



1/181st Infantry Regiment

Around the Powder Horn

"Keep Your Powder Dry"



December 24, 2010

Volume 8

Happy Holidays!

It is a Season for Celebration!

The Command and Staff of the 1-181st Infantry Regiment wish you a Joyous Holiday Season and a New Year of enduring contentment.

Although we are separated by time and distance, we are still in each other's thoughts and prayers. Please take some time to reflect upon the sacrifices of our service members and families, and know that we are always thinking of you. Thank You for the gift boxes of baked goods, letters, candy, cards, pictures and small items that are truly from the heart. It is wonderful to see so much care and thoughtfulness go into your packages for the soldiers of the 181st.

Thank you for your continued support and have a Great Holiday.

Happy Hanukkah
Happy Yule

Merry Christmas

Happy Muharram
Happy Kwanzaa

Happy New Year!

2nd Plt., B Co.'s Combat Action in Nuristan PRT

Story by U.S. Air Force Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen

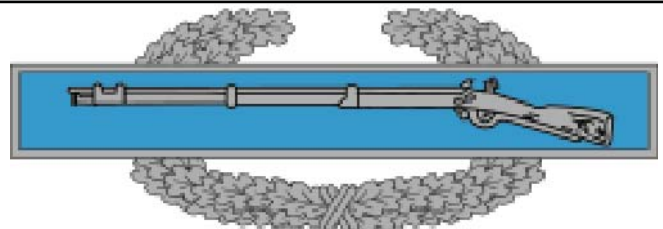
NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan — The Nuristan PRT was conducting a mission to Alingar and Kachur in Laghman Province when it was struck by a complex ambush by insurgent forces on Nov. 22, 2010 in Nangaresh village. The 1/181 severely wounded one insurgent during the engagement and killed as many as two others. There were no U.S. or Afghan casualties. The returned mortar fire by the 1/181 was the first indirect fire engagement by the Yankee Division since May 1945 when the 1st Battalion of the 182nd Infantry Regiment used mortars and pack 75mm guns against the Japanese at Cebu in the Philippines.

From GlobalSecurity.org

Infantrymen must have the skill and the will — not to just participate in the close fight, but to dominate it. From World War II through Vietnam, four out of five combat deaths were sustained by infantrymen, who constituted only five percent of the US military manpower. "The present war has demonstrated the importance of highly proficient, tough, hard, and aggressive Infantry, which can be obtained only by developing a high degree of individual all-around proficiency on the part of every Infantryman. As a means of attaining the high standards desired and to foster esprit de corps in the Infantry units, the Expert Infantryman and Combat Infantryman Badges are established for Infantry personnel." — General George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff, 1943.



U.S. Air Force photo by Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen
NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan — Spc. Scott Jackson, security force member of the Nuristan PRT, discards an empty ammunition can during an engagement against insurgent forces in Nangaresh Village. The mortarmen from 2nd Plt., B Co., 1/181, fired a combined 32 rounds of high-explosive and white phosphorus rounds against insurgent forces Nov. 22.



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181st Honors a Fallen Soldier at Camp Phoenix

The 181st held a Fallen Soldier Ceremony on December 15, 2010 to pay tribute to Pvt. 1st Class Ethan Louis Goncalo. Present for the ceremony were leadership and many unit representatives from Camp Phoenix, as well as HHC of the 181st. During the ceremony, unit personnel spoke, reflecting on experiences with Goncalo. His buddy, Spec. Julio Lopez remembered him as “A Warrior that would never back down in a fight.” His team leader, Sgt. Andrew Lawton stated that “Ethan was a genuine man. If you were a friend in need, he was always there to help you and make you laugh. I’ll never forget his goofy laugh.” HHC’s 1st Sgt. David Parella was able to take some notes that were posted on Goncalo’s Facebook page. One posting in particular stood out, “And on the 8th night, God created the Infantry and all of hell stood at attention.” This message was one Goncalo posted himself. The 1st Sgt. also reminded the formation that although it is a time to remember, we should draw off the strength of all soldiers of the unit, stay united, stay vigilant and finish the service we are committed to finish. Lt. Col. Anthony Couture, the 1-181st Battalion Commander summed up remarks he heard from some of Goncalo’s fellow soldiers. “Ethan was a Patriot who would want us to continue with the mission, and do the best we can to follow through with what we started for the good of the Afghan people, as well as the security of our communities and our country back home.” Couture finished his words stating, “Ethan will always be part of the 1st Battalion, 181st Infantry Regiment, Massachusetts National Guard; the Nation’s First.” Throughout the ceremony Soldiers stood in formation in front of the Fallen Soldier Battle Cross comprised of the helmet and identification tags to signify the fallen soldier. The inverted rifle with bayonet signals a time for prayer, a break in the action to pay tribute to our comrade. The combat boots represent the final march of the last mission. A firing of rifle volleys and the playing of Taps closed out the ceremony, prior to those present giving their final respects with a salute to Goncalo’s memorial display.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
Staff Sgt. Steven MacArthur (back) leads (from right) Sgt. James Teed, Sgt. Bruce Nicely, and Sgt. Andrew Lawton in the firing party for Pvt. 1st Class Ethan L. Goncalo’s memorial ceremony as they stand at attention for Goncalo’s final roll call.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
The memorial in honor of Pvt. 1st Class Ethan L. Goncalo formed of his weapon, boots, dog tags and helmet.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
Pvt. Tyler Andrade stands alongside the memorial in honor of his life-long friend and cousin Pvt. 1st Class Ethan L. Goncalo before the memorial ceremony.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
The Soldiers of 3rd Squad, 3rd Plt., HHC, pay their final respects to Pvt. 1st Class Ethan L. Goncalo during the funeral procession Dec. 16. Every Soldier of HHC marched in front of the memorial by squad to give Goncalo one last salute.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
Capt. Mark Chaney kneels before the memorial in honor of Pvt. 1st Class Ethan L. Goncalo after the memorial ceremony.

HHC 1-181 Meets Women's Coalition in Kabul

By Spec. Michael Broughey

KABUL, Afghanistan — Members of 3rd Plt., HHC, 1-181 provided security during a convoy mission to bring humanitarian aid to a nearby Afghanistan National Army camp and assisted with the delivery of children's clothing and school supplies in support of Operation Outreach Nov. 28.

The supplies were received by a women's coalition formed by native widows of Kabul who will distribute the much-needed goods from the Women's Center at the ANA camp to the children who need them.

The supplies delivered that day included several grocery-size bags of children's clothes and school supplies as well as a barrel of socks.

Soldiers from the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, 1/134th Cavalry Troop, and the 1/181 Infantry Regiment, all sta-



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
Pvt. 1st Class Michael Terestre, 3rd Plt., HHC, 1/181 Infantry Regiment, carries a barrel of shoes while Pvt. 1st Class Justin Ouellette, also of 3rd Plt., follows with backpacks and school supplies to the Women's Center at the Afghanistan National Army camp in Kabul Nov. 28.

tioned at Camp Phoenix, tossed the bags of clothes from one Soldier to another in a line and carried the barrel of socks and school supplies into the Women's Center to be sorted and collected by the women's coalition.

The Women's Center not only acts as a conduit for Operation Outreach's distribution of humanitarian aid, but also provides weapons and personnel search training for women in the ANA and female civilian workers as well, said a translator at the Women's Center known as Nadia. "We train women in personnel search so that women coming through our gates will not have to be searched by men," said Nadia.

Operation Outreach is a organization of U.S. Servicemembers who volunteer their time to organize missions like these to provide humanitarian aid to the city of Kabul.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
U.S. Air Force Maj. Donald J. Chapin, the head volunteer for the Operation Outreach mission, addresses the members of the women's coalition after the clothing and supplies were delivered at the Women's Center of the Afghanistan National Army camp in Kabul Nov. 28.



Help Support the 1-181 IN Family Support Group!

**Visit the website in the link below for
1-181 IN T-Shirts, Golf Shirts, and Sweaters!
Custom projects also available.**

www.laembroideryandcrafts.com

It's a Small World at Camp Phoenix

By Capt. John Quinn

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Some people go their entire lives without knowing distant members of their families, but two second cousins managed to meet for the first time while deployed.

Sgt. 1st Class Ray Como, of 1/101 Field Artillery based in Brockton, Mass., and Pvt. Tyler Andrade, of 1/181 based in Worcester, Mass., had the distinct pleasure of sitting down together to enjoy a Thanksgiving meal.

"It's the last thing I expected," Andrade said, adding they both were amazed by the coincidence.

It was even more fortunate since Como and the rest of the 1/101, which spent nine months working with Afghan National Security Forces, deployed in early December of 2009 while Andrade and fellow members of 2nd Platoon in HHC began taking over base defense operations in early November of this year.

Both units shared space and worked together at Camp Phoenix for more than a month.

They both were skeptical when Como's mother Brenda Stacey, who lives in Florida, and Andrade's father James Andrade, of Fall River, Mass., insisted they try to meet.

"My mom is the one who started the quest here," Como said, adding they met through Facebook.

Como's grandmother, Elsie Andrade, was the sister of Andrade's great-grandmother,

Mary Andrade. The two residents of New Bedford, Mass., were each part of large families.

"I knew I had a lot of family on the other side," Como said

Como and Andrade also share the distinction of serving in units with some of the oldest lineage in the nation. The 1/101 and 1/181 trace their roots back to the first muster of the Massachusetts Bay Militia in 1636.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Pvt. Tyler Andrade (left) and Sgt. 1st Class Ray Como stand together in front of the dining facility at Patriot Square in Camp Phoenix Dec. 1. Como would leave Camp Phoenix days later for completing his deployment to Afghanistan, while Andrade arrived only a month before.

Combat Infantry Badge

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U.S. Air Force photo by Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Lt. Col. Anthony Couture, 1/181 Commander, pins the Combat Infantry Badge on Spc. Udo Gonzalez-Collado and other members of 2nd Plt., B Co., deployed as the security force for the Nuristan PRT Dec. 9.



U.S. Air Force photo by Chief Master Sgt. Richard Simonsen

NURISTAN PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Maj. Scott DeJesse (far left), the district development team leader for the Laghman PRT, and Spc. Richard Bogue (far right), civil affairs member of the Nuristan PRT, flank a 60mm mortar team as Spc. Scott Jackson (second from right), of 2nd Plt., B Co., 1/181, prepares to drop a high-explosive round into the tube during an engagement against insurgent forces in the village of Nangarash on Nov. 22.

Protecting A City of Children

Counter-Insurgency Operations in Kabul

By Spec. Michael Broughey

KABUL, Afghanistan — Soldiers of 1st Plt., HHC, 1-181 patrol the streets around Camp Phoenix on foot on a daily basis.

In some places the streets are more like hiking trails; winding and curling around houses of mud and clay. In these neighborhoods, the only thing a Soldier sees more than children is trash.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Staff Sgt. Mark Maslon and U.S. linguist Amir talk to an elderly man who stepped outside his home, while Pvt. 1st Class Adam Flaherty (right) and Pvt. Timothy Brewer stand guard on each side Nov. 12.

As soon as the Soldiers turn a corner, the children swarm around the formation, if they aren't standing on the side of the path already waiting.

Gen. David Petraeus, the ISAF commander, created the current Counter-Insurgency (COIN) guidance involving a tactic known as population-centric warfare: U.S. military forces become part of the community by regularly leaving the safety of their base to interact with locals on the streets, in the fields, or even right outside their homes. It's no wonder a major facet of training at Camp Atterbury involved interacting with the local population.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Sgt. 1st Class Ronald W. Dennison and Sgt. Armand LaFleche patrol the barren fields between the tightly-packed neighborhoods surrounding Camp Phoenix Nov. 12.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Pvt. Joshua Dextraze treats a child for burns on the forehead with antibacterial cream and clean bandages during a patrol in Kabul Dec. 3.

Although HHC is a base defense unit for Camp Phoenix, it is an integrated base security contingent consisting of defensive and patrolling operations. 1st Plt. increases the security of the base by directly scouting the perimeter of the base as well as the surrounding neighborhoods and the industrial area of Kabul.

Most of the time a simple "Hello!" or "Salam!" is exchanged and the locals go about their business and 1st Plt. goes on with its patrol.

However, at least once a patrol, a local wants to talk about something suspicious they've seen in their neighborhood or just wants to give thanks for our continued involvement.

Some patrols provide humanitarian aid to the local citizens of Kabul as well as providing security to Camp Phoenix.

Pvt. Joshua Dextraze, a combat medic with 1st Plt., offers his knowledge and expertise to Afghans with injuries such as cuts, burns, rashes, and bacterial infections like the common ringworm.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Sgt. Greg MacAvoy (right) and Sgt. Steven Grasso pass out candy to a group of young Kuchi children who live in a village within the city of Kabul Dec. 3.

Resiliency in the 1-181st Infantry Regiment

The 1-181st Regiment has lineage dating back to 1636, enduring more than 374 years. But how resilient are we as an organization?

What is resiliency? Resiliency can be defined as “the ability to overcome setbacks and obstacles and to maintain positive thoughts during times of adversity” or “the capacity of people to cope with stress and rebound from a catastrophe”. In a sports analogy, it is a winning team suffering a “beat down” by an opponent during a given game that possesses the ability or capacity to bounce back, getting back in the winning mode following the loss, and continuing its winning ways, often becoming a better team. In a family analogy, it is when two members that love each other (husband and wife, father and son) after having a heated discussion (argument or fight) possess an ability or capacity to make up, letting past words go by and getting on with family activities again, often becoming a stronger family unit.

Resiliency for the 181st (Soldiers, units, and families) is the ability or capacity to suffer the consequences of combat and fully recover. Resiliency is Soldiers that have an ability or capacity to continue the mission in theater, often becoming more motivated and focused Soldiers. Resiliency is units that have an ability or capacity to maintain readiness and be fully mission capable, often becoming more cohesive units. Resiliency is family members that have an ability and capacity to continue family care activities, maintaining a Soldier support network and readiness group activities, and often becoming a closer community on the home front.

Prior to deploying, the 181st increased its capability to be resilient through a variety of means. For Soldiers, the training focused was on briefings, drills, combat lifesaver certification and ensuring readiness at all levels. For families, the focus was on providing information and building relationships at gatherings such as the “Yellow Ribbon Program” and organizing Family Readiness Groups. The “Strong Bonds” program provided a weekend away for spouses to re-connect. There are programs for family members at the “Y” and other organizations to keep family members active and provide an outlet to relieve some stress. The 181st also established a rear detachment and a means for reach back to a multitude of resources at the Massachusetts National Guard’s Joint Force Headquarters and other organizations. These are some of the mechanisms to generate resiliency in our organization. The manner in which we implement programs in place, as well as provide support and assistance to each other when required will determine the level of resiliency in the 181st. Please continue to be involved in activities and engage the Family Readiness Group at all times, not only when an incident occurs.

As you know, the 181st has faced numerous adversities over the past few months. Casualties in theater, family changes at home, as well as the demands of being separated and reacting to events give significant challenges. Add in communication issues, when night is day and day is night; compound the difficult task to provide clear and timely information to everyone from the 181st extended and widespread family. A decrease of information leads to an increase in stress.

It is important to review how the 181st is responding to and overcoming these challenges. When an incident occurs in theater our chaplain is always available to talk to Soldiers. Leadership and Combat Stress Teams coordinate debriefing and counseling times for individual Soldiers and specific elements of the 181st. The battalion and company leadership conduct battlefield circulation by travelling to the Provincial Reconstruction Teams as well as maintaining a presence at Camp Phoenix to talk to small unit leadership as well as the Soldiers. The leadership coordinates communication back home through conference calls, reach back to the Massachusetts National Guard’s leadership at all levels and e-mails. We also distribute the “Around the Powder Horn” newsletter to ensure families are aware of

ongoing events and experiences in theater. These activities are continuous, not only after an incident, but since our deployment.

The medical attention Soldiers are receiving is high quality. The majority of the Soldiers throughout the 181st are combat lifesaver certified. This allows buddies to take care of their buddies immediately following an incident. Each platoon has a combat medic that is on every patrol, adding another layer of treatment prior to getting evacuated to a variety of military treatment facilities in Afghanistan, Germany and even the United States. There are also

RESILIENCY continued on Page 7



Photo by Joint Force Headquarters’ Public Affairs Office

Each company of the 1-181st Infantry Regiment gathers in the conference hall of the DCU Center in Worcester, Mass., for the Pre-Deployment Yellow Ribbon Ceremony to listen to representatives from a variety of support organizations in Massachusetts Feb. 7.

The structure of the 181st consists of multiple levels. In theater, we are arranged as individual Soldiers; as teams, squads, sections, or platoons; and as headquarters elements with leadership at the company and battalion level. In Massachusetts we are arranged as individual families, extended families, Family Readiness Groups for each company, and the Battalion’s rear detachment with a Family Assistance Center. As an entirety, we are comprised of many elements, but I can assure you that “The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.” In theater or at home, this must be a collaborative effort to create a resilient organization.

RESILIENCY continued from Page 6

Physician's Assistants and Troop Medical Clinics at the Provincial Reconstruction Team locations as well as Camp Phoenix to assist in preventive medical attention and to take care of the daily "sick call" issues.

I have discussed communication processes in past newsletters, and these systems will work if everyone is patient. In a recent Family Readiness Group conference call, I stated the concept of "No news is good news." Priority of communication will be to families that require the information; everyone else will be informed in a timely manner. If an incident does occur, please respect the fact that other families in the 181st may be experiencing considerable stress and concern. Continuous questions to Family Readiness Groups and Family Assistance Centers will only take the focus away from those who need the attention. Your deployed Soldier will also be a conduit for information back home, but it will take into account next of kin notification of the severity of the casualty. Family members attempts of continuous contact by phone and e-mail to Soldiers in theater interrupts the Soldiers' focus on assigned tasks and the mission. Soldiers are prohibited from communicating back home or posting information on social networks until the command rescinds the "black out" communications order. Soldiers should not have to worry about answering e-mails, calls, and postings from home asking what is going on. Please, let the system work.

As you know, the 181st is located at more than 15 different locations across Afghanistan. Camps and Forward Operating Bases vary by size, but all have the basic facilities each Soldier requires. Each location has a Moral Welfare and Recreation center with computers for internet access and phones. There is a fitness center and usually an area within the secure perimeter of the base to run. Bases have a Chapel, and usually a room with books, DVDs and other media Soldiers can sign out. Some bases have a small USO facility with games, a movie room and snacks. These activities provide an outlet for Soldiers to refit, if only for a few minutes or a few hours.

There are many training programs to increase resiliency. The concept of the Army Comprehensive Soldier Fitness is to increase resilience and enhance performance of Soldiers, units and families. Comprehensive Soldier Fitness prepares, sustains and enhances the force. The goal of the Comprehensive Soldier Fitness program is to build strong minds and strong bodies by developing the five dimensions of strength: 1) physical, 2) emotional, 3) social, 4) spiritual and 5) family. Key program elements include the Global Assessment Tool (GAT) which is an on-line survey-based self assessment tool, taking approximately 10 minutes to complete. Individual scores are confidential, not reported to command or leadership. The GAT will provide you with a baseline in four of the dimensions; the physical dimension is not measured. There are also Comprehensive Resilience Self Development Modules of on-line training linked and tailored to performance on the GAT. This educates and provides an instrument so that you can develop your

strength in the four dimensions. These tools are available online at <https://www.sft.army.mil> for soldiers and <https://www.sft.army.mil/sftfamily/> for family members. An Army Knowledge On-Line (AKO) log-in is required for full access.



Some will argue that the resilience training and other programs mentioned are "touchy-feely" and not for them. Not every training program is for everyone, and most training is only as valuable as one wants to make it; you get out what you put in. The resilience training will develop critical thinking, knowledge, and skills to overcome challenges, mature, and bounce back from adversity. It teaches us that challenges are temporary, and that challenges can be changed by your own effort. The training focuses on the competencies of self awareness and regulation, optimism, mental agility, strengths of character and connections.

Time will determine if the 181st is a resilient organization. Training is complete, but constantly revisited and sustained. Programs are in place and activities are ongoing to ensure we are as prepared, engaged and proactive as possible, while also being responsive if and when another incident does occur. Asking for and providing assistance and support, and most importantly proper communication are vital to the 181st endurance and successful mission completion. Internal and external efforts are part of a collaborative environment to ensure we mitigate the second and third order effects of negative events. Although Warriors, in Afghanistan and at home, we cannot go it alone. Please take some time to connect with others of the 181st whenever possible to assist in creating a more resilient organization.

Keep Your Powder Dry!

—Lt. Col Tony Couture

—Powder Horn 6



TRENTON 1776

On the frigid morning of December 26, 1776, Soldiers of the Massachusetts Militia under the command of General George Washington's Continental Army crossed the Delaware River and marched to Trenton, New Jersey and successfully routed British forces in garrison.

