



## Kid Rock, Robin Williams perform for troops in Afghanistan

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

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – Kid Rock, Robin Williams and comedian Lewis Black performed for more than 600 military men and women Dec. 20, during a live USO show at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan.

Rock, Williams and Black were accompanied by cancer survivor, seven-time Tour de France champion and now marathon runner Lance Armstrong, and Rachel Smith, the reigning Miss U.S.A.

The crowd of U.S. military men and women and other coalition nations such as Mongolia, Germany and more, began arriving at Camp Phoenix's Patriot Square about three hours before the 9 p.m. show started. They eagerly waited in the snow until Smith was introduced by Adm. Mike Mullen, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

"I can't believe they're coming here – especially in this weather," said Petty Officer 2nd Class Matthew K. Stanley, Oklahoma City native stationed at Camp Eggers, Kabul, as he waited for the show to begin.

Williams opened the show telling the crowd they had just arrived two hours earlier, "because we were looking for Santa Claus. We found him!"

That was the cue for an inflatable Santa Clause on stage to be inflated, but it didn't quite work as planned; Williams used the

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photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Wollenberg

## Santa delivers through USPS to Camp Eggers

**Army Sgt. Major Sammy Sablan (front), Police Reform Detachment, Air Force 1st Lt. Sonja Suarez (right), Protocol, and Senior Airman Brian Snyder (back), Command Action Group, deliver more than 50 boxes packed with Christmas stockings to the offices within the Ark, the building where they work. The stockings are courtesy of Project Holiday Stockings, which has been sending Christmas stockings to troops in Afghanistan and Iraq since 2003. More than 600 stockings were sent to Camp Eggers for the troops here.**

## Senior Afghan officers graduate leadership course

by Marine Staff Sgt.  
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**KABUL, Afghanistan** – More than 100 people recently attended the graduation ceremony of

16 senior leaders of the Senior Command and Staff Course at Afghanistan's Ministry of Defense Headquarters here in Kabul.

The SCSC graduates were

from the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and the National Directorate of Security. The purpose of the two-year-old school is to develop command, analytical and communication

skills, and provide a broad understanding and knowledge of the most critical strategic issues facing Afghanistan.

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situation to improvise his act as he has become famous for doing throughout his career.

He also got loud laughs when he commented on the new military uniforms. "The new Army camouflage – it's digital," he said. "So you can disappear in front of a computer."

The crowd showed their appreciation with their cheers and applause.

"This is my fourth deployment, and this is probably the biggest show as far as performers – biggest named performers," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Kelly M. Skapik, Akron, Ohio, native, deployed from McConnell Air Force Base, Kan.

Rock performed next and had the crowd cheering and singing to his hit songs, and also played several classic rock and country music tracks.

"What if Kid Rock was president," he asked toward the end of his performance. With that, he started singing a song by the same title.

Rock was the sole singer of the group, although Williams joined him at the end of the show and played the harmonica while Rock played the acoustic guitar.

"I'm gonna sign off like this," Rock said as he was finishing up his set. "I'm so proud to be here in Afghanistan for some of the finest American men and women like you."

The performers let the audience know they support the troops, which is why they visited Kabul.

"I wouldn't do it for anybody but you," said Black during his performance.

"You're the heroes. You're the true American heroes," said Armstrong.

Williams left the stage telling the crowd, "I want to say one thing, you rock!"

"We just came for the show," said Gunnery Sgt. Shawn R. Workman, a Seth, West Va., native and ETT mentor from Combat Assault Battalion, 3rd Marine Division, in Okinawa,



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

**Singer Kid Rock performs for military men and women as part of a USO show at Camp Phoenix, Kabul, Afghanistan, Dec. 20.**

Japan. "It's a good thing, as long as their supporting us."

"I really appreciate their tour," added Spc. Michael C. Gray, a Spartanburg, S.C., native and National Guardsman assigned to security forces for Task Force

Phoenix. "It's the first time they've done a show (here) as far as I know."

After the show, the stars gathered in the dining facility and took group photos with their fans.



photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour

## USO lands at Camp Phoenix

Army Sgt. Maj. Mercy Diez, Army Band singer, screams during a cover of "Welcome to the Jungle" by "Guns & Roses," while Staff Sgt. Dan Roberts adds a keyboard element to the song before a few hundred troops stationed at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. The band performed as the opening act during a recent USO show that is travelling around the Middle East to boost morale through entertainment.



photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Wollenberg

## Make 'Em Tap

Dan McCurley attempts to apply a kamura from the guard to Dave Hession during the first Camp Eggers combatives tournament Dec. 21. First place winners were Army Spc. Mike Walker, lightweight division; Army Sgt. Ellis Lawson, middleweight; Shawn Ting, light heavyweight; and Dave Hession, heavyweight. Prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places were a DVD player, CD players, Ipod boombox, DVDs and medals. Army Sgt. Edgar A. Armendarizlopez, started the combatives introduction course after arriving at Camp Eggers in June of 2007. Sgt. Armendarizlopez leaves Camp Eggers in mid January, 2008. If anyone is interested in taking over combatives classes, call Sgt. Armendarizlopez or Capt. Jennifer Mack at 237-0928.

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During the seven-month course, the students studied subjects ranging from the fundamentals of strategic thinking, to understanding the contemporary challenges facing Afghanistan.

U.S. Army Col. Eddy L. Charles, the assistant director and senior mentor for the course, said the students were taught strategic visioning and thinking, as well as how to be strategic leaders.

"You are urged to bring it back to the work place, to the unit where you are assigned, and apply the knowledge to the job," Charles said. "Mentor your subordinates on the subject areas you have learned and support

your leaders on their assigned missions."

Class leader, ANA Brig. Gen. Jan Sarwari, told Charles and the other senior leaders, "We assure you we will implement what will be helpful to our units."

With leaders from several nations in the audience, ANA Lt. Gen. Muhibullah, Deputy Minister of Policy and Strategy for the Afghan MoD, said the class could not have taken place without the support of coalition nations and the Afghan Academy of Science.

"From the bottom of my heart I would like to thank those countries," Muhibullah said.

Other international ranking personnel

in attendance were: Sir Sherard Cowper-Coles, British Ambassador to Afghanistan; Deputy Minister Hamayon Fawzi, Ministry of Education and Personnel; Canadian Brig. Gen. Dennis C. Tabernor, deputy commanding general, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan; and Army Brig. Gen. Robert J. Livingston, commanding general, Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VI.

Graduates were presented with diplomas and gold SCSC coins during the ceremony, at which Charles declared, "Class number two was a resounding success. I salute you graduates."



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### 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.