

**ITALIAN SOLDIERS, SILENT
SENTRIES OF IRAQI PEOPLE**

Coalition Bulletin

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A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

**GERMAN FRIGATE RESCUES
MARINERS IN ARABIAN SEA**

**MUNITIONS DISPOSAL AIDS
MARCH OF LAW AND ORDER**





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Cover photo: Italian paratrooper of the “Brigata Paracadutisti Folgore”, Italian Joint Task Force, stands on guard for peace and stability in An Nasiriyah, Southern Iraq.

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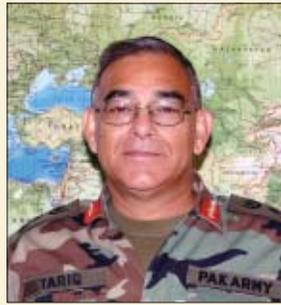
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“We have over 5,000 candidates for the national assembly and for the provincial assemblies. There are women from all the provinces of the country will be coming to the parliament. So the country is moving forward.”

Hamid Karzai,
President of Afghanistan

Editorial

It is with a great sense of honour and privilege that I begin this editorial, which is my first as the Chairman of the Public Awareness Group. I would like to commence this communication with a profound appreciation of the outgoing Chairman, Brigadier Neville Reilly who gave his best to this bulletin in terms of time as well as insight.



This Bulletin remains an expression of the commitment that the world's largest military coalition has for the establishment of peace and stability at the global level. The War on Terror is an ongoing phenomenon that is likely to remain for some time to come. Whereas the military cooperation that combines its efforts to defeat the scourge of terrorism remains intact and alive, there is greater realisation and understanding that military operations can only shape the environment for peace; but cannot by themselves win the peace for all times to come. It is why, nations of the world have brought forward expertise, resource and funding to conflict torn regions in the endeavour and the hope to resolve matters so closely inter-woven in the fabric of social and human optimisation. CENTCOM is one such institution that structures, facilitates and coordinates international assistance within its areas of operation. This area spans from the Horn of Africa through Iraq and all the way up to Afghanistan.

As the War on Terror gradually begins to focus on rehabilitation of people and restructuring of the environment, terrorists too, shift their battle to civilians in the street and an unarmed public. It is this restructuring and these people that the terrorists so brutally choose to target as they undertake their strategy of chaos and confusion. They do this, so that the writ of legitimate governments remain limited and restricted and the prevailing vacuum allows them to continue undertaking a war without substance; where the people that they wish to liberate are themselves the target of their liberation. However, what is usually lost in the fury of combat or the dust and smoke of violence are the many stories of hospitals, schools and infrastructure that CENTCOM with its partners are responsible for setting up and establishing. Despite the distractions of bombings and hostage taking, the Global War on Terror has definitely begun to turn the corner as the peoples of these regions begin to find themselves more and more relevant in shaping their own destiny and future. They do this as the Coalition Partners conduct training missions and support operations to make the security agencies in these countries more and more operationally capable. No one should doubt that the Coalition's underline objective and goal is to allow these agencies to take control of their areas while they establish the writ of their respective Governments. That these Governments then apply themselves autonomously to the task that all legitimate governments, the world over, have always done, i.e. "ensure the well being of their people."

In this vein, this Bulletin is dedicated to the many men women in the operational areas of CENTCOM, from the many countries that comprise this coalition, embedded in the regional and local armies and police, as they extend their services to train, equip and organise these forces to help themselves. The reader shall find amongst these pages the stories of this band of soldiers reaching out to humanity and fellow man. He shall read about rescue missions and sometimes humanitarian assistance. He shall learn a little off training roles and lot about cooperation as whole populations are rehabilitated.

Tariq Khan
Brigadier-General, Pakistan
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group



General Abizaid Receives The Golden Medal of The Polish Armed Forces



On photos: During the award ceremony.

By Maj. Mariusz Blach,
the Polish Armed Forces

On June 7 the Polish Armed Forces presented the Golden Medal to General John Philip Abizaid, USCENTCOM Commander. The decoration was presented by Brigadier General Kazimierz Sikorski – the Polish Military Attaché to The United States of America on behalf of the Polish Minister of National Defense.

The Medal of The Polish Armed Forces is designed to honor foreign citizens and Poles living abroad who made an exceptional contribution in the area of cooperation between Polish Military and Armed Forces of other countries.

The presentation of the Golden Medal of the Polish Armed Forces to General Abizaid is a symbol of Polish appreciation for the outstanding support which the Polish Armed Forces received in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

The presentation itself is an act of symbolism enabling the Polish Military Authorities to present Polish appreciation to United States, to the USCENTCOM staff in their efforts in the Global War on Terrorism, through the USCENTCOM Commander.

Participants attending the ceremony were the Senior National Representatives from the nations that have contributed to the Multi-National Division "Center South", the US Central Command, the Coalition Coordination Center staff officers and Polish Liaison Team. 



Italian Soldiers, Silent Sentries of Iraqi People



Italian and Romanian are training Iraqi Army on Military Operation in Urban Terrain (MOUT).

By Lt. Col. Mario Luppa,
Italian Army

The Boeing 207 was ready to take off at 2.50 B Time, 220 blood brothers and I; destination the Airport of Kuwait City. From there, one C-130 of the Italian Air Force was going to board and transport the first part of us to Tallil Air Force Base. And that is how the Operation Babilonia 7 started for me, one of the paras of my second family, the “Folgore” Brigade.

While the singer Elisa was sound-

ing “Heaven” in my ears, I was staring at the sky of Rome in that clear night... and said goodbye to the eternal town.

As soon as in the aircraft I mentally double-checked my equipment, my best resource, what I had been given to survive and to accomplish my mission at his best. After that, I closed my eyes and slept. A long trip over grounds without trees, only some strips of water... and seas of sand.

I reached Iraqi town Nassyria the day after at dusk, and incredible to say, once in a life time even the feathered soldiers, Italian Bersaglieri, always in competition with us, paras, where very happy to see us... we were proud Italians, we were all brothers, we were in the same mission now, named Iraqi Freedom.

We, paratroopers, will keep training the Iraqi Security Forces as they have done, and that is fundamental. Iraqi Security Forces, the forces that will ensure peace, peace of mind and security to the local people even when we will be gone; Iraqi women, children and men, people who have suffered too much.



On photos: Italian paratroopers are patrolling Dhi Qar province. People of Iraq and Italian soldiers.



German Frigate Rescues Mariners in Arabian Sea



By CTF-150 Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain – German frigate FGS Karlsruhe (F212) rescued six distressed mariners June 9 as it conducted maritime security operations (MSO) in the Arabian Sea as part of Commander, Task Force 150.

Karlsruhe answered a distress call from Motor Vessel Sarah after the tugboat experienced severe engine problems.

“It’s a longstanding tradition that we help fellow mariners who are in distress and that’s exactly what Karlsruhe did,” said Commodore Anthony Rix, commander of the Coalition Task Force. “The mariners were found to be in relatively fair condition. The Karlsruhe team discovered that the Sarah had no food or fuel aboard and transferred the mariners to the frigate for their safety and well-being.”



A team from Karlsruhe was dispatched to assess the damage and concluded the tug could not be repaired at sea. Sarah’s crew was transferred by helicopter to Karlsruhe and the frigate towed the vessel to Omani territorial waters where it was handed over to the Omani coast guard June 11.

Maritime security operations (MSO) set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. MSO deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons, or other material.

Coalition maritime forces operate throughout international waters in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. ^{CB}

Our predecessors have already made plenty of good works: hospitals have been restored and made efficient, they have repaired pipe line for oil and water, schools have been reopened and equipped with personal computers and good equipment.

And for doing so, even at present time they need us, Italian soldiers, deployed on the sunny ground of Iraq, sentries for them. Security is the issue, security that will deny the insurgents ground for taking out the hope from these children eyes’. U.S., British, Romanian, Danish... United we stand... We trust, we work; we are going to do it and to do it well.”



Those words come from a letter one Italian soldier addressed to his mother in Italy, and his mother e-mailed it to her best friend, a journalist of a National newspaper. A voice, therefore, that comes from real life, the world of flesh and blood in dry and dusty Al Nassyria, where the Italian Joint Task Force is based.

He is one of the soldiers of the “Brigata Paracadutisti Folgore” which has replaced the “Brigata Bersaglieri Garibaldi” since the 21st of April and that will stay until the end of Summer 2005.

It is additional evidence that solidarity and good is what is behind coalition soldiers’ armour, soldiers that are convinced to defend the best values that they have grown up with. ^{CB}

Romanians Train the New Iraqi Army



Major Daniel Petrescu, commander of Calugareni is receiving a plate from the commander of the 72nd IA Bde, after a MOUT course termination.



1LT Daniel Derevlean is giving the next objective for a IA platoon leader. Assault on the objective: IA troops attacking an objective under RO instructors' supervision. After-action review.

Story and photos by Capt Carol Florea, Romanian Battalion "Călugăreni" PIO

Currently under the operational control of the Italian "Folgore" Airborne Brigade, the Romanian 2nd Infantry Battalion "Călugăreni" led by Major Daniel Petrescu conducts operations such as patrolling missions on the main routes, security of some infrastructure elements – oil-pipelines and electric supply lines- security of the Camp Mittica, Civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) activities and the important task of training the new Iraqi Army (IA).

The training of the new IA represents one of the main efforts of the MNF in Iraq. Its purpose is to train and develop the operational ability, self-reliance and the capacity to operate in cooperation with other

Iraqi security forces. After the training, these forces will be subordinated under the Provincial Governor in order to carry out stabilization and security operations.

At the moment, the Romanian forces, in cooperation with Italian Multinational Specialized Unit (MSU), have finished the first two training courses, based on teaching techniques, proce-

dures and tactics in Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) with a duration of three weeks, completing the last course in the first week of July.

1LT Cristian Ichimescu speaks with a IA platoon leader.



Captain Laurentiu Matei, Chief of the Security Sector Reform project from "Călugăreni" said: „Iraqi soldiers are very interested in what we are teaching them and they were improving from week to week”.

Led by Captain Marius Serban, about forty Romanian instructors are currently participating in the training duties of the IA held in White Horse IA base (10 km from Camp Mittica) using their knowledge and skills for the benefit of the IA officers and soldiers.

„I have a magic team of

instructors, comprising staff sergeants Balaceanu Vasile, Iulian Tufeanu Florin, Florin Stan, Leonard Unciuleanu, Catalin Ilinca, Mihai Nichifor, Gheorghe Nicolae, Liviu Banica, Nicolae Carausu, Cezar Costea and Marian Cazan. I am sure that my platoon leaders, 1LT Daniel Derevlean, 1LT Volosincu Iulian and 1 LT Cristian Ichimescu will transform these soldiers into a reliable and capable force, which will make Iraq safer and more

Meanwhile, starting in April, 2nd Infantry Battalion “Călugăreni” performed joint patrol missions with Iraqi forces from 604th IA Battalion. The aim is to evaluate and monitor the operational capabilities of this unit, conduct several joint CIMIC activities such as humanitarian aid distribution or medical assistance to the local population in the AOR, and be ready to support the activity of the Iraqi soldiers in the checkpoints along Bagdad-Basra route.



Chief of Italian General Staff admiral Di Paola congratulating captain Marius Serban and 1LT Daniel Derevlean.

peaceful”, said Serban.

Initially, it is worth mentioning that “Călugăreni” will be involved in the training of only one IA company, based on the skills and capabilities of the Romanian unit, it was decided to train two more IA companies from other Iraqi provinces. All the materials and equipment for training and accommodation facilities are provided by MNF.

Moreover, within Tallil Regional Training Center, two Romanian specialists in infantry weapons, participate in the training of the Iraqi instructors who will man this Center, alongside British, Italian and Australian troops.

Every mission carried out is followed by an After Action Review and a key leaders mentoring activity for any deficiency that occurred.



Iraqi Army soldiers during a training exercise.

Addressing the young Iraqi Army officers and enlisted personnel after the course termination 1LT Daniel Derevlean said: „To live in such historical times is not easy. A few years ago, in Romania, I was proud when my country accomplished many goals in its way towards democracy.

You are in the first wave of change in Iraq and your brothers and sisters will see you as the new Iraqi Army, in which they will put all their hopes for a peaceful and better life.”

Italians Continue Support of MSO as ITS Libeccio Arrives in Region

By Chief Petty Officer Tom Jones, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command Public Affairs

MANAMA, Bahrain – During a media availability June 13 aboard the Italian frigate ITS Libeccio in port Manama, Bahrain, Lt. Cmdr. Pierpaolo Ribuffo, Libeccio’s commanding officer, said one of the most challenging things he and his crew face is to ensure mariners who sail this region’s waters understand the coalition’s role.



“The most challenging thing we have to face is to allow the mariners to perceive clearly that we are here to help [those] who want peaceful use of the sea,” said Ribuffo. “This is a great part of our job.”

Libeccio relieved the frigate ITS Grecale June 8, a move that marked Italy’s continued commitment to support the coalition effort to ensure security and stability in the maritime environment. Libeccio will conduct maritime security operations (MSO) as part of Task Force 152.

Coalition maritime forces operate throughout the 2.2 million square miles of international waters in the Arabian Gulf, Gulf of Oman, Gulf of Aden, and the Red Sea. One of the main reasons Ribuffo said the Libeccio and ships from other coalition countries conduct patrols in the region is to prevent terrorists from using the maritime environment.

“Preventing the sea from being used by terrorists, either for attacks or for transferring arms or weapons or other goods which can become some of the

means that support the terrorists” is one of the results MSO is having on the maritime environment Ribuffo said.

MSO set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. MSO deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons, or other material.

Ribuffo said that the coalition’s efforts are having an impact in the region. “The coalition, in some cases, has actually found out that the crew or simply the owner of a [particular] ship that has been boarded was tied to activities that we are trying to prevent,” said Ribuffo.

Vice Adm. David Nichols, commander, U.S. Naval Forces Central Command and the Combined Forces Maritime Component Command, said coalition forces like Libeccio provide key capabilities in this region’s maritime environment.

“The coalition brings a tactical and operational level skill-set that serve us very well in the coalition environment and there is true synergistic effect there,” Nichols said. “The tighter [the terrorists] see the coalition partners working together, the more difficult it is going to be for them to do the things they want to do.”



Canadians Improve Relations with Afghan Neighbors



“Tashakur Canada!”: Afghan children say “Thank you” after receiving desks delivered by members of the Canadian Afghan National Training Center Detachment.

**By Capt. Marc Turgeon,
Canadian
ANTC Detachment**

Canadian, American and Afghan soldiers from the Afghan National Training Centre Detachment (ANTC Det) conducted an outreach visit to the villages of Jaru and Buyah, situated at the northern edge of the ANTC training area outside Kabul.

As part of the visit, the Canadian soldiers delivered a significant quantity of quality of life goods including a number of desks, school supplies and clothing donated by concerned Canadians and organized through the Camp Julien Humanitarian Club.

The ANTC was created by the United States Army to facilitate the training of the fledging Afghan National Army. A strong national Afghan military is essential for

the stability of the democratically elected Afghan Government. As well, it will help ensure security of the ongoing progress towards the future parliamentary and the provincial elections in Afghanistan

over time several Afghan refugees have settled in the area after returning from many years of exile in Pakistan.

The Canadian members of the ANTC Det felt it was very



Master Warrant Officer Ron Swift shares a smile with a young Afghan.

later this year.

The ANTC is located on Government land; however,

important to establish lines of communications with these Afghans and the visits to Jaru and Buyah were organized. As a

means of demonstrating their intentions to work with the Afghans to find a mutually beneficial solution to the problem of relocating outside the training area the Canadians delivered the large quantity of supplies to help ease the living conditions for these people.

“We recently arrived in the area to begin setting up the ANTC and we quickly realized we had to meet with local Afghans to explain the significance of setting up this new facility,” explained Major André Desrochers, Commanding Officer of the Canadian ANTC Det. “It is very important to us that we work hand in hand with the Afghans living in the area to the benefit of all.”

Mr. Sayeed Ahmad, the elder of the village of Jaru accompanied by over 65 children welcomed the soldiers as they arrived to meet to discuss the situation and deliver the quality of life supplies.

Maj Desrochers and his team sat down with Mr. Ahmad to listen to the situation in Jaru. During the ensuing conversation, Mr. Ahmad explained that as the situation in the country improves, Afghans are returning from Pakistan and they are looking for somewhere to settle where they will have farmland, houses, and wells.

The village of Jaru cannot support so many people and as a result these refugees have moved into an area that is planned to be a weapons range for the ANTC.

The following day, the same team traveled to Buyah, a smaller community in the



Munitions Disposal Aids March of Law and Order



area near the ANTC, to hold similar discussions with village elders. The same concerns were raised yet both sides were reassured that a positive solution could be found.

In the meantime, the ANTC detachment delivered a large quantity of desks and school supplies as well as clothing. As a result of this donation, the village of Buyah is able to set-up a new school facility for the hundreds of children who live in the area.

“As one of the NATO countries in Afghanistan, we are rightly focussed in providing support and security to the Afghan Government structure, yet so much is still to be accomplished,” stated Colonel Walter Semianiw, Commander of Task Force Kabul.

“However as human beings, it is impossible for us to remain passive to the challenges facing Afghans as they struggle to build a brighter future for themselves.



Captain Ray Brown takes a break with a young Afghan following the delivery of desks, school supplies and clothing donated by Canadians.

That is why it is imperative that we work closely with them to ensure that the progress we are making on a security front does not impede their efforts to improve their lives.”

The discussions ended with a great deal of information gathered about the situation and positive relationships established. The commitment was made that the ANTC would work with these communities to come to a mutually beneficial solution to the situation.

There is still a significant amount of work to be done, but it will be done together. ^{GB}



Director of Bamyán Province National Directorate of Security, Gulum Paikar, thanks Major Derek Tunui for the NZ PRT involvement in the disposal of munitions.

Story by Grant Carr, NZDF, photos NZDF
Reprinted from New Zealand Army News

Law and order marched on in Bamyán early last month when almost six tonnes of weapons and ammunition were accepted for disposal by NZPRT Commander Group Captain John Duxfield.

Communities in the Darrahe Jalmes Valley, 30km north east of the Kiwi base, handed the munitions in to the Bamyán Province National Directorate of Security, which in turn handed them to the NZPRT for disposal.

The Bamyán explosive ordnance disposal operator disposed of the munitions, which consisted of 165 107mm high explosive rockets; 242 boxes of ammunition; 457 82mm HE mortar rounds; 103 82mm recoilless rifle HE rounds; and 600 rocket and mortar fuses.

Gp Capt Duxfield thanked NDS Director Gulum Paikar and Darrahe Jalmes spiritual leader, Mullah Olem, for facilitating the handover.

He said taking the weapons out of the community represented a significant step in securing the province’s law and or-

der and was a positive sign that should be widely publicized.

“Not only was it important for the weapons and ammunition to be taken out of circulation in the build up to the country’s upcoming elections, but it was also important for the whole community to see all three agencies working together towards a common goal,” he said.

Gulum Paikar said the handover would not have been possible without the combined efforts of the NDS, Police and NZPRT. The three representatives – Gulum Paikar, Bamyán Chief of Police General Ghulam Ali Wahadat and Gp Capt Duxfield – agreed the appointment of new Governor, Habiba Sarabi, said much for the Central Government’s confidence in Bamyán’s security situation. ^{GB}

An overview of some of the six tonnes of weapons and ammunition recently handed to the NZ PRT for disposal.





German Army Aviators Assist in Major Rescue Operation



German soldiers provide the medical assistance for Afghans.

Story by German Liaison Team, CCC, USCENTCOM
Photos by German Army

Under the most difficult circumstances and under the risk to their own lives, four Afghan assistants and two policemen brought ballot boxes over the Hindukush. Helpers in time of need: German and American soldiers.

In a country fated by war, suppression and chaos for decades, people only have one overall aim: living in peace and having a stable government. Germany, as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), supports the Afghan interim government in establishing stability and security.

The drive for democracy is a high priority for the Afghan people. That became obvious by the dedicated actions of four Afghan assistants and two policemen in the northeastern province of Badakshan, Oct 2004. Originally they were supposed to return to the province capital

Kunduz. But the scheduled UN helicopter had to make a forced landing due to technical problems and could not pick them up. Time was a critical factor. So the Afghans decided to march to their destination, carry-



German CH-53 helicopter landed in rough terrain for rescuing Afghan helpers and policemen.

ing four ballot boxes with the votes of the people from this remote province of the country.

Marching through blizzard like snow-

storms they were soon cut off from all lines of communication. They could not move any further and were facing a desperate situation. After a while, they received initial supplies by airlift. US paratroopers landed for initial assistance and to prepare their recovery.

Early morning on Oct 19th, 2004 two German transport CH-53 helicopters got airborne for a very special rescue mission. A German C-160 *Transall* aircraft was flying in an overhead orbit to ensure a communications link to all participating units and headquarters. The CH-53 is the workhorse of the German Army and a very reliable and capable helicopter.

For this mission however, it had to be stressed to its limits. The level of oxygen was extremely low due to more than 13,000 ft elevation of the terrain. The flight had to be executed in more than 25,000 ft due to obstruction clearance enroute. The crews had to be equipped with additional oxygen breathing gear.

The helicopter crews spotted the Afghans on a plateau at 13,000 ft elevation. Upon landing, the crews were facing the danger of a 'white out' because of heavy snow coverage. However, all the Afghans could be taken on board safely.

During the flight back to Kunduz, the Afghans received medical emergency treatment. They were very cold, dehydrated and had severe respiratory problems. Tired but lucky they were taken to the field hospital of the German Provincial Reconstruction Team in Kunduz for further treatment upon landing.

The ballot boxes were taken to Kunduz in sound condition and in time, so the votes could be counted for the first democratic and free elections in Afghanistan.



Spain Builds Up Presence in Western Afghanistan

Story by Lt. Col. Juan A. de la Torre,
Photos by Spain Air Forces PA Office

On 18 May 05 Spain assumed command of the new Forward Support Base (FSB) in Herat. The Ceremony was held with the presence of Gen. Back JFC North who has the overall re-

The capabilities and facilities provided by the FSB include a ROLE 2 medical facility with infrastructure, procurement and maintenance capability. Spain is also providing an Aviation element and a QRF company which

the Badghis. The government officials mentioned the more urgent projects. The Spanish military has already started the clean up of the numerous unexploded ordinance and weapons in the vicinity of Qala-i-Naw. The PRT will reach Initial Operational Capability (IOC) by the end of June,



Col. Guillermo Vaya, Commander of the new ISAF FSB in Western Afghanistan.



Most of the flights to support deployment in Herat were done by two Spanish C-130 based in Manas, Kyrgyzstan.

sponsibility for the NATO operations in Afghanistan. Air Force Colonel Guillermo Vaya is the designated commander of the FSB.

are collocated with the FSB. Two *SuperPuma* helicopters will provide MEDEVAC capability and three COUGAR helicopters will support the QRF company.

civilian officers and NGOs will join the military personnel in the short term. The PRT will facilitate the development of government structures, extend government control throughout the Badghis's province and assist reconstruction and humanitarian efforts.

The Forward Support Base has been built up over the last two months by Italian and Spanish Air Force. The FSB will provide logistic support to the four Province Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Western Af-



SuperPuma MEDEVAC helicopter arrives to Herat Airfield.

ghanistan: Farah, Chagcharan, Herat and Qala-I-Naw under respective responsibility of U.S., Lithuania, Italy and Spain.

On 30 May 05 the commander of the Spanish PRT in Qala-i-Naw, Army Col. Gumersindo Vega, briefed the Afghan authorities and notables of

The Spanish deployment will be completed by the end of June with up to 540 personnel at the Herat FSB and Qala-i-Naw PRT. 

A Friendly Cricket Match



Cricket is a sport in the Commonwealth Countries. These include Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand, Pakistan, West Indies, India and Sri Lanka, which are the major flag holders for this sport.

The United States fielded its first International Cricket in 2004, and is the youngest member of the cricket playing families.



A friendly Cricket match was played between two teams at MacDill Air Force Base on 16 Jun 05. One team comprised of players from Great Britain captained by Wing Commander Ian Shields and the other consisted of players from Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, Sweden and USA led by Chief of Staff USCENTCOM Major General Castellaw.



This event organized by Pakistani Liaison Team, provided an interesting outdoor activity for member countries and their families. The Commonwealth team won the match. A Pakistani Dinner was arranged with traditional delights. The Brits provided the soft drinks and otherwise. 



Infantry Training Does Not Need a Long Explanation When It Is Taught, and Learned by Professionals



French and American soldiers during a joint training.

By Maj. Frederic Feuillâtre, Information advisor to the French Contingent Commander

When two infantrymen from different nations participate in the same meeting, they understand each other without long speeches. The liaison officer of the ISAF French battalion and the operations officer of the US Quick Reaction Force company of Coalition camp at Bagram were present at the same coordination meeting between the Coalition and ISAF. During discussions, they agree that it could be useful to train together.

Mainly interested in combat in a built up area, they started a discussion, whose conclusion was an invitation given to the French legionnaires by the American officer to train alongside his men in a new training and instruction facility tested in Bagram. One can imagine that the French captain didn't hesitate, and accepted invitation.

The installation is part of the MOUT (Military Operations in Urban Terrain) system. It is an experimental reproduction of a typical Afghan compound of three houses inside a wall fence. Inside it, a network of incidents can be remote controlled

by a specialist who can initiate noises, smoke, and fire. After the training, the drill instructor debriefs all participants, using the film made during combat phase.



Officers and NCOs, reservists or active, of the US infantry company were glad to see how their French comrades were enthusiastic to follow such an instruction cycle.

The first phase occurred Tuesday, April the 26th. An operations officer, a platoon leader, four squad leaders and four team leaders of the French battalion infantry company followed instruction given by four American drill instructors.

SSGTs Benson, Hall, Regis, and Corporal Davis showed the legionnaires a panel of combat techniques learned by American infantrymen (door clearing, and room entering, all round defence, progression in hall, corner observation, and so on).

Obedying US drill step by step principles, they were followed and sharply observed by their US instructors. First, exercises are conducted with only a weapon, and then with more and more gear, concluded by a fully equipped phase for the complete team.

The entire job was fulfilled in an excellent atmosphere, US instructors, mostly reservists, were happy and proud to teach the legionnaires whose involvement was at the highest level.

The Frenchmen were very interested to learn new techniques and SOPs. During a second phase, it will be their turn to teach and train their own soldiers.

Now is the start of the hard part, everyone beginning a demanding period for the platoon who will be lucky enough to come back to Bagram and train in the Afghan MOUT compound under the sharp eye of their American instructors.

No doubt everybody wishes he will meet again his new friends. Pleasure and simplicity were the mark of this very fruitful day. All of them are expecting many more days like this one. 