deployed for any part of January, you have on until January 31st to reenlist and still get a tax free bonus. Please keep in mind that as we redeploy and your deployment codes are lifted branch will have more freedom to place you on assignment. Take control of your next career move and reenlist for the location, MOS, or school that you want. If you are contemplating getting out and feel you may need more time to transition properly please consider an extension. There is no need to rush to

failure. Do the extension and take advantage of all the great programs that SFL-TAP has to offer. Enjoy the time with your family and the upcoming block leave periods, you have earned it! I will be staying in the Fort Carson area over block leave so feel free to contact me if there is anything you need. It is my honor to take care of our Tomahawks and their families. It is my goal to make sure our Soldier's needs, wants, and desires are met. My office is located on OB Fenty but I am fully capable of assisting you no matter where you are located, to include the Tomahawk Ready Force. Please, do not hesitate to reach out and contact me with any questions regarding your career path or reenlistment options. We Serve!

Bruce Peltier
TF Tomahawk Retention

TOMAHAWKS



WELCOME

HOME

