



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

MARCH 2008

FDD graduation ... 4

ANA, ANP recruiting ... 6

ANA humanitarian ... 8

Marine ETT ... 13



Editorial Staff

CSTC-A Commanding General:

Maj. Gen. Robert W. Cone

Director, Public Affairs:

Lt. Col. David G. Johnson

Deputy director, Public Affairs:

Chief Petty Officer Susan Hammond

Editor:

Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert R. Wollenberg

Staff writers:

Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.

Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek

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 Policeman serves as a color-guard during the graduation ceremony for 143 policemen at Regional Training Center in Herat. The training is a key part of the Afghan Ministry of the Interior's Focused District Development reform initiative to improve the rule of law throughout the country. (photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek)

**For more about CSTC-A,
visit www.cstc-a.com**

From the top CSTC-A shifts focus

As winter comes to an end, our focus will naturally shift toward the coming spring and summer fighting season. CSTC-A has made some significant progress these past few months, and I want to highlight three major developments that improve our ability to set the conditions necessary for our continued success in training, equipping, advising and mentoring the Afghan National Security Forces.

First, our "winter surge" strategy focused on using the winter months to grow and develop the ANSF, enhance their field presence and operational forces, and set the conditions for the spring and summer fighting seasons.

One aspect of this Afghan initiative called for increasing the number of "boots on the ground" in the ANA battalions. This endeavor required major efforts by ANA recruiters and the leaders and trainers at the Kabul Military Training Center and regional Basic Warrior Training courses.

The increased output of recruits surpassed our expectations. The number of recruits rose from 2,000 to 4,000 per month, increasing the on-hand strength from 80 percent to more than 100 percent in select units. These results were particularly evident in the 203rd ANA Corps in the east. During the spring and summer months, the Afghans will continue to grow and develop capable units with particular focus on the 203rd and 205th ANA Corps. It is anticipated that the ANA will reach an end strength of nearly 70,000 soldiers by December.

Second, Focused District Development continues at full speed. Last month we graduated more than 830 policemen from the regional training centers. They are now "on the job" in their districts, well-trained and better-led.

The Ministry of Interior was thoroughly impressed by the performance of the Afghan National Civil Order Police during the district reconstitution phase. The ANCOP demonstrated to the Afghan people in those districts how a professional police force is supposed to perform. Many were so impressed they expressed a desire to prevent the ANCOP from leaving and have defied insurgent ultimatums because they trust the ANCOP to protect them.

The next phase in the FDD strategy is probably the most critical. FDD Cycle #1 now moves into the focused mentoring and validation portion of the strategy. This phase will rely on the efforts of our police mentoring teams to ensure the training the police received at the RTC is reinforced and sustained while resuming responsibility for their home districts.

And third, with winter came the announcement of the Marine deployment in support of CSTC-A's mission. Over the next few weeks, we will continue to press ahead and set the conditions for the April arrival of the 2nd Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment.

The Marines are scheduled to deploy to the Southwestern portion of the country and provide critical manpower to supplement our existing but not yet adequate police mentoring mission. This initiative is important to strengthening the Afghan police's ability to protect the people, a capability critical to success in a counterinsurgency. This additional capacity will enable us not only to capitalize on our FDD successes, but to set conditions for this program in other areas, while at the same time increase pressure on insurgent activity in that region.

In conclusion, I want to express to each of you my deep appreciation for the hard work you demonstrate day-in and day-out. Your nation is proud of you. The leadership of Afghanistan is grateful. And I am honored to serve beside you on this very important mission. Stay sharp and be prepared. Your safety and mission success demand it.



Cone

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

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

CMSM says farewell to CSTC-A

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

CSTC-A warriors, spring brings change. As with the changing of the seasons, we will have a change of leaders and personnel in the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.



Espinoza

This will be my last Enduring Ledger column for all you superb warriors. This month I will hand over responsibility as your senior enlisted leader to another great American warrior.

It's been an honor to be part of CSTC-A and contribute to the fight.

We've made huge strides in developing and professionalizing the Afghan National Security Forces, as well as other accomplishments.

In the past 15 months, the National Army has expanded to more than 50,000 soldiers, the National Police to 74,000 and the Afghan National Civil Order Police to nearly 1,120. More than 420 projects have been constructed and more than \$7.5 billion in financial support has been provided. None of this would have happened without your hard work and effort.

As I depart, I will take many memories with me. I will never forget the 29 members of our command who made the ultimate sacrifice for our country during this period. They remind all of us that what we do here sometimes comes at a very high cost.

I am forever indebted to their service and sacrifice.

I've had many great assignments throughout my 30 years of service, but CSTC-A is one I'll truly cherish and miss. Serving here was the highlight of my career. It has been a blessing to be part of an exceptional team, with great leaders at the helm.

I have one final request from you: Be safe, be vigilant and take care of each other.

Afghanistan is still a very dangerous place.

I will miss you all, and this command. I wish you all the best in your future endeavors. God bless and good luck.

Sir, the PZ is clear!

CSTC-A warriors stay strong through song

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

About 3,000 years ago, a warrior who survived many battles told his countrymen to, "Sing praise to the Lord ... and give thanks to His holy name." A group of modern warriors from Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan is doing just that.

The Camp Eggers Gospel Choir is a group of Air Force, Army, Navy, Marine and civilian personnel who began singing together at the weekly Gospel Service in early November 2007.

Army Protestant Chaplain (Capt.) Ted Knach quickly recognized their commitment to musical excellence and was so moved by their singing he asked them to produce a CD.

Chaplain Knach thought the CD would be, "... a joyful reminder to all of us of how God can use the talents of many to reach out to those who may never attend worship services."

After much prayer and little preparation, the

recording was done in one take on a Saturday afternoon in January. As befitting a "field" environment, it was recorded in a large tent without soundproofing or professional recording equipment. The result has come to be known as, "The Psalm 91 Project."

Members of the choir, Air Force Lt. Col. Rodney Laster and Air Force Capt. Dolphin Hall, attribute the choir's sound to their choir director, Air Force Capt. Michael Taplin, who has previous experience both producing and recording music. "One of my most treasured times on this deployment has been serving as choir director," Taplin said.

The project's title was relevant to the choir, according to Taplin, because of Psalm 91's message of God's protection to those who are fearful and anxious — particularly in a combat environment. Having survived many life-changing events, several choir members say they found spiritual and emotional relief from praying and reading Psalm 91.



photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek
Air Force Capt. Michael Taplin (left), Army Maj. Wesley Erving and Air Force Capt. Dolphin Hall (right) practice songs for the Black History Month celebration at Camp Eggers, Afghanistan. Taplin is the choir director for the camp's Gospel Choir and Hall is an ordained minister.

The choir jokingly refers to the project as a "combat" recording, but they also know they can find refuge in the words of the Psalms of David, who concluded, "... My soul may sing praise to You and not be silent, O

LORD my God, I will give thanks to You forever."

Anyone wishing a copy of the "The Psalm 91 Project" should contact Master Sgt. Robby Watson at, robby.f.watson@afghan.swa.army.mil

Initiative creates new cops from old

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

On the outside, they look like any other policemen in Afghanistan, but if Col. James Klingaman is right, this group of 143 newly trained Afghan National Police might prove to be the best in Afghanistan.

Klingaman is the commander of Afghanistan Regional Security Integration Command-West and addressed the graduating policemen Feb. 21. This was the first graduating class of Afghan National Police to be trained in Herat as part of the Focused District Development initiative.

FDD is an Afghan initiative aimed at improving policing in Afghanistan, district by district. In cooperation with the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan and the international community, FDD takes a more focused approach toward assessing, training, mentoring, and validating the district police.

These ANP officers from the Bala-Beluk district in western Afghanistan have just graduated from phase three, where their entire district was reorganized, reequipped



photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek

Deputy Minister Lt. Gen. Ahmad Munir Mangel of the Ministry of Interior speaks to 143 graduating Afghan National Policemen from the Bala-Beluk district in western Afghanistan.

and retrained during an eight-week training course. The courses are taught by civilian police instructors at the eight Regional Training Centers throughout the country.

Phase Four will involve reinserting them back into their district, which should take about a week.

This will be the true test of FDD, according to Col. Peter W. Foreman, Deputy to the Commanding General, Police Development for CSTC-A.

“The real test will be this next week when the police go back to their districts and we see how the people

perceive them,” Foreman said.

The policemen won’t go back to Bala-Beluk alone. A police mentoring team comprised of U.S. soldiers will be there to help them use their newly taught policing skills. The senior enlisted mentor for that team is Army Master Sgt. John Welgos, who reminded the graduating class of their responsibility to protect the public.

“The eyes of the people will watch you closely,” he said.

“Stay on the path of good.”



Two hundred and fifty-nine Afghan National Police graduates stand in formation just prior to the graduation ceremony festivities at the Police's Regional Training Center in Kandahar province, Afghanistan.

-- photo by Lt. Cmdr. Steven Parks

Afghan officers take operational control in eastern Afghanistan

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

Afghan National Army officers, mentored by a Marine embedded training team, show initiative and take the lead for their army and country.

Leathernecks with ETT 7-2 deployed from Okinawa, Japan, and were assigned to work with the 3rd and 5th Kandaks (Afghan battalions), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps. The Marines have served with the kandaks in both operational and garrison environments, and they have seen officers demonstrate their abilities and willingness to take charge.

The goal is for the ANA to eventually operate on its own, while U.S. and coalition forces merely provide support. The ETT advisors encourage the Afghan officers and staff noncommissioned officers to take the lead and develop leadership skills in their subordinates.

Marine Lt. Col. James F. Werth, ETT 7-2, said he advises the 3rd Kandak commander to allow subordinate officers to make decisions on their own.

“Routine decisions that U.S. officers normally just do are things they won’t do. A lot has to do with their culture and history. Their first course of action is often to let others make the decision, (that way) they cannot (personally) be wrong and lose face,” Werth said.

The Marine ETTs said the ANA officers have shown courage during combat, but can improve on initiative and decision-

making for operations, logistics, and intelligence. Werth encourages this initiative among the officer ranks, and said they are making progress.

The Marine ETT advisors with 5th Kandak (Combat Service Support) report numerous examples of platoon commanders planning and executing logistic convoys with minimal advice. The officers are also learning to let their NCOs take charge supervising soldiers.

Both kandaks have companies and platoons spread throughout eastern Afghanistan. Because they spend a lot of time conducting convoys on the rugged supply routes, maintaining vehicles is very important, Werth explained. But vehicle maintenance is not something the Afghan soldiers are used to doing.

The ANA NCOs now routinely conduct pre-convoy inspections and supervise preventive maintenance checks on their vehicles, something the ETTs did not see when they first started working with the ANA NCOs.

In 3rd Kandak (Armored), the intelligence officer is now more active in gathering and sharing information with both Werth and his commander, ANA Lt. Col. Mohammad Naseem. Recently this included reports about Taliban threats to Gojers (a semi-nomadic tribe). Werth advised Naseem on courses of action, but encouraged the ANA officers to come up with their own solutions to the problem.

The ANA officers discussed possible operational responses and



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

Marine Lt. Col. James F. Werth (front right), Afghan National Army Lt. Col. Mohammad Naseem (left) and ANA Capt. Mohammad Usman Amoni discuss operational tactics from the top of eastern Afghanistan mountains.

planned immediate measures for helping the Gojers, many of whom had been forced from their homes in Nurestan Province.

The 3rd Kandak (Armored) soldiers led several humanitarian assistance visits to provide food and clothing to the displaced Gojers and local villagers. Several of these visits were planned and conducted without coalition presence.

While the Marines admit they still have plenty of work

to do, and the ANA still has a lot of room for improvement, they take pride in the changes they have facilitated.

Seeing the 1st Company, 3rd Kandak, commanding officer develop into “a strong commanding officer” is one of the accomplishments Marine Master Sgt. Scott M. Ingbretsen, advisor for the 1st Company, Forward Operating Base Keating, said he is proud of most.

“Their way works very well,” Ingbretsen added.



photos by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek

Army Maj. Bryant Schumacher, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Recruiting Assistance Team chief, speaks at a recruiting leadership conference in February.

Recruiting in Kapisa brings results

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

Winter keeps Kapisa from planting crops, but the Afghan National Army's Recruiting Command has made this eastern province fruitful in other ways. The command gained 113 recruits for the Afghan National Army and three for the National Police from Kapisa just last month.

The ANARC kept this momentum by conducting a recruiting leadership conference here in February. More than 200 local elders and mullahs from all six of Kapisa's districts came to the conference to hear their governor and senators endorse the Afghan National Security Forces. The elders were asked to do the same.

Army Maj. Bryant Schumacher, team chief for Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan's Recruiting Assistance Team, also spoke at the conference. Schumacher also mentors the ANARC commander, Lt. Gen Azziz Rahman. Although his team advises the ANA on recruiting, conferences like these are an Afghan initiative.

"We don't get ourselves involved in the leadership

conference," Schumacher said. "It's an Afghan event."

In a display of successful recruiting in Kapisa, 14 new soldiers and policemen from the province were introduced during a speech. They stood in a single rank at the back of Kapisa's Culture and Youth Department center and introduced themselves.

"The reason that the ANA and ANP have grown is because of young men like these," remarked Schumacher.

Col. Ghulam Faroq is an ANA recruiter who credits the local mullahs and elders for the recent increase in recruits. He believes that including local leaders is vital to recruiting because they influence local men to join the ANSF. In fact, the leaders not only help enlist them, they also help keep them in.

Faroq likes to have tea with the local leaders weekly and wants to have events like the leadership conference more frequently. However, with 34 provinces in Afghanistan, Lt. Gen. Rahman can only join them once a year. The goal for the ANA is to go from its current manning of 49,000 to reach an end-strength of nearly 70,000 soldiers by December.



Army Maj. Bryant Schumacher, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Recruiting Assistance Team chief, greets an elder in Kapisa Province at the recent recruiting leadership conference in February.



Haji Ahmad Farid, a member of the National Assembly of Afghanistan, encourages local leaders from Kapisa Province to endorse service in the Afghan National Army at a recruiting leadership conference in February.

Afghan NCOs gain experience, knowledge from Marines



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

Marines in eastern Afghanistan find success by setting leadership examples for the Afghan National Army.

Just 10 Marines and sailors with embedded training team 7-2 mentor the officers and senior noncommissioned officers of 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps.

The Afghan leaders have learned by watching Marine NCOs make decisions and handle matters that Afghan officers normally take care of, said Marine Lt. Col. James F. Werth, ETT chief.

Afghan Sgt. Maj. Shamoor Hamidi, 3rd Kandak (Armored), said that before working with ETT 7-2, he and other soldiers within his kandak did not understand what it meant to be an NCO.

“Nobody knew ... what is the responsibilities of the NCOs,” said Hamidi. “We have seen (American) officers and enlisted NCOs are working together. This change should come (to) the ANA.”

Hamidi has spent the past six months mentored by Marine 1st Sgt. Matthew S. Seamans, a Shorewood, Minn., native and the senior enlisted mentor with ETT 7-2.

The Marines say it has sometimes been a struggle to persuade the ANA officers to trust their NCOs, but they are seeing progress.

“It has to be a mutual thing, because if the officers don’t accept (giving NCOs responsibility), it won’t happen,” Seamans said. “Given the opportunity, they respond. You ask an (ANA) NCO if he can do (a job), and he’ll say, ‘yeah, I can do it.’”

Werth said his team has seen the Afghan NCOs excel in convoy planning and operations, local security and patrolling, but he’d like to see the NCOs gain more leadership experience with garrison issues.

“We haven’t arrived yet, but we’re making 1st downs,” Werth said.

The success the ETTs are having is due to the Marine NCOs in ETT 7-2, according to Seamans. The Marines have demonstrated their own leadership qualities. Seamans praised his NCOs mentoring the ANA soldiers.

“Not just any NCO can do it. A guy’s got to bring a lot of confidence and maturity,” Seamans said.

Marine Master Sgt. Scott M. Ingbretsen, a mentor with 1st Company, 3rd Kandak (Armored), at Forward Operating Base Kamdesh, said he believes Afghan officers seeing him work has had a big effect in strengthening the role of the Afghan NCO.

“They have stepped up. I think they were craving more recognition and not just more pay,” said Ingbretsen. “In this company, the staff NCOs do most of the tactical planning. The officers ... trust the abilities of their staff NCOs.

Now that the NCOs are taking it upon themselves to teach their soldiers, they are becoming their mentors as well.

photos by Marine Staff Sgt. Luis P. Valdespino Jr.
(From left) Afghan National Army Sgt. Maj. Shamoor Hamidi, ANA Maj. Latif, Marine Lt. Col. James F. Werth and Marine 1st Sgt. Matthew S. Seamans meet during a recent quick reaction force response after U.S. soldiers were attacked by insurgents in eastern Kunar Province. Hamidi is the kandak sergeant major for 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps; Latif is the kandak executive officer.



Marine Lt. Col. James F. Werth (second from left), Lance Cpl. Michael J. Subu (center), and Marine 1st Sgt. Matthew S. Seamans (far right), meet with Afghan National Army soldiers at an eastern Kunar Province, border checkpoint.

ETT stands back as ANA shows presence in village



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

(ABOVE) An Afghan National Army soldier gives clothing to an Afghan girl during a humanitarian assistance visit in Anchagal village, Naray District, Kunar Province.

Afghan National Army soldiers made a strong presence by providing humanitarian and medical assistance to hundreds of villagers and gojurs (nomadic Afghans) in Anchagal village.

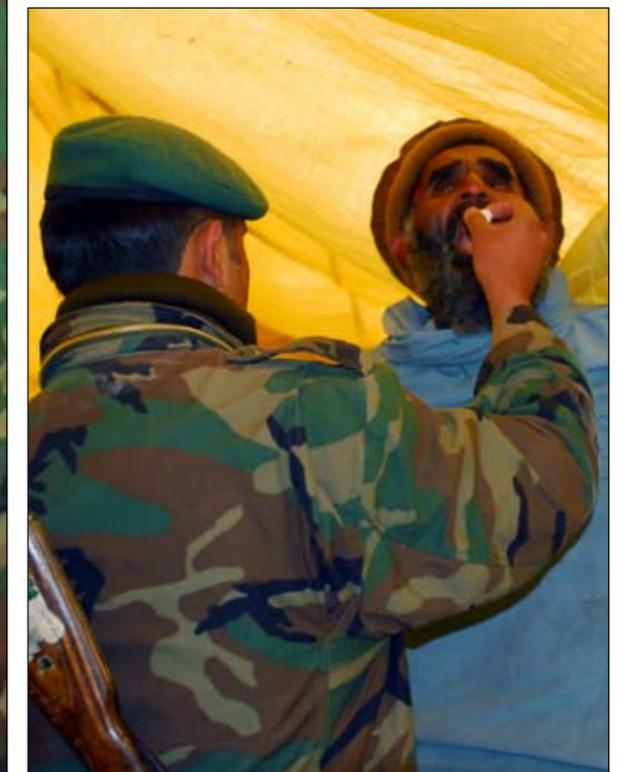
Embedded training team Marines provided security and mentoring from behind the scenes while soldiers from the 3rd Kandak (Armored), 3rd Brigade, 201st ANA Corps, distributed food and clothes. U.S. Navy and Army medical personnel also provided care and medicines for about 200 villagers and Gojers.

(RIGHT) Afghan children line up for humanitarian assistance from Afghan National Army soldiers in Anchagal village.



(LEFT) Afghan National Army Capt. Amanullah hands an Afghan boy medicine during a medical assistance and humanitarian assistance visit in Anchagal village.

(BELOW) Saud Kanshah, an Afghan National Army soldier and medic, gives an Afghan man a dose of medication during a medical assistance and humanitarian assistance visit in Anchagal village.



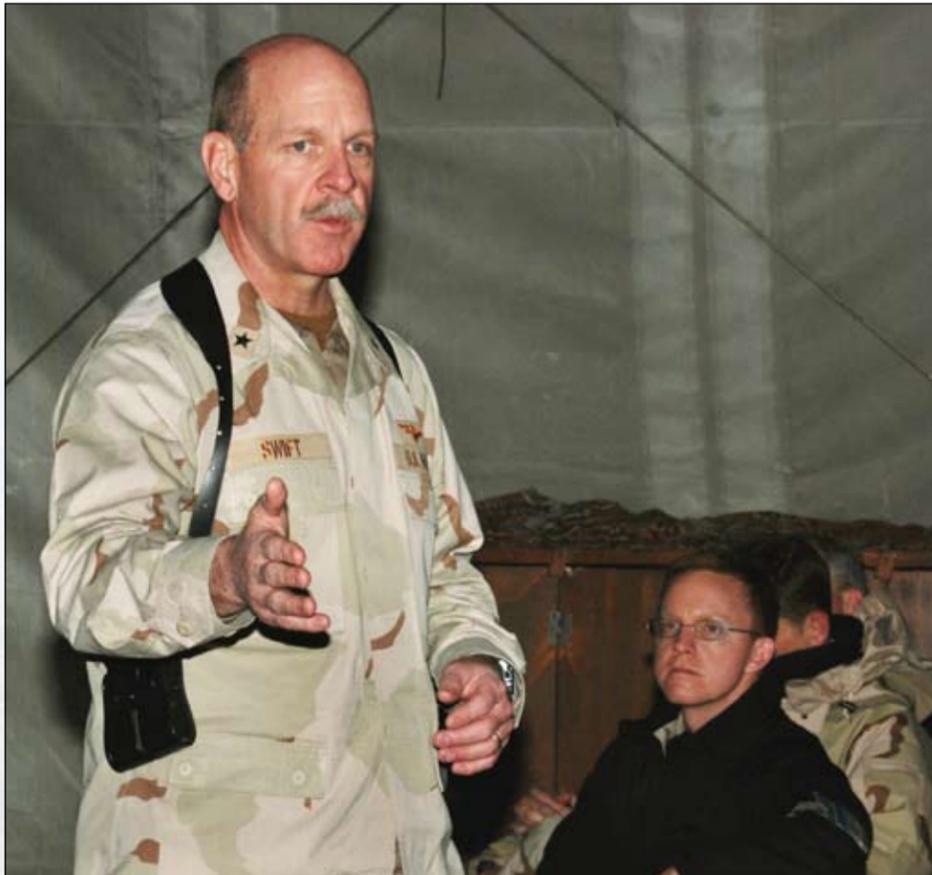


photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek
Rear Adm. Scott H. Swift, Deputy Commander, U.S. Naval Forces, U.S. Central Command, visits with deployed sailors at Camp Eggers. Rear Adm. Swift spoke to them about the needs and challenges of sailors deployed to Afghanistan.

Around **CSTC-A**

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan



photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Wollenberg
Air Force Lt. Col. Rodney Laster, Medical Logistics team lead, speaks at a Black History Month ceremony at Camp Eggers Feb. 22.



photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek
Army Staff Sgt. John Thomas, 205th Corps Training Team, observes an Afghan National Army soldier adjust the forward sight on his M-16 rifle. This soldier and others from the ANA's 205th Corps qualified on the M-16, and will help the CTT train the rest of the 205th's soldiers.



photo by Petty Officer 1st Class David M. Votroubek
Army Staff Sgt. John Weber raises the Navy flag at Forward Operating Base Tombstone. The FOB is home to an Army Logistics Support Team and Navy Embedded Training Team 3-205th Garrison, who mentor the Afghan National Army in Helmand Province.



photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Robert Wollenberg
The Camp Eggers Gospel Choir entertains a crowd during a Black History Month ceremony Feb. 22 on Camp Eggers by performing a rendition of the Black National Anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

TF King, ANA conduct joint artillery training in Nuristan

by Spc. Gregory J. Argentieri
173rd ABCT Public Affairs

Approximately 30 Afghan National Army artillerymen assigned to the Field Artillery Company, 4th Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 201st Corps, are instructed on how to operate and fire the M198 155mm howitzer by their U.S. Army artillery counterparts from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4-319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment at Forward Operating Base Kalagush.

One vital area of focus for the ANA artillery training is to come away fully capable and proficient in indirect fire in support of their troops on the ground. Indirect artillery fire, fire without direct line of sight, is critical for the success of the fight in the mountainous terrain of Afghanistan.

“Everybody knows the ANA soldiers

volunteer, so these soldiers are very interested in artillery and are determined to use this opportunity to learn from the U.S. soldiers and gain more knowledge,” said ANA Field Artillery Company Commander 1st Lt. Abdul Nasir Ahmadi, from Kabul. “These are not new soldiers. They have been working for the ANA for four or five years and have had lots of training.”

“I really enjoyed shooting and I want to have lots of training on the modern howitzer,” said ANA artillery crew chief, Sgt. 1st Class Falak Naz, from Jalalabad. “I have learned lots of things, different kinds of ammunitions, rounds, fuses and how to direct fire for the modern howitzer.”

Working side-by-side with the ANA gives U.S. soldiers more than just a training opportunity. It provides them a

better understanding of the overall mission and the importance of Operation Enduring Freedom.

“When I first started working with them I wasn’t sure exactly what they would know, and with the language barrier, how difficult it would be to communicate with them. But since they came with interpreters, and after I have been working with them, I have come to find out, across the board, artillery is artillery. So I think it’s just a matter of going from one gun to another,” said Army Staff Sgt. James F. Natiello from Aston, Pa., section chief, 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery, 4-319th AFAR.

“It’s good to know these guys are here and they have experience. It gives us Americans confidence in people here to take care of themselves after we leave,” said Natiello.



photo by Spc. Gregory J. Argentieri

An Afghan National Army artilleryman peers through the firing tube as part of a hands-on training session on the M198 howitzer at Forward Operating Base Kalagush in Nuristan Province. Paratroopers from 2nd Platoon, Alpha Battery 4th Battalion, 319th Airborne Field Artillery Regiment conducted the joint training.

Afghan police learn first aid

Army Sgt. Matthew Clifton
22nd Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

Two U.S. combat medics regularly devote time to teaching Afghan police officers an important soldiering skill: combat first aid.

Every other week, Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Wells, Joint Forces Headquarters, Arizona Army National Guard, and Spc. Richard L. Bacher, 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard, teach a first aid class to nearly 20 Afghan National Police officers from Logar Province.

The curriculum includes checking a casualty's airway, breathing and circulation, stopping bleeding, checking for wounds, treating for shock, applying field dressings and tourniquets, treating sucking chest wounds, splinting fractures and treating head wounds.

"Teaching is challenging because we have to take the same curriculum we use (in the U.S. military) and modify it so the ANP understand," said Wells. "For example, we use the 'A, B, C's' of first aid to explain searching for an airway, breathing and circulation.

"Our guys (U.S. soldiers) understand that, but the ANP have no idea what 'A, B or C' stands for, so we have to modify things."

One method the instructors use to help the ANP grasp the importance of their lessons is to use real-life events as examples.

The higher rate of illiteracy among the Afghan policemen comes into play as well, said Bacher. Since many cannot take notes, hands-on training becomes paramount.

"These guys are super-attentive, and when we do our hands-on portion of the class, you can really tell they have paid attention," Bacher said.

"This class is very important because our police don't have much experience with first aid, and they need to know how to stop bleeding, treat fractures and things like that," said 3rd Basic Officer Jamil Ala Mi, an ANP observer who will be taking over the class. "The students pay very good attention and will be able to take these lessons back to their districts."



photos by Army Sgt. Matthew Clifton

Spc. Richard L. Bacher, combat medic, 1st Battalion, 108th Infantry Regiment, New York Army National Guard, helps a student find his radial pulse during a first aid class given to Afghan National Police of the Logar Province.



Sgt. 1st Class Maurice Wells (right), combat medic, Joint Forces Headquarters, Arizona Army National Guard, demonstrates the proper technique of the head-tilt, chin-lift method of clearing an airway during a first aid class.

Warrior of the Month

Spc. Camron Fitzsimmons

Job title and unit:

CSTC-A PSD

Home station:

1/118th INF., Union, S.C.

Hometown:

Laurens, S.C.

Deployment Goals:

Just doing my time and going home

Best part of the deployment:

I saw a lot of places

Favorite vacation spot:

The beach

Favorite movie:

300

Favorite sports team:

Anaheim Ducks

Favorite meal:

Pizza

Favorite quote: "Scouts out."

Favorite cereal: Fruit Loops

Book I'm reading now: "The One that got Away"

Hobbies: Hockey, running and Xbox

Pet peeve: People not paying attention

Supervisor says: "Spc. Fitzsimmons is a dedicated and motivated individual who takes his mission to heart. He puts his life on the line everyday to provide support to Cmd. Sgt. Maj. Espinoza and our team."

-- Chief Petty Officer Donna Davis
CSTC-A Command Group NCO in charge



photo by Spc. Raul Diaz

Camp Eggers Salutes

■ The following individuals for earning the Bronze Star: **Army Lt. Col. Kerry Sutton**, CJ4; and **Army Lt. Col. Brett Rypma** and **Chief Warrant Officer Manuel Molina**, SJA.

■ The following individuals for earning the Defense Meritorious Service Medal: **Marine Lt. Col. John Hogan**, SJA; **Navy Lt. Daniel Feirman**, CJ8; **Senior Chief Petty Officer Arthur Najera**, CJ-Eng; **Marine Maj. Gilbert Warner**, CJ1; and **Air Force 1st Lt. Brian MacLean**, CJ3.

■ The following individuals for earning the Joint Service Commendation Medal: **Marine Capt. Justin Johnson**, CJ4; **Seaman Steven DeJesus**, CMD GRP; and **Air Force Staff Sgts. Thomas Runnels** and **Cesar Bosco**, CJ3.

■ The following individual for earning the Combat Action Badge: **Army Lt. Col. Hugh Fortenberry** and **Army Staff Sgt. Herbert Hill**, CJ7; and **Army Maj. Elizabeth McClure**, CJ5.

■ The following individual for earning the Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal: **Army Staff Sgt. Claus Von Stauffenberg**, JVB.

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

Looking for a picture or story that appeared in a previous issue, but can't find it? Check out CSTC-A's public site at www.cstc-a.com.

Building a new Afghanistan

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan — Petty Officer 2nd Class David Crabb, Navy Embedded Training Team 3-205th Garrison, directs a fork-lift while unloading humanitarian assistance. Crabb is part of a 14-man team that mentors the Afghan National Army's Shorabak Garrison in Helmand Province. The team, lead by Cmdr. James Haley, is helping the ANA to outfit and improve maintenance at the new \$60 million facility.

-- 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. – 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)



Afghan Reflections

Army Sgt. Nicholas Melidones of the 82nd Airborne Division watches for enemy activity as a UH-60 door gunner in southern Afghanistan.

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