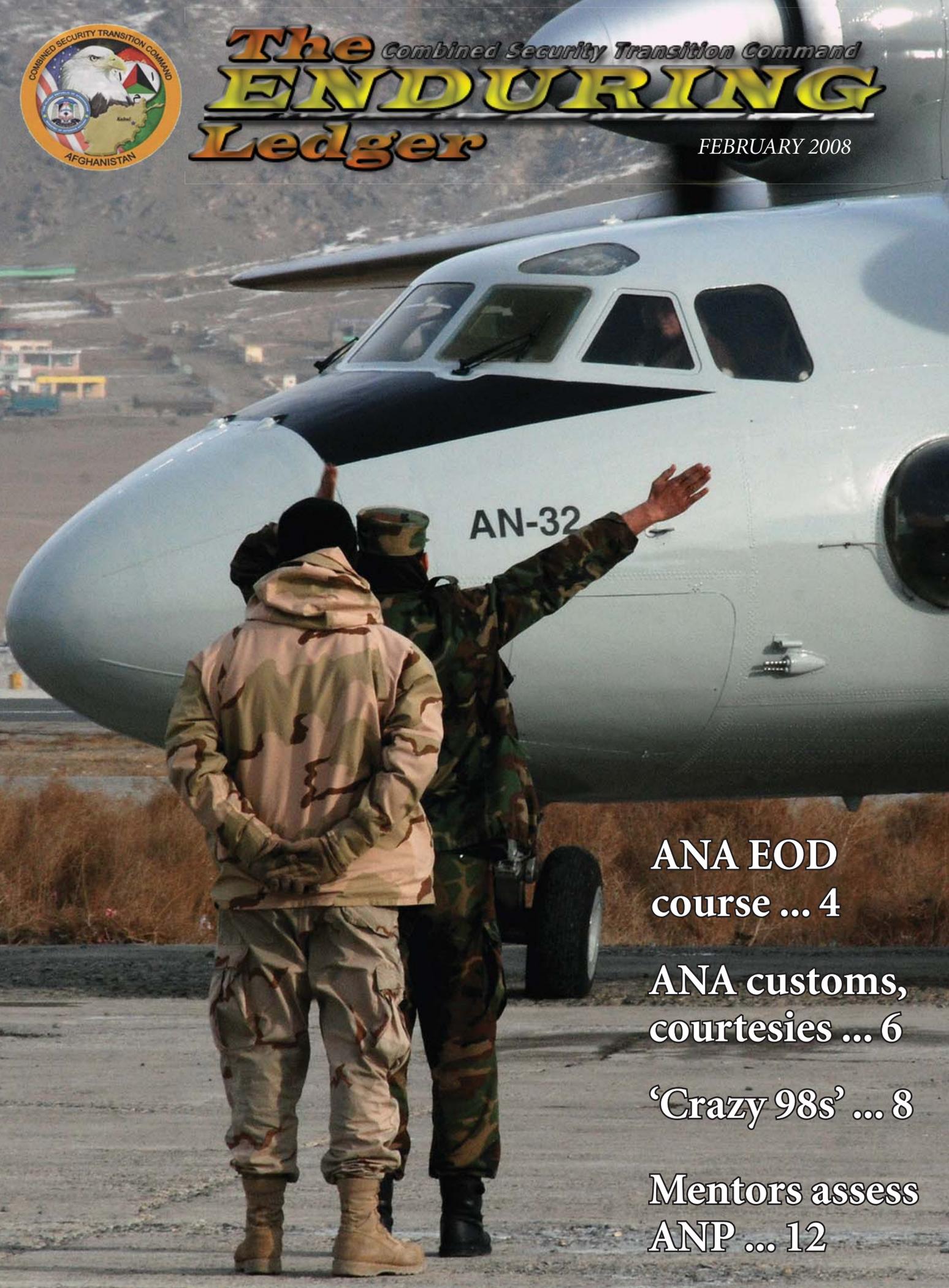




# *The* Combined Security Transition Command **ENDURING** *Ledger*

FEBRUARY 2008



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# The Combined Security Transition Command **ENDURING** Ledger

Vol. 2, Issue 2 February 2008

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**The Enduring Ledger** is a monthly publication of the Department of Defense and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan (CSTC-A). **The Enduring Ledger** is published each month by the CSTC-A Public Affairs Office, Camp Eggers, Kabul, Afghanistan. In accordance with DoD Instruction 5120.4, this DoD newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military overseas. Contents of **The Enduring Ledger** are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by the U.S. government or DoD.

**Mission statement:** The mission of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the international community, is to plan, program and implement structural, organizational, institutional and management reforms of the Afghanistan National Security Forces in order to develop a stable Afghanistan, strengthen the rule of law and deter and defeat terrorism within its borders.

**About the cover:** An Afghan National Army Air Corps soldier directs a newly delivered AN-32 transport plane to its spot on the ramp of Kabul Air Base. The plane, which is used for troop transport and light cargo, is the first of four refurbished AN-32s bought from the Ukraine for the ANAAC by the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan. (photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek)

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# The Combined Security Transition Command **ENDURING** Ledger

From the top

## What keeps you awake at night

Many high ranking visitors ask me during their visit, "what keeps you awake at night, general?" My answer is almost always the same, the potential for one of our soldiers, sailors, airmen or Marines to become captured or killed.

Recent experience has demonstrated, whether on a police mentor team in Gullistan fighting off Taliban attackers, a training team convoy attacked by an IED, or a logistics mentor team hit by an SVBIED in Kabul, the threat is real and can strike any of us at any time.

CSTC-A is an amazing organization with a level of talent and commitment I have rarely been privileged to observe in my career. Our nature as military professionals allows us to overcome and adapt to our immediate surroundings quickly.

What may have been disturbing to us during our first days in Afghanistan is now subordinated to our fixation on accomplishing the mission. While this accomplishment is laudable in some respects, it may prove to be very dangerous in another.

Despite our best efforts to provide security and stability to Afghanistan, we live and work in the middle of a very dangerous place.

Recent terrorist attacks at the Serena Hotel demonstrate our enemy's willingness to take attacks to new levels by going after an international symbol of stability in the heart of downtown Kabul. In less than four minutes, attackers penetrated the hotel's highly regarded security perimeter and killed several innocent guests. This should be an important lesson to us about the importance of constant vigilance as well as the brutality of our adversary.

The threat to CSTC-A and Task Force Phoenix personnel is real and constantly adapting to take advantage of any vulnerability we demonstrate. We must all be vigilant and constantly work to maintain the highest levels of force protection.

Our greatest strength is our collective wisdom and experience. Everyone has a stake in the force protection of our key facilities, and our units and teams operating in the battlespace surrounding those facilities. If something doesn't look right, take action by telling someone or making a correction. It may make the critical difference in preventing a terrorist or insurgent attack.

Placency can be a deadly adversary. Don't become too comfortable in your routine. Take time to notice the things going on around you and take action to mitigate risks. If it doesn't look right, it probably isn't. We are all in this together!

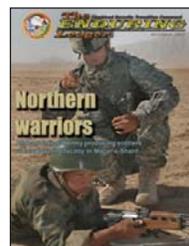


Cone

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert W. Cone".

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone  
CSTC-A Commanding General

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# CSTC-A CSM discusses upcoming personnel changes

by Command Sgt. Maj. Ruben A. Espinoza  
CSTC-A command sergeant major



**Espinoza**

CSTC-A warriors,

Over the next few months, our command will see the beginning of Relieve in Place (RIP) for several units within the command. The first

unit to RIP will be our garrison support company, the 23rd Chemical Company from Ft. Lewis Wash., which will RIP with a special troop battalion from the 101st Airborne Division. The 23rd Chemical Company will return home after a year in Afghanistan.

Also departing our team will be the security force personnel, Bravo Company, 129th Field Artillery Battalion, from Chillicothe Mo., which is being replaced by the 436th Chemical Company, from Laredo, Texas.

In addition to those units, many of our other CSTC-A personnel will return home as their tours of duty come to a close. For all those who are departing our command, I wish you the best in your future endeavors. As you prepare to leave our great command, please ensure you establish continuity books and information packets, and set the conditions for a smooth transition with your replacement.

The winter is finally upon us with the temperatures dropping and the precipitation rising. We need to take extra care in the activities we conduct outdoors, especially when operating vehicles in hazardous weather conditions.

Many of our drivers are not used to driving in hazardous winter conditions. As leaders, we must help our troops understand that driving conditions drastically change. We must ensure our drivers take extra precautions to protect themselves, as well as those around them, from being involved in accidents.

Additionally, vehicle operators must be cautious of Afghan drivers who might not be accustomed to driving in hazardous conditions either.

As we press through the winter, the Taliban will seek ways to make spectacular statements for their cause. One way will be through terrorist attacks within the city of Kabul.

The attack on the Serena Hotel could be the beginning of similar types of attacks we may encounter in the future. With that said, we should stay vigilant.

We must seek ways to mitigate our risks as we operate within our area of operation. By maintaining proper force-protection measures, we can sustain our mission and minimize risks. Being aware of your surroundings and alert will help prevent you from becoming a target.

Finally, I want to thank all of you for the outstanding job you are doing. Continue to press the fight and raise the bar of excellence in all you do.

## Past leaders shared similar concerns as CSTC-A

by Army Chaplain (Capt.)  
Ted H. Knach Jr.  
CSTC-A Chapel

In February we celebrate the birthdays of two past presidents, George Washington and Abraham Lincoln. We see in these two great presidents that they led our country with experience, religious convictions and faith.

George Washington was a military commander who used his leadership skills to motivate troops in the French and Indian war. He understood the moral basis for the American Revolution and creation of a new society, and he was dedicated to creating national unity. He saw this as the future of our country. During the Revolutionary War, his faith offered him

the moral leverage he needed to lead his troops by instilling discipline, reducing theft and minimizing desertion.

Washington was a man who strived for honor and respect, and during his presidency, he

always exhibited moral and virtuous behavior. He consistently modeled important leadership concepts such as faith, service and servant leadership. In good conscience he could look in the mirror. He mastered the art of leading himself. Thus, he laid the foundation to successfully lead others.

Abraham Lincoln was elected president during one of the most difficult time periods in American history. Shortly after his election, the south elected its own



**Knach**

president. Tensions were very high, and Lincoln had to act quickly to keep our country together. During the ensuing civil war, he had to hold on to the vision of liberty for all people.

Lincoln identified two aspects of leadership; fact and faith. In the reality of the situation, he determined the facts then had the faith to move forward and inspire others with hope. He wanted to build the blocks to achieve the goals of a unified country and liberty for everyone.

For great leaders, fact and faith work together in harmony. Facts are the foundation upon which leadership lies. Lincoln was realistic in that he knew what he was up against, but he also had faith in the future. Faith can motivate others and provide vision for the future. In the end, Lincoln was ultimately successful in his

presidency because he kept our country together through a war between the states.

Camp Eggers, as a community, shares the same vision these two leaders instilled in Americans during their own time. Troubles will come and go, but every person at Camp Eggers can learn from the example of these two great leaders. In a crisis, they moved our country forward to bring unity, peace and a hopeful vision for the future. When our great country calls us to do our duty, let us do likewise.

Can we rejoice with God today regardless of our circumstances, especially during this time of year? God wants all of us to express praise to Him, even when it is tough sometimes. Your faith will be strengthened and you will grow in your character.

# ANA's first EOD course underway in the north

by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour  
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Nearly 40 of Afghanistan's finest soldiers and policemen have completed the first of five important phases of training to becoming one of their country's elite.

In the first months they have learned basic demining procedures, unexploded ordnance recognition, basic first-aid and minefield casualty evacuation. In 18 more weeks these members of the Afghan National Army and Afghan National Police will become explosive ordnance disposal technicians.

Afghanistan is one of the world's most heavily mined countries. Efforts to remove mines have been ongoing for two decades, but it could take decades more to remove the millions of mines still believed to be buried throughout the country. This is one reason the ANA and ANP are involved.

The Explosive Ordnance Disposal School, located at Camp Shaheen, is the ANA's first branch training outside Kabul.

The school consists of two classrooms – with plans to build four more – and a training field for mine-clearing.

Just outside the wire is a 72 square-kilometer demolition range where more than 20 Afghan and international instructors from RONCO Consulting Corporation, based out of Washington D.C., plan to spend much of the next four training phases with the students.

Chief Instructor Dave Bruce and his team of 14 instructors from the RONCO company said they patterned this course after a successful program they used in Az Zubair, Iraq, in 2004. For three years they trained Iraqis on a curriculum based on particular threats to their country.

"We have been successful with our training in Iraq," said Bruce. "And we are confident that Afghanistan will be no different."

The training team had already arrived at the site here in late October before putting the final touches on the course curriculum. Slight modifications were necessary to



photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour

**Afghan National Army Sgt. Said Abas, ANA 209th Corps, operates the Schonstadt metal detector on a mine-clearing range. The exercise is part of the ANA's first explosive ordnance disposal school, a 6-month course designed to train Afghan National Security Forces in improvised explosive device disposal.**

suit specific threats in Afghanistan. On Nov. 10, they welcomed the first Afghan soldiers and policemen to the school and started training the first Afghan students to become EOD technicians.

The training can't come too soon. One survey found almost one Afghan in seven is affected by mines and unexploded ordnance (UXO). In 2005, the International Committee of the Red Cross recorded 898 mine/UXO casualties. The victims were usually working or playing near ordnance in unmarked areas. There are estimated to be between 50 and 100 thousand landmine survivors in Afghanistan.

One of the students, ANP Sgt. Mohammed Sedig, formerly a member of the Afghan National Civil Order Police in Kabul, knows these dangers firsthand.

"I must study for a test now, but I am excited to know that I will be made into an EOD policeman," Sedig said. "Since my friends were killed playing with ordnance last year, I decided it was good for me

to learn about IEDs and other things like that so that I know how to be safe."

This 22-week course is designed to be both challenging and rewarding work for the students, while making them operate more safely around unexploded ordnance, according to Bruce.

"It gives them the opportunity as soldiers and policemen to make a difference in the country by cleaning up the remnants of war and making it safer for everyone," he said.

Originally, Afghan and coalition leaders discussed the possibility of having three mobile teams set up around the country to train the prospective EOD element but decided to locate the course in one place.

"Having just one training facility is better for our overall objective," Bruce said. "If we were to have three teams roving around the country, it would be more difficult to coordinate the training."

Now that their training has begun, the road is clear for these future explosive ordnance technicians.

# Marines, sailors fill ETT roles in Afghanistan

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

Embedded training team Marines and sailors in eastern Afghanistan fill multiple roles while serving as mentors to the Afghan National Army.

From the senior officer to the junior enlisted Marine and sailor on the 20-man team, ETT 7-2 leathernecks take on jobs that go well beyond their military occupational specialties and job titles. The ETT was divided to mentor two ANA kandaks (Afghan battalions), which requires each team member to use all of his knowledge, skills and experience.

The team deployed to Afghanistan from Okinawa, Japan, and was assigned to mentor the 3rd and 5th Kandaks, 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps. As teams of 10, each Marine and sailor needs

to work with several ANA soldiers. The small teams work in remote locations, which means the Marines and sailors must count on each other to take care of all the team's basic operational needs.

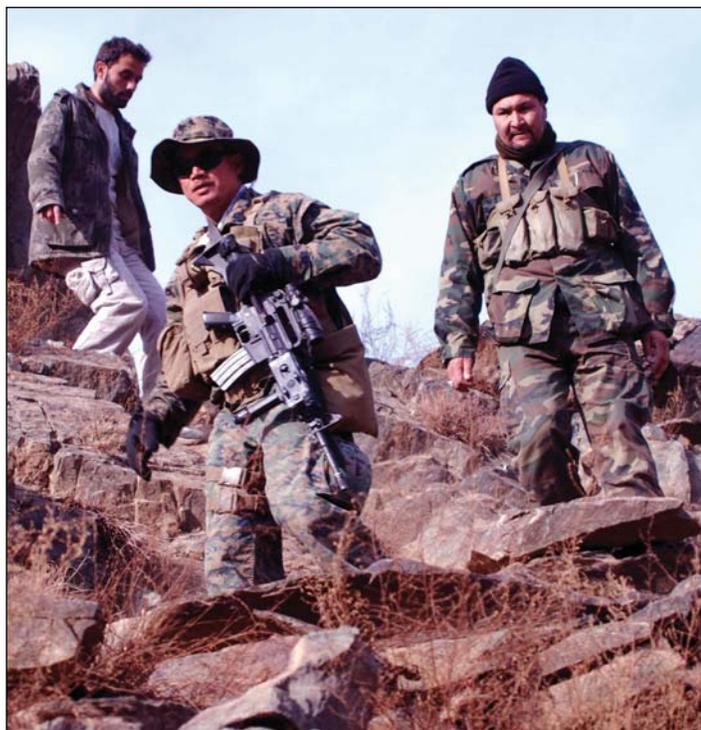
Three Marines and one sailor from one of the two groups work with the 3rd Kandak (Armored) headquarters at Forward Operating Base Naray.

"You just don't always know what's going to be next. You just have to use your experience and knowledge," said Marine 1st Sgt. Matthew S. Seamans, 42-year-old Shorewood, Minn., native and senior enlisted mentor with ETT 7-2.

The team chief, Marine Lt. Col. James F. Werth, a former intelligence battalion commander, sets the standard by mentoring the 3rd Kandak (Armored)



photos by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr. **Marine Sgt. Will D. Craig of Culleoka, Tenn., and Afghan National Army 1st Lt. Rajab Ali discuss computer issues recently at Forward Operating Base Naray, Kunar Province, Afghanistan.**



**Petty Officer 1st Class Reynaldo S. Datu is followed by Afghan National Army Maj. Abdul Latif, executive officer of 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps, and Maroof, an interpreter, as they make their way back from an observation point on top of a mountain to a border checkpoint 500 meters below in eastern Kunar Province, Afghanistan.**

commanding, intelligence, operations and executive officers. Werth also personally tends to several mandatory administrative reports and other paperwork of his own.

Seamans mentors the kandak sergeant major, and administration and logistics officers. He also spends time with flight arrangements, community construction projects as well as ANA and ETT budget issues. And if a Marine or sailor on his team needs a haircut, Seamans quickly becomes the ETT 7-2 barber.

"I can't always be in three places at one time. What I have to do is rely on Sgt. (Will D.) Craig, doc and others," Seamans said.

Craig, a 26-year-old Culleoka, Tenn., native, is the team communications chief. He also mentors the ANA communications officer, manages the ETT computers and operates an M2 .50 caliber machine gun from a Humvee turret.

"We've all had our time up in the turret and behind the wheel (of a Humvee)," Seamans said.

"Where else does a

lieutenant colonel get to drive and gun? Where else does a first sergeant get to drive and gun?" Werth asked.

Petty Officer 1st Class Reynaldo S. Datu, a 42-year-old hospital corpsman, mentors the ANA medical doctor and medic soldiers. He also ensures the ETT Marines have adequate medical care during their deployment and he regularly drives one of the Humvees.

The team is supported by two security forces soldiers, Army Cpl. Kelly A. Richardson of Columbia, S.C., and Spc. John W. Francisco of Akron, Ohio, who alternate roles as gunner and driver. Along with Craig and Datu, they also ensure the vehicles are maintained well on a weekly basis. Richardson and Francisco are deployed to Afghanistan with the South Carolina Army National Guard.

The many roles for each ETT mentor keep them occupied in garrison and in tactical situations, but the mentors take their roles in stride.

"The Marines and corpsmen just step up beyond their expectations," said Seamans.

# ANA soldiers develop customs, courtesies

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

American military services take pride in traditions, customs and courtesies. Embedded training team mentors at the Afghan National Army training grounds at Camp Clark are learning that the ANA does as well.

Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan mentors assigned to mentor the 1st Brigade, 203rd ANA Corps, recently saw how professional military customs are being developed by the young brigade’s soldiers.

The ETT witnessed the ANA platoon and company leaders holding a formation that displayed drill and ceremonial skills. Afterward they saw an honor guard and a company’s ceremonial send-off of a fallen comrade. The day concluded with leaders making a hospital visit to show care for their troops.

Taking the lead and setting a military example for his soldiers, Col. Mohammad Asrar Aqdas, the 1st Brigade commander, held a weekly formation to speak to the men. He reminded them of the significance of their obligation to Afghanistan and to the ANA.

Aqdas spoke of the sacrifices soldiers make and reminded them that they accepted the potential sacrifices when they swore their oath of enlistment. He reminded them that coalition soldiers also make sacrifices.

Aqdas expressed sympathy as he spoke of a soldier killed the day before. Regrettably, he said, it is unfortunate but inevitable that “we have these kinds of days.” He also spoke of the pride he has for his soldiers.

The 3rd Kandak soldier whom the brigade commander was referring to had been killed by a remote-controlled improvised explosive device at a vehicle checkpoint in the Bak District of Khowst Province.

After the brigade formation, soldiers prepared to render honors to the fallen soldier, Mahkam Khan. They lined the streets to salute as his body was transported across the post to the ANA helicopter in which he was transported to his family.

Kahn was 23 years old and joined the Kandak after graduating Basic Warrior Training at the Kabul Military Training Center about six months earlier. He was a “good soldier,” said ANA Capt. Muhammad Azziz, commander of 1st Company, 3rd Kandak, to which Khan was assigned. He added that Khan was very disciplined and did a good job.

Shortly after respects were paid to Kahn, Lt. Col. Shams, the 3rd Kandak commander, made it a point to visit Obaidullah, a soldier injured in the same IED attack who was being treated at the Camp Salerno Hospital in Khowst.

According to Army Maj. Timothy J. Sulzner, the embedded training team mentor to the Kandak commander, this was no surprise.

“They care about their soldiers. There’s no doubt about that,” said Sulzner.

Sulzner said he has seen the ANA handle other injuries and deaths, and they are always with respect.

Although military traditions by their very nature take time to develop, ANA soldiers are on track to create their own by treating their injured and killed with respect and dignity, and by making customs and courtesies an accepted way of life.



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

**Afghan National Army soldiers line the streets to render respect as a deceased soldier is escorted to a helicopter to be returned to his family.**



## Despite bad weather, ANA and ARSIC-N ETTs launch operation

story and photo by Petty Officer  
2nd Class Brian P. Seymour  
CSTC-A Public Affairs

U.S. Army embedded training teams from Afghan Regional Security Integration Command – North show Afghan National Security Forces that the mission will continue despite poor weather conditions.

This mission, known as “Operation Four Seasons,” is a continuation of “Operation Shaheen Sahara,” which was conducted during much of November in both Faryab and Badghis Provinces.

In an effort to stabilize the region, coalition members from ARSIC-N and International Security Assistance Forces from Regional Command North planned to team up with the ANSF in early December during Four Seasons. Due to weather, however, only the American trainers and mentors from ARSIC-N were able to reach the farthest western province in the northern region, which allowed the first leg of this operation to persist.

Four Seasons was a multi-faceted coordination between the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police and their coalition mentors. It consisted of exercises such as:

displaying police presence, conducting humanitarian assistance missions to remote villages and performing site reconnaissance for implementing a new ANA forward operating base in Qaysar.

The follow-on operation to Shaheen Sahara is part of a winter-long surge evolution in which both ARSIC-N and ISAF mentors check in monthly to assess the needs of the ANA and ANP.

Similar to other regional operations around the nation, the objective is to put an “Afghan face” on all elements, which, according to the commander of ARSIC-N, Army Col. Edward Daly, is precisely how the mission was carried out.

“The ANA got the job done,” he said. “They did the mission, and we were honored to help by coaching and mentoring them through it. We provided additional security in the region to help them get the job done.”

The American forces camped at FOB Freia, which currently serves as the post for the ANA until a larger and better-equipped FOB can be established in Qaysar District.

When the rain began to

fall, dirt quickly turned into mud and the road conditions became virtually impassable, but the ARSIC-N mentors managed to carry out their assigned missions.

On a stretch of Ring Road, where the roads have yet to be paved, the Faryab District police mentor team pressed on to assess several ANP checkpoints between the towns of Chil Gazi and Dwabi, and follow them on police presence patrols.

Faryab District police mentor team leader, Army Capt. Stewart Gast, was thrilled to assist the ANP in this endeavor.

“That’s what I like to see,” said Gast. “I like to see them talking to the people and letting them know, ‘We’re here to help. We’re here to serve you.’”

Simultaneously, the ANA led the ETTs to villages south of Afghanistan’s major highway to conduct presence patrols and hand out humanitarian assistance to the town of Khwaja Kinti, and later to the village of Karez.

Similar to the police patrols, the humanitarian assistance projects were led and administered by the ANA, with their American mentors behind the scenes.

“The ANA made the distribution of everything,” said ARSIC-N Information Officer, Army Maj. Joel Graham. “They were the ones who divided everything up and organized all the supplies. We were there to supervise, and make sure it all got into the right hands as best we could.”

After the American forces completed these missions alongside the ANSF, they headed back to their staging point at FOB Meymaneh and began planning for their next evolution to take place in the new year.

Recently, weather permitted ISAF elements from Regional Command – North to continue with efforts to build a FOB for the ANA in Qaysar and resume stability-sustaining operations alongside ANA and ANP forces in the region.

The ARSIC-N ETTs hope to travel alongside the ANA in the Qaysar and Ghowrmach Districts on a weekly basis over the next few months. If weather allows, RC North will assist the American mentors in a relentless effort to refurbish villages, restore civil order and rekindle partnerships between the Afghan people and their sovereign government.



An Afghan National Army soldier looks at the calculations made for firing a D-30 howitzer.

## ‘Crazy 98s’ show ANA how to flex their guns

by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek  
CSTC-A Public Affairs

A smiling jester grins down from their ballcaps, but the soldiers who wear them are all business. And when they go looking for a fight in Zabul Province, the big guns that cover them are no joke either.

Formally, they’re known as the 4-2 Embedded Training Team, but they started calling themselves the “Crazy 98s” during training as ETT class 9806 at Ft. Riley, Kan. And though the team has an easy demeanor, they’re very serious about their job of training the 4th Kandak of the Afghan National Army’s 205th Corps.

When the Crazy 98s got to Afghanistan in Feb. 2007, the 4th Kandak’s Field Artillery Platoon was far less capable

than it is now, according to FA enlisted mentor, Sgt. 1st Class David Trice. They had mortar skills, but they weren’t able to use the howitzers for direct fire, let alone indirect fire (shooting at unseen targets).

Over the last ten months, Trice and Army Capt. Dave Sadovy, the FA officer mentor, have trained the Afghans to do fire support with the D-30 howitzer, which can fire a 122 mm shell more than 15,000 meters.

The mentors also had to teach the

artillerymen how to calculate range and deflection manually, because the ANA doesn’t use many computers.

Two officers in the kandak’s FA platoon can now calculate fire missions.

One of them is Capt. Arzee Hussein, who has worked with artillery for three years now.

Hussein said that his training has been good enough that he can now do fire missions without help from the mentors.

The Crazy 98s show their confidence



in the gunners too. During one recent mission, team commander, Army Maj. Trent Darling, had shells landing within 1500 meters of his position, pretty good for new gunners. Trice gives the Afghan soldiers a lot of credit.

“They have bright soldiers over there,” Trice said of the 4th Kandak.

One of those soldiers is platoon sergeant Paywand Ali, who says that a previous American mentor named Dickinson taught him how to shoot the 82 mm mortar and the British 130 mm mortar. He likes being an artilleryman because of the advantage of high explosives during a battle.

“The enemy can shoot 100 bullets from an (AK-47 assault rifle), but I can win with one 122 mm shell,” he said. “Artillery wins the firefight.”



Platoon Sergeant Paywand Ali of the 4th Kandak, 205th Afghan National Army Corps, sights a D-30 howitzer.



Sergeant 1st Class David Trice (center) watches Capt. Arzee Hussein (left) of the Afghan National Army make adjustments to a D-30 howitzer.



(Above) An Afghan National Army soldier cleans the barrel of a D-30 howitzer after it was fired.

(Below) Platoon Sergeant Paywand Ali of the 4th Kandak, 205th Afghan National Army Corps, loads a powder charge into a D-30 howitzer.



Sergeant 1st Class David Trice braces himself while Platoon Sergeant Paywand Ali of the Afghan National Army fires a D-30 howitzer.

photos by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek

# Around CSTC-A

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan



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

Afghan National Army Sgt. Maj. Shapoor Hamidi (center) gives a sack of food to two Afghan men during a humanitarian assistance visit in Anchagal village, Naray District, Kunar Province, Afghanistan. Hamidi is the Kandak sergeant major for 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps, which is currently working out of Forward Operating Base Naray.

Afghan children line up to be seen by Army medic Spc. Melissa A. Hoffman (right) during a medical assistance and humanitarian assistance visit in Anchagal village, Naray District, Kunar Province, Afghanistan.



Petty Officer 1st Class Reynaldo S. Datu (left) advises Afghan National Army Capt. Amanullah (right) on potential medical assistance locations within Anchagal village, Naray District, Kunar Province, Afghanistan.



Army Sgt. Ryan A. Siddall of Hephzibah, Ga., drops bags of humanitarian assistance items for Spera Village residents after a recent mission in Spera Village, Spera District, Khowst Province, Afghanistan.



Marine Lt. Col. James F. Werth is followed by Petty Officer 1st Class Reynaldo S. Datu and Afghan National Army Maj. Abdul Latif, executive officer of 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps, as they make their way back from an observation point in eastern Kunar Province, Afghanistan.



Army Brig. Gen. Robert J. Livingston Jr., Combined Joint Task Force Phoenix VI commanding general, speaks and listens at Camp Clark in Khowst Province to soldiers, sailors and airmen assigned to mentor Afghan National Security Forces.

# ARSIC-N Police Mentors assess ANP in action

by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour  
CSTC-A Public Affairs

The Afghan National Police in northern Afghanistan are learning the importance of the “five systems” of effective law enforcement, and American mentors plan to actively assess their progress.

The viability of the ANP was a major topic of discussion at the higher levels of both coalition leadership and the nation’s government as recently as a year ago.

Since then, a strong emphasis has been placed on training, equipping and mentoring this particular constituent of the Afghan Ministry of Interior in hopes of matching the success that coalition forces have had on building the Afghan National Army over the past few years.

It all began with the establishment of police mentor teams, and attaching them to each of the five Afghan Regional Security Integration Commands to focus specifically on provincial and district ANP components. The goal was for them to mirror the efforts made by embedded training teams to train the ANA by explicitly tackling key elements of basic policing.

Throughout many of the districts in ARSIC-North, PMTs have been mentoring the ANP on a law enforcement curriculum centered on what is widely referred to as the “five systems,” comprised of principles such as: finance, logistics, personnel, training and operations.

The PMTs understand that the ANP’s ability to adhere to this enterprise takes time and patience, but is worth the effort to establish rule of law in the country. Furthermore, for the process of convincing the people of Afghanistan to trust their government, it is commonly viewed by ARSIC-North leadership that they must first trust their local police forces.

Faryab, ARSIC-North’s westernmost province is nestled along the border of ARSIC-West territory, namely Badghis Province, which is said to be “out of reach” of coalition forces in the west this winter due to poor weather conditions. However, Faryab District PMT leader, Army Capt. Stewart Gast, recently spent a few days in both provinces assessing the needs of the ANP during Operation Four Seasons.

The weeklong operation consisted of checkpoint assessment, police patrol missions, humanitarian assistance undertakings and site reconnaissance for the future implementation of a



photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian P. Seymour

**Faryab District Police Mentor Team Leader, Capt. Stewart Gast, points out the convoy route from Forward Operating Base Meymaneh to FOB Freia in Faryab Province prior to kicking off Operation Four Seasons.**

forward operating base in the area.

Gast’s initial findings after spending a few days with the region’s border, district and standby police were as expected, but he said he looks forward to spending more time with them on a bi-weekly basis to ensure they get what they need.

“They’re being asked to do something that isn’t a conventional police-type mission,” said Gast. “And they’re doing a good job, but of course their concerns are going to be: logistics, billeting and pay; stuff that they haven’t had to deal with before being so far away from home.”

Gast and his team visited four new checkpoints established along Ring Road between the towns of Chil Gazi and Dwabi, and further southwest to the Ghowrmach District Police Center in Badghis Province.

After speaking with the executive officer of the police center, the PMT accompanied the ANP forces in reaching out to several villages in the surrounding area to speak with elders and assess their needs.

The ANP and PMT traveled around the district for hours, stopping at the remote village of Qala-i-Wali, which scales two hills separated by a 500-meter-wide wadi, or dry riverbed. Elders from the split-village came out to greet the ANP while Gast and his PMT stood by to provide security during the visit.

It was there that Gast noticed how important it is for this police force

to reach out and reassure the local populace that they are there to help.

“The patrol with the ANP to Qala-i-Wali was a chance to try to get them to spread their web a little bit,” Gast said of the ANP. “And show the local people that they’re not afraid to come out there.”

The elders they met with recently participated in a security counsel meeting held at the Ghowrmach District Police Center, which Gast said is precisely why having the ANP reach out to them is critical.

“It’s one thing to have the elders come to you and express their concerns,” he said. “It’s another thing to have the police go back to their towns and speak directly with those elders only a couple of days later.”

The visit marks the beginning of the latest mentorship between the ANP in Badghis Province and the ARSIC-North PMTs, and is an example of why the Afghan government and coalition forces recently launched the police mentor team initiative.

The plan now, according to Gast, is to continue reaching out consistently to the police in Ghowrmach and Faryab Districts. The Norwegian and German Provincial Reconstruction Teams from Regional Command – North will compliment the American mentors in this endeavor, in hopes of training and equipping a police force that patrols one of northern Afghanistan’s most volatile regions.



**Army Pfc. Thad A. Fuller (right) of Tulsa, Okla., a medic assigned to Anti-tank Platoon 4, demonstrates for Afghan National Police an improvised tourniquet with Spc. Chris M. Koeppen of Venice, Fla., acting as the patient.**



**Afghan National Police observe during a first aid skills instruction period in Spera District.**



**Army Pfc. Thad A. Fuller (standing, right) of Tulsa, Okla., a medic assigned to Anti-tank Platoon 4, oversees Afghan National Police demonstrating first aid skills learned during an instruction period in Spera District.**

# PMT, 82nd combine efforts to mentor ANP

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

Afghan National Police mentors and 82nd Airborne Division soldiers are making their presence felt by combining efforts to train the ANP in western Khowst Province.

Mentors assigned to the Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan don't share the same mission as 82nd Airborne Div. soldiers, but they are tasked to support the same part of the country. They sometimes support each other, and since they often share living quarters, they make the most of their combined efforts.

The 82nd Airborne Div. soldiers, Anti-tank Platoon 4, Company D, 1st Battalion, 508th Parachute Infantry Regiment, are housed at the Shamal District Center in Khowst Province. The platoon is charged with providing security in several districts throughout the province, as well as for the police mentor team that advises ANP in six districts throughout western Khowst. The AT-4 platoon has been assigned to the area since mid-October.

Army Capt. Francisco J. Miranda, a native of Puerto Rico, was recently reassigned from mentoring at the provincial level to lead a PMT at the district level.

Having soldiers new to the area, however, does not mean the mentors and AT-4 soldiers are starting from scratch. Most of Miranda's team, which refers to itself as the "West Khowst Coppers," has been working there for several months.

Sgt. 1st Class Willie Royal, a native of Clinton, N.C., and a police mentor, said there is already a strong relationship and a lot of trust between the ANP and PMT. Royal said his team realized early that establishing trust was a priority, and they have done so.

The PMT has helped the ANP progress from military responses toward police needs, said Royal.

His team has accompanied ANP on several patrols and has even had to respond to an ambush. Royal said the ANP reacted well to the attack. And by using the PMT's night vision goggles, the ANP saw how helpful the U.S. soldiers are.

During his initial visit to the Shamal District police, Miranda's team introduced him to Shamal District

Police Chief Maj. Badshah Wazir.

With issues such as establishing permanent buildings and dealing with a shortage of uniforms for his men, Wazir said there is a lot of work to be done.

That, according to Miranda, is where he intends to use his experience from the past several months at the provincial level. He said he plans to implement all the positive things he learned, and get them to use the logistics system, as it is intended.

The AT-4 platoon meanwhile provides security back-up for the PMT and carries out other missions as assigned, such as searching for Taliban and other anti-government insurgents in various locales.

During a recent mission, the AT-4 soldiers traveled through a dry water-bed to the Spera District Center where they met with sub-governor Hussain Jon "Shirzai" Azathan. The AT-4 platoon commander, 2nd Lt. Marc D. Laighton, from Erdan, Utah, discussed construction projects with Azathan.

Laighton and Azathan discussed the status of ongoing projects that coalition forces are having built, as well as other projects that have been requested. They worked out requirements to ensure the construction projects would best serve district residents.

Laighton also used the opportunity to ask if there was any word about Taliban traveling through the area. He was told it had been about a month since anyone in the area reported seeing any.

After the meeting, the AT-4 medic soldier, Pfc. Thad A. Fuller, from Tulsa, Okla., taught a first aid class to the ANP. That same afternoon the AT-4 soldiers helped the ANP search compounds in Spera Village.

Most of the AT-4 soldiers provided security as Laighton and the ANP conducted the searches. After completing the mission, the AT-4 soldiers left the villagers smiling by distributing humanitarian assistance items, such as clothes, shoes and school supplies.

The coalition forces' presence continued in Spera District the next day as the West Khowst Coppers PMT paid a visit to the district center, showing how the 82nd Airborne and PMT soldiers' missions support each other and extend coalition support for the area.

# Warrior of the Month



photo by Staff Sgt. Robert Wollenberg

## Seaman Aaron E. Cole

**Job title and unit:** HHC convoy commander and coordinator

**Home station:** Command Fleet Logistic Support Wing, Fort Worth, Texas

**Hometown:** St. Louis

**Deployment Goals:** Mission completion

**Best part of the deployment:** Working with the HHC Convoy Team and Supply

**Life after Camp Eggers:** Return to Fort Worth, Texas

**Favorite vacation spot:** St. Louis, visiting family and friends

**Favorite movie:** *The Matrix 1,2,3*

**Favorite Artist:** Alfreda A. Battle

**Favorite sport:** Boxing

**Favorite meal:** Roast beef, mashed potatoes and gravy

**Favorite quote:** "Let's go."

**Hobbies:** Working out

**Book I'm reading now:** *To the Moon and Back*, by Jackie French and Bryan Sullivan

**Pet peeve:** Leaving open containers on my desk

**Supervisor says:** "Petty Officer Cole is a real hard charger who takes great pride in his work ethic. He is a true asset to our section."

-- Sgt. 1st Class Rene Ramirez  
CSTC-A HHC

# Camp Eggers Salutes

■ The following individuals for earning the Bronze Star: **Marine Col. Mark Hessler**, DCG-PD; **Army Lt. Col. Herman Asberry**, CJ8.

■ The following individuals for earning the Defense Meritorious Service Medal: **Army Col. Paul Russell** and **Senior Airman Kristin Mackay**, CJ7; **Cmdr. Timothy Zysk**, CJ-ENG; and **Lt. Cmdr. Clint Larson**, PAO.

■ The following individuals for earning the Joint Service Commendation Medal: **Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Bryan Simmons**, CJ3; **Petty Officer 1st Class Simone Odum** and **Petty Officer 2nd Class George Juarez**, CJ6; and **Petty Officer 2nd Class Brian Seymour**, PAO.

■ The following individual for earning a Combat Action Badge: **Army Lt. Col. Charles Tilton**, International Security Cooperation deputy commanding general.

■ The following individual for earning a Certificate of Appreciation: **David Bremer**, MPRI.

Do you have a story idea? Would you like to submit a photo for the "Around CSTC-A" page? Do you have a comment or suggestion for the Enduring Ledger? E-mail the editor at [enduring.ledger@gmail.com](mailto:enduring.ledger@gmail.com)

Looking for a picture or story that appeared in a previous issue, but can't find it?

Check out the CSTC-A public site at, [www.cstc-a.com](http://www.cstc-a.com).

## Afghans train with M-16s

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — 2nd Lt. Ayamuddin, an Afghan National Army trainer, reads off the serial number of his new rifle. Ayamuddin and other trainers from the ANA's 205th Corps qualified with the M-16, to help train the rest of the 205th's soldiers. The M-16 will eventually replace older Russian assault rifles as part of a modernization effort for the Afghan army.

-- photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek



## MWR weekly events

### Sunday

**6 a.m.** – Abdominal strength class at the Warrior Gym

**4:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym

### Monday

**4:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym

**6 p.m.** – Hip Hop Fitness class at the Clamshell

**6:30 p.m.** – Country music night at the Clamshell

### Tuesday

**6 a.m.** – Combatives class at the Clamshell

**6 a.m.** – Abdominal strength class at the Warrior Gym

**4:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym

### Wednesday

**6 a.m.** – Combatives class at the Clamshell

**4:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym

**6 p.m.** – Hip Hop Fitness class at the Clamshell

**6:30 p.m.** – R&B Night at the Green Bean patio

### Thursday

**6 a.m.** – Combatives class at the Clamshell

**6 a.m.** – Abdominal Strength class at the Warrior Gym

**4:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym

**6:30 p.m.** – All Request Night at the Green Bean patio

### Friday

**9:30 a.m.** – Read to Your Kids program at the Armadillo House

**4:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym

**6 p.m.** – Karaoke at the Green Bean patio

### Saturday

**4:30 p.m.** – Spin class at the Warrior Gym

**6:30 p.m.** – Salsa Night at the Green Bean patio

## Chapel weekly schedule

### Sunday

**11 a.m.** – Protestant Traditional service at the Clamshell

**5 p.m.** – Christian service at the U.S. Embassy

**6 p.m.** – Refuge Praise Band practice at the Clamshell

**7 p.m.** – Protestant Contemporary service at the Clamshell

### Monday

**4:30 p.m.** – Catholic Liturgy of the Word at the Chapel House

### Tuesday

**4:30 p.m.** – Catholic Liturgy of the Word at the Chapel House

**7 p.m.** – Women's Bible Study at the Pool House

### Wednesday

**6 a.m.** – Christian Officer Fellowship at the Chapel House

**4:30 p.m.** – Catholic Liturgy of the Word at the Chapel House

**7 p.m.** – Men's Bible Study at the Pool House

### Thursday

**4:30 p.m.** – Catholic Liturgy of the Word at the Chapel House

**6 p.m.** – Gospel musicians practice at the Chapel House

**7 p.m.** – Gospel choir practice at the Chapel House

### Friday

**12:30 p.m.** – The Church of Latter Day Saints at the Chapel House

**6 p.m.** – Jewish Lay service at the Pool House

**6 p.m.** – Refuge Praise Band practice at the Chapel House

**7 p.m.** – Gospel service in the Chapel House

### Saturday

**4 p.m.** – Roman Catholic Vigil Mass at the Clamshell

**4:30 p.m.** – Mighty Voice of Praise at the Chapel House

**6 p.m.** – Gospel Choir Practice in the Chapel House

**7 p.m.** – Bible Study at the Swamp Conference Room

**7 p.m.** – Gospel service in the Chapel House

### Saturday-Thursday

**1 p.m.** – Muslim prayer time at the Chapel House (prayer rugs are available)



## Afghans taking care of Afghans

Afghan children line up outside a tent to receive medical attention from Afghan National Army medics during a medical assistance and humanitarian assistance visit in Anchagal village, Naray District, Kunar Province, Afghanistan.

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