

THE GOLDEN HOUR: BETWEEN LIFE AND DEATH

FREEDOM WATCH
AFGHANISTAN

Oct. 27, 2008



**TOP
COVER**

**UNMATCHED
POWER IN BATTLE**

from the kids



Freedom Watch Staff

Commander, AFN Afghanistan
Air Force Lt. Col. Leslie Pratt

Superintendent, AFN Afghanistan
Senior Master Sgt. Brent Squires

Editor/Print NCOIC
Tech. Sgt. Kristina Barrett

Assistant Editor
U.S. Marine Corps Corporal
Kimberly Crawford

Layout/Design
Air Force Staff Sgt. Marcus McDonald

Layout/Design
Senior Airman George Cloutier

The *Freedom Watch* magazine is a weekly publication of AFN Afghanistan and Combined Joint Task Force 101.

Commander, CJTF-101
Army Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser
Public Affairs Director, CJTF-101
Army Lt. Col. Rumi Nielson-Green

Freedom Watch, a U.S. Department of Defense publication, is published each Monday by the AFN Afghanistan's Print Section located in Bldg. 415, Room 205 at Bagram Air Field, 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, which can be reached at DSN 318-431-4458.



Service members assigned to Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan's armored vehicle fielding team stand in front of more than 300 vehicles that will be issued to the Afghan national security forces. (Courtesy Photo)

Contents

Oct. 27, 2008



3

First Aghan baby born at Bagram

4



PRT strives to build relationships

5



Consolidated fielding center speeds growth

6



Navy medics extend the Golden Hour

8



Air power makes the difference in combat

Medical assistance

U.S. Forces - Afghanistan provided medical attention to a local national child who came to a forward operating base near Jalalabad in the Khogyani district of the Nangarhar province in northeastern Afghanistan.



A child was brought to the gate of a forward operating base for medical attention for a gunshot wound. It is unclear how the child was shot; however, prior to him being brought to the FOB the Afghan National Army was conducting a live-fire rifle range on the base, practicing with numerous kinds of weapons. The situation is under investigation.

U.S. Forces - Afghanistan gave immediate attention and then medically evacuated him to a hospital where he was treated and then released.

Contract awarded

A \$287 million contract was awarded through the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan for 18 C-27A tactical transport aircraft to be supplied to the Afghan National Army Air Corps.

The first of the aircraft will be delivered in September 2009 and deliveries will continue through 2011.

"The C-27A is a great match for Afghanistan's mobility and transport needs," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Walter Givhan, CSTC-A Combined Air Power Transition Force commanding general. "It's a rugged aircraft that operates well at high altitude and can deliver 10 tons of cargo, transport vehicles and passengers, and provide medical evacuation for up to 36 patients."



According to CAPTF, the Afghan Air Corps is an indispensable form of military power in the counterinsurgency because of the vast distances in Afghanistan, the lack of good roads or railroads, and the forbidding terrain that covers much of the country.

Air is the fastest and most effective form of mobility on the battlefield and is in high demand by Afghan military leadership. The C-27A is a twin turbo-prop engine aircraft designed to meet requirements for a rugged, air-land transport. The aircraft is particularly suited for short-to-medium-range tactical operations into shorter, semi-prepared airfields. The C-27A is an all-weather, day/night transport with capabilities to perform medical evacuation missions.

43 militants killed

Afghan National Security Forces and Coalition forces killed 43 militants in Qalat District, Zabol province.

ANSF and Coalition forces on a patrol received heavy weapons, machine gun and sniper fire from militants in multiple locations. The combined forces responded with small arms and RPG fire as well as close air support, killing the militants. A Coalition forces contracted civilian was wounded by enemy fire and medically evacuated to a Coalition medical facility for treatment.

An IED was also discovered in a remote area during the incident and was destroyed in place. Several weapons were also recovered from the site. No ANSF or Coalition service members were injured or killed during the incident.



Kiwi units change

New Zealand Defence Force Task Group Crib 13 assumed responsibility from TG Crib 12, marking the end of a successful six-month tour for TG Crib 12. The New Zealand group is respon-

sible for the Provincial Reconstruction Team mission in Bamyan province.

"New Zealand is a small nation with a small military force, but we've seen that a



New Zealand soldier can operate very successfully in this environment," said outgoing PRT commander Col. Daryl Tracy.

During this final farewell, he quoted an old Afghan proverb, saying "we came as friends, but we leave as brothers and sisters."

PRT's are the military contribution to the international development effort in Afghanistan. They work closely with local government leaders to tailor development programs for each area, and over the past six months the Bamyan PRT has focused on agriculture, housing improvements, and educational facilities.

Tracy said the PRT mission had benefitted greatly from the strong leadership of Bamyan Gov. Habibi Sorabi, who attended the ceremony and expressed her appreciation for the work done by TG Crib 12. Sorabi is the only female governor in the country of Afghanistan.

There are more than a dozen PRTs throughout Regional Command - East, run by a variety of nations including New Zealand, Poland, Turkey, the Czech Republic and the U.S.

"You have made a difference here, working with the governor and the Afghan government," said Brig. Gen. James McConville, Combined Joint Task Force - 101 deputy commanding general - support. "Because of what you have done here and what you will do, the children of Bamyan will have a much brighter future."

927th combat engineers cleaning up Afghanistan

By Army Pfc.
Charles Wolfe
3rd Brigade Combat Team,
1st Infantry Division

Roads in Afghanistan are few and far between and the few roads have only recently begun to be paved. Given the threat of improvised explosive devices, road missions are becoming more dangerous but a group of Soldiers are making the roads safer.

Due to the efforts of Baton Rouge, Louisiana's 927th Engineer Company, working with the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's Special Troops Battalion, Soldiers can travel these roads with a greater sense of security. This "Sapper"-tabbed unit clears roadways of explosives throughout Afghanistan.

Using modern sensory equipment, the company conducts frequent patrols throughout Regional Command East, detecting and disarming IED's and other hidden dangers.

"We're one of the top units in a battalion that oversees all the Route Clearance Patrols in theater," said Sgt. 1st Class Paul Mounts, 927th Engineer Co. operations noncommissioned officer.

During their six months in Afghanistan, the 927th has fallen victim to three IED strikes and successfully neutralized double that amount. With the volatile nature of the job, the engineers are pleased with their performance.

"We have many more finds than we do hits," Mounts said.

The engineers of the 927th belong to a young unit, which stood up their colors only two years ago. The Soldiers guiding the company, however, are a group of experienced combat veterans, each of them bringing experience and wisdom from prior deployments into their current operations.

"I'd say probably about 70 percent of them have been deployed two or three times before this," Mounts said. "Only [a small percentage] of our Soldiers are on their first tour."

The route clearance mission is a crucial part of operations in Afghanistan.

It is a difficult and dangerous job to travel into unsafe territory to make the roads safe for passage.

A solid group of NCO's help the company overcome the daunting obstacles of their task with their knowledge and experience.

"We have a very strong NCO corps," Mounts said. "The Soldiers know no matter which NCO they have, they're going to take care of them."

Soldiers of the 927th are very proud of their unit's success in freeing Afghanistan's roads from explosives, to which all of them have contributed.

Given the company's size, there is very little room for an engineer who doesn't take part in the regular route-clearing patrols.

"It's a great unit," Mounts said. "The Sapper label gives us a lot of credibility. Regardless of your MOS here, you can count on going on an RCP mission."



U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez
1st Lt. Michelle Pierson, ICU nurse, examines Zahra, the first Afghan baby born at the Craig Joint Theater Hospital.

First Afghan baby born at Bagram

By Air Force Staff Sgt. Rachel Martinez
455th Air Expeditionary Wing

It was the middle of the night and hospital staff's pagers were going off. Inside Craig Joint Theater Hospital there was a scramble to pull together the people and equipment needed for a successful procedure. It wasn't a Coalition servicemember's life they were trying to save; they were bringing a new Afghan baby into the world.

Just after 5 a.m., Oct 4, the hospital staff successfully delivered, by cesarean section, the first Afghan baby at Craig Joint Theater Hospital, Bagram Air Field.

The mother is a patient who was brought in five weeks ago after an explosion in her home. Despite sustaining major injuries to her upper and lower extremities, she was able to continue with her pregnancy.

"We were primarily following this patient for her traumatic injuries, but the fact that she was also pregnant was always on our radar," said Capt. Ron Carr, an obstetrics nurse.

"We had to use traditional medical techniques and teach the nurses how to put their hand on her belly to feel for the contraction so that we could then convey it to the doctor," he said.

A healthy Afghan baby girl was delivered that morning, and ever since "her presence has been a ray of light", said Carr.

"We get to see so much trauma on a daily basis, to see something positive like a baby is awesome," he said. "It's been very affirming of why we're here."

PRT strives to build relationships in remote village

By Air Force Staff Sgt.
Tammie Moore
U.S. AFCENT News Team

A 40-person team of Airmen, Sailors and Soldiers from the Kapisa and Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team traveled to a remote village recently to provide medical services.

The team of security and medical experts arrived at Pacha Hawk to fulfill their two-month plan to provide medical services to the residents, many of whom had never seen a doctor before.

Since March, this is the PRT's fourth visit to Pacha Hawk, an area where the Taliban is active.

"Medical missions are done when we see the need arise," said Capt. Marshall Fiscus, PRT medical professional. "We use them as part of our arsenal to try to [help] a village that may be 'sitting on the fence.' We want to show them that we are different than the Russians; we



U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Keith Brown Senior Airman Felicita Torres-Perkins examines an Afghan girl's tonsils.

are different than the Taliban; we actually care about them. So we come out, and we prove it."

The team established two make-shift screening rooms - one for the men and one for the women and children.

Their medical mission was to provide preventative care and education about basic personal hygiene, said Navy Cmdr. Betsy Myhre, officer in charge of the cooperative medical assistance team. The rugged terrain of the area also

contributes to the medical concerns that Fiscus's team sees while treating the men.

"You can look at the landscape and tell it is pretty harsh out here," he said. "I have not seen a vehicle since I have been out here, so they do everything by foot and as they get older; their muscles start to wear down. When you start listening to the ages, you see a guy and you think he is 60 or 70 and he is 40. You can really tell it is a hard life."

The secluded village is about a three-hour walk to the nearest hospital.

"We are hours from any medical facility or pharmacy, so they don't have access to medicines," Myhre said. This is one reason the PRT focuses so heavily on personal hygiene during their visits.

"My goal was to teach the children preventative medicine; I think that went very well," she said. "If we can teach things like [hand washing], maybe that can have a long-term impact."

American farmers improve lives of Afghan people

By Air Force Capt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt
Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team

Two unlikely characters have become joined together to help the farming community in Afghanistan. One is a farmer by trade and the other is an electrical engineer back home. They have come to Afghanistan to help the people find more efficient means of farming to sustain their communities.

Army Staff Sgts. Joshua Salmon and John Wymore are part of the 935th Agribusiness Development Team for Nangarhar Province. This team is the first of its kind in Afghanistan and has been replicated in several other provinces.

"Our team is here to assess the situation and develop projects that can be replicated throughout Nangarhar Province," said Master Sgt. Larry Godsey, 935th ADT. "What we have found is that the farmers in Afghanistan are as good as any farmers in the world. The problem facing the Afghan farmer is the lack of reliable sources of irrigation water and electricity. This makes it difficult to grow a consistent crop or process the locally grown commodities into value-added products."

The Nangarhar ADT is focusing on solving these problems with micro-hydros, wheat mills, solar wells, veterinarian clin-



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. J. Elaine Hunnicutt Army Staff Sgts. Joshua Salmon and John Wymore survey irrigation canals that feed a micro-hydro facility they are overseeing.

ics, artificial insemination centers, veterinarian laboratories, improved slaughter facilities and seed cleaning plants.

The village of Omarkhel in the Khogyani District of Nangarhar province is the home to 450 families. Currently, a micro-hydro is being built that will provide the village with reliable power, increasing security and improve flour production at the local mill. It will help irrigate 800 acres of farmland.

Consolidated Fielding Center speeds Afghan army's growth

By Army Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix

A new organization is improving the Afghan national army's ability to move capable forces from its training center to the operational commands.

The sense of urgency for this new concept has increased following the announcement of plans to grow the Afghan national army past the initial authorization of 82,000 to 135,000 to meet Afghanistan's security needs.

The Consolidated Fielding Center, based at the ANA's Pol-e-Charki reservation near Kabul, assembles new units from training center graduates and sends them forward as organized, staffed and equipped teams, enabling corps commanders to concentrate more on operations and less on administration, training and logistics.

The CFC organizes individuals for the



U.S. Army photo by Lt. Col. Paul Fanning
U.S. Army Lt. Col. Jesse Edwards, senior mentor and team chief for the Consolidated Fielding Center, stands with ANA leaders during a graduation ceremony.

first time into a unit and establishes a chain of command. This vital step will improve both the quality and speed of ANA growth, Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan officials said.

"The ANA was faced with tremendous problems when it came to fielding

new units down range," said Army Lt. Col. Jesse Edwards, senior mentor and team chief for the CFC. "The CFC was built to address system challenges that were preventing the ANA from growing capable units at a critical time in Afghanistan's development."

The Kabul Military Training Center conducts basic training and produces infantry soldiers and other qualified specialties out of new recruits. It also trains new officers and noncommissioned officers for leadership roles in the growing ANA.

Combined Security Transition Command Afghanistan, which oversees the mission to develop Afghan national security forces, developed the concept and issued it to Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix for implementation in May. The CFC reached initial operating capability July 10 and full capability Sept. 21 when it graduated its first unit.

New look:

Letters to the Editor

Freedom Watch Magazine debuts latest redesign

Welcome to the new look of Freedom Watch Magazine. We have just completed a redesign of the magazine in order to better serve our customer.

There will be some things that remain the same, such as bringing you news and feature stories from all over Afghanistan. We have incorporated four new sections into the magazine – a forum for readers to provide feedback, an Afghan culture page, and individual profile and unit spotlight pages.

The feedback forum is this column. This is the place for you to provide feedback to the Freedom Watch staff. If there's something we're doing right, let us know. If there's something we're missing, drop us a line and tell us.

Contact us at freedomwatch@swa.army.mil. All submissions will be edited for content and the writers will be identified by their initials and location.

We have also introduced an Afghan culture page. It is the goal

of this page to open up the world of Afghanistan – its people, culture and history. Check in every week to learn more about the country and people you are here to help.

Finally, the individual profile and unit spotlight pages are our way of highlighting the people who make the mission. Freedom Watch is accepting submissions for these pages. See the individual profile of Senior Airman Tyler Reiser on page 10 and the unit spotlight on JTF Paladin on the back page. Email us at freedomwatch@swa.army.mil for information on submitting an individual or a unit. Photos must be at least 9 inches x 12 inches, 300 dpi or the highest possible resolution.

Thank you for reading and we look forward to hearing from you.

– The Freedom Watch Afghanistan staff



Have your say - email the editor at freedomwatch@swa.army.mil

Submissions will be edited for content and length. Authors will be identified by initials only

THE GOLDEN HOUR

By U.S. Marine Corps Cpl. James M. Mercure
Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Afghanistan

Corpsman Up! It's a simple phrase used by Marines in combat to let corpsmen fighting alongside them know they need help, and FAST.

Since the Marines have been conducting counter-insurgency operations here, this call for help has pierced the air on more than one occasion.

As they take the fight to the insurgents on a near constant basis, the Marines of Company F, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, Special Purpose Marine Air Ground Task Force Afghanistan rely heavily on their Navy brethren.

Thankfully, they are equipped with some of the best corpsmen available.

The corpsmen attached to Fox Company are members of the task force's Shock Trauma Platoon (STP). The STP is comprised of two medical doctors, two nurses, a physician assistant and 14 corpsmen chosen from various military units around the world. The STP specializes in providing trauma care on the scene, and Afghanistan's austere environment has made it increasingly more challenging for the corpsmen to perform their duties. Nonetheless, the corpsmen serving here in support of Operation Enduring Freedom are committed to a common goal – saving lives and keeping Marines “in the fight.”

To fulfill its life-saving mission, the STP has implemented a new concept that has greatly enhanced its ability to provide more expedient medical care to the Marines serving on the frontlines. Because travelling a short distance to transport wounded Marines through the rocky and hilly terrain can literally take hours, the STP saw fit to create the Mobile Trauma Bay (MTB) to administer care faster.

Through the use of military equipment and medical materials made readily available, the “docs” are now better equipped to help Marines return to the fight.

“We took a flatbed 7-ton truck an ISO container and an AC unit, and turned it into a Mobile Trauma Bay that would rival any emergency room back in the states,” said Cmdr. James L. Hancock, STP senior medical officer and Illiopolis, Ill., native. “It's hard to believe I wrote the idea down on a napkin and after a few phone calls with some contractors, had it built.”

Affectionately referred to as a “Doc-in-a-box,” the MTB is basically an E.R. on wheels. It is equipped with the medical equipment necessary for the STP to treat wounds that would normally be untreatable on the battlefield. It comes with equipment such as an ultrasound machine that helps the medical personnel locate shrapnel in the body. Among a long list of other medical equipment, the MTB also has an electrocardiogram that shows how the heart is functioning – critical for diagnostic procedures and evaluations and a pulse-oximeter that shows oxygen saturation of arterial blood necessary to check for normal lung function in a patient.

“We bring advanced medical care to the fight,” said Navy Hospitalman 2nd Class Rudy R. Estrada, STP surgical technician and San Diego, Calif., native. “With the types of injuries we're seeing, having the MTB with us is a huge asset. Having the advanced equipment so close to the fight has saved a lot of lives.”

A wounded Marine's chance of survival is increased exponentially if they reach medical care within the first 60 minutes of the

injury or what the docs refer to as the “golden hour.” The golden hour represents the time from the point of injury to the time the patient receives treatment.

“With the capabilities we have, we can extend the golden hour to several hours instead of just one,” Estrada explained. “One of the biggest things we bring to the fight is the psychological aspect. The Marines know that if they get injured, the doc is right over their shoulder like a guardian angel.”

Having the additional support of the MTB makes fighting with the enemy less stressful for Fox Company Marines because they know help is close by.

“When I first told my Marines where we were going, one of the first questions they asked was, ‘How far away will we be from medical facilities?’” said Capt. Ross Schellhaas, company commander and Meridian, Idaho native. “You saw a collective sigh of relief from all of the Marines as they realized we would have an E.R. doctor and his team of corpsmen so far forward with us.”

Pleased with the STP's performance, the company commander said he felt proud to have the Sailors serving with Fox Company Marines.

“I don't think I've ever seen a group of folks that represent Navy medicine the way our STP has,” Schellhaas said. “We have several corpsmen out here that have earned multiple Purple Hearts for their efforts in trying to save Marines. The STP will do everything it can to help a Marine who's down, even if that means putting themselves in harm's way.”

Fox Company Marines understand the importance of having the STP with them because of the difficult situations the Marines have faced since deploying here in early April.

“The situations we get in here are more complex than a single corpsman can handle,” said Lance Cpl. Brandon W. Besendorfer, infantryman and Golden City, Mo., native. “You know if you get hurt, the STP will be there for you. That makes it a little easier going into combat knowing that they will do whatever they can to make sure you make it home.”





Navy Lieutenant Tony A. Wade (left), an STP trauma nurse and Jacksonville, N.C., native, bandages a wounded Marine as fellow Marines of Company F, TF 2/7, remove him from the Mobile Trauma Bay after being wounded during a fire-fight with members of the Taliban. (Photo by Navy Hospitalman Dan K. Marker)



TOP COVER

By **U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Tammie Moore**

U.S. Air Force Central Command News Team

An improvised explosive device had disabled a vehicle. Soldiers were stranded. Their brothers in arms responded to the scene.

“As we got within 200 meters of them, World War III opened up,” said Army Staff Sgt. Adam Kern, now assigned to Kapisa and Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team security forces. “The initial ambush was awful.”

It was approximately 18 Soldiers against 60 enemy fighters. Small arms and rocket-propelled grenades fire rained down on the team’s position. “It was kind of a moving moment, one of our gunners had gone down, so I started shooting the MK-19 in his place. I was just getting into it when all of a sudden the whole thing, I am talking a 100 meters, just exploded in front of us,” said Army Cpl. Anthony Jorgensen, now a Kapisa and Parwan PRT SECFOR team leader.

The explosion in the tree line was from Air Force jets coming in to assist the Soldiers, who had five members wounded to differing degrees during the 45-minute firefight.

“I got shot or had shrapnel in my hand - I don’t know what it was,” Kern said. “One of my guys got shot in both legs. One guy got hit in the mouth with shrapnel or something. I have a feeling a lot more people would have gotten hurt without the air support we received.”

Saying they have been in a situation or two where they had to call in for close-air support would be an understatement, according to Kern, a native of Hughesville, Pa. For a while it was basically everyday, and sometimes a couple of times a day.

“Airpower is unmatched ... it is something you absolutely need,” Kern said. “Airpower makes a difference; it is like night and day. Most of the times when we took casualties were when

An A-10 Thunderbolt II at Bagram Air Field goes through weapons safety checks after returning from a mission. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Keith Brown)



airpower was not there during the initial opening of the ambush. When the enemy hears incoming helicopters or fixed-wing aircraft, they shut up and try to scatter. The times they did fire, the planes would pick them off right away.”

In his 28 years of Army service, Brig. Gen. Mark Milley, deputy commanding general, operations, 101st Airborne Division, has developed a simple philosophy on airpower.

“The infantry’s best friend is the pilot,” Milley said. “I will also tell you that from my experience, the pilots are always there, those planes are always there. I have yet to see any United States Air Force pilot not show up; it does not happen. These guys are capable, they are unbelievably skilled and there is no one else like them in the world. If you get them on target, they will fly through anything to get to you.”

When a request goes out from troops on the ground in a contact situation for air support, it becomes a priority to maneuver air power assets to their aid.

“We are doing very well with Air Force response times to our troops in contact,” Milley said. “If Soldiers get ambushed, they are generally getting close-air support there within minutes, and that is important. It is important because it has an effect on the enemy. It is important because it has an effect on us; there is a tremendous psychological reassurance when the United States Air Force is flying over the United States infantry. When you see an Air Force jet flying over you and you know the enemy sees it that gives you a real boost.”

Part of Capt. Vanessa Mahan’s job is to provide top cover for ground troops in a bad situation. She is an F-15E Strike Eagle weapons systems officer deployed to the 391st Expeditionary Fighter Squadron from Seymour Johnson Air Force Base, N.C.

“We are there for them, and that is what makes it really easy to get up every day and fly these missions,” she said. “We have an awesome job and knowing that we are supporting those guys just makes it all the better.”

To be able to provide this protection pilots and crews must always remain flexible.

“It pretty common for us to walk out the door with a plan, and then for us to do another plan while we are airborne,” said Mahan, a native of St. John, Ind. “That is something we are used to. Those troops in contact are a priority.”

When racing to provide support in a TIC situation, the captain said it’s important to maintain focus on their objective.

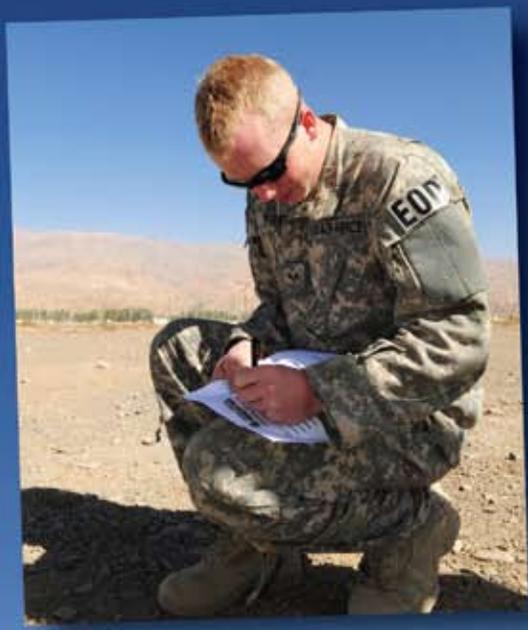
“I can’t imagine what it is like being shot at because I have not been,” she said. “But talking to the guys on the ground, listening through the [headset] and hearing the background fire, you just have to keep a level head. You have to keep your composure.”

The Soldiers both deployed here from the 3rd Platoon, Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 103rd Armor, Pennsylvania Army National Guard say they feel tremendous relief when they hear an aircraft racing to provide them top cover.

“It is a great feeling when you hear that thundering around you. You are engaging, getting blasted at, people are dropping and you start to hear aircraft coming over the mountains and you are like, ‘You are about to get it,’” said Kern. “Just to hear the pilots on the radio is like ‘Here comes the Cavalry.’”

Corporal Jorgensen, a native of Williamsport Pa., said he feels the same way.

“When we hear the planes overhead, we feel relief because we know it is going to be over, and we are probably not going to die that day,” he said.



WARRIOR PROFILE

Rank\First, Last Name: SrA Tyler Reiser
Country, Branch of Service : U.S. Air Force
Hometown: Eitzen, Minn.
Deployed Unit and Job Title: 755 AEG EOD tech.
Quote from Supervisor: "Airman Reiser is a great combat proven EOD tech."

How many times have you deployed? Twice
What do you enjoy most about this deployment?
 Traveling around the country with my team mates
How do you spend your free time while deployed?
 Playing volleyball, studying, playing Rock Band



Introduction to Afghanistan

BACKGROUND

Ahmad Shah Durrani unified the Pash-tun tribes and founded Afghanistan in 1747. The country served as a buffer between the British and Russian empires until it won independence from notional British control in 1919. An experiment in democracy ended in a 1973 coup and a 1978 Communist counter-coup. The Soviet Union invaded in 1979 to support the tottering Afghan Communist regime, touching off a long and destructive war. The USSR withdrew in 1989 under relentless pressure by internationally supported anti-Communist mu-jahedin rebels. A series of subsequent civil wars saw Kabul finally fall in 1996 to the Taliban, a hard-line Pakistani-sponsored movement that emerged in 1994 to end the country's civil war and anarchy. Following the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, a U.S., Allied, and anti-Taliban Northern Alliance military action toppled the Taliban for sheltering Osama Bin Ladin. The U.N.-sponsored Bonn Conference in 2001 established a process for political reconstruction that included the adoption of a new constitution, a presidential election in 2004, and National Assembly elections in 2005.

In December 2004, Hamid Karzai became the first democratically elected president of Afghanistan and the National Assembly was inaugurated the following December. Despite gains toward building a stable central government, a resurgent Taliban and continuing provincial instability - particularly in the south and the east - remain serious challenges for the Afghan Government.

GOVERNMENT

Official name: Islamic Republic of Afghanistan

Capital: Kabul

Time difference: 9.5 hours ahead of Washington, D.C. (during Standard Time)

Independence Day: Aug. 19, 1919

Constitution: New constitution signed on Jan. 16, 2004

Provinces: Badakhshan, Badghis, Baghlan, Balkh, Bamian, Daykondi, Farah, Faryab, Ghazni, Ghowr, Helmand, Herat, Jowzjan, Kabul, Kandahar, Kapisa, Khowst, Konar, Kondoz, Laghman, Lowgar, Nangarhar, Nimruz, Nurestan, Oruzgan, Paktia, Paktika, Panjshir, Parvan, Samangan, Sar-e Pol, Takhar, Vardak, Zabol

Phrases

Hello

(peace upon you)

Assalamu alaykom!//Salam!

Response

(and on you, peace)

Assalamu alaykom!//Salam!

Excuse me/I'm sorry

Wo-bakha

Thank you

Ma-nana

My name is _____

Zma nowm _____ day

Okay

Khah/shah

What is your name?

Sta nowm tsah day?

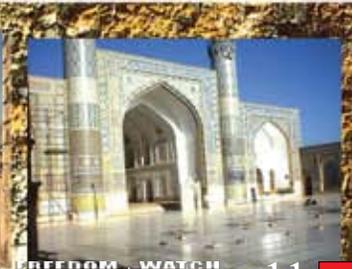
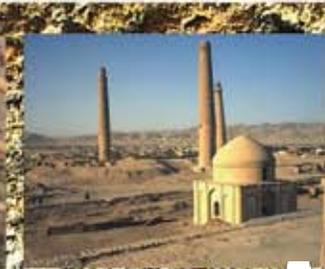
Who?

Tsowk?

Good-bye

Da-khoo-die pah aman

C
U
L
T
U
R
E





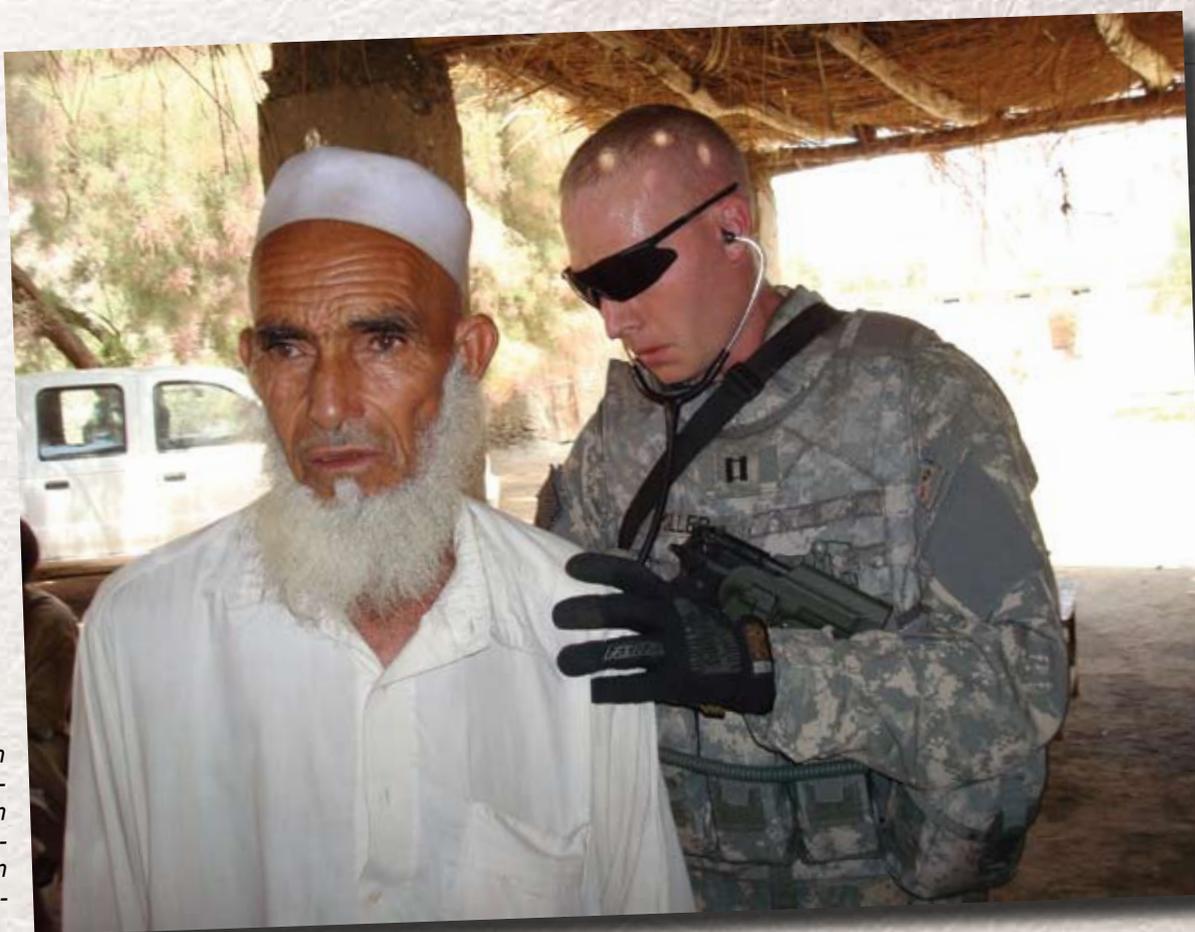
photos from the field



Secretary of the Air Force Michael Donley talks to Airmen at Bagram Air Field Oct. 15. Secretary Donley held an Airman's Call to introduce himself and discuss the future of air power. (U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Samuel Morse)

An F/A-18C Hornet assigned to the "Fist of the Fleet" of Strike Fighter Squadron 25 launches from catapult four on the flight deck of the Nimitz-class aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan. Ronald Reagan and Carrier Air Wing 14 are providing support to Coalition forces on the ground in Afghanistan. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Joseph Buliavac)





Air Force Capt. Regan Miller, head medical embedded training team mentor, provides treatment to an Afghan man during a mission in Jalalabad. (Courtesy photo)



Chief Petty Officer Crystal Hill, Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan's Command Surgeon office, assists a member from the Afghan National Army's medical corps as he registers for the four-day ANA Medical Leadership Seminar at the National Military Hospital in Kabul. (U.S. Navy photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin)



Petty Officer 1st Class Mike Schipper, Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team, presents textbooks about basic fire techniques to members of the Asadabad Fire Department to assist in their training program. (Courtesy photo)



UNIT SPOTLIGHT

Country, Branch of Service: U.S. Army
Name of Unit/Office/Shop: Armored Vehicle Fielding Team
Person Making Submission: POC Petty Officer 1st Class
Shawn Graham

What's the mission of your unit? Distributing vehicles to
Batallions around Afghanistan.