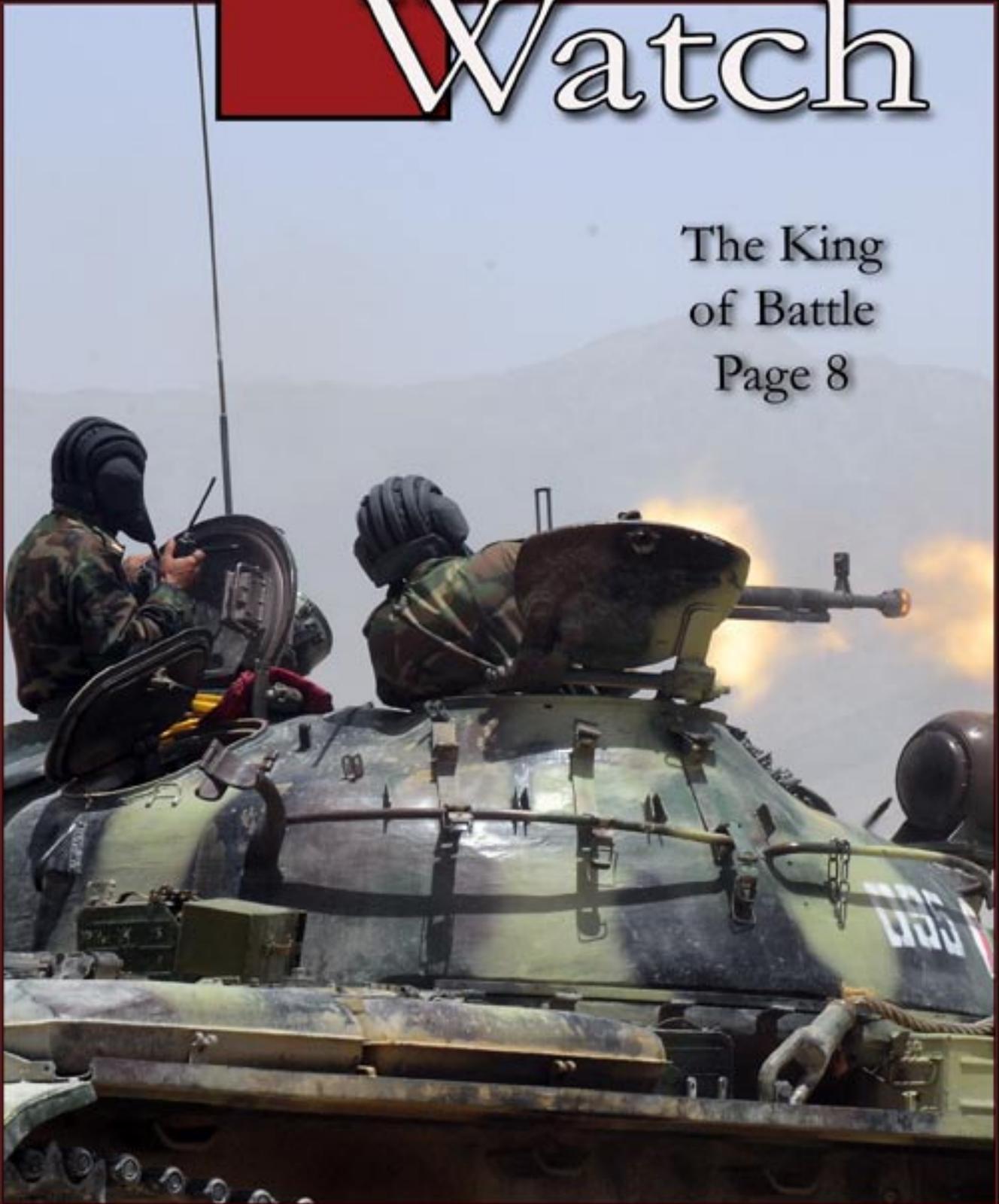


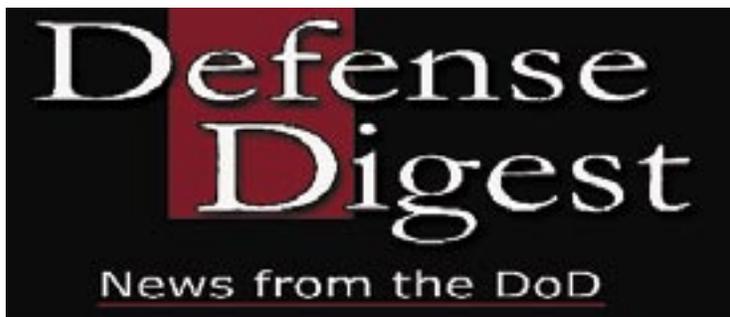
June 30, 2008

# Freedom Watch

AFGHANISTAN

The King  
of Battle  
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## Britain will send more troops to Afghanistan, Prime Minister says

By Jim Garamone  
*American Forces Press Service*

The United Kingdom will increase the number of troops it contributes to the coalition effort in Afghanistan, British Prime Minister Gordon Brown announced, June 16.

Brown made the announcement during a joint news conference with President Bush in London. The two leaders also discussed a range of issues, including Iraq and Iran.

“We have resolved, first of all, as we did some years ago, that it is in the British national interest to confront the Taliban in Afghanistan or Afghanistan would come to us,” Brown said. “And so today, Britain will announce additional troops for Afghanistan, bringing our numbers in Afghanistan to the highest level.”

The United Kingdom currently has 8,530 servicemembers in Afghanistan.

Bush thanked Brown for the decision. “You’ve been strong on Afghanistan and Iraq, and I appreciate it,” Bush told Brown during the news conference. “But more importantly, the people of Afghanistan and Iraq appreciate it.”

Brown noted the sacrifices of five British paratroopers recently killed in action. He thanked the British troops, and those of 42 other nations, for their courage and professionalism.

“Eighteen months ago, the Taliban boasted that they and their paid foreign fighters would drive our forces out of southern Helmand,” he said, referring to the southern Afghanistan province where British troops lead the coalition effort. “Now most agree that security is on the way to being transformed.”

In answer to a question about Pakistan, Bush said the same strategy applied in Afghanistan should apply in Pakistan, and that the two countries need to communicate better and cooperate more. “Our strategy is to deny safe haven to extremists who would do harm to innocent people,” Bush said. “That’s the strategy of Afghanistan; it needs to be the strategy of Pakistan.”

Bush said he thinks it would be a good idea to hold a tribal meeting of leaders on both sides of the border. He also called on intelligence services to share information, and for

Pakistan, Afghanistan and NATO to reinvigorate the Tripartite Commission -- meetings at the senior military level on cross-border activities.

Discussion on Iraq centered on the strategy in the South. Brown said he will follow no artificial timetable for withdrawing troops. Britain, with more than 4,000 servicemembers in Iraq, “will continue to do the job,” he said.

“Our policy is showing success as we continue the task we have set ourselves: strong and well-trained Iraqi forces capable of securing the peace, firm commitments to new local government elections soon, and speeding up the social and economic development of Iraq so that people have a stake in the future,” Brown said.

Iran also was a matter of discussion, and Brown outlined an offer to Iran to stop processing nuclear fuel. “We put our enhanced offer on the table, including political and economic partnership, and help with nuclear technology for civilian use,” he said. “We await the Iranian response, and we’ll do everything possible to maintain the dialogue.”

“But we are also clear that if Iran continues to ignore united resolutions, to ignore our offers of partnership, we have no choice but to intensify sanctions,” he continued. “And so today, Britain will urge Europe, and Europe will agree to take further sanctions against Iran.”

Bush said the free world has a right to be concerned about Iranian intentions and is obligated to work together to prevent Iran from developing a deliverable nuclear weapon.

“Now is the time to work together to get it done, and I appreciate your statement,” Bush said to Brown. “Hopefully, the Iranian leadership will take a different position than the one they’ve taken in the past, which is basically, ‘Who cares what the free world says? ... We’ll go our own way.’”

Bush repeated his frequent assertion that he has no quarrel with the Iranian people. “We want the Iranian people to thrive,” he said. “It’s in our interests that there be a hopeful society. It’s their government who has denied them their rightful place in the world.”



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**COVER:** An Afghan National Army  
T-62 tank gunner of the 201st Corps,  
3rd Brigade, 3rd Kandak, fires a DShK  
machinegun during training at Camp  
Blackhorse, Kabul, June 16. The tanks  
belong to the only tank unit in the ANA,  
who fired the captured Soviet-Russian  
tanks for the first time in two years.  
(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Ian Car-  
rier) See related story on page 8.

**BACK COVER:** Tech. Sgt. Do-  
menick Demasi, Panjshir Provincial  
Reconstruction Team Security Forces  
NCOIC, prepares for a convoy mission  
behind a window turret on a humvee.  
Sergeant Demasi is deployed from 99th  
Security Forces Group, Nellis Air Force  
Base, Nevada. (U.S. Air Force photo by  
Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester)

# Freedom Watch

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# New Improved Explosive Device training center dedicated to fallen Soldier

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Zach Otto  
382nd Public Affairs Detachment

Bagram officials dedicated a new Improved Explosive Device Training Center, June 20, to a fallen Soldier, who was killed by an IED.

Army Maj. Michael L. Green, a Gautier, Miss. native, was killed January 7, while serving on a volunteer deployment to Afghanistan.

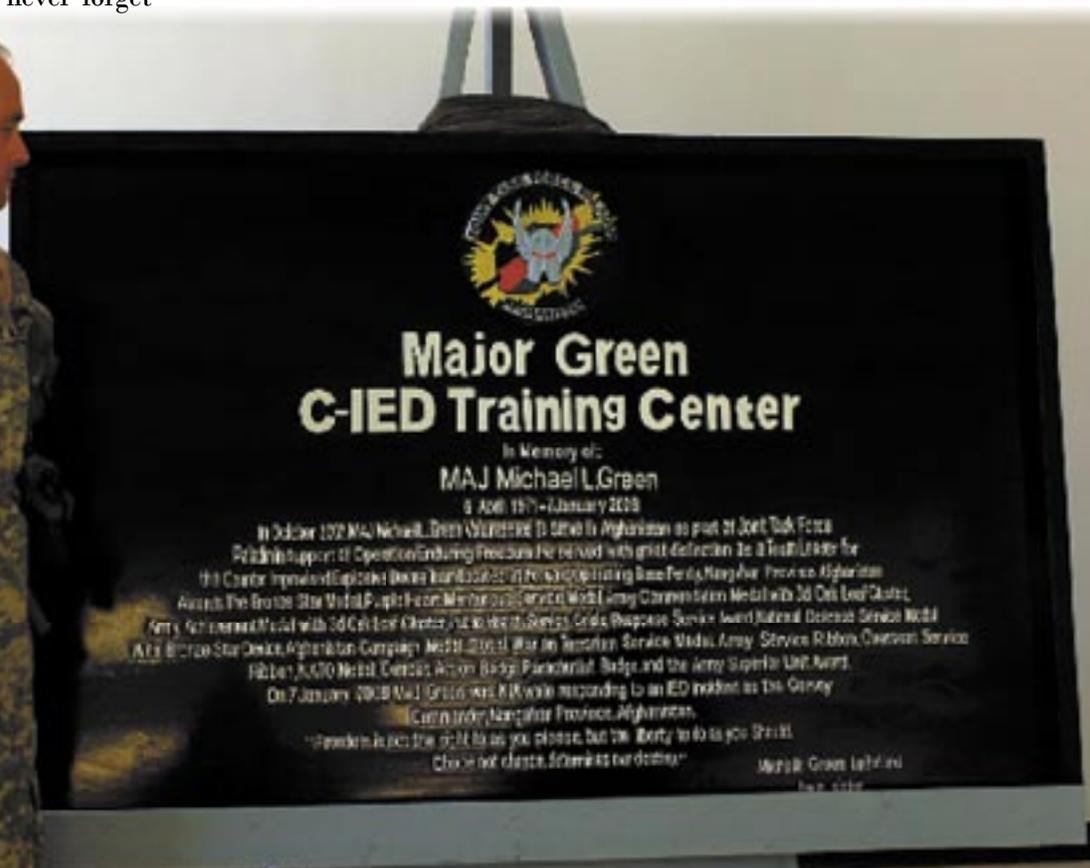
The ceremony took place at the new Michael L. Green Counter-IED Training Center. The ceremony's speaker was Army Col. Michael T. Mahoney, Task Force Paladin commander.

"We honor him by putting his name on a building that helps train how to counter IEDs," said Mahoney of Green, who was awarded a Bronze Star, Purple Heart and Meritorious Service Medal for his actions.

"Green deserves this," said Nathaniel J. Orlowski, TF Bayonet's Counter IED Support Element leader. "He believed in leadership from the front."

Orlowski knew Green personally, and believed Green was always willing to help out and lead by example.

"Mike died a hero, we will never forget his honor," said Mahoney. "He deserves a place in our history. This building is critical for that history."



# Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police learn public affairs principles

Story and photos by Petty Officer 1st Class  
Douglas Mappin  
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Fifty-seven Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police officers and noncommissioned officers completed a six-day seminar at the Ministry of Defense Public Affairs Media Center, Kabul, Afghanistan, June 19.

The seminar, hosted by the Afghan MoD Public Affairs, Ministry of Interior Public Affairs and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, trained participants how to effectively reach the media with the Afghan government's message.

Afghan Maj. Gen. Zahar Azimi, spokesperson for the Ministry of Defense, said media professionals can shape and change the world.

"We see now that the terrorists have a good media focus," Azimi said. "This doesn't mean they are strong. But if we don't give information to the media, the enemy will. We have a strong responsibility, and we shouldn't let the enemy work against us. We have to tell our story."

Military instructors from the CSTC-A public affairs office, MPRI, a defense contracting company and Col. Mohammed Ishaq Paiman, deputy, MoD Public Affairs, instructed students on a wide range of topics including media relations, basic photography, interviewing techniques, shooting video and rapid response to media inquiries.

According to ANA Sgt. Sayed Ahga, a public affairs NCO who works for 207th Corps in Herat, the course was a valuable addition to the training he previously received.

"This class provided a lot of training, and I learned a lot as a photographer and writer," Ahga said. "The classes will be very useful for my job back home."

Besides classroom training, the students put their new skills to use during a crisis management exercise conducted at the MoI. During the exercise, students split into six groups to formulate a response to an emergency situation.

The exercise brought realism to their training when they

were tasked to form a media response regarding the recent prison break in Kandahar.

Mike Haller, MPRI senior mentor, conducted the exercise and said the students did a great job.

"They were extremely enthusiastic and caught on to the intent of the training, which was to increase their awareness of operating in a multi-agency environment during emergencies," Haller said.

Each of the groups chose a spokesperson to address the media with their response to the prison break.

"I learned the importance of being a good public affairs officer," said ANP Col. Nazameddin Shiri, of Ghar province. "As a police officer, it is important for us to get accurate information to our people and for them to trust us."

According to MPRI public affairs trainer, Barbara Wilcox, who coordinated the seminar, the bond that grew between student and teacher proved that culture was no barrier.

"At first they were very quiet," Wilcox said. "But as the week progressed, we got into some great discussions. The students gave me great examples without me prompting them."

Army Brig. Gen. Andrew Twomey, CSTC-A deputy commanding general, attended the graduation ceremony to wish the students luck and success in the future.

"We are in a war," he said. "Your weapons are the accuracy of the information you give and the clarity and the integrity of your message. These are the things that build confidence in you and, by extension, your government."



# 'Jingle Air' supplies isolated Soldiers

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Charles Brice  
382nd Public Affairs Detachment

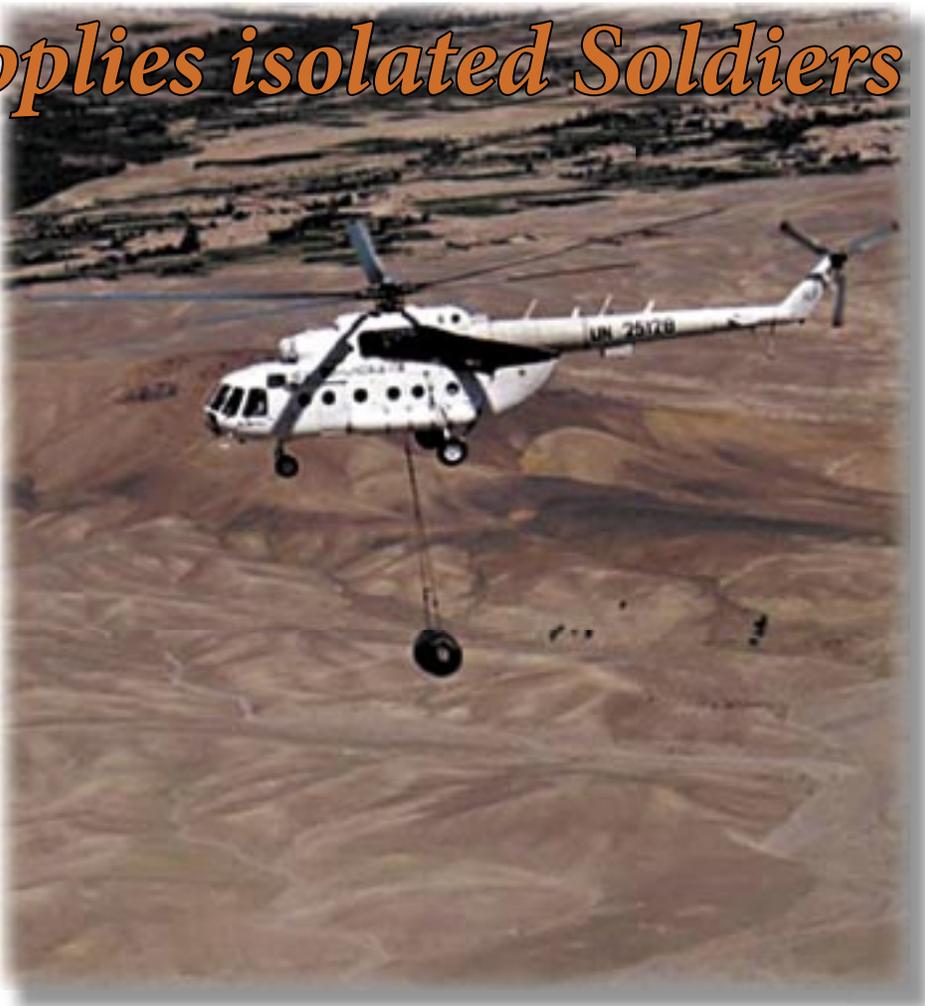
Imagine being a Soldier out on the border of eastern Afghanistan and the only connection to the rest of the world is a pallet of supplies on the back of an Afghan helicopter. That's what it's like for Coalition forces cut off and isolated throughout parts of Afghanistan. With the troops focused on combat missions, the Mesopotamia Group created 'Jingle Air' to move cargo in-and-out of hard to reach locations.

Jingle Air offers helicopter services throughout Afghanistan.

The name comes from the popular jingle culture in Afghanistan. People decorate with colors, ornaments, bells and paintings on just about anything they possess, including their transportation. The trucks of Afghanistan are the most ornamented of them all.

"Jingle Air is a key logistic enabler, which allows 4th Brigade, Currahee Combat Team to conduct counter-insurgency operations in an area roughly the size of West Virginia," said Army Maj. Jon Beale of the 801st Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, Combined Task Force Currahee.

With a fleet of Mi-8 HIP heavy-duty helicopters and five flight teams, Jingle Air can move up to 3.2 million pounds of cargo throughout Afghanistan, said Army Capt. James



E. Fager, officer in charge of transportation and logistical operations for the 801st BSB, Forward Operating Base Sharana, Afghanistan.

"Jingle Air's track record speaks for itself," said Fager, who explained the crew has conducted 20 emergency re-supply

missions in conjunction with the support of many areas of operations. Last month alone, Jingle Air moved 1.53 million pounds of cargo to troops out in the field and to forward operating bases throughout Afghanistan.

"The pilots of Jingle Air are very motivated to fly and they take a personal interest in making sure the operations go well," Fager said.

Jingle Air pilots hail from different countries and nationalities. Still, they all work together toward a common goal – to ensure cargo gets to its destination.

"Jingle Air is a force multiplier and it allows us to move much needed supplies and equipment," said Fager.



# Low Cost, Low Altitude Services 'drop in,' supply ground forces

Story and photo by  
Army Sgt. Charles Brice  
382nd Public Affairs Detachment

Imagine standing in the back of a turbo-prop cargo airliner, with a nervously rumbling stomach, while holding on to a few pallets of supplies which will soon be dropped to Soldiers out in an isolated region of eastern Afghanistan. The flight doors begin to open and you see a different view of the country below, while, simultaneously, the pilot performs jaw-dropping maneuvers through the mountains and valleys of Afghanistan.

According to the 'speedball' aircrew, this is what it feels like when a person steps into their world – the realm of Low Cost, Low Altitude Aerial Delivery Services. The operations can resupply platoon-sized units when normal sustainment delivery is impossible

due to mission, enemy, terrain, troops, time available and civilian concerns.

"The outcome of the mission is to save lives and to get the Soldiers what they need," said John Hazzard, a contracted civilian loadmaster.

Before any mission begins, the aircrew is briefed by the 801st Brigade Support Battalion plans and operation section on weather, terrain and enemy threats.

During the flight, the jumpmasters will verify the loads are properly hooked to the anchor line cable and prepared for delivery. As the aircraft approaches the drop zone, the jumpmaster team positions the bundles to be dropped by pushing them onto the ramp of the aircraft. Two members hold the bundles in place while two others prepare to push the loads, as the pilots maneuver into position.

In the mean time, the loadmaster keeps track of the pilots calling out 30 and 10-second warnings and then "execute." Upon the command of execute, the jumpmaster team pushes the rear bundle along the rollers out of the plane. Once the supplies are dropped, they egress out of the valley.

"It's a wild ride for the best cause, supporting the Soldiers," said Army Sgt. Michael A. Ivey, Company C, 801st BSB, who is also a combat medic. "It's really a good way to get supplies to remote areas of the country, so that Soldiers aren't exposed to the hazards of the roads."

"If you've never seen LCLA firsthand, you wouldn't understand the true nature of this system," said Army Lt. Col. Michael Peterman, 782nd Brigade Support Battalion, Combined Joint Task Force Fury commander.



# THE KING OF BATTLE

## Tanks add another dimension to the Afghan

Story and photos by

Air Force Staff Sgt. Ian Carrier

American Forces Network - Afghanistan

A deafening roar shakes the earth and clouds of dust fill the air as a giant, metal beast spouts flame and steel from its snout. This is the visage of an old, familiar enemy taken from its master and turned into an ally.

For the first time in over two years, the Afghan National Army's 201st Corps, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Kandak took their captured Soviet-Russian T-62 Main Battle Tanks to the firing range at Camp Blackhorse, June 13.

The tanks are remnants of the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and the war that accompanied it. Any U.S. servicemember who has ever looked down the sights of an M-1 Abrams, M-2 Bradley, TOW, Dragon or Javelin anti-tank weapons has probably at one time or another had a T-62 in their sights. On this day, U.S. Marine and Soldier mentors clapped and cheered as the T-62 crews they helped train sent hot lead downrange.

"These are the same tanks I was trained to destroy," said Marine Chief Warrant Officer 3 John Ferguson, 1st Co. mentor and M-1 tank crewman.

Ferguson, a Winchester, Va. native, explains that in the beginning the tanks had a hard time starting. The Afghans toiled and labored to restore them to operation. Now the biggest obstacle they face is getting ammunition.

Currently, this is the only tank Kandak in the ANA. Most of the Afghan officers and NCOs have many years of experience in tanks and are familiar with Soviet armored doctrine. Rather than retrain the men from the ground up with completely new tactics, the mentors instead mix the U.S. training in with what has already been established, said Ferguson.

Training included the basics, such as; fire-commands, misfire procedures and bore sighting

procedures.

Typical fire-commands include a preparatory command, type of ammunition, type of target and range. For example, a fire-command given by the tank commander to the gunner to engage a non-armored vehicle with high explosive rounds at 500 meters would be: "Gunner, HE, Truck, 500 meters!"

Misfire procedures deal with how to react when a weapon, for one reason or another, doesn't fire and bore sighting is the means to align the barrel of the gun with the weapon's sights.

The main mission of the tanks is to protect Kabul from any potential enemy attack.

"All countries have enemies," said Afghan Lt. Col. Aghaghal Khalili. "Because of enemies, we must have tanks. Our tanks are good, but they are old. Hopefully, in the future, we can get new tanks."

"Today we are executing firing," explained Khalili. "We have a scenario."

The scenario involves killing enemy armor and dismounted infantry. Old, decommissioned tanks and armored personnel carriers are used as targets for the 115mm smooth-bore main gun. After

the vehicle targets are engaged, troops are fired upon from a PKT mounted coaxially inside the turret. This is a version of the standard coaxial machine gun that has been used in tank use, similarly to how our M-240c is configured to the M240c configuration. Bradley.

Once the PKT's fall silent, the main gun on the T-62 is fired to mop up whatever is left. The coaxial machine gun, comparable to our M-2, is mounted on the loader's side. To the Browning, this formidible weapon has been in service since World War II.

Hot and dusty but brimming with pride, the crews dismount their vehicles after their firing is complete.

"I feel very happy to shoot



# LE: an National Army



ed, silhouettes of  
PKT machinegun  
turret. The PKT  
Soviet PKM .30  
been modified for  
r M240b is modi-  
ion for use in the

weapon,” said Sgt. Gulkhan, 1st Co. tank gunner. “I had good training. Tanks are important. They are the second power next to the airplane.”

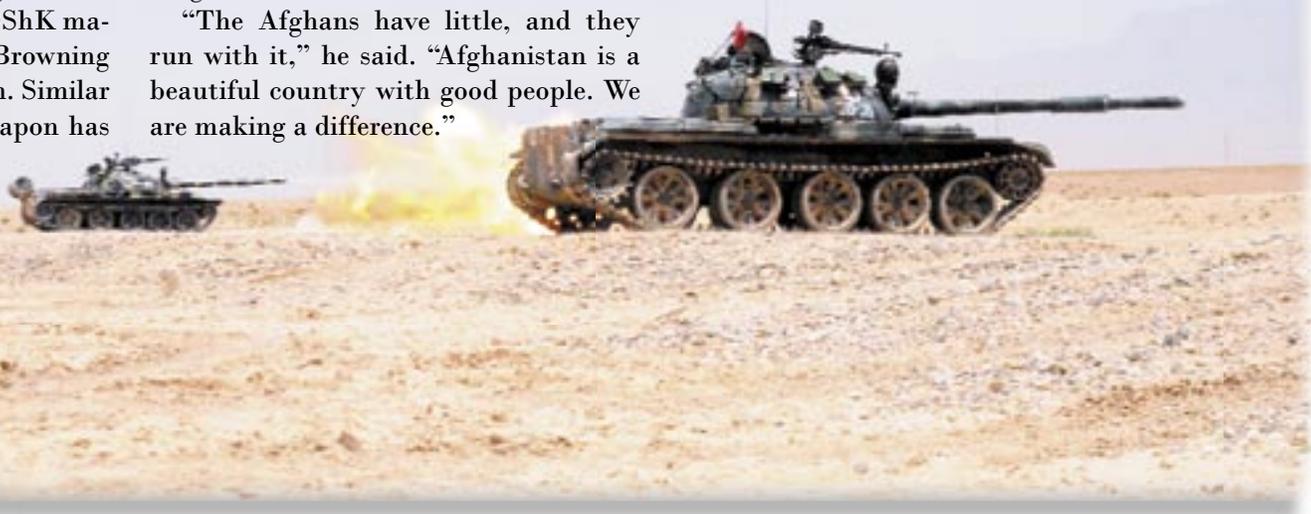
The goal, as with all the mentoring teams in Afghanistan, is to have the ANA stand on their own without help, explained Ferguson.

“The Afghans have little, and they run with it,” he said. “Afghanistan is a beautiful country with good people. We are making a difference.”

War

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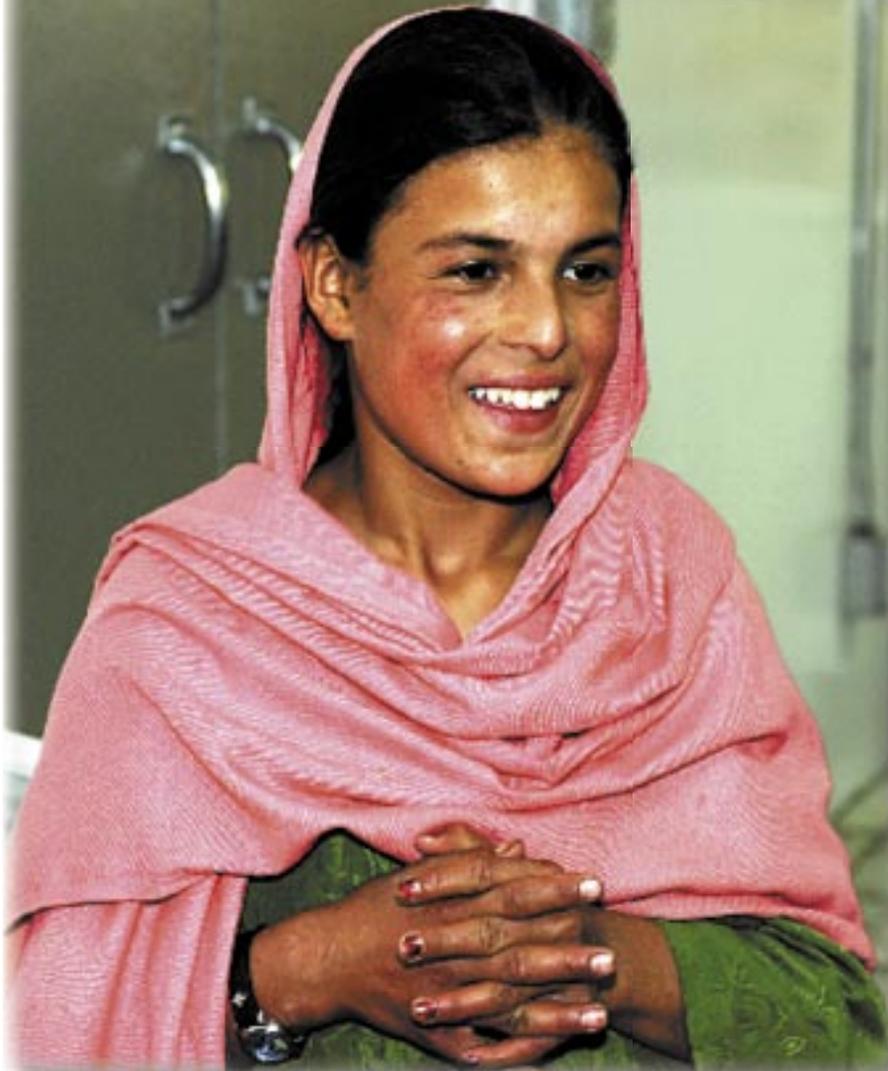


# Air Force Reserve Command commander presents goods to Afghan girl, village

Story and photos by Air Force Capt. Toni Tones  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Representing a group of Americans who want to assist in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, the commander of Air Force Reserve Command presented several boxes of donated items to a 10-year-old Afghan girl and her village near Bagram Air Field, May 30.

Air Force Lt. Gen. John Bradley, on behalf of his wife Jan, presented housewares, clothing, shoes, toys and toiletries collected specifically for Lamia and the residents of Shakal Village.



Bradley met Lamia this past winter while delivering humanitarian aid to her village.

“She (Lamia) came up to me, pointed at her feet and said she wanted boots,” he said. “I remember her face being chaffed...my heart went out to her...she is a very special little girl.”

Bradley and his wife took a special interest in Lamia and began sending items to her and her village, to include a pair of boots. She also sent a personal letter to Lamia encouraging her to do her best and her desire to meet her one day.

Mrs. Bradley has spearheaded several donation drives collecting thousands of pounds of supplies destined for refugee camps, orphanages and hospitals throughout Southwest Asia.

“There are many people, including me, who wish they could do more,” said Bradley. “Please accept these items and share them among the villagers.”

Lamia, Afghan Brig. Gen. Abdul Khalil Zaiee, Parwan chief of police, and an elder of the village thanked the general and reciprocated with a gift.

Since January, more than 90 tons of humanitarian aid has been delivered to the people of Afghanistan who were affected by the worst winter in the last 30 years. But for Lamia and the Shakal villagers, there’s a small group of Americans providing them a little extra assistance.

# Equal Opportunity, Sexual Assault Prevention programs combat sex crimes, discrimination

By Army Pfc. Christina Sindors

CJTF-101 Public Affairs

Catching stares out of the corner of your eye and noticing smiles that seem to mask dark intentions. Feeling your stomach tighten and twist into knots and the hair on the back of your neck stand up. You know the next statement made will be either a dirty joke or full of sexual innuendo.

Sexual assault, sexual harassment and discrimination can make life unbearable and the mission more difficult.

According to the Department of Defense, only 38 percent of all rapes and sexual assaults were actually reported to law enforcement.

To combat these statistics, the Equal Opportunity and the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response programs continue to support servicemembers in Afghanistan by providing information, education and assistance to victims of sexual assault, sexual harassment and discrimination.

## **Sexual Harassment:**

The EO program combats discrimination based on sex, race, color, national origin and religion, and deals with sexual harassment by supporting commanders and leaders at all levels to take care of their Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines in support of the mission.

“If someone feels that they are being harassed or discriminated against, they can talk to the offender and in most cases the harassment ceases there,” said Air Force Lt. Col. Lester A. Ball, Combined Joint Task Force-101 program manager of the EO and SAPR program. “Although, sometimes the individual’s supervisor or commander needs to become involved to help correct the situation.”

The first line of response should be the individual’s supervisor or unit victim advocate. In the event of sexual harassment or discrimination, an individual has 60 days to file one of two types of complaint reports.

An informal report is taken to the individual’s commander, first sergeant and supervisor to attempt to correct the situation at the lowest level involving only their chain of command.

A formal report will involve an investigating officer who will gather evidence and decide if there is reason to pursue stronger legal action.

## **Sexual Assault:**

The SAPR program combines prevention methods, such as education and awareness with a full-response program consisting of a multi-agency team of professionals who respond in the event of an assault.

“The response team consists of a military medical treatment facility, a sexual assault nurse, a sexual assault response coordinator and counselling services from combat stress or the chaplain’s office,” said Ball. “In the event of a sexual assault, the individual can speak with their supervisor, an EO representative or with their unit victim advocate who can help the victim decide what they want to do.”

There are two options available to anyone who is the victim of a sexual assault. If the victim only wants to receive help, then

they can file a restricted report. They can receive treatment at a medical facility, get counselling from combat stress and the chaplain’s office and get advice from their unit victim advocate.

Unrestricted reporting involves law enforcement officials and the Criminal Investigations Command. An investigation officer is assigned to the case and gathers evidence about the event that can lead to possible prosecution and court-martial actions. The victim will receive treatment from a medical facility and is put under the care of a sexual assault response nurse. Combat stress and the chaplain’s office are also notified and counselling is made available to the victim.

The joint programs hold classes and briefings for military and civilian personnel before, during and after deployments. The EO office tries to keep at least one UVA at each forward operating base, outpost and wherever there are people who may need their services.

“Our goal is to prevent anyone from becoming a victim,” said Ball. “But if someone is victimized, the SAPR and EO programs are here for military and civilian personnel to use and receive help.”

*“Our goal is to prevent anyone from becoming a victim. But if someone is victimized, the SAPR and EO programs are here for military and civilian personnel to use and receive help.”*

*-Air Force Lt. Col. Lester A. Ball*

*Only 38 percent of all rapes and sexual assaults were actually reported to law enforcement.*

# Small idea making a difference

Story and photos by Air Force Master Sgt. James Law  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

Provincial Reconstruction Teams are engaged daily in large-scale projects building roads, bridges, schools and medical facilities to help the Afghan government develop its infrastructure. They also contribute small ideas that have the potential for large-scale impact.

One such idea was to design and fabricate a hand-held seed spreader that can be used by farmers to spread fertilizer.

“Our Department of Agriculture representative came to me and said ‘I heard you could design stuff, is there any way to design a seed spreader?’” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Tim Bayes, Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team Engineering non-commissioned officer in charge.

Bayes explained Afghan farmers currently spread their fertilizer by hand. This method places more fertilizer in some areas and less in others.

“If you go out there you can see the inconsistency in the growth patterns in the fields,” said Bayes. “If they can effectively spread the fertilizer so their growth pattern is consistent, it could potentially increase their crops by 15 to 25 percent annually.”

Understanding the impact the simple idea could have, Bayes started the design taking into consideration the materials the local Afghan farmers have to use.

“We actually talked to our contractors and locals and

asked what the people have around their farms,” said Bayes. “Nuts and bolts are pretty easy to come by, pieces of plywood or just chunks of wood, and tin cans or canvas bags were the materials we had to work with.”

After one and half days of design, Bayes met with the Department of Agriculture representative to review the blueprint and make final adjustments before building a prototype.

“It took me about half a day to build it,” said Bayes.

“This is kind of different, a little bit unique compared to

what we normally do, and it was fun to do it.”

Bayes added during a discussion with the Afghan government’s Department of Agriculture representative the idea of having prisoners build the spreader for distribution was addressed.

“They were talking about using the prisoners to possibly build these so they could do it cheap, effectively and distribute them out, at least to get them out so the people can see what they’re made out of and how they’re made,” said Bayes.

He added once the spreader is initially distributed to some, the farmers could share with each other so those without could easily build one themselves.

“It not only helps them as far as income, but an increase in crops will also help supply and demand in the local economies,” said Bayes. “If it helps 10 farmers to produce more crops to help people, then it was worth it.”



# Improvements target morale

Story and photos by Air Force Master Sgt. James Law  
455th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

**A** genuine caring attitude drives the Morale, Welfare and Recreation Airmen who continuously work to improve the MWR facilities and events for Airmen and Soldiers of the Laghman Provincial Reconstruction Team.

Assigned to the Laghman PRT, two of the three MWR Airmen arrived in March to discover a facility infrequently used with no activities or events to entertain the base's occupants.

"On average we had about five to 10 people here a day," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Beverly Simpson, Laghman PRT MWR, deployed from Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Disappointed, the two Airmen began to work on providing more for the roughly 500 servicemembers here, including approximately 200 Airmen and Soldiers they had spent the previous two months with during combat skills training at Fort Bragg, N.C.

"The first thing we did was clean up the place," said Simpson. "We cleaned for about a day and a half."

Tech. Sgt. Diane Schmitt, Laghman PRT MWR, deployed from McConnell AFB, Kan., explained once they finished cleaning, they spent the next six weeks painting, laying down new floors, building book shelves and setting up equipment and programs in the four-room building.

One of the programs established was a "free" exchange. Items ranging from snacks to toiletries are taken from care packages sent from various organizations and neatly categorized on the shelves in a room shared with a library of paperback books.

Another room was converted to a movie and entertainment lounge where large couches and chairs sit back-to-back in the center of the room evenly dividing the four flat-



screen televisions mounted on the walls.

"Once we started getting everything in order and finished painting, I set up (game stations) on the four TVs we have," said Simpson.

One of the remaining rooms, and the largest one, contains two pool tables, a ping-pong table, two card tables and a couple of refrigerators stocked with cold refreshments. Previously, the pool tables and ping-pong table were not used because there were no balls, but while cleaning, Simpson and Schmitt found both and put them to use.

"When I arrived here, I was very impressed with what I saw," said Air Force Staff Sgt. Laura Dewey, Laghman PRT MWR, deployed from Minot AFB, N.D. "I didn't arrive until about four weeks after they did, so I didn't see how it was before. But I saw pictures and from what I can tell, they've done a great job."

With a facility capable of entertaining a large number of troops, a variety of activities and events were incorporated.

"We started all the tournaments: volleyball, ping-pong, pool, cards and

horseshoes," said Schmitt.

Schmitt added they extended the hours of operation on Saturday nights for a 'poker, pool and darts night' during the summer months. The prize if you win one of the weekly tournaments is a traveling trophy that each winner gets to sign and keep for the week as well as their photo being placed in the dining facility.

There are also weekly social barbecues and a monthly birthday party for everyone who celebrates a birthday during the month. Recently, the Soldiers and Airmen took up donations to pay for the birthday cake, but previously Schmitt bought the ingredients and baked the cakes.

"They are always trying to improve and ask us for ideas to make it better," said Army Staff Sgt. Jean Dugrot, a movement NCO for Golf Battery, 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment. "They take everything into consideration. It keeps the morale high."

Their desire to assist and make things better is not confined to the boundaries of the base.

"We had a meeting with three of the local women and we are trying to introduce them to canning," said Dewey. "It's just another idea that may help them prepare for the winter."

Dewey said they also organized a donation drive to get six sewing machines from an American-based company for local widows.

"These sewing machines were donated with the goal of using them to start businesses to support their families," said Dewey.

Whether assisting the local community or improving the morale, welfare and recreation for the troops here, these Airmen are just another example of Airmen contributing to the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan.

# Photos From the Field



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester

Chaplain (Maj.) Brad Davis, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing Chaplain, says a prayer for Security Forces team members before they depart on a mission, June 19. Davis is deployed from the 911th Airlift Wing, Pittsburgh/Air Reserve Station.



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U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester



Senior Airman Calvin Woody, 455th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron Crew Chief, looks over his technical manual while working on a A-10, May 4.

U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stephen Ocenosak



Air Force Lt. Col. Thomas Davis, American Forces Network commander, is pictured with Fazal Khattak, operation manager, Bahaer Computer and Printing Company. Also pictured, from left to right are Marine Cpl. Robert Durham and Air Force Staff Sgt's Maro Nickens and Ian Carrier.



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