

“Clearin’ the way-ROUGHNECK!”

TF ROUGHNECK REVIEW



Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

LTC Tim Senecaut, TF Roughneck

Greetings from Afghanistan!! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all our Roughneck family and friends!!! As you can imagine, this is one of the more difficult periods for Soldiers on deployment. Regardless if it's our first or fifth, each of us will miss the hustle and bustle of the Christmas season, running out to get that one last Christmas gift, traveling to see family and friends, gathering around the table for Christmas dinner, listening to “Uncle Jim” tell the same story he told last year (but exaggerates this year to make it more exciting and funnier), and most of all, seeing the excitement on everyone's faces as they open the Christmas gifts. We miss everything about the holidays but also understand and appreciate the importance of our mission here and the fact that this is what we were called to do – and we're determined to complete it.



TF Commander LTC Senecaut

Now (and this is my favorite part) let me tell you about your Roughneck!!!Your Soldier is performing his/her mission in extraordinary fashion. We've conducted missions throughout northern Afghanistan in support of task forces and reconstruction teams from the United States, Germany, Norway, Sweden, and other coalition countries.

More importantly, we're making a difference for the Afghan people. We continue to assist improving the Afghan National Army Engineers as well as construct facilities that not only help our fellow service members but also help the Afghan people. (See LTC on last page)



CSM Bryan Senkirik, TF Roughneck

“What a great day it is to be a Roughneck Soldier”. I want to send out a personal message to our Roughneck family and friends. The Holiday Season is upon us and now that Thanksgiving is over and Christmas is right around the corner Task Force Roughneck has a ton of things to be thankful for.



CSM Senkirik talks with Soldier

First we are thankful for having the Lord almighty looking down and sheltering us from the evil that persist in this country. This Task Force has the best Soldiers in the United States Army, hands down, by far. We have great family support at home that understands the sacrifices that each one of us goes through daily. Lastly but no means the least, we have a great support staff back at Brownwood, Stephenville,



CSM Senkirik does pre-mission checks

Abilene, Weatherford, Denton, Wylie, and San Angelo, without these Soldiers taking care of business at home we would not be able to accomplish the mission at hand. (See CSM on last page)

Craftsmen Soldiers from Texas join TF Roughneck

Story by SFC Glenn Sierra

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan- U.S. Army vertical construction engineers are in high demand throughout northern Afghanistan as U.S. and Afghan forces start to build infrastructure for troops. The newly arrived 4th vertical platoon of the 272nd Engineer Company from Angleton, Texas, assigned to FSC, 111th EN BN, scored big points for the Roughnecks in partnership-training and construction projects.



(L to R) SPC Brandon Schrimpscher, SSG Carlos Carbajal, PFC Rose Hurst

“As soon as we got here, they put us to work,” U.S. Army Sgt. Patricia Thorogood with 4th platoon, FSC, TF Roughneck, a plumber from Dallas said. “We hadn’t even signed for tools and they had missions for us. We built a B-hut (wood structure building) and started working side-by-side with Afghan National Army engineers.”

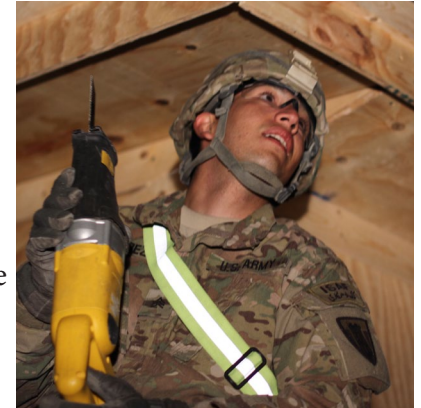


SPC Edward Sansom works at night to complete a B-hut

B-huts are common on military bases in Afghanistan because they are simple in design and provide semi-permanent shelter for offices, working areas or can serve as living quarters. The carpenters, electricians and masonry members of the platoon become the subject matter experts (SME) on these projects. The military does not use indoor plumbing in B-huts or tents. All sinks, showers and toilets are located inside conex containers called Life Support Areas (LSA). Here, plumbers and electricians become the SMEs.

“We showed the ANAs how to build wood floors for their tent living quarters at Camp Shaheen,” Thorogood explained. “Now we’re teaching them our plumbing and electrical techniques to set up LSAs. We teach them so they can do it on their own. The ANAs catch on quick. They watch, we give them tools, and they get to it.”

Most of the Roughnecks at the site taught the ANA by setting the example on how to do certain techniques. Others used their assigned language assistants for group instruction first, and then supervised them performing the tasks afterwards.



SPC Christian Perez works on a B-hut afterwards.

“We have three generation of craftsmen in our platoon. We have our veterans from Desert Storm, Iraq and Afghanistan,” Thorogood said. “They’re highly skilled and do this work as civilians. Then there are the young sergeants who are trained and got the drive but need more experience. And finally, the new ones, fresh out of advance individual training (AIT) school. They’re young, strong and want to get out there and work.”

Thorogood said the platoon has settled in with FSC, started their battle rhythm with the task force, and have full support from home.

“Everyone is constantly supporting us,” Thorogood concluded. “FSC has been great. Our family support groups are sending care packages and even making us platoon t-shirts. We’re off to a good start.”



SPC Cullen Houck checks for electrical current

New Roughnecks from S.D. ready to move dirt

Story by SFC Glenn Sierra

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan- A horizontal platoon of the 842nd Engineer Company from Spear Fish, South Dakota has been assigned as the 5th platoon to Forward Support Company (FSC), Task Force Roughneck at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Deh Dadi 2. Horizontal engineers are heavy equipment operators digging and moving dirt or gravel using heavy construction machinery.



(L to R) SFC Udager, 1LT Morris & SPC Erhardt

“We are basically a dirt moving platoon,” U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Doyle Udager with 5th Plt, FSC, TF Roughneck, a heavy equipment supervisor from Lemon, S.D. said. “We use loaders, excavators, dozers, backhoes for roads, airport runways and other construction projects that involves rearranging tons of dirt.”

He said his platoon was anxious to get started on projects. The only obstacles they ran into since their arrival was getting their equipment repaired and upgraded to be fully mission ready. The cold northern Afghanistan weather did not seem to bother the new platoon as it did for the southern soldiers of the task force.



SPC Williamson on excavator

“We’ve been here a few weeks now. Snow, ice and blizzards. No big deal,” Udager said. “The winter weather isn’t going to affect us. It’s the same kind we have back at home. Only thing that slowed us down was getting our equipment fixed and upgraded.”

The platoon started small assignments around FOB Deh Dadi 2 and is scheduled for major construction projects in the near future. Many of those future projects will involve partnership with the Afghan National Army engineers.

Udager pointed out his platoon was well experienced. “A lot of our guys work in mines, quarries and do road construction as civilians, so they’re very proficient at what they do. We’ll



SPC Kimberly Williamson de-ices excavator

be ready for whatever mission they have for us.”

During this time, the platoon has settled in and adjusted themselves to their new living environment. As they went about their new routines they could feel the the holiday season fast approaching by the decorations and increase of care packages.

“We want to wish our families and support groups back home a Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,” Udager said. “You guys have been great. For a lot of our soldiers, it’s their first time deployed. The holiday season thing will start to sink in when it gets here. They’ll feel alone without their families. But, they’ll look around and see they have a new family of brothers and sisters over here. They will not be alone.”

In concluding, Udager said, “Our guys are motivated and ready to get started. They’re happy when they’re moving dirt and getting dirty.”



(L to R) SGT Sorenson, SPC Knutson and SPC Jordan

Afghan soldiers get behind the wheel with FSC

Story by SFC Glenn Sierra

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan- Engineers with the Forward Support Company (FSC), 111th Engineer Battalion, Task Force Roughneck provided much needed drivers training to the Afghan National Army 209th Engineer Corps School recruits at Camp Shaheen. The training was part of the partnership-training program between U.S. Army engineers and ANA engineers.

“We’re teaching the ANA driving skills on the 1151 HUMVEE,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Tyler Vivyan with FSC, TF Roughneck, a heavy equipment operator from Pottsburgh, Texas. “Some of them have never driven anything before in their life. This has been definitely a worthy cause. In just a few weeks, since we’ve been doing this, you can see a major improvement in their driving skills. And, the guys who never drove before are now driving HUMVEEs.”



SPC Jose Chavez points out vehicle features

“Trying to train a soldier older than me how to drive was tough,” explained Vivyan. “They were set in their ways and didn’t want to listen. I’m sure it could’ve been the language barrier. I could tell they couldn’t quite grasp what I was trying to say, even though I was using our language assistor. But, overall, you could see a major improvement in their driving skills.”

Several driving courses were set up for the final portion of the training. Cones were positioned on flat ground to perform basic driving skills. The challenging one was a hilly off road course with switchback turns. The Afghan recruits enjoyed and appreciated the training.

“I want to thank the U.S. Army for coming here, to help us,” said ANA engineer recruit Qudrat. “It’s good useful training. Perhaps after this training, they can teach us to drive the large cargo trucks.”



Language Assistors assisted in the training



SPC Jonothan Delisle explains important engine checks

The training was the final phase of a two-part course. The first phase, conducted the previous week, entailed vehicle operator responsibilities based on the U.S. Army’s preventive maintenance, checks, and service (PMCS) procedure. During the driving phase, Sgt. Vivyan encountered challenges he did not foresee from his previous class.



SGT Tyler Vivyan shows driver which gauges to monitor

Sgt. Vivyan added they also included in the training Afghanistan’s driving laws and rules, which he hopes, will benefit the recruits. “This training is not just for military use. It’s a skill they will have outside the military. The guys who didn’t know how to drive can now get in a vehicle and drive. They’re all excited about that.”

U.S. Sappers, ANA engineers practice partnership

Story by SFC Glenn Sierra

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan- U.S. Army combat engineers with the 1014th Sapper Company, Task Force Roughneck, specializing in route clearance from Hato Ray, Puerto Rico shared IED clearing procedures with engineers of the Afghan National Army 3/209th Engineer Corps during partnership training at Camp Shaheen. Partnership training, which allows coalition forces to pass on knowledge and skills, has been a major push throughout northern Afghanistan.



SGT Rodriguez instructs ANA on route clearing techniques

“Today was a challenge,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Noel Rodriguez with the 1014th Sapper Co, Task Force Roughneck, a combat engineer from Canovanas, Puerto Rico. “Some of veteran engineers have experience and methods to do these searches. Their new guys don’t. So, we compared their techniques with ours. After a while, they liked ours better. It was more efficient and safer. They’re getting it and they’re learning.”



ANA engineer asks questions during training

Sgt. Rodriguez’s challenge was one faced by all instructors: how to effectively teach soldiers with experience and those with none in the same class. The veteran ANA soldiers wanted to be more challenged but were still opened-minded to new ideas.

“I have some experience in this work. How to search for IEDs,” said Sgt. Ali Reza with the 3/209th Route Clearance Company. “But, the knowledge I have is not enough. I must learn more to improve myself. I would like to see more realistic training, with scenarios and more training aids.”

The patience and persistence of Sgt. Rodriguez and his team paid off when the Afghan soldiers accepted and used the new techniques during the training. But, communication was the constant obstacle.

“We couldn’t communicate verbally but we did with hand signals,” said U.S. Army Spc. Julio Acevedo with the 1014th Sapper Co, a combat engineer from Isabella, PR. “We went over secondary threats. He was trying hard to understand my point. Maybe in the future, he’ll remember it and save his own or his buddies lives.”



SPC Acevedo communicates w/ANA



ANA listen during review session with 3/209th RCC. “The U.S. soldiers are trying to help us. We need to improve ourselves for our country. I’m asking for more challenges. Today’s training was good for our new soldiers but too basic for me. This is the time to improve. We need to keep training so we can become a more professional Army.”

The class concluded on a positive note. Soldiers shook hands, smiled, and coordinated on the next training session.

“We know a little about everything here,” said Lt. Muhammad Hussain



SGT Rodriguez checks on learning during partnership training

TF Roughneck assists ANA construction

Story by SFC Glenn Sierra

BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan- U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Raymond Boswell with the 111th Engineer Battalion, TF Roughneck, a combat engineer from Midland, Texas, spearheaded the partnership program with Afghan National Army engineer recruits of the 209th Engineer Corps School located at Camp Shaheen. Partnership construction projects allow coalition forces to set the conditions to instruct techniques and procedures with ANA engineers on specific tasks.



SSG Boswell and ANA engineer recruits arrive at work site

“My part was to advise and help set the conditions for a successful project,” said Staff Sgt. Boswell. “It’s a partnership. It’s us teaching them, mentoring them, and showing them a new way to think. I showed them new ways to do things to become more self-sufficient.”

The project at hand, was improving Camp Shaheen’s ECP (entry control point) by assembling and filling Hesco (earth filled containers) walls. Boswell would instruct, using his Afghan language assistant, the ANA recruits how do a task. As they performed the task he would supervise and step in to assist, if needed.



SSG Boswell assisted with ideas and techniques during the project

“I could say, we don’t need the help of the international community,” said ANA Capt. Tazigul with the 209th Engineer Corps School. “I reject that because all of us are part of an international community. We need support. We don’t have modern equipment like you. We need to be trained on modern machines and techniques. That is why the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, Germans, and the Croatians are helping us on this project.”



A language assistant is used to communicate during project

Working with the Afghan engineer recruits required patience, proficiency, and leadership. It was no different from training recruits from any army. Just the act of being with them, assisting them, and keeping them on task lead to a successful partnership experience and completed Hesco wall.

“My supervisor tasked me to do this mission because he knew I had very good people skills and have lots of patience,” said Boswell. “I tried to blend in with their culture and understand their viewpoints. It helped me better direct them on this mission.”



Project nears completion as shepherd passes by

With the completion of the Hesco wall, the recruits thanked Staff Sgt. Boswell as they headed back to their barracks. Capt. Tazigul walked up and said, “Our soldiers were given a good education and got a basic training. But we need more training and equipment, so when we take over security in the near future, if we can get the support, we can take the weight off your shoulders.”

190th EN CO gets ready Afghan RCC

Story by SFC Glenn Sierra

KUNDUZ PROVINCE, Afghanistan-The 190th Engineer Company and the Afghan National Army 2/209th Route Clearance Company completed their partnership-training phase, which means the RCC is ready for combat operations. The training program exchanged skills and knowledge to enhance the ANA's tactical performance.

U.S. Army 1st Lt. Marc Lawson with the 190th EN CO, TF Roughneck, the officer in charge from Morristown, Tenn., said, "The training went well. The ANA were eager to learn more about their jobs and to continue to perform successfully."

Before the final training, members of the 190th visited the ANA camp to assess their preparation for upcoming missions. U.S. Army Capt. Thomas Gilley, the



CPT Gilley observes ANA training

190th commander, and 1st Lt. Eric Madison, partnership liaison officer, and Lawson found the leadership still highly motivated, ready for future missions, and continually training on technical equipment.

Lawson said a fake IED was planted on the planned route to see how the Afghan patrol would perform. He said they not only found the device but also conducted all their tasks to ensure safety of men and equipment and then properly disposed of the device.

"Their leaders took charge," said Lawson. "They used all their equipment correctly and their tactics, techniques and procedures met the standard."

The 190th EN CO & the 2/209th partnership training was the leading program in northern Afghanistan. The ANA 2/209th RCC is now ready for their first upcoming route clearing mission.



ANA 2/209th RCC conducts final training

190th & 1014th link up for ARRK

Story by SFC Glenn Sierra

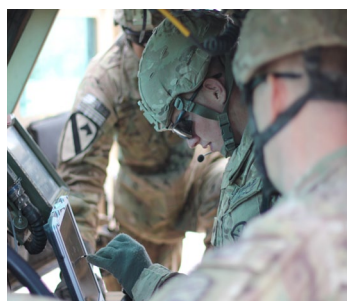
BALKH PROVINCE, Afghanistan- Combat engineers with the 1014th Sapper Company reached out to qualify their fellow engineers with the 190th Engineer Company, both with Task Force Roughneck on the new Automated Route Reconnaissance Kit (ARRK) system at Forward Operating Base Deh Dadi 2. The task force overcame training obstacles by linking the companies to cross share knowledge and skills.

"Since we're located in different provinces, this was a great opportunity to meet our friends at the 1014th and learn this new system," said U.S.

Army Spc. Mark Ledford with the 190th EN CO, TF Roughneck, a combat engineer from Jonesboro, Tenn. "They trained us how to use the ARRK to identify and record details of a route which will help planners to better prepare for future missions in that area."



SPC Rodriguez (left) instructs ARRK class



SPC Sean Curl enters data

Ledford said he learned having the most intelligence on a area of interest would help his platoon prepare for any circumstances. The ARRK produces a report that will show conditions and obstacles of any roadway. He said it would take the guess work out planning.

"The ARRK system is going to relieve my lieutenant of constantly recording data for his reports," said U.S. Army Pfc. Andrew Palmer with the 190th EN CO, TF Roughneck, a combat engineer from Morristown, Tenn. "Now he'll be able to focus on command and control of his patrol. Having this system will make us more efficient at our jobs. These guys trained us well and we had fun. We met the 1014th guys back at Fort McCoy (Wisconsin) and became friends. So, it was great to see them again."

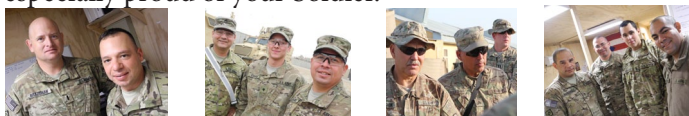


Rodriguez explains to Palmer

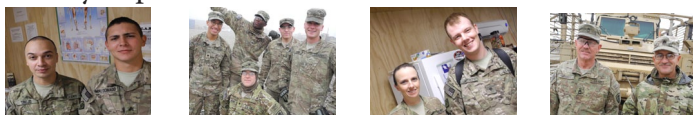
“Clearin’ the way-ROUGHNECK!”

(LTC from page 1)

Hopefully, you’ve read about the ford site we constructed near the town of Ghormach. I can’t begin to properly describe the significance of that project and how it will make a difference for the Afghans in that area and all that travel the Ring Road for years to come. Just about every Roughneck had a hand in that project too or they sacrificed in one way or another to ensure the project was done properly. Your Roughneck remains dedicated and diligent in their efforts to “make a difference” for Afghanistan and you should be especially proud of your Soldier.



Since Task Force Roughneck was formed in April, CSM Senkirik and I have been blessed with a remarkable group of Soldiers from Tennessee, Puerto Rico, Nebraska, Georgia, Louisiana, South Dakota, and Texas. Each week we see the growth in capabilities of our Roughnecks and appreciate their efforts in construction, route clearance, logistics, support, planning, and most importantly, partnering. We’re proud to lead this amazing group of Soldiers from divergent backgrounds and watch them come together to complete any mission. Considerable challenges are before us but your Roughneck is ready to take each head on and make you proud.



As Christmas and New Years approaches, please know that in our hearts we’re right there with you. We’re laughing at “Uncle Jim’s” stories, we’re grinning ear-to-ear as we watch the children open their presents, we’re going back for seconds (and thirds) (and fourths!) of the turkey, ham, and desserts, and we’re settling in right next to you, throwing our arms over your shoulder and holding you close as we watch all the merriment.

May God bless each of you and your families this joyous season. We miss you terribly and I wish families and friends of Task Force Roughneck a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

LTC Tim Senecaut
Roughneck 6



(CSM from page 1)

As we approach Christmas it is a personal milestone for me, Sheila and I have never missed a Christmas together in three years of dating and 26 years of marriage. There are other Soldiers who missed Thanksgiving and now Christmas with the same sort of personal sacrifice. We miss these types of events simply because it’s our duty. When you are an American Soldier called to duty in support of the War on Terrorism you don’t ask why we just report and say “Yes Sir”. The great thing about this is that our families understand and support us. This is what bonds us together to make us stronger. The one thing that I want to relay to the families is your Soldier will not be alone during Christmas, they will be spending it with their unit, their battle buddies, LTC Senecaut and I. There will be events during the month of December to make it feel a “little” like home. And trust me when I say there will be a feast at the Dining Facility that all will enjoy.

That’s about all for now; I hope everyone has a very Merry Christmas and a happy New Years. Be safe during your travels and now that Roughneck 6 and I are looking out for your Soldier.

May God bless our families, friends, the Great States of Texas, Tennessee, Puerto Rico, South Dakota and the United States of America.

Respectfully,
CSM Bryan Senkirik
Roughneck 7



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