

Mr. Crean,

24 MAR 13

I wanted to send a quick thank you note for the cigars! It was a nice surprise and very appreciated. We have not smoked them yet. We are waiting for the right opportunity. One of our E-7's is re-enlisting soon so that might be a prime opportunity. I will make sure to take a photograph for you and email it.

A little about my team. We are part of the advisor and assist teams. We advise and assist the Provincial AUP (Afghan Uniform Police) and OCC-P (one level higher than P-AUP). We were slated to only assist the P-AUP but when we hit the ground here, we were instructed to advise both. It keeps us extra involved and probably best we advise both. A few key players work at both the P-AUP & OCC-P. I work directly with an Afghan General and 3 Colonels. They are all "true ~~believers~~ Believers" and exceptional leaders. I feel very fortunate to work with who we do. I know my peers at the lower levels and Afghan Army side are having major issues.

We should be here until October. Some of our Brigade is re-deploying early due to FOB/COP closures but our team will be here until the end.

Taliban have returned early for the fighting season. Most are coming from Pakistan. I forgot to mention we are conducting joint operations with the Polish Army. Great bunch of guys. I am quickly learning some Polish and enjoy learning about cultures.

Overall, our team is doing well. We have great team chemistry and morale. We constantly "bust each others balls" and if there are any major issues - our team acts like adults and talk about it. There are 13 members on the team.

12 x US and 1 civilian (law enforcement professional) We have a mix of MOS's, I'm infantry, we have ~~an~~ an aviator, Field Artillery, scouts, signal, intel, and a mechanic.

Right now, we are okay on goodies from home. But I will not refuse any care package for our team. As an infantryman, I have learned to make due with little.

If you would have more cigars, I have a good friend from West Virginia who worked w/ me at ~~1st~~ Brigade before we deployed who would love a good cigar. I can email you his info.

Again, thank you for your gift and more importantly, for your service and support.

Take Care & God Bless,

CPT Dominic Rondinelli

*Dom Rondinelli*