



Afghan National Police train to become IED investigators

by Army Sgt. Brandon Aird
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

JALALABAD AIRFIELD, Afghanistan

— Afghan National Police from Nangarhar Province participated in a month-long course on post-blast investigations here recently.

The course was taught by a tactical exploitation team, explosive ordnance disposal technicians and contracted police trainers throughout the month of November.

Having already concluded ‘train the trainer’ sessions, the new Afghan trainers are now ‘training the force.’

During the course, police officers were taught how to compile scene sketches and how to mark, log and bag evidence, said Army Maj. Sean O’Brien, a Mobile Training Team member from Nevada. Police officers were also taught how to interview witnesses and fill out interview worksheets.

The course is a new concept for the Afghan National Police and will help develop an internal asset of improvised explosive device investigators.

“If all goes well, we plan on training police officers from each province in our [area of operation],” said O’Brien.

The instructors used simulated devices and controlled explosion scenes to teach the police officers post blast investigation.

The police officers complete everything in the investigation, but leave unexploded ordnance to EOD teams, explained O’Brien.

The class will help investigators catch individuals planting the devices and help prevent further attacks.

“I’ve learned a lot in these last weeks,” said Shrifullah, a Nangarhar Police Officer. “The class is very technical and educational.”



photo by Petty Officer First Class David M. Votroubek

SECNAV visits Camp Eggers

KABUL, Afghanistan - Seaman Steven DeJesus listens to Secretary of the Navy Dr. Donald C. Winter speak to a group of sailors at Camp Eggers in Kabul. DeJesus is assigned to Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and was with a group of 22 Navy personnel who had breakfast with Dr. Winter. The secretary had previously visited with sailors in Iraq, and told them they are part of a long-term expeditionary mission that all Navy communities will participate in.

CMC visits Kabul, has lunch with ‘family’

by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.
CSTC-A Public Affairs

KABUL, Afghanistan – The commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps visited Kabul over the Thanksgiving weekend, just days after visiting with Marines in Iraq.

Marine Gen. James T. Conway and Sgt. Maj. Carlton W. Kent met with Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan leaders to discuss the current and future operational security forces situation in Afghanistan, then later met locally-based Marines at the International Security Assistance Forces dining facility.

Accompanied by Marine Lt. Gen. George

J. Trautman III, deputy commandant for aviation, and Lt. Gen. John W. Bergman, commander of Marine Forces Reserve and Marine Forces North; the top Marines spent time conversing with nearly 50 Marines during lunch. Marines from ISAF, the U.S. Embassy and CSTC-A, including Camp Eggers and Camp Blackhorse, were among those who gathered to hear the commandant and sergeant major speak.

Conway opened the luncheon stating, “The first thing I would like to say to you folks is simply, ‘thank you.’” He then told the

CMC from page 1

Marines that he traveled to Iraq and Afghanistan so he could spend Thanksgiving with his “family” – referring to deployed Marines.

The commandant wanted the Marines to know they and their fellow leathernecks in Iraq are doing a good job. “It’s too early to be doing high fives in the end zone, but we’re certainly in the red zone,” Conway said, referring to scoring a touchdown in football.

The commandant also spoke about manpower and combat support issues, such as the Corps’ growing manpower numbers and the current and potential future of mine resistant ambush protected vehicles. Conway said Marine Corps recruiters had exceeded the recruiting goal for fiscal 2007. He also said the Corps has not lost a single Marine in an MRAP accident, but added that their weight is not ideal for an expeditionary force.

Kent followed the commandant by thanking the Marines and encouraging young noncommissioned officers to consider reenlisting in the Corps after their contracts expire.

“I have stuck around the Marine Corps because of warriors like you,” Kent said. “And you know it’s not about the money,” he quipped.

The sergeant major spoke about Marine Corps standards and an upcoming revision of the body composition program order before he introduced the newly-approved Marine Corps physical fitness uniform.

After a question and answer period, the commandant and sergeant major invited Marines to take pictures with them – most took advantage of the opportunity.

The top Marines’ visit was their second to Afghanistan since August. They departed from Kabul International Airport as quickly as they arrived – the same afternoon – flying out on helicopters.



photo by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.
Gen. James T. Conway, Commandant of the Marine Corps (top left), speaks with Lt. Col. John S. Hogan, the CSTC-A SJA for Detainee Operations, while Cpl. Gregory T. Evander and Sgt. William N. Martinez engage in conversation over lunch. Hogan is the legal advisor for political-military affairs and for detainee operations. Martinez is a supply NCO and Evander is an administration NCO; both are with the Joint Intelligence Operations Center-Afghanistan at the International Security Assistance Forces. The commandant and sergeant major of the Marine Corps met with Marines at the ISAF dining facility Nov. 25.



CSTC-A News is a publication of the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan and Department of Defense. CSTC-A is published weekly by the CSTC-A Public Affairs Office, Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan.

In accordance with DoD Instruction 5120.4, this DoD newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas.

Contents of the *CSTC-A News* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by the U.S. government or DoD.

CSTC-A News Editorial Staff

CSTC-A commander: Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone

PAO: Lt. Col. David G. Johnson

Deputy PAO: Lt. Cmdr. Clint Larson

NCOIC: Petty Officer 1st Class Dave Votroubek

Editor: Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Wollenberg

Writer: Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.

Writer: Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Seymour

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.