



Lightning Newsletter

of the Joint Logistics Command, CJTF-76

Issue 4, August 2004



A little Aloha in Afghanistan



LTC Thomas' Farewell

ALOHA!



Downtown Kabul, the Capitol of Afghanistan

Joint Logistics Command

By COL Richard G. Hatch

Aloha from Bagram Airfield! July was a great month for the Joint Logistics Command. We kicked off the month with a 4th of July "Freedom isn't Free" Run sponsored by Logistical Task Force 725. It was a 6.2-mile fun run around the perimeter of Bagram Air Field with 1200 participants. The unit raised over \$21,000 in support of Fisher Houses around the United States. Way to go LTF 725!

We have started our own Rest and Relaxation (R&R) Pass Program this month. It allows service members the opportunity to spend a few days in Qatar to unwind and get away from the daily stresses of the combat environment in Afghanistan. They have the opportunity to do some shopping, relax by the pool and even take a desert safari. The Soldiers that have already taken the trip can't stop talking about it; they had that much fun!

As the end of July neared, the JLC hosted the CJOA's first ever Class I Subsistence Summit. In attendance were Mr. William Kenny, Executive Business Manager along with key members from Central Command, the Defense Logistics Agency, CJTF-76 and other interest agencies. This summit was critical in that it laid the foundation for us to implement a 21-day menu in Dining Facilities across Afghanistan. We are excited and looking forward to serving the first meal off the 21-day menu in October of this year as opposed to the heat and serve meals that we are currently using. I am thoroughly convinced that this will be a huge morale boost to every Soldier, Sailor, Airmen, Marine and contractor living and working here in the Afghanistan CJOA.

In addition to the Class I Subsistence Summit, we've hosted some very distinguished visitors this month. We started the month with a visit from LTG Campbell, USARPAC Commanding General, on the 2nd of July. LTG Campbell's primary focus was to meet, greet and to thank Service Members for their hard work, dedication and sacrifices in service to their country...the United States of America!

We also hosted MG Williams, 21st Theater Support Command Commanding General, and BG(P) Kamiya, SETAF Commanding General. We provided them an extremely in-depth logistics overview, as they will succeed us for OEF VI next year. We are encouraged that we have provided them the necessary information and have set the conditions in order for them to continue the logistical success that we are currently enjoying.

Also, MG Pillsbury, Aviation and Missile Command Commanding General, visited the JLC this month. We provided him a complete logistics overview in order for him to gain a better appreciation of the expansive JLC mission. With the close of this month and the beginning of the next, we are looking forward to hosting a few more distinguished visitors and sharing our logistical success story.

With all of the great morale boosting going on here we hope that our families are taking vacations and relaxing before the busy school year begins again. Please encourage your deployed family members to take advantage of the many great opportunities and spend a few days relaxing and enjoying all the new programs we now have to offer!

HHC JLC

Time is speeding by here, and the first of our company members have had an opportunity to go on R&R pass to Qatar this month. We are continuing to work to schedule a date for our second MWR VTC. In addition we are working toward scheduling them at least twice a month.

Here are some of the activities for the past month:

Soldiers from our Maintenance Support Team
Work hard to repair a customer units equipment



Major Suenkel and SSG Edmonds take a break while awaiting transport.



The following HHC soldiers will be celebrating an August birthday:



SFC Abadilla
SFC Denson
MSG Faniel

SPC Rankin

CPT Young
SSG Edmonds
MSG Drummond



Thanks for all your support and remember please let the Family Readiness Group (FRG) leader (Mr. Irvin) or CPT Stephanie Green (ph #808-655-8516) if there is anything we can do to alleviate some of your concerns. Again, thanks for you support, thoughts, and prayers. Hope to hear from you soon.

CPT Vasquez & 1SG Abbott

“One Team, Lightning Support”

ALOHA from the Distribution Management Center

Greetings from Team DMC (Distribution Management Center), located not only in Bagram, but also with heroes in Kandahar, Salerno, and Arifjan, Kuwait. No mission is too big for these Soldiers. A great team effort. Your soldiers have been working hard and doing great things to support the Warfighter. You can be proud of them all.

The mission is 24/7 and that is expected, but our leadership has begun to allow soldiers to go on four day Rest and Relaxation (R & R) Passes. Some of our soldiers have chosen to stay here in Bagram, but most have opted to go to Qatar, a little over five flight hours away. It is a safe, controlled area where they can relax, swim, meet other Soldiers (from Afghanistan and Iraq), order from a restaurant such as Chili's and participate in group activities such as water sports or a Desert Safari. Soldiers are excited and ready to go. The following Soldiers have already experienced the R & R: SPC Andrews, SPC McDougall, SPC Smith, SGT Santos and SGT Gooden. Others wait anxiously for their opportunity



On the Desert Safari while on R & R in Qatar. Back Row: SPC Fuhlendorf, SPC Andrews, SSG Kirchen, the tour guide, SPC McDougall; Front: CPL Watkins, SPC Rankin



We are happy to welcome three new soldiers to the DMC: MSG Bensimon, SFC Cooper, and SPC Rose. MSG Bensimon has taken charge of the newly planned Self-Service Supply Store. SFC Cooper has had a great month; he was promoted to Sergeant First Class, and also had a birthday (21 and counting ☺) – Hooah to SFC Cooper. SPC Rose is working in the ASL section with SFC Brewer. She has already done great things and is going to re-enlist this month to continue to serve our great country.



MAJ Munn re-enlists SPC Rose. SFC Cooper and SGT Rose (SPC Rose's husband) are holding the flag in the background.

A great thing happened this month for our Soldiers and loved ones in the rear. Coordination was made by the great Americans here and at Schofield Barracks which allowed Soldiers and families to communicate and see each other by Video Teleconference. It was a great success and morale booster on both ends of the screen. These video-conferences will continue as our leadership is dedicated not only to the mission and our Soldiers, but to their loved ones in the rear. Hooah to all who made this happen.

Your prayers, care packages, letters, email, and support mean so much to all. You continue to be in our prayers and thoughts. Be safe, take care, and God Bless America.

*** DMC Birthdays ***	
SFC Cooper	- 15 July
SGT Gooden	- 24 July
SGT Pearson	- 26 July

39th Movement Control Battalion

HHD, 39th MCB

HHD, 39th welcomes newly promoted SSG Shelly Patrick to our family. She arrived from Schofield Barrack recently where she performed duties in the Movement Control Office of the 25 ID DISCOM.

The battalion was busy this month as MCT Kandahar put in a “Herculean” effort to push out the 22nd MEU and MCT Bagram is currently working to get the 1-501 PIR home. Additionally, we continue to move sustainment cargo to locations throughout the CJOA. The units are working hard to make sure that no mission fails due to logistics. “We’ll Carry You!”



MCT Bagram

By SFC Pablo Fernandez

Deep Loss



On 12 Jul we lost a member of the 453rd CTC.

SPC Juan M. Torres was a Load Planner assigned to 2nd Platoon. Born in Cordoba, Argentina in 1979, he has been residing in Houston, TX since 1980. He graduated from Basic Training at Ft Jackson, SC on Apr 1997 and finished his Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting from the University of Houston in 2003. He is survived by his mother, Susana Ferro, his father Juan D. Torres and his sisters Veronica and Paola. He will be missed!!

Promotions

On 10 Jul CPT Rivera and SFC Fernandez traveled to FOB Salerno to promote PFC Salas to the rank of Specialist. SPC Salas is the primary HAZMAT Certifier and Load Planner for the 870th MCT. On 20 Jul CPT Rivera and SFC Fernandez also promoted PV2 Wright to the rank of Private First Class. Both soldiers are hard working individuals and are an example for others to follow. Congratulations!!!



Operations



So far in the month of July we have planned and executed over 300 missions, moved 3,000 passengers and close to 2,200 s-tons of cargo. We have brought in and manage an excess of 800 sustainment containers, the life of the base and its supported Forward Operating Bases (FOBs) and are currently assisting the the 1-501st INF BN, from Alaska, with their redeployment. This entails all aspects from site management, documentation, containerization, BB&T and everything else that pops up.

Within the next month or so we will bid farewell to the 453rd CTC and receive the 268th CTC from Puerto Rico. We want to thank all the soldiers of the 453rd CTC for their hard work and dedication to mission accomplishment. Job well done!!!

MCT Salerno

By CPT Todd McKay

There were three promotions in the unit this month. SFC McCahon was promoted to MSG, SPC Cruz was promoted to SGT and SPC Mejia was promoted to Sergeant. We also promoted SPC Zaho and SPC Chin to Sergeant.



SPC Salas, SGT Cruz, SGT Mejia in front of Marine Cobra helicopter.

Logistics Task Force 325



Friends and families of the 325th Forward Support Battalion,

This past month has been an exciting and challenging one, but you should know our Soldiers have risen to the occasion without fail. As you may be aware, the country of Afghanistan is looking forward to elections in the Fall. A major effort of the Coalition forces here will be to ensure the elections occur as planned. All efforts are on track for this important milestone in Afghan history.

There can be no doubt that being away from hearth and home and loved ones is not easy. It would be easy to get down and discouraged but we have so much to be thankful for as Americans! Even in the middle of the inhospitable desert of Southern Afghanistan we enjoy tremendous blessings. Allow me to list just a few.

- Food – we have a variety fresh fruits and vegetables flown in as well as a large selection of traditional American fare brought in by container.
- Water – we drink bottled water and we have water from our wells for showers and dining facilities.
- Shelter – our living tents are air-conditioned and in most cases Soldiers have mattresses.
- Exercise – we have a gym with exercise machines and weights; SGM Wildhagen from the 3/4 Cav had a great running route made for us as well
- Freedom of Worship – the KAF chapel has a variety of services and studies available and a tremendous Praise and Worship band and a very talented Gospel Choir.

The future joy of being reunited with our loved ones and knowing that we made a difference in the Global War on Terror is enough to keep us Soldiering on. I personally want to thank my wife for her faithfulness and diligence in caring for our children. I ask you to remain faithful to your commitments as well. There is great satisfaction and a wonderful sense of accomplishment in knowing one has fulfilled their vows and obligations.



Faithfully,

LTC Robert G. Young
Battalion Commander





TF 125 Finance



Another Aloha from the Pacific Paymasters downrange. One more month has quickly come and gone and as we close in on fiscal year end our Soldiers find themselves providing more and more support to forward operating bases and funding agents at the Provisional Reconstruction Team sites. In July, Soldiers such as PFCs Gaston, Ries, Ruark, Bates, SPCs Brooks, Stephan, and SGTs Brooks, Schliesleder and Evans continued to take finance to Soldiers on the front lines. In July we only had 10 days where all finance soldiers were inside the wire, a great tribute to their dedication and readiness.

Your Paymasters continue to break ground in many areas. During the month of July CPT Bobby Patterson in coordination with the Base Support Command and DFAS opened a branch bank of Da Afghanistan Bank here at Bagram. This is the only bank between Kabul and Bagram and will greatly assist in the economic development of Afghanistan. SFC Jack Buchanan and SGT Chris Seamans established a new finance operation at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Salerno initially operating out of a ruck sack until the permanent site was built. They were joined by SPC Cruz and PFC Pacheco to provide service to Soldiers in Task Force Thunder. The effects of the large payments our Soldiers make on the Afghan economy and large requirements for local currency have drawn the attention of the senior economists and banking officials at the U.S. Embassy prompting a team from the International Monetary Fund to meet with our battalion to discuss the projected expenditures by the Army into the Afghan economy.

During July our Soldiers in Kandahar, Kabul, and Bagram were visited by LTG Campbell and CSM Farley, the USARPAC Command Team, to thank them for the outstanding service they provide. Members of the Bagram FST were up at the break of dawn to participate in the 4th of July 10K Freedom Run. Naturally SFC Gudger smoked us all but everyone finished. SPC Jones took 1st place in the Kandahar bench press competition for his weight class. He lifted 325 pounds and brought the trophy home to finance. I hear the WWF is interested in recruiting him.

We have recently passed the required time in country to begin sending our Soldiers on R&R leave so over the next several months we will send our Soldiers out of theater for some well deserved rest and relaxation. Finally, we welcome our latest team members who deployed forward 23 July 04: SSG Godwin, SSG Vargas, PFC Green, PV2 Houle, and PV2 Venegas.



SFC Schliesleder and PFC Devin Jones provide customer service at the Kandahar finance office.



Newly opened finance office at FOB Salerno. PFC Pacheco, SGT Seamans, SFC Buchanan



PFC Gaston poses for a photo with LTG Campbell and CSM Farley.



SGT Failautusi and MSG Roberson recite the NCO Creed at MSG Roberson's promotion ceremony in Kabul.



Members of the Bagram finance office ready to participate in the 4th of July 10K Freedom Run.



SPC Brooks funds a pay agent on an FST mission to Orgun-E.

556 Personnel Services Battalion



Aloha again from Afghanistan! The month of July has been both very busy and very exciting. We started this month out with our 4th of July celebration. Your Soldiers in Bagram started their day of celebration with an excellent 10K run, hosted by LTF 725. Those that participated did very well. All locations had the opportunity to celebrate by attending cook outs and had the opportunity to enjoy several MWR activities to celebrate this important day in our history.

We've had several visitors this month, LTG Campbell and CSM Farley, the USARPAC command team, visited and handed out coins to several of our Soldiers. LTG Helmley, the Chief of the Army Reserves, visited with the Reserve officers and senior NCO's. We also had the 88th RSC command team visit from Minnesota, BG Beasley and CSM Warner. We had COL Porter from Kuwait visit and walk through the Task Force and see how well our Soldiers perform their mission. He provided guidance and insight in preparation for one of the largest and important events that your Soldiers will do while deployed here in Afghanistan, the Personnel Asset Inventory. This is a program the Army uses to verify where Soldiers are within the Army.

The Personnel Asset Inventory, man what a task. Your Soldiers are having the opportunity of a life time in a couple of different areas. First, most are getting to travel around Afghanistan and see and experience the country. Secondly, and more importantly, they are executing a mission which most personnel Soldiers only read about in our manuals or regulations. This experience will make them better personnel leaders and give them a better understanding of their job and the impact that they have on units and the personnel that they assist every day.

Until next month, MAJ John Sena



LTG Campbell and SPC Kelley



SPC David Barker and WO1 Maria McDonald



Logistics Task Force 524

We have finally Made our Way to the little patch of Italy in Afghanistan called Forward Operating Base SALERNO. Previously occupied and named by the Italians, it is truly a beautiful place in this arid country. We can see trees and rest in their shade if you walk a ways. But – this still is a tough place and we are trying our best to make it better everyday. The one thing that the Soldiers of Logistics Task Force 524 know is what right looks like – and we saw that in Uzbekistan. Now everyday I see the versatility and incredible capabilities of the Make a Way Soldiers, NCO's and Officers to turn the austere – into the Taj Majal (well not quite yet).

We've added new folks to the team. Alpha Company commanded by CPT Rob Soltis and 1SG Hall arrived from Kandahar to SALERNO to provide us with a soldier run PX, Rations Point, Fuel Point and will take our ammunition handlers under his care. Like all of our new companies, we played the proverbial "Baptism by fire" Ultimate Frisbee game against the unsuspecting loggies from A Company. The Headquarters again came out on top by a score of 26-6. Charlie Company commanded by CPT Navarez is set up and taking care of the medical needs of everyone at FOB SALERNO. They are currently running our sick call, medical supply, combat stress clinic and they even brought us a dentist!

We are losing one of our company commanders this month, CPT Phil Rottenborn is heading back to Fort Polk and will start training to become an Army contracting officer. He has ably trained his executive officer 1LT Mike Iannuccilli who will take the reins on the 28th of July. The Red Dogs will continue to meet their multi-faceted maintenance missions anytime / anywhere.

We've spread the LTF throughout Afghanistan and Uzbekistan. You can find our Soldiers in Orgun-E, Kandahar and Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan and finally at Karshi-Khanabad,, Uzbekistan. Our home base though is FOB SALERNO. Getting mail to your loved ones is a primary concern of mine, and with us so spread out – please note that we are working hard to overcome this challenge. It may be slow – but we'll get it there. Please keep us in your prayers – Make a Way!

***"Make A Way"**
LTC Brian Haebig*

HHD soldiers coordinate landing of aircraft at Mazar e Sharif airfield.



SPC Gordon Welles in the MeS ATC Tower

Two HHD soldiers based at Mazir e Sharif, Afghanistan have been coordinating the arrival and departure of aircraft at the airfield for the past several months. SPC Gordon Welles and PFC Shane Marshall are in charge of communicating landing instructions to inbound aircraft and departure instructions to outbound aircraft. They work under the supervision of an Afghan air traffic controller and are responsible for relaying the correct information to the air crews. During the Jordanian relief in place mission the two soldiers were responsible for the safe arrival and departure of four US Air Force C-17 aircraft inside of a few hours. They are called upon for these duties every time a military aircraft is scheduled to land. This usually works out to be several times a week for regular re-supply missions. They have coordinated the arrival of aircraft from many different nations to include Great

Britain and Germany. Both troops also serve as the MeSForward Logistics Element communications specialists. The soldiers have earned the complete trust of both the air crews they serve and their chain of command.

ADDRESS FOR LTF524 SOLDIERS at SALERNO:
Soldier's Name (Please do not use rank)
LTF 524, (Company)
APO AE 09314

Logistics Task Force 524 (cont)

Ground Assault Convoy to Mazire Sharif, Afghanistan

SPC Gordon Wellesin the MeSATC Tower On the 24th of June the HHD conducted a Ground Assault Convoy from K2 Airbase, Uzbekistan to Mazire Sharif, Afghanistan. The mission lasted about nine hours and covered almost 400km. The convoy delivered critical supplies and Equipment to the Forward Logistics Element based at MeS. Two of the drivers were MSG Jeffery Ardis and SFC David Seidel. They both said that it was a very bumpy ride due to the road conditions but worthwhile. The group that returned to K2 Airbase loaded the returning vehicle on an Air Force C-130 and flew back to Uzbekistan the following day.



MSG Jeffery Ardis at the convoy halt



PFC Patel

Joint Logistics Command Soldier of the Month

PFC Roshni Patel succeeded in winning the Joint Logistics Command Soldier of the Month Board on 13 July 2004 at Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan. PFC Roshni Patel was named the LTF 524 Soldier of the Month on 5 July 2004. She has proven herself as a motivated soldier who wants to succeed. She has already been promoted twice since we deployed and at this rate will be promoted to Specialist before the unit redeploys

546th Maintenance Company



Company Commander

CPT Philip G. Rottenborn

The end of June and the beginning of July have proven to be quite productive for the 546th. With only a few of the Red Dogs left in K2, Uzbekistan, we have moved away from the base that has served as our "home away from home" for the past three months. The 546th Maintenance Company has been in high demand in the service and support efforts of Operation Enduring Freedom, supporting separate bases in North, South, and East Afghanistan.

546th HEADQUARTERS IN FOB SALERNO.

546th Maintenance Company (cont)

While the majority of us have begun to sprout roots in FOB Salerno, some of the Red Dogs have found homes in other locations throughout Afghanistan supporting infantry units on remote operating bases. Maintenance Support Teams (MSTs) have been separated from the main body of 546th in order to better provide forward maintenance support to the warfighters. They are all very well taken care of and seem to enjoy working in fairly isolated areas that can only be accessed by helicopter. While other units operationally control some of our soldiers at these remote locations, we still control their leaves and passes, and their new missions and locations should not interfere with previously scheduled plans.

Finally, after three long months of training in K2, we are fully engaged in conducting direct support maintenance. WO1 Greegor, the 546th Maintenance Company shop officer, in conjunction with CW3 Rhodes, WO1 Neilko, and SFC Taylor, have designed and created a motor pool (affectionately known as Alcatraz) capable of supporting all Organizational and Direct Support Maintenance requirements for FOB Salerno. The job orders have started to flow, and vehicles and equipment have already been serviced and repaired. Morale is increasing every day in direct proportion to the increase of our ability to support the war effort with each new piece of equipment that arrives.

The level of maintenance the 546th provides is new to many of our supported units. Most of the infantry units (both Army and Marine) that we are now supporting in FOB Salerno and other locations have never had the privilege of a permanent direct support maintenance capability while deployed. The collective determination of all soldiers in the 546th to bend over backwards for these units has been well received. These supported units are taking excellent care of our troops and ensuring all of their needs are met.



The final piece of business for the Red Dogs in K2, Uzbekistan, was a Promotion and Soldier of the Month Board held on 5 and 6 July. All of the Red Dogs who attended achieved great success, with SGT Moore receiving a unanimous recommendation for selection to SSG, and SPC Daniel, SPC Salinas, SPC Sanchez, SPC Washburn, and SPC Wimberly receiving unanimous recommendations for selection to SGT. We are all keeping our fingers crossed that these deserving soldiers make their cut-off scores and get promoted soon.

Also in promotion news, SPC Hughes left the lower enlisted ranks at the beginning of July, and joined the Non-Commissioned Officer ranks as SGT Hughes. The Company Executive Officer, 2LT Iannuccilli, was also promoted on 10 July and shed his butter bar, upgrading to a silver bar and the rank of 1st Lieutenant.



NEWLY PROMOTED SGT HUGHES

We continue to thrive on your support and inspiration from the home front, and it is appreciated more than you can possibly imagine. SPC Dagley, our head mail clerk, is by far the most popular man in the company. Your letters and packages provide the emotional boost that each of these soldiers thrive on. Please keep them coming as we transition to a new location and, for most soldiers, a new address. If your soldier left K2 and is now in FOB Salerno or a remote location other than Mazar e Shariff and Khandahar, the postal address is:

SOLDIER NAME (NO RANK)
546th MAINTENANCE COMPANY
APO AE 09314

This address will be activated on 15 July 04, and using it will ensure your soldier receives his or her mail as quickly as possible. The soldiers in Mazar e Shariff, Khandahar, and K2 have already completed the proper postal forms to automatically forward their mail directly to them if you continue to use the K2 address.

This address will be activated on 15 July 04, and using it will ensure your soldier receives his or her mail as quickly as possible. The soldiers in Mazar e Shariff, Khandahar, and K2 have already completed the proper postal forms to automatically forward their mail directly to them if you continue to use the K2 address.

On a personal note, this is my final newsletter, as I am rotating back to Fort Polk at the end of the month to change command after a rewarding two years commanding the 546th. I will relinquish the command of the company to CPT Justin Redfern in Fort Polk on August 11th and 1LT Iannuccilli will command the deployed element. Amie and I have loved every minute that we have been a part of the Red Dog family and I am honored to have had the experience of meeting and working with the best soldiers and families in the Army. Justin and Julie Redfern and Mike and Kristen Iannuccilli have been a part of that family for most of my command and I know you will all provide them with the same support that you offered us. Thank you.

Goodwrench 6 - CPT Phil Rottenborn

From the LTF Chaplain

Dear Red-dog families. Blessings to each one of you. August is nearly here and children and parents will soon be busy with school-year activities. It is easy to feel overwhelmed. In the book of Second Kings, the LORD tells a story of his prophet Elisha and his assistant who likewise must have felt overwhelmed, being outnumbered and surrounded. Ever feel like life has you surrounded? Elisha's servant panics and cries, "Master, what shall we do"? Elisha prayed for his servant and asked the LORD to open the servant's eyes and enable him to see things from the perspective of faith. Elisha summarizes the reality we should embrace when we feel surrounded, "Don't be afraid, those who are with us are more than those who are with them" (2 Kings 6:16). Rest assured that while God sometimes allows his people to be surrounded and outnumbered, He will never leave them alone. And His presence is more than sufficient for any situation. Thank you for all of your great support. Keep praying for us. Blessings, CH Wehlage

KEY LEADER CONTACTS

REAR DET OIC (CPT Redfern) Justin.redfern@polk.army.mil	337-531-6375
REAR DET NCOIC (SFC Terrell) Mark.terrell@polk.army.mil	337-531-7035
546th FRG LDR (Karin Spears) kddh@hotmail.com	337-537-0979
142d CSB SDO	337-531-9891
MP STATION (Ft. Polk)	337-531-COPS

Logistics Task Force 725



Benefit run to assist wounded comrades

Story and photo by
Pfc. Chris Stump
17th Public Affairs Detachment

On the Fourth of July, over 1,200 Coalition troops showed their generosity and support to wounded veterans who fought here and in Iraq by raising money to assist their families while they are hospitalized. The “Freedom is Never Free” run, a 10k walk/run around Bagram Air Base, was organized by Logistics Task Force 725. Personnel from throughout Combined Joint Task Force-76 donated money and participated in the run, raising over \$21,000 to donate to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The VFW will ensure the money gets distributed to two Fisher Houses back in the States – one near Walter Reed Army Medical Center and the other near Bethesda Naval Hospital, both in Maryland, said Capt. Soraya Esmaili, LTF 725 personnel officer. Fisher Houses are located near U.S. military hospitals to enable the families of troops to be near their loved ones while they recover.

The money raised during the run will be used exclusively to support the families of those injured in Operations Enduring and Iraqi Freedom by covering part or all of the cost of their stay at the Fisher House, she said. Since many of these service members are being treated at Walter Reed and Bethesda, the proceeds will be most beneficial at those locations.



“The money will go a long way to help the families of those injured stay by their loved ones for an extended period of time,” said Sgt. 1st Class Jennifer Flores, LTF 725 personnel NCO in charge. “It’s all for a great cause – Soldiers helping Soldiers,” she said. And the troops who participated in the run also got something back for their efforts. In addition to the T-shirts, phone cards and flags they received, participants got a feeling of satisfaction and camaraderie in being able to give to the families of their fellow servicemen. “It feels good to pay back for all the sacrifices those before us have made,” said 1st Lt. Wesley Hall, Task Force Victory. “We wouldn’t be here today if they hadn’t put up the fight before us.” Not only did the participants show they cared about veterans, they showed the military is all one family. And when part of

the family needs help, Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines will step up to help. “Some people don’t have the means to be near their families – we’ve got to help these people,” said Spc. Alexander Spei, Company F, 2nd Battalion, 25th Aviation Regiment. That’s just what the organizers at LTF 725 wanted to do with the event – show support for the families whose troop made a great sacrifice, said Esmaili. The initial fundraising goal was \$10,000. But the generous outpouring of support from the Coalition members assigned here went way beyond expectations. “We are all honored to be part of such a generous Task Force,” said Esmaili. “And we know that in the spirit of independence, the Fourth of July and camaraderie among Soldiers, we have brought a little bit of hope and love to our injured Soldiers at home.”





Narrow Passages

The hot, dusty breeze brushes against my face as my steps are guided by the brilliant starlit night.

I quietly slip through the narrow passages between small wooden huts protected by stone pebbles which press so hard against my soft non expecting feet.

Tears begin to flow down my cheeks for the soldiers and civilians who sleep silently and innocently in their primitive spaces. How unaware are they to the evil which lurks in the dark waiting for the vulnerable moment to smother life's breath.

Yet, as I look to the night sky peaceful visions blanket, soothing the fears which haunt the narrow passages.



How far away are we?

- Honolulu, HI – 7506 Miles
- Erie, PA - 6808 Miles
- Las Vegas, NV – 7553 Miles
- London, England – 3554 Miles
- Boston, MA – 6573 Miles
- Atlanta, GA – 7431 Miles



SGT Baltazar with Vince Vaughn

A visit from some celebrities!



1LT Bouchillon with Toby Keith

VN



SPC Rankin trying-on the local attire



WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM YOU!!!



HHC JLC's Address

Name (no rank)
HHC JLC
APO AE 09354