

# The Spartan Scroll



JUNE 2012



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

3



4



6



8



10



12



14



# Paktya PRT meets with local leaders

*Story and pictures by 1st Lt. Jason Estanque, PRT Public Affairs Officer*

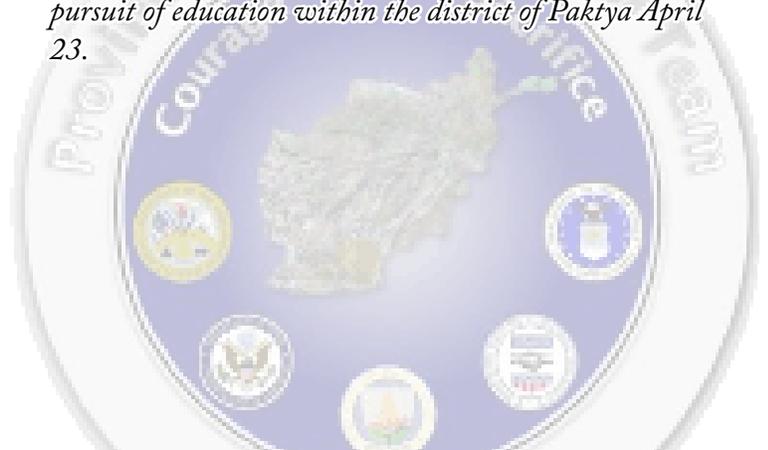
PAKTYA PROVINCE, Afghanistan- Provincial Reconstruction Team Paktya assisted the U.S. special envoy representative Mr. Rashad Hussain in meeting with local provincial religious leaders in Paktya Province April 23.

Appointed as the special envoy to the organization of Islamic Cooperation on February 13, 2010 by U.S. President Barack Obama, Mr. Rashad Hussain brought a message of peace from President Obama to the top religious leaders of Paktya.

Some of the key points of discussion were the common aspirations of stability in Afghanistan, the goal for education amongst the local populace and belief in a peaceful Afghanistan. During his meeting with the top government and religious leaders in Paktya, Mr. Rashad Hussain discussed how using the pillars of Islam can showcase how to bring about peace. He also expressed how religious education can help counter the extremist fundamentalist views of Islam that is core to some insurgent and terrorist groups.



*U.S. Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Mr. Rashad Hussain (left) meets with Provincial Governor Juma Hamdard to discuss peace efforts and the pursuit of education within the district of Paktya April 23.*



*U.S. Special Envoy to the Organization of Islamic Cooperation Mr. Rashad Hussain (left) meets with Provincial Governor Juma Hamdard to discuss peace efforts and the pursuit of education within the district of Paktya April 23.*



# TF 1-501 Sponsors East Khowst Medical Shura

Story by 2nd Lt. Michael Blanchard

Photos by Staf Sgt. Jason Epperson

The first East Khowst Medical Shura, hosted by medical personnel of 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, Task Force 1-501st, was held at Aziz's Restaurant on Forward Operating Base Salerno April 23.

The shura brought in over 40 doctors, nurses and administrators from Khowst Provincial Hospital and the FOB Salerno Combat Support Hospital, as well as combat medics from around the Afghan National Security Forces including members of the Afghan Uniform Police, Afghan Border Police, Afghan National Army and the Khowst Protection Force.

Lt. Col. Geisele Miles, the FOB Salerno Combat Support Hospital Commander, said, "This is the first time every medical professional from around Khowst Province has been in the same room."

Miles was optimistic about the shura.

"This conference will greatly improve the relations of medical personnel Province wide."

Topics of the shura included medical rules of engagement, medical supply system, standards of care and case studies. An open dialog was encouraged, focusing on the medical partnership and capacity building of the Afghan people.

Dr. Inzergall, a doctor from Khowst Provincial Hospital, spoke positively about the coalition forces in Afghanistan.

"In the past, Coalition Forces helped us out a lot, and I thank you for that, but it is now time for us to take the lead at our hospital in Khost," Inzergall said. "We may still need your help from time to time but we are ready to assume responsibility."

Comments like these were common during the conference.

The consensus at the end of the shura was that things are looking good in Khowst Province and meetings like this will continue to improve the medical capabilities of the Province.



*U.S. Army Spc. Sharwnte Rollins (right), a native of Elkhart, Ind., and part of the female engagement team, and Afghan National Security soldiers collect information from motorists passing through a temporary control point set up at the Chenigai Pass in Bak district, March 30. Delaware Company is part of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.*



*U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Andy Short, a native of Odessa, Texas, and squad leader assigned to 3rd Platoon, Apache Company leaps over an irrigation canal near the village of Gorchek during Operation Naruz (New Year), March 30. Apache Company is part of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.*



*U.S. Army Pfc. Nathan Jackson (right), a native of Omaha, Neb., and RTO, U.S. Army 1st Lt. Caleb Sheffield, a native of Reno, Nev., and 3rd platoon leader, and U.S. Army Pfc. Shelby Beckworth, a forward observer who hails from Chico, Texas, all assigned to 3rd Platoon, Apache Company, descend a small cliff near the village of Gorchek during Operation Naruz (New Year), March 30. Apache Company is part of the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment.*

# ANSE, Cavalry troops go into uncharted territories

Story and photos by Sgt. William Begley

Afghan National Security Forces and soldiers from Troop B, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force 4-25, patrolled the village of Ghiwba, Khowst province, on April 22.

The purpose of the patrol was to gather information about the current relations between the Mongol and Mukbol tribes located in the region and to see if the village was a safe zone for insurgents, said U.S. Army Capt. David Deviese, Troop B commander.

“We think there is some heavy weaponry being stored [in the village] and we’d like to find and remove it from the battlefield,” said the Charlottesville, Va. native.

Before dawn, coalition forces were on the move, driving for almost three hours. They arrived at their dismount point and continued the mission on foot through the tall, steep and rugged mountains surrounding the village of Ghiwba on all sides.

U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Jeremiah Smith, a native of Lewistown, Pa., Troop B first sergeant, conducted the troops from an over watch position high on the rugged mountaintop. From there he could see clearly what was taking place.

What took place was a successful operation, said Miwa Jan, an ANA soldier. The coalition forces took and destroyed caches of weapons, ammunition, and land mines they discovered in the village. They also left with a suspected insurgent.

“It was a very good mission. We found some weapons and ammunition that could’ve been used against us,” Jan said.

“We were also able to detain someone from our most wanted list,” Smith added. “He matched the description so we detained him.”

The patrol went off without incident; although, there was a narrow escape.

“We heard a lot of [chatter] from [insurgent forces] watching us as we started to go up the mountain,” said Smith. “After a show of force, we heard them say they saw us and engaged us, but they never [did]. These guys want an easy target, not one that is vigilant and prepared.”

Recently, some spikes in violence between the two tribes have occurred. In 2009 there was an agreement signed between the Mukbol and the Mongol tribes. According to the agreement, a wadi separates the tribes, and each tribe agreed to stay in their respective areas. The scene is reminiscent of a turf battle between two rival gangs, Deviese said.



*U.S. Army 1st Lt. Patrick O. Reilly, a native of Coventry, Conn., and the Blackjack platoon leader, lays out discovered ordnance that was part of a suspected enemy cache found by the Blackjack Troop in the Nadar Shah Khot District March 15.*

“The two tribes [were] involved in violent conflict in the past, so the government of Nadar Shah Khot district along with tribal elders from both sides reached an accord and the region has been relatively peaceful since,” Deviese added.

“A week ago a Mukbol tribesman was killed. The Mongols said he was outside the boundary,” Deviese continued. “There is a lot of concern in the government right now that it will increase the amount of violence in the area.”

The patrol ended on a successful note with Troop B learning about more villages in the area and getting a grasp on the mission ahead.

“I think we were able to gain a good idea on what’s going on up there,” said Deviese. “There are a lot of other sub-villages up there that we weren’t aware of. We know that area needs more focus now.”



*U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Jeremiah Smith (left) a native of Lewiston, Pa., and U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Steven Gollibar, a native of Oroville, Calif., both members of Troop B, 1st Squadron, 40th Cavalry Regiment, Task Force 4-25, scan the village of Ghiwba from a nearby mountain April 22. The two senior leaders orchestrated a show of force from their vantage point, which allowed them to see if any enemy forces were in the area.*



*A view from above of the village of Ghiwba, Khowst province, April 22.*

# Soldiers and civilians participate in Pat Tillman Run at FOB Salerno

*Story by Spc. Eric-James Estrada*

*Photos by Spc. Amber Leach*

**K**HOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan – In honor of Pat Tillman’s legacy, more than 250 service members and civilians participated in the 7th annual Pat Tillman Run, held for the first time at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.

The 4.2 mile run/walk event was organized by U.S. Army 1st Sgt. Marcus McClain from Cambridge City, Ind., assigned to A Company, 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, with the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division. McClain has helped organize Pat Tillman Runs in previous deployments.

“I’ve done this event previously on another deployment and I decided I wanted to do it here on FOB Salerno and organize the event to raise situational awareness about the Pat Tillman Foundation, and it also gives the Soldiers an opportunity to come out and have some fun,” said McClain.

The winner of the race, U.S. Army Capt. Phil Sakala, a fire support officer for the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, from Las Cruces, N.M., with a run time of 22:03 said, “I came here to come out and do a fun run for a great cause. And being a staff officer I don’t have an opportunity to get out and have a little bit of fun because I’m stuck behind my computer. So, I took full advantage, came out here and had that good four mile run and did it for a great cause.”

Members of C Company, 425th BSTB, ran the race together in company formation bearing their company guidon.

U.S. Army Pfc. Preston Austin, a partatrooper with C Company, said, “I think that Pat Tillman and the legacy he left was a great one. It’s always good for the whole company to get together and run as a team and show our support for the things going on around the FOB. I think everyone out here showing support is a good thing.”

After the completion of the race the winners were announced for both the male and female categories with prizes handed out to those who placed first and second.

In the men’s category:

First place: U.S. Army Capt. Phil Sakala, a Fire Support Officer for the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, from Las Cruces, N.M.

Second place: U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Noe Perez with A Company, 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), from Alice, Texas

In the women’s category:

First place: U.S. Army 2nd Lt. Sheila Wilson, with the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division.

Second place: A tie between U.S. Army Sgt. Isela Ulman, a human resource specialist with the 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, from Shiocton, Wis., and U.S. Army Spc. Cassandra Lio with the 430th Military Police Detachment, from Red Bank, N.J.

Friends and family, who wanted to continue to honor Pat’s legacy and pay tribute to his commitment to leadership and service, created the Pat Tillman Foundation in 2004. The Pat Tillman Foundation has become a national leader in providing resources and educational scholarship support to veterans, active service members, and their spouses. The Tillman Military Scholarship program aids all veterans, specifically the ever-growing population of veterans of Post-9/11 conflicts.

Since its inception, over 171 Tillman Military Scholarships have been awarded, distributing 2 million dollars in scholarship support given out across 32 states and 59 academic institutions nationwide.



*A U.S. Army soldier participates in the 7th annual Pat Tillman Run at Forward Operating Base Salerno April 20.*



*U.S. Army Capt. Phil Sakala, a fire support officer with the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry, from Las Cruces, N.M., took first place in the seventh annual Pat Tillman Run at Forward Operating Base Salerno April 20. Sakala came in first over all participants with a run time of 22:03.*

# TF Gold Geronimo; Operation Marble Lion

*Photos by Staff Sgt. Jason Epperson*



*U.S. Army Spc. Tyler Noyes, a native of Katy, Texas, and medic assigned to 1st platoon, Chosen Company, patrols in the Jani Khel district April 12 during Operation Marble Lion. Chosen Company is part of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.*



*A UH-60 Black Hawk lands in the Jani Khel district April 14 to extract paratroopers assigned to Chosen Company during Operation Marble Lion.*



*U.S. Army 1st Lt. Ryan Gibbons, a native of Monte Vista, Calif., and 1st platoon leader for Chosen Company, patrol in the Jani Khel District April 12 during Operation Marble Lion. Chosen Company is part of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.*



*U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Anthony Heck, a native of Wasilla, Alaska, and dog handler attached to Chosen Company, and Nina 3, a military working dog, patrol in the Jani Khel district April 11 during Operation Marble Lion. Chosen Company is part of the 3rd Battalion (Airborne), 509th Infantry Regiment.*

# TF Spartan Steel patrol near FOB Salerno

Photos by Spc. Eric-James Estrada



*U.S. Army Spc. Nathan Itle, from Deer Park, Texas, assigned to A Battery, hands a piece of candy to a child while out on patrol April 7. A Battery is part of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.*



*U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Christian Aleman, from Miami, a squad leader assigned to A Battery, scans the area for possible dangers while out on patrol April 7. A Battery is part of the 2nd Battalion, 377th Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.*





*U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Christian Aleman, from Miami, a squad leader assigned to A Battery, gives a playful "nuggie" to an Afghan child while out on patrol April 7. A Battery is part of the 2nd Bn., 377 Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.*



*U.S. Army 1st Lt. Matthew Hickey, from Saint Paul, Minn., (left), and U.S. Army Pfc. Nathaniel Miller, from Portland, Tenn., assigned to A Battery, conducts a search of a village while out on patrol April 7. A Battery is part of the 2nd Bn., 377 Parachute Field Artillery Regiment.*

# Paratroopers learn the facts about healthy living at FOB Salerno

Story and Photos by Spc. Eric-James Estrada

**K**HOWST PROVINCE, Afghanistan – Task Force 4-25 medical personnel held a health fair to answer questions and educate soldiers on various health issues while living in a deployed environment here at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.

The health fair was led by medic soldiers to promote the various areas of health awareness, such as learning to recognize the signs and symptoms of a mild traumatic brain injury and the proper handling of food while deployed.

“We’re out here as preventive medicine to show what’s in your air and your water,” said U.S. Army Sgt. Benny Porter, a preventive medicine specialist with the 155th Medical Detachment, hailing from Ward, R.I.

The health fair included a variety of games, such as a handgrip strength test designed to measure the muscular strength of the hand and forearm. Soldiers also participated in timed brain test games, such as puzzles and mazes to understand what the affects of a mild traumatic brain injury would have on a soldier’s cognitive ability.

“There’s multi-facets to the brain that can be affected during a concussion and we’re just giving out a lot of education and doing some fun things too,” said U.S. Army Capt. Jamie Bell, OIC for the Concussion Care Center, 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), hailing from Fort Leonard Wood, Mo. “A big part of our mission is education and awareness to soldiers, so they know [the] signs and symptoms that can happen



*U.S. Army Spc. Erin Watson, a combat medic with Charlie Company, 725th Brigade Support Battalion (Airborne), Task Force 4-25, from Frog Hollow, Ky., speaks with a paratrooper from Task Force 4-25, about proper hygienic care while in a deployed environment at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, May 4.*

after a concussion because it’s important for proper recovery afterwards.”

Soldiers who visited the health fair walked away with more confidence and a better understanding of their deployed environment.

U.S. Army Spc. Anthony Broussard, a paratrooper with the 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, hailing from Sacramento, Calif., said the health fair gives paratroopers a better understanding of health care.



*U.S. Army Spc. Alicia Jordan, a dental specialist with the 142nd Area Support Medical Company, Connecticut National Guard, hailing from Naugatuck, Conn., explains the dangerous effects smoking and chewing tobacco has on a persons mouth to a paratrooper from Task Force 4-25, at Forward Operating Base Salerno.*



*A paratrooper looks at a display during a health fair at at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.*



*U.S. Army Spc. Charles Liptok, from Durham, N.C., serving with Hatchet Company, 1st Battalion (Airborne), 501st Infantry Regiment, collects fingerprints from a local Afghan man using a Secure Electronic Enrollment Kit in Gorbuz district, Khost province, Afghanistan. U.S. paratroopers and counterparts of the Afghan Border Police set up a traffic control point in order to deny insurgents freedom of movement. (U.S. Army photo courtesy of DMIDS)*