

The Gridley Globe

February Edition

Inside this issue:

The Big Red	1-2
The Dawg's Growl	2-3
FSC 1249	4
The Salmon Run—HHC	5-6
The Agape Shop	6
CMO	6

RIPPING INTO A NEW YEAR



Left: Lt. Col. Stephens and Command Sgt. Maj. Lee of 1092nd Engineer Battalion, Task Force Red Dragon, sheath their battalion colors during the Transfer of Author-

Task Force Red Dragon, 1092nd Engineer Battalion officially transferred authority to Task Force Gridley, 1249th Engineer Battalion on 4 Feb. TF Red Dragon's journey began in early 2010 and evidence of their work was apparent throughout the province.

During a cold ceremony, Command Sgt. Maj. Lee and Lt. Col. Stephens of TF Red Dragon, sheathed their battalion colors.

Consequently, Lt. Col. Kevin Dial and Command Sgt. Maj. Michael Polley, Task Force Gridley, 1249th Engineer Battalion, un-sheathed their battalion colors.

Points of Interest

- If you would like to change the title of your company's column, please submit your ideas to SSG Anna Rutherford!
- If you have an idea for the Task Force Logo, please submit design ideas to SSG Anna Rutherford via NIPRI!
- Check out more Task Force Gridley photos on <http://www.dvidshub.net>

The Big Red—623 Eng. Company

February has been another busy month and a month of change. Our new battalion, the 1249th arrived on-ground. We wish safe travels to the 1092nd as they travel home after completion of their mission supporting Operation Enduring Freedom.

First Platoon has been keeping busy with pre-fabricating guard towers that will be placed at various locations throughout our area of operations (AO). As much pre-fabrication is completed here on Sharana as possible, this minimizes the amount of time spent at remote locations.

The remainder of 1st Platoon is wrapping up their mission completing B-Huts at the Combat outpost. Most of the job is complete and they have been able to do a little extra work to improve the quality of life at that location.

(story continued on Page 2)

The Big Red—623 Eng. Company (cont.'d from front page)

While the majority of 2nd Platoon is gearing up for missions in the near future, they have been able to push out one tower to help set up a Check Point for the Afghan National Army. The pre-fabrication of towers has been the big push.

Second Platoon completed two large-scale

projects this past month, the pole barns and the work they did on the guard towers. Planning is in the works for their next missions and recons have already been performed to set those up for success.

Third Platoon continues work on the detention center. They completed the cells in the facility along with the medical

room and all offices. That project has gone very well and should also be completed ahead of schedule. A section of 3rd Platoon has also been working on living quarters, office space, and a Tactical Operations Center. That project is coming along nicely and on schedule.



Soldiers from 1st and 2nd Platoons, 623rd Engineer Company, work in the Pre-fabrication yard on guard towers to support upcoming missions



Left: A soldier from 3rd Platoon, 623 Engineer Company, finishes up the final stages of a project cleanup at the Field Detention Facility. **Right:** Two soldiers from 2nd Platoon, 623rd Engineer Company showing their enthusiasm of guard



The Dawg's Growl - 877 Eng. Company

After a long and eventful road to war, the soldiers of the 877th Engineer Company have arrived in theater, and relieved the 379th Engineer Company. As the 379th heads back home to Massachusetts, the 877th now carries on the heavy construction operations in here in Logar province.

We are still adjusting to the change in altitude. Forward Operating Base Shank is situated on a high desert at about 6,500 feet above sea level and surrounded by snow-capped mountains that reach nearly 12,000 feet. So far the weather has provided crisp days and cold nights with several

days of heavy snow. It's been a drastic change from our homes in Georgia, but a welcome improvement from the extreme conditions we experienced at Ft McCoy, Wis.

The company has hit the ground running, stepping into several improvement projects here at FOB



1st Platoon filling HESCOs on FOB Shank



The Dawg's Growl - 877 Eng. Company(cont.'d)

Shank that were started by the 379th. Our work here so far has included emplacing and upgrading force protection measures for the residents of the FOB, building and renovating drainage systems, and beginning work on a helicopter taxiway. We are also operating outside the wire (off-base) to improve local government

and military facilities and expand a small combat outpost in the area.

The majority of 2nd platoon has taken up residence at Bagram Airfield (BAF) near Kabul and is preparing for a busy mine season. They will assist civilian contractors from all over the world who show up each year to

clear mines left over from decades of war in one of the most heavily mined places on earth. BAF is an extremely busy place, and 1st platoon has a busy but rewarding year ahead.

The soldiers of the 877th are in great spirits and are ready to get to work. They have done a



Capt. Morris and First Sgt. Logan at the 877th Engineer Company headquarters

231 Engineer Company

No Material Submitted for February Edition

1430 Engineer Company

No Material Submitted for February Edition

FSC 1249 Engineer Battalion

The Forward Support Company hit the ground running upon arrival at Forward Operating Base (FOB) Sharana. Each of the platoons finished their Relief-In-Place sessions with the outgoing soldiers we're replacing well. We started missions even before we had all of our boots on the ground. There have been a lot of training classes for multiple soldiers from all

platoons, including drivers training, basic maintenance, HAZMAT and Fire Marshall certifications.

The physical security platoon (PSD) has participated in important missions taking themselves and Lt. Col. Dial, among other officers to meet Shadhi Khan, a very prominent member of society in Sharana City and its surrounding areas, who

is also the Social Labor Director and the local orphanage director. They have also visited the local high school and the Center for Educational Excellence (CEE). They have even linked up with 101st Airborne in the Shatowre village in order to assist them in security operations for the Civil Military Operations Team, who are building a couple of dams that

will help the village manage and utilize the runoff water better.

Maintenance platoon's primary mission is to ensure equipment throughout the battalion is fully mission capable and are already putting a continuous effort into making this happen. There have already been 17 job orders, including but not limited to weld-

ing jobs to support other companies in the battalion and the Oshkosh schoolhouse. They have also provided manpower in support of the critical missions PSD has been getting involved in.

Distro Platoon is also very busy, and Staff Sgt. Darrow has established control of the Petroleum, Oils and Lubricants (POL) Yard, with pretty much everything else. Where would we be without Staff Sgt. Darrow? Transportation



Above: Maintenance Platoon teaches members of PSD how to change a tire on a Military All-Terrain Vehicle (MATV)

has been busy doing everything from plowing the entire airfield to transporting cargo and tri-walls. Our fuelers have already taken up three separate daily fuel missions throughout the FOB and are preparing to accept more soon. The soldiers are anxious to start tower guard duty and have been very instrumental in reorganizing and taking inventory of the POL yard.

We're off to a great start and have been very busy making sure our presence is known here on FOB Sharana. Our leadership are very thankful for the attitudes and work ethic of the soldiers that make this all happen everyday. When we're done, FOB Sharana will know the lasting impression A(FSC) left on our area of operations.



Left: SPC Clemens and SPC Brunett of the 649th Engineer Company reorganize the battalion motor pool by moving some t-walls.

The Salmon Run - HHC 1249 Eng. Battalion

S-4 The first couple of weeks in country have plagued the logistical section with various injuries and ailments. Colds, congestion, upset stomachs and pinched nerves are but a few of the issues. Maj. Campbell, the S-4, is updating all areas of concern regarding new policies and standards that TF Gridley has set for itself. One of the large projects that had its genesis in this area is the security and clean up of the motor pool, which is quite a large area with many units not under battalion control. Sgt. First Class Webb and his crew are facing new challenges, every section member is learning to work independently on their area of responsibility. Sgt. First Class Neal is the Material Movement Control Coordinator, he is in constant contact with the Airfield, or Entry Control Point (ECP) moving cargo in our out of the area. Sgt. First Class Camper ensures that units order and receive the required materials for the assigned mission. He is constantly on the move to various



locations on the Forward Operating Base (FOB) to secure materials and other supplies. The Property Book (PBO) Team.....what can we say! Chief Bonney, Spec. Foster and Spec. Richards not only perform endless hours of inventory verification, Property book transactions and a myriad of other tasks to numerous to mention. The amazing thing is....they have fun doing their daily work.

Not to be forgotten from the S-4 section are Staff Sgt. Nason and Sgt. Helligso, both located at the ALOC in BAF. SSG Nason is performing admirably in ensuring the battalion cargo is tracked and routed onward to the unit locations. This

requires ingenuity and a willingness to apply skills more suited to used car salesmen. Staff Sgt. Nason is never at a loss to see the bright side of a situation and we miss wit. Sgt. Helligso has become the Aviation Logistics Operations Center (ALOC) property book hand receipt holder for property in excess of 2.8 million dollars. We all know Travis would love to convert this value into adult beverage liquid assets. Sgt. Helligso is certainly performing at a level commensurate with soldier well above his grade. The S-4 section is fortunate to have these two individuals working for it and we certainly miss them here at the FOB. Last but not least, the grumpy old warrant,

Chief Ryan. Challenged by all the technology required to transmit and gather information he is hanging in there. Thanks to the PBO team, he receives help whenever he needs to meet deadlines, etc. One of the main task currently is to verify equipment density, working with the PBO this task will be accomplished soon. help whenever he needs to meet deadlines, etc. One of the main task currently is to verify equipment density, working with the PBO this task will be accomplished soon.

649 Eng. Company

No Material Submitted for February Edition



The Agape Shop

At long last Spec. Chitwood and I arrived in Afghanistan this month! It has been an adjustment from home, but we have been blessed with help from Spec. Majeski in running the Agape Store and ministering to our soldiers. As the winter weather gets better, we will most likely be traveling around a lot visiting with the troops at the different FOBs. Our primary residence will be at FOB Sharana, but we may feel like circuit riders after awhile.

In the front of our office is the Agape Store. Agape is the Greek word for unconditional, divine love. This is exactly the purpose of the store. We are receiving care packages from around the country which are distributed to the soldiers from all over the FOB. Previ-

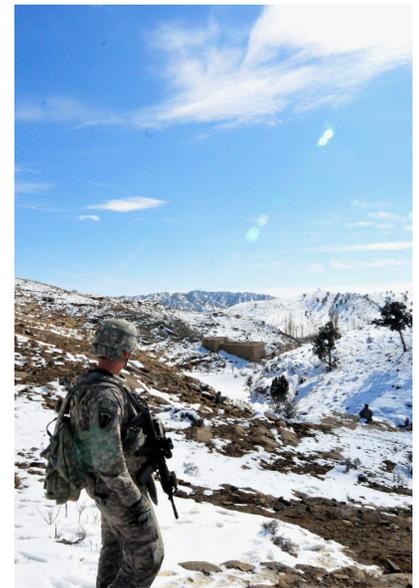
ous chaplains have developed the contacts which we will continue in our time here. Thus far we are taking inventory of what we have so that we can determine what we need. The store is well known and we see people from all corners of the FOB each day.

In addition to our office and store, we work with the other Brigade chaplains to perform religious services at the Davis Memorial Chapel each Sunday. The Chapel is located on our side of the FOB within a short walk from our quarters and offices. In addition there are other opportunities for studies and development throughout the week. Please take great comfort to know that your soldiers have excellent opportunities for their religious freedoms while they are here on FOB Sharana, and at each of the other FOBs that our soldiers are located at.

May God bless you and keep you safe during this deployment!

- Chaplain Barnes

Civil Military Operations



Above Left: A small Afghan boy takes tea and molasses candy to villagers and soldiers of Task Forces Gridley and Red Currahee. The molasses candy, made from boiled sugar cane, is also used as a sweetener for food items such as tea.

Above Center: Capt. Ryan Babcock works on a generator at the Center for Educational Excellence in Sharana City, Paktika Province.

Above Right: Spec. Jesse Caldwell looks out upon a valley in the Sar Howza District, Paktika Province.