

Marion's Men

A Chronicle of the 1-178 FA BN in Afghanistan

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SWAMP FOX FACTS

- There are 19 Citadel graduates and 3 current Cadets deployed with the 1-178th.
- Swamp Fox Soldiers are currently operating in 12 Afghan Provinces.
- The Battalion has completed more than forty percent of its mission in support of OEF.
- Operation Outreach has collected more than 311 gift bags for Afghan boys and girls.

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Opening the Doors of Knowledge in AFG

Thomas Jefferson once said, "Information is the currency of Democracy." Jefferson knew that an educated population had a greater chance of living free and civil in a democratic society. U.S. and Coalition Forces are working closely with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA), provincial leaders and local village elders to lay a foundation for lasting freedom in Afghanistan. This is being accomplished through reconstruction and infrastructure development projects coordinated by the United States Military. The cornerstone of this effort is the construction of schools and new classrooms in Afghanistan. The Afghan people's ability to protect their young democratic government lies in its ability to



Maj. Beau Spafford, CMO, 1-178th FA BN meets with M. Sediq Patman, Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, at the construction site of a new school building.

educate its people. The 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion's Civil Military Operations (CMO) team is doing its part to help the Afghan people realize their dream of living in a peaceful and free country.

Civil Affairs is nothing new for the United States Army.

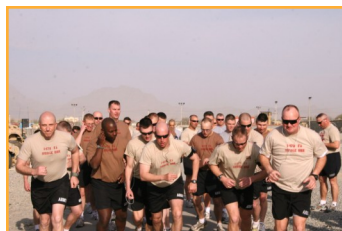
American Soldiers have been involved in civil affairs activities dating back to the war with Mexico, the Civil War, the Spanish-American War, World War I and World War II. In fact, it was common in the Civil War for an artilleryman or the driver of a supply wagon to be temporarily detailed to clearing roads or dispensing relief and then return to his regular duties. Civil Affairs as defined in today's Counterinsurgency (COIN) environment includes conducting operations to reduce the capability and will of the insurgency, support the growth in capacity and capability of the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF), and facilitate improvements in governance and socio-economic development, in

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Soldiers Run for Fun

What do you get when you put the Army and running together in the same sentence? For most Soldiers you get a PT Test. In Afghanistan the 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion is changing that perception. The Soldiers of the Swamp Fox Battalion are putting the fun back in run.

On March 27, 2010 thirty deployed Soldiers in Kabul, Afghanistan simultaneously joined more than 40,000 runners in Charleston, S.C., including several Swamp Fox spouses, for the annual 10K Cooper River Bridge Run. LTC Ed McInnis, the organizer of the Ka-



Swamp Fox Soldiers have participated in two races in Afghanistan since their arrival February 26th.

bul, Afghanistan event thought it would be nice to honor the Soldier's families back home by running the Bridge Run in Kabul. "Our spouses and children back home are the real heroes this year.

They make sacrifices that most Americans can't even imagine. The least we could do from over here was to run 6.2 miles in their honor. It was also a great way to build camaraderie among the Soldiers. It was a lot of fun too," said McInnis.

The Swamp Fox Soldiers also participated in the *One America 500 Festival Mini Marathon* on May 8, 2010. The *One America 500* is an annual race located in Indianapolis, IND. Swamp Fox Soldier 1st Lt. Patrick Line of Boiling Springs, PA. came in second place in the 5K with a time of 21:12.



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Marion's Men



CSM Samuel McKenzie displays a SC House of Representatives resolution honoring the Swamp Fox BN for their service.

The Commander's View...

Salaam Alekum (Peace be with you),

Wow, it is hard to believe that another month has passed and that it is now May! It seems like only yesterday we were training in the frozen tundra of Camp Atterbury, IN.

I am proud to report that the mission continues to go very well and that Marion's Men are "knocking the ball out of the park."

CSM McKenzie, Chaplain White, SPC Rounds and I recently had an opportunity to visit our Security Force (SECFOR) Platoons in Ghazni, Paktika, and Parwan provinces. Overall, the morale of the Soldiers was high and each of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Commanders expressed their great pleasure with the performance of the Swamp Fox Soldiers in carrying out their duties. I walked away from these visits impressed with the Operating Tempo (OPTEMPO) that these PRT's maintain. Each of the PRT's averages seven to ten missions per week, and on many days they conduct multiple missions. The OPTEMPO is high because there is much work to be done. The projects that the PRT's are involved in range from multi-million dollar

highway projects to the construction of greatly needed medical clinics and schools. The PRT's are also heavily engaged in working with provincial leaders to increase the competence and capabilities of the government at the district and provincial levels. Make no mistake; it is tough and de-



LTC McInnis, Commander, I-178th FA BN, distributes gifts to students at the Sar Asayab School.

manding work that requires extraordinary people to carry it out. From my perspective, great progress is being made, but there is a long way to go before the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan (GIROA) is ready to stand on its own.

The majority of the Soldiers of the Swamp Fox Battalion are involved in Security Operations, which in my opinion is the most critical component of our mission here in Afghanistan. Securing Afghanistan

will help instill the Afghan people's confidence in their Government. Without the support of the people and the ability of their Army and Police to protect them, Afghanistan will never progress.

So the missions our Soldiers are performing daily is important to the overall strategy to establish the credibility of GIROA.

In closing, I want to thank you for your continued prayers and support for our efforts here. This is an important mission and I am honored to serve beside these great Citizen-Soldiers that are working hard every day to make Afghanistan a safer country. May God continue to bless the USA and the Swamp Fox Battalion. True & Tried,
LTC E.M. McInnis



The Leader's Book by CSM Samuel McKenzie

Greetings,

We just completed our fourth month on Active Duty status. I'm pleased to announce that our Soldiers are doing very well.

The Swamp Fox Battalion is currently located in twelve Afghan provinces. Our primary mission is security in support of Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT's).

During the month of April LTC McInnis and I began visiting our Soldiers down range. We were able to visit three provinces. The reports from the PRT Commanders in the field is that our Soldiers are doing an outstanding job. They are the difference makers in securing the advancement of reconstruction projects like schools, roads and agriculture programs for Afghanistan.

This trip was very rewarding for me. I was personally able to see firsthand the good work our Soldiers are doing in the field. Their energy and enthusiasm for the mission is encouraging and motivating. You would be proud of their commitment and dedication. Taking Care of Soldiers, CSM McKenzie

Church Chat with the Chaplain...

Greetings,

Last month I traveled with LTC McInnis, CSM McKenzie, and SPC Rounds to visit our troops in Ghazni, Paktika, and Parwan provinces. We had a good visit with them.

This is what I can say about your loved ones...they are doing well. Their leadership gave glowing reports about how well they are completing their mission.

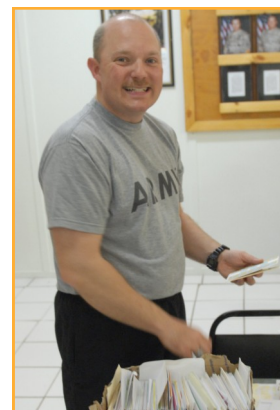
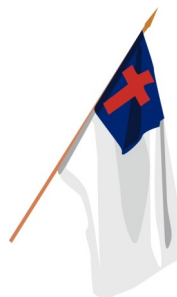
I am particularly proud of the Soldiers in PRT Ghazni. In the absence of a base chaplain and led by Freddie Johnson, they have taken it upon themselves to provide a service and a Bible study for those

on the FOB. That type of dedication honors God and reflects well on the Army. We will be traveling to visit all of the PRT's over the next weeks and months. Please continue to pray for your loved ones and encourage them to get involved in chapel regardless of where they are working.

If you have issues that are not being addressed by resources in South Carolina or if you are concerned about your loved one, let me know and I will make sure things get taken care of. As always, I am always available to you by email at charles.w.white@afghan.swa.army.mil.

I also encourage you to read Psalm 59 regularly. Please know that God loves and cares for you.

In His bonds,
CH (CPT) Josh White



CH (CPT) Josh White coordinated a Mother's Day card drive for Swamp Fox Soldiers.

Opening the Doors of Knowledge in AFG continued...

order to provide a secure environment for sustainable stability that is observable to the population.

Maj. Beau Spafford, Civil Military Operations, 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion leads a team of five Soldiers that are responsible for facilitating twenty-six projects in Kabul Province. The CMO's projects include the construction of new classrooms, vehicle and pedestrian bridges, village sanitation projects, expanding electrical coverage and industrial redevelopment.

Maj. Spafford and his team learned quickly that the success of a project can hinge on the relationship that is developed with Afghan people beginning with the very first meeting. "The Afghan people put a premium on getting to know who you are before they will discuss business. They value trusting relationships," said Spafford. Spafford and his team learned real quickly that the Afghan people prefer to drink Chai (tea) and talk pleasantries before the topic of new projects is discussed. In fact, it's common for them to offer a meal of rice and kabobs too. "The Afghan leaders we've met are very hospitable people -- I like that about them," said Spafford.

Building relations is the crucial first step in the reconstruction process. The next step involves a more formal discussion on the essential areas of need. "Once we get a list



Col. Mohamad Sadeq, Afghan National Army lays the cornerstone for a new school building at a dedication ceremony on May 4, 2010.

of the Afghan leaders' top priorities, we can then begin the process of nominating a project for construction," said Spafford.

The officer responsible for moving a new project through the Commander's Emergency Response Program (CERP) is Capt.

Kevin McClure. McClure, a graduate of Clemson University's School of Engineering, reviews all project specs and makes sure all the "i's" are dotted and the "t's" are crossed in the CERP process. "As soon as a new project comes in I will initiate the official project nomination report, which starts the process of receiving command approval. Once a project is approved we can begin issuing bids to potential contractors. The most rewarding day is when we can award a contract to a deserving local Afghan contractor. One contract can create dozens of good paying jobs for local nationals and eventually a new school building for thousands of Afghan children. It's a great feeling knowing that we are helping to open the doors of knowledge to this generation of Afghans," said McClure.

On paper a Civil Military Operation team like Maj. Spafford's might look like an ordinary government project facilitator. However, to the Afghan people the CMO team is providing thousands of Afghan children an opportunity to learn, many for the first time. And as Thomas Jefferson understood about societies more than 200 years ago; groups like the 1-178th CMO team are helping to remove the barriers of illiteracy, poverty and tyranny that have dominated the Afghan people's lives for more than four generations.

Photos from the Field

