



Operation Enduring Freedom - Afghanistan

ATTACK! Battery, 1-62 ADA

JULY/AUGUST 2004



FAMILY READINESS GROUP NEWSLETTER, VOL II
([HTTP://WWW-25IDL.ARMY.MIL/UNIT_FRAME.ASP?UNIT_ID=62](http://www-25idl.army.mil/unit_frame.asp?unit_id=62))

THIS NEWSLETTER CONTAINS OFFICIAL BUSINESS AND INFORMATION

Inside This Issue:

- Pg. 1 Commander's Corner**
- Pg. 2 HQ PLT**
- Pg. 4 1ST PLT**
- Pg. 4 2ND PLT**
- Pg. 5 3RD PLT**
- Pg. 6 JLENS Section**
- Pg. 6 Sponsors Highlight**

Commander's Corner:



"Attack 6 takes tea w/ the locals"

Aloha from Kandahar!!!

Notes from Kandahar continues for July and August, and I hope this newsletter finds you safe and doing very well! Upfront, our Platoons are very busy, so I am going to take the burden off some of the LTs to write up a contribution, and roll up all the significant activities for them.

First, let me say to our Spouses – Please know how much love and emotion fills our continuous thoughts of you. We miss you to the point of heartache. If you haven't heard from your husband, I know that you will understand when I tell you that he is under a very heavy operational tempo. All the spouses in 1st Platoon – please send your husbands your love, notes, letters, and care packages. They are in very austere conditions and any contact from you will help to raise their spirits.

Secondly, as some of you have probably heard or experienced,

our Soldiers have already begun cycling thru Rest and Relaxation (R&R) Leave. It is our hope that every Soldier will receive R&R, but it is not guaranteed. As it stands, we have every Soldier slated to take leave, but I have to add this unfortunate disclaimer that situations may arise that prevent Soldiers from taking leave, or possibly have an abrupt or surprise change of schedule. This is due in part to aircraft availability and flight schedules.

Rather than read my comments this time, I wanted to give everyone an opportunity to read some of the notes we have received from across the country.

From New York:

"Dear Soldier, My name is Nicole and I'm a 17 yr old high school student from NY. Everyday I sit watching the news, praying that all of you are safe. You guys are the All-American heroes. I am filled with such a sense of pride every time I think of what you guys are doing. God Bless, Nicole Potter"

From Michigan:

"Dear Troops, Do any of you have kids or did you just get married? Lexi's sister is in Afghanistan and her name is Robin. She is a Soldier. She fights for America. Sincerely, Jeremy"

From Texas:

"Dear Soldiers, I tried to con this lady out of the juicy fruit in this package, but she wouldn't let me have it. We greatly appreciate your service to our country, and we are keeping you in our prayers. Sincerely, Conner"

From Indiana:

"Dear Toddie Waddie, I love you and pray for you everyday. It seems like only yesterday I brought home the most beautiful

baby boy – I couldn't believe you were mine. You have always brought great joy. Love, Mom"

From Prison:

*"Dear Captain Schmidt, I think you and your boys are so tough and rough looking. You look great in green, and even better when you are all sweaty. Truly Yours, Big Jim
P.S. Thanks for the picture"*

From Michigan:

"Dear Troops, My name is Alex, but I like to be called "Butters." I like to play basketball. I'm short and I'm in the 5th Grade. I'm 10yrs old. That's all. Thanks for your time. Sincerely, Alex Hess P.S. I'm a boy."

From California:

"Dear Soldiers, I am sorry that allies are dying. I wish you good luck. Just remember what you are fighting for and you can't lose. You are fighting for California. Sincerely, Bryan"

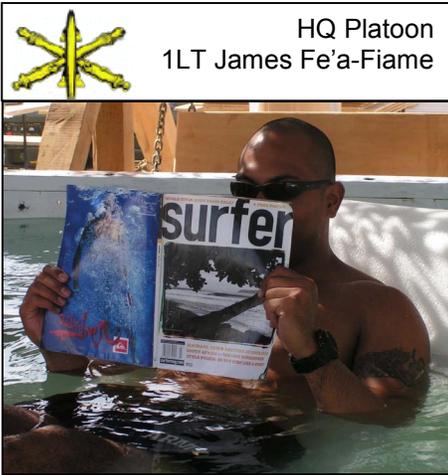
The best for last:

"Dear Captain Schmidt, I write to express my warmest good wishes to you and all the Soldier in your command. As an American citizen, I deeply appreciate your service. May I add that I served three years overseas in WWII with the 62nd as Commander of Battery A in Sicily, France and Germany. It was a good outfit at the time, and I am sure it is a better one now. Most Sincerely Yours, William Harbaugh"

Mr. Harbaugh - A former Commander and Warrior of ATTACK Battery - I express my deepest gratitude for your service in WWII, and want you to know that it is with humbling honor that I now command the band of Soldiers you once led.

(By the way, the prison quote was a joke).

Now for some updates!



"Who ever said there weren't any waves here?"

Alooooooha from the scorching sands of Afghanistan where the mighty "Wolf Pack" platoon continue in their courageous efforts in support of OEF-V. Since our last FRG newsletter our soldiers have accomplished numerous missions in and out of their fields of specialty earning these work horses the respect and appreciation of all units here in Kandahar Army Airfield. As it stands all commodity areas within the Headquarters Platoon have deployed forward at least once beyond the boundaries of our lovely compound in support of the "Line Dogs" (the line platoons) and other subordinate units, which fall under the Bronco Brigade. For starters, CW2 Ronnie Stephens has run various maintenance missions to almost every major forward operating base to ensure equipment readiness and proper functionality of the Avengers. Currently Mr. Stephens stands deployed with the help of our 27T (Systems Technician), SGT(P) Jose Cruz to resolve a systems issue in Shkin.

As for the rest of our motorpool personnel, our "wrench turners" (mechanics) stay gainfully employed fixing vehicles tormented by the rugged mountainous terrain that falls upon this Southwest Asian territory. Headed by our very own motor sergeant, SSG Gabriel Garcia and light-wheeled vehicle mechanic, SPC David Blankenship work tirelessly salvaging what's left of our vehicles that come back from mission. The work load although seemingly

heavy, is "...continous and bearable, keeping our skills at its fullest peak," states SSG Garcia. "I tell you what is unbearable though is this HEAT!" he adds. SPC Blankenship intuitively insists, "In these conditions the heat brings upon stress and weakness, but as if our lives depended on it we always seem to *wrench* away like there's no tomorrow."

Speaking of heat, current temperatures have risen, peaking at and around 120+ degrees. Despite the swealtering temperatures our soldiers find a way to perservere and accomplish the mission.

Commo has seen their share of labor entering the hottest months of the year. Through June alone SSG Raul Rodriguez and SPC(P) Jason Roseburgh have traveled to both Orgun-E and Shkin in order to service commo equipment in preparation of 2nd Platoon's missions. "The missions were a learning experience...SSG Rodriguez taught me the tricks of the trade," says SPC Roseburgh.

Through all fronts communication has been a vital key to our daily operations. Whether it be working automations or running hard wire, commo keeps us in touch with just about anyone. They are bound by the "31U Code of Honor": *...In rain, mud, sleet, or snow, I lay the wire to and fro. I keep you talking far and near, A COMMO soldier has no fear. I troubleshoot the system all through the night, I find the problem, fix it, and get ready to fight. No praise or recognition when the job is done, I am the COMMO soldier the Army's forgotten one.*

Our Automated Logistics Specialists continue with their daily functions of parts requisition, unserviceable parts turn-in, and data entry. CPL Tonya Tucker sees her job as the center of our motorpool operations; and in most headquarters units what commodity area doesn't feel the same. SPC Jermaine Anderson

would like to address that, "we're the bread and butter, baby! If you need it, we'll get it."

Moving along to the other side of the logistics world, the 92Y's definitely have much to brag about. Among their many daily duties, one being laundry turn-in which I think is probably one of the toughest jobs here in Afganistan (who else has the intestinal fortitude to handle the commander's dirty drawers), they have been tasked to support vehicular check points (VCP). Due to the Muslim culture our male soldiers are prohibited from searching female passer-bys. Consequently taking their customs into consideration we have tasked our female soldiers with the drudgery of female body searches.

Supporting LRSD for over a period of 12 days, "high-speed" SPC Robin Weller encountered many challenges that she had never faced in her 3-year Army career. She says, "It was fun working with the different units such as ¾ CAV, LRSD, and the Afghan National Army. Although they're not use to working with females, I feel that we were able to look past gender and accomplish the mission at hand."

SGT Cristina Martinez and CPL Tonya Tucker were both also tasked in support of 3-7 FA's VCP which brings great credit upon themselves and the "ATTACK" battery.

Our Early Warning section has returned from their "secret squirrel" missions as tactical human intelligence ground security supporting 1-25 MI. They're considered our 007s of "ATTACK" battery. Out on mission these gentlemen were privledged with growing full-lengthed beards and wearing civilian clothes which helped them blend right in with the local populace. Led by SSG Chad Rogers, our "Secret Sensor Squad" trained and lived among many special groups. "It shows that 14J's are highly versatile and can operate in any type of mission. Aside from the present danger, it was a great opportunity to work along side special forces and other government agencies. I can say that it was a very exciting experience

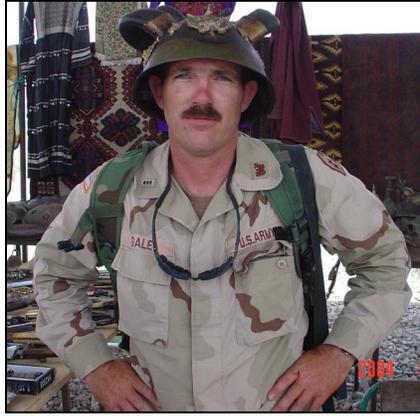
and that I've learned training outside the early warning realm. The training with Afghan Commandos was a great opportunity and we learned a little of the way they fight." Currently our Early Warning section is preparing to deploy forward in support of 2-5 IN, co-locating with our sister line platoon "OLD SCHOOL" (1st PLT).

Last but not least, our platoon daddy SSG(P) Paul R. Brewer continues to be the motivational force behind the operations of the "Wolf Pack" platoon. His job description is 10 fold and if you can think it, he's done it. With coffee cup in hand, the burly country bumpkin makes it happen. From administrative issues to travel agent SSG(P) Brewer is our "go-to" guy. A man of few words, SSG(P) Brewer enthusiastically describes our current deployment as "GREAT."

Finally on a personal note, I would like to thank each and every one of my soldiers for the hard work that they put forth on a daily basis in support of the Global War on Terrorism. I am truly proud to serve along side these patriots of freedom and I would also like to express a big "Mahalo" to all the families and loved ones of these brave soldiers. We miss you all dearly and continue to ask for your prayers of love and support. Thank you also to the many sponsors of the "ATTACK" battery for their generous contributions. Out here there's nothing like receiving a little taste of home. Also I'd like to send a shout out to "Beast" battery in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. GOD Bless, rally point: BREAKERS. Till next time, "WOLF PACK!!"



Featured Soldier of the Month **CW3 Richard Gale:**



The "New & Improved" Kevlar Helmet

We've all heard the likes of Bob Villa, Tim "the Toolman" Taylor, and Black & Decker, but no one compares to the bullet-dodging carpenter hailing from Kahuku, Hawaii. If you think those celebrities can create masterpieces, then let me enlighten you with the innovations and ideas brought to life in CW3 Gale's creations.

From beds to a gazebo to even a jacuzzi, the madness doesn't stop. Where does he get his ideas? What's next on the agenda of his monster garage creations? To answer these puzzling questions we must first understand the man, the myth, and soon to be 'Legend'.

CW3 Richard Gale, "**CHIEF**" as we know him, serves as our battalion maintenance officer (BMO) aiding in the serviceability and maintenance of our systems deployed in theater.

The uniqueness of CHIEF Gale lies not only on what he offers as an Avenger Maintenance Technician but also what he has to offer with a hammer, a few nails, and whole lot of imagination.

Since our arrival in country, CHIEF has dedicated a lot of his time to easing our stay in Afghanistan. He believes he would do anything to make life a little more comfortable. And in believing that, CHIEF has definitely succeeded.

Take for instance the bed which he constructed for yours truly. After many sleepless nights upon my Army issued cot, I had expressed to CHIEF my desire to buy a better bed. Within a span of 8 hours, and to my surprise, CHIEF had configured an all-terrain combat 'Sealy-Posturepedic' sleeping apparatus (ATCSPSA). I've never slept better in my life (kidding).

Nonetheless we've been a little pampered. Just to mention a few of the things that CHIEF has built for our recreational enjoyment includes: a section-sized porch swing (fits 2-4 soldiers fully combat loaded), 2 cast-iron BBQ grills for just about any kind of land rover, bar stools made of used propane tanks, a smoking bench for the nicotine dependent. CHIEF even refurbished an old guard shack into an air-conditioned shop office (which has now been confiscated due to informal acquisition procedures).

CHIEF's latest creation, I must say, is by far the most creative – and because I consider myself a 'waterman' my most favorite creation of all – a Jacuzzi. Made from an old water tank, CHIEF has constructed a 10' X 10', two thousand gallon swimming pool. It may not be the surf that I was once accustomed to, but in this water-stricken country, beggars can't be choosers. Equipped with a heater and jets this swimming pool is built for your year-round enjoyment.

With the help of his trusty side-kick "Dennis", CHIEF is now constructing a new shop office in lieu of the the guard shack that was taken from us after 2 weeks.

Who knows what future projects lurk in the mind of Mr. Gale. All we do know is that we will definitely reap the rewards of his sweat and hard work. So for contributing to the moral and wellbeing of the "Wolf Pack" platoon we recognize CW3 Richard Gale as our honorary "FEATURED SOLDIER OF THE MONTH!!!"

Re-Enlistments

SPC Jermaine Anderson

Promotions

The following soldiers have attained a promotable status:

CW2(P) Ronnie Stephens

SGT(P) Jose Cruz
SPC(P) Jason Roseburgh

Anniversaries

Sitonius & Lcretia Hollomon 03 Jul
Alvin & Maria Cruz 10 Jul
Roger & Andrea Randall 08 Aug

CW3 Richard Gale 07 Jul
-20 years of service

Soldier Birthdays

PFC Chris Cipponeri 22 Jul
CW2(P) Ronnie Stephens 28 Jul
SSG Chad Rogers 30 Jul
CPT Tonya Tucker 04 Aug
SPC Sitonius Hollomon 06 Aug
PVT Alvin Cruz 12 Aug
SPC Nathan Bair 14 Aug

Spouse Birthdays

Bridgette Spurlock 04 Jul
Alisha Cooper 27 Aug

Children's Birthdays

Keira Brewer 01 Jun
Andrew Rodriguez 16 Jun
Angela Rodriguez 06 Jul
Sytenechia Hollomon 17 Jul
Amir Ferguson 29 Jul
Elleana Roseburgh 02 Aug
Darrian Williams 14 Aug
Ryan Brewer 15 Aug
Mathew Williams 16 Aug
Laquallays Hollomon 18 Aug
Emily Sinchak 30 Aug

HQ Platoon Mail should be sent to:
(First Name), (Last Name) No Rank
A / 1-62 ADA, 3BCT HQ
APO AE 09355-9998



Aloha to the family and friends of 1st Platoon, A/1-62 ADA!

The month of July was a big month for us. As you all already know, we picked up and moved from our semi-comfortable living conditions in Ghazni to the harsh conditions of Tarin Kowt. If you all thought we were roughing it in Ghazni, multiply that by ten and you have Tarin Kowt.



If you can't tell in the photo, we sleep in our pup tents on the ground. The dirt here is like baby powder and it comes up to your ankles. Dust devils are frequent and are known to pick up a tent, pull it out of the ground and throw it across the base. Even though we have shower facilities, it's pretty much all for not and we constantly remain dirty.

Despite the harsh conditions, the morale and spirit of the platoon remains high. Plans are in place to do vast improvement to the base. Living quarters are currently under construction and we should expect to move in by mid-August.

Just a couple days after our arrival to Tarin Kowt, two Avenger teams (SSG Madison, SGT Hicks, SPC Roy; SSG Shafer, SPC Mieth, and PFC Thornton) were sent out with Bravo Company on a 20 day mission to the east to find and eliminate any Taliban contingent and to help the people of the surrounding area. Nothing but great things were mentioned by LTC Sellars and the leadership that was with the two Avenger crews about their performance.

We have new additions to 1st Platoon to help out Task Force 2-5 with security and support operations. We want to welcome SSG Rogers, SPC Miars, and

SPC Cooper to the team. They will be manning surveillance cameras.

I want to close saying thank you to all the family and friends for their much appreciated and welcomed care packages and letters. They mean a lot to the soldiers, especially in a place like this. We hope and pray that everyone at home is well. Thanks for your support!

Anniversaries:

David & Kimberly Madison 19 Jul
Jeff & Kathryn Hazard 09 Aug

Soldier Birthdays

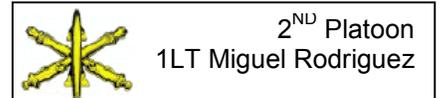
SSG Joel Gonzalez 02 Jul
SPC Cory Mieth 27 Jul
SGT Raun Jones 25 Aug
PFC Kevin Briseno 29 Aug

Spouse Birthdays

Karen Shafer 06 Jul

Children's Birthdays

Tedwood R. Strong, II 29 Jul



2nd Platoon, under the great leadership of 1LT Miguel Rodriguez and SFC Mark Newsome, continues to do an outstanding job! The big news coming out of 2nd PLT is that, although they have not moved to a new location, they are now under the command of Task Force Thunder. This means little to us at our Battery level, as we will continue to support them logistically and administratively.

CPT Schmidt had the opportunity to visit with members of 2nd PLT recently. All the Soldiers are doing fantastic. Recently, some of the Soldiers have been receiving "equipment" from their loved ones back on the mainland. As you will see

in the attached pictures, these gloves are not standard Army issue. They do not meet the rigorous requirements and regulations that Army equipment must meet.

To the sender of these gloves, please know that your Daddy was very grateful for your souvenir from Disneyland, but this glove design was not meant to be used with an M4 carbine. In the future, we recommend a more tactical glove. Something in black, green, or brown would be nice, too, as it matches his outfit better. Although the padding in these gloves was nice, it made it hard to open our vehicle doors or do anything else, for that matter.



Anniversaries

Chris & Nichelle Barksdale 11 Jul
 Charles & Tosha Druckemiller 15 Aug
 James & Carly Fessler 16 Aug

Soldier Birthdays

SPC Joshua Hill 21 Jul
 SSG Shawn Diggs 30 Jul
 SGT Robertson 07 Aug
 PVT Daniel Bermann 16 Aug
 1LT Miguel Rodriguez 18 Aug
 SGT Brandon Accardo 23 Aug

Spouse Birthdays

Nichelle Barksdale 17 Jul
 Kalicia Newsome 11 Aug

Children's Birthdays

Khristien Cummings 01 Jul
 Caliub Druckemiller 15 Jul
 Brooke Parker 30 Jul
 Kasey Clavijo 17 Aug

Anaï Lopez

27 Aug

2nd Platoon Mail should be sent to:
(First Name), (Last Name) No Rank
 2 / A / 1-62, TF 2-27 INF
 3rd BCT (ADA)
 APO AE 09361



3rd Platoon
 1LT Tim Bible

This month was adventurous. We were faced with a long and harsh mission in the mountains in central Afghanistan. The platoon once again showed no fear in countering the Anti-Coalition Forces. Our mission this time around was to conduct emergency resupply and act as a Quick Reaction Force for the companies out forward. We also acted as additional security and fire support for our Forward Operations Base.

As for morale, part of the Platoon has had the chance to fly to Qatar in the Persian Gulf. Very well deserved R&R I must say. This gives the guys an opportunity to release stress and overcome battle fatigue. Believe me, the military knew how to counter this action by providing this program for all the soldiers here in Afghanistan and Iraq. It is a short 4-day retreat for you civilian personnel. We all here are very grateful to have fellow Americans back home supporting us out here. Thank you.

For those who support us in every which way possible, providing us with material such as DVDs, magazines, general letters, CDs and many other items we extend our thanks to you. Special thanks goes out to John D. Marshall and his colleagues at the Law Firm in downtown Honolulu.

When the soldiers are on their down-time in recovery mode, we like to do the following: sit back and watch movies, play Playstation games, and read books and magazines. And of course, take the time and correspond with those who have

written us.

Thank you all so much for your thoughts and prayers. We miss and Love you all.
 3rd Platoon Warhammers.



Promotions:

SSG Dodson, Sean P.

Soldier Birthdays:

SGT Nemia Melander 10 Jul
 SGT Anthony Gann 07 Aug
 SGT Rafael Ramirez 13 Aug
 SGT Jeffrey Griffith 15 Aug
 SPC Matthew Wilson 20 Aug

Spouse Birthdays:

Tarameka Dodson 16 Jul
 Kashinta Johnson 22 Jul
 Pauline Griffith 05 Aug
 Ramona Melander 16 Aug

Children's Birthdays:

Allison Ojeda 24 Jul
 Mark Sewell 14 Aug
 James Donovan 27 Aug

Anniversaries:

Geovanni & Dina Santoyo 12 Jul
 Omar & Kashinta Johnson 29 Jul

3rd Platoon Mail should be sent to:
(First Name), (Last Name) No Rank
 HHC TF 2-35, 3rd BCT (ADA)
 APO AE 09355-9998





J.L.E.N.S. Section
2LT Cynthia Rankin

Soldier Birthdays

2LT Cynthia Rankin 18 Jul
SSG Jeremy Book 25 Jul
PFC Frankie Cox 22 Aug

Spouse Birthdays

Lynn Humbert 21 Jul

Children's Birthdays

Jeremy S. Book 31 Jul



Spot Light
Battery Sponsors

To all our great sponsors! Many of you ask, "what do you really need?" or "is there anything I can send that you don't have?," etc. I will tell you that you have been sending exactly what we need. Everything listed on the AnySoldier website is still valid. Soap, deodorant, shampoo, clothes detergent, razors, shaving cream, lotion, fly paper, used/new CDs/DVDs, model cars (with paint and glue), snacks, chips, canned soup/fruit, candy, individual sweetener packets, coffee, plastic silverware, wet wipes, toothbrush/ toothpaste, gifts for the Afghan kids (stuffed animals, clothes, candy, used/new toys, school supplies, etc.). Some additional suggestions would be pudding packs, icee pops (the kind we can freeze here), energy drinks (i.e. Red Bull), and daily vitamins.

Special thanks to a growing list. You all are AWESOME!!!

George Anderson
Sandy Auer
Robbie Baker
Connie Ball
Jesse Battaglia
Lisa Rosenburgh
Carolyn Blashek
Lisa Bodkin
James Bohum
Louis Brown
Sandy Bundy
Bill and Nadine Clewett
Rebecca Clouse

COL (R) J. Williams
David Cottengim
Custer Road UMC
Margie Daino
Barbara Davis
Laura De La Cruz
The Dowd Family
Joseph Eaton
George Egan
Susan Eimont
Stephanie Foster
Gerlinde Gautrey
William Harbaugh
Kelli Henson
Pat and Jen Holeva
The Horton Family
Christy Johnson
Kathy Jones
Jennifer Kiesewetter
Thomas Leirer
Mickey Cummings
The Madison Family
John Marshal and Company
Linda Mauldin
Rick and Janet McArthur
Charles and Doris McClester
Steve and Kaye McMahon
Kristi and Kaylee Mercer
Linda Miller
Jennifer Murphy
The Naval Safety Center
Brandon Odum
Operation We Care
The Paris Family
Andrea Pelletier
Muriel Petschke
Michelle Pietroforte
Nicole Potter
M. Rees
John Rodgers
The Stallings Family
Susan Stewart
Willy and Denise Stockton
Douglas Taylor
The Hartford Company
The Kaminky Family
The Ostentoski Family
The Sabo Family
Gregg Vaupel
The Watkins Family
Kevin Wilkinson
Patsy Young
Marilyn Evers
Beth Josuweit
Marie Garside
Susan Kalaine
Natalie Anderson
Tina Anderson
The Stephen Fossler Co.

BDO Seidman
Kristin Belbo
Betty Bryant
Craig Caltagirone
Andrea Duke
The Elmore Family
Joan Guylas
Hamilton Elementary School
Stephanie Hickey
Hillside Middle School
Renee Howard
Melissa Jackson
Mary Ann Janicki
Sandra Johnson
Kathy Jones
Jordan Evangelical Lutheran Church
Tracy Main
Mona Marino
Maywood Fire Department
Dottie Mendez
Brandon Nistas
Richard Palacios
Eric Quach
Marie Rokne
Brooks Simpson
Imogene Smith
Jonathan Tan
Douglas Taylor
Suzette Tse
David Watson

FRG Leader	Joy Schmidt 678-1249
Mainland	Sameerah Ferguson (248) 443-2637
HQ PLT POC	Shannon Garcia 833-8864
1 st PLT POC	Kathryn Hazard 627-9449
2 nd PLT POC	Cecilia Rodriguez 624-9290
3 rd PLT POC	Jamie Bible 624-8200
EW PLT POC	Sasannah Williams 834-4496
ADADO POC	Angela Lewis 624-5582
Secretary	Kathryn Hazard 627-9449
Fundraising	Sasannah Williams 834-4496 Bridgette Spurlock 358-9119