



RED WARRIORS

1st Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment



Afghan children show their new backpacks and district leadership as a temporary school is erected with much excitement in the Bag-e-Pole area of the Zhari Province in Southern Afghanistan

Another tough month

By Captain David Peterson and Major Korey Brown
1-12 IN S1 and XO

This month was a busy one for all companies for the Red Warriors. Daily patrols, leadership engagements with local Afghan leaders and the build-up of our strong points took much of our focus. In addition to all we have been tasked to do, the Soldiers of Alpha, Bravo, and Delta Companies have found time to take strides in offering the Afghan children in their area of operations and opportunity for an education. Alpha Company opened a temporary school in eastern Zhari that was made into a Afghan huge event **(Picture)**. Local leaders, Afghan media, and the Kandahar City Minister of Education were in attendance and day started with a delicious lunch **(picture)** and the land designation for a new school house to be built. Over forty children, many English speaking, lined the temporary school and received book bags, school supplies, and candy from the Zhari District Leader. Both Bravo and Delta Companies have designated locations for their schools and are beginning work in cleaning the schools for an opening soon.



The Red Warriors received many visitors this month to include Mountain Warrior 6, COL George and Mountain Warrior 7, CSM Sasser. COL George visited the Red Warriors at FOB Wilson and 3 of the 4 strong points. During his visits he was able to spend time with the Soldiers prior to going on patrols in their respective area of operations and was able to place a few “push-up” wagers on the College National Championship game in favor of the University of Texas. Needless to say, COL George owes a couple Red Warriors 100 push-ups each.



The Soldiers down in Kandahar Airfield moved into a new office location built by our friends, the Navy Seabees. They moved from two separate tents to a hardened building with much more office space and storage area. SSG Kelly designed the building and it is amazing. The Soldiers at the ALOC are doing a great job supporting the Red Warriors forward and it is great to see them enjoying their new work space.





Great news for the FOB Wilson folks as well. Our PX is now up and running. Chips, tobacco products, Monster Energy Drinks, hygiene products, and a few electronics are offered to the Soldiers at the AAFES price. What was once a filled 40 ft container, is now empty as the items did not last long. Camp upgrades continue with much needed gravel coming in to beat the rains, a Chapel, aid station, DFAC, and maintenance areas all taking priority for design and build over the next few months.

We would like to welcome CPT Mike McGuire to the Red Warrior family as he took command of our Forward Support Company from CPT Todd Wise on 16 January.

We all appreciate the support from home; especially during the tough times we have had to endure forward. Please keep the families of all of our Fallen Heroes in your thought and prayers as we continue to press over here in Afghanistan.

From all of us here in Afghanistan, we hope you have a Happy Valentines Day!





This month we mourned the loss of four members of our Red Warrior Family. SGT Joshua Lengstorf, SPC Brian Bowman, PV2 John Dion and SrA Bradley Smith were killed during a dismounted patrol near the town of Ashoque on the 3rd of January 2010.

They all were awarded the Bronze Star Medal, Purple Heart, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge, Combat Medic Badge, and Combat Action Badge respectfully. Two, SPC Bowman and SrA Smith will be considered for higher awards due to the valor they displayed during combat operations and the heroism they displayed to assist their brothers in arms.

All are true Red Warriors through and through. **Rest well Red Warriors your job is done.**



CHAPLAIN'S CORNER

Dear FRGs and Families,

We are beginning to feel the light of the sun shining through the dense vegetation of the forest and it feels good! But, we are not out of the woods yet. We covet your continued prayers as we keep walking toward the edge of the forest.

As we begin to wrap up this deployment and look to reintegrate with each other, there must be burdens weighing heavily upon individuals on both sides of the fence. There may be feelings of inadequacy. There may be feelings of having not performed your best in your relationship. Those feelings of inadequacy may be attempting to take hold as you think about reintegration. It should not though.

God knows there is not one perfect person who has passed the deployment test who has not also failed to call, said too little, said too

much, or focused on the wrong things during those skype sessions, emails, and phone calls.

As we feel the warming light of the sun upon our skin from the thinning of the forest canopy, let us also continue to move toward each other in acceptance and love, so that when we do reunite in several months we have already established an environment for relational success. Keep walking!

CH (CPT) Austin C. Vann
Battalion Chaplain

