



1/181st Infantry Regiment

Around the Powder Horn

“Keep Your Powder Dry”



November 3, 2010

Volume 6

1/181 Arrives in Camp Phoenix, Afghanistan

1/178 Provides Guidance and Mentorship During Transfer of Authority



By Capt John Quinn

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan — Continuing a legacy of service which predates the Revolutionary War, the members of the 1/181 are eager to carry on the work of equally dedicated Soldiers.

The 1/181 is relieving members of 1/178 Field Artillery, of South Carolina, who spent the past year providing security for several facilities in Kabul and for a dozen PRTs throughout the country. Soon, the 1/181 will officially begin their missions.

The two units had a smooth transition due to the groundwork laid by the 1/181's advanced party, which spent two weeks getting to know the area and setting up temporary living arrangements, according to 1st Lt. Conrad Holloman, a communications officer for the battalion.

“We’ve been training for months so it feels good to be here and make a difference,” Holloman said. “Get-ting out on dismounted patrols allowed us to see how

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Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

1st Lt. Matthew Tina, 1st Plt. leader is guided around the neighborhoods surrounding Camp Phoenix by Sgt. Geoffrey Doyle, an intelligence analyst with the 1/178 Oct. 29 as part of their mentorship with the 1/181 before the transfer of authority.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey
Soldiers of HHC were in good spirits while flying to Afghanistan in a C-17 Oct. 25.



By Capt. John Quinn

CAMP PHOENIX, Afghanistan – Volunteers are needed to help empower the Afghan people through humanitarian assistance.

Soldiers, their families and friends are asked to donate children’s clothing, shoes, toys, school supplies, backpacks and unopened basic first aid kits.

Lt. Col. Andy Gerlach, chairman of Operation Outreach Afghanistan, welcomed the members of the 1/181 to the Nov. 2 meeting.

“You guys are really key - you really know about counter-insurgency (COIN),” Gerlach said,

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Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

On right: 1/181 Soldiers met this child on the streets of Kabul outside Camp Phoenix, who like many others, wear any article of clothing they can find.

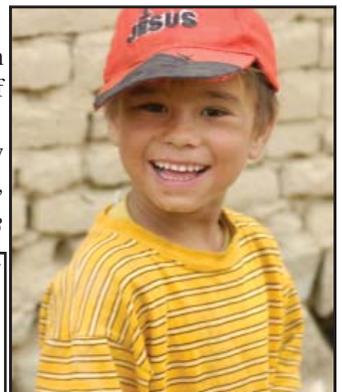




Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Cpl. Michael Sutherland, of HHC's 1st Plt. stands in a seasonal field used for crops during the summer. Members of his platoon patrolled the outlying areas around Camp Phoenix Oct. 30.

1/181 Taking the Time to Learn Their New Environment and the People Who Live There

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much impact coalition forces can make.”

Holloman said the foot patrols give Soldiers a chance to meet Afghans in Kabul. He added he was amazed how the children flocked around the patrols and was impressed how well members of the 1/178.

“They knew all the kids’ names,” Holloman said.

After a brief stay at Manas Air Force Base in Kyrgyzstan, which is north of Afghanistan, the remaining members of the 1/181 and the Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) flew into country Oct. 25.

Most Soldiers immediately spotted mountains behind the terminal at Kabul International Airport. It was a breathtaking and humbling experience, according to Spec. Julio Lopez, of HHC's 3rd platoon.

“Think of the altitude,” Lopez said as he walked across the runway to the terminal where the unit would be shuttled to Camp Phoenix.

After receiving several classes and briefings, the members of the 1/181 assumed command of nearby facilities within the Kabul Base Cluster while others began shadowing their counterparts in the 1/178 to begin entry control point operations, standing watch in towers, conducting mounted and dismounted patrols in the area.

Sgt. Patrick Rocheleau, of HHC's 2nd Platoon, said he felt much better getting out to the main gate and seeing how things are done. He added there was so much to learn and everyone was

eager to get started.

“Everyone has listened,” Rocheleau said, adding he was impressed by the high level of competence of the members of the 1/178.

“You can tell they're into their job,” Rocheleau said.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

From left: Staff Sgt. Mark Maslon of 1st Plt., Sgt. Geoffrey Doyle, an intelligence analyst with the 1/178 and the linguist known as Amir, interact with locals Oct. 31.

Commander's Corner

The travelling across the globe is complete. The Headquarters and Headquarters Company is settling into Camp Phoenix and the infantry platoons are on the ground at the various provinces. Over the past week elements of the 1/181 have conducted the left-seat, right-seat ride that acts as on the job training to ensure our Soldiers are competent in the new tasks they will be fulfilling throughout the next nine months in country. This process enables Leaders and Soldiers to gain situational awareness and an understanding of the new operational environment. When the incoming element has gained full operational capability, a Transfer of Authority (TOA) takes place when organizational colors are passed symbolizing the relief of one unit to another.

We are refining our communications mechanism to ensure family members are given timely and accurate information from the command. Please take a moment and wait prior to spreading a statement that may not be accurate. I think we have all been part of a scenario when someone will start a message in one corner of a room and it is delivered from person to person until it reaches the final person. Usually the final message is distorted or exaggerated. If we take this scenario and add thousands of miles, austere locations and sporadic communications, an incorrect message will put unnecessary stress on families and loved ones. Please do not spread rumors. I will do everything possible to relay timely and accurate information back home.

The news from back home is good. Family Readiness Groups hosted Halloween Parties across the battalion. Children and families had some fun getting together. I hear planning is underway for Holiday parties. Soldiers have begun to schedule the Rest and Recuperation Leave that will allow them to fly home and enjoy time with family as well as take a break from Afghanistan. The good point of this program is that it is a benefit provided to Soldiers at no cost.

Veterans Day events will be occurring soon. Please take some time to reflect on the efforts of all service members, past and present. The show of support is gratifying and always welcome by everyone in uniform. Thank you for your continued support of all the Warriors of the 181st Infantry Regiment. I ask that you put in some extra effort to ensure no family is forgotten during the upcoming Holiday Season as their loved one is abroad serving our great Nation.

Keep Your Powder Dry!

Lt. Col. Tony Couture
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Operation Outreach

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adding they will bring new enthusiasm to the project.

The group holds full meetings every two weeks in the Camp Phoenix chapel - Tuesday at 6:30 p.m. and committees meet every other week to organize humanitarian assistance missions.

To send donations to a specific Soldier, send to: Rank and name, HHC 181 IN, Camp Phoenix, APO AE 09320.

Volunteers sort donations for future missions every Friday at 5 p.m. in the conex yard in the northwest side of Camp Phoenix.

For more information, visit www.opoutreach.org.



Photo by Spec. Michael Broughey

Spec. James Adams inspects the underside of a vehicle with a mirror while the popular Afghan national known as Rambo checks the driver's compartment at an entry control point Nov. 2.



Photo by Capt. Christopher Neeley

From left, Gen. Ted Johnson, of the 1/196 MEB listens to Capt. Christopher Turner, of 1/178, as they tour around Camp Alamo with and his counterpart Capt. Thomas Clark, of C Co. 1/181, who assumed command Oct. 28.



Members of 1/181's A Co. "Springfield Rifles" and Det. 1 of B Co. from Greenfield served with the 2nd Massachusetts Regiment during the War With Spain in 1898. They earned a Combat Streamer for their actions in El Caney, Cuba during the Santiago Campaign and were mustered out Nov. 3, 1898.

