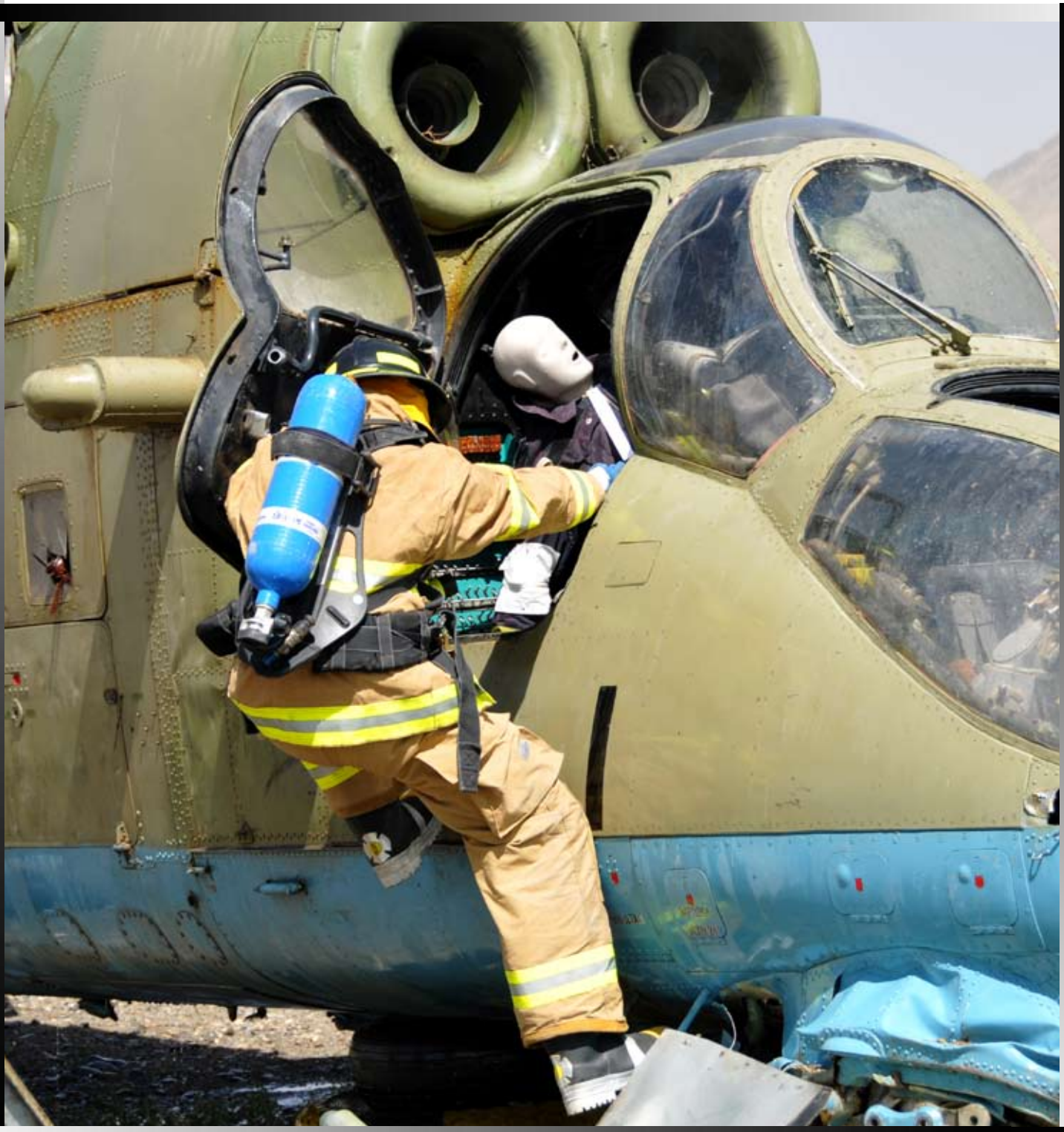
THE ENDURING LEDGER

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan October 2008



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THE ENDURING LEDGER
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About the cover: An Afghan National Army Air Corps fireman climbs inside a "downed" Mi-35 helicopter to pull the pilot to safety during an ANAAC simulated emergency response exercise. (photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio).

Photo of the Month

We want your mission photos

photo by Air Force Lt. Col. Lee DePersia

(Above) Navy Lt. Karlton Dotson from the Command Surgeon office attends a tribal meeting to discuss the building of a medical clinic in the Pol-e-Charki district.

(Right) A medical student of the Transition Assistance Program (TAP) inoculates an incoming recruit as a part of the in-processing procedures for the Jump Start program.

photo by Canadian Superintendent Ray Noble

Photo of the month submission guidelines: For consideration, your photos must be 300 dpi (high quality), be mission-oriented, not contain OPSEC violations and must promote the CSTC-A mission of training, mentoring, equipping, advising and illustrates the progress of the ANA or ANP. Include your name, rank and command, and a short description of the photo. So that you may receive credit for your photo, mail your submission to: CSTCAphotos@gmail.com

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 magazine 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.

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THE ENDURING LEDGER

Building upon the successes of the ANSF

Cone

One true success story in this war-torn country of Afghanistan is the CSTC-A mission of fielding the Afghan National Security Forces.

Often, progress in our CSTC-A world rolls like a freight train across mountainous terrain, laboring up the steep slopes and sometimes slowing to a near halt. Then we might speed downhill and roll across level stretches of track.

But this ANSF train has always kept rolling forward and in the right direction due to the sustained, persistent effort by you, the CSTC-A team. I extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your continued hard work and dedication.

We have made significant and steady progress this last year in the Afghan National Army. The international community's decision to expand the Army from 80,000 to 134,000 soldiers is strong recognition of past success, and a vote of confidence in the future of this professional Army. There is little doubt that the ANA is widely recognized as a success story in a land that has not known many.

What is lesser known is the fact that CSTC-A retrained 20,000 police in the last year – over a fourth of the Afghan National Police force. This mission is vastly under-resourced, which means all of you involved in training the ANP must work even harder.

But you have made it work. Reforms within the Ministry of the Interior and in police districts – with our Focused District Development program – have had a significant effect in creating a more professional police force.

This success derives directly from the hard work of our Embedded Training Teams, our Police Mentor Teams, ARSICs, Task Force Phoenix, and from the CSTC-A command and staff. Thank you.

I think we all agree, however, that the true heroes of this country are the 67,000 ANA soldiers and the 79,000 ANP police who put their lives on the line every day. These young patriots have suffered over 1,500 KIAs already this year - almost the number of Coalition KIAs.

Every life lost is a tragedy, Afghan or coalition. Despite the daily tragedies, Afghans are signing up by the thousands to defend their country. Let us provide positive motivation and reinforcement, and they will willingly lead the way in the fight.

I hope you realize the significance of your individual mission within CSTC-A here and how much of a difference you can make. The work you do in CSTC-A directly contributes towards security and stability in this war-torn country. Yours is truly a noble cause, and part of an historic effort.

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

photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin

More than 200 Afghan National Police recruits stand ready at their graduation ceremony at the Konduz Regional Training Center in September. CSTC-A trained 20,000 recruits in the last year (see story on page 4).

photo by Petty Officer Douglas Mappin

Capt. Amandullah of the Afghan National Police accepts his graduation certificate from Col. Stephen G. Yackley, deputy to the commanding general, Police Development Combined Security, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

FDD graduates prepare to deliver promise

by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Two months ago, the 200 men now standing at attention before their leaders were students preparing for the Focused District Development police training course. Under a hot Afghan sun in September, the graduates stood ready to serve as fully trained guardians of their respective communities.

Col. Stephen G. Yackley, deputy to the commanding general, Police Development Combined Security, told the FDD graduates they will deliver on the promise of bringing stability to Afghanistan's districts.

"You bring much to your communities. You bring hope," Yackley said. "You bring hope that your people will be able to live in peace and security. I know you will do well as policemen back in your districts, and your people are very proud of your accomplishments."

This group reported to the Konduz Regional Training Center in July. While they were undergoing training, members of the Afghanistan National Civil Order Police protected their home communities.

The goal of the FDD program is to take Afghan National Police from their home communities, train, equip them and return them home as a professional police force—one that will bring a heightened ability to protect and serve their people—and one free of the corruption that has plagued the ANP in the past.

The students were provided new uniforms, gear, medical screenings and most importantly, training which would teach them to become a trustworthy police force. Classroom training included topics such as Afghan law, police ethics and leadership.

For this graduating class, two members received a first-time award, the Col. Quayum Leadership Award, named after a former FDD student who was killed by a suicide bomber in July.

Graduates Capt. Amandullah of the Konduz's Iman Sahip district and Mohammed Ishaq of the Andar district accepted the award from their instructors.

"This certificate means we are doing a good job," said Ishaq. "We learned a great deal here and hope to take that back to our provinces. I am proud to receive this award."

Amandullah, a 24-year veteran of his police department, agreed with his fellow graduates' assessment. He said their training would help them be better police officers when they return home.

"We received much more training than we have ever had before," Amandullah said. "We learned more about using our weapons, and our American instructors' teachings were a great improvement from the past."

Amandullah said he looked forward to returning home to his district so that he could use what he has learned at the training center.

"This will be useful when we return home and we can help teach our new recruits," Amandullah said. "We want to make a difference in our communities."

Ishaq said the training their American mentors provided will make all the difference for the future of the ANP.

"We are a new police," he said.

Marines use "cop on the beat" tactics

by U.S. Marine Cpl. Steve Cushman
Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division

As a squad of Marines walks in a tactical column through a bazaar in the Helmand Province, they approach a shop with a sign advertising electronic items for sale. The Marines pause and set up security while the squad leader and interpreter enter the shop to talk to the store owner.

By building a rapport with the store owners and other locals, the Marines hope to saturate every aspect of Afghan society.

"Saturation of the society enables us to know when and how the Taliban are operating, and deny them access to materials they need to build improvised explosive devices. We do that by always being present in the marketplaces where the components for the bombs they use are sold," said Ralph E. Morten, a senior counter-insurgency advisor with Lockheed Martin.

This process of patrolling the bazaars and building rapport with locals is similar to the way the police officers in major cities operate to root out criminal activity.

The Marines of Company E, Task Force 2d Battalion, 7th Marine Regiment, 1st Marine Division., Combined JoinTask Force Phoenix, learned the techniques of patrolling like a "cop on the beat" from Morten.

A retired Los Angeles police officer with 34 years on the force, Morten is a counter-terrorism and counter-IED expert who has also spent time training with the Israeli National Police.

"The Echo Company Marines have been fantastic at adapting to cop on the beat patrols, especially after having already been in the area of operations for five months before receiving the training," Morten said.

Within the first week, Echo Co. Marines were able to identify the stores where Taliban bomb makers could acquire the electronics and components to build improvised explosive devices.

"Before we learned the cop-on-the-beat patrolling system, we would patrol through the bazaar and back without stopping," said Cpl. Michael A. Brown Jr., a 2nd platoon squad leader and Bellflower, Calif., native. "Now, we have a reason to go into the shops. We know we're not going to find the Taliban in the shops, but we now know what to look for."

This method of patrolling has been used with great success in Iraq's Al Anbar Province. The same concept was used in Fallujah and is one of the reasons the province has since become a model city.

"If we can apply the same things in Afghanistan that have been used in Anbar, we'll see improvements in our ability to deny the enemy the materials they need to attack us," said 1st Lt. James C. McKendree, 2nd platoon commander and Pearland, Texas, native. "The situation here is more complex than in Iraq, because the networks are harder to track. This is going to be a lengthy process. It's not something that is going to happen in a week or a month."

Another critical aspect of using the cop-on-the-beat system is to be able to identify people displaying unusually nervous behavior whenever the Marines enter the vicinity. According to Morten, everyone gets a little nervous when a police car pulls in behind them, but not everyone immediately takes off running. Using the system, Marines are taught to become aware of people displaying excessive nervous behavior.

"Patrolling this way is making the Marines focus more on the little things," said Sgt. Zachary R. Alexander, a 2nd platoon squad leader and Forney, Texas, native. "It's teaching the Marines to look at people more intently to be able to identify the people who might be up to no good."

The key of the cop-on-the-beat system is to identify the problems and take action. It works on the premise that every Marine is a collector of information. Each Marine is also made aware of the components that make up the IEDs they face and suspicious behavior that could lead to the identification of individuals who could pose a threat.

photo by U.S. Marine Cpl. Steve Cushman

Ralph E. Morten (left), a senior advisor for counter-insurgency with Lockheed Martin, discusses visiting a shop that sells cellular phones, which can be used as a key component in detonating an improvised explosive device. Morten, a 34-year veteran of the Los Angeles Police Department, came to Helmand Province to teach Echo Company Marines the methods of patrolling the streets like a police officer.

photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Graham

(Above) ANA Commandos stand in formation during a graduation and validation ceremony held at Camp Morehead.

(Left top) Air Force Maj. Gen. Jay Lindell, Combined Air Power Transition Force commanding general, presents a unit validation certificate to a unit commander during the graduation ceremony.

(Left bottom) ANA Gen. Hamayon Fawzi presents a command pennant to the commander of 5th Commando kandak.

Afghan Commandos ready to battle Taliban

by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn Graham
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Afghanistan is known for its rugged terrain and harsh climate, but with the success of the Afghan National Army Commandos, the country will be known for soldiers who are even more rugged.

During a ceremony held at Camp Morehead, a battalion from the ANA was recognized by top officials as a new, combat-ready kandak (battalion).

The Afghan Ministry of Defense director of training, Gen. Hamayon Fawzi, was pleased when reviewing the kandak, touting their toughness and resolve to complete any mission.

"These soldiers are the best we have to offer," said Fawzi. "They can chase the Taliban anywhere. Soon there will be nowhere for the Taliban to hide. The commandos will make sure of it."

Commando units have a variety of special capabilities which enable them to conduct covert operations, most notably a broad range of deployment skills which include parachuting and airborne rappelling. Each kandak is partnered with U.S. Special Operations Forces.

"This is a great thing for Afghanistan," said an Army Special Forces commander. "They will be the driving force that maintains peace and order in remote areas of the nation. Getting their hands on that certificate means a lot to each one of them. They deserve it."

Together, Fawzi and Maj. Gen. Jay Lindell, Combined Air Power Transition Force commander and Brig. Gen. Anthony Ierardi, chief of staff Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan, presented certificates of validation to the commanders of the three units.

Upon receiving their certificate, each of the commanders turned, faced the formation of soldiers and yelled, "I will serve my country!"

The ANA's Commando program is modeled after the high standards, superior discipline and leadership of the U.S. Army Ranger battalions. They provide the Afghanistan government an enhanced capability to conduct dangerous counter-insurgency operations throughout the country.

"The recognition of their validation provides a sense of accomplishment," said Army Capt. James Price, operations officer. "And it shows why this program continues to be the most successful in the country.

"They are in the front now, leading their own operations and being successful. They are the future of this country."

The kandak will be deploying to Masar-e-Sharif, where it will conduct counter-insurgency operations. There are currently four other Commando kandaks currently conducting combat operations throughout Afghanistan.

Driving to the heart of the Taliban

by Seaman Tim Newborn
CSTC-A Public Affairs

From gravel trails to blacktop, no electricity to solar panels, the beginning of a new road project within the central district of Kapisa, Afghanistan, brings hope of self-sustainment.

An engineering kandak (battalion) of the Afghan National Army 201st Corps is building a road that will join the southern district of Sorobi to the northern Tagab district and will run through Tagab valley, an area know as a Taliban safe-haven.

"They're not only pushing north to the heart of the Taliban, but pushing the Taliban out of the heart of Afghanistan," said Tennessee Army National Guardsman Maj. Neal Kerney, Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan mentor for the 201st Corps and native of Kingsport, Tenn.

After completing a poppy eradication mission in May, soldiers of the 201st corps worked to completely secure the southern part of the valley so that the construction could get underway.

"This is an ANA conceived and executed operation that demonstrates a long term approach to sustainment," said Marine Col. Jeff Haynes, Regional Police Advisory Command-Central commander and native of Austin, Texas.

Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Rahim Wardak, 201st Corps commander, authorized the construction to begin, and in June, the first stages of the Kapisa road project started.

Presently, the only road that leads through the volatile area is known as Jalalabad pass, a steep route surrounded by mountainous terrain. It can take anywhere from three to 12 hours to travel the 50-60 kilometers from Surobi to Kabul.

"With this new road in place this will cut the drive time in half," said Kerney.

photo by Seaman Tim Newborn

Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Rahim Wardak, 201st Corps commander, confers with village elders about a ongoing road project in Kapisa province. The new road will join the southern district of Sorobi to the northern Tagab district.

Once the Kapisa road project is complete, it will allow for the current 2,500 vehicles per day an alternate route to travel around the surrounding cities instead of driving through them.

As time passes it is anticipated that this road will not only act as a bypass but will also provide an easier way to export goods made locally, which will help the economy in Kapisa.

"It's the 495 of Afghanistan," said Haynes referring to the Capital Beltway that encircles Washington, D.C.

The Kapisa road project started with Kam Shenkay, the most southern province in the valley, and has opened the window to many other projects. It will include two wells being built in Tagab Valley, construction of a community center, and saffron, wheat and pomegranate farming instead of poppy, with help from United States Agency for International Development.

Afghan farmers from that region will also be provided electric refrigeration units from the Ministry of Energy to store produce from their crops.

The results of development in Kam Shenkay will determine the future of the Kapisa road project and future approaches to projects like it.

"The intended effect is to stimulate the local economy and for the Afghan Army and Police to contribute to and secure the district," said Haynes. "The ANA is out there making this happen for their people.

"Consider it a creeping barrage of goodness," he said.

Beside road construction, solar power will also be introduced as an alternative power source for the provinces in the valley.

To establish sustained security, the ANA are also constructing forward operating bases for the soldiers, then checkpoints for the ANP along the new road.

This project is a joint effort with many organizations coming together from across the country, said Haynes.

"The local community is also doing their part by alerting the ANA or police officials of any Taliban in the area to ensure the safety of the workers who are trying to make the community a better place," said Haynes.

Through safety, security and innovation the Kapisa road project in Kam Shenkay is an example for all of Afghanistan explained Haynes.

"Kam Shenkay is a shining light of cooperation," said Haynes. "This project and more like it are the foundation for a better Afghanistan and ensure the nation's future success."

photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio

An Afghan National Army Air Corps quick reaction force soldier stands guard during an emergency response exercise recently at the Kabul Air Corps Training Center in Afghanistan.

Afghan Air Corps supports ANA expansion

by Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio
CSTC-A Public Affairs

The Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan will nearly double the size of the Afghan National Army over the next six years from a current strength of more than 66,000 to 134,000. This expansion means a similar increase in the Army's Air Corps and its ability to bring Afghan soldiers, equipment and air power to the fight.

The Air Corps has shown significant growth in the last year. Eight months ago, 90 percent of the troop and cargo lift for the Afghan National Security Forces was done by NATO's International Security Assistance Force. Today, that percentage is transported by Afghan pilots in Air Corps aircraft.

A recent Air Corps emergency response exercise at the Kabul Air Corps Training Center gave the Air Corps' emergency response element a chance to showcase their ability to support the rapidly expanding Afghan Army.

The Air Corps' fire department and security force's quick reaction force exercised their skills and knowledge in aircraft structure, fire response, medical training and crisis action to put out a real aircraft fire and secure the scene for medical response.

The emergency response exercise not only put training to the test but also gave the responders a chance to exercise their capability to work as a team and cohesive emergency response element.

Ensuring the Air Corps' fire department, security and medical forces were working together is a priority for the U.S. mentors here, according to Air Force Master Sgt. Mike Marascia, a mentor for the fire department assigned to the Combined Air Power Transition Force, a part of the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan.

Earlier this year, a lack of communication between Afghan emergency response elements during a dormitory fire resulted in a necessary shift in the focus of training, Marascia said. The emergency response exercise strengthened coordination between the security forces and the fire department.

During the emergency response exercise, the Air Corps' QRF arrived on scene, and set up a cordon, or barrier, around the simulated downed aircraft to keep people from getting too close.

"In an actual emergency like an aircraft fire, the firefighters will have a dangerous job and any additional unnecessary hazards, like on-lookers near the incident, will create the potential for a disaster," Marascia said. "It can result in the already low-manned fire department diverting attention from fire extinguishment to rescue."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Fox, a mentor for the QRF assigned to CAPTF, said the exercise was a great chance for the Afghan Air Corps' security forces to see why their training was so important.

"Exercises allow us not only to see what areas need improvement, but allow soldiers to see the reasoning behind some of the tactics we teach them," Fox said. "For a good portion, it is easier for them to learn during practice than trying to explain it in a classroom."

Both mentors said the training also helps the Afghans learn to react to scenarios that aren't exactly planned.

"Exercises allow us not only to see what areas need improvement, but allow soldiers to see the reasoning behind some of the tactics we teach them."

Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Fox, CAPTF QRF mentor

"One of the water hoses on the truck had a hole in it, and my guys reacted and got another hose going," Marascia said. "It shows they are trained and can react to situations that they aren't necessarily expecting." Fox said the QRF also had to think on their feet.

"The original cordon they set up was not big enough, so they adjusted as needed," Fox said. "This shows us that they understand and can apply the training we have done with them."

Training exercises like this will continue to strengthen the Afghan Air Corps' response elements, according to the mentors. With the help of the mentors, the fire department and QRF plan to carry out monthly exercises in the future, adding a sense of realism to the ongoing classroom training.

The Afghan Army expansion means more soldiers for the fight and the success of the force rests greatly on the strengths of the Air Corps. The accomplishments of the Air Corps in the past year have showcased the fledgling corps' capabilities and potential for support in the future.

(Above) An Afghan National Army Air Corps fire department member extinguishes a fire on a Mi-35 helicopter during an emergency response exercise recently at the Kabul Air Corps Training Center in Afghanistan.

Members of the ANA quick reaction force stand at attention during a post-mission briefing afteran emergency response exercise conducted at Kabul Air Corps Training Center.

Members of the ANAAC firefighting team conduct a vehicle inspection ensuring there are no fires in any of the helicopter's compartments.

AROUND CSTC-A

Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan

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photo by Seaman Tom Newborn

An Afghan doctor at the Afghan National Military Hospital teaches his staff members how to use a life pack and defibrillator. The training is geared toward medical professionals about advancements made in medicine.

photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn D. Graham

Col. Jeff Haynes, congratulates an ANA soldier, assigned to 4th Kandak, 2nd Brigade, after explosives training conducted near a new-forward operation base near the Naghlu dam in the Kapisa Province.

photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio

Air Force Capt. Samuel Shimp (center), a finance reform officer from CSTC-A's finance directorate, observes as an ANP recruit (right) ins entered into the ANP pay system before attending the eight-week Focused District Development training in Konduz.

photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin

Afghan National Army Class III, Bulk Fuel Commander, Col. Mahtabuddin slips a baseball cap onto a child's head during a recent humanitarian aid project with children from a local village in Kabul. Members from CSTC-A Class III Fuel Depot joined the ANA in distributing school supplies and toys.

photo by Seaman Tim Newborn

Cmdr. Monique Hollis-Perry, a Medical Embedded Training Team Mentor, prepares a "wounded" solider for a mass casualty exercise at the National Military Hospital, Kabul.

photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio

An ANAAC weapons ordnanceman inspects a 57mm rocket pod mounted on a Mi-35 helicopter.

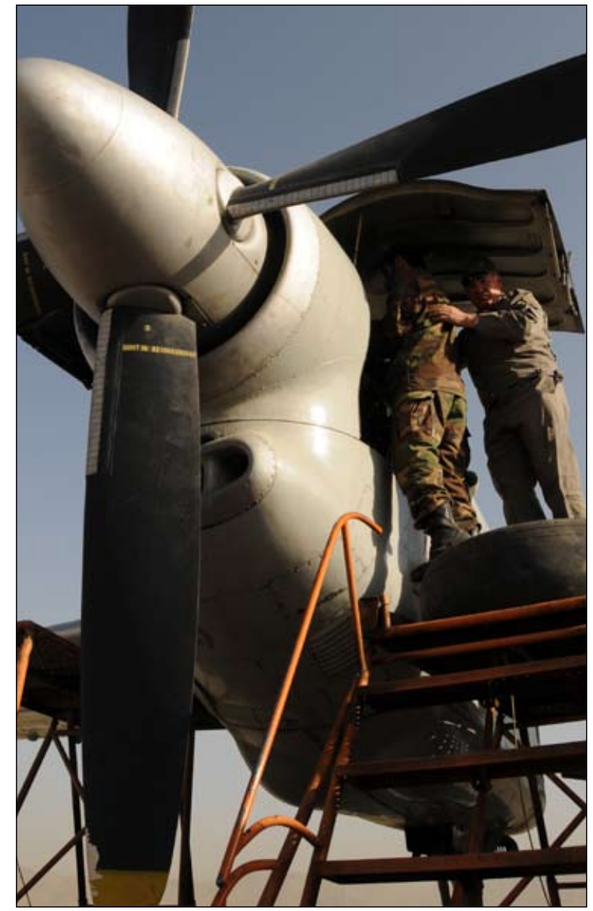

photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin

An ANAAC mechanic and his mentor inspect the engine of an AN-32 aircraft at the Kabul Air Corps staging area.

photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio

(Left) Maj. Gen. Jay Lindell, Combined Air Power Transition Force commanding general, speaks to servicemembers during a ceremony honoring the U.S. Air Force's 61st birthday Sept. 18 at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan.

(Above) Lt. Col. Mathies Santos, a reserve officer deployed from Quonset Point, R.I., Maj. Gen. Jay Lindell, Combined Air Power Transition Force commanding general, and Airman 1st Class Jordan Ramsey, a security forces airman deployed from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., cut the traditional birthday cake during a ceremony for the U.S. Air Force's 61st anniversary.

Servicemembers honor U.S. Air Force birthday

by Staff Sgt. Beth Del Vecchio
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Servicemembers from the Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan honored the 61st anniversary of the U.S. Air Force, Sept. 18, during a ceremony at Camp Eggers here.

The U.S. Air Force was established on Sept. 18, 1947, when the National Security Act was signed by President Harry S. Truman. Currently, the force has a strength of more than 300,000 personnel and more than 5,000 aircraft.

The day's celebration struck a chord with the airmen of CSTC-A, who work to mentor and advise members of the Afghan National Army Air Corps, the emerging air-power force of the Afghan National Army.

Keynote speaker Maj. Gen. Jay Lindell, Combined Air Power Transition Force commanding general, conveyed his pride in the history and heritage of the Air Force.

"President Truman not only created a separate air force, he built the foundation for today's Air Force, the most powerful air force in the world," he said. "Although the ceremony was short, the journey to get here was not."

Lindell spoke to the many accomplishments of the Air Force, taking servicemembers on a tour through history, comparing past and present.

"Although a lot of things have changed since 1947, one thing has not. Airmen are the heart of our Air Force," he said. "Without the dedication of our trained and motivated airmen, even the best technology is useless. The swiftest planes, the most powerful satellites are nothing without the people who supply, operate and maintain them."

Lt. Col. Mathies Santos, a reserve officer deployed from Quonset Point, R.I., said celebrating the US Air Force's birthday in Afghanistan was a the opportunity of a lifetime.

"You sort of lose track of different dates sometimes over here, but this one really stands out," he said. "We're celebrating our 61st, and we are helping to stand up the Afghan Air Corps."

Santos expressed great pride in the CSTC-A and CAPTF airmen and their part in building the Afghan Air Corps.

Snapshot of Progress

Afghan National Military Hospital

photo courtesy of Command Surgeon Office

Who: Afghan National Military Hospital

What: Progress in review

When: Sept. 18, 2008

Where: National Military Hospital, Kabul, Afghanistan

Activity: ANA and Coalition partners showcase teamwork, capability during training from their mentors

photos by Seaman Tim Newborn

by Seaman Tim Newborn
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Afghan National Military Hospital Staff members and Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan Embedded Training Team mentors are improving daily operations within the facility by upgrading medical equipment and improving internal communications to increase the overall efficiency of the hospital.

"We are working alongside the doctors to assist them while they implement and use new equipment and techniques that they are unfamiliar with," said Lt. Cmdr. Kate Schexneider, physician mentor for CSTC-A.

The new equipment includes four double-headed microscopes, used for diagnosis and cross examination of a specimen, provides the clinicians with the ability to confirm one another's diagnosis and also can be used as a training tool.

Dr. Mira-Jan Nasser, pathology chief for the Afghan National Military Hospital, is the only pathologist within the Afghan National Army. With more than 40 years experience in the field, he explained why the equipment is necessary for improvement and further development of medical education.

"The equipment is very new, sophisticated and provides a good quality image used for diagnosis," says Nasser. "These instruments are vital to our operation here for continuing education within the (pathology) field."

ANA joins forces with CSTC-A on VCR mission

by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin
CSTC-A Public Affairs

Joining forces with the soldiers from the Afghan National Army, servicemembers from Combined Security Transition Command-Afghanistan presented food, blankets, first-aid kits, personal hygiene kits and other items to assist needy families last month.

The volunteer community relations program at Camp Eggers is a humanitarian effort providing assistance to Afghan families living in poverty.

According to Lt. Col. Juan Montoya, CSTC-A inspector general, servicemembers from CSTC-A visit different communities and schools in the Kabul area nearly every week, and have been doing so for the past two years.

"This is the first time we have joined together with the ANA for a VCR mission," Montoya said. "And it is a great way for them to present a humanitarian face to their people. We are excited to join with them."

While most of the U.S. servicemembers played soccer and football with the children in an adjoining field, another group including ANA soldiers unloaded a truckload of food staples and other items, which would provide aid to the 80 families selected to receive humanitarian assistance.

Working together, the two teams stood side-by-side passing black garbage bags down the line where they awaited distribution to the needy families. Food, blankets and other household items would provide aid as the winter months approach.

During this VCR mission ANA Command Sgt. Maj. Safi Roshan and more than 20 men from his command assisted in handing out food and goods to the people of the village.

According to Montoya, Safi knew of a number of communities needing aid and suggested his men join CSTC-A on a VCR mission. Once arrangements were made, the two teams coordinated distribution of the care packages.

"My people will not forget the good heart of Americans," Safi said. "I want to thank the volunteers for taking the time to time to help my people."

photos by Petty Officer 1st Class Douglas Mappin

Cmdr. James Johnson (left) and a member of the Afghan National Army (right) hand food staples, blankets and household goods to an Afghan citizen during a recent joint ANA/CSTC-A volunteer community relations mission.

Want to get involved?

Volunteer Community Relations
is the way to go!

For more information contact
Army Lt. Col. Juan Montoya at 237-1076
or visit Camp Eggers'
One Team web page to see
photos of past visits.

Weekly VCR trips provide food,
clothing, toys and school supplies
to local area families in need.

Afghan National Army Command Sgt. Maj. Safi Roshan hands out bags of flour and other food staples to Afghan women during the first ANA/CSTC-A joint volunteer community relations mission.

Warrior of the Month

photo by Air Force Tech Sgt. Penny Humphrey

U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Fox

Home station: Beale AFB, Calif.
Hometown: Grand Junction, Colo.
What is your past deployment experience? Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia (security/Personnel Security Detachment), Camp Bucca, Iraq (ASO/combat patrols)
What is your job at your home duty station? Section 4/ Unit Deployment Manager
Job title and unit: Quick Reaction Force Platoon Mentor, ACAG KAIA
What is your job here? I help train and mentor the Afghan National Army Security Forces and QRF.
Best part of the deployment: Seeing the success the Afghans have during exercises and working with the QRF.
Deployment Goals: To ensure no one needs to follow in my footsteps
Life after deployment: Go back to work and spend time with my wife and children.
What book are you reading now? "*Kite Runner"*
What are your hobbies? Motocross and any other sport
What do you miss most back home? My wife and kids
What do you feel is your greatest accomplishment since joining the military? The experience I have been able to gain from doing a wide variety of tasks.
What is the best piece of advice you have ever been given? The best advice I've received is to pay attention and never be afraid to step up.

Supervisor says: Even though Staff Sgt Fox is the most junior member of the Security Forces Advisor team, he has had an absolutely tremendous impact on the overall ACAG mission. He has single-handedly made tremendous strides with the Afghan Air Corps, all on his own initiative and with very little oversight from me. He has the integrity, ingenuity and initiative we look for in our best and brightest Air Force members.

Supervisor name and duty title: Air Force Master Sgt. John Pickford, Security Forces Advisor

Camp Eggers Salutes

The following individuals for earning the Bronze Star Medal: **Army Lt. Col. Angus A. S. Mac Donald**, ANA Force Integration Team.

The following individuals for earning the Defense Meritorious Service Medal: **Air Force Lt. Col. James Mullins**, Command Surgeons Office; **Lt. Col. Robert Selembo,** Chief of the ANP; Maj. John Anderson, ANA Program Mgr.; **Air Force Master Sgt**. **Billie J. Wilson**, ANP Counter Narcotics Program; **Marine Staff Sgt. Paul A. Roberts**, NMCC; **Air Force Master Sgt. Arthur A. Tuskes**, Protective Services Detail; **Air Force Tech Sgt. Garrett M. Knight**, Protective Services Detail; **Air Force Staff Sgt. Daniel E. Wanhala**, Protective Services Detail; **Air Force Maj. Jeannine Ryder,** Combined Air Power Transition Force.

The following individuals for earning the Joint Service Commendation Medal: **Air Force Captain Ryan H. Shoemaker, JVB; Air Force Capt. Dion S. Fisher,** ANP Special Programs**; Army Master Sgt. Frederick R. Tretasco,** ANP Plans and Policy Division**; Army Staff Sgt. Richard C. L. Jack-James,** CJ-Engineering**; Air Force 1st Lt. Stephen P. Rolen**, Joint Visitor Bureau; **Army Spc. Feri N. Shalbaf**, Intelligence Directorate; **Air Force Staff Sgt. James G. Grogan**, Protective Services Detail; **Air Force Staff Sgt. Devlin L. Skillman**, Protective Services Detail; **Staff Sgt. Dana L. Richey**, Protective Services Detail; **Senior Airman Lynwood S. Bateman**, Protective Services Detail; **Senior Airman Shane W. Hamilton**, Protective Services Detail; **Senior Air Force David C. Zuber**, Protective Services Detail; **Airman 1st Class Jordan H. Ramsey**, Protective Services Detail.

photo by Petty Officer 1st Class Shawn D. Graham

Pride in duty and country

An Afghanistan National Army commando raises his unit's validation certificate during a graduation ceremony hosted at Camp Morehead in Kabul. The kandak units will be forward deployed to Masar-e-Sharif where they will conduct counter-insurgency operations in remote regions of the country.