

Initiative: BRMS and Vermont National Guard Deployment to Afghanistan



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VNG's Mission



- The Vermont National Guard (VNG) will be at the core of the 10,000 member Taskforce Phoenix 10
- The Taskforce will be stationed in Afghanistan from late January through December 2010
- Constantly evolving objectives
- Safe to say the mission will incorporate two parts:
 - 1) Training the Afghan Army to take greater role in security operations
 - 2) And/or being assigned a city/region to “Clear and Hold”
- Regardless, guard personnel will be living and interacting with the Afghan population on a daily basis

Why BRMS Does “It”:

- Many of the VNG members of Taskforce Phoenix are residents of CESU
- BRMS is and will continue to be sensitive to the needs of the community
- Projects like this one have an impact on the communities in which these soldiers are located (Previous fund-raiser: Project Taji)
- The project is based on building mutual understanding and awareness – ideas that almost anyone can support

Primary Objectives

- To have the Afghans within the VNG mission area express what their children need to VNG members
- For the information to be relayed back to BRMS
- As a service learning opportunity, BRMS designs and builds containers and fills them with school supplies/aid materials requested
- Containers shipped to Afghanistan and delivered by VNG

BRMS's Role

Phase I (Late December –
mid January 2009)



- Build awareness in community and brainstorm other projects (Whole-school assembly with VNG support)
- Develop working model of container system

BRMS's Role

Phase II (January – Early March 2010)



- Test container
- Finalize plans for other projects
- Finalize responsibilities for project (example; summer-time)
- Develop timeline for 2010 (long-term commitment)
- Fill and send off first container of school supplies

BRMS's Role

Phase III (January –December 2010)



- Receive requests from VNG personnel for package contents
- Collect, box and ship tailored packages to Afghanistan
- Update community about our efforts and encourage involvement
- Support other initiatives tied to the project

Possible Ideas

- “Introduction” packages in every container:
 - Brief history of our community (Jericho and Underhill)
 - Sweets (chocolate, honey and maple syrup straws)
 - Cranes with paper and instructions to make more (Ross Perri Memorial)
- The container itself could be a gift, used by the Afghans for their children, or could be used to ship items back to the school (by either VNG and/or Afghans)

Possible Curriculum Tie-ins:

Social Studies

- Cultural Awareness
 - Pictures of communities
 - Geography
 - History and politics
 - History of VNG and mission in Afghanistan



• Language Arts

- Afghan children relate their stories to BRMS children, which are published
- BRMS students research and write stories about Underhill and Jericho to share with the world

• Technology

- Google Earth idea
- Google Maps
- Wikipedia
- Engineering
 - Tech Ed