



Marion's Men

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Swamp Fox Facts

- Three Swamp Fox Soldiers have earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Award in AFG.
- Seven Soldiers were promoted during the month of July.
- The six members of the 1-178th that work for the National Support Element (NSE) at North Kabul International Airport have processed more than 700 awards this year.
- Afghanistan President Hamid Karzai recognized Task Force Swamp Fox for their school reconstruction efforts.

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Keepers of the Gate

Story by 1LT Isiah Gochetti, 1st PLT LDR, USA

I want to introduce you to 1st PLT, 1-178th FA, Keepers of the Gate. Our mission is to support Camp Phoenix Base Defense and maintain a security force to safe guard all traffic and personnel coming on and off the base.

Main Entry Control Point (ECP), Military ECP, Fuel ECP, and Construction ECP are all vital areas that must be protected. The Gates are maintained by Squad Leader's SSG Dawkins, SSG McAdoo, SSG Nelson, SSG Fryer, SGT Brown, and their fellow Soldiers. They make up 81 personnel within 1st Platoon. These Soldiers work the perimeter 24 hours a day 7 days a week. They are the linemen of the football team, seen but easily forgotten. Their names not remembered, but nothing moves on or off the base without them in place.

Another member of the team is Rambo. He has been apart of the Main ECP since the beginning when US and Coalition forces occupied Camp Phoenix in 2001. He is a local national that



Members of the 1PLT, 1-178th FA BN pose with Rambo (center) at the front ECP of Camp Phoenix.

has vowed to stay and protect the base until the last US Soldier leaves. Rambo started by working for food and water. Since then he has been employed full time. He has prevented several incidents from occurring, including snatching a driver out of a vehicle before he was able to detonate a Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Device (VBIED).

Vital to the mission, 1 PLT gives over 3,500

Soldiers, Coalition forces, and civilians a sense of security that allows them to almost forget about the threats outside of Camp Phoenix's walls. This security gives them the time to construct mission plans, enjoy meals, sleep, refit, and participate in MWR activities.

Besides maintaining the security of the base, the Keepers of the Gates are humanitarians. Sight, limb, or loss of life these Soldiers will aid local nationals with medical aid. They act as first responders until the medics arrive on the scene. Here our Soldiers are keeping up with the Counter Insurgency Mission (COIN). Helping our neighbor, we continue to build relationships.

The Keepers of the Gates are an integral piece of base operations. They provide the necessary security to allow the base freedom of movement. When the alarm sounds we will accomplish our mission. True and Tried, your Soldier's are here to defend and protect you.

The Mayor's in Town

Story by Capt. Ted Pitts, Camp Dubs Mayor, USA

Just south of Kabul at the foot of the Mountains is Darulaman and Camp Dubs. The 1-178th was tasked with running Camp Dubs by the Kabul Base Cluster Command. The Camp Support Group at each Camp is more commonly referred to as the Mayor Cell.

The 1-178th has five personnel stationed at Camp Dubs. There are three medics- SPC Hiller, SPC Shae and SPC King that work either in the Dubs Troop Medical Clinic or serve as combat medics for mentoring teams that run their missions out of Dubs. There were four and now two that run the Camp's day to day operations out of the Mayor Cell- SGT Woodberry (left for surgery), SFC Cook (left to care for his mother), 1SG Bonham and CPT Pitts.

Camp Dubs has a very diverse population of around 500 personnel. We have Army, Navy, Air force and Marines as well as Coalition forces that



Capt. Ted Pitts, mayor, Camp Dubs, spends time with Afghan children at the Qali-E-Moslim School.

include British, Germans, Italians, Dutch, Australian, Turkish and French. Most personnel stationed on Dubs mentor Afghan Army and Police. At Dubs we are surrounded by the Afghan basic training Camp and most residents must interact with Afghan National Army personnel daily.

The Mayor Cell serves just like Town Hall in

small town South Carolina. They manage all operations to include- housing and office space assignments, the chow hall, construction projects, making sure the mail runs, coordinating the finance personnel visits, coordinating deliveries of supplies, managing water and sewer service, overseeing the local shop keepers, badging and vehicle passes and much more.

One of the more interesting requirements is the weekly visits with the Afghan Army leadership. They go up the hill and have Chai to share information and work out whatever issues may arise between Coalition and Afghan forces on Darulaman.



1/178 FA BN Public Affairs

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The Commander's View...

Salaam Aleikum (Peace be with you),

Well another month has passed and we are now officially in the "dog days" of summer. Many of the Soldiers have completed R&R and we are leaning forward to complete the deployment. The Soldiers continue to perform at the same high level they have consistently demonstrated over the past months. This is truly a special group of Soldiers, and I am blessed to have had the opportunity to serve with them.

Our replacements, 1-181 Infantry, from the Massachusetts Army National Guard recently completed their Pre-deployment Site Survey and this is yet another milestone that re-deployment is not too far down the road. We also continue to receive great reviews from the PRT Commanders on the performance of our Swamp Fox SECFOR Soldiers. They are simply great professionals that enable the PRT's to safely go about their mission of improving governance, security, and reconstruction in this war-torn nation.

While we can now see the light at the end of the tunnel, it is important to remember that we still have a number of dangerous days and months ahead of us. Maintaining situational awareness and not becoming complacent are the keys to our continued success. As predicted by the experts, this summer the enemy has increased their attacks and the number of coalition casualties has increased significantly. What you don't hear or read



LTC McInnis recently met with Dr. Nasrin, director of Malalay Women's Maternity Hospital to discuss their needs.

in the media daily are our successes. Our Soldiers and the entire coalition are out there daily doing great things for the people of Afghanistan---and YES we are making a difference. It is very easy to read all of the negative newspaper articles and TV news stories and get down on the mission here. All of the negativity in the press also takes a toll on Soldiers and sometimes leads us to question the mission here in Afghanistan. As Soldiers, the important thing for us to remember is that we need to go out each and every day and simply do the best that we can at whatever mission or task we are given.

Counterinsurgency missions are tough! Most successful counterinsurgencies last a generation and success is a very slow and laborious process. As a nation and people we tend to be very short

sighted and don't have very good memories. Anytime I begin to question myself or the mission here in Afghanistan, I simply think back to that beautifully clear September day in 2001 and recall the horror and sadness I felt as I watched thousands of innocent people slaughtered before my eyes for no reason. As the song says..."do you remember"? I know that I do and always will, and I pray that we as a nation will not fall into the trap of writing this mission off before it is completed. There is still a lot of hard work to be done over here, and in order to complete it will require tremendous patience and a good memory.

In closing, as always I ask for your continued prayers for this Task Force. We still have a long and dangerous road ahead of us and your continued prayers and support are crucial to mission success. We miss you all and cannot wait to return home. True & Tried!

LTC E.M. McInnis



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Follow the Soldiers of Task Force Swamp Fox on the [Marion's Men Facebook](#) page. It's a great way to keep in touch with your favorite Soldier and stay up to date on the latest news from Afghanistan. Join us today!

The Leader's Book by CSM McKenzie

Greetings,

LTC McInnis and I continue to make our rounds to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRT's) across Afghanistan. Morale remains high among our brave warriors. I continue to be impressed by their passion and commitment to the mission. They are making a difference.

The job of providing security for the PRT's has not been an easy task. Each team consists of U.S. service members from the Air Force, Army and Navy. Each branch has its own customs, training and traditions, which poses some challenges. The Soldiers of Task Force Swamp Fox have adjusted well. It's apparent they have benefited from the



CSM McKenzie spent some time with school children at the Sar Asyab School in the Darulaman section of Kabul City.

diverse nature of their working environment and jobs. I'm confident the other service members on their team have learned a thing or two from our Soldiers too.

I'm also proud of our Soldiers

that are providing base security at Camp Phoenix, managing garrison operations at Camp Alamo and Camp Dub's, sustaining the Battalion from Bagram Airfield and supporting ISAF Joint Command at North Kabul International Airport. The contributions of the Battalion are varied, but the results are the same.

Our Soldiers are providing great value to the United States Army and the taxpayers of America. You should be proud of the men and women of Task Force Swamp Fox. They are the brightest and finest group of Soldiers I have ever been associated with. True and Tried, CSM McKenzie

Church Chat with the Chaplain...

Greetings,

I believe the biggest problem we have today is that we've turned into a "whatever" society. My daughter started using that word a few years ago. We would tell her to do something, she would disagree, we would insist, and she would respond, "whatever." We have banned that word in our house. When people say "whatever", what they're saying is that they don't care. Not caring is the worst state we can be in. Jesus mentioned this in Revelation when He was talking to the church of Laodicea and He said, "I wish you were hot or cold, but because you are lukewarm, I will vomit you out of my mouth." They were a "whatever" church.

Complacency comes when we give up. The "groundhog day" syndrome can create complacency. Depression can create complacency. The idea that things will never get



Chaplain White preaching at one of the many contemporary services at Camp Phoenix.

better and that things will always be like they are now can create complacency. The cure to complacency is ACTION!

If you find that you are stuck in a rut and that you are getting complacent, then DO something. Take a class. Plant some flowers. Call a friend. See a chaplain. Do something proactive to defeat the complacency. Our attitudes are a choice and we can affect them.

If you are looking for ideas or if there's a situation where you need help, please don't hesitate to contact me (Charles.w.white@afghan.swa.army.mil). We're coming down to the end. Let's finish well.

God bless you,
CH Josh White



Moving On Up!



Spec. Ian L. Moffatt (right) of Acworth, Ga., was promoted to Sergeant, July 22, by Capt. Chris Plummer (left).



Pvt. Jamal Funchess of Elloree, S.C., was promoted to Private First Class, July 27, by 1st Sgt. Jeffrey Pace.



Pfc. Michael Salka (right) of Camden, S.C., was promoted to specialist, July 14, by Command Sgt. Maj. Samuel McKenzie (left).



Spec. Shawn R. Seager (left), of Belleville, Pa., received an advancement to corporal, July 12, by Capt. Chris Plummer (right).



Sgt. Robert G. Shearer, II of Manning, S.C., was promoted to Staff Sgt., July 10, by his platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Bowers.



Spec. James Foster (right) of Salisbury, NC, was promoted to Corporal, July 19, by First Sgt. Jeffrey Pace (left).



Pfc. Sidney Ruth (right) of Varnville, S.C., was promoted to specialist, July 14, by Capt. Chris Plummer (left).



Pfc. Robert Kelly (right) of North Myrtle Beach, S.C., was promoted to specialist, July 14, by Sgt. 1st Class Randy Crocker (left).



Sgt. Greig Baesal (Right) of Greenville, S.C., was promoted to Staff Sgt., by Sgt. 1st Class Chuck Tirpak at a ceremony, July 19.



Pfc. Donald R. Ebinger, right, of Philadelphia, Pa., was promoted to specialist, July 28, by Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Graham, (left).

Scenes from the PRT's



Kunar Province: Young girls giggle as Spe. Tanner Edwards, a gunner who graduated from of Lakeview High School in Stoneboro, Pa., walks through villages outside Asadabad in Afghanistan's Kunar province, April 27. Part of their counterinsurgency mission is to form personal bonds with the people in the province.



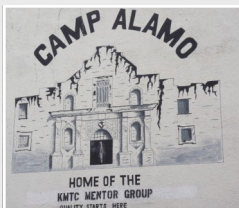
Ghazni Province: Army Sgt. Scott Canupp, Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team security forces member, collects potential wire used in improvised explosive devices during a mission, June 12. The security forces members are from South Carolina Army National Guard and provide invaluable security to Ghazni PRT members during missions. Sgt. Canupp is originally from Laurens, S.C., and forward deployed to Ghazni, Afghanistan.



Ghazni Province: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Michael Austin, security forces member from South Carolina, looks through binoculars while providing over-watch security during an engineering mission, March 17. Austin is a member of the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team.



Kunar Province: U.S. Army Master Sgt. Jimmy Arbogast of Sandy Lake, Pa., the Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team operations sergeant major, secures the area while on a quality assurance visit to the Kunar Prison, April 8.



The Alamo

Story by Capt. Chris Turner, Camp Alamo Mayor, USA

Soldiers of the 1st of the 178th Field Artillery Battalion - Captain Christopher Turner of Summerville, Sergeant First Class Roger Cantley of Andrews, Staff Sergeant Tony Grant of Pawley's Island, and Staff Sergeant Jack Hart (28th Infantry Division) of Canonsburg, Pennsylvania have the mission of providing base support and sustainment operations as the Garrison Command Group at Camp Alamo, Kabul, Afghanistan.

As the Garrison Command Group, they are responsible for the ever expanding camp that supports the Kabul Military Training Center Advisory Group, a highly visible group of mentors consisting of over one thousand US, Coalition, and civilian contractors who provide mentorship, training, and logistical support to the Afghan National Army (ANA). The Coalition Forces from United Kingdom, France, Mongolia, Romania, Australia, Greece, Germany, Turkey, and Italy work along US Soldiers from 10th Mountain Division's 2nd Battalion of the 22nd Infantry Regiment, detachments of the 95th Division and 1st Army, as well as, US Sailors, Marines and Airmen with various military specialties.

The Garrison Command Group under CPT Turner's direction and leadership focuses on the living condi-



Team Alamo (left to right): Sgt. 1st Class Roger Cantley, Capt. Chris Turner, Staff Sgt. Tony Grant and Staff Sgt. Jack Hart.

tions, security, and management of the camp. They are also responsible for the selection and performance management of all contracts for services at Camp Alamo. The Command Group has been successful in meeting the challenges of enlarging the Camp's capacity from a population of three hundred to nearly one thousand people in the six months since their arrival and facilitate a seamless transition between vital logistical service providers KBR and Fluor while continuing to operate

efficiently and meet the needs of the ever evolving Kabul Advisory Group. Much of the team's focus is dedicated to improving the working conditions and quality of life of Camp Alamo residents both military and civilian. Through their commitment and hard work, dozens of major projects have been completed.

As the team moves into the second half of their deployment, they continue to initiate and oversee several million dollar projects to include the construction of buildings that will house close to two hundred personnel, and the improvement and expansion of service facilities, and upgrades to Morale, Welfare, and Recreational conveniences.

With their departure, they will leave behind not only improved living conditions for our US and Coalition Forces but also a lasting impression of goodwill and hope for the ANA and the people of Afghanistan.

Conex Day — A time for fun, fellowship and Goodwill.

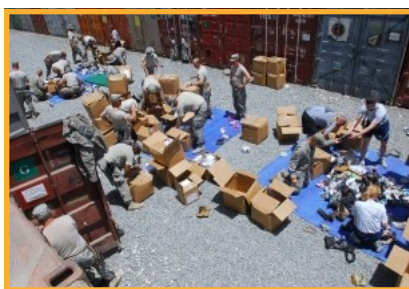
Story by Capt. Chris Neeley, PA0, USA

If you want to know what a volunteer looks like, go no further than the conex yard at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Every Friday evening at 6:00 p.m. you will find forty to fifty military personnel and civilian contractors spending their free time sorting through and organizing humanitarian assistance for Operation Outreach Afghanistan (OOA).

Operation Outreach Afghanistan is a volunteer organization that seeks to provide aid and comfort to the Afghan people through humanitarian assistance. OOA has more than 194 members at Camp Phoenix who have volunteered more than 1,500 man hours this year in support of Afghan local nationals.

According to CPT Chris Plummer, chair, Gift Committee, OOA, conex day is one of the most important activities sponsored by Operation Outreach.

"We could never get the first pair of shoes, first set



OOA volunteers sort through donations in the conex yards at Camp Phoenix.

of clothes or school supplies out the door if we don't have it all organized and sorted. Conex day gives us an opportunity to stay on top of the huge influx of donations and prepare them for distribution. It's also a great time for fun, fellowship and goodwill," said

Plummer.

In just four months OOA has seen an increase of more than 1,800 percent in donations. OOA has grown from one shipping container full of clothes, shoes and school supplies to three containers.



Spc. Cory Owens carries school supplies to the school supply container for sorting.

Wall of Honor



Spec. Brenton Mott (right), of Hookstown, Pa., receives the Commander's Coin of Excellence, July 7.



Sgt. 1st Class Kris Alvey (right) of Goose Creek, S.C., was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal, July 27.



Staff Sgt. James Thomason (right) of , S.C., was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal, July 27.



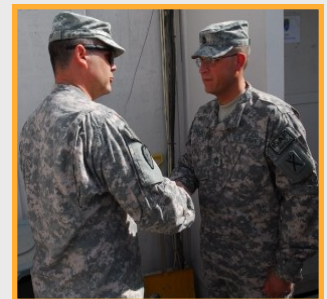
Sgt. Jeremy Plowden (right), of Florence, S.C., receives the Commander's Coin of Excellence, July 7.



Spec. Tyler Coles (right), of Longs, S.C., receives the Commander's Coin of Excellence, July 7.



Spec. Ralph P. Bradey, Jr., center, of Spartanburg, S.C., and Spec. Phillip D. Kako, right, of Greenwood, S.C., recite the oath of re-enlistment July 28.



Sgt. 1st Class Randy Crocker (right), of Conway, S.C., receives the Commander's Coin of Excellence, July 7.



Sgt. 1st Class Ryan Bowers (left), of Lugoff, S.C., receives the Commander's Coin of Excellence, July 7.



Spec. Jamall Gordon (right), of Charleston, S.C., receives the Commander's Coin of Excellence, July 7.



Staff Sgt. Tyrun Greene (right), of Georgetown, S.C., renders a salute after receiving the Commander's Coin of Excellence, July 7.



Capt. Kevin McClure (right) of Murrells Inlet, S.C., was awarded the Military Outstanding Volunteer Medal, July 27.



Members of the CMO present a plaque of appreciation to Lt. Col. Ed McInnis (second from left) from Hamid Karzai, President, Afghanistan, July 29.

Photos from the Field

