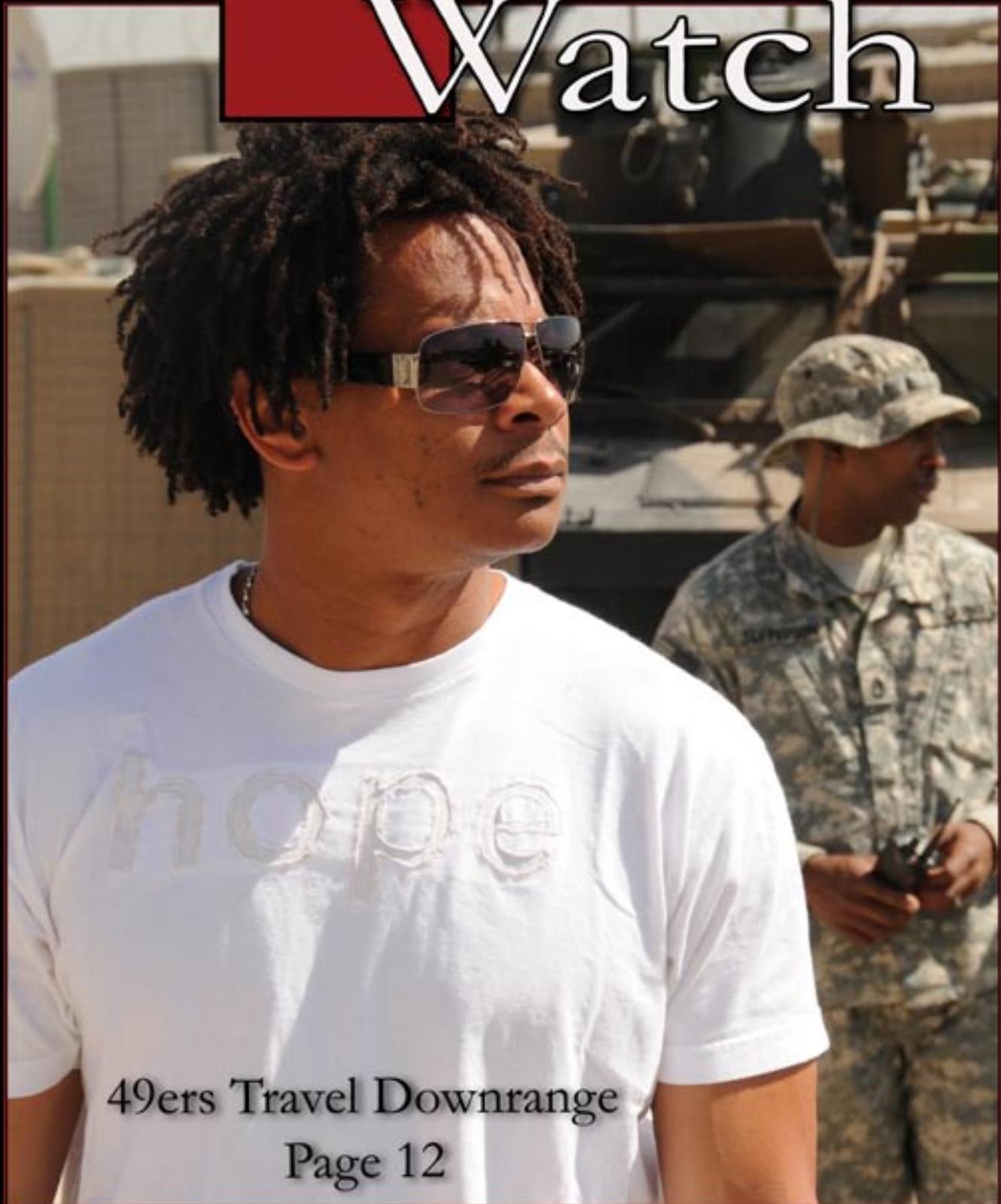


July 14, 2008

Freedom Watch

AFGHANISTAN



49ers Travel Downrange

Page 12

8-Step Training ■ School for Girls ■ 4th of July

Department of Defense, Department of Education sign agreement

Story and photo by Margaret McKenzie
FMWRC Public Affairs

Deputy Secretary of Defense Gordon England and Deputy Secretary of Education Raymond Simon signed an agreement at the Pentagon, June 25, to work together to ease transition challenges for military children.

The Memorandum of Understanding formalizes the partnership between the two agencies. The agreement is designed to establish a collaborative framework between the Department of Defense and the Department of Education to address the unique challenges military children face as they transition from one school to another when their parents are assigned to different installations.

"We have a long-standing, positive working relationship with the Department of Education," said England. "The on-going relocation within the Department of Defense has created an urgent need to enrich and expand this relationship and other partnerships with military-connected communities to ensure the best possible educational opportunities for military students. This memorandum of understanding strengthens that partnership."

"I will tell you something about our magnificent men and women who serve this great nation," England said. "They will give their lives and limbs for their country, but they will not sacrifice their children."

He said children of military members have the right to an outstanding education and will not relocate where they don't have good schools.

"That is where servicemembers draw the line and they are right," England said. "Their children deserve to have a good education and so we have an obligation both as a department and as a nation to make sure not just the children of the military, but frankly all the children of the United States of America get the absolute finest education."

Thousands of military students are mov-

ing as a result of base realignment and closure, global rebasing and other force structure changes.

Of the 1.2 million school-age military students, only eight percent attend DoD schools; the remaining 92 percent attend America's public, charter, private, independent and parochial schools across the nation.

In his opening remarks, Simon talked about his participation in a school accreditation process in Germany and a meeting of the advisory council on military dependents education he attended.

"The one thing I took away from that meeting was the absolute commitment from command and senior leadership of our Armed Forces for a quality education for their children," he said. "That commitment included the personal attendance, for several hours, of the commanding general of the U.S. Army in Europe. For him and for the other commanders present, access to the finest schools, with the most outstanding teachers for their children, was non-negotiable."

Five children participated in the signing ceremony. Jhendayi Bryant, Aaron Naquin, Rebekkah Orrell, Daniel Lind and Justyce Graves recited the Pledge of Allegiance as their parents looked on.

"It is a great honor to be here," said Army Maj. Gregory Orrell, Rebekkah's father. "I think this is really special for my daughter to see something that will affect her for most of her school years, especially with the amount of times that I will move in my career. This is something that will affect her life."

Rebekkah said it was fun and she was excited.

"The agreement we sign today will honor that commitment and honor the sacrifices these families make every day," Simon said. "By working more closely together, and by working smarter, together we can help ensure that the unique needs of these children to learn and have access to first-class teacher and support programs, are more fully met, no matter where in the world they are deployed."



Commander

Air Force Lt. Col.
Thomas Davis

Superintendent

Air Force Master Sgt.
Collen McGee

Print NCOIC

Air Force Staff Sgt.
Ian Carrier

Editor-in-Chief

Air Force Staff Sgt.
Stephen Ocenosak

Assistant Editor

Air Force Staff Sgt.
Marc Nickens

Visit the CJTF-101 Web site at
www.cjtf101.com

Freedom Watch is a weekly publication of
Combined Joint Task Force-101 and
American Forces Network.

CJTF-101 Commander Army Maj. Gen.
Jeffrey J. Schloesser

RC East Public Affairs Officer Army Lt.
Col. Rumi Nielson-Green

Freedom Watch, a Department of Defense
publication, is published each Monday by the
AFN – Afghanistan Print Section, Bldg. 415,
Room 205 at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan.
Printed circulation is 5,000 copies per week.

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

Contents of the *Freedom Watch* are not
necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by,
the U.S. government or the Department of
Defense.

Deadline for submissions is noon local each
Friday. All submissions are subject to editing
by AFN Print Section staff. We can be reached
via DSN 318-431-4458, or on our website at
www.defenselink.mil/afn-afghanistan.

COVER: Eric Davis, former defensive
back for the San Francisco 49ers,
visits forward operating base Light-
ning, in central Afghanistan, June 24.
Davis and Mike Nolan, head coach
for the 49ers, came as guests on the
Ron Barr talk show to visit deployed
troops. (U.S. Navy photo by Seaman Tim
Newborn)

BACK COVER: A child waits out-
side his house while police officers
search it during an operation involving
both Afghanistan National Police and
Army, with Coalition forces only playing
a minor role over all on February 20,
outside Destined Base, Afghanistan.
(U.S. Army photo by Spc. Jordan Carter)

Freedom Watch

July 14, 2008

- 4** **Maybe you could live without it...not!**
The eight-step training model: Why we need it
- 5** **Out with the old, in with the new**
Strasburger takes helm of 455th Expeditionary Operations Group
- 6** **Get smart!**
Kandigal Village celebrates opening of girls' school
- 7** **Education is the key**
Medical classes teach Kapisa women hygiene, family planning
- 8** **French Surge**
TF 700/TF Chimera - part two of three
- 10** **We're havin' big fun**
Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan hosts 4th of July celebration
- 12** **Calling a different set of plays**
49ers coach travels downrange



4



8



10

The eight-step training model: why we need it



Courtesy photo

By Command Sgt. Maj. Vincent Camacho

Combined Joint Task Force-101 Command Sgt. Maj.

Non-commissioned officers are obligated to teach and mentor Soldiers to accomplish the commander's intent, and simultaneously, develop the leaders of tomorrow coming up through the ranks.

Overall, I am impressed with the performance of non-commissioned officers I meet during my battlefield circulation. I ask that we continue to know, enforce standards and instill discipline. NCOs are the standard bearers and truly the backbone of the Army.

In my point of view, training Soldiers and taking care of their professional needs is the key to accomplishing the mission; whether deployed or in garrison. NCOs have to take the time and look for opportunities to do individual training.

This means leading Soldiers, enforcing basic standards, knowing and implementing training doctrines and training to

the lowest level. It's important to have effective communications to ensure every member understands the tasks they are given and their purpose.

Sounds easy, right? Not so. Most NCOs have a steep learning curve of their own, primarily as a result of the Army's big push to transform to full spectrum operations. In most cases, NCOs have completed tactical assignments at the squad, platoon or company level and must now think operationally and in some cases strategically. NCOs have to hit the books by applying the crawl-walk-run principals of training.

The eight-step training model should be used after every combat patrol, whether the patrol was engaged or not. An effective after-action report, conducted before the mission is complete, will identify weak points that need to be improved within your unit and between you and your international partners. The eight-step training model provides an NCO answers to the questions of who and what needs to be trained, an understanding of the task's purpose, a review of doctrine, a rehearsal of weak points and an evaluation of training.

Use the eight-step training model and you'll increase the combat effectiveness of your unit, regardless of the mission or environment.

Eight Step Training Model:

1. PLAN THE TRAINING
2. TRAIN THE TRAINERS
3. RECON THE SITE
4. ISSUE THE ORDER
5. REHEARSE THE TRAINING
6. EXECUTE THE TRAINING
7. EVALUTE THE TRAINING
8. RETRAIN AS NECESSARY

Strasburger takes helm of 455th Expeditionary Operations Group

By Air Force Capt. Toni Tones
455th AEW Public Affairs

“Sir, I assume command.”

After uttering the four-word sentence every commander states, Air Force Col. Tim “Donk” Strasburger took the helm of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group during a change of command ceremony on Bagram Air Field, June 21.

Strasburger, an A-10 command pilot with more than 4,000 flying hours, accepted the group’s guidon from Air Force Brig. Gen. Mike Holmes, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. In concert, he accepted responsibility for more than 700 personnel executing the following combat missions on behalf of the wing and Joint Coalition forces: airdrop, airland, electronic combat, combat search and rescue, medevac, operations support, airfield management, aeromedical evacuation and close air support.

“Colonel Strasburger is the right guy for the job,” said Holmes. “He brings a tireless enthusiasm to every task and is excited about what he’s doing. He’s also setting the trend as the first one-year operations group commander.”

The colonel saluted former commander, Air Force Col. Art McGettrick for his service and sacrifice



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

and thanked him for leaving him “the most lethal combat group in the U.S. Air Force.”

He also thanked Holmes for “entrusting me with this mission and our most precious asset—our magnificent Airmen.”

“Airmen of the EOG--we have a mission to accomplish,” said Strasburger. “That mission is timely and accurate support to U.S. and coalition forces, to protect innocent civilians and killing our nation’s enemies...everything else is secondary. Never forget, everything you do represents those you are sworn to defend—to your dying breath if necessary—the people of the United States of America.”

The group oversees the day-to-day operations of a C-130 airlift squadron, an HH-60 squadron, an aeromedical evacuation squadron, an F-15E fighter squadron and an A-10 fighter squadron. Additionally, the EOG maintains administrative control over an EC-130 electronic combat squadron and supports a U.S. Navy EA-6B electronic attack squadron. Through the Operations Support Squadron, the group also oversees a range of combat support functions at both Bagram and Kabul airfields, including airfield management, air traffic control, intelligence and weather.



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

Kandigal Village celebrates opening of girls' school

Story and photos by Army Spc. Gregory J. Argentieri
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

The first girls' school in Kandigal Village celebrated an opening ceremony with elders from all over the river valley, June 14, in Konar Province, Afghanistan.

The new \$200,000, 400-seat Kandigal Girl's School was funded by the 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, also known as Task Force Rock.

Hajji Sayed Wahidi, governor of Konar province, and a number of other Konar provincial government officials were joined by Army Lt. Col. William Ostlund, Task Force Rock commander, and Navy Cmdr. Daniel W. Dwyer, Konar Provincial Reconstruction Team commander.

"Girl's schools are the first priority for the government because, unfortunately, when Afghanistan was in the hands of the Taliban, the women were kept in the dark and not allowed to come out of their homes for learning," said Wahidi. "The women are in a very bad situation; therefore we believe now we need to do more for women. We should have some positive discrimination to increase activities for women."

The Kandigal Girl's School is a community success story, said Dwyer. The school was only possible through the cooperation of the Ministry of Education, the district and provincial government, the elders and the Coalition forces

working together.

"The community recognized and stated its number one priority for Kandigal Village was a girls school," said Dwyer. "The government is addressing the needs of the people."

Five schools are currently under construction in Konar province, and in the next several months the provincial government plans to build 15 more, according to Wahidi.

"We always try to make more facilities for girls in Konar province," said Wahidi. "We have 140,000 students going to school, and fortunately 40,000 are girls. The number is still not bad, but I think if you provide the facilities, the number of girls and boys will be [50 percent of each]."

The Konar PRT, in conjunction with the MoE, will continue to fund the construction of new schools throughout the province, according to Dwyer.

"Konar province has 315 schools with only 115 buildings," said Dwyer. "The Konar PRT will fund schools only along roads with already existing locations, whether it is a tarp, tent or open air school."

"A year ago Kandigal District had only two schools," said Army Capt. Louis B. Frketic. "The schools consisted of two teachers and a collection of children sitting under trees in the village center. Afghan's believe when you send a child to school, the education process "the tailm" is a cleansing process. You wash away all the bad things from the children's minds, you wipe away the 30 years of fighting from their minds."

According to Frketic, building schools is only part of a larger plan. The Coalition forces are also building roads, power stations, health clinics, pipe schemes, bridges and wells in support of the Afghan government.

U.S. Dept. of State representative, Alison Blosser, spoke on behalf of the Konar PRT, and in their native language, Pashtu. She addressed the el-



ders during the celebration ceremony about the importance of women's education. It is a good step for the Afghans to educate Konar's future women doctors and provincial council members, she said.

"The Kandigal Girl's School celebration was actually a fantastic event," said Blosser. "The bulk of the time was the Afghanistan government officials speaking about the importance of community participation in government, and they really stole the show."

According to Blosser, Kandigal Village is a strategic village because it sits between two decisive valleys, the Korengal Valley and the Pech Valley. The Coalition forces built strong relations with the elders by giving them something to develop their children, and develop their future.

"The significance of Kandigal Village is that it sits at the mouth of the Korengal Valley, and the Korengal Valley is the place in Konar province where probably our toughest fight has been for the last five years," said Blosser. "One important thing about the Kandigal Girl's School is, over the past two years, we've been trying to gain the trust and confidence of the Korengalis, and what we have been trying to do in Kandigal Village is demonstrate all the benefits development can bring."



Medical classes teach Kapisa women hygiene, family planning

Story and photos by Army Sgt. Jessica R. Dahlberg
382nd Public Affairs Detachment

Women from Mahmood Raqi and Kohistan gathered at the Women's Affairs building on the Governor's Compound in Mahmood Raqi District, Kapisa province, June 25, for personal hygiene and family planning classes.

The two classes were given by Air Force Staff Sgt. Melanie Denison, the Medical non-commissioned officer for the Parwan and Kapisa Provincial Reconstruction Team and Navy Cmdr. Beth Myhre, Cooperative Medical Assistant Team officer in charge.

These two medical classes are the first of six to be taught here.

At first, only five women from each district were supposed

to show up, said Saifora Kohistani, Women's Affairs director. However, the word about the classes got out and women came from everywhere to attend.

"I just didn't have the heart to turn them away," said Kohistani.

Denison's personal-hygiene class taught women nutrition



and how to take care of themselves without having access to a doctor. Myhre's family-planning class taught different methods of birth control and at the end of the class, bags full of personal hygiene items were passed out.

"These classes are important because a lot of the women don't have access to medical facilities," said Kohistani.

"They will be able to take what they learn here and teach themselves, as well as others."



Le 1e Regiment Etranger de Cavalerie

was created in 1920, at a time the French Foreign Legion had only infantry units. Numerous Russians from the defeated imperial Army were enlisted in its ranks. These men, very skilled cavalymen of the Tsar Army, permitted the 1e REC to impose a new discipline in the French Foreign Legion.

History retained the adaptability of cavalry-legionnaire. They fought successively on their horses in Syria and in Morocco, in 1925 and 1934. They fought with French armored cars during the campaign of France in 1940, then in Tunisia in 1943, before being equipped with US armored cars AM 8, for France's liberation. In Indochina, from 1947 to 1954, 1e REC's legionnaires developed amphibious skills, fighting from "Crabes" and "Alligators" light armored vehicles. Back in North Africa, in 1955, they had more classical missions for armored units and were equipped again with US armored cars, and from 1957 with French EBR (Engins Blindés de Reconnaissance).

Since 1962, the 1e REC changed organization and equipment several times. They were committed in operations in numerous theatres: Chad, Lebanon, Iraq, Cambodia, Former-Yugoslavia, Congo, Central Africa and the Ivory Coast.

In Kapisa, the 1e REC will support TF700 with its AMX 10RC light armored tanks.

1e REC has been awarded three times the "Croix de guerre 1939 / 1945 avec citation à l'ordre de l'Armée".
four times the "Croix de guerre des théâtres d'opérations extérieures avec citation à l'ordre de l'Armée".



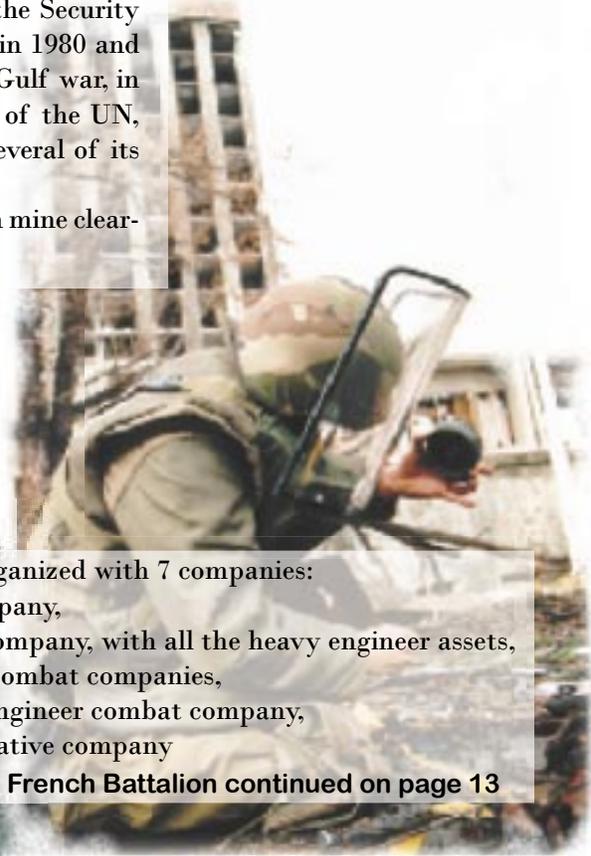
On its flag is embroidered:
GERMERSCHEIM 1944
AFN 1952-1962

Le 17e régiment du génie parachutiste

is heir of the 17e Engineer Colonial Battalion, from whom it inherited the inscription IGERMERSHEIN 1945 on its flag (crossing of the Rhine river on March 31, 1945), the 17e RGP was created in North Africa in 1946 and went to Indochina one year later, where they remained till 1954.

Located in Castelsarrassin as from 1949, it was part of the 60e and the 75e Airborne Engineer companies from 1954 and took part in operations in Algeria, Suez and Bizerte. Created in 1963, the 17e RGAP was dissolved in 1971. Only two companies remained and were integrated to the combat arms regiments. In 1974, the battalion was re-created in MONTAUBAN and was named 17e RGP. Deployed to Beirut, Lebanon, as the framework of the Security Forces, then deployed in Chad, they were cited twice in the order of the Army in 1980 and 1983. The 17e RGP played an important role in all the actions conducted in the Gulf war, in Kuwait, as well as, in operations supporting Kurdish refugees. Under the aegis of the UN, the battalion was deployed in Cambodia and in the former Yugoslavia where several of its companies served successively, particularly in Kosovo.

The 17e RGP is a unit of the 11e Brigade Parachutiste and is highly qualified in mine clearance, support deployment and crossing.



17e RGP is organized with 7 companies:

- 1 HHQ company,
- 1 Support company, with all the heavy engineer assets,
- 3 Engineer combat companies,
- 1 Reserve Engineer combat company,
- 1 Administrative company

French Battalion continued on page 13



Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan hosts 4th of July celebration

By Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn D. Graham
CSTC-A Public Affairs

U.S. servicemembers assigned to the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan celebrated America's 232nd Independence Day in the traditional way, but in a non-traditional setting.

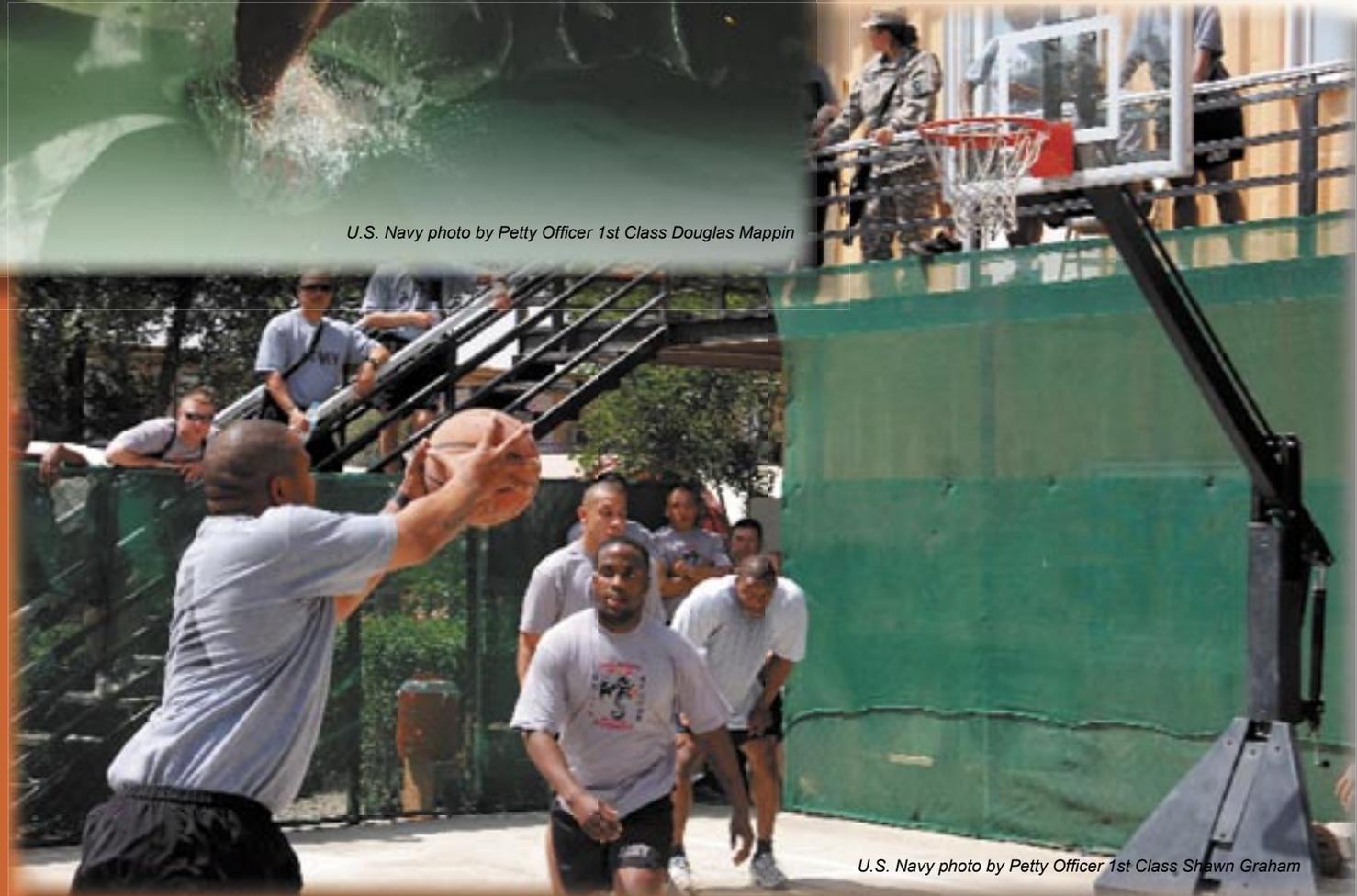
Serving thousands of miles away from home in a warzone, servicemembers took time off to recharge and partake in the things that make the 4th of July a special holiday.

Camp Eggers Morale, Welfare and Recreation organized the event, providing a taste of home for all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and US civilians here. CSTC-A MWR officer, Air Force Maj. Regina Rockel, a Phoenix, Ariz., native, praised all volunteers who assisted in planning and the set-up.

"I'm so pleased it turned out well," said



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Graham

Rockel. "The garrison commander and all the NCOs did an outstanding job in making this a fun time for everyone on Camp Eggers."

Kicking off the day's events were opening remarks and a cake-cutting ceremony led by Manchester, N.H., native, Army Maj. Gen. Robert Cone, CSTC-A commanding general.

"Today, we see our flag displayed in Blackhawks and Humvees, on aircraft carriers and fighter jets, in tactical operations centers and combat outposts," Cone said. "We wear the flag on our uniforms and bear it in our hearts. We salute it, we serve under it and we fight for it."

During the celebration, servicemembers relaxed and enjoyed a myriad of traditional 4th of July events including a basketball tournament, horse shoes, pie-eating contest and barbeque.

Adding to the festive atmosphere was Camp Eggers' own Freedom Band, who played patriotic tunes throughout the day.

"We formed just for this occasion," said Freedom

Band leader and guitarist, Air Force Master Sgt. Donnell Woodard of Chicago, Ill. "This is how we celebrate when we're home too. Good music, family and friends. We have that here as well."

For most servicemembers, the celebration was a reminder of home, with many activities being identical to those held stateside. Many reflected on what their families were doing to celebrate America's independence.

"At home we would be going to the beach and having a big cookout," said Navy Lt. Kevin Davis, a Jacksonville, Fla., native. "We make the entire day one to remember."

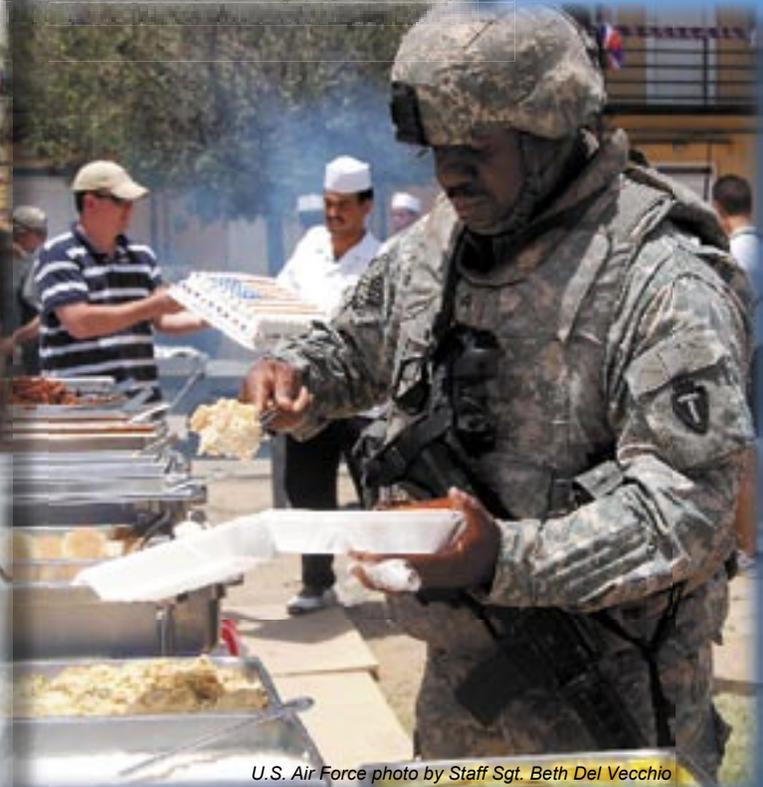
Good food, music and festivities made sure that servicemembers would remember good times in Afghanistan for a long time to come.



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio



U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Graham



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio

49ers coach travels downrange

Story and photos by
Navy Seaman Tim Newborn
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Day two in Afghanistan for San Francisco 49ers head coach Mike Nolan and former defensive back Eric Davis included visits with U.S. Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines at three forward operating bases, June 24.

The two sports celebrities continued their Afghanistan tour with sports radio talk show host Ron Barr of Sports Byline. The visit was sponsored by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

The group traveled to Camps Dubbs, Lightning and Phoenix by helicopter; all three camps are located in central Afghanistan. At each, the celebrities were greeted by U.S. sports enthusiasts eager to talk about their favorite teams.

“My reason for coming out here really is because I have tremendous



respect and admiration for what you guys do,” said Nolan. “I think I share the same sentiment for all the guys that I coach and coach with.”

From one camp to the next, Nolan, Davis and Barr talked about how it feels to be among the servicemembers and witness firsthand their commitment and dedication to the mission.

“When I’m challenged or it’s been

a tough day, I think about people who are doing what they’re doing over here, and I forget what was bothering me in the first place,” said Barr. “My problems are nothing compared to the challenges that are faced here.”

Davis, who played with the 49ers for six years, including Super Bowl XXIV, told the troops what the trip means to him.

“I have so much respect for you guys for the teamwork that I’ve seen,” said Davis. “Some understand that kind of commitment on a certain level; you are all achieving teamwork on the highest level where the stakes are so much higher”

Nolan, Davis and Barr took time to shake hands and to speak, one-on-one, with some of the troops.

“It’s very rewarding to know that people care so much that they would risk their own life by coming out here to show their support,” said Spc. Gary Wiggins Jr., 27th Brigade Combat Team, New York National Guard. “We see that people we idolize also idolize us, and they’re thankful for us to be where we are.”





On its flag is embroidered :
SAINT-GOND 1914
CHAMPAGNE 1915
LA MALMAISON 1917
NOYON 1918
SOMME-PY 1918
AFN 1952-1962

Continued from page 9.

Le 35e Régiment d'artillerie parachutiste

originally named the 35e Régiment d'artillerie they were created in 1873. They distinguished themselves during the two World Wars. In 1947, they became the "Régiment d'artillerie légère parachutiste," and received their current motto "Straight away." From 1953 to 1961, they took part in the combats of Indochina, Algeria and in Tunisia. As the 8e RPIMa, they were one of the important units of the battle of Dien-Bien-Phu. In 1963, they became the "35e Régiment d'artillerie parachutiste, within the 11e Division parachutiste.

Its organization permits, without notice, to move and deploy a command post with 24 x 120 heavy mortars, reinforced by 24 x 155 mm howitzers. They can take part in all kinds of airborne and heliborne operations.

In France, the 35e RAP is manned with 900 soldiers. Its task organization includes four ground to ground batteries, one target acquisition battery, one HHQ battery and one command post.

During its mission in Kapisa, le 35e RAP will support the TF700 with its heavy mortars.

35e RAP's flag is decored with the Médaille militaire and the Croix de guerre 1939/45 avec quatre citations à l'ordre de l'armée.

Next issue: a look at the French Marine traditions.



Photos From the Field



U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Jessica R. Dahlberg

Major SherMahammad gives an overview for a mission in the Nijrab District at Forward Operating Base Morales-Frazier.



Have a photo you'd like to see in
Freedom Watch Afghanistan?

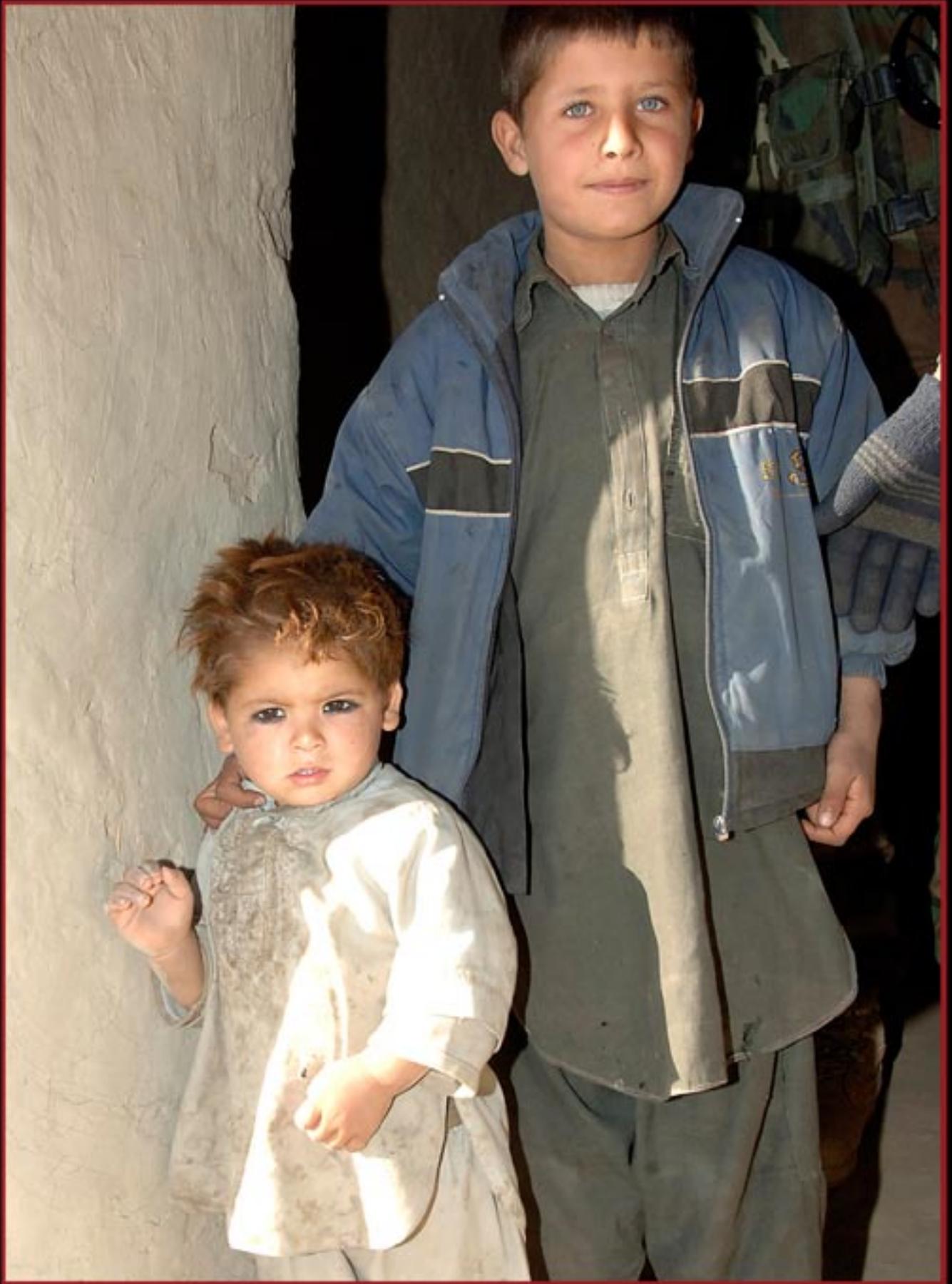
freedomwatch@swa.army.mil



An F-15E deployed from the 48th fighter wing, RAF Lakenheath, England, picks up speed on the flightline during a mission in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.



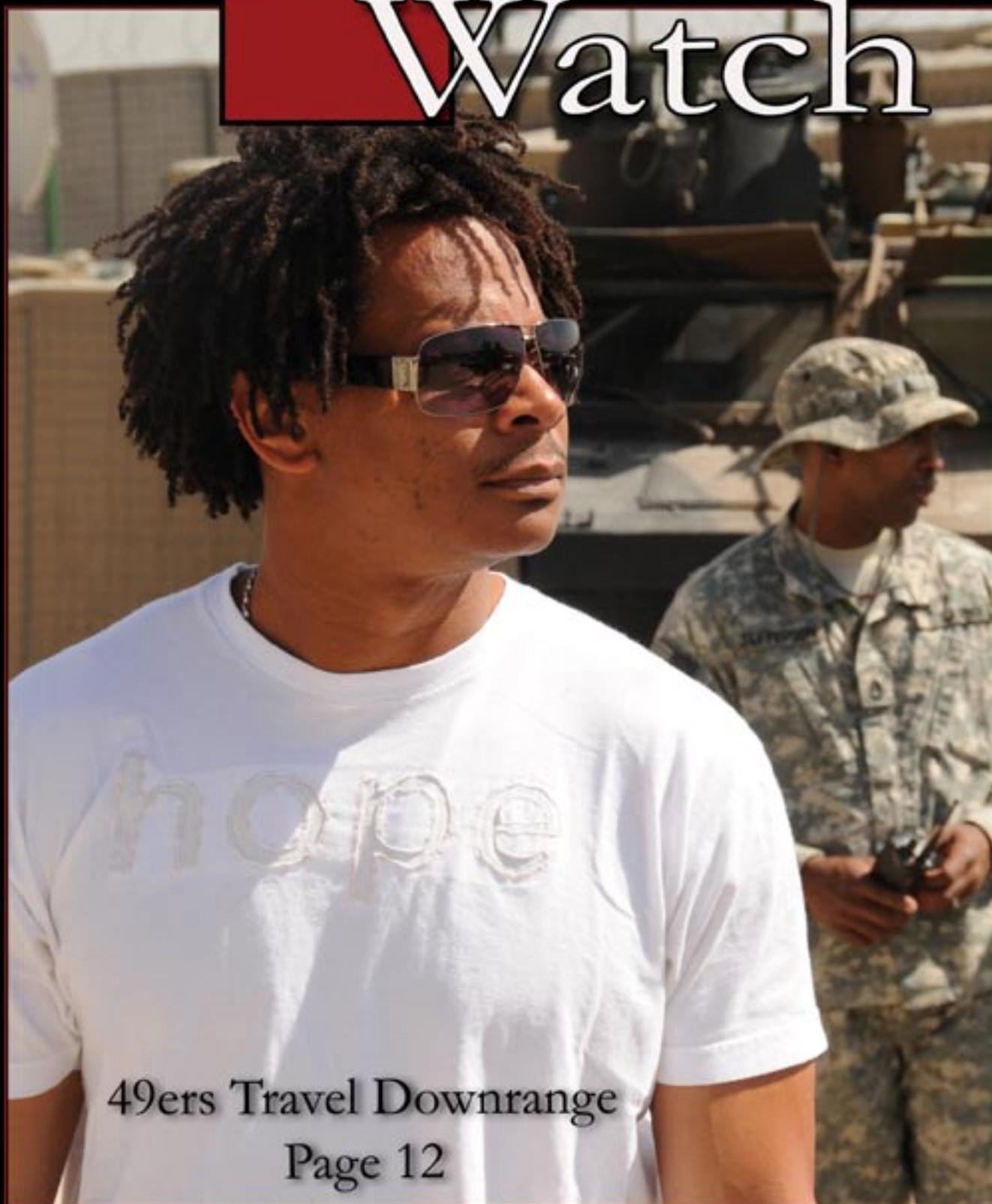
Haji Wali Mohammed, Moghuliz Kalay village elder, discusses the distribution of humanitarian assistance April 15. The Zabul Provincial Reconstruction Team provided the village with 30 bags of rice, 30 of beans, 30 bags of flour, 20 bottles of cooking oil, 40 boxes of tea, 100 pairs of boots, 40 radios, 20 bags of sugar and 20 bags of salt.



July 14, 2008

Freedom Watch

AFGHANISTAN



49ers Travel Downrange

Page 12

8-Step Training ■ School for Girls ■ 4th of July