



The Combined Security Transition Command **ENDURING** *Ledger*

OCTOBER 2007

Ready to serve

700 recruits graduate from ANA's first
10-week training course

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About the cover:

Afghan National Army soldiers march during a Basic Warrior Training Course graduation ceremony at the Kabul Military Training Center. More than 700 ANA soldiers graduated with Kandak (ANA battalion) 68 as the first class of the revised 10-week course. See pages 8-9 for more information and pictures. (Photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.)

Mission statement: The mission of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the international community, is to plan, program and implement structural, organizational, institutional and management reforms of the Afghanistan National Security Forces in order to develop a stable Afghanistan, strengthen the rule of law and deter and defeat terrorism within its borders.

For more about CSTC-A, visit <http://oneteam.centcom.mil/default.aspx>

FROM THE TOP | Reforming the Afghan police, one district at a time

Over the course of a year, we have had great success building the Afghan army into a respected organization. Today, we are at juncture that requires us to readjust our emphasis and efforts. We are moving forward with a new plan aimed directly at improving policing force-wide. Titled the Focused District Development Plan, this plan calls for placing greater reformation efforts at the district or community level. The strategy is to screen those selected district police and replace them with a qualified and competent force, assisted by police mentoring teams. The endstate is a well-trained, well-lead and well-paid district police force that has the trust of the people.



Cone

In order to get there, we must focus on a series of initiatives with the Afghan National Police, some of which are already well underway.

The first of these initiatives is rank and pay reform. The Afghan Ministry of Interior recently considered more than 17,000 ANP officers for rank reform and from this, 8,956 officers were selected for continued service in the ANP. This effort was critical because it allowed them to “right-size” the officer corps against the authorized police force population of 82,000. And as a result of the rank reform initiative, we also decided to review the salaries across the entire ANP. The result was a realignment of the pay scale or pay reform, bringing salaries more in-line with what we feel a professional police force deserves.

Another important initiative that we are undertaking that is closely tied to both rank and pay reform is pay parity. Pay parity targets the salary discrepancy between the police and the army. For example, if you were to take the salary of a police sergeant and compare it against that of an army sergeant, the police sergeant’s salary is considerably less. I think we would all agree that this is not right.

So, in an effort to hopefully mitigate corruption, create a sense of equality between the army and the police and support the recruitment of police, we implemented the initiative of pay parity across the entire police force. The end result is a leveled playing field, in terms of pay, between the police and the army.

And finally, over the course of the next few months, we intend to place greater emphasis on accountability at all levels starting with the requirement for every police officer to have an official identification card. This initiative will allow us to move closer to the implementation of an electronic funds transfer system, lessening the chances of corruption in the future.

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone
CSTC-A Commanding General

Stay in touch

Share deployment experience with closest friends

Editor’s note: Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Weber has redeployed to his home station.

by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Michael Weber
CSTC-A Chaplain



Weber

Len Wein, a comic book writer best known for helping revive the superhero team, X-Men, once said “true friends are those who are there for you, when they’d rather be anywhere

else.”

In other words, the sign of a good friend is one who sticks by your side during a crisis situation ... even though your friend would rather be elsewhere.

There’s a belief that most people go through life with only one or two close friends, while the rest of the people we meet along the way are just good acquaintances. As I look back through the years, I realize I have few very close friends. The rest of the “friends” I have met were good people who were nice to know at the time, but as the months and years passed, I lost touch with them.

I don’t mean in any way to denigrate or belittle the many people I have met along the way, especially in a deployment environment like Camp Eggers. But having a “soulmate” in life is a

very exceptional find. Soulmates are the folks that you stay connected with for the rest of your life. An interesting characteristic of this friendship is that when you do reconnect after a considerable absence, you start again where you left off.

I recently had a conversation at the coffee shop here with acquaintances about what makes or breaks a deployment. My philosophy is most of life’s experiences are neither good nor bad, but neutral. There are heartbreak events as well as joy-filled interludes in life.

But on the whole, most of what we experience is pretty much spent in the middle, in gray neutrality.

It’s how you decide to translate the gray moments that makes all the difference in the world. You can either sit and sip your coffee and think how much better coffee is at home. Or you could mentally explore the fact that you’re sitting halfway across the globe, in a place you never imagined, chatting with folks who share common experiences. The coffee break becomes the medium by which other things happen.

It’s amazing that just a few minutes after the conversation at the coffee shop I can pick up the phone or email my closest friend(s) thousands of miles away about the events that I’ve shared with folks here.

This instant connectivity with people on the other side of the Earth is most dramatic for one who remembers living with a rotary phone and a “community line” and black and white TV. *I watched “Howdy Doody” live on a black and white TV set.* It’s with these close friends that I want to share my experiences I’m having in Kabul.

If I have one piece of advice for those who may feel a little lonely now, stay connected with your best friend(s) and tell them about your deployment. These are the folks that you’ll most appreciate in the future when you find them sticking by your side during troubling times.

Remain vigilant, focused on mission

by Command Sgt. Maj. Ruben Espinoza
CSTC-A Command Sgt. Major



Espinoza

We have completed another month of outstanding work and performance by all members of our Combined Security Transition-Afghanistan Team.

As I travel around the area of responsibility, I’m impressed with the dedication, professionalism and motivation that all members demonstrate on a daily basis in the development of a secure and stable Afghanistan. I want to thank all of you for your service and commitment to our mission.

We have recently experienced a spike in anti-coalition force activity in the Kabul area and because of this we have put in place an updated Movement Control Policy. This spike in enemy activity is a reminder that we must remain vigilantly alert and maintain a keen sense of situational awareness as we move around the area of operations.

As we work through some of the challenges of moving around Kabul, let’s continue to be flexible and creative with our movement plans. It’s rewarding to see the outstanding cooperation among our CSTC-A team members as they help each other in accomplishing their missions.

With the new Camp Eggers expansion, there has been a significant improvement with our Morale, Welfare and Recreation program. We now have a permanent MWR officer, Army Maj. Sharlene Pigg, who is doing an exceptional job of getting our program up and running. In the near future, we will have two small eateries and personal Internet service on Camp Eggers. Our MWR program will continue to improve and grow as additional funds are available. Ensure you take advantage of all activities offered.

Finally, I want to wish our Air Force warriors a belated happy birthday as they recently celebrated their 60th anniversary. Our Air Force members are a key part of our team; please take the time to wish them a happy 60 years.

Warriors, as we go about our daily duties, I ask that you remain vigilant, alert and safe.

SOUND OFF: How would you improve morale at Camp Eggers?



Staff Sgt. Lawrence Johnson
CJ-6/Grovetown, Ga.

“Morale is getting better. We’re starting to get things other bases in the AOR have, like the Internet.”



Charity Vasquez
KBR/Victoria, Texas

“I think MWR is doing an outstanding job of bringing more activities here for Camp Eggers personnel.”



Chief Petty Officer Donna Davis
CG/Siloam Springs, Ark.

“Everything’s fine. The new expansion with the vendor shops is great.”



Capt. John Dines
CJ-6/Osceola, Mo.

“Morale has been improving. The new massage parlor is nice to visit after a good workout at the gym.”



Gunnery Sgt. Steve Goodban
CJ-1/Lincoln, Neb.

“Everyone is responsible for their own morale, what the command does beyond that is only a benefit.”

‘If I have one piece of advice for those who may feel a little lonely now, stay connected with your best friend(s) and tell them about your deployment.’



Afghan National Army Medical Corps Command Sgt. Maj. Mohammed Noori (left) and Sgt. Maj. Ibrahim Ahmadzai show an ANA non-commissioned officer how to correctly call in a nine-line medevac report during a field exercise at Camp Spann.



The 2nd Platoon's Quick Reaction Force

BUILDING A STRONG FOUNDATION

Leaders meet to enhance ANA NCOs

Story and photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour

Top Afghan National Army command sergeants major joined several coalition mentors during the Afghan National Army Command Sergeant Major Training Conference Sept. 8-9 at Camp Spann in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Coalition and ANA leaders designed the training conference and its accompanying field exercise for ANA senior non-commissioned officers to demonstrate their level of military knowledge. They were given the chance to teach NCOs some of the many skill sets that are involved with individual and collective military tasks.

The nine-week NCO training is where the ANA is building a strong foundation of leaders who will eventually serve as leaders in the Afghan army.

“Soldiers are what we’re all about,” said Canadian Brig. Gen. Dennis Tabbernor, deputy CSTC-A commanding general of ANA development, during the opening remarks at the conference. “As senior enlisted leaders, NCOs and officers, the most important job we have is to look after our soldiers.”

Speaking to the assembly of top enlisted leaders, Tabbernor applauded all the ANA sergeants major in attendance for embarking on this program, and highlighted the significance of their roles as military leaders.

“As sergeants major, you are the epitome of the NCO Corps,” he added. “You are the leaders and the conscience of the army – so as you go, so goes the army.”

CSTC-A Command Sgt. Maj. Ruben Espinoza, aided by other senior enlisted members also serving as mentors to

the ANA, modified the ANA NCO training program after arriving at Camp Eggers in February.

“I came into my office one night and came up with 32 individual tasks and seven collective tasks that I thought would lead [the ANA] to be a successful organization that will be able to move, shoot, communicate and engage in close and destroy the enemy on the battlefield,” he said. “These are skill sets that have made the U.S. Army successful and will make the ANA extremely successful.”

Espinoza, like many of his fellow senior NCOs, believes it is imperative to help make better warriors and leaders out of the ANA before focusing on improving their strategic planning.

“We want [Sergeant Major of the ANA] Roshan [Safi] and all of his command sergeants major to go out and demonstrate to us that they are truly the masters of individual tasks,” he added. “They’ll then take their proficiency and knowledge and allow it to permeate on down to their subordinates. It’s nothing more than what we ask of our service members that are going into harm’s way – to master a certain skill set that’s going to keep them alive and effectively engage the enemy in combat.”

Like anything new, many kinks still have to be ironed out, but Espinoza is optimistic about the course’s future.

“By March, this program will be solid,” he said. “And it will be embraced throughout the entire ANA.”

With guidance from several coalition command sergeants major stationed around Kabul, and the experience of embedded training teams, the ANA is on track to build a strong foundation of NCOs who will eventually serve as the cornerstone for the Afghan army.

Quick Reaction Force

Security team provides safety net for CSTC-A

Photo and story by Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch

“We believe that whenever we are called to help secure a scene and prevent further incidents from occurring, that is a success.”

”
- 1st Lt. Jeffrey Blankenship

When personnel assigned to the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan run into trouble while traveling in and around Kabul, a dedicated security team located at Camp Eggers is ready and poised to come to the rescue.

From escorting investigating teams to on-site incidents to resolving dangerous situations, the Quick Reaction Force, which is attached to the Combined Joint Task Force 82, is ready to respond to any event in the local area involving coalition forces.

Traveling in armored Humvees and equipped with automatic weapons, the QRF’s arrival to the scene brings a heightened level of security to allow a safe environment for CSTC-A officials to conduct vehicle recoveries, medical evacuations and other operations.

“We believe that whenever we are called to help secure a scene and prevent further incidents from occurring, that is a success,” said Army 1st Lt. Jeffrey Blankenship, 2nd Platoon leader and a shift officer in charge who works in Base Defense Operations Center at Camp Eggers.

Working closely with BDOC, the QRF is on standby round-the-clock, ready to respond to a crisis at a moment’s notice.

Each work shift consists of two to four gun trucks with a crew that includes a driver, gunner and team chief along with medics and other assets as needed.

“At times we also mobilize an RRF [Ready Reaction Force] with more trucks and crews if needed,” said Blankenship, of St. Louis. The RRF includes additional forces from job specialties like military police, artillery and infantry.

According to Army Sgt. Keith Reynolds, 2nd Platoon team leader, training is key to the QRF mission.

“We’ve been successful on every mission because we take our training very seriously,” said Reynolds, a native of Kansas City, Mo.

“No matter what our mission is, I have no doubts that everyone on the team can get the job done, because we’re on the same sheet of music at all times. We all know anything can happen at anytime.”

Blankenship said the QRF has to keep an active, trained and prepared force ready to respond to anything.

“Our soldiers are proud of the work they do and understand the importance of arriving quickly and safely to a scene in order to provide assistance to U.S. and coalition forces,” he said.

Remembering 9-11

Camp Eggers pauses to honor fallen heroes

In the country where the war on terrorism and Operation Enduring Freedom began, the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan commemorated the sixth anniversary of the terrorist attacks on Sept. 11, 2001.

In a solemn ceremony marked with time-honored military traditions and a call to a renewed sense of purpose, soldiers, sailors, airmen, Marines and coalition partners paused to remember those who perished in the largest attack on American soil.

As the event's keynote speaker, Army Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone, CSTC-A commanding general, reminded everyone that "freedom is not free."

"We as a nation have paid a very high price for the freedom we enjoy," Cone said. "Fifty-five CSTC-A soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have made the ultimate sacrifice ... many of them our coalition partners. On this day, we will remember these fallen warriors, along with the 3,000 innocent people who died in 2001."

The course of the war on terrorism has embodied not only the United States, but democracies around the world, Cone said.

"It is still true today, as it was that day, that the outcome is certain," he said. "The outcome must be victory over terrorists ... there is no alternative."

Cone said coalition forces have joined the legitimate government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to help the country defeat the Taliban and al-Qaeda.

"As allies, we will train and equip the Afghans and we will help them to provide for their people ... because we are Americans," Cone said. "We are here now, not as a conquering force, not as an invader seeking to vanquish the Afghans, but rather to do what is right. To seek out and destroy our common enemy is part of our mission. But as a people we know that the memories of the victims of Sept. 11 would not be honored by the oppression of innocent people."

The event ended with the playing of "Taps" echoing through Camp Eggers.

- Story and photo by Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch



British Brig. Gen. Tim Allen, deputy commanding general of the Afghan National Army Training Command, pays tribute to victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks during a ceremony at Camp Eggers.

60 years of air and space power

Camp Eggers pays tribute to Air Force 60th Anniversary

Coalition servicemembers and airmen assigned to the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan gathered to pay tribute to six decades of air and space power by celebrating the Air Force's 60th anniversary Sept. 14.

The celebration, titled "Heritage to Horizons: Commemorating 60 years of Global and Space Power," began with the raising of the Air Force flag at Camp Eggers. The event included a moment of silence in observance of POW/MIA Day, a cake-cutting ceremony and a video presentation highlighting the service's history, contributions and sacrifices made by the men and women of the Air Force, past and present.



Air Force Maj. Gen. Kevin J. Kennedy (left), Airman 1st Class Kimberly Bigelow and Air Force Brig. Gen. Jay H. Lindell participate in a traditional cake-cutting ceremony during the service's 60th Anniversary celebration at the Clamshell.

Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch



Tech. Sgt. Kirby Pyka (left) and Senior Master Sgt. Elma Taylor, both with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan's logistics directorate, help raise the Air Force flag during a ceremony as part of the service's 60th Anniversary celebration at Camp Eggers in Kabul.

ANA graduates 700 basic trainees



An Afghan National Army officer prepares a company of soldiers for the Basic Warrior Training graduation ceremony.

More than 700 soldiers recently graduated from the Afghan National Army's first-ever 10-week Basic Warrior Training Course.

The new course includes basic infantry tactics, customs and courtesies, drill and ceremony, first aid, and basic rifle marksmanship training. The additional weapons training previously given during basic training was moved to the advanced infantry training course that now occurs after basic training.

After graduating BWT, soldiers will attend either an advanced infantry training course or another job specialty course, or they will go directly to their newly assigned units.

The graduating group, Kandak 68, is the first to complete the revised BWT Course, and the first to graduate at Pol-e-Charki. Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan personnel serve as mentors to the drill sergeants and all other BWT senior personnel.

- Story and photos by
Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.



An Afghan National Army soldier shows his pride after earning a graduation certificate.



Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Mohammad Qaseem Wardak, deputy commanding general for the ANA Training Command, returns the salute of a graduating ANA soldier.



Afghan National Army bandmen play opening music at the graduation ceremony.



A platoon commander salutes as his platoon of graduating Afghan National Army pass in review of the grand stand at their Basic Warrior Training graduation ceremony.

CSTC-A Around

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan



photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour

Canadian Brig. Gen. Dennis Tabbemor, Combined Security Training Command-Afghanistan deputy commanding general for Afghan National Army development, gets a closer look at ANA non-commissioned officers participating in a recent field exercise at Camp Spann near Mazar-e-Sharif.

Capt. Daniel Burkhart, a mentor with the Afghan Border Police, draws blood during a recent Combat Lifesavers Course at Camp Eggers.



photo by Tech. Sgt. Cortchie Welch



photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Jim Varhegyi

Medical health facilities planner Air Force Lt. Col. Gil Weston (left) and medical logistics technicians and Afghan National Army mentors Air Force Master Sgt. Doug Suddueth (center) and Sgt. 1st Class Antonio Rivas look over a hospital schematic at Hero Camp near Kandahar Airfield. All three are assigned to the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan's command surgeon directorate.



photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Dave Votroubek

Members of the Fubar Fighters present three new guitars to Maj. Sharlene Pigg, Morale, Welfare and Recreation officer, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, during a Sept. 11 concert at Camp Eggers. The guitars were donated by companies from the United States.



photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.

Spc. Seth A. Hungville (center) inspects an 82mm mortar with an Afghan National Army weapons instructor at Kabul Military Training Center. Hungville is a weapons specialist with the 218th Brigade Combat Team at the KMTC.



Afghan soldiers turn-in their AK-47 rifles after a live-fire training exercise at the Kabul Military Training Center.

IN THE LEAD

Mentors take back seat as Afghan drill sergeants step up to mold new recruits

Story and photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.

Afghans lead best when in the lead, and in the Basic Warrior Training Course at the Kabul Military Training Center here in Kabul, this responsibility falls on the shoulders of Afghan drill sergeants.

The mentors call this progress. They describe their jobs as being only temporary – the goal is for the Afghans to take charge in all facets of their army with coalition forces acting in a supporting role or as an enabler.

The ANA leaders have “improved a lot on tactics and leadership,” said Army Master Sgt. Roberto Garcia, a senior mentor at KMTC. “They still have a long way to go ... but they are hard workers and they work a lot of hours.”

CSTC-A mentors assigned to the BWT Course in the past have seen their jobs go from dominant in the training and development of ANA soldiers to more of a supporting and advisory role for ANA non-commissioned officers and officers at KMTC. The new soldiers training at KMTC are experiencing this transition first-hand.

“NCOs are ready to take on the responsibility,” said Garcia, a drill sergeant assigned to the 218th Army National Guard Regiment’s Brigade Combat Team at KMTC. “It’s sometimes hard for us to [step back], but we have to remember that we have to be patient. We just

have to realize that our military has been around and developing for over 200 years. We can’t expect (for theirs to develop) in five years.”

The senior mentor to the ANA Advanced Combat Training brigade commander, Army Lt. Col. Daniel A. West, echoed Garcia’s perspective.

“We can’t implement our system here,” said West, also a member of the 218th BCT. “They don’t have the same equipment or personnel in place.”

However, the ANA has implemented a training system in which their NCOs are increasingly at the helm. Soldiers are assigned to train new recruits at BWT, the NCOs are being trained to be drill sergeants and NCOs are training BWT graduates for further responsibilities and assignments within the army.

A new class of recruits begins BWT about every two weeks at KMTC, and NCOs are taking the lead in teaching the core curriculum.

During a recent live-fire training exercise, ANA NCO instructors oversaw soldiers in their initial firing of 82mm mortars and Russian-made SPG-9s.

The exercise was the “smoothest since I’ve been here,” said Army Master Sgt. Anthony J. Harris, a senior NCO mentor for combat arms assigned to the 218th BCT. “They are pretty self-sufficient.”

Turning heads

Sergeant major of the ANA continues to impress coalition

Story and photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour

More than 15 months after being appointed as the first sergeant major for the Afghan National Army, Roshan Safi is turning a lot of talk into action, and turning a lot of heads in the process.

Roshan, as he is referred to by friends, has survived three decades of warfare in Afghanistan. His experiences as a Mujahideen fighter during the 90’s and aiding coalition forces to drive out the Taliban in 2001 prepared him for the prestigious position he serves in now.

“The Afghans are very fortunate to have such a dedicated man as a leader in their national Army,” said Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan Command Sgt. Maj. Ruben Espinoza. “He’s very energetic. He’s served at every level, and he was the first Afghan graduate of our Army’s Sergeant Major Academy back in the United States. He brings a lot of credibility to his position.”

Shortly after becoming the ANA’s senior enlisted leader last year, Roshan foretold his plans to reporters. He said that he prays for the strength to do whatever it takes to make things better in the ANA by serving in the position as its highest enlisted authority and mentor to its non-commissioned officers.

That was nearly a year ago. Today, he focuses on building a cast-iron corps of sergeants major to carry out the orders bestowed upon him by his superiors.

To Roshan, though, the foundation of a strong national army comes from the success of its Non-commissioned Officer Corps.



Command Sgt. Maj. of the Afghan National Army Roshan Safi lays on the ground as other ANA command sergeants major look on during a nine-line medevac report training course for ANA non-commissioned officers at Camp Spann.

“Afghanistan will continue to prosper behind the strength of its Army,” Roshan said during the recent ANA Command Sergeants Major Training Conference at Camp Spann in Mazar-e-Sharif. “And the Army will only be strong if our NCOs, who are the backbone, are strong as well.”

Roshan and more than a dozen command sergeants major from various units around Afghanistan recently participated in a conference and training exercise, designed to display the level

of knowledge of ANA senior leadership. Language was the only barrier during the two-day conference, despite the ANA providing translators. But true to his character, Roshan translated for himself.

“I very much want to take advantage of the many opportunities that we now have here in Afghanistan,” he said in both English and Dari. “And I want all sergeants major to do the same for themselves, and pass it on to their soldiers and NCOs.”

Roshan also demonstrated his high level of knowledge of the course curriculum by participating with a hands-on demonstration, which reaffirmed his commitment to lead from the front. He is also grateful for the mentorship of coalition leaders.

“Sgt. Maj. Espinoza and the other sergeants major are like the doctors who are writing the prescription that we need to reduce the blood spilled by our soldiers. Our soldiers’ parents entrust their children to me, and to you, and it is our responsibility to protect them,” he said during the after

action review of the training conference. “With the help from the coalition, and the NCO training here at Camp Spann, we are spilling less blood. But, my goal is not to spill less blood. My goal is to

spill no blood at all.”

Earlier this year, Roshan revised the slogan at the Kabul Military Training Center from “Victory Starts Here” to “Unity Starts Here.”

His reason: “Because victory cannot be achieved in Afghanistan without the unity of its people. We must all stand together with the United States and all coalition forces to bring unity in our government; unity in our nation.”

Warrior of the Month



Petty Officer 1st Class David A. Berryhill

Job title and unit: Leading petty officer with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan logistics directorate.
Home station: Naval Air Station Sigonella, Sicily.
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
Deployment goal(s): Safety for all and mission success.
Best part of the deployment: Experience gained from a joint duty assignment.
Life after Camp Eggers: Back to Sicily and my family!
Hobbies: Spending every moment possible with my wife and kids; baseball and fishing.
Favorite movie: "Top Gun."
Favorite artist: 3 Doors Down.
Favorite sports team: Atlanta Braves and NASCAR's Jeff Gordon.
Favorite meal: Mexican Food.
Favorite quote: Never Give Up!!
Celebrity crush: Jessica Alba.
Book I'm reading now: "Better Dads, Stronger Sons" by Rick I. Johnson
Pet peeve: Dishonesty.
Supervisor says: "PS1 Berryhill is the epitome of professionalism. His leadership skills are evident every day."
-- Chief Master Sgt. James Miller
 CSTC-A logistics directorate

Camp Eggers Salutes



- **Michael D. Yost**, personnel directorate, for being promoted to specialist.
- The following individuals for earning the Bronze Star:
 - **Army Lt. Col. Lance Burton**, logistics directorate; **Cmdr. Keith Shockley**, personnel directorate; **Air Force Maj. Gregory Ready**, command surgeon; **Navy Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tommy Allgood**, personnel directorate; and **Army Master Sgt. Joan Potter**, personnel directorate.
- The following individuals for earning the Defense Meritorious Service Medal:
 - **Marine Lt. Col. Dale Anderson**, staff judge advocate; **Lt. Cmdr. Marcus Fulton**, staff judge advocate; **Army Maj. John Jackson**, command group; **Marine Maj. Brian Rush**, personnel directorate; **Navy Lt. Beau Obrigewitch**, personnel directorate; **Senior Petty Officer Goffery Pelly**, logistics directorate; **Chief Petty Officer James Stockman**, communications directorate; and **Army Staff Sgt. Shervonne Haskins**, personnel directorate.
- The following individuals for earning the Joint Service Commendation Medal:
 - **Lt. Cmdr. Glenn Estrada**, resources and assessment directorate; **Army Master Sgt. Darryl Wilson**, personnel directorate; **Petty Officer 1st Class Darryl Lusain**, communications directorate; and **Air Force Staff Sgt. Jessica Bank**, intelligence directorate.
- The following individual for earning the Combat Infantry Badge:
 - **Sgt. 1st Class Jason Sweat**, Headquarters Headquarters Command.

Cultural Awareness

Kandahar or Qandahar (Pashto) is one of the largest provinces in Afghanistan. Located in the south, the capital city goes by its own namesake and is located on the Helmand River.



The province of Kandahar has a population of nearly 890,000, with over 300,000 living in its capital city. Besides Peshawar, Kandahar is a major province and city of the Pashtun people.

Chapel schedule

- Sunday worship**
 - 11 a.m.** – Christian service at the Clamshell
 - 3 p.m.** – Christian service at the U.S. Embassy
 - 5 p.m.** – Praise and worship service at the Chapel House
- Friday worship**
 - 1 p.m.** – Latter Day Saints at the Chapel House
 - 7 p.m.** – Jewish service at the Camp Phoenix Chapel
- Saturday worship**
 - 4 p.m.** – Roman Catholic Vigil Mass at the Clamshell
- Saturday-Thursday**
 - 1 p.m.** – Muslim prayer time at the Chapel House (prayer rugs are available)



photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour

'Anchors Aweigh'

Chief Petty Officer-selectees **Jonathan Albayalde, Keelan Bridges and Brandon Woolston** march while singing "Anchors Aweigh" during a frocking ceremony at Camp Eggers Sept. 21. The ceremony is a time-honored tradition in the Navy, which marks the transition from "blue-shirt" status to the anchor-clad khaki uniform.

MWR weekly schedule

- Monday**
 - 4:30-5:25 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym
 - 6-7 p.m.** – Hip Hop Fitness class at the Clamshell
 - 7-8 p.m.** – Video gaming at the Bomb House
 - 8-10 p.m.** – Movie Under the Stars at the Green Bean patio
- Tuesday**
 - 6-6:30 a.m.** – Abdominal strength class at the Warrior Gym
 - 4:30-5:25 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym
 - 6-7 p.m.** – Boxing at the Clamshell
- Wednesday**
 - 4:30-5:25 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym
 - 6-7 p.m.** – Hip Hop Fitness class at the Clamshell
 - 6:15-7:15 p.m.** – Combatives at the Warrior Gym
 - 7:30-10 p.m.** – R&B Night at the Clamshell
- Thursday**
 - 6-6:30 a.m.** – Abdominal Strength class at the Warrior Gym
- Friday**
 - 4-5:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym
 - 6-7:20 p.m.** – Boxing at the Clamshell
 - 6:30-10 p.m.** – All Request Night at the Clamshell
 - 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m.** – Read to Your Kids/Video Greeting Card at the Armadillo House
 - 4:30-5:25 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym
 - 6-10 p.m.** – Karaoke outside the Clamshell
 - 6:15-7:15 p.m.** – Combatives at the Warrior Gym
- Saturday**
 - 4:30-5:25 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym
 - 6-7:20 p.m.** – Boxing at the Clamshell
- Sunday**
 - 6-6:30 a.m.** – Abdominal strength class at the Warrior Gym
 - 4:30-5:25 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym



Steppin' up

An Afghan National Army drill sergeant demonstrates weapon functions of an AK-47 rifle to ANA soldiers during the Basic Warrior Training Course at the Kabul Military Training Center. Coalition soldiers assigned to the 218th Brigade Combat Team at the KMTC mentor ANA Basic Warrior Training drill sergeants. To see how Afghan drill sergeants are taking the lead in training new recruits, see page 12.

photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.