

Continued from Page 6

In most operations, time is a beast to conquer. Here it is critical to Afghans that these projects are completed without delay. For example, the irrigation canals in Herat need de-silting after a four-year drought. Without irrigation the Afghans can't produce enough food to sustain themselves.

In a perfect world it would take two weeks from the nomination to awarding a contract, according to Lt. Col. James Owens, director of the resource cell, who is from 354th Civil Affairs Brigade, Virginia Beach, Va.

However, according to Owens, the 10-step process is complex. When a project does not meet the guidelines for humanitarian aid, there isn't enough funding, or the amount of work is too great, a



project has to be revised or put by the way side. Most projects are revised several times before they are finally approved, according to Owens. The revision process can take up to a month.

Some of the projects the CJCMOTF is currently working on include: repair to the Bagram Bridge, repairing three road craters in Kabul, repairing the Sultan Razia High School, removing rubble from the Rukhshana High School, and getting water to the Jamhariot Hospital.

"This is a fun job," said Bolick; "We get to actually sign the papers that will result in a child being able to go to school and learn in a nice facility or help a person with lumber and supplies to rebuild their home. The paperwork sometimes gets a little



frustrating, but the end result is certainly worth the effort."



Water of Life

When most people think of U.S. military operations in Afghanistan, they might envision combat troops hunting down Taliban, or American aircraft engaging enemy targets.

But, one group of American soldiers in the worn-torn country is helping to rebuild schools and improve water systems. In an effort to help with the reconstruction of the country's infrastructure, the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force (CJCMOTF) coordinates civil-military projects, fosters good relations with local leaders and citizens, and facilitates emergency humanitarian relief throughout Afghanistan.

One of the group's first projects is the desilting of canals in the western province of Herat, where much of the crops that feed Afghans are grown. The canals are clogged with dirt and rocks, which impedes the only source of water to farmer's fields. To get the water flowing again, about 400 Afghan workers have been hired to use shovels to remove debris from the canals. The desilting project will play a vital role in sustaining the community, said Maj. Mike Warmack, the CJCMOTF Civil-Military Operations Officer responsible for coordinating and managing the projects.

"The idea is we want people to stay where they are, to work on their land, and to not become internally displaced persons who have to leave here because they don't have water," he said.

If all goes according to plan, the task force hopes to have the canals ready to collect the melted snow that flows from the mountains. The goal is to have 19 canals that stretch over 100 kilometers completed in the spring when the higher temperatures begin to melt the snow.

The focus of CJCMOTF is to help Afghans help themselves. Instead of Americans performing the work, CJCMOTF contacts Afghan contractors, who in turn place bids on the projects.

The task force plans to complete 60 to 70 projects throughout Afghanistan over the next six months. It has about \$2 million budgeted to fund the projects.



CAN DO



377th THEATER SUPPORT COMMAND

May 2002



377th Bring Mardi Gras to Deployed Soldiers

CONTENTS

FareWell	2
AUDIE MURPHY AWARD.....	2
TSC soldiers receives high honor	
Photo Pages	3
Mardi Gras Abroad	5
Stories From the Front	6

COMMAND GROUP
COMMANDING GENERAL
BG David E. Kratzer

DEPUTY COMMANDER
Col. Mike Diamond
CHIEF OF STAFF
Col. Henry Moak

COMMAND EXECUTIVE OFFICER
Mr. James Sartwell

DIRECTOR OF OPERATIONS
Col. Earl W. Harter

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER
Major Michael Perez

STAFF

377th PAO NCOIC
Sgt. Jude Oliver

Staff
Spc. Denise Bentivegna
Spc. Jimmy Parker

CAN DO is an unofficial publication authorized under the provisions of Army Regulations 360-81 and published quarterly by the Public Affairs Section of the 377th TSC, 5010 LeRoy Johnson Dr., New Orleans, LA. 70146-3601. Views and opinions expressed in **CAN DO** are not necessarily those of the U.S. Government, Dept. of Defense, Dept. of the Army, or 377th Theater Support Command. News material may be used by civilian publications except for copyright material and photographs.

Stories from the Front

Donations

By John D. Weismann
314th Public Affairs Detachment

Soldiers assigned to the Coalition Joint Civil-Military Operations Task Force have been using their hard-earned dollars to make sure that Afghan children receive the best medical treatment possible.

Lt. Colonel James Gardon, a medical officer with CJCMOTF, headed up the fund-raiser. Gardon also bought the medicine from a local pharmacy and delivered them to the Bagram Clinic, a joint project between U.S forces in Bagram and the Spanish Hospital.

Gardon and Major David Floyd, also a medical officer with CJCMOTF, traveled to a pharmacy in Kabul, where they selected the medicines to buy and made the transaction with the Afghan pharmacist.

"We want to get the most bang for our buck," said Floyd. The U.S. dollar can go far in aiding medical work. "Because of the situation in Afghanistan," said Gardon, "the dollar can go miraculously further than in the U.S. The people here haven't received medical treatment, so the bugs here are simple bugs, easier to kill. An entire treatment for a child with an ear infection might cost ten dollars. Even three dollars is an amazing amount of money."

The CJCMOTF, in its short, two-day drive, managed to raise \$150, which provided the Bagram clinic with Amoxicillin, Septra, Liquid Tylenol, Metronidazole, and Augmentin. According to Gardon, the small amount of money raised was able to provide as many as two hundred treatments to local children.

The CJCMOTF medical staff made the effort to provide the medicine for children because the coalition members of the Bagram Clinic were deployed primarily with the medical treatment of adults in mind.

"It was easier for us to provide the medicine, as coalition partners," explained Gardon. "You can do so much good for these people with such simple things. Because it was an easy fix, it was a really good feeling, especially when other people got together to help out."

The medicine donation was a quick project with a quick impact for the Afghan people.

"Did we change the national statistics for child death in Afghanistan," asked Gardon, "Probably not. Did we save children, did we ease the suffering of parents? Yes. You save the world one piece at a time."



Helping Hands

Cpl. Holly Plata
314th Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan -- A painter sees art on a blank canvas; a sculptor sees something beautiful in a bit of clay. Soldiers at the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force (CJCMOTF) see schools and hospitals in the rubble of a war-torn country.

"We want to build sustainable projects that will have a lasting effect on the future of Afghanistan," said Maj. Steve Bolick, a contracting officer for the CJCMOTF, who is from A Co. 551st Signal Bn., Ft. Gordon, Ga.

The CJCMOTF is part of the United States Army working in Kabul. Their main purpose is to facilitate good relations with the local authorities and populations. They also identify and coordinate humanitarian aid projects.

The entire staff at the CJCMOTF is dedicated to humanitarian assistance. However, some of the key players for these projects are the engineers, finance soldiers, army lawyers, and contracting officers.

Anyone who sees a need for a project can put in a nomination; that is the first step to getting a project started.

From there it is scrutinized and revised several times before a contract is rewarded to a local bidder and the project can begin.

Some of the major obstacles in getting a project started are cost, resources and legal concerns.

Approximately \$2 million has been allocated for humanitarian assistance. With 130 project nominations, they have to make it stretch as far as possible to do the most good.

Continued on Page 7

Mardi Gras at home . . .

The troops stateside, aware of the fact that many of our comrades were scheduled to be abroad during the 2002 Mardi Gras festival season, decided to send a little Mardi Gras Cheer to the soldiers stationed overseas.

In true military fashion the soldiers of the 377th took up collections of Beads and Trinkets from their fellow soldiers and prepared the items to be deployed. As with any military all these items had to meet strict military guidelines and so the soldiers of the unit had to rigorously conduct Quality Control and aero-dynamic throwability tests on the items before they were packaged up and shipped abroad. Recipes for King Cakes were also included as custom regulations did not permit the transportation of such food items.



And Abroad . . .

The soldiers themselves were not the only ones who felt that the deployed soldiers needed a "taste of home" during the Mardi Gras season, as evidenced by Mary Broussard, wife of U.S. Army Reserve Col. Thomas W. "Tom" Acosta Jr. of the 377th TSC. "Tom just told me they were going to have Mardi Gras in Kuwait and to please send a few beads," said Broussard, customer service manager for Entergy.

Of course, since Kuwait is Not New Orleans their had to be several restrictions on the festivities. Alcohol was strictly prohibited, and so was "flashing for beads," said Staff Sgt. Aaron Hancock, an active-duty member of the 377th and one of the parade's organizers.

Once the Project got rolling the "Krewe Of Camel" was formed at Camp Doha and the soldiers were off and running. Spc. Eddie E. Thomas of New Orleans and Pfc. Laurie A. Vansomeren of Slidell were elected king and queen. Both are assigned to the 377th.

All told the "Krewe of Camel" received numerous boxes of beads, books on the history of Mardi Gras. a generous helping of Mardi Gras doubloons a discounted jester that dances to mambo music, courtesy of a sympathetic Mardi Gras retailer. Mary Broussard also sent capes -- her mother's handiwork --, for the soldiers to use as costumes.



Audie Murphy Club Inductees.

Audie Murphy was and is the most highly decorated soldier in the United States military to date. His actions during his 3 years of active enlistment in World War II earned 33 awards and commendations, up to and including the Congressional Medal of Honor from the United States, as well as France and Belgium. His career is filled with acts of heroism and self sacrifice in the name of his country and in support of his fellow soldiers. Murphy progressed from private to staff sergeant and ultimately received a battlefield commission to second lieutenant while fighting in nine major campaigns across Europe. In 1949 his autobiography was released as a movie, "To Hell and Back ", Murphy starred in this movie as himself. To Hell and Back ranked as the highest grossing movie until 1975, when it was replaced by the movie "Jaws". Murphy died in 1971, when he was 46 years old, when a plane he was on crashed into a side of a mountain near Roanoke VA. He was buried with full honors at Arlington Va. and his gravesite there is the 2nd most visited, the most visited one is that of President John F. Kennedy. It was with the greatest honor that the 377th TSC recognized and welcomed

new additions:

SSG Jason J. Fabre (321st)
SSG Stacy A. Speights (377th)
SGT Leslie A. Buraimoh (377th)
SGT Vern T. Dubois Jr. (377th)
SGT Stephonie D. Fields (377th)
SGT Billy W. Morrow (377th)



As an enlisted person, few accolades mean more than being selected as a member of the Sergeant Audie Murphy Club (SAMC) of the United States of America.

The inductees underwent rigorous examination by a board of representatives as they competed against fellow soldiers from the TSC in order to be granted membership in the Club. The SAMC (Sergeant Audie Murphy Club) was formed in 1986 at Fort Hood, as has been expanded army wide to include reservists and guardsmen.

The elite membership and induction into the SAMC is for NCO's whose achievements and performance deserve special recognition. Community service and civic involvement are also considerations in the selection process which is done by a Command Sergeant Majors Board.

The Audie Murphy tradition of leading by example and displaying the highest quality of military professionalism is alive and well in these soldiers . In addition to the official Sergeant Audie Murphy certificate, for their official military personnel file, inductee's can also wear a special medallion on their Class A uniform during SAMC functions, and a membership card with other club privileges. SAMC members also serve as VIP greeters at their local commands, and may accompany the Command Sergeant Major on visits.

Anyone interested in learning more about Army legend Audie Murphy should visit www.audiemurphy.com. All NCO's in the rank of specialist through sergeant first class who have demonstrated leadership qualities, professionalism, and regard for the welfare of soldiers are eligible for consideration by the convening board.

Farewell to MG Gaw and 1SG Alexander

The 377th flourished under the command of MG Gaw, and we can only hope to do as well in the future. You have all our best wishes.

We wish to welcome our new incoming commanding General, BG Kratzer, and look forward to a bright future under your command

The 377th gives a heartfelt "thank you" to 1SG Joel Alexander for your hard work and dedication as the 377th HHC First Sergeant. 1SG Alexander served us to the maximum of his ability, going above and beyond the call of duty to take care of the Soldiers of the 377th, and we appreciate all you have done for us.

Replacing 1SG Alexander will be 1SG Marvin Osirio, 1SG Osirio we welcome you and look forward to an excellent tour from you.





CJCMOTF soldiers discuss repairs to a road crater in Kabul with local contractors.



Lt. Col. James Gardon delivers children's medicine to a Spanish Hospital for use in the Coalition-run Bagram Clinic.



SGM Hines and BG Kratzer Congratulate two of the newest Audi Murphy Inductees



2Lt Odom adjusts his weapon as part of the Zeroing process during range qualification



Mrs. Brodie, Family Support, was welcomed into the Mary E. Walker Society



Capt William "Matt" Blackston was honored with the Mayors 2001 Community Service Award for Reserve Military Personnel.



This years Range Qualification exercise contained a series of NBC drills and exercises including a Gas Chamber exercise



Soldiers from the 377th Marched in parade to help celebrate the opening of the National D-Day Museum's new Pacific Wing



The 377th supplied soldiers to participate in an all services color guard that was part of the closing ceremonies for the opening of the pacific wing for the National D-Day Museum.