

Swamp Fox Facts

- Task Force Swamp Fox has completed ninety percent of its deployment in Afghanistan.
- Operation Outreach Afghanistan collected more than \$70,000 in gifts since March.
- Thirty-six Swamp Fox Soldiers have earned the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal in Afghanistan.
- The 1-178th FA BN flew 125 American flags on September 11, 2010 in honor of our family and friends back home.
- The Counterinsurgency (COIN) element at Camp Phoenix completed more than \$5.8 million in reconstruction projects for the Afghan people in Kabul province.

Inside this Issue:

The Commander's View (2)

The Leader's Book (2)

Church Chat (3)

Moving On Up! (3)

Scenes from the PRT's (4)

Soldiers of the Month (5)

The ALOC (5)

Photos from the Field (6)

End-of-Tour Countdown Edition!



Marion's Men

Volume 1, Issue 7

October 2010

S.C. Guardsman Becomes U.S. Citizen

While Serving in Afghanistan

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Joe Cashion, JSC-A Public Affairs NCOIC

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD — Becoming a United States citizen is a dream for many and for approximately 90 Service members serving on the battlefields of Afghanistan, that dream was realized in a Naturalization ceremony here October 1.

One of those naturalized was Spc. Wendell Langford of Bravo Battery, 1-178 Field Artillery, South Carolina National Guard currently stationed at Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan. Langford, a member of the S.C. Guard since 2006 and originally from Trinidad, says his mother was the driving force behind becoming a U.S. citizen.

"My mother has been nagging me to do it," Langford said. "Since my older brother and I were the first to come to this country and I still wasn't naturalized, I needed to do it."

Langford's Battalion commander, Lt. Col Ed



Spc. Wendell Langford (left) holds his Certificate of U.S. Citizenship with Maj. Gen. Timothy McHale (right), Deputy Commander for Support, USFOR-A.

McInnis, Command Sergeant Major, Sam McKenzie and Administrative Logistical Operations Center (ALOC) officer-in-charge, Capt. Chris Plummer, accompanied Langford to Kandahar Air

Force Base (KAF) for the ceremony and had high praise for their Soldier.

"I'm proud of him," said Plummer. "Every officer would love to have a Soldier like him."

Lt. Col. Ed McInnis, Langford's Battalion commander at Camp Phoenix, reflected on the patriotic meaning of Langford's citizenship.

"Our country is fortunate to have a volunteer Soldier like Spc. Langford who is willing to serve, sacrifice and die for his country in Afghanistan even before he was a certified U.S. citizen. That is what makes America and our Army so great. It is the epitome of what it means to be a patriot, a defender of freedom and true citizen of the United States of America. I am honored to serve with such a great American," said McInnis.

Feeding the 450

Story by Capt. Chris G. Neeley, PAO, USA

Operation Outreach Afghanistan has been called to help thousands of Afghan people through a variety of charitable outreach efforts. OOA has donated children's books, school supplies, clothes, shoes, blankets, first-aid kits, medical supplies and toys to those who need it most. OOA has helped the poorest and most down trodden people in Kabul province. It's estimated that more than 15,000 people have

benefited from OOA's donations this year.

Earlier this summer OOA decided to take another step in the outreach field by adopting a village. The Naw Abad village of southern Kabul province was the unanimous village of choice. Naw Abad village is located in a remote and dusty plain far away from schools, shops, clinics and maintained roads. It has a little more than 450 Afghan people.

In July, OOA coordinated a humanitarian aid drop with the elders of the village. More than six crates of clothes were donated to the Naw Abad families. That was just the beginning.

On September 7, 2010 OOA in coordination with the Afghan National Army (ANA) donated more than 1,300 pounds of food for the Naw Abad village to eat during Eid. Eid is the festival period that marks the end of Ramadan. Ramadan is the Islamic holy month of fasting and prayer.

OOA and its volunteers worked together with the ANA and Naw Abad elders to unload the



Elders of the Naw Abad village work with the Afghan National Army and Soldier OOA volunteers to unload more than 1,300 pounds of food.



Afghan National Army Soldiers and Elders from Naw Abad village pose for a picture with food donated by OOA.

45,000 Afghani's (approximately \$1,000 US Dollars) worth of sugar, flour, rice, salt and oil -- all of which is used to make baked goods, bread and Palao (Afghan rice dish).

OOA will continue to support the people of Afghanistan through charitable outreach and humanitarian assistance. It's what we do!



1/178 FA BN Public Affairs

Editor:

CPT Chris G. Neeley, PAO

1/178 Field Artillery BN, SCARNG

Camp Phoenix

APO, AE 09320

Questions or Comments?

chris.g.neeley@us.army.mil

facebook

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

The Commander's View...

Salaam Alekum (Peace be with you),

Wow, it seems like the month of September really flew by us. Between our normal operations and the much awaited football season, the days really seemed to have passed by quickly. We have now begun the countdown until our Relief in Place (RIP) and the subsequent Transfer of Authority (TOA) with the 1/181 Infantry from Massachusetts.

We are also in the process of conducting inventories, packing up gear, and completing all of the administrative tasks for re-deployment. While I am unable to discuss the exact dates of our return because of Operational Security (OPSEC), I feel comfortable in telling you that we will be home for the holidays. I would also like to remind all of our family members to be cognizant of OPSEC when using social media sites such as Facebook, Twitter, and My Space especially with regard to troop movement dates and locations.

Our Family Readiness Groups (FRG) has also begun to make preparations for our return back to the US. This month each FRG will be conducting very important Reunification briefings for our family members. I strongly urge you to get involved and attend these important briefings. These briefings will provide you with much information and knowledge to ensure the smoothest possible reintegration process. We have also started to make plans for our 30-60-90 day reintegration events. These events are mandatory for all Soldiers and strongly



Lt Col. Ed McInnis (top center) helps the Afghan National Army deliver food to the Naw Abad village in Southern Kabul.

encouraged for spouses. The exact dates, times, and locations for these events will be put out later through appropriate channels to ensure everyone is fully informed.

I would like to announce that we have planned an event to be conducted at the Sheraton Hotel Convention Center in Myrtle Beach, SC. The tentative date for this event is 22-23 Jan 2011. The State Family Programs office in Columbia has contracted with this hotel so that we can bring the entire Task

Force with families together in one location. It is important to note that because the hotel has been contracted, that hotel rooms will be provided at NO COST to the Soldiers and their families attending this event. I believe this event will provide a great venue for our Soldiers and families to come together and receive important information, as well as, provide an opportunity for us to come together and socialize.

Events such as this are important for obvious reasons; but they are also important because it provides Soldiers that have served together in combat, an opportunity to get together and reflect, bond, and check-up on each other. More information on this event will be published, but I felt it important to let you know the dates so that you can plan to attend. My wife, Jan, and I look forward to seeing you in Myrtle Beach!

We are close to the end of another chapter in the deployment book; however, there is still a little further to go. Complacency is the trap that we cannot allow ourselves to fall into. We have come too far and done too many great things, and simply cannot allow ourselves to let up now. I am very proud of the many accomplishments this Task Force has achieved, as well as, the support of our families and communities back home.

True & Tried!

LTC E.M. McInnis



The Leader's Book by CSM McKenzie

Greetings,

It's hard to believe the deployment is almost over. It seems like yesterday we were at Fort Stewart performing our pre-mobilization training. Now, one year later, we are heading into our final days in Afghanistan. My how time flies.

The next month will be one of the most crucial periods for our Soldiers. The excitement and anticipation of returning home is on everyone's mind. We all look forward to reuniting with our family and friends. But we cannot afford to let the moment cloud our minds before the mission is complete. There is still much to be done before we officially hand over the keys to our replacements.

We have several medical, administrative and logistical requirements that must be completed in the next month. For a period of time our Soldiers will be working side by side with their replace-



CSM McKenzie (far left) listens while an Afghan interpreter translates a conversation with an elder in the Naw Abad village.

ments so that nothing is lost in the transition. This will ensure that all of the goodwill and progress we've made this year will continue. This is essential to the overall success of the mission in Afghanistan.

These are the times for our Soldier's leaders to shine. They are now a finely tuned Soldier leading machine. I encourage all of our leaders to stay the course and continue the good work you performed all year long. Ensure that your Soldiers are physically, mentally and spiritually ready for the return home. It should be your number one priority during this stage of the deployment.

To our families back home, we are excited to return to you. Be strong in these last days. Please know that our time apart is down to days, not months. Before you know it we will all be together to celebrate the Battalion's successes in Afghanistan. Oh what a glorious day that will be.

True and Tried,

CSM McKenzie

Church Chat with the Chaplain...

Greetings,

Just a few more weeks and we'll be home. This will be the time when things get stressful. Not all stress comes from negative events. Good stress is still stress. Regardless, we need to be prepared for what's coming. Here are a few suggestions:

1. Take advantage of the opportunities offered by Chaplains, Military Family Life Counselors, and other family resources will be invaluable.
2. Pray for your family, and for other families.
3. Don't be too afraid to ask for help if you need it. In fact, ask for help even if you don't need it. I intend on using the free counseling sessions offered by Military One Source for my family when we get home. Things aren't bad...I just look at it as preventive maintenance (like on your car).
4. Pray.
5. Connect with other families that have been through the same thing. Don't get disconnected once we return. If you



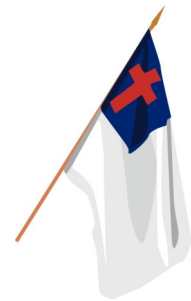
Ch Josh White performs at a recent contemporary church service at the Green Bean coffee shop located on Camp Phoenix.

company.

8. Did I mention pray?

If you'll do these things, you will have an easier reintegration and a great holiday season!

In His bonds,
Ch Josh White



get isolated, you can get injured (emotionally).

6. Pray.

7. Take it slow when you get home and enjoy each other's

Moving On Up!



Lt. Col. Ed McInnis (left) promoted James Lane (right) of Greeleyville, S.C. to the rank of Sgt. 1st. Class on September 13.



Capt. Chris Plummer (right) promoted Brenda Belle Barr (left) of St. Mathews, S.C. to the rank of Sergeant on October 4.



Staff Sgt. Jeffrey Graham (right) promoted Kennedy Elijah Grayson (left) to Specialist on September 17.



Ist Sgt. Jeffrey Pace (right) promoted Zachary Ryan Kuhns (left) to the rank of Specialist on October 4.

Scenes from the PRT's



Staff Sgt. James Johnson of Hartsville, S.C., Security Force, Nuristan PRT, stands guard at the base of a mountain in Nuristan province during an engineering assessment.



Staff Sgt. Joey Evans of Johnsonville, S.C., Security Force, Nuristan PRT, talks with an Afghan boy during an engineering assessment in Nuristan province, Afghanistan.



Soldiers from the security force platoon for Nuristan province meet with a Soldier from the Afghan National Army at a rural outpost in northeastern Afghanistan.



First Lt. Alex DeSeta of Charleston, S.C., platoon leader, Security Force, Nuristan PRT, points towards the direction of travel his platoon will use during a foot patrol in a rice paddy in Nuristan province, Afghanistan.



Spc. Bobby Atkinson of Johnsonville, S.C., Security Force, Nuristan PRT, monitors a video screen for indirect fire during a rocket attack in Nuristan province, Afghanistan.



Spc. Roberick McNeil (left) of Dillon, S.C., Capt. Saddler Taylor (center) of Columbia, S.C., and Staff Sgt. Kurt Jacumin (right) of Charleston, S.C., all of Security Force, Laghman PRT, take a break during a two hour foot patrol.



Sgt. Paul Morrison of Florence, S.C., Security Force, Laghman PRT, patrols a village during an engineering mission.



The security force platoon for Laghman PRT stands at formation during an awards ceremony.



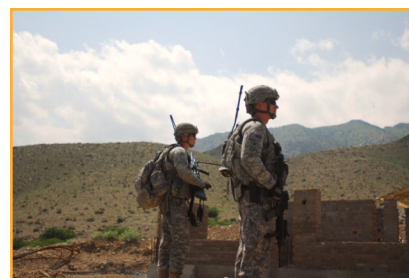
Staff Sgt. Caleb Welch of Turbeville, S.C., Security Force, Laghman PRT, interacts with the Afghan children.



Sgt. Brian Norton of Dillon, S.C., Security Force, Laghman PRT, plays cricket with Afghan children.



Staff Sgt. Kurt Jacumin of Charleston, S.C., Security Force, Laghman PRT, patrols a road in Laghman province.



Two Soldiers with Security Force Nuristan PRT pull security at a reconstruction site in Nuristan Province.

Soldiers of the Month



Sgt. Bobby R. Lane Jr. (right of center) of Blythewood, S.C., 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion, was named non-commissioned officer of the month for September 2010 during a ceremony at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.



Spec. Stephen Tucker (right of center) of Myrtle Beach, S.C., 1-178th Field Artillery Battalion, was named Soldier of the month for September 2010 during a ceremony at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.

The ALOC — The Backbone of Task Force Swamp Fox

Story by Maj. Steve Brazelton and Capt. Chris Plummer

The 1-178th Field Artillery Administrative Logistical Operations Center (ALOC) is comprised of the Command (CMD) cell, the S1 shop (Adjutant), the S4 shop (Supply), and the Chaplain and his assistant. The S1 shop is made up of 9 personnel, the Adjutant is MAJ Brazelton, Sr. HR NCO is SFC Crocker, HR NCOs: SFC Richardson, SSG Johnson, SSG Elliot, SGT Fowler, Medical Administrative NCO: SFC Allen, Administrative Specialists: SPC Burden, SPC Moralde, and SPC Kelly.

The S1 is responsible for personnel tracking, leave processing and tracking, personnel actions such as promotions and demotions, pay corrections, awards, evaluations, Medical Tracking and LODs, and building of demobilization packets for our return to the Demobilization Station in IN.

The S1 serves 219 Soldiers based out of Camp Phoenix and over twice that assigned to 12 Provincial Reconstruction Team across Afghanistan. The team ensured the effective management of leave permitting all of our Soldiers from Camp Phoenix to take their leave as well as the efficient travel coordination for all of these troops. The shop also monitored the Security Forces strength of all the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) SECFOR elements to ensure they maintained the necessary 42 Soldier per platoon. The S1 ensured the processing of 93 promotions of SC troops over the course of the 11 month deployment

and the completion of over 100 Line of Duty packets documenting Soldier health issues.

The S-4 controls the logistics in the ALOC. Logistics consists of equipment, housing, and supplies. Here at Camp Phoenix this is a key part of our operation in country. The S4 is made of 5 personnel; the S4 is CPT Hill, Sr. NCO is SFC Thompson, Supply NCOs: SSG Eaddy, SSG Harmon, and SSG Layton.

The S4 is responsible for making sure every Soldier has the equipment they need to perform their jobs. The S4 also serves 219 Soldiers based out of Camp Phoenix and over twice that assigned to 12 Provincial Reconstruction Team across Afghanistan. They have worked extremely hard this deployment making sure that the Soldiers were taking care of and they had all the things they needed to do the job. Now they are spending a lot of time on the redeployment making sure that all the equipment and Soldier gets back to the states.

The primary responsibility of the ALOC is to manage the well-being of the Soldiers. The ALOC consists of the command section combined with the medical. The command section is made up of ALOC officer-in-charge Captain Chris Plummer and First Sergeant Clifford Ackerman. The commander and the first sergeant oversee all the operations

within the ALOC. They make sure that any issues that come up with any Soldier that is assigned to Camp Phoenix or throughout Afghanistan is resolved in a timely manner. Command section also handles all disciplinary actions of the personnel that fall under 1/178th FA at Camp Phoenix. If any medical issues arise, the ALOC will work closely with the providers here in Afghanistan to ensure the Soldier gets the care they need, both here and back in the states.

Chaplain White is the Camp Phoenix head chaplain. He does multiple services and Bible studies throughout the week to make sure that Soldier's spiritual life and well-being is being taken care. He also spends a lot of time talking to Soldiers about their life experiences in and out of country.

The ALOC is the backbone of the Soldier support system for Task Force Swamp Fox in Afghanistan. Its primary mission is taking care of Soldiers. Our goal is to get every Soldier home safely to the ones they love.

Photos from the Field

