



# Duke Dispatch

April 2009

3rd BCT, 1st ID

[www.1id.army.mil](http://www.1id.army.mil)

[www.dvidshub.net/units/3bct-1id](http://www.dvidshub.net/units/3bct-1id)



**Infantryman awarded  
Soldiers Medal for  
saving Afghan child**

**PAGE 3**

# Contents



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. David Hopkins

A Soldier with C. Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, scans the surrounding area as night begins to fall, April 10 during a mountain patrol in northeastern Afghanistan. The patrol to search for caves and enemy passages was a joint effort with Afghan National Army soldiers and was the first done in that region.

## Features

### 3 Soldiers Medal Recipient

Staff Sgt. Kevin Sanders is awarded the Soldiers medal for saving a local Afghan boy from electrocution near Jalalabad City, Afghanistan last October.

### 5 Adding security to Kunar

A new Vehicle Patrol Base and Observation Post in northeastern Afghanistan provides additional security to the area near the Pakistan border.

### 7 Emergency care at aid station

Since arriving at FOB Blessing last July, 1st ID Soldiers have treated more than 4,000 Afghans with a variety of sicknesses and injuries.

### 9 ANP learn medical skills

Soldiers from the 527th MP company and 3rd BCT, 1st ID's Special Troops Battalion train Afghan National Police on key medical techniques.

### 11 MPs show appreciation

Military Police present the Afghan National Police with custom-made t-shirts for training hard to protect the area in and around KalaGush, Afghanistan.

### 13 Spring Troop Visit

Celebrities visit Task Force Duke Soldiers during a Spring USO tour to Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan, April 23.

### 4 Afghan New Year

2-2 Inf. Soldiers share in the Afghan culture by celebrating the Afghan New Year with ANA Soldiers and citizens in southern Afghanistan.

### 12 Nangarhar Canal project

The Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team celebrated the completion of a Grand Canal repair project April 12, in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

### 14 April Reenlistments

A listing of all Task Force Duke Soldiers reenlisting for the month of April.

## Columns

### 6 Commander's column

Continuing the mission in our final quarter of deployment.

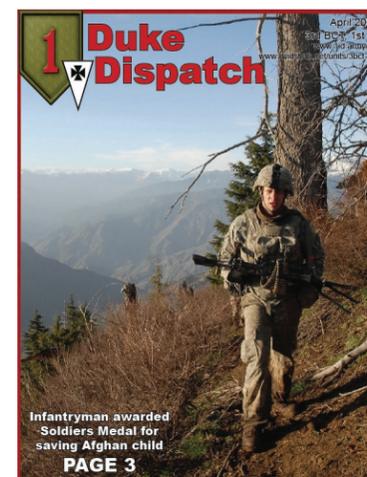
### 8 CSM's column

Planning for the future through financial assessment

### 10 Chaplain's column

Taking time to celebrate the month of the "military child"

## On the cover



A 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division Soldier walks along the mountainside during a foot patrol in Kunar province, Afghanistan. The 1st ID infantrymen conduct constant patrols throughout northeastern Afghanistan to maintain security and prevent militant infiltration. (Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Moeller)



### 3rd BCT, 1st ID Magazine

Brigade Commander:  
Col. John Spiszer

Brigade Command Sgt. Maj:  
Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz

Public Affairs Officer:  
Maj. Chevelle T. Stokes

Public Affairs NCOIC:  
Staff Sgt. Adora Medina

Editor:  
Staff Sgt. Adora Medina

Journalists:  
Staff Sgt. David Hopkins  
Spc. Brandon Sandefur  
Pfc. Charles Wolfe



Duke Dispatch is published monthly by the Public Affairs Office to provide information on Soldiers and Families of the 3rd BCT, 1st ID. Views and opinions are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army.

Send submissions and correspondence to:  
Public Affairs Office  
3rd BCT, 1st ID, TF Duke  
Jalalabad, FOB Fenty  
APO, AE 09310

Electronic submissions are preferred:  
[adora.medina@afghan.swa.army.mil](mailto:adora.medina@afghan.swa.army.mil)  
318-831-6028/6410

Digital photos should be at least 300 dpi.  
Stories should be in Word format.

## Shocking experience earns Infantryman the Soldiers Medal



*By Staff Sgt. Adora Medina  
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

Staff Sgt. Kevin P. Sanders believes that he was born to be an infantryman.

After completing five deployments, he understands the sacrifice and bravery that accompanies combat, so when he witnessed an Afghan boy near death, his instincts immediately came into play as he didn't hesitate to free the child from the electric voltage entering his body.

"I didn't think about it, I didn't think anything, Sanders from St. Ann, Mo., said. "What I saw was my son when I looked at this little kid, and when his body went limp I thought 'oh God please do something' and I didn't say it out loud, I was talking to myself, and that's when I lunged forward and I grabbed the kid and I pulled him off."

The young boy, who according to Sanders was no older than six, had touched exposed wires from an electrical box that had been tampered with on the side of the road near where Sanders and his team of infantrymen were pulling security last October.

Sanders said he heard buzzing and didn't realize that it was the sound of electricity searing the boy's skin until he thought it was too late. He remembers the boy helplessly looking at him and then going limp as if he had given up.

"I thought he was dead,"

Sanders said. "It all happened in the span of five seconds."

He knew he had to do something so he acted fast with no regard for his personal safety. He pulled the boy toward him risking the chance of getting electrocuted.

"I jumped towards him and I snatched him up by the back of his neck and I pulled him straight up to me and he was still shaking profusely," Sanders recalled. "I turned around and I kicked my medic's door three times and I said 'I need a medic!' as loud as I could scream it."

Still shaken up by the incident, he held the child in arms as he quickly explained the situation to the medic on patrol, who acted immediately to bandage the child's burns while Sanders team retrieved an interpreter to explain to the child's father that he needed to be taken to a nearby hospital.

Six months following the incident, while on patrol, Sanders was relieved to see the young boy playing with his little sister around the same area. For risking his life, Sanders was awarded the Soldiers Medal April 14, at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan.



**Staff Sgt. Kevin Sanders is awarded the Soldiers medal for saving a local Afghan boy from electrocution while out on a mission near Jalalabad City, Afghanistan last October. Maj. Gen. Jeffrey Schloesser, CJTF-101 commander, presented Sanders with the award at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan, April 14.**

"Putting me in for an award as high as this is," Sanders paused to think. "I'm humbled it's almost overwhelming. I'm not used to being credited for anything that I do."

Sanders who is currently a team leader for the Personal Security Detachment of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division's commander, Col. John Spiszer, plans to continue on in his military career explaining that it's the structure he's always needed in his life.

"I've been doing this job for eight years and I wouldn't give it up for nothing," he said.

Sanders emphasized the importance of his job as a Soldier and why he chose the infantryman's path.

"I do what I do not because of the man to the right and to the left of me. I do what I do not because of college not because of the things that people see you for. I don't do it for glory, honor, or integrity and I don't do it for my country," Sanders said assertively. "I do it for my countrymen and women but not so much in the sense that you would think. I do it so they won't have to."

## Bringing in the Afghan New Year



Photos by Air Force Tech Sgt. Jill LaVoie

**Afghan and U.S. Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment play a joint soccer game during an Afghan New Year's celebration in southern Afghanistan at Afghan National Army combat outpost Pegasus.**

*By Tech. Sgt. Jill LaVoie  
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

Soldiers recently celebrated the Afghan New Year by taking the opportunity to get to know and improve relations with both local Afghans and Afghan National Army soldiers.

In southern Afghanistan, 1st Infantry Division soldiers first reached out to Afghans who are often forgotten though they provide important services to the base. By serving food and eating with local truck drivers, waiting to enter the base, soldiers helped Afghan coworkers celebrate the holiday.

"We appreciate the food and the good gesture for our new year," said Wafa, a local truck driver.

Much like the soldiers of 2nd battalion, 2nd Infantry Regiment, the truck drivers spent this holiday away from family.

"We are happy to get the food, it makes it better because we are away from our family," said Kamal, a water truck driver.

In addition to the food served to the truck drivers, Delta Company soldiers celebrated a joint unit picnic with a new Afghan National Army unit, in an effort to build relations, at ANA combat outpost Pegasus. Soldiers from both countries enjoyed both goat and cheeseburgers along with soda and sports drinks after a soccer game.

"Since we are working with a new unit, this celebration was a good opportunity to not only raise morale, but get to know each other and improve unit cohesion with an ANA Company we hope to be doing many missions with in the future," said Army Capt. Michael Soyka, Delta Company commander from Cleveland Ohio.



**Afghan National Army soldiers enjoy American-style food during an Afghan New Year's celebration at a combat outpost in southern Afghanistan.**

Overall, the day's celebrations were a successful opportunity for the 2-2 Inf. unit to get to know a little about Afghanistan and its neighbors.

"By recognizing and honoring Afghan customs and traditions it establishes a link in communication," said Mike Warren, Human Terrain Team Leader. "Every step in

common is like a single in baseball; eventually we will score."

## Vehicle overwatch strengthens security in Kunar



Photos by Army Staff Sgt. David Hopkins

A Soldier from 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, stands at the location of a new Observation Post in northeastern Afghanistan in late May. The OP will provide security for Combat Logistical Patrols coming through the valley.

A bucket-full of dirt is dumped into a HESCO barrier at the site of a new Vehicle Patrol Base in northeastern Afghanistan.



*By Staff Sgt. David Hopkins  
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

A new Vehicle Patrol Base and Observation Post in northeastern Afghanistan provide additional security to the road and villages of the area near the Pakistan border.

Afghan National Security Forces and Soldiers from C Troop, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, established the new security positions in late April with the joint help of local civilians.

"This will provide additional security to an area that has had

We hope to reduce the number of these kinds of incidents in the area."

The new permanent base will allow Soldiers to stay in the area instead of moving back and forth along the rough roads to support convoys and Combat Logistical Patrols.

"We will be able to provide a more permanent presence in the area," Bessey said, "which will allow us to react faster to any incidence and will allow us to focus on missions in the area."

The site will be used jointly by Afghan and U.S. troops.

"It gives an over watch

several attacks," Army Capt. Jay Bessey, C Troop, 6-4 Cav. Commander from Greenville, Mich., said. "There have also been many illegal checkpoints along this stretch of road.

Locals from the nearby village were hired to carry equipment and explosives to the OP site so the 741st Ordnance Company Explosives Ordnance Disposal team out of Fort Bliss, Texas, could level off the site with controlled explosions.

"EOD assisted by providing demolition operations to provide a suitable area for defensive activities on the mountain," Army Staff Sgt, Rian Shipstead, EOD team leader from Las Cruces, N.M., said.

After the site of the OP was cleared and constructed it was ready to provide protection for the VPB and the road, and will be a value to the locals and military efforts for as long as necessary.

"I was impressed with how fast the crews worked," Bessey said. "They did a great job and played a part in constructing something that will be a great value to the area."

of the valley and for the VPB," Army Maj. Jim Hickman, senior U.S. officer for the Operational Mentor Liaison Team, from Atlanta, Ga., said. "This is important because of the heavy enemy activity throughout the valley and along this stretch of road."

Local national contractors were hired to perform most of the construction of the VPB.

"These guys have been doing an outstanding job of construction for us for a long time on other projects," Army Sgt. 1st Class Jody Thompson, Base Defense Operations Center noncommissioned officer in charge from Livingston, Texas, said about the workers.

## Continuing the mission in our final quarter of deployment



*Col. John Spiszer  
3rd BCT, 1st ID, Commander*

This like many others was a great month in the Duke Brigade as we continued to push counterinsurgency operations throughout the provinces of Nangarhar, Nuristan, Konar and Laghman, as well as Kandahar. The highlights this month have been: distinguished visitors coming through the area; welcoming new troops in the AO; providing assistance to earthquake victims, and a great defeat against the enemy.

As we enter into the final three months of our deployment it is important to continue to bring the fight to the enemy. We conducted numerous operations to clear out enemy safe havens throughout the battle space. Of note, 1-32 IN conducted operations along the Pakistan border interdicting known militant infiltration routes and enhancing communications with the Pakistan military.

The Spaders also took the fight to the enemy and we confirmed 18 insurgents killed during an operation in the Korengal Valley of the Kunar province, Afghanistan. On the evening of April 10, 2009,

the Soldiers conducted an ambush to engage a group of enemy fighters moving along an access route into the valley and 1-26 IN used close fires and air support assets, to eliminate the enemy threat.

Seven days later, an earthquake hit Nangarhar province -- April 17, 2009. The earthquake destroyed more than 60 homes and damaged hundreds more in the area, leaving many of the villagers homeless. The Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team delivered relief supplies to the disaster area in Sherzad District which was the area hit the hardest.

We welcomed the Kansas Agri-Business Development team this month as well. They are set to take the lead in Laghman on all farming and livestock issues and development. Since they are the first ADT in this area they conducted the traditional Relief in Place tasks with the Nangarhar ADT. The Kansas ADT is set to take full responsibility May 3, 2009.

In addition to the ADT coming to be a part of the TF Duke family we also hosted a few distinguished visitors to show them our mission in the region. The visitors included Congressional Delegation Michaud, the Army and Navy Surgeon General's and Mr. Bing West, a prominent author of military books, who served as Assistant Secretary of Defense for International Security Affairs during the Reagan Administration.

I would like to take this time to acknowledge the great bravery and professionalism of the following Soldiers who re-

ceived Army Commendation Medals for Valor during the month: SFC Joe Alejandro, SSG Eric Chargois, SSG Thomas Eden, CPT Faustino Gonzales, SFC Darin Hendricks, LTC Salvatore Petrovia, SPC Jose Cortez, PFC Kurt Willen all from Centaur; SPC Matthew Crowell, SSG Vannak Sim from Raider, and SPC Brien Briggs, SGT Israel Cuelar, TSGT Benjamin Horton, SPC Joseph Prevost, SSG Jason Kirk, SGT David Camus, SPC David Capper, SSG Andrew Pastrano, PV1 John Burwell, SPC Ross Casteel, SGT Jerrold Jordan, SSG Raymond Perry, SPC Francis Rowe, A1C Michael D'Augustino, PFC Rene Alicea, all from Spader. SFC William Hall and 1LT Joshua Wauchope received Army Commendation Medals for Valor from Valiant.

Last but not least, I would like to take this time to acknowledge the great bravery and professionalism of PFC Richard Dewater, B/1-26 IN who lost his life to an improvised explosive device. Please keep his Family in your prayers.

Finally, thanks to all the Families for their support of us here in Afghanistan.

No mission too difficult, no sacrifice too great. Duty First!



Photos by Air Force Tech Sgt. Jill LaVoie

Army Cpl. Kyle Rock, a 2-2 Inf. medic from Saginaw, Mich., examines an Afghan National Policeman's ear during a joint mission.

## FOB aid station used as Afghan emergency room

*By Sgt. Matthew Moeller  
5th MPAD*

Every morning outside Forward Operating Base Blessing, 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, combat medics comb through a crowd of sick or injured Afghans desperate for medical attention.

"This is their ER. If something happens, this is where they are going to come," said Army Spc. Danielle Lafoille, of Manistique, Mich.

In fact, since arriving at FOB Blessing last July, the 1st Infantry Division Soldiers have treated more than 4,000 Afghans, some walking as long as two days for treatment.

Although handling mostly minor ailments, such as cuts and runny noses, the aid station has seen its fair share of major injuries.

"We see burns, lacerations; we do get gunshot wounds, major bone breaks. Just a huge variety of things you see in the local U.S. trauma room," said Army Spc. Timothy Lickiss, a combat medic from Chester, Calif.

"Right now we're treating two patients who had hot tar spilled on them during an industrial accident," said Army Spc. Jeremy Shepler, combat medic.

"He was only wearing sandals," one of the station's two physicians said. "If this was the

U.S., he would have been required to wear rubber boots and gloves. Now he's just lucky he's going to keep his feet."

Many ailments the Soldiers treat are not seen in the U.S. because of occupational safety regulations and vaccinations.

"If they had a higher stan-



Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Moeller

**Army Spc. Danielle Lafoille, a combat medic from Manistique, Mich., places a bandage on an Afghan boy at Forward Operating Base Blessing, April 7. The boy is one of the more than 4,000 Afghans treated by 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division Soldiers at FOB Blessing's aid station since July of last year.**

dard of hygiene or healthcare, a lot of these illnesses would be removed," Shepler said.

Although service members have been working with Afghan physicians since the fall of the Taliban in 2001, many local clinics in Konar province still do not have the knowledge to properly treat these types of injuries, causing many villagers to turn to the U.S. for help.

"[The local clinics] are great at some things, but then they'll miss some simple things," Shepler said.

"They may have the technology to do X-rays, but they end up applying bandages like tourniquets."

A major concern for FOB Blessing's aid station is bone setters, practicing what the medics call "old remedies."

"A person will have a broken bone, and they go to the local bone setter, who will put eggs on it. As crazy as it is, that is some of the stuff we have seen," Lafoille said.

With only one surgeon and one physician's assistant, the aid station is not always able to provide higher levels of care. If necessary, the Soldiers will evacuate the injured Afghans to other FOBs with better facilities.

"We treat them the best we can here," Lickiss said. "But we won't hesitate to push them out to other FOBs with larger facilities if we need to."

As the end of their deployment nears, the Soldiers know they have made a difference among the Afghan people.

"The locals have learned to trust our medicine, because we bring the standards that [we have] in the U.S.," Shepler said. "They come to us knowing that we have the knowledge and experience to make sure that they get better."

## Planning for the future through financial assessment



**Command Sgt. Maj. Ronald Orosz  
3rd BCT, 1st ID CSM**

During the deployment you will probably accumulate quite a bit of money. The question I have for you is what are you going to do with your money when you return to Fort Hood? Will you spend all your money on a car or motorcycle? What about spending all your money on a big extravagant vacation? How much money do you plan on saving for your future? Do you have debt and plan to pay off the debt? All good questions I think you should consider upon your return to the states.

If you plan to purchase a vehicle, please do your homework. There are great incentives right now for buying a new car including a tax break. There are advantages to financing for a shorter period of time vice financing for 60-72 months. You take a big loss buying a new car with almost immediate depreciation the day you drive the car off the lot. Sometimes you take a big gamble purchasing a used car but can save a ton of money if you do your homework. Should you get a warranty on the used car? I wish I knew the right answer. I bought my truck used and purchased a war-

ranty and never used the warranty. In my case it was a waste of money. My recommendation to you is to do your homework and purchase from a reputable dealer or buy your car from an individual seller.

If you are like me you plan to go on vacation after the deployment. My wife and I have been saving for family vacation during the deployment. To cut costs we plan to drive instead of flying to our destination. I know driving is not convenient to some and to make the trip more enjoyable we plan to have mini vacations along the way to the final stop. This is especially helpful if traveling with kids. You can only take so many "are we there yet" comments from the little ones.

I'm not a financial specialist but do know that having debt is bad. I'm debt free for the past twelve years and before that only had moderate debt. I was determined to become debt free. I made goals for my family and stuck to the plan to achieve the goals. One of the biggest wastes in my life was the money we spent eating in restaurants. While completing our budget, my wife and I discovered we spent up to twelve hundred dollars a month while dining out. We now

spend about five hundred dollars per month on groceries and eat at home.

This is a tremendous savings including the time and effort it takes traveling to a restaurant. The difference in money we spent on food now goes to our savings. Savings we can use for a vacation, an emergency, and our future. Single Soldiers can save a ton of money by eating in the dining facility for the majority of meals and eating out once or twice per week. Becoming debt free can reduce a significant amount of stress in your life. Don't waste your money.

You can probably think of many other things to do with your money. What I've tried to do here is to make you think about it. Make a plan for your money and stick to the plan. Take your time if you plan to buy a new vehicle or used vehicle. Have a plan to reduce your debt or become debt free. Spend your money wisely on your well deserved vacation. You can get ripped off if you don't plan your vacation carefully. The travel office at Fort Hood or the steals and deals link on AKO can help you save on your vacation. Think and plan before you spend your hard earned money!



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. David Hopkins

**6-4 Soldiers and Afghan National Army Soldiers, cross a foot bridge over the Kunar River during a patrol, April 10. The patrol to search for caves and enemy passages was the first done in that region.**

## Afghan National Police learn key lifesaving techniques



Photo by Army Sgt. Matthew Moeller

Sgt. Brenna McAllister, of Destin, Fla., explains positioning a patient's head before checking for breathing to an Afghan National Police combat medic during an advanced medical training class at the Nazyan Police Station in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan. McAllister is a combat medic assigned to STB, 3rd BCT, 1st ID, and is currently attached to the 527th Military Police Company.

*By Sgt. Matthew Moeller  
5th MPAD*

"Your buddy is shot in the arm, what are you going to do?" Army Sgt. Brenna McAllister, of Destin, Fla., asks a young Afghan National Police officer, while he examines a fellow officer.

The man reaches for a clean bandage, while looking up at McAllister for approval.

She replies to his gaze with, "Show me how it's done."

Tucked away in a back

room of the Nazyan Police Station in Nangarhar Province, Afghanistan, a small group of Afghans are training for a big responsibility—saving the lives of their fellow police officers injured in the line of duty.

"Basically these guys [are] supposed to be the medics attached to their unit," said McAllister, class instructor and combat medic with the Special Troops Battalion, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division. Using fellow 527th MP Co. Soldiers to simulate injured

victims, McAllister walked the ANP members through such basic techniques as checking to see if a person is breathing or applying a bandage; to more advanced treatments, like treating a gunshot wound to the chest, as well as knowing when and how to apply a tourniquet.

According to McAllister, the U.S. military trains regular ANP officials to conduct basic first aid, but it is important to have a dedicated medic, because more severe injuries require a greater amount of advanced medical training.

"Having somebody there who can take action, who can stop the bleeding" greatly increases the chances of survival, she said.

Although the two-hour class doesn't compare to the months American military medics spend in training, the Afghans participating still leave with much greater understanding.

"Whenever I see a casualty I can help him. Here in Afghanistan things like this happen, so now I know I can do everything," ANP 1st Sgt. Dost Mohammad said, through an interpreter.

The 527th MP Co. is scheduled to end their 15-month deployment in Afghanistan early this summer. The unit replacing them is expected to continue mentoring the Nangarhar ANP's emerging medic program.



An Afghan National Policeman treats a simulated gunshot wound on the arm of Spc. Alan Bunting, 527th MP Company Soldier.

## Taking time to honor our military sons and daughters



*Chaplain (Maj) Steve George  
3rd BCT, 1st ID*

What do Mia Hamm, Ronnie Lott, Derrick Thomas, Christina Aguilera, Priest Holmes, Shaquille O'Neal, Lionel Richie, and Bruce Willis, (to name just a few,) all have in common? Give up? They're all "military brats" – people whose parents were military members during some or all of their formative childhood years. April has been designated the "Month of the Military Child" and as the list above suggests, there are a number of well-known men and women who share this distinction.

In 1986, Defense Secretary Caspar Weingberger designated April as Month of the Military Child, a time when each branch of the military service recognizes the sacrifices made by the children of parents who are serving our country. During April, military bases around the world will honor these young American heroes with special events just for them.

When a parent is serving their country, their children are serving, too. Over 1 million children currently have at least one parent serving in the military on active duty. These families endure long separations

and often are required to move multiple times during their parent's service. This is a time to pay tribute to these kids and recognize the commitment, sacrifice and support they show as they face the special challenges of being a military child. To those children, and their parents, we truly offer a big "Thank you!"

Mary Wertsch, the author of *Military Brat: Legacies of Childhood Inside the Fortress*, said in an interview, "The military is more than a lifestyle, it's a culture with its own norms and values. This culture is, for the military brat, 'The biggest thing overall [because] the commonalities of...rearing are so powerful ... It's an identity that supersedes almost all others. It cuts across lines of gender, race and class. It shapes... entire lives through. You don't stop being a military brat when your parents retire from service life. Retirement is also part of the story.'"

Military brats are clearly shaped by their upbringing. There are numerous commonalities that impact military brats. Military brats seem to become very skilled in the ability to adapt quickly to new situations. Most notably, military brats understand the absolute importance of staying flexible.

Author Deborah W. Giusti has written the following poem which offers a fitting tribute to military children – past, present and future. Entitled simply, "I Am an Army Brat," a portion of it reads as follows:

I am an Army Brat. My hometown is nowhere, my friends are everywhere, and if I haven't been someplace yesterday, I am sure to go there tomorrow. I grew up with bugle calls and artillery salutes and the knowledge that home is where the heart is and family – with no dependence on the dwell-

ing. Mobility is my way of life. I have found security and happiness in motels and guest houses, in duplexes and apartments around the world. Some would wonder about my roots, yet they are as deep and strong as a mighty oak's. I sink them quickly, absorbing all an area offers and hopefully giving enrichment in return.

Like all Army dependents, I can say 'Hello,' 'Goodbye,' and count to 20 in five languages. I can tell of the shores of Maine, the marketplaces of Mexico, the Buddhas of Japan; and my knickknack shelves look like those of an import shop, for my memories span the globe.

Travel has taught me to be open. By age nine I had seen more of the world than most people do in a lifetime; I had touched many and allowed their cultures to touch me. Shaking hands with the universe, I found a brotherhood in all humanity.

Just as there is joy in meeting, so is there pain in parting; and although practice makes perfect, there is no way to perfect 'Goodbye.' Farewells are never easy. Yet, even in sorrow comes strength and an ability to face tomorrow with anticipation. And if when I leave one place I feel that half my world has been left behind, also know that the other half is still waiting to be met...

May we truly take time to honor our sons and daughters during this "Month of the Military Child" and may we be a positive part of helping them meet with joy the experiences that being a military child holds. Have a blessed April and celebrate with gusto the "Month of the Military Child!"



## Military Police celebrate the efforts of Afghan trainees



Photos by Army Pfc. Charles Wolfe

A line of Afghan National Police officers waits for members of the 527th Military Police Company to begin the presentation of custom-made ANP t-shirts. The shirts, funded by private donations from the United States, were given out by the MP's as a reward for their efforts throughout training.

*By Pfc. Charles Wolfe  
3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO*

Soldiers from the 527th Military Police Company gathered at a small outpost in Afghanistan's Nuristan Province to hold a celebration in honor of their local Afghan National Police counterparts.

Through the course of their deployment, the MP's along with Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 6th Field Artillery Regiment, have devoted themselves to training the officers of the fledging ANP.

"I've helped train these cadets for the past year. They've made some drastic improvements," Staff Sgt. Robert Evans, a member of the 527th, said, "I've really seen them become more involved in their communities."

The training taught many of a police officer's basic tasks— such as arrests and searches— with a focus on establishing vehicle inspection points. For their dedicated efforts, the MP's wanted to award the ANP trainees a set of custom-

made t-shirts bearing the organization's distinctive emblem.

"We wanted to show them how much we do appreciate their hard work by giving them some t-shirts," Evans said. "A lot of people came together with donations to make that possible." The contributing benefactors included the Boy Scouts and Embroiders Guild of America.

As the sun crept to high noon, it was time for the Soldiers to greet their students. The Afghans stood in a long row while Evans and a handful of his Soldiers presented the tan shirts to them. The two groups shook hands, hugged and laughed together, seeming to be more friends than teachers and pupils.

"I've got such a bond with these guys. They truly are my law enforcement brothers," Gregory Boles, a civilian who participated in the training through the Army's Law Enforcement Professional Program, said. Boles, a California native, retired with the Los Angeles Police Department after 25 years of service. By teaching the ANP officers,



Gregory Boles, a civilian who assisted in training the ANP, embraces one of his former trainees after presenting him with a special ANP t-shirt.

he is using his bounty of experience to help others.

Though the MP's could only afford to give each policeman one shirt, they know the gift made a big impression with their less-funded trainees.

"When they get certificates or t-shirts or anything, they always get so excited," Boles said. "Let's face it, they don't get a lot up here, so anything we can give them helps so much."

The shirts are meant to augment the rest of the ANP uniform, making for a more complete and professional appearance, something, it seems, is at the center of every policeman's pride.

"I've found that all police officers, whether they're from the United States, Europe or Afghanistan, need to be proud of what they're doing," Boles said. "We felt if they had these shirts to go with their uniforms it would help with that."

With the skies darkening and festivities over, it was time for the MP's to end their visit. As their vehicles rumbled away from the ANP compound, the Soldiers could see their cadets admiring their new clothes, smiling and trying them on. It was a sight that made the time and money devoted to the day's mission well worth the cost.

"It feels so good to see their eyes light up like that," Evans said. "I'm glad they know how much we appreciate the job they do here."

## Canal project: Brighter future for Nangarhar



*By Capt. Dustin Hart  
Nangarhar PRT*

Joined by government and local leaders, the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team celebrated the completion of a Grand Canal repair project April 12, during a ribbon cutting ceremony in Jalalabad, Afghanistan.

Nangarhar Provincial Governor, Gul Agha Sherzai, and PRT commander, Air Force Lt. Col. Steven Cabosky from Newton Falls, Ohio, along with other government and tribal officials, spoke to the crowd about the benefits the repaired canal will provide to the province's agriculture economy.

"This project represents hope for the people of Afghanistan," said Cabosky. "It was identified by the government as one of the most important needs of the province and was a coordinated



Photos by Air Force Capt. Dustin Hart

Nangarhar Provincial Governor Gul Agha Sherzai and Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team Commander Lt. Col. Steve Cabosky, take turns cutting the ribbon for the Grand Canal repair project during a ceremony April 12. The PRT funded the \$2.8 million project, which repaired 63 KM of canal and will double the irrigation capacity of the waterway that spans four districts in Nangarhar.

effort between the government and PRT. Afghans will enjoy the fruits of this project for years to come."

The repairs took approximately nine months to complete and cost \$2.8 million, covering 63 kilometers of canal spanning four districts. The contractor repaired 850 gates and installed five new siphons, which will help control the

flow of water through the canal and double the irrigation capability.

"The canal repairs provide better irrigation, more crops, more jobs and a better economy for the Nangarhar people," Cabosky said. "While the enemies of Afghanistan offer only destruction and death, this project demonstrates the government's commitment to building a better future for the children of Afghanistan."

The project will directly benefit more than 60,000 families, Governor Sherzai said at the ceremony.

"Reconstruction in Nangarhar is successful because we have the support of the people," the governor said. "The Grand Canal was one of our biggest projects and it was repaired through the help of our coalition friends. It's a very important project and today is a great day for all Nangarhar people."



Gul Agha Sherzai, governor of Nangarhar Province, is interviewed by media following the April 12 ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Grand Canal repair project, which was funded by the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team. In coordination with the Nangarhar provincial government, the PRT completed the \$2.8 million project in approximately 9 months.

# Celebrity Spring Troop Visit



Task Force Duke Soldiers, from four different Army units, pose with celebrities during a Spring USO visit to Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan, April 23. The visitors included actor Dennis Haybert, retired San Antonio Spurs basketball player David Robinson, retired Los Angeles Dodgers manager Tommy Lasorda, actor Robert Patrick and actor Max Martini. (Photos by Army Staff Sgt. Adora Medina)



Actor Dennis Haysbert, of the television series, The Unit, watches as retired San Antonio Spurs basketball player David Robinson signs a sketched drawing of himself for a 3rd BCT, 1st ID Soldier, during a USO spring visit at Forward Operating Base Fenty, Afghanistan, 23 April.



Actor Dennis Haysbert, of the television series The Unit, poses for a photo with Warrant Officer Levar Gillie of 3rd BCT, 1st ID, during a USO Spring Troop visit to Forward Operating Base Fenty Afghanistan, April 23.



Spc. Francisco Rivera, 3rd BCT, 1st ID Soldier, watches as Tommy Lasorda, retired Los Angeles Dodgers manager, autographs a ball. Lasorda was one of five guests to visit FOB Fenty, Afghanistan.

# April Reenlistments

## 2nd Battalion 2nd Infantry Reg. 1st Battalion 26th Infantry Reg. Special Troops Battalion

AGOSTO CASDEN A. (FSC)  
 ARROYO LUIS A. (D. CO.)  
 BANE WILLIAM J. (HHC)  
 BAQUERA JOSE E. (FSC)  
 BAZEMORE CARL M. (B. CO.)  
 BENNETT MICHAEL J. (HHC)  
 BERREY KENNETH A. (HHC)  
 BROWN CURTIS J. (A. CO.)  
 CHANEY JUSTIN M. (C. CO.)  
 COLLIER MARC W. (D. CO.)  
 HARDY KEIRA D. (FSC)  
 HOWARD PHILLIP S. (C. CO.)  
 KARL STEPHEN J. (FSC)  
 LOVE CHRISTOPHER W. (C. CO.)  
 MAYERS SCOTT S. (FSC)  
 MINIX STEVEN R. (A. CO.)  
 MULHERIN WILLIAM D. (HHC)  
 MYERS ANTRON L. (A. CO.)  
 NADOROZNY COREY A. (B. CO.)  
 NICOLAI MATTHEW A. (B. CO.)  
 OVERSTREET STEVEN W. (HHC)  
 PELTZ JESSE A. (HHC)  
 PIERCE RANDALL T. (C. CO.)  
 ROGERS DAVID M. (B. CO.)  
 ROSAVELAZQUEZ NELSON (B. CO.)  
 SANDERSON GIDEON M. (C. CO.)  
 SKOTNICKI JUSTIN L. (C. CO.)  
 STYRON CHRISTOPHER W. (C. CO.)  
 SUTTON CHRISTOPHER B. (HHC)  
 WEGMAN TYLER J. (A. CO.)

## 6th Squadron 4th Cav. Reg.

BENNETT JERMAINE A. (FSC)  
 COLLINS JOSEPH E. (HHT)  
 CRISS WESLEY A. (HHT)  
 FROST BRADLEY J. (HHT)  
 GAMBOA RICHARD C. (HHT)  
 HADLEY GEORGE W. (FSC)  
 HARTMAN JERED R. (FSC)  
 JOSLIN DAVID A. (HHT)  
 LAWLER NICHOLAS A. (C. TP.)  
 LEMAYACHAMBAY MANUEL F. (FSC)  
 MARSHALL MONTRELL D. (FSC)  
 NIX TONY D. (FSC)  
 PAYNE SIDNEY J. (FSC)  
 PETTUS DARNELL H. (C. TP.)  
 ROBLESCANO CHRISTOPHER (C. TP.)  
 SEWELL GLENN M. (A. TP.)  
 SORIA ANDREW L. (HHT)

ADAMS JOSHUA R. (B. CO.)  
 ALLEN WILLIAM R. (HHC)  
 AMSTEAD JUSTIN M. (FSC)  
 ANICETE MARLON L. (FSC)  
 BAKER MATTHEW A. (FSC)  
 BASA JEARVIN J. (A. CO.)  
 BIEKER JAMES J. (A. CO.)  
 BROWN JOSEPH R. (HHC)  
 BROWN LEROY A. (C. CO.)  
 CALVERT KIRK F. (B. CO.)  
 CASTRO KRISTIAN (B. CO.)  
 CLINE BRIAN M. (C. CO.)  
 COTE JESSE L. (A. CO.)  
 DONNELLY DOUGLAS C. (C. CO.)  
 ELLIS MATTHEW B. (C. CO.)  
 ESTER JIMMY P. (HHC)  
 GARDNER HENRY S. (HHC)  
 GLAUDE JOSHUA A. (C. CO.)  
 GOSS SHANNON L. (C. CO.)  
 GREGORY CHRISTOPHER T. (B. CO.)  
 HAGGINS KEVIN B. (HHC)  
 HAMILTON JASON M. (C. CO.)  
 HILDENBRAND JOHN T. (FSC)  
 HOLMES CHRISTOPHER K. (FSC)  
 JONES MICHAEL A. (HHC)  
 JONES ROBERT M. (FSC)  
 LAMOREAUX BRENT L. (HHC)  
 LANE SAMUEL (FSC)  
 MCGOWEN CALEB J. (FSC)  
 MILLER BENJAMIN J. JR (A. CO.)  
 MILLER KYLE F. (HHC)  
 MILLER MICHAEL T. (C. CO.)  
 OLDEN MICHAEL T. (FSC)  
 ORTIZ STEVE A. (B. CO.)  
 POOLEY WILLIAM T. (A. CO.)  
 SMITH JONATHAN A. (A. CO.)  
 STATLER TEIGH J. (A. CO.)  
 TANNER CRAIG W. (B. CO.)  
 WALKER CHRISTOPHER R. (C. CO.)  
 WATERS CHRISTOPHER B. (FSC)  
 WRIGHT CHRISTOPHER J. (C. CO.)

## HHC Brigade

BARRA JUSTIN A.  
 CHESTNUT JOSEPH D.  
 HERNANDEZ ANGEL M.  
 MOTON LENISE M.

ALTHOUSE KYLE T. (HHC)  
 BARNETT BILLY G. (HHC)  
 BROMEN ROBERT J. (B. CO.)  
 ELIX JASON A. (A. CO.)  
 FAUNTLEROY BATTISTI C. (HHC)  
 FRANTZ ERIC J. (HHC)  
 HILL DARRIN M. (A. CO.)  
 HUNT LANNY D. JR (HHC)  
 LONG JERRY A. JR (HHC)  
 MARTIN CHRISTOPHER R. (A. CO.)  
 MAUPIN ROSE E. (HHT)  
 OGLESBY JERMAINE L. (HHC)  
 PARRIS WILLIAM T. JR (B. CO.)  
 PATTERSON JUSTIN T. (A. CO.)  
 SMITH TERRANCE D. (HHC)  
 THEDFORD LEE D. (HHC)  
 TORO NICHOLAS (HHC)  
 YOUNG MATTISON M. (B. CO.)  
 ZUMWALT JENNIFER R. (B. CO.)

## 201st Brigade Support Btn.

ALLGOOD KRYSTAL R. (A. CO.)  
 ANDREWS BRANDON L. (A. CO.)  
 EDWARDSSCOTT JENNIFER M. (B. CO.)  
 FARLEY TYRONE D. (A. CO.)  
 GALLANGER ERIK A. (C. CO.)  
 GRACIANISILVA MIGUEL A. (B. CO.)  
 HILL TIFFANY A. (B. CO.)  
 HOLLEY KEITH A. (B. CO.)  
 LOPEZ MARC A. (B. CO.)  
 PARISI KEVIN J. (A. CO.)  
 SMITH MELISSA A. (HHC)  
 THOMPSON JUNIUS O. (A. CO.)  
 VALLEJO KATIE M. (A. CO.)  
 VALTIERRA KATIE M. (A. CO.)

## 1st Battalion 6th Field Artillery

CANDELORI ANTHONY D. (HHB)  
 GUMP JIMMIE L. III (A. BAT.)  
 JONES DELAWRENCE B. (A. BAT.)  
 LANCE KEITH A (HHB)  
 RAMOS EDWIN (HHB)  
 ROSARIO ROBERT R. (A. BAT)  
 STOKES SCOTT A. (A. BAT.)  
 ZERANSKI KENNETH A. (HHB)  
 ZHOU PENG (B. BAT.)