



# Diligent Times

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## SUPPORT FIRST!

701st Brigade Support Battalion

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## 'Diligent' Battalion Tests out CUBE System

By U.S. Army 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant McKinsey Hulen  
**701<sup>st</sup> BSB PAO**

PAKTIKA PROVINCE, Afghanistan (August 14, 2012) – On September 12th and 13th Soldiers from Task Force 701 conducted training on the CUBE System, a new method for sling loading equipment. This new system utilizes stackable plastic crates and a cloth net to transport equipment under helicopters. Engineers at the US Army Soldier Systems Center in Natick, Massachusetts have been working



A helicopter takes off with fuel in the new CUBE System slung underneath

on the CUBE System, but Soldiers

from 701st are some of the first to test the system in theatre. On September 13th, Soldiers assisted Sergeant First Class Joel Durham, a member of the team testing the CUBE System, and used the system to sling load fuel to an outlying Combat Outpost.

As the system is still a prototype, researchers from the US Army Soldier Systems are interested in getting feedback from Soldiers on ways to improve the system. The CUBE System is much cheaper than the rubber fuel blivets the Army uses currently, is stackable and could allow Soldiers to hook up large amounts of equipment more easily, and could potentially offer more protection to its contents due to the tough plastic cover. The Soldiers had some ideas for improvement, but were generally excited about the potential for this new system.



Sergeant First Class Durham, a member of the CUBE System team from Natick, Massachusetts prepares to watch the sling load operation for the new CUBE System

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# This Week in Photos



Captain Holub and First Sergeant Sutterfield hand out new Charlie Company coins to the Soldiers



Alpha Company Soldiers conduct training on the new CUBE System



Bravo Company conducts a Change of Responsibility ceremony— 1SG Burky replaces 1SG Schembera as First Sergeant



HHC Soldiers pose after finishing the Kansas City Plaza 10k Shadow Race

## New Challenges for the Ground Support Equipment Shop

By Sergeant Sarah Feeman

Afghanistan has been full of new challenges for everyone. For the Ground Support Equipment team maintenance was the challenge. Much of the equipment that they were required to repair upon arriving the team had never attempted to repair before! Also, Sergeant First Class Adams, the shop Noncommissioned Officer-In-Charge (NCOIC) was unable to come on the deployment due to an injury. Luckily, the team's learning curve was steep. In just the first two weeks they replaced engines on forklifts, repaired fuel pumps, and installed generator parts left by the previous unit. They started with troubleshooting by the manual and then reading the theory of operation for the equipment. Eventually, as they settled into their work rhythm, the maintenance challenge started to seem like a breeze. Sergeant Feeman was able to step up to the role of NCOIC and turn the team into a tight knit family. Although they work over 14 hours a day, they are able to keep morale high.



The GSE shop achieved their level of competency in several ways. They created a service schedule to make the shop more efficient and brought some equipment up that had been out of tolerance for more than a year. They are even on call 24 hours a day to troubleshoot or repair equipment that runs through the night, but they still persevere and stay motivated. Bravo Company Ground Support Equipment shop is the best GSE shop in all of Afghanistan. They were not trained on the majority of the equipment but never backed down from the challenge. All it took was research and dedication to get the job done.



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# Bandits

## Do You Have A Positive Perspective?

### Perspective

Look around you and you will be amazed at what you see. We take so much for granted because we focus on the parts of our lives that are hard or unfulfilled.

**But if we really stop to look at what we have...we are truly blessed. Others would only dream to have what we take for granted.**

- The homeless person wishes to have that little house you wish were bigger.
- That mother who lost her son would do anything to deal with that defiant child.
- The Father that cannot feed his three kids would love to go to the job you hate.
- The woman riding her bike 10 miles to work wishes to have the car you want to trade in.
- That lonely woman would love that man that forgets to take out the garbage or doesn't pick up after himself.
- That orphan child wouldn't mind the mother that makes him clean his dirty room.
- The crippled adolescent would love to climb that flight of stairs you dread.
- The woman in the hospital dying of cancer wishes to rush home after work to cook her family a meal.

My sight: Someone somewhere is legally blind. I don't have the best sight either, so I never really express my gratitude for being able to see. I'm constantly complaining about having to wear my glasses and hating that I can't see that far. But, at least I can see. At least, I have the option of wearing glasses and making the blurriness go away. Some people don't even have that.

**You see it's all in how we look at things.**

If we start to look at our lives with the right perspective and focus on the blessings, we will be filled with gratitude. To focus on what we have and not on what we don't is the best way to live.

In the end, the biggest joy and blessing is love. If you look hard enough you'll be amazed at how much love surrounds you and how much you truly have. What you have today you will miss someday

Have a great week.

Diligent Shepherd.



## Weekly Diligent Poll

*Find our weekly poll on Facebook to add your input*

### **At Which Manhattan/Junction City Restaurant are You Most Excited to Eat with Your Soldier/Family Upon Redeployment?**

Only 27 people responded this week... We would still like some more participation. "Like" us on Facebook and add your input next week!

- 3 Early Edition**
- 2 Arroy Thai**
- 2 Coco Bolo's**
- 2 Four Olive**
- 2 UMI Japanese Steakhouse**
- 1 Famous Dave's**
- 1 La Fiesta**
- 1 Pizza Hut**
- 1 Panera**



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