

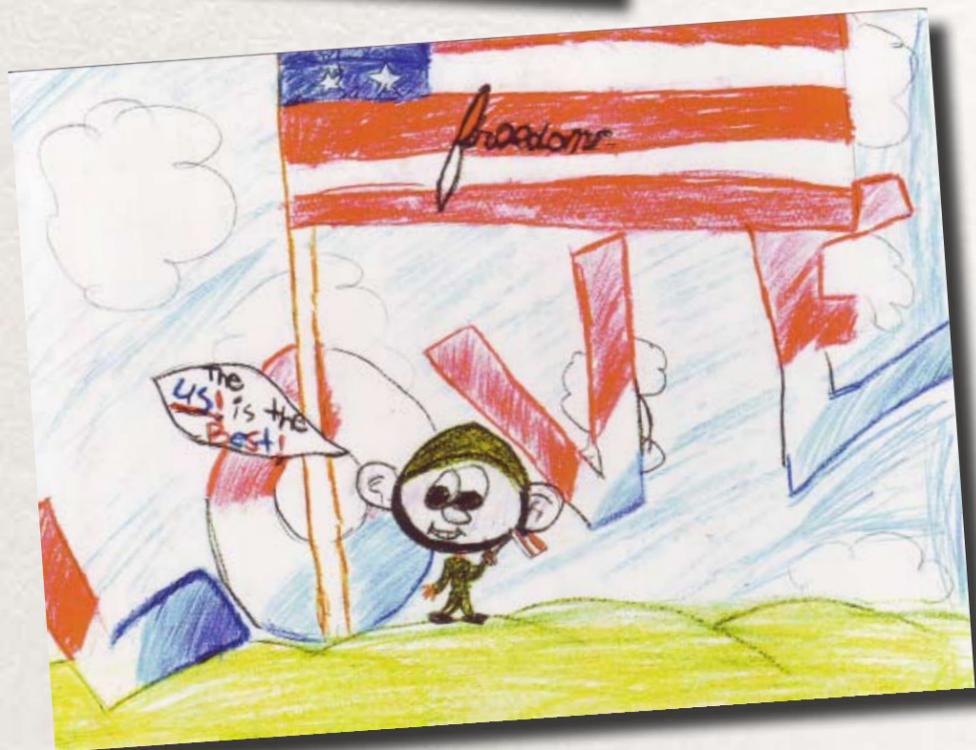
# FREEDOM WATCH AFGHANISTAN

July 2009

All Americans  
help Afghans  
'iron-out'  
issues  
pg 31



# from the kids



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4

Air operation brings humanitarian aid to northeastern Afghanistan

8



Chosin stop timber-smuggling donkeys

10



Airmen detonate Soviet ordnance

18

American hospital holds health fair



22

ADT cultivates progress



Cover photo by Spc. Ida Tate, 7th Signal Brigade PAO

Paratroopers from the 82nd Airborne Division Special Troops Battalion, Company B ready an MRAP before departing Bagram Air Field on June 20, to meet with local leaders.



Commissioned into the Infantry in June of 1978 after graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point

In 1984, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti completed the Infantry Officer Advanced Course at Ft. Benning

In July of 1989, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti served as the Operations Officer for the 1st Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, 10th Mountain Division

From May 1994 to April 1996, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti commanded 3rd Battalion, 325th Airborne Combat Team, Southern European Task Force in Vicenza, Italy

In 1998, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti served as the Chief of the Army Initiatives Group in the Deputy Chief of Staff's Office for Operations and Plans in Washington, DC.

In 1999, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti commanded the 2nd Brigade, 82nd Airborne Division.

From July 2001 through July 2003, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti served as the Assistant Deputy Director for Joint Operations on the Joint Staff in Washington DC.

From July 2003 to July 2004, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti served as the Assistant Division Commander (Maneuver) for the 1st Armored Division during OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

From August 2004 to July 2006, Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti served as the 69th Commandant of Cadets, United States Military Academy, at West Point.

Maj. Gen. Scaparrotti assumed command of the 82nd Airborne Division.



Combined Joint Task Force-82  
Bagram Air Field, Afghanistan  
June 3, 2009

Leaders of CJTF-82 and RC-E:

It is with great pride and honor that I assume the role of Commander, CJTF-82 and RC-E. The CJTF-101 staff and command achieved significant accomplishments over the last 15 months and made a positive and enduring impact across Afghanistan. It is our charter to compliment these efforts by continuing to build and reinforce the Afghan government's competence, capacity, and credibility. I look forward to working with each and every one of you in accomplishing this goal.

The next year promises to be a crucial year in the Afghanistan campaign. The increased troop presence in Afghanistan, coupled with a robust partnership program and a renewed focus on governance and development will bring visible gains in the expansion of essential services to the Afghan people. The historic and precedence setting elections later this summer represent a significant step for the Afghan people and, ultimately, the future of this country.

Remember always, we operate by, with and through our Afghan Partners we protect the Afghan People; and we link the them to their government.

The *All Americans* are honored to stand beside you as a coalition of nations, shoulder to shoulder with the Afghan people, unified in our effort, determined in our mission, and confident in our success.

All the Way!

Curtis M. Scaparrotti  
Major General, US Army  
Commanding



To the great Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines and civilians of CJTF-82:

It's been just under a month since our Task Force assumed control of eastern Afghanistan and we're off to a remarkable start in this short amount of time. Despite being tested every day, our team is motivated to make a difference here. We stand committed to protect the Afghan people by, with and through the Afghan National Security Forces.

This is my fifth deployment to Afghanistan and I know there are many other Servicemen and women who have completed multiple tours of duty here in Afghanistan. It takes a diverse, combined, joint team to be successful and your experience is critical to our Task Force. Your discipline and training enable you to accomplish any task handed to you.

Discipline and adherence to standards are what help us maintain our readiness and keep our focus sharp through the course of our deployment so it is important to know the standards, know what right looks like, and conduct yourself accordingly.

The CJTF-82 PAM 600-2.1 lays out what is expected of you on a day to day basis; incorporating everything from uniform standards to military courtesy and health and welfare. Every Servicemember and civilian in CJTF-82 should not only abide by the standards but also enforce them. If you haven't seen this pamphlet you need to inquire with your NCO support chain and ensure you get a copy. It is also available on the CJTF SIPR portal under the CSM section.

It is critical that every member of our task force stay focused on safety. Just like a live fire range, every one of us has the responsibility to call a cease fire when we witness an unsafe act. It is also critical that each member of the team understand weapons clearing procedures and maintain the proper weapons posture at all times. Our goal is ZERO negligent discharges and I need each of you to help achieve that goal. There is no reason we should have non-battle injuries if each member of the team is vigilant regarding safety. A proper physical fitness regimen, hydration, and adherence to policies and standards will go a long way in protecting the force.

Finally, I would personally like to thank each and every one of you for your service to our Nation, the Combined Joint Task Force and the people of Afghanistan. Continue to strive for excellence, be vigilant and enforce the standard. Your efforts in this very important mission do not go unnoticed and are very much appreciated.

Airborne, All the Way!!

  
Thomas R. Capel  
Command Sergeant Major, USA  
CJTF-82 CSM

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel entered the military in October of 1977 where he attended basic training at Ft. Jackson.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel completed advanced infantry training at Ft. Benning. From 1977 to 1981, Command Sgt. Maj. Capel served in the 1st Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel's other assignments include: Ft. Kobbe, Panama; Ft. Jackson; USAER and US Army Europe, Germany; and ROTC in Columbus, Ga.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel served as the Battalion Sergeant Major for the 1st Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment from September 2001 to July 2003.

From July 2003 to May 2006, Command Sgt. Maj. Capel served as the Regimental Command Sergeant Major for the 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel became the 22nd Division Command Sergeant Major for the 82nd Airborne Division in May of 2006.

Command Sgt. Maj. Capel's duty positions include: Rifleman, MG Gunner, Team Leader, Squad Leader, Drill Sergeant, NCOA instructor, Assistant Operations Sergeant, Operations Sergeant, ROTC Instructor, First Sergeant, Battalion Command Sergeant Major, and Regimental Command Sergeant Major.

# Winds of change

Story and Photos by Spc. Jason Dorsey  
1-178 Inf. Regt., 3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO

HELICOPTERS  
BRING MORE  
THAN  
HUMANITARIAN  
AID TO LAGH-  
MAN PROVINCE;  
THEY BRING  
HOPE OF FUTURE  
PROGRESS AND  
PROSPERITY.



Commander Mohammed Jan, ANA Recon 4/2/201st Kandak commander, hands humanitarian assistance supplies to villagers during Longbow III in the village of Garmunay, Laghman province on May 23.



The 1st 178th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard delivers two humanitarian aid loads to the village of Garmunay in Laghman province on May 23. Four kicker box loads were flown in by a CH-47 Chinook. During the mission, Key Leader Engagements were conducted and humanitarian assistance was delivered to help local Afghans.



Laghman Province Deputy Governor Murtaza Hedayt Qalandarzai speaks to the media during the key leader engagement in Garmunay Village, Laghman province on May 23. The deputy governor stressed to the villagers of his province that ISAF is in Afghanistan to help rebuild and to assist with security.

For the third time in a year, an air assault mission in the Laghman province of northeastern Afghanistan provided humanitarian aid and coordinated information-exchange efforts between locals and International Security Assistance Forces leaders concerning ongoing counterinsurgency operations in the area.

On May 24, members of the 1st Battalion, 178th Infantry Regiment of the Illinois National Guard, Provincial Reconstruction team, Kansas Agriculture Development Team, Marine Embedded Training Team and the Afghan National Army conducted Operation Longbow III, which was a Key Leader Engagement to provide humanitarian assistance in the province.

“The mission was important to the area because it is our fourth major effort to link the people of this remote region with [Afghan government] officials in Laghman province,” said Maj. Jack Erwin, a Civil Military Operations officer from St. Charles, Ill.

Through fields of wheat, Soldiers were greeted by locals who led them to the village elders, where the KLE was held

with local government officials, including Murtaza Hedayt Qalandarzai, Deputy Governor of Laghman province, and Col. Mohammed Jan, 201st ANA Recon 4/2/201st Kandak commander.

During the meeting, village elders expressed the hardships they endure on a daily basis because of the lack of such essentials as clean water and electricity.

“Agricultural issues are the main concern for the people of Garmunay Village, with water and good fertilizer being very scarce items,” Col. Eric C. Peck, 1-6 Kansas Agriculture Development Team commander, said.

After listening to the issues from the village elders, the military leaders reassured them of their cooperation and intent for provincial reconstruction efforts in the area. In return the locals will report insurgent activity to ISAF Forces and will not assist in Anti-Afghan activities.

“In coordination with [Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan], PRT Laghman is planning a road project that runs along the old spice route which will connect the people of the Galuch with the rest of Laghman province,” Erwin said.

“That road will eventually bring more projects, development and governance in the long run. The mission will help decrease the influence of [militants] in the area and will help build the relationship with GIROA, the PRT and also the new Agricultural Development Team who can assist farmers throughout the province.”

A general description of why U.S. Forces are in Afghanistan was also a burning question for some of the local nationals attending the meeting.

Each commander explained to the people how his unit works and how they were there to work in close coordination with Afghan Forces to assist the Afghan government to be successful until their assistance is no longer needed and ISAF forces can go home.

At the end of the meeting the TF Bayonet commander announced to the crowd that they brought humanitarian aid products for the village as a show of concern and support from the Afghan Government.

“The people of the area need [humanitarian assistance] because they are poor and live in a very remote area in

western Mehtar Lam province,” Erwin said. “They primarily survive through subsistence agriculture, growing wheat in the area. There is little commerce because of the remoteness.”

Soon thereafter, a large crowd of Afghans surrounded the white kicker boxes full of HA products. The village elders took charge of the excited crowd and began establishing order by forming lines, and distributed different items from the boxes. The ANA along with village elders handed out flour, sugar, beans, rice, and radios to the locals.

“The local elders and villagers reacted positively to the HA, smiling and thanking the ANA, deputy governor and ISAF leaders,” Erwin said.

Overall, the mission was a success, offering a chance for the Laghman residents, ANA and ISAF leadership to meet and discuss development in the area and build relationships.

“Longbow III was a success because it was free of enemy interaction,” said Lt. Col. Daniel J. Fuhr, TF Bayonet commander. “More importantly, it extended the opportunity for the deputy governor of Laghman province to meet with its constituencies in such a remote location.”

# Class is in session

## Kunar PRT begins construction on first of many schools

Story and Photos by Lt. j.g James Dietle  
Kunar PRT, 3rd BCT, 1st Inf. Div., PAO



Teachers of Tornaou Village in Kunar province, Afghanistan, conduct classes under trees to mitigate the intense summer heat, June 2.

Education has become a key focus in Kunar province for the Provincial Reconstruction Team, which has mapped out a construction plan estimated at \$15.9 million to build 58 schools along the border in Afghanistan.

"The PRT believes education plays a vital role in rebuilding Afghanistan," said Lt. Cmdr Rob Ross, the PRT engineering Officer in Charge.

The PRT inspected the ground-work for the first school in the Tornaou Village, of the Chowkay District, June 2.

Located on the border between Afghanistan and Pakistan, Kunar province is one of the most volatile areas in eastern Afghanistan. However, despite these difficulties, PRT Kunar has ambitiously planned to start the construction of the 58 schools before the end of 2009.

The Tornaou Village School holds a special significance to the members of PRT Kunar for several reasons.

"The Dewaygal Valley road was just completed in February and it has given us the chance to bring development further up the valley," Ross said. "We are continuing to build on our previous successes."

PRT Kunar has worked closely with the Kunar Department of Education and local district governors to prioritize the 58 locations where schools should be built to provide education for as many children as possible.

With each school housing around 300 students, the 58 schools

**“With the construction of these new buildings, children will have a place to learn every day, rain or shine.”**

**--Lt. Cmdr Rob Ross, the PRT engineering Officer**



On the new school site, Kunar PRT Commander, Murray J. Tynch quizzes children of Tornaou village in Kunar province on their spoken English lessons.



Villagers start construction for the school in Tornaou village. This two-story school is the first of 58 new schools projected for the Kunar province, Afghanistan.

to be built during the school expansion project should bring education to almost 18,000 students in Kunar. The school at Tornaou is the first to be constructed.

"Right now, Kunar's education infrastructure is in need of some help. Many villages do not have school buildings within walking distances. It is not uncommon to see children studying under the village tree. Extremes in weather can easily prevent classes from being held in these unsheltered areas. With the construction of these new buildings, children will have a place to learn every day, rain or shine," Ross said.

Like all PRT projects in Kunar, a local Afghan construction company is contracted to build the Tornaou Village School. The company uses local labor from the village, which creates better job opportunities and allows villagers to show pride in their work.

Since rich farmland is scarce throughout the Dewagal Valley, the school will have a unique two-story design. This design minimizes the footprint of the school to save valuable land that is better suited for farming. When complete it will be the tallest building in the small village. Over 300 boys and girls will be able to receive primary education at the facility.

"By increasing education we can raise the quality of lives for these children and families. We look forward to the time when the children of Kunar will all have the chance to be engineers, teachers and doctors," said Cmdr. Murray J. Tynch, Kunar PRT commander.

# Derailing donkeys

## Chosin battle wood smuggling in Kunar

Story by Sgt. Amber Robinson  
Task Force Spartan, PAO

Kunar province, a lush area near the Pakistan border, has in the past been a conduit for illegally smuggled goods from the Korengal Valley into Pakistan. Lately however, Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 32nd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Chosin, have been making a difference against one of the biggest culprits, timber smuggling.

“The enemy funds their operations a number of ways,” said Lt. Col. Mark O’Donnell, TF Chosin Commander. “They smuggle illegal gems, opium and timber.”

In the months following the fall of the Taliban, many insurgents fled to Pakistan where they continue to operate and help fund insurgency operations in Afghanistan. Various resources are imported across the border which fund weapons for enemy groups operating in Afghanistan.

The timber is mainly used for expensive, ornate furniture, produced exclusively in Pakistan.

Prior to the arrival of TF Chosin, the smuggling was a practically untouched practice, said officials in the battalion.

“Mostly the units before us did not have the troop strength that we have to combat the problem,” said O’Donnell.

Although drug and gem smuggling are both lucrative ways for the enemy to fund insurgency,

timber smuggling is even more lucrative.

Most of the timber comes through the Korengal valley and is then moved down the Konar River to strategic points. It is picked up by trucks and then moved up the Narang valley through the mountains into Pakistan.

Although the Pakistan border has various checkpoints that monitor traffic, the border is still porous. Trucks carrying the illegal timber can’t move through the checkpoints, so it is loaded onto the backs of donkeys and transported across the rough border terrain.

TF Chosin’s un-manned surveillance equipment has photographed and recorded the smuggling procedure on various occasions.

“We have plenty of footage,” said Capt. Nathaniel Miller, Company D Commander, TF Chosin. “What we’ve observed is a well-oiled process. These guys have been doing this for awhile and have their routine down to a science. Although the procedure may seem primitive, it works, and more lumber than we can imagine has been smuggled over the border in this way.”

Although trucks are used in certain stages of the smuggling, most of the movement is done via the Konar River with pack mules and donkeys.

“The wood is put into the river, where smugglers ride it like a raft to strategic pick-up sites,” said Miller. “The wood is only taken a short distance by truck until it is transferred onto donkeys for the last leg of the route into Pakistan.”

Strategic outposts have been erected by TF Chosin to hinder the timber flow, and they have caused much difficulty for smugglers.

“The outposts have definitely put a dent in the process,” said Miller. “Smugglers go so far with the wood and realize they can’t



Courtesy Photo

Soldiers of 1st Battalion, 32nd Inf. Regt., intercept illegal timber as it is smuggled through the Narang Valley in Kunar province, Afghanistan. Donkeys are the primary way that timber smugglers are able to export the timber without detection over the rough terrain of the Afghanistan-Pakistan border.

move with the same ease. They get to that point and simply dump the timber.”

Portions of the Narang Valley have become littered with abandoned illegal timber. The timber is usually confiscated and stored in Asadabad, the largest city near the Narang Valley.

Aside from the visible results, there are other indicators the task force has slowed the illegal trade.

“The price of illegal weapons have doubled,” said Miller. “We are also experiencing more focused attacks on our strategic outposts. The enemy is mad that we are putting a stop to this and are illustrating that through more vicious attacks.”

The illegal timber industry has been operational for years, but with smugglers now having Taliban connections, the involvement of International Security Assistance Force troops has been more evident.

“Currently we have met with all of our local Afghan leaders and all are aware of the problem,” said O’Donnell. “It was actually the governor of Kunar that brought the bla-

tant timber smuggling activity to our attention once we got here.”

As it stands, all money that comes from timber smuggling is spent in Pakistan. The only outcome Afghanistan usually sees from the exploitation of its natural resources is a well-armed and relatively well-funded insurgency.

“If Karzai (Afghan President Hamid Karzai) can turn this around and capitalize on the industry, it would not only bring more money to the country, but the cutting could be standardized and the resources protected. Right now, with no regulations, the Korengal’s timber could be in danger of being over-cut.”

Although many steps must be taken before the problem is solved, the troops of TF Chosin will continue to respond when called upon.

“Until Afghan officials can get a hold on how to fix this, we’ll fix it the best we know how,” said O’Donnell. “And that’s with strategic operations. In the future, hopefully things will be different, but for now we will handle the problem as it is.”

# Blown away!

## Airmen eliminate Soviet-era ordnance in village

The controlled detonation of a 250-pound Soviet-era bomb sends debris and smoke into the side of the adjacent mountain near Seya Khak village, Wardak province, June 6.

Story and Photos by Sgt. Rob Frazier  
5th MPAD

### They live by the motto “Initial Success or Total Failure”

What may sound like an all-or-nothing mentality is what motivates the Airmen of the three-man Explosive Ordnance Disposal team at Forward Operating Base Airborne.

“It’s a challenge to say the least,” said Senior Airman Cooper Gibson, serving his second deployment in Afghanistan. “It’s something different every time we go out. You never know what you’re going to come across.”

That included a 250-pound Soviet-era bomb discovered June 6 by members of the Afghan Public Protection Force in Seya Khak village.

“This was a former Soviet check point,” said Mahran Ali, commander for the APPF. “We were very worried. We knew it

could kill a lot of people.”

Later that afternoon, French soldiers operating out of Forward Operating Base Airborne were on patrol and were informed of the discovery by Ali and his team. The French took several photos and brought them to FOB Airborne to share with the EOD team.

“When the French brought in the photos, we were able to do some research and discovered this was in fact a bomb from the former Soviet Union,” said Tech Sgt. Van Hood, the Team Leader for EOD. “We knew we had to get rid of it before it fell into the wrong hands.”

Working with Catamount Soldiers from 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, EOD put together a plan to dispose of the bomb and ensure the safety of Seya Khak villagers.

According to Hood, EOD partnered with 2nd platoon Soldiers from Apache Company and Psychological Operations

troops operating out of a nearby Combat Outpost. The additional manpower was used to provide security, assist with communications and transport approximately 1,000 sandbags to the site.

“The sandbags are what we call protected works,” added Hood, who, along with Gibson is stationed at Seymour Johnson Air Force Base in Goldsboro, N.C. “They mitigate the effects of the blast, which helps keep fragments and debris from causing damage to the area.”

When the Soldiers rolled into town, they were greeted by members of the APPF and local nationals eager to see the U.S. forces.

“The Soldiers are always helping us,” said Usali Agha, the Seya Khak village representative. “We are happy to have them here. They care about us.”

The EOD team quickly moved closer to examine the bomb. A decision was made to detonate the bomb in its present location because, according to Hood, the fuse was active and in good condition.

Under the guidance of Hood, troops unloaded the sandbags and informed the village of nearly 5,000 people to clear the area for their safety. Hood stated the additional troops make a difference every time they go on mission, and are a key component in the EOD being able to focus on their objective.

“We can’t function without another element,” added Hood. “Their presence ensures security among other things, and allows us to focus on what we need to do without worrying about outside distractions.”

When Hood and his team were satisfied with the precau-

**“This was a former Soviet check point. We were very worried. We knew it could kill a lot of people.”**

**--Mahran Ali, APPF Commander**



Explosive Ordnance Disposal team leader, Tech Sgt. Van Hood, (far right) and an Afghan interpreter, speak with a Seya Khak village representative as Senior Airman Cooper Gibson and an Afghan National Army Soldier look on June 6. To ensure safety, the EOD asked the villagers to evacuate their homes prior to detonating the Soviet-era bomb.



**1:** Senior Airman Cooper Gibson displays one of the few remaining pieces of a detonated 250-pound Soviet-era bomb.



**2:** Airmen from the Explosive Ordnance Disposal team, from Forward Operating Base Airborne, work with 2nd platoon Soldiers from Company A, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment to load sandbags. Troops filled an estimated 1,000 sandbags during a mission in Seya Khak village, Afghanistan, before detonating a Soviet-era bomb.



**3:** A 250-pound Soviet-era bomb discovered by Afghans in Seya Khak village. It is believed the bomb had been buried at least 20 years.

tionary measures, he gave the go-ahead to Airman 1st Class Chris Townsend.

“Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole! Fire in the hole!” shouted Townsend, who is stationed at Royal Air Force Base Lakenheath, England.

Making the team’s intentions known, he pulled the primer to ignite the fuse and jumped in the back of the EOD Mine Resistant Ambush-Protected vehicle to move a safe distance from the explosion.

“We’re always busy, and it’s good,”

added Townsend as he peered through the windows of the MRAP.

After a few minutes, Hood gave the warning over the radio, “Thirty seconds!”

What took nearly twenty years to discover vanished 30 seconds later as a loud boom and black cloud rose among the mountains surrounding Seya Khak village.

After the smoke settled, the Soldiers, Airmen, and local Afghans made their way up to the site. All that remained

were a few small pieces that fit into the palm of Gibson and Hood’s hands.

“We were pretty pleased with the way things went today,” Hood stated. “We were successful in mitigating damage, no one was hurt, and the blast did not knock down any buildings.”

As the team walked away, Hood emphasized once again the goal of every EOD mission.

“Every one of these is a personal challenge, and if it’s out there, we will find a way to take care of it!”

# Artillerymen hone infantry skills in the field

Story and Photos by Sgt. Rob Frazier, 5th MPAD

Due to a change in battlefield conditions, Soldiers with 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, at Forward Operating Base Airborne have been training for more than six weeks to refine their infantry skills.

Sgt. 1st Class David Morin, platoon sergeant for 4th Battalion, said he has seen a decrease in artillery missions since his last tour in Afghanistan. This decreased need for artillery fire frees up Soldiers to

perform a wider variety of tasks.

The 25th is taking an infantry skills refresher course. That ‘refresher’ consists of combat rehearsal exercises that include cordon-and-search, improvised explosive device response, perimeter security operations and how to interact with local nationals.

“This training gives the Soldiers a wider variety of skills,” said Morin. “Yesterday we were running maneuver

drills and today we’re performing fire missions.”

Pfc. Jonathan Riley, 4th Battalion, said the opportunity to cross-train has been a rewarding experience.

“It’s good because we need to know how to provide back-up to our comrades outside the wire,” said Riley. “For me it’s also exciting because infantry was my first choice when I joined the Army. So now I get to do both!”



**Below:** Sgt. Rolla Hoehn, 4-25th Field Artillery Regiment, peers through the viewfinder of the M119A2 Howitzer to check his sight picture. Although the battery is preparing for infantry operations at Forward Operating Base Airborne, they still find time to maintain their proficiency with their artillery.

**Above:** Soldiers from 4-25th Field Artillery Regiment navigate across a creek during a dismounted patrol in Nerkh Valley, Afghanistan, June 4. The artillerymen recently began performing infantry operations in Wardak province.



# KUNAR OFFICIALS, SECURITY FORCES WORK TOGETHER TO INVESTIGATE ASADABAD ATTACK

Story and Photos by Lt. j.g. James Dietle  
Kunar PRT, 3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO

Coalition forces met with Afghan leaders June 10 to discuss an explosion that occurred in Asadabad city the previous day.

The Kunar Provincial Reconstruction Team and the Kunar governor reviewed the security forces' most recent findings, which included grenade fragments and a video of the attack from an unmanned aerial vehicle.

This evidence, which has been publicly released by security forces, demonstrated to both Governor Sayed Wahidi and General Jalal, Kunar's head of

police, that security forces were not responsible for the explosion.

"We have conducted this investigation after the attack very quickly and carefully. I have checked and all the grenades held by security forces members are accounted for. We know that none of them fired their weapons during the attack. I have shown you video of the event verifying that I am telling the truth of both accounts," said Commander Murray Tynch, commander of Kunar PRT.

Afghan and security forces officials jointly presented their findings to the vil-

lage elders of the Asadabad area.

"These are your people, these are my people, show them the truth and they will listen and believe you. It is your responsibility," stated Wahidi after giving them copies of the reports and findings.

The final event was a press conference with both local and international media to see the video and the Russian grenade fragments discovered at the scene.

Tynch narrated the video footage for the local Afghan leaders through an interpreter and explained what was happening in the video.

"Based on the evidence I have seen the grenade that was used in the attack is definitely of Russian design and not U.S.," said Wahidi. "All documents show only the facts about the explosion and no eye witness saw a coalition member throw a grenade."

During the outdoor press interviews, Tynch spoke on the current situation in Asadabad.

"This indiscriminate attack on the citizens of Asadabad is the second in two weeks. Asadabad was recently targeted by mortars that killed two and wounded 13. These attacks are not being conducted against security forces, but against innocent Afghans. We need your help to stop them [the attacks] from happening," Tynch explained.

"Some of the early reporting seems to be wrong," said Wahidi as the press conference ended. "Here is what we know now. We know there was a blast. We know from evidence that I have seen that it was a Russian F1 grenade. There was no small arms fire. We have seen footage that shows security forces did not attack or provoke our citizens. As we continue to investigate to find the perpetrators of this attack we will keep everyone informed on the event."



Cmdr. Murray Tynch meets with the Asadabad elders June 10, 2009, at the Kunar Governors compound showing them the evidence they gathered with ANSF. The elders examine the characteristics of the recovered grenade bits with those in the picture in Afghanistan.



After showing the grenade pictures and video of the attack, Governor Sayed Wahidi and Cmdr. Murray Tynch hold a press conference. Wahidi tells the press: "Now you have seen the evidence, you have seen the truth. Go out and tell the people."



Security forces deliver humanitarian aid to the Government of Kunar Province. The aid will be distributed among the local families who were injured in the blast. The aid consists of bags of food, pots and pans, blankets and other items to help families in their time of need. The event took place June 10, 2009, in Kunar province, Afghanistan.

# Troops celebrate America's 233rd birthday

Story and Photos by Capt. Michael Greenberger, 5th MPAD

U.S. Forces in Afghanistan kicked off the 4th of July with a rockin' ceremony marking America's 233rd birthday.

Two service members each from the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, eight in all, headlined the event by re-enlisting in their respective branches to extend their tours of duty.

On hand to administer their oath of enlistment was Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force-82 and Regional Command East.

"It was very special," said Navy Yeoman 3rd Class Marquell Vance, one of the servicemembers re-enlisting. "How many E-4s can say they were re-enlisted by the commanding general on the 4th of July?"

This is Vance's first re-enlistment in which he signed up for another three years of service with the Navy.

Following the re-enlistment ceremony Army Sgt. Jeannie Tauala took the stage to sing "America the Beautiful". As her voice filled the red, white and blue-clad "clamshell" tent, members of the audience, flushed with pride, burst into thunderous applause when she completed her song.

"It was a huge honor to sing that song on this day," Tauala said. "It was an honor not only to sing for the commander but for all the service members not in our homeland on this day. I feel blessed."

Following Tauala's patriotic song several service members read poems to the audience, such as Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Phillis Noiseaux's recitation dubbed "Wake the Memory of the Dead".

"The spirit of the poem itself captured my personal spirit" said Noiseaux.

"Pride does not come at any particular moment or opportunity. I was humbled today and my heart delivered."

After the ceremony concluded, the CJTF-82 Band relinquished the musical atmosphere to "No Reserve", a rock ensemble also provided by CJTF-82.

The military 5-piece rock band belted out hits ranging from Led Zeppelin to Fall Out Boy. Among their sets, an original song composed by guitarist Army Staff Sgt. Kevin Quinones called "Fallen Comrades".

"I was inspired by two fallen comrade ceremonies," Quinones said. "In one ceremony, an Air Force sergeant was overwhelmed with tears because she lost a buddy and it just hit me."

Playing guitar since 1992, Quinones wrote the lyrics and melody in ten minutes on the Bagram Airfield flight line.

Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force-82 and Regional Command East, administers the oath of enlistment to a group of servicemembers re-enlisting at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, during a ceremony July 4 marking America's 233rd birthday.



(From top left clockwise) Sgt. Jeannie Tauala sings "America the Beautiful"; Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, Commanding General, Combined Joint Task Force-82 and Regional Command East congratulates Staff Sgt. Shance Jeffries, after she re-enlisted at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, during a ceremony July 4 marking America's 233rd birthday, 82nd All American Band, Servicemembers attending the ceremony, Staff Sgt. Kevin Quinones, guitarist for the Combined Joint Task Force-82 rock band "No Reserve" plays while vocalist Spc. Christine Permenter sings to the beat of band-leader Sgt. 1st Class James Donahue, Navy Senior Chief Petty Officer Phillis Noiseaux recites a poem during a ceremony July 4 marking America's 233rd birthday.



Photo by Spc. Ryan V. Rodney, 25th Signal Battalion



Photo by Spc. Ryan V. Rodney, 25th Signal Battalion



# *On display*

## **American hospital holds health fair**

*Story and Photos by Capt. Michael Greenberger, 5th MPAD*

**Servicemembers and civilians at Bagram Air Field recently learned ways to prevent injuries and minimize recovery time. Also on display were new vehicles that make transporting patients faster, safer and easier.**

*A row of specimen jars containing potentially hazardous wildlife alerts people to local environmental hazards at a health fair, sponsored by the Staff Sgt. Heathe N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital, June 13.*



An ambulance converted from a Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicle is displayed at a health fair, sponsored by the Staff Sgt. Heath N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital, June 13.

The Staff Sgt. Heath N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital opened its doors June 13, to highlight a number of services available to Servicemembers in the Regional Command-East area of operations.

Planned for weeks, hospital staff came together to construct unique displays illustrating what individual sections had to offer.

“We put the word out to the departments and people stepped up as smartly as they could to put these displays together,” said the hospital’s deputy commander, Air Force Col. Fred Hannan. “Warrior Care is something we take very seriously and we wanted to give people here a taste of what the hospital has to offer – that we’re more than just shots and a pharmacy.”

At one table were members of the new Freedom Restoration Center. Open since February, the center focuses on educating Servicemembers to cope with problems in a combat zone. Since opening, the Free-

**“We promote readiness through prevention. The more Soldiers we can prevent from getting sick the more the hospital can focus on more serious battle injuries.”**

–Staff Sgt. Kerry Turner, 172nd Medical Detachment non-commissioned officer in charge

dom Restoration Center has seen about 60 Servicemembers for issues from the combat related to the home related.

“The goal of the Freedom Restoration Program is to get people back to their jobs,” said Tech. Sgt. Maribel Meekins. “We instruct people in individual coping skills and provide counseling and our methods have led to a 99 percent return-to-duty rate.”

Combined with the Combat Stress Clinic located in the hospital, Service-

members have plenty of options to deal with the stresses of combat. Inside the clinic, services like stress and anger management, suicide awareness and prevention, and combat and operational stress education round out Task Force Med-East’s abilities to provide an ounce of prevention for a pound of cure.

Also on hand, dental specialists displayed examples of just how much sugar is contained in a variety of soft drinks available at the local dining facility. At

another, operating room staff displayed a “large frag set”, a kit containing surgical instruments and items such as plates and screws used to mend broken bones.

Set-up under a shady overhang just outside the hospital’s emergency room, patrons of the event were also treated to eerie specimens of snakes, spiders, and mice floating in jars – all examples of potentially dangerous local wildlife. Hosted by the 172nd Medical Detachment, this table was dedicated to environmental health.

Members of the 172nd perform quarterly rotations in the area, visiting forward operating bases large and small to perform environmental sampling, train field sanitation teams and make sure Soldiers aren’t being exposed to anything harmful.

“We promote readiness through prevention,” said the detachment’s non-commissioned officer in charge, Staff

Sgt. Kerry Turner. “The more Soldiers we can prevent from getting sick the more the hospital can focus on more serious battle injuries.”

Rounding out a total body concept, the nutrition medicine offices let people know the facts behind supplements meant to provide “instant results” vs. a healthy diet and exercise.

“We don’t recommend the use of supplements,” said Tech. Sgt. Jason Wickman. “They’re not regulated by the Federal Drug Administration and you don’t really know what you’re getting. Whereas if a person eats a healthy diet, they know what they’re getting and shouldn’t need any supplements. No pill can replace a good workout in the gym.”

Several unique vehicles used in the daily care of patients were displayed outside the hospital in a landing zone occupied by medical evacuation helicop-

ters of the 1st of the 168th General Aviation Support Battalion.

Among them, a new ambulance converted from a Mine-Resistant, Ambush-Protected vehicle. The MRAP ambulance, new to forces in Afghanistan, offers medics quick and safe battlefield extraction of injured people. The vehicle itself has many features not found in other modes of medical transportation, like a hydraulic litter lift system and scores of trauma treatment supplies.

Also on display was a patient loader, resembling a large container-elevator used to load patients onto large aircraft that don’t have loading ramps.

Among the unique vehicles and displays, the health fair itself was unique to Bagram.

“This is the first time this type of event has been done here,” said Hannan. “But we hope to make this a regular event in the future.”



Staff Sgt. Kerry Turner describes Afghanistan’s unique environmental hazards during a health fair sponsored by the Staff Sgt. Heath N. Craig Joint Theater Hospital on June 13.

# ADT ‘Plants a Seed and Grows a Country’

Story and Photo by Sgt. Ryan C. Finch, Task Force Warrior PAO

Task Force Warrior’s Agri-Business Development Team made progress on an experimental farm and a demonstration farm designed to increase agricultural production in the Panjshir Valley, June 13 and 15.

“It’s important to develop this piece of land into something that can be used and improved upon in the coming years,” said Army Master Sgt. John Herron, an ADT agronomist and hydrologist.

Herron went on to explain how the land has the potential to feed more than a dozen villages in the area.

Members of the ADT visited the experimental farm on June 13, and worked with and trained 10 Afghans on improved soil hydration matters at the demonstration farm on June 15.

“We really want to come out here and get some soil samples, start making adjustments, and teach the local population how to get a better yield of crops,” said Army Staff Sgt. William J. Jones, an ADT agronomist.

The demonstration farm covers more than seven acres, and the farm will likely grow different crops that include corn.

“The soil is lacking in organic matter, and it’s very difficult for us to get it to retain water and moisture,” Herron said. He is working with the team to introduce straw into the soil to improve hydration.

Local Afghans have also been working to clear rocks from the field and finish an irrigation system that will pump water from the Panjshir River.

“The local Afghans are all very fast learners, and I think if they continue improving hydration in the soil and follow the other techniques we teach them, it could be the model for how crops can be grown in larger quantities,” Jones said.



Members of Task Force Warrior’s Agri-Business Development Team work an experimental farm in Dashtak Village, Afghanistan, June 13. The ADT is also working at a nearby demonstration farm to improve agricultural production in the Panjshir Valley.

# Giving knowledge a chance

Story and Photos by Pfc. Chris Baker, Task Force Spartan PAO

Afghan National Police from Pul-e-Alam and Soldiers of the 710th Brigade Support Battalion, Task Force Spartan, delivered approximately 2000 pounds of school supplies to the Darwesh and Karzai Elementary Schools, near Pul-e-Alam, June 2.

Notebooks, pens and soccer balls were handed out, along with many other items in an attempt to provide more amenities for Afghan students.

The most significant gift given during the day was work desks for the otherwise empty Darwesh Elementary.

“When we found this school, it had no furniture whatsoever. What we’ve done, using Commander’s Emergency Relief Program funds, we’ve brought furniture for them in order for them to

have a better learning experience,” said Lt. Col. Eugene Shearer, Commander, 710th BSB.

“I’ve never been in school and tried to read and write while sitting on the floor. The desks will create a more organized classroom,” Capt. William Bennett, Commander, Company A, 710th BSB.

Battalion leaders hope the basic supplies will help make the learning process easier for Afghan children, who are accustomed to having very little.

As Afghan children ran around excitedly and asked Soldiers for pens, Bennett explained the progress his unit has made in Logar.

“We’ve made great strides to build trust and relationships in this area. Today’s a good day. We actually have fur-

niture and supplies for the children who would otherwise be sitting on the ground,” said Bennett.

Bennett says one of the biggest requests from local leaders were the desks. With that request fulfilled, the battalion focus can shift toward other projects in the area like power, well and building projects.

According to Shearer, many more improvements are on the way.

“In our area of operation we’ve planned projects for several schools, mosques and roads,” said Shearer.

Shearer also mentioned the International Security Assistance Force’s dedication to helping in Afghanistan.

“It’s a long-term commitment. You can’t get everything done right away. It takes time,” said Shearer.

Command Sgt. Maj. Shelton Williamson, 710th Brigade Support Battalion command sergeant major, watches and smiles as Afghan children take school desks into the Darwesh Elementary school near Pul-e-Alam in Logar province, June 2. The desks were delivered as part of a humanitarian aid drop by 710th Brigade Support Battalion, Task Force Spartan.



# ANSF, ISAF reach out to Afghan villagers

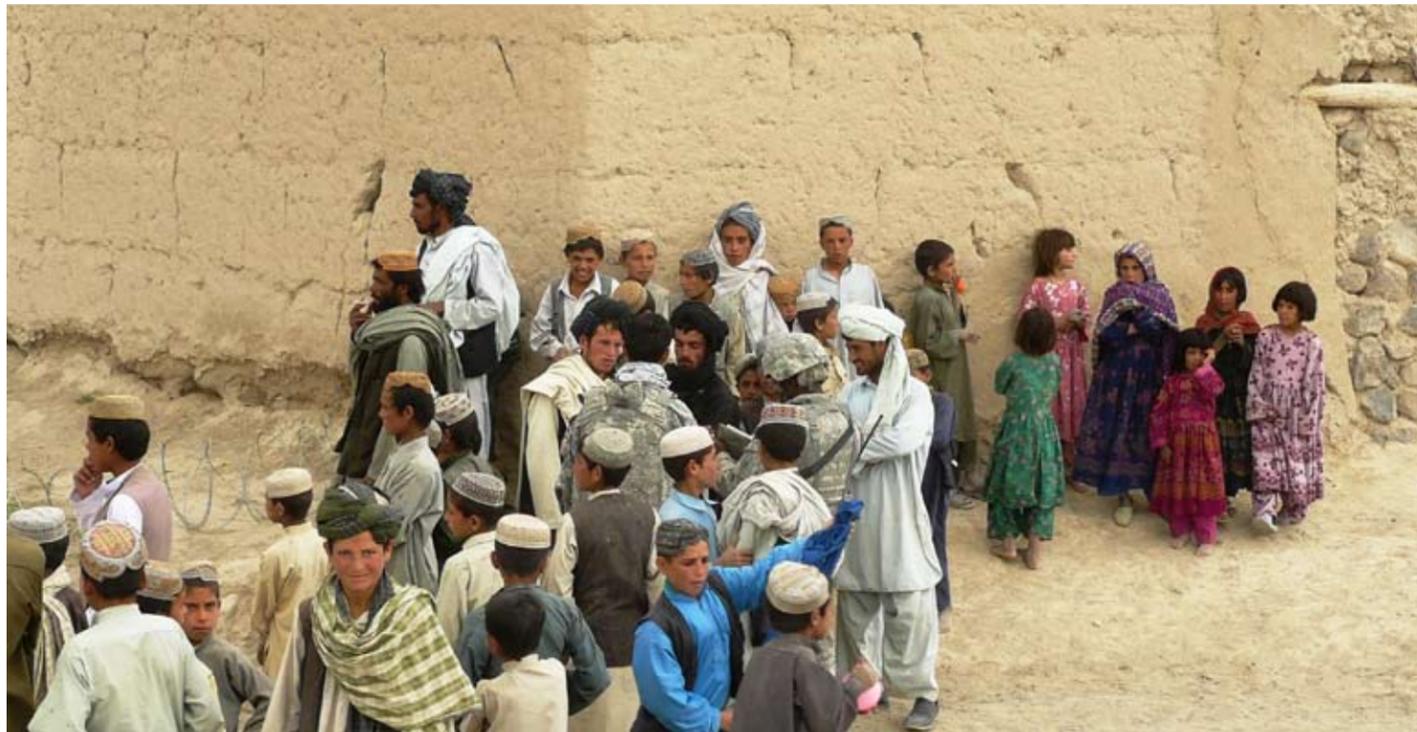
Story and photos by Polish Army Maj. Marcin Gil



An Afghan National Policeman stands nearby as Afghan villagers pick up farming tools and other supplies during a humanitarian mission in the Giro district of Ghazni province June 12. Afghan National Security Forces and International Security Assistance Force service members brought food, blankets and hand-held farming equipment for 150 families to help stimulate local improvement in the villages of Panah and Babakhur.



ISAF Soldiers talk to a village elder during a humanitarian mission in the Giro district of Ghazni province, June 12.



Afghan villagers stand in line to receive food, blankets and supplies brought to their Giro district in Ghazni province by Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF Servicemembers on June 12.

Afghan National Security Force and International Security Assistance Force service members continued working to improve life for Afghan citizens living in the Giro District of Ghazni province during recent operations.

ANSF and ISAF joined up to conduct a five-day operation increasing safety for and providing much needed goods to the local population. The operation resulted in two humanitarian aid drops to highly needy villages and one shura.

In all, more than 150 families from two of the poorest villages in the district, Panah and Babakhur, benefitted from receiving humanitarian aid. ANSF and ISAF troops delivered food, blankets and hand-held farming equipment to help stimulate local improvement.

Meanwhile, 30 elders from villages in the district attended a shura with both ANSF and ISAF troops June 14. The meeting gave the villagers an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding local issues and the upcoming elections to ANSF and ISAF.



An International Security Assistance Force soldier offers a backpack to an Afghan boy before the boy leaves with his blanket full of supplies received during a humanitarian mission in the Giro district of Ghazni province on June 12. Afghan National Security Forces soldiers and ISAF service members brought food, blankets and hand-held farming equipment for 150 families to help stimulate local improvement in the villages of Panah and Babakhur.



An International Security Assistance Force soldier offers farming tools to Afghan villagers during a humanitarian mission in the Giro district of Ghazni province on June 12. Afghan National Security Forces and ISAF service members brought food, blankets and hand-held farming equipment for 150 families to help stimulate local improvement in the villages of Panah and Babakhur.

# New Joint Operation Coordination Center established in Wardak

Photos and story by Spc. Jaime DeLeon, TF Spartan

**W**hen a report comes in that someone in Wardak needs help, the Afghan National Army and the Afghan National Police are trained to spring into action. Until recently, however, they didn't have an easy way to coordinate with each other. June 14 marked a turning point on better communications as the grand opening of the Operation Coordination Center-Province facility will make their synchronization efforts easier.

"The OCCP is a place for the ANA, ANP, and (ISAF) forces to have a centralized location in order to better coordinate between all three forces, but with the ANA and ANP spearheading efforts," said Sgt. 1st Class Wayne Trimble, acting officer in charge of the OCCP for ISAF.

The building itself is small and neat, surrounded by high stone walls that obstruct the view of the picturesque Wardak countryside. Within the walls of the compound geraniums bloom in neat planters and small trees provide needed shade. The beautiful setting makes it easy to forget the imminent threat nearby. That is, until the radio begins to crackle with the sound of reports coming in.

In a split second, men of all three forces leap from their chairs and set down their cups of chai. The report warns of a possible vehicle-borne improvised explosive device attack. Instantly a member of the Afghan National Army sits down at one radio and a U.S. Soldier sits at another to spread the word.

It didn't take long for the OCCP to reach this level of competence.

"Once the building was complete, it only took the ANP and ANA a week to move in and get things running," said Trimble, a Detroit native, who despite his fair skin and piercing blue eyes fits



Afghan National Army Gen. Nezamuddin Choopan, with the help of Provincial Governor Mohammad Fidai, cuts the ribbon officially opening the Operation Coordination Center-Province in Mayden Shar, Wardak province, Afghanistan, June 14

right in with his Afghan coworkers. "The ANA and ANP are very dedicated to making their country a better place; they are really jumping in with both feet."

Provincial Governor Mohammad Fidai; Members of the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, and Spartan Brigade, 10th Mountain Division all came to the OCCP for the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Guests were greeted outside the gate by ANP officers entrusted with event security. Under the colors of the Afghan Flag were dozens of chairs all filled with people anxious to witness the historic event.

As the ceremony began, ANA General Nezamuddin Choopan greeted the guests. After several speeches, the time had come to cut the ribbon. With the help of Fidai, Choopan cut the ribbon officially opening the OCCP.

"Today is a happy day," said Choopan. "We now have the OCCP to

work together in, as we work together in Afghanistan."

Choopan was not the only one feeling the excitement of this momentous occasion. ANA, ANP and U.S. Soldiers and civilians toured the OCCP while drinking chai and talking excitedly with each other.

"We are happy the Americans are coming to our country, the peace is coming with them," said Col. Fazalrahim Rahimi, ANA Air Force Operations Officer. "This new building is allowing us to work together with them and our own ANP much easier."

"The U.S. is just here to mentor and help (the ANA and ANP) out, but they definitely have the lead on this," Trimble said.

With ISAF's continued assistance, the ANA and ANP will move forward to counter insurgents with the new OCCP as a stable base.

"I'm really looking forward to seeing what we can get accomplished here," Trimble said with a smile.

# New ambulances keep transit time in 'Czech'



Story and Photos by Filip Moravec  
Media Officer, Logar PRT

The public health system in Logar has been improved with the donation of seven ambulances, which will help with patient transportation between health facilities in the province.

In the field of healthcare, the Provincial Public Health Department closely cooperates with the non-governmental organization MRCA (Medical Refresher Courses for Afghans).

"We have three district hospitals, five comprehensive health centers and eighteen basic health care centers in Logar. It is unfortunately not enough for the 300,000 citizens of the province," said Aziz Rahman Siddiqui, of the MRCA.

The MRCA, which has been working in Logar since 2005, has been unable to arrange enough vehicles for patient transportation from villages to district hospitals. According to the research, for some 60 percent people living in rural areas, healthcare is hardly accessible.

"This problem is more serious in those districts, where security is not improved, but also in isolated areas like Charkh, Kharwar or Azra. In some parts of province, we had to rent cars for transportation of the needy ones. The Czech PRT donated seven ambulances, and we have

eleven ambulances for Logar now," Siddiqui said.

Beside this project, the Czech PRT has begun construction on two district hospitals and has purchased photovoltaic panels for ten health centers, maternity clinics and district hospitals.



The public health system in Logar has been improved with the donation of seven ambulances, which will serve for transportation between health facilities in the province.

# Unsafe electrical practices can lead to a shocking experience

Story by Abdo Zacheus, CJTF-82 Safety Office

**E**lectricity kills hundreds and injures thousands of people each year, and deployed

Soldiers, Airman, Marines and Sailors are especially vulnerable. Overloaded circuits, electrical modifications done by Servicemembers, and using substandard equipment are some of the common reasons for electrical accidents. Some of these accidents can be avoided by simply following proper safety precautions and being alert and aware of your surroundings. A Servicemember injured or killed in a mishap is a loss to the unit when the unit can least afford it.



The following is a list of items supervisors can check in their daily walkthroughs of work sections or billeting areas:

- ◆ Be aware that unusually warm or hot outlets may be a sign that unsafe wiring conditions exist. Unplug any cords to these outlets and do not use until a qualified electrician has checked the wiring.
- ◆ Know where the breakers and boxes are located in case of an emergency. Do not touch a person or electrical apparatus involved in an electrical accident. Always disconnect the current first.
- ◆ Do not use outlets or cords that have exposed wiring.
- ◆ Ensure all electrical equipment has the Underwriters Laboratory approval sticker.
- ◆ Ensure only trained and authorized personnel work on electrical equipment
- ◆ Clearly label and rope off all electrical hazards as needed to prevent personnel from touching or walking into circuit panels and wiring.
- ◆ Do not daisy chain power strips and Do not stack adapters.
- ◆ Make sure you keep at least 6 inch clearance in front of and around the wall outlets. Keep items or debris from making contact with the power strips.
- ◆ Leave the technical work to the experts. Check for and report any potential electrical issues such as: loose connections, exposed wiring, and any burned or charred marks on the wall. If this exists, Report It

## Electric Shock First Aid

Call your local emergency number immediately if any of these signs or symptoms occur:

- ◆ Cardiac arrest
- ◆ Heart rhythm problems
- ◆ Respiratory failure
- ◆ Muscle pain and contractions
- ◆ Seizures
- ◆ Numbness and tingling

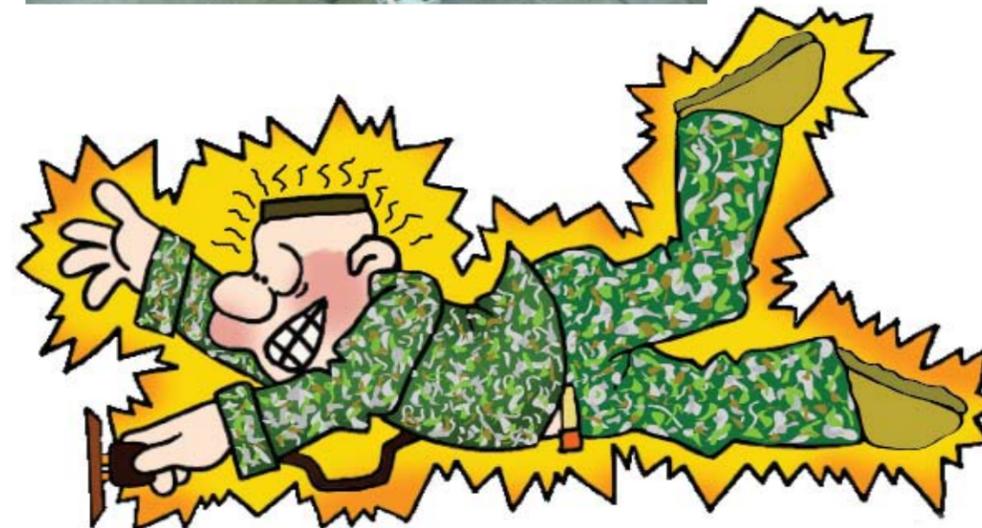


**While waiting for medical help, follow these steps:**

1. Look first. Don't touch. The person may still be in contact with the electrical source. Touching the person may pass the current through you.
2. Turn off the source of electricity if possible. If not, move the source away from you and the affected person, using a non conducting object made of cardboard, plastic or wood.
3. Check for signs of circulation (breathing, coughing or movement). If absent, begin CPR immediately.
4. Prevent shock. Lay the person down and, if possible, position the head slightly lower than the trunk, with the legs elevated.

## Caution

- ◆ Don't touch the person with your bare hands if he or she is still in contact with the electrical current.
- ◆ Don't get near high-voltage wires until the power is turned off. Stay at least 20 feet away, much farther if wires are jumping and sparking.
- ◆ Call the fire department, and notify them that it's an electrical fire.
- ◆ Never use water to put out the flames, as that may cause serious shock. Use only an approved fire extinguisher (ABC), or leave the premises.
- ◆ If possible, shut off the main breaker.
- ◆ Be prepared for fires by installing smoke detectors, acquiring fire extinguishers, updating and correcting any electrical problems, and holding fire drills periodically.



# Fast-roping for freedom: Afghan commandos add new skill to fight

Story and Photos by Sgt. Michael Armstrong, 40th PAD

A company of Afghan commandos conducted a two-day training course for a valuable skill, June 18 at FOB Salerno.

Helicopter-borne insertion, better known as air assault, is the movement of military forces to engage and destroy enemy forces or to seize and hold key terrain. Fast-roping is a technique for descending a thick rope not unlike the one most Americans used in high school gym class. This technique is useful for deploying troops from a helicopter in places where the helicopter itself is unable to touch down.

With the support and training from Soldiers from Combined Joint Task Force – Afghanistan and Task Force Attack, the 1st Company Commandos, 203rd Corps Commando Kandak, were instructed on proper techniques for fast-roping onto



(Left) Army 1st Lt. Thomas Buller, 4th Battalion, 101st Airborne Regiment, 159th Combat Aviation Brigade, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), demonstrates the proper way to “fast rope” to Afghan commandos from the 1st Company Commando, 203rd Corps Commando Kandak, during a two-day training course at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, June 18.



(Right) A commando from the 1st Company Commando, 203rd Corps Commando Kandak, slides down a fast rope during training at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan, June 18.

an objective and immediately securing the perimeter. Trainees use a rope connected to a forklift, before graduating to actually jumping from a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter.

During the training, Afghan Col. Ggulam Nabi, the commander of the 203rd, explained the need to have these Commandos trained in air assault.

“This is a tactical advantage we must learn,” said Nabi. “We need to be able to drop forces quickly into the fight. The helicopters can come and drop us onto difficult terrain like mountains, dense orchards and behind the enemy without landing. Because of this we need this training to eliminate terrorists and to defeat the enemies of Afghanistan.”

Nabi also hopes that his commandos learn enough to train each other in

the future.

“That’s our natural behavior,” Nabi said. “When one of us learns something new, they teach it to others.”

“When the people of Afghanistan are able to see what the commandos are doing for them, it helps us to get new recruits, make them professional and to help stop the enemies of Afghanistan from being destructive,” Nabi said.

“The commandos are held in high regard in Afghanistan,” said Afghan Capt. Abdul Saboor, the commander of 1st Company, “We are proud of how we are received by the people. The commandos are doing a great job and are willing and ready to sacrifice ourselves for the people of Afghanistan.”



Afghan Capt. Abdul Saboor, (left), the commander of 1st Company Commandos, 203rd Corps Commando Kandak, watches the fast rope training his commandos are conducting at FOB Salerno June 18.

# 82nd Airborne DSTB supports local district

Story and Photos by Pfc. Cody Thompson, 40th PAD

The 82nd Airborne Division Special Troops Battalion, Company B commander met with local Afghan leaders, June 20, in Dandar Village, Afghanistan.

Capt. Booker Wilson, 82nd Airborne Division Special Troops Battalion, Company B commander from Fort Bragg, N.C., met each leader to seek resolutions to the major issues affecting villages in Kohe Safi district, Parwan province. According to the elders and shura leaders, a few of their concerns are quality of drinking water, dilapidated irrigation systems and roads, lack of jobs, security, schools and school supplies.

According to the Central Intelligence Agency the unemployment rate in Afghanistan is approximately 40 percent. New jobs could usher in the potential for increased money, which would bolster



Capt Booker Wilson, commander, 82nd Airborne Division Special Troops Battalion, Company B, takes a moment to talk with an Afghan National Policeman.

the local economy.

“Almost everyone in our village is jobless, so they go to Iran and Pakistan for work,” said Naqibullah, village elder and teacher for Sanjali Village.

“Find us contractors from across the province and hire locals from your village and when I return we will pay you to build schools and fix the irrigation systems and roads,” Capt. Wilson, a Jackson, Miss., native, offered Naqibullah.

Security was the concern for one village elder, although others reported little Taliban activity.

“I have been working with Coalition forces and Afghan National Police and would like to continue to in the future,” said Lalsaid, a village elder from Lalabamba. “We’ve had problems with the Taliban but if we had more security it would be safer.”

Capt. Wilson said he would “look into bringing a larger security presence to Lalabamba Village.”

“We are trying to incorporate area support groups with police mentorships and U.S. Soldiers to increase security in the village,” said 1st Sgt. Ramah

Wilson with the 82nd Airborne DSTB Company B.

Afghans in Dandar Village have to travel far to receive medical treatment where time could potentially prove fatal. One elder requested the construction of a health clinic in Dandar for the locals residing there.

“In the summer it is easy to travel to the hospital in Kabul, but in the winter the roads are covered with snow and we cannot drive there,” said Mohammad, the village elder and shura for Dandar. Wilson’s goal is to distribute payments to multiple contractors who will hire the locals from across the province to build better schools, clinics and roads.

“A civil affairs team assesses what would be gained by placing a school in a certain location,” said 1st Sgt. Wilson. “Building a school creates an investment in that area.”

With these new resources at hand the villagers can bolster their local economy and potentially create an environment where they can build a better Afghanistan.



Spc. Joseph Stoffel, infantryman, 82nd Airborne Division Special Troops Battalion, Company B, dismounts to pull security during their trip to Dandar Village, June 20.

# Photos *from the Field*

From left, Master Sgt. John Nombrano, noncommissioned officer in charge, Red Team, Combined Joint Task Force-82, Maj. Gen. Curtis Scaparrotti, 82nd Airborne Division and CJTF-82 commander, Command Sgt Maj. Thomas Capel, 82nd Abn. Div., CJTF-82 and Pfc. Richell Vannieuwenhuyzen, Finance Specialist, CJTF-82 cut the cake to mark the Army's 234th birthday, June 14, at Bagram Air Field.



Photo by Sgt. Michael Armstrong, 40th PAD



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Hopkins 3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO

Staff Sgt. Eric Winn and Sgt. 1st Class Jimmy Carswell from Troop C, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, scan a mountain slope with their weapons before their troop departs on a patrol in Kunar Province.



Photo by Staff Sgt. David Hopkins 3rd BCT, 1st ID, PAO

Soldiers with Troop C, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, climb a rugged mountain slope in Kunar province during a patrol.



Chief Warrant Officer 2 Nicholas Jones, Sgt. Mitchell Godwin and Staff Sgt. Joseph Pospesel of 425th Brigade Special Troops Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team (Airborne), 25th Infantry Division, inspect an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle in the Paktika Province, Afghanistan, June 3.

Photo by Pfc. Andrya Hill, 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div., PAO



Photo by Sgt. Rob Frazier, 5th MPAD

Staff Sgt. Herb Clark, gunnery sergeant for Battery B, 4th Battalion, 25th Field Artillery Regiment, stands guard while Soldiers search a bus at a traffic check point in Wardak province, Afghanistan, June 13. This joint mission combined Soldiers from 4-25 and 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment to ensure freedom of movement that has been the target of numerous improvised explosive device blasts this month.



Photo by Pfc. Melissa Stewart TF Spartan, PAO

Spc. Jeremy Todd, a military police Soldier with Brigade Special Troops Battalion, Task Force Spartan, laughs with an Afghan National Police member at Combat Outpost Baugess in Logar province.

# Photos *from the Field*



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

*A Soldier with Troop C, 6th Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division, scans the surrounding area as night begins to fall during a mountain patrol in northeastern Afghanistan.*



*Photo courtesy of 5th MPAD*

*Soldiers from the 1st Battalion, 26th Infantry Regiment, 1st Infantry Division, Fort Riley, Kan., and Soldiers from the 2nd Battalion, 12th Infantry Regiment, 4th Infantry Division, Fort Lewis, Wash., conduct a patrol outside the city of Nangalam, Kunar province, June 18. The 1st Inf. Div. Soldiers are being replaced by their 4th Inf. Div. counterparts after completing a year-long deployment in eastern Afghanistan.*



*Photo by Pfc. Andrya Hill, 4th BCT, 25th Inf. Div., PAO*

*Navy Lt. David Bennett, a Physician's Assistant with the Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team, carries a civilian hit by an improvised explosive device into the 67th Forward Surgical Team facility on Forward Operating Base Sharana for treatment following an attack June 7.*



*Photo by pfc. Derek Kuhn, 40th PAD*

*A Soldier flies an American flag during a recent Chinook flight over Afghanistan.*

*A pallet is combat off-loaded from a C-17 Globemaster III June 20, 2009, at Tarin Kowt Airfield, Afghanistan. The 816th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron is the first unit to conduct a combat offload in theater.*



*Photo by Air Force Staff Sgt. Shawn Weismiller, AFCENT Combat Camera Team*

*(Right) Afghan Border Policemen stand in front of a guard tower at the new ABP Headquarters in the village of Naray in Nari district, Kunar province, June 16. The new headquarters facility will house the 1st Kandak's Headquarters, and includes living quarters, a dining room, administrative buildings and weapons storage for the policemen. In addition to these essential facilities, the new headquarters also includes amenities for female members of the ABP in the area, as well as a mosque to help provide for all personnel at the headquarters.*



*Photo by Lt. J.g. James Dietle, Kunar PRT*

# ARMY RETENTION NEWS\$

Story by Sgt. Maj. Joseph Wolfe and Sgt. John P. Zumer, 40th PAD

The 82nd Airborne Division Retention Team is in town. The Retention Sergeant Major is Sgt. Maj. Joseph Wolfe. The team consists of Operations NCO Sgt. 1st Class Douglas Willis, 82nd DSTB Career Counselor Sgt. 1st Class Araceli Nava and 30th MEDCOM Career Counselor Sgt. 1st Class Juan Padilla. Other Career Counselors on the installation consist of 45th Sustainment Brigade Master Sgt. Sheila Sango, 159th Aviation Richard Sgt. 1st Class Depontee; Staff Sgt. Latayna Orama and Staff Sgt. Charles Cartwright and Staff Sgt. Ricky Harris for the Special Forces.

On March 31, 2009, the Army implemented the 90 day window again for reenlistment. A soldier can no longer reenlist once they are within 90 days of their ETS. The Army gave everyone a blanket exception to this policy until June 30, 2009. After June 30, 2009, there is an exception to policy process for this with some very stringent criteria.

The Stop Loss Special Pay program is also in effect for those Soldiers who will go past their contractual ETS during their deployment or for those Soldiers who were denied retirement. The entitlement is 500.00 dollars per month. These Soldiers will not receive their money until they start serving past their contractual ETS or their approved retirement date. For approved retirements, the approved retirement order will need to be verified by the servicing Career Counselor. Entitlement

for Stop Loss Special Pay will be entered at the top of the system By Human Resources Command (HRC) and paid by Defense Finance Accounting Service (DFAS). Career Counselors will only process those Soldiers who are entitled to the pay but not submitted by HRC.

The Deployment Extension Incentive Pay (DEIP) program was also implemented on June 10, 2009. This program is for those Soldiers who are scheduled to deploy on or after January 1, 2010 and do not have enough time to complete the deployment. The Soldiers contractual ETS must be after the latest arrival date (LAD) and prior to redeployment+60 days.

The program is broken into two tiers, tier one is for those Soldiers who extend their enlistment between LAD-270 days and LAD-180 days and tier two is for those Soldiers who extend their enlistment between LAD-180 and LAD-90. Tier one Soldiers will receive 500 dollars a month for every full month they extend their enlistment and Tier two Soldiers will receive 350 dollars a month for every full month they extend their enlistment.

Soldiers must deploy with their unit to maintain eligibility for the payments and payment will not start until they start serving on their extension. Soldiers also will have until 90 days prior to their contractual ETS to participate in the program.

Soldiers participating in the DIEP program will retain their reenlistment eligibility until they are within their 90 day window from their extended ETS. If a Soldier reenlists while serving on a DIEP extension and decide to reenlist they will continue to serve out their extension and receive the entitlements of it plus the entitlements of their reenlistment.

Finally on June 5, 2009, the Army suspended the annual retention and awards program. In layman's terms this means the Army has been so successful that they are going to be over their authorized end-strength for Fiscal Year 2009. The Army has not told us to stop reenlisting Soldiers, they have told us to slow down and try and hold Soldiers to reenlist after October 1, 2009.

What this means to the individual Soldier is that if you will lose a reenlistment option or a bonus by waiting then we will still reenlist you. If you won't lose anything then we will continue to counsel Soldiers and lock them in for reenlistment options and ask them to wait until October. However it is still the Soldiers choice to reenlist or not, no one can tell them they can't unless they are not qualified.

The individual Soldier is still the most valuable commodity the Army has and they know that. We at the CJTF-82 reenlistment office know that also and we will continue to insure that every Soldier receives the best counseling and the best reenlistment options that the Army has to offer. Airborne, All The Way!!!



## 2nd Lt. Cara Berangere

## French Army

**Hometown:** Amberieu en Bugey, France  
**Current Assignment:** Communication Information System Orange Signal Battalion  
**Title:** Chief Regulator of Public Support  
**Job Description:** She is in charge of financial support, human resources, and sleeping area.  
**Best Part of Deployment:** The dining facilities and working out.  
**Deployed Goals:** Support international forces.  
**How She Spends her Free Time:** Drinking coffee and working out.  
**Plans Upon Return:** To eat French food with family and friends and to go on vacation.



# WARRIOR PROFILE

## U.S. NAVY

## Petty Officer 2nd Class Demario Davis



**Hometown:** Memphis, Tenn.  
**Current Assignment:** Joint Logistics Command  
**Title:** Religious Program Specialist  
**Best Part of Deployment:** Cross Fit Football.  
**Deployed Goals:** Study for career advancement and become more physically fit.  
**How He Spends his Free Time:** Sports and exercise.  
**Plans Upon Return:** To take his daughter to Disneyland.



# Unit Spotlight

**BRANCH OF SERVICE:** U.S. Army

**NAME OF UNIT:** 501ST Parachute Infantry Regiment

**PREVIOUS DUTY LOCATION:**  
Ft. Richardson, Ala.

**UNIT HISTORY:** Activated at Camp Toccoa, Ga. on Nov. 15, 1942

**UNIQUE FACTS ABOUT THE UNIT:**

First test platoon, the prime ancestor of th All-American parachute units. Received Presidential Unit Citation in Normandy, France. Receive Presidential Unit Citation in Bastogne, Belgium. Received Valorous Unit Citation in Iraq.

**COMMANDED BY :** Capt. Stanley B. Johnson and 1st Sgt. Daniel R. Moore

*Would you like to have your unit in the spotlight? If so, email the 40th PAD at [freedomwatch@swa.army.mil](mailto:freedomwatch@swa.army.mil). Please include your unit's name, mission, history and any interesting facts.*