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Delk Returns from Tour of Duty

February 24, 2014, Monroe, NC – Assistant County Manager Matthew Delk returned to work on Wednesday after serving with the South Carolina National Guard in Afghanistan.

Delk, a major and combat engineer, left his position with the county on very short notice last May to replace a soldier who had been injured in Afghanistan. He served with the 122nd Engineer Battalion of the South Carolina National Guard.

“Our missions focused as a whole on training Afghan combat engineers, route clearance and construction,” Delk said.

Delk was assigned to lead the training effort. The training teams developed and trained combat engineers in two Afghan Corps and one Division. Overall, they were responsible for the combat engineers in approximately half of the Afghanistan National Army.

“We focused on training and partnering with Afghan soldiers in order to move them towards self-sufficiency,” Delk said. “Our soldiers involved in this effort conducted over 700 missions, and we brought all of our soldiers home. We operated in eastern and northern Afghanistan.”

Delk has been in the National Guard for 18 years, beginning as an enlistee in 1995. He is a veteran of Iraq and Afghanistan. His military decorations include the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and ARCOM for Valor.

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