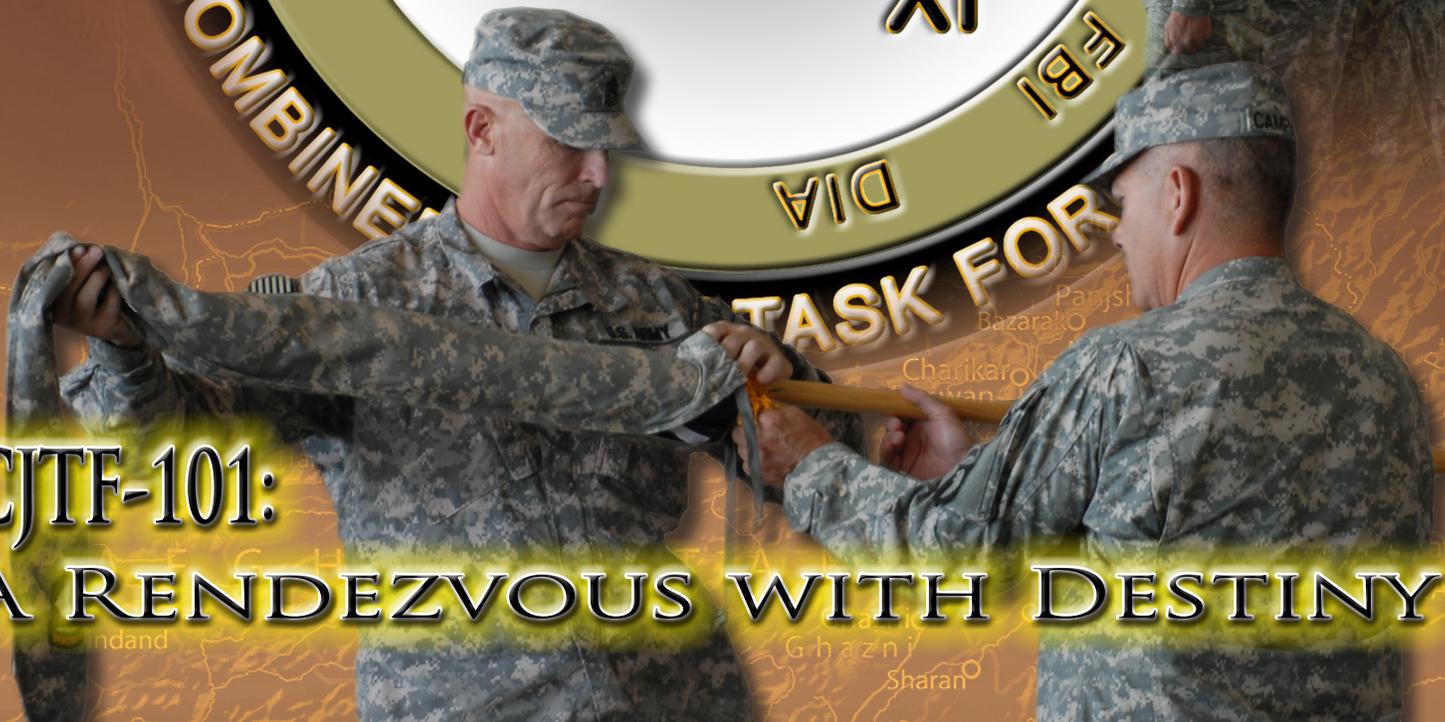


FREEDOM WATCH

 **AFGHANISTAN**

JULY 2010



**CJTF-101:
A RENDEZVOUS WITH DESTINY**

Swat Province, Bazarak, Panjshir, Chagikar, Ghazni, Sharan, MABA, Kandahar

FEATURES

- Command Group's Welcome Letter page 4
- Step by Step page 6
- Set For Success page 8
- One Team, One Fight page 10
- Man of the People page 12
- ADT trains farmers for future page 13
- 101st: A Rendezvous with Destiny page 14
- The Voice of Peace page 16
- Hope Springs Eternal page 19
- Afghanistan's Marshall Plan page 22
- The Way Ahead page 30
- Ring of Steel page 36



page 6



page 8



page 10



page 12



page 16



page 36

FREEDOM WATCH

STAFF/ 304TH PUBLIC AFFAIRS DETACHMENT
VOL. 6, NO.7

COMMANDER, 304TH PAD
EXECUTIVE EDITOR
CAPT. WILLIAM GEDDES

MANAGING EDITOR
STAFF SGT. COREY L. BEAL

LAYOUT EDITOR
SPC. (P) JAY VENTURINI

STAFF WRITERS
SGT. TROY JOHNSON
SGT. ANDREW REAGAN
SGT. SPENCER CASE

The *Freedom Watch* is a monthly publication of the 304th PAD and Combined Joint Task Force 101.

Commander, CJTF-101
Maj. Gen. John. F. Campbell
Public Affairs Director, CJTF-101
Maj. Patrick Seiber

Freedom Watch, a U.S. Department of Defense publication, is published the first Monday of every month by the 304th PAD located at building 815-F Dragon Village at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan. Printed circulation is 15,000 copies per month. 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 *Freedom Watch* are not necessarily the official view of, or endorsed by, the U.S. government or the Department of Defense.

All submissions are subject to editing by the 304th PAD and the CJTF-101 Public Affairs Office, which can be reached at DSN 318-481-6367 or freedomwatch@afghan.swa.army.mil

Check out the *Freedom Watch* online at:

CJTF101.com

DEPARTMENTS

- Unit Profile page 18
- Goodwill Across Afghanistan page 20
- Story Snapshots page 24
- Warrior Profile page 32
- Safety Watch: Heat Injuries page 34
- Photos From the Field page 39



Welcome Message from CJTF-101



CJTF-101 Command Team

Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell Mr. Thomas B. Gibbons Command Sgt. Maj. Scott C. Schroeder

Military, Civilian and Coalition Members of CJTF-101 and RC-East:

CJTF-82 made significant progress in Afghanistan over the past year. One can see the impact of their service by looking at the improved capacity in governance, security and development across RC-East. We intend to build on the success of CJTF-82 as we continue to focus on expanding the competency, capability and capacity of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. We are honored to serve as the CJTF-101 and RC-East Command Team, and we look forward to working with each of you as we progress toward our goals.

This coming year is vital to the future of Afghanistan. Building upon past accomplishments, we will further Combined Action and Unified Action to help facilitate enduring Afghan solutions to Afghanistan's challenges by, with and through our Afghan counterparts. Everything we do, regardless of unit, agency or specialty must be done in concert with our Afghan partners. Through Unified Action and Combined Action, we, and GIRoA, will succeed in our vital mission: protecting the Afghan people and bolstering the capacity and credibility of Afghan government institutions.

Remember, we are a task force of military, inter-agency and coalition personnel. Each of us brings personal expertise, a portion of the solution to a complex problem. With our Afghan partners, this Combined Joint Task Force will succeed in making a better future for the Afghan people.

Air Assault!

John F. Campbell
Major General, US Army
Commanding General

Thomas B. Gibbons
Senior Civilian Representative
Regional Command - East

Scott C. Schroeder
Command Sergeant Major, US Army
CJTF-101 Command Sergeant Major

Step by Step

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes, TF Wolverine Public Affairs



Army Capt. Norman Dupuis, a physician's assistant, attached to Co. A, 3rd Bn., 172nd Inf. Regt., treats a 1-year-old Afghan girl May 21 whose feet were so severely burned two weeks ago that she was in danger of losing them. Dupuis and his medical team have been treating the girl since her father brought her to the gate of COP Hererra where they are stationed.

The Soldier's hand delicately cradled the child's leg as the other skillfully cleaned the red swollen blisters that covered her tiny feet. His brow furrowed at each cry, yet his hands steadily continued their delicate work.

The Soldier, Army Staff Sgt. Dominic Ayer, of Barre, Vt., is a medic with A Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment. Ayer and the medical team at COP Hererra in Paktya province were part of the team treating a child whose feet were burned after step-

ping on hot coals.

Her father brought her in from a village outside the outpost.

"When she first came to us, she didn't even have bandages on her feet," Ayer said. "The wounds were just open to the air. She had third-degree burns on one foot and second-degree burns on the other. It could have resulted in the loss of her feet."

Since the Soldiers began treating the 1-year-old girl two weeks ago, they have seen vast improvements in her condition which would not

have been possible without the medical attention they provided.

Before coming to the gate of COP Hererra, her father had taken her to three different clinics, but she was denied treatment because they did not have any money and because the clinics were ill equipped, the man told Ayer.

The man knew the Soldiers were the only hope for his daughter's recovery.

"In the U.S., this girl would have had skin grafts. But obviously here we don't have the technology to do that," said Ayer referring to the fact that they are at a remote COP.

However, with their expertise and the supplies they do have, the Soldiers have still been able to provide successful treatment.

They have been cleaning, bandaging and applying burn cream to the wounds to help them heal. Although this treatment is slower, it is still effective and they expect her to make a full recovery, Ayer said.

"We've seen a dramatic change in her injuries. We've been taking our time and she has been doing very well," said Army Capt. Norman Dupuis of Morrisville, Vt., the physician's assistant at the clinic. "It's pretty safe to say that she is probably over the hump. She is so young that she will be able to regenerate all that skin."

They have treated her about five times since her injury. Unfortunately, her father is only able to bring her periodically because he fears retaliation from insurgents, he said through a translator.

"We know that the village they are from has a lot of insurgents from

"Several people say that they heard we are infidels. But then (after being treated at the clinic) they say that their family wouldn't even help them as much as we did,"

-Army Capt. Norman Dupuis, physician's assistant with A Co., 3rd Bn., 172nd Inf. Regt.

Pakistan," said Ayer. "It is definitely frustrating because we've started care and we need to continue it."

Her father, like many other residents in the local villages, was very wary of asking the Soldiers for help.

"Several people say that they heard we are infidels. But then (after being treated at the clinic) they say that their family wouldn't even help them as much as we did," said Dupuis.

During their time at Hererra, the Soldiers have treated nine major trauma cases, and they were able to save all but three patients' lives.

In addition, they also see "their regulars," like the girl with burned feet, and some with less serious injuries who they continue to treat.

"We've had some decent victories. Once they come here they see that we're not infidels. We're good people and we're here to do whatever we can to help," Dupuis said.

The father of the little girl was a first-hand witness to this as he saw the diligence and compassion with which the Soldiers treated his daughter.

As the Soldiers worked, the girl's father watched them intently as he held her in a gentle embrace, kissing her forehead as she whimpered at the more painful parts of the treatment.

When the Soldiers were done, he spoke to them through a translator thanking them profusely for their help and promised to return the next day for treatment.

"We're here to do our job and support our Soldiers, but it is nice to know that we've made an impact here," said Dupuis. 🙏

Army Staff Sgt. Dominic Ayer, the senior medic, attached to Co. A, 3rd Bn., 172nd Inf. Regt., treats a 1-year-old Afghan girl May 21 whose feet were severely burned two weeks ago. Since then, Ayer and his medical team have continued treating the girl at COP Hererra where they are stationed.



An Afghan girl, whose feet were so severely burned two weeks before she was in danger of losing them, receives treatment from Army Capt. Norman Dupuis (left), a physician's assistant attached to A Co., 3rd Bn., 172nd Inf. Regt., and Army Staff Sgt. Dominic Ayer of Barre, Vt., the senior medic with A Co., May 21. Since then, Dupuis of Morrisville, Vt., and his medical team have been treating the girl at COP Hererra, where they are stationed.

SET FOR SUCCESS

Story and photo by Army Sgt. Andrew A. Reagan, 304th PAD

The Afghan National Army's 203rd Thunder Corps held a ceremony to mark the opening of its renovated noncommissioned officer academy on Foward Operting Base Thunder, Paktya province, May 23.

The renovated academy features improved classrooms with new desks and chairs as well as upgraded living quarters with new mattresses and bed frames. The refurbished academy is merely one example of the steps the 203rd Corps is taking to expand the scope of its NCO program.

The NCO academy currently has two courses: a team leader course where privates train to be sergeants, and an NCO battle course where NCOs learn advanced tactical and leadership skills to prepare them to lead squad and platoon-sized elements, said Army Lt. Col. Gary E. Smith, a training officer with the Indiana National Guard's Regional Corps Training Team 2.

"This academy will provide a bright future for the Soldiers of our

Army and it is our hope that they will take the skills they learn here back to their units and pass them on to their Soldiers," said ANA Brig. Gen. Mohammed Akbar, deputy commander of the 203rd Corps.

The NCO academy was once combined with other classrooms and barracks that distracted the Soldiers from their training, made accountability difficult and limited the number of Soldiers who could attend the courses.

Not only does the new stand-alone academy increase the capacity of the team leader and battle NCO courses, it provides improved living conditions and a better learning environment for the attendees, added Smith, a native of Kendallville, Ind.

"The corps commander has decided, along with the head of the army, to not only house the 203rd Corps here but also to build enough facilities to sustain the

capability of the Afghan National Army by producing more qualified NCOs," said Army Command Sgt. Maj. Jim Brown, a native of Indianapolis and the command sergeant major for RCTT-2.

"We felt a newer, nicer facility would allow us to train a lot more Soldiers and those Soldiers would also go back out into the Corps and say, 'Hey, this isn't a bad place, we're not treated badly here,'" said Smith. "We want to not only give good training, but also improve the quality of life for the Soldiers."

"This academy will provide a bright future for the Soldiers of our Army, and it is our hope that they will take the skills they learn here back to their units and pass them on to their Soldiers."

- ANA Brig. Gen. Mohammed Akbar, deputy commander of the 203rd Corps.

The renovated academy will be used on an interim basis, as construction is scheduled to begin in September on a new NCO academy with at least three classrooms, living quarters for up to 350 Soldiers, a gym and a worship room, said Smith.

He added the refurbished academy is one aspect of the ANA's increasing commitment to NCO development and Soldier training.

The 203rd Corps recently added two live-fire ranges to its training grounds and developed a "shoot house" for the NCO academy, so the Soldiers can practice room entry and clearing techniques. Smith also said the 203rd Corps is planning to open a basic training facility on FOB Thunder by March 2012.

"We now have increased capacity to train our Soldiers. This builds morale and will lead to a better future for us," said ANA Col. Mohammed Asif, the 203rd Corps Training Kandak commander. "We have good ranges here, and we will continue to train our Soldiers to standard on several weapon systems."

"The way ahead for the future is that Thunder will become a very important training center for RC-East, which will improve the capacity and capability of the 203rd Corps and the Afghan National Army," added Smith. 

Soldiers from the ANA's 203rd Thunder Corps await the start of the opening ceremony for the 203rd Corps' renovated NCO academy on FOB Thunder, Paktya province, May 23. The renovated academy features improved classrooms with new desks and chairs, as well as upgraded living quarters with new mattresses and bed frames. The refurbished academy is an example of the steps the 203rd Corps is taking to expand the scope of its NCO program.



One Team, One Fight

Story and photos by Army Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes, TF Wolverine PAO

Tiny Combat Outpost Hererra sits poised on high ground, about 7,500 feet above sea level, overlooking the villages of Jaji and Ali Khel, and is within miles of the Pakistan border. Hererra provides the ideal perch for the Soldiers of A Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment., who call the remote outpost home.

From the outpost, the Soldiers are perfectly positioned to operate their threefold mission, which includes mentoring and working shoulder-to-shoulder with the Afghan National Army, Afghan Uniformed Police and Afghan Border Police to provide security for the nearby villages, and support the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

“What we do here is convince the people that they are better off with an independent government, army and police force than they are with the Taliban,” said Army 1st Lt. Micah Kidney, the executive officer of the company.

Part of what makes the company’s mission so essential is its proximity to the Pakistan border, from where most of Paktya province’s Taliban presence comes. Their location allows them

to act as a choke point for the influx of Taliban insurgents, weapons and munitions.

Three weeks into their mission, they found that they had already begun to gain the trust of the local people, which led to their first major victory against invading Taliban insurgents.

During a joint operation, Soldiers of the company’s first and third platoons, along with Afghan Border Police and Afghan Uniformed Police, acted on a tip from a local boy and found an enormous cache.

“We were providing security on the outer cordon, and a boy walked up and pointed at a house and said ‘Taliban.’ So, we alerted the ABP and assisted them in searching it. What we found was basically a bomb-making factory. There was everything from sodium nitrate to claymore mines,” said Army Staff Sgt. Jon Carbonneau, a squad leader with third platoon.

“That put an enormous dent in the enemy’s ability to attack us throughout the summer,” added Kidney.

During another recent combined operation May 22, they searched a local village near where an improvised explosive device had been set off. The ANP officers and A Co. Soldiers found several military uniforms. The uniforms, usually worn by the ANA, are used for insurgents to disguise themselves as Afghan soldiers.



An Afghan National Policeman and Army 2nd Lt. Sabin Clark, Calais, Vt., a platoon leader with Co. A, 3rd Bn., 172nd Inf. Regt., shake hands before they conduct a joint patrol. Clark and the ANP were going to search a village where they later found military uniforms, which they believed were used by insurgents to disguise themselves as ANSF.

“What we do here is convince the people that they are better off with an independent government, army and police force than they are with the Taliban.”

-Army 1st Lt. Micah Kidney, A Co. executive officer

In addition to the importance of these combined operations to their security mission, they also use them as examples in their mentorship role.

“They are always the first ones to go in. We let them take the lead and then we critique afterward,” said Army Staff Sgt. George Thompson, a squad leader. Their goal is to build upon what the Afghan police already know, and impart a tactical mindset so that their training becomes second nature, he added.

Their ultimate goal is to help them become a self-sustaining force capable of protecting their citizens without Coalition assistance. They have also had success and seen improvements in this endeavour.

In order to help the police become a professional force the civilian population can rely on, they are working on setting up standard operating procedures and helping the ANP learn from not only the A Co. Soldiers’ example, but also from veteran ANP units outside the area, said Army Sgt. Nick Ash, a squad leader with the company.

“So far we have sent four guys (policemen) through the Afghan National Police Academy,” Ash said. He hopes eventually to send more, but in the mean time the Soldiers have another ace in their pocket.

About 12 of the company’s Soldiers are full-time police officers in their civilian lives, according to Kidney.

In Ash’s platoon he has three civilian policemen, and their knowledge and experience is a criti-

cal tool in helping develop the police force into a professional one, Ash said.

“We all work together and we draw off our experiences,” said Sgt. Scott McCullough, a fire team leader and civilian patrol officer in Morrisville, Vt. They use their experiences to help teach basic police fundamentals like how to conduct traffic control points and personnel searches, he added.

“We work with the ANP and ANA so hopefully one day they don’t need us here. We’ve noticed they take more initiative and I think that’s a step in the right direction,” said McCullough.

In addition to the police, the Soldiers also work with the Afghan National Army, who according to Ash are already “pretty squared away.” The ANA soldiers attend a basic training, where they learn fundamental soldiering skills. So, the A Co. Soldiers focus more on conducting combined operations with them.

Overall, one of the biggest achievements that the Soldiers have accomplished with their Afghan counterparts is the camaraderie they have built.

“We have seen they are willing to lay everything down for their country. That isn’t something that we expected when we first got here. We have learned that they have a lot in common with American Soldiers,” Kidney said. 🇺🇸



Spec. David Neidlinger, an infantryman from Columbia, Md., observes as an Afghan National Policeman uses his binoculars to scan a ridge for insurgents. Neidlinger and the policeman were looking for insurgents who had engaged their convoy earlier that day May 22.

In Tangita, In Tangita

Story and photo by Army Pfc. Roy Mercon, TF Wolverine PAO

The Maori people of New Zealand have a saying: “in tangita, in tangita, in tangita,” or, literally “the people, the people, the people.” In Bamyan province, New Zealand Army Maj. Kevin P. Brophy can’t keep the saying out of his mind.

When not providing services for the New Zealand, American or Singaporean Soldiers, Brophy has one major concern on his plate: a small orphanage, which he took under his wing with the help of Coalition Forces.

“It’s not like our arms are pulled here,” said Brophy, the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team chaplain. “But, one look at the kids, and it becomes impossible to look the other way.”

Brophy made the Samir Samad orphanage, which services around 65 displaced children, his pet project during his six-month tour of duty here. He and the New Zealand PRT visited the orphanage on several occasions to bring the orphans much needed supplies. In this most recent visit, the New Zealand troops,

or Kiwis, and troops of the American Embedded Training Team brought bunk beds, clothing and toys to the kids.

When the Kiwis came to the school, driving

up-armored SUVs, the kids dropped everything they were doing and ran out to greet them. As most were in school, this brought a scolding from the teachers. What mattered more than school to the orphans were the potential surprises the New Zealand PRT was bringing today.

The older children assisted the Kiwis who unloaded the pieces needed to construct the beds. The younger kids ran around the Soldiers involved with other tasks, some Soldiers being pulled by small hands to various parts of the orphanage. One child excitedly pointed at his home country on a map, then pointed to New Zealand, showing where he was and where his help had come from.

With the help of the older kids, the Kiwis and the Americans built only one bunk bed outside the orphanage. This was a classic example of the “give a man a fish, and he will have food for a day, but teach a man to fish, and he will have food forever” doctrine that Brophy likes to use during his work in Bamyan. The children at the orphanage learned how to build their own beds, allowing for future repairs and construction without the help of Coalition Forces.

With one child clinging to Brophy with tears in his eyes, begging the man not to go, the New Zealand PRT and the American ETT waved good-bye to the children. Their job was done this day. But this will not be the last time the Kiwis and U.S. Forces will grace the orphanage with their presence. A major kitchen-remodeling project is in the works, and an exposed wire burial project is planned for the near future.

Brophy put it best when he said that it isn’t the missions or patrols that one goes on that he remembers the most. It’s the people, the people, the people. 🇺🇸

New Zealand Army Maj. Kevin Brophy, the New Zealand PRT chaplain, swings with a little girl during a visit to her orphanage May 26. The New Zealand PRT brought and assembled bunk beds for the orphanage, as well as gave out clothing and toys for the kids.

ADT Trains Farmers for Future

Story and photos by Senior Airman Julianne M. Showalter
Khost PRT PAO

Troops of the 2nd Battalion, 19th Infantry, Agribusiness Development Team worked with the governor of Saberi district, Khost province, to facilitate irrigation and compost training for 105 farmers June 1 - 3.

An Afghan ADT cultural advisor taught the two courses to minimize the military presence at the district center.

“Having two weeks of preparation time with the district governor and Saberi civil affairs officer contributed to the success of training,” said Sgt. 1st Class Eric Umbarger, from Dana, Ind., who is the 2nd Bn., 19th Inf., ADT noncommissioned officer in charge.

Both courses incorporated techniques and tools that are easily duplicated on either a large or small scale with tools purchased from the local bazaar. Saberi farmers who attended the training were given a gravity-fed, drip irrigation system starter kit and composting tools.

“The farmers were very appreciative of the training and tools they were given,” said an ADT interpreter.

The first course, composting, taught the benefits of recycling organic materials to create a fertilizer that increases the soil nutrient levels, in turn improving crops.

Additionally, the compost acts as a soil conditioner and as a natural pesticide, said Umbarger.

Following the composting course, the team taught the benefits of the gravity-fed drip irrigation system. It uses a water storage bucket or barrel and a series of tubes with small slats to slowly water rows of crops. This system is particularly good for vegetable and flower gardens.

“I have seen the (system) set up in other areas of Khost province, and we hope to bring that capability to Sabari farmers,” said Umbarger.

Overall, the training was well attended, thanks in part to the support of the district governor, said Army 1st Lt. David Tressler, Khost PRT Saberi civil affairs officer, and a Chicago native.

“The governor recorded a radio announcement, which got the word out and brought additional farmers to the district center,” Tressler said.

With the overwhelming success of the training, the ADT plans to have more courses at the district center.

“Some things locals have voiced to us while on patrol, such as grain storage and animal husbandry, have already been put in the works, and we hope to bring them to Saberi in the near future” said Umbarger. 🇺🇸



A farmer from Saberi district, Khost province, juggles tools on his shoulder after receiving compost training at the district center June 2. The 2nd Bn., 19th Inf., ADT worked with the governor of Saberi district, Khost province, to facilitate irrigation and compost training for 105 farmers June 1 through 3. Both courses taught the attendees self-sustaining farming techniques that are easily duplicated on a large or small scale with tools purchased from the local bazaar.

CJTF-101

A Rendezvous with Destiny

Story by Sgt. 1st Class Kerensa Hardy
CJTF-101 PAO

As the Army marked its 235th birthday, Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) took command of Regional Command-East during a ceremony on Bagram Airfield's flight line, June 14.

With a C-17 Globemaster III waiting to transport the outgoing command, Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division passed the mantle of leadership to Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Div., now Combined Joint Task Force-101.

It was a little more than a year ago when the All American division took the reins from the Screaming Eagles in what has seemingly become a tradition between the two headquarters.

"Thanks to the partnership we have built with the Afghan National Security Forces and government officials throughout the RC-East provinces, as well as the campaign continuity the 82nd Airborne and 101st Airborne Divisions have built over the four years we have preceded and succeeded each other in this mission, this ceremony has become a formality," said Army Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti, 82nd Airborne Div. and CJTF-82 commander.

The outgoing commander chronicled myriad accomplishments and expressed confidence in the capability and capacity of the Afghan partners.

"The true authority for the peace and prosperity of Afghanistan rests in the ANSF, the Afghan government and the people themselves," Scaparrotti said.

Incoming CG's TOA Address June 14 at Bagram Airfield

It's truly an honor to be here today to reflect on the incredible accomplishments and sacrifices of the Soldiers and civilians of CJTF-82 and to assume responsibility of Regional Command East. This is not a unique occasion. Today marks the third transfer of authority of this critical mission between our two storied divisions, and what was true almost 70 years ago at Camp Claiborne, Louisiana, where the 101st and the 82nd stood together to form the first two airborne divisions, was true 65 years ago in Normandy and Holland, fighting together for the freedom of Europe is still true today. We are a band of brothers and sisters who have fought and bled together across generations for the defense of our nation for the uniform principles of defense, justice and peace.

Scap and Dawn, you and your combined, unified team have made a significant contribution to the stability and security of Afghanistan. By striking the bond of friendship and shared commitment with our Afghan partners, you have set an impressive benchmark for progress and laid a foundation of success for us to continue to build on.

"Our success is measured by our partner's success, and their success isn't measured by the number of projects or missions we conduct, but by the faith and confidence the Afghan people entrust in them."

-Army Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell, CJTF-101 commander

"And their presence and commitment is enduring."

"It's truly an honor to be here today to reflect on the incredible accomplishments and sacrifices of the Soldiers and civilians of CJTF-82 and to assume responsibility of Regional Command-East," said Army Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell, 101st Airborne Div. and CJTF-101 commander.

Referring to the storied history both divisions share, Campbell said what was true nearly 70 years ago at Camp Claiborne, La., when the 101st and 82nd stood together to form the first two airborne divisions and 65 years ago at Normandy is still true today.

"We are a band of brothers and sisters who have fought and bled together, across generations, in defense of our nation and the universal principles of

freedom, justice and peace," Campbell said.

He said the coming year is vital to Afghanistan's future, and CJTF-101 will build on past accomplishments to further Combined and Unified Action to help facilitate enduring Afghan solutions to Afghanistan's challenges by, with and through its Afghan partners.

"Our success is measured by our partner's success," Campbell added. "And their success isn't measured by the number of projects or missions we conduct, but by the faith and confidence the Afghan people entrust in them."

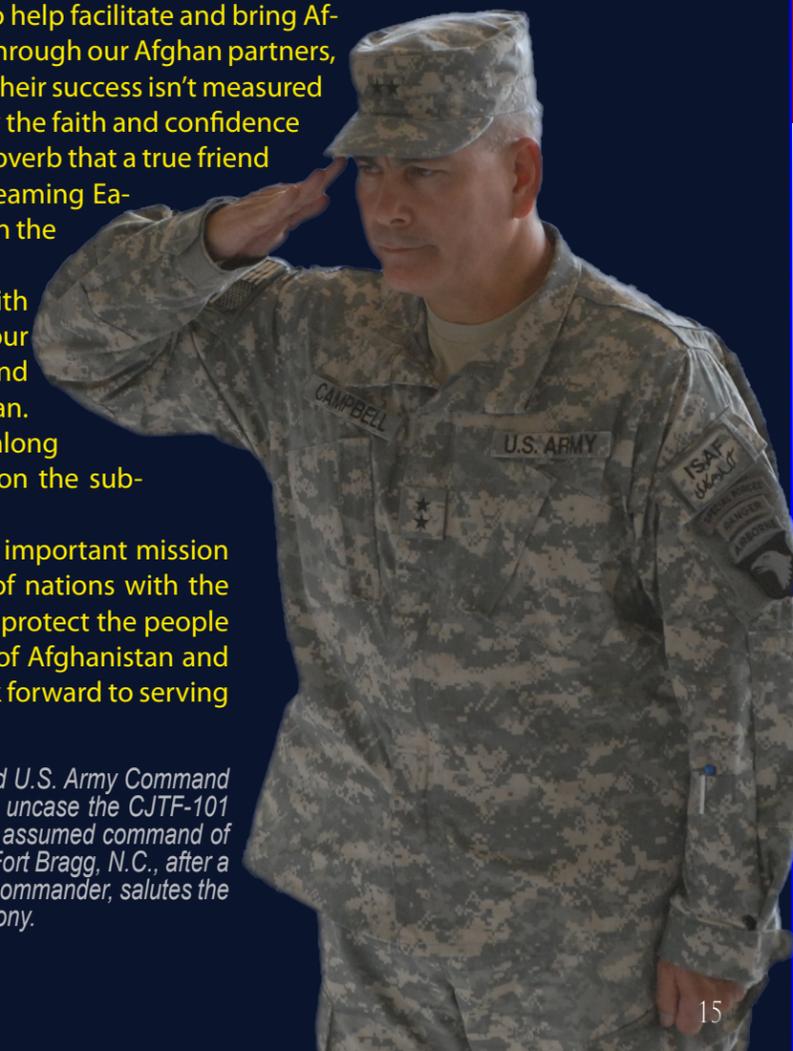
After what marked the third transfer of authority between the two divisions, CJTF-101 began its newest rendezvous with destiny by assuming control of 14 provinces in eastern Afghanistan.

This coming year is vital to the future of Afghanistan; building upon past accomplishments will further Combined Action and Unified Action to help facilitate and bring Afghan solutions to Afghanistan's challenges, by, with and through our Afghan partners, for our success is measured by our partner's success, and their success isn't measured by the number of projects or missions we conduct, but by the faith and confidence the Afghan people entrust in them. True to the Afghan proverb that a true friend is one who takes your hand in the time of need, the Screaming Eagles will stand shona by shona with our Afghan partners in the struggle to overcome Afghanistan's challenges.

While continuing to expand our Combined Action with the Afghan National Army, we will also focus more on our partnership with the Afghan National and Border Police and their vital role in the security and stability of Afghanistan. We will work with our civilian and interagency partners along with our Afghan local government officials to build upon the substantial accomplishments of CJTF-82.

The 101st Airborne Division is honored to assume this important mission once again. CJTF-101 and RC-East stand as a coalition of nations with the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, united in our mission to protect the people of this region. Together we will succeed, for the people of Afghanistan and for the international community we all belong to. We look forward to serving with all of you in this noble, rendezvous with destiny.

(Left) Army Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell, CJTF-101 commander, and U.S. Army Command Sgt. Maj. Scott C. Schroeder, CJTF-101 command sergeant major, uncased the CJTF-101 colors during a transfer of authority ceremony June 14, where they assumed command of Regional Command-East from CJTF-82. CJTF-82 is redeploying to Fort Bragg, N.C., after a year in Afghanistan. (Right) Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell, CJTF-101 commander, salutes the CJTF-101 colors at the conclusion of the transfer of authority ceremony.



The Voice of Peace

Story by Army Capt. William L. Geddes, 304th PAD



Photo by ANA Sgt. Abdull Raouf
203rd Corps PAO

A leader from Paktya province addresses reporters broadcasting the Voice of Peace Shura live to a radio audience. Paktya-area leaders held the first regional peace shura in Chamkani, Paktya province, June 10 following the Afghan National Peace Consultative Jirga, June 2 in Kabul. Afghan National Army commandos and the 203rd Corps 2nd Brigade, 3rd Kandak, provided security for the historical event.

More than 2,000 Afghan citizens attended the Voice of Peace Shura, held in the Chamkani district of Paktya province, June 10, despite attempts by militants to disrupt this gathering.

The Voice of Peace Shura, planned by local village citizens and district sub-governors, was a chance to meet and talk about reconciliation and how to bring peace and tribal unity to this part of the country.

Attendees gathered under the sun in the makeshift amphitheater, which was a field with a stage built literally hours before the shura began.

As they listened to the speakers, they drank water from strategically placed water stations put out by the Afghan National Security Force in the morning.

Soldiers from both the Afghan National Army's 203rd Corps and the local commando company were there to provide security against insurgents' threats.

"All the people of Afghanistan are tired of the war, and they want peace and stability in their country," said Matjhas Khan, a representative from the Chamkani district. "If there is a feud between our families, our tribes, our villages, then we should sit and solve that, and then there will be peace in Afghanistan."

Defined as consultation in Arabic, the word "shura" is also supported by the 42nd chapter of the Quran, encouraging believers of Islam to conduct their affairs "by mutual consultation" as needed.

At the Voice of Peace Shura, attendees from Paktya

"For 30 years our people have been blinded, they have lost parts of their body and Afghanistan has been a disaster. We need to keep having (shuras) and keep talking so we can find a solution and find peace and stability in our region."

-Matjhas Khan, Chamkani district shura representative

province had the opportunity to do just that.

"We welcome the chance to have these Jirgas," Khan said. "We want them to happen, so we can have peace. For 30 years our people have been blinded. They have lost parts of their body, and Afghanistan has been a disaster. We need to keep having (shuras) and keep talking so we can find a solution and find peace and stability in our region."

Khan went on to question why the insurgents would feel threatened by a peace shura and try to keep people away rather than attending it themselves.

"The people are our brothers, our sons, our friends," he said. "They are upset with us, upset with the government and we have to bring them in. We have to ask them why they are upset with us. If they are originally from Afghanistan, why are they not going to fight for the peace of Afghanistan and why do they not come to sit at the table to find the solutions for the peace."

ANA Capt. Mohammed Raza Noori, commander of the local commando company, hopes to have more shuras in the future to provide insurgents the opportunities to help Afghanistan become a peaceful nation.

"We need more shuras, especially in places where there is no security, no stability," Noori said. "If you have these, there is hope for peace. If we can have more, the people will see that the government of Afghanistan is trying to bring them peace. A shura like this one should be held in every province, like in Khost and Kandahar and Kunar, because in these provinces there is not stability; these provinces border with Pakistan."

If Afghan leaders are given the opportunity to come together and work out their difficulties, that consensus can spread, Noori said.

"If we hold these shuras with the elders, scholars and the mullahs coming and all village elders there representing their village, they can all talk about the problems and then come up with the solution. Then the elders can speak in their own community for stability."

Getting everyone together at the table is the first step, showing that Afghan democracy can work.

As the discussion began, the Afghan people realized that they have to figure out the way ahead. The fact that the discussion has begun is the key. ☺



Photo by Army Capt. William L. Geddes,
304th PAD

Matjhas Khan, a representative from the Chamkani district, discusses the Voice of Peace Shura held June 10, in Chamkani, Paktya province, with other attendees. An estimated 2,000 citizens attended the peace shura for a chance to meet and talk about reconciliation and how to bring peace and tribal unity to the region.

UNIT SPOTLIGHT

USFOR-A COMBAT DRIVING TEAM

Mission:

To move all essential personnel throughout the Kabul area of responsibility, and beyond city limits, providing quick, safe execution of all missions tasked to the drivers.

History:

With the start of USFOR-A at New Kabul Compound in Kabul, the need to transport high value personnel to places of interest became a high priority. The Combat Driving Team was created to go beyond traditional personal security detail missions, and become an elite force within USFOR-A headquarters.

Why We are the Best:

The CDT stands out above the rest of the driving detachments in the area Kabul area. They are a unit composed of Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines, of all ranks and backgrounds put together to complete one common mission. The CDT has gone far beyond the city limits of Kabul, entering remote, austere regions. With more than 10,000 scheduled movements completed in less than a year, the CDT has done numerous route reconnaissance missions, in which they scout new routes, looking for different dangers and details about the new routes. Every single day the CDT travels with food, water, toys and other essentials to hand out to the local children and population. Whenever the chance arrives, whether it's a planned stop, or a child knocking on their window en-route, the CDT strives to never leave anyone empty handed.



Hope Springs Eternal

Story and Photo by Marine Sgt. Heidi Agostini, 1st Marine Expeditionary Force PAO

Representatives from Arzu Studio Hope visited Helmand province June 8 through 12 to survey several potential sites to expand their operations.

Since 2003, Arzu, a public-private partnership, has worked with women weavers in Afghanistan to create high-end woven rugs. The one-of-a-kind, hand-knit rugs have caught worldwide attention including the Smithsonian institution in Washington, D.C.

Arzu recently cut the ribbon on a Women's Center in Dragon Valley, Bamyan province, and now hopes to develop the same success in Helmand.

The employment empowers the women with income, education, healthcare and helps develop their skills. To work for Arzu, women sign a contract agreeing to send all of their children to school until age 15 and take literacy classes themselves. Also, pregnant women and mothers of newborns are to accept transportation to medical care.

Afghan native, Razia Jan and entrepreneur Connie Duckworth, president of Arzu ("hope" in the Afghan language Dari), visited several sites within the province including Nawa, Lashkar Gah and Gereshk. The ladies evaluated the possible sites on factors such as potential economic growth, security and local participation.

The project is being developed with full cooperation and engagement of local women's and men's shuras. Arzu aims to help in the reconstruction of the war-torn country by empowering women, their families and communities.

"This is our first time in Helmand province," says Duckworth. "The biggest empowerment for women is a job and the ability to earn income. The idea was to help these women produce the highest quality product that we can export to the proper market."

Jan and Duckworth realized

some challenges that would go into kick starting the project including overcoming Afghan cultural sensitivity.

"We have to start somewhere," said Jan, who will supervise the project. "It makes a lot of difference when a woman has a little money in her pocket. The problem we encounter is communication. Here in Afghanistan, the husband speaks on the woman's behalf."

Eager and willing to provide Afghan women a voice in the decision-making process, Jan and Duckworth follow a cultural practice by deferring to and involving the Afghan males, typically head of the households with final say.

Jan and Duckworth will use the information gathered during the trip to develop business opportunities to help Afghan women in the future. ☺

Connie Duckworth, founder of Arzu Studio Hope, during her visit to a women's center in Lashkar Gah, Helmand province, June 8. Arzu Studio is a public-private partnership that works with women weavers to create high-end woven rugs. To work for Arzu, women sign a contract agreeing to send all of their children to school until age 15 and take literacy classes themselves. Also, pregnant women and mothers of newborns are to accept transportation to medical care.

Goodwill Across Afghanistan:

ISAF and ANSF Reach Out



Members of the Nangarhar Provincial Reconstruction Team and Afghan officials unload malaria equipment and supplies at the Nangarhar Malaria Control Center in Jalalabad, June 15. The PRT turned over the malaria program and equipment valued at \$250,000 to the Nangarhar Ministry of Public Health whose goal is to make it a sustainable malaria plan in Nangarhar province. The program is to become a pilot program for other provinces throughout Afghanistan.

Photo by Tech. Sgt. John Barton, Nangarhar PRT

An Army paratrooper from Higher Headquarters Company, 16th Military Police Brigade, hands an Afghan girl a teddy bear, notebook and crayons during a visit to a hospital on Bagram Airfield.

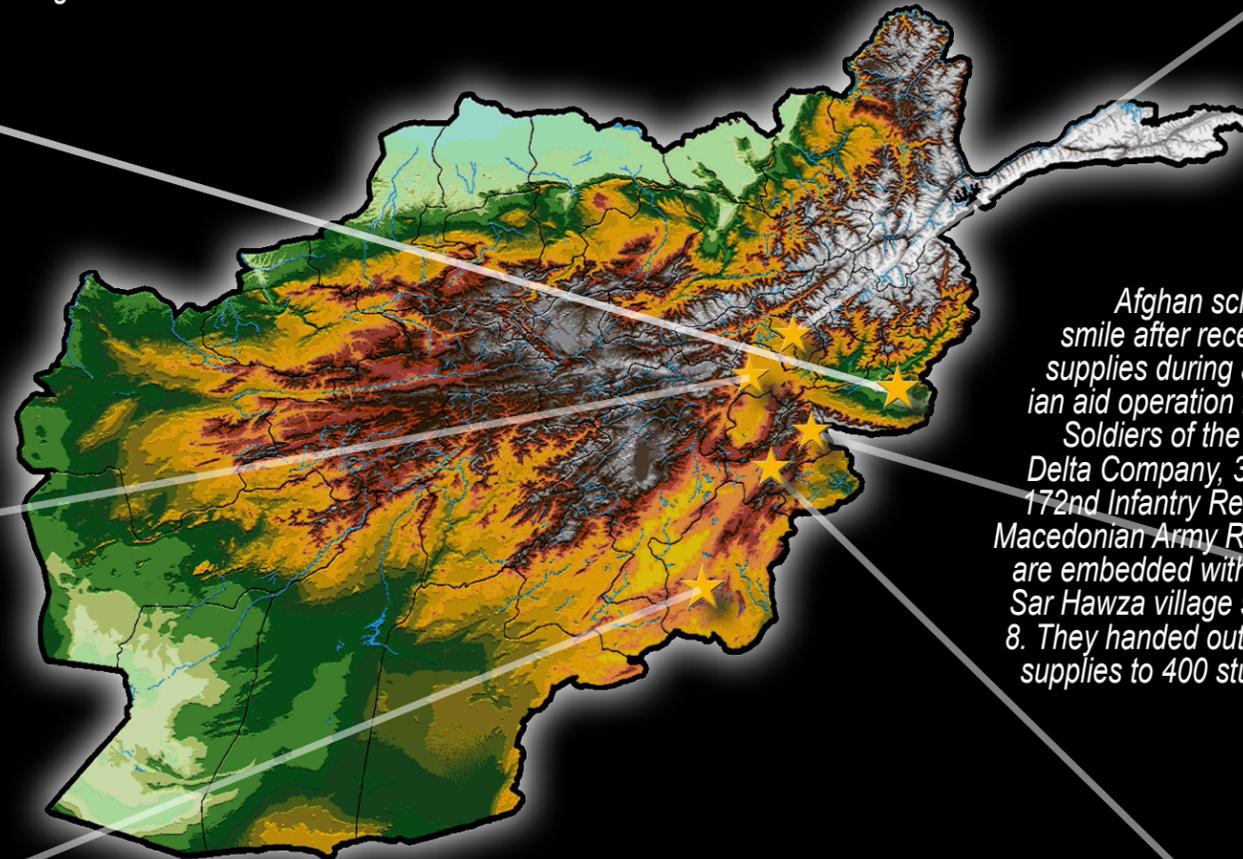


Photo by Army Capt. Thomas Cieslak, 16th Military Police Bde. PAO



Senior Chief Petty Officer Patrice Frede of Greenville, N.C., noncommissioned officer in charge, Counterinsurgency Training Center Afghanistan, hands out pencils to Afghan children, June 14, at the Safi Ullah Afzali School in the Qala-I-Moslim village, Kabul province.

Photo by Army Capt. Chris Neeley, 1-173rd FA Bn.



Afghan school children smile after receiving school supplies during a humanitarian aid operation facilitated by Soldiers of the 4th Platoon, Delta Company, 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment., and Macedonian Army Rangers, who are embedded with them at the Sar Hawza village school, June 8. They handed out 40 boxes of supplies to 400 students in the village.

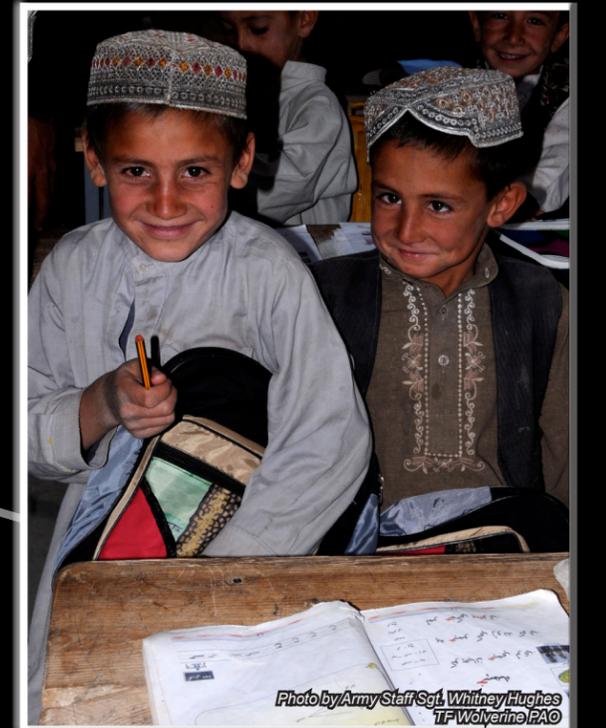


Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes, TF Wolverine PAO



An Army cavalryman hands out some ink pens to children in Charkh Valley, Logar province, June 18. These soldiers are assigned to 1st Platoon, Bulldog Troop, 1st Squadron, 91st Cavalry Regiment, 173rd Airborne Brigade Combat Team.

Photo by Army Sgt. Russell Gilchrist, Joint Combat Camera Afghanistan

An ANA Soldier helps a child make a necklace out of the pipe cleaners that U.S. Army Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 172nd Infantry Regiment, handed out to the children to play with during a joint air assault, May 30. The air assault was the first that the battalion had ever conducted together in combat.



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Whitney Hughes, TF Wolverine PAO

MARSHALL PLAN FOR AFGHANISTAN

Story by Army Col. John Ferrari,
NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan



Secretary of State George Marshall gave a speech 63 years ago that altered the course of the 20th century. His post-World War II vision for aiding a war-torn Europe set the conditions of growth, prosperity and democracy which in the immediate aftermath of the war, was not a foregone conclusion. Many look back to this vision and ask why we don't have a Marshall Plan for Afghanistan, a country that has been in a constant state of war for more than 30 years. Having been in Afghanistan now for several months, I realize that we do have an equivalent program—the NATO Training Mission Afghanistan/Combined Security Assistance Command Afghanistan.

NTM-A/CSTC-A's official mission is to generate and sustain the security forces of Afghanistan in order to enable the Afghan government to assume responsibility for its security. In reality, however, the impact of this mission is much greater. We are transforming

an entire generation of Afghan society's human and physical capital, much in the same way that World War II transformed the U.S. and Europe.

In addition to their sons and daughters, the people of the United States are providing CSTC-A with almost \$20 billion over the next two years to grow and sustain the Afghan National Security Force. We are leveraging these funds to ensure that we have a lasting impact to transform Afghan society in accordance with Marshall's vision.

The generation of Americans who left the farms to fight World War II joined an Army that provided them with technical and leadership skills, basic health care and a world view that included tolerance, compassion and the ability to work across racial, ethnic and social classes. The human capital of America was transformed and became known as the Greatest Generation.

In Afghanistan, NTM-A/CSTC-A is doing something similar. We are educating and training a generation of Afghan society that has known nothing but 30 years of civil war, a rigid top-down hierarchical governance and has been limited to no formal education. Hundreds of thousands of Afghans are joining the army and police and we are providing them basic hygiene and health care, literacy training, and integrating them into army units that have mixes of tribal and ethnic backgrounds. We are providing them marketable skills such as leadership, planning, logistics, maintenance, computers, medical, law enforcement and engineering. To the Afghans of this generation, this is a new way of life. Some will leave the security forces early, some may stay until the war is over, while some will remain in the security forces for life, but all of them will have uplifted their skills and now have higher expectations for the future. These Soldiers and police can be the Afghan version of our Greatest Generation.

In addition to transforming the human capital of this country, our efforts to create the security forces have the potential to transform the country's physical capital, creating the Afghan version of the rebuilding of Europe. Spending on average \$10 billion per year over the next two years, CSTC-A's budget is just smaller than the estimated gross domestic product of the entire Afghan economy. Given this size, our investment can and will transform the Afghan economy across many sectors.

Most directly, we are paying a large percentage of the salaries for several hundred thousand Soldiers and policemen, providing an immediate and direct stimulus into the economy. Given the geographic diversity of the force, these funds are dispersed across the country and benefit the entire society.

Next, we are increasing our procurement of Afghan-made products in order to rejuvenate a manufacturing sector that has been destroyed over the past 30 years. We are injecting several hundred million dollars into locally manufactured boots, uniforms and equipment. We can literally see new factories rising from barren lots to meet our demand. As companies learn to produce products needed for the security forces, they are re-learning supply chain management, quality control, cash management, risk management and capital investment planning. We already have found

that our boot manufacturers are looking to diversify into commercial footwear. Just recently we visited new factories for making furniture and pre-fabricated buildings, both being built with private capital to meet anticipated future demand. Our women-owned business set aside is also a very promising program and we will soon award contracts to businesses that otherwise would not have existed.

We are also injecting a multi-billion dollar stimulus program into the economy to build police stations and army facilities. These are almost all Afghan workers who are developing skills, learning construction quality to western standards, learning how to meet deadlines and learning how to manage complex supply chains.

Similarly, we are investing heavily in developing a robust service sector. Our contracted labor force to repair army and police vehicles, literacy trainers, marketing firms, facilities maintenance firms, and others are building a private sector civilian labor market that had been destroyed over the past 30 years. Not to be forgotten is the development of the military and police medical system which will provide the backbone for all medical development in this country for decades.

With the people of the United States providing the security related costs of fighting the war, the limited budget for the Afghan government can focus more effort on social well-being of its citizens. The Afghan society is avoiding having to mortgage its future because we are guaranteeing and procuring its security, much like the United States did in Europe after World War II. We called that security arrangement NATO.

But a word of caution -- recovery from years of warfare does not occur in one year or five. A tremendous amount of strategic patience and up-front investment is needed but the payoff for those with patience is exponential growth with the impact felt by subsequent generations for decades to come.

While much of the focus today is on the tactical counterinsurgency fight, insurgencies are generally long, hard fights and require strategic vision and strategic patience. NTM-A/CSTC-A is focused on both time horizons. In addition to generating and sustaining the security forces for today's fight, we are strategically leveraging our economic muscle to uplift the Afghan society to lay the foundation for the long term growth of Afghan civil society.

STORY SNAPSHOTS

CJTF-101 CG meets Acting Polish President



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini
304th PAD

Army Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell (right), CJTF-101 commander, walks with acting Polish President Bronislaw Komorowski during Komorowski's visit to Afghanistan at Kabul International Airport, June 21. The acting president met with Campbell before visiting Polish servicemembers at different FOBs. He also met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai during his day-long trip.

WTC beam Unveiled at BAF



Photo by Spc. Jay Venturini
304th PAD

Army Maj. Gen. Curtis M. Scaparrotti (left), commander of the CJTF-82, and Army Command Sgt. Maj. Thomas R. Capel, CJTF-82 command sergeant major, unveil an I-beam from the New York World Trade Center, which was attacked Sept. 11, 2001. The unveiling was part of the Memorial Day ceremony at Bagram Airfield, May 31. The beam was donated by the Sons and Daughters of America of Breezy Point, N.Y., and will be displayed at Bagram Airfield until the U.S. mission is complete in Afghanistan. The beam will then be moved to the 82nd Airborne Division museum at Fort Bragg, N.C.

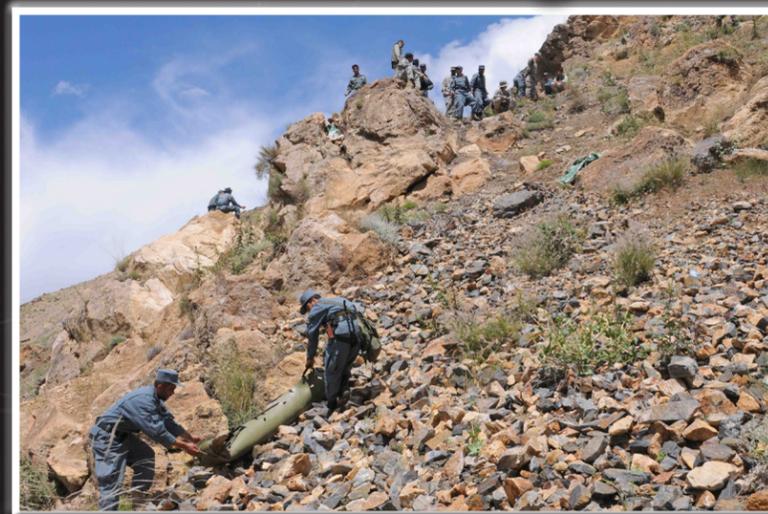
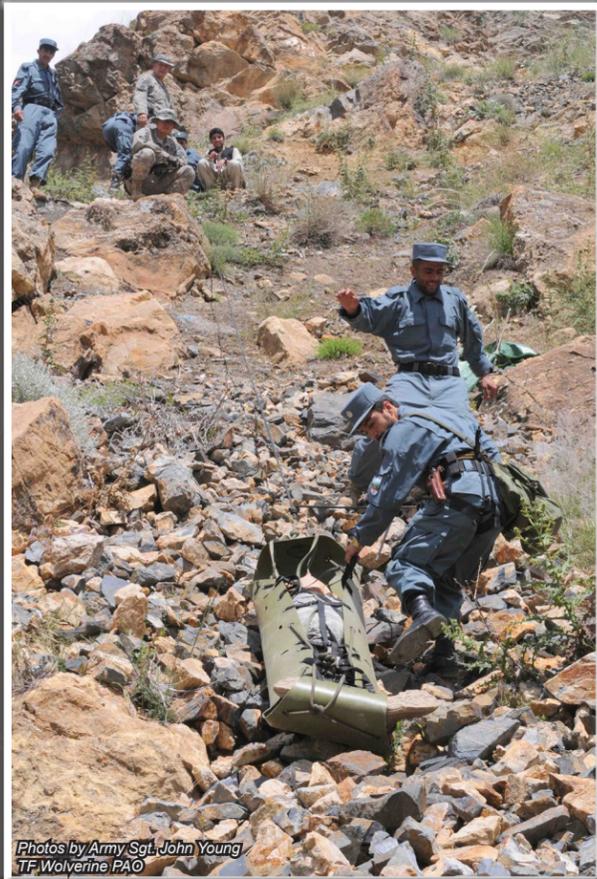
Training Future Afghan Engineers

Students from Sheikh Zayed University attend a 12-week construction engineering course taught by Bruce Pastorini from Jacksonville, Fla., an engineer with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and a member of the Khost Provincial Reconstruction Team. On June 10, 17 students graduated from the course at the Civil Military Operations Center in Khost City. In the future, the class will be taught solely by four Afghan engineers who worked with Pastorini during the course.



Photo by Senior Airman Julianne M. Showalter
Khost PRT PAO

ANP Mountain Rescue Training



Afghan National Police officers practice their mountain rescue skills, May 16. Soldiers with the Vermont National Guard's 86th Infantry Brigade Combat Team trained the officers to use a z-pulley system to raise and lower a rescue stretcher. Some of the Soldiers are mountain school instructors back home and are teaching the ANP those skills because of the mountainous terrain in Panjshir.

Photos by Army Sgt. John Young, TF Wolverine PAO

ANP Officers Graduate CSI Course



Photo by Army Pfc. Roy Mercon, TF Wolverine PAO

A graduate of the Afghan National Police's Crime Scene Investigation program at the ANP Regional Training Center in Bayman province displays his certificate during a graduation ceremony at the center, May 28. The six-week program is considered a vital part in the development of Afghanistan. Crime scene investigators are accountable for the initial evaluation of a crime and securing any physical evidence found at the scene.

Addressing School Concerns in Laghman



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte, 300th MPAD

An Afghan youth displays a bird to Army Sgt. Nathan M. Starr of Stratford, Conn., a team leader with 2nd Platoon, Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 102nd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Iron Gray, during a visit to Meya Abdul Karim School, May 18. School officials discussed security concerns during the visit with Afghan National Army and International Security Assistance Force personnel. The campus has roughly 3,000 students ranging from primary level to high school.

Strengthening the Border

Army Sgt. Michael S. Lachapelle, of Miami, the platoon sergeant for 1st Platoon, Charlie Troop, 1st Battalion, 32nd Cavalry Regiment, Task Force Bandit, shakes hands with an Afghan Border Patrol commander during a visit to Barikowt village, Kunar province, June 13. Soldiers meet with ABP officers several times a week, helping them take a greater lead in providing security for the area.



Photo by Spc. Albert L. Kelley, 300th MPAD

Empowering a DDA in Kunar



Photo by Spc. Albert L. Kelley, 300th MPAD

Army 1st Lt. Nick R. Eidemiller, of Paso Robles, Calif., a platoon leader with 1st Platoon, A Company, 2nd Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, Task Force Rock, looks on as District Development Authority members ratify a community development project in Noorgal district, Kunar province, April 25. DDAs are responsible for implementing community development projects across their district. Types of projects include schools and water wells.

Building Together in Paktika



Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Demetrius Lester, Paktika PRT PAO

Paktika Provincial Reconstruction Team member, Petty Officer 1st Class Brian Gamache, (right) performs a concrete slump test, which measures moisture in cement, with an Afghan contractor. Gamache, is an engineer for the PRT which oversees the quality of production and works with Afghan locals at a library being built in the Sharana district. The PRT is a joint team whose mission is to help legitimize the government of Afghanistan through development, governance and agriculture initiatives. Gamache is deployed from Naval Operations Service Center, London, Conn.

Soldiers Provide Afghans Latest News



Photo by Army Staff Sgt. Gary A. Witte, 300th MPAD

Youths from Nulu village, Laghman province look over copies of the Sada-e-Azadi, or Voice of Liberty, newspaper during an Afghan National Army and International Security Assistance Forces visit May 26. The paper helps keep Afghan residents informed of their government and national community news.

Get the rest of the story

CJTF101.com



The Way Ahead

RC-East's Campaign Plan



Story by Army Lt. Col. John C. Hale, CJTF-101 Plans Director
and Army Staff Sgt. Corey L. Beal, 304th PAD

Combined Joint Task Force – 101 assumes command of Afghanistan's Regional Command East with a plan. The success or failure of this campaign plan will determine the future of Afghanistan and the state to which it will be handed to the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan in July 2011.

Army Maj. Gen. John F. Campbell, commander of CJTF-101, leads the campaign to secure sustainable security, governance and development in RC-East which will be achieved through a deliberate and unified effort between International Security Assistance Force members, international government agencies and Coalition partners.

The campaign plan, dubbed Operation Oqab, or Operation Eagle, is the culmination of the best practices established in the last 8 years of operations combined with a direct vision, goal and timeline.

The RC-East campaign plan is driven by thoughts and decisions about Unified Action and Combined Action as methods of setting security and stability conditions by July 2011 to begin transition to GIRoA.

The Campaign Plan follows six lines of effort: information, protecting the population, enabling Afghan National Security Forces, bolstering the capacity and credibility of Afghan government institutions, supporting socioeconomic development, and neutralizing negative influence.

The cornerstone of the newly introduced campaign plan will center on supporting the integrity of tribal and religious leadership, while simultaneously strengthening their link to GIRoA.

The CJTF-101 campaign plan strengthens and expands upon proven concepts such as Combined Action and Unified Action. The application of both concepts will prepare established Afghan systems to thrive independently.

Combined Action is the integration of ISAF members and their Afghan counterparts into a single organization, usually a platoon or company, to conduct counterinsurgency operations. Commanders use this approach to hold and build while providing a persistent

counterinsurgent presence among the populace. This approach both simplifies operations and strengthens the inter-connected capacity of U.S., Coalition and Afghan troops in the area.

Unified Action is the synchronization, coordination, and integration of civilian agencies with military operations in order to achieve unity in effort. It involves the application of all instruments of national power, including actions of other government agencies and multinational military and nonmilitary organizations. Combining all efforts into a well-synchronized, organized and fully vetted process allows for unique knowledge, skills and abilities from separate entities to enhance the capacity of all members of the team.

Campbell's intent is to protect the population in RC-East by, with and through Afghan institutions to separate anti-Afghan forces from the population.

CJTF-101 is focused on gaining the Afghan people's trust in GIRoA's capability and credibility and gaining the population's commitment to resist anti-Afghan forces' influence and activity in selected priority districts. This approach does require neutralizing negative influence, while focusing on governance, development and information.

ESTABLISHING TRUST AND CONFIDENCE:

We will work to increase the people's trust in GIRoA in key terrain districts, and establish the conditions necessary to begin transition to GIRoA lead by July 2011. We will ensure that in all operations, specific care and attention is given to the high priority of protecting the population. A key component in this strategy is developing the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army into competent, credible and capable security forces that can protect the local and national populations and infrastructure.

"We are setting the framework for the transition from military to civilian control in Regional Command East, and building a solid plan for effective transition," said CJTF-101 Director of Operations, Army Col. David J. Woods.

"We are setting the framework for the transition from military to civilian control in Regional Command East, and building a solid plan for effective transition."

- Army Col. David J. Woods, CJTF-101 Director of Operations



There are several key tasks that CJTF-101 must take to facilitate the conditions for transfer from military to civilian control. These include protecting the population, focusing on key terrain districts and taking precautions to limit civilian casualties. This involves building relationships with tribal, business, and religious key leaders to win the trust and credibility of the people of Afghanistan.

Relationships with the Pakistan military must be strengthened by, with and through ANSF, focusing on areas of the border that directly impact key terrain districts. The ANP must be developed through Combined Action at the district level, and the ANA through Combined Action at all levels. Security at border control points must improve, to facilitate licit economic traffic.

Development projects that reduce unemployment must be supported to increase economic opportunity for the population. This also includes retaining freedom of movement along Highways 1, 2, 7, Torkham Gate and Gulam Khan for the population and commerce. We must hold each other accountable by supporting Afghan efforts to identify and remove corrupt officials. All of the above efforts must be effectively communicated to the people of Afghanistan, so that they can understand the progress that GIRoA is making.

The leadership of CJTF-101 aims to increase economic opportunity for the population by creating an environment that allows freedom to movement without fear. Our efforts will also focus on building solid relationships, based on trust, with governmental, tribal, religious and business key leaders, to establish a strong understanding of the mutually supporting interests of all concerned parties.

The leaders of RC-East look forward to the challenge of assisting in bringing peace and prosperity to the region. These efforts cannot be achieved without the sustained support and positive influence of the multitude of international nations who support the efforts through contributing personnel, financial assistance, and technical and political advice.

We recognize the sacrifice made by all contributing nations, to end the history of warfare in this region, and bring sustainable peace to fruition. Soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division have made sacrifices, away from their families and loved ones periodically for over a year. We are fully committed to training and building positive momentum in RC-East. Success depends on each civilian, citizen and Soldier making a concerted effort to understand the interests of all parties and move toward legitimate governance, security and development, while holding each other accountable. 

WARRIOR PROFILE

Story and photo by Lance Cpl. Khoa Pelczar, 1st Marine Logistics Group PAO

With just a few dollars in his pocket, a Kosovo native came to the United States to chase his dream of providing his family with a better life.

Lance Cpl. Betim Neziri, supply clerk with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), became a U.S. citizen in a naturalization ceremony at Bagram Airfield, June 3.

"On June 14, 2005, I came to the U.S. with 20 dollars in my pocket," said Neziri, 29, from Prishtina, Kosovo. "I had nobody, I had nothing. I bought a calling card so I could call home to let my family know that I'm okay. I also bought a pack of cigarettes and a hot dog. And that was it, I was flat broke."

Arriving in New York City, he was a long way from home, he explained. He had nothing and nowhere to stay, but he was determined to achieve his goal. He went to the YMCA and stayed there for a while. They offered him a job as a summer camp counselor for three months in Rhode Island.

Neziri's boss, Gunnery Sgt. Michael J. Baird, supply chief with H&S Company, 1st MLG (FWD), is amazed at how far he's come.

"It gives me chills to hear him talk about his life up to this point, about the Marines and becoming a United States citizen, about what he's done, what he's accomplished," said Baird.

With enough money saved up from being a counsel-

or, Neziri bought a cell phone and contacted his cousin in Houston. He went to stay with her for a year and enrolled in college. The high tuition cost made it hard for him to financially support his family back in Kosovo, so he dropped out and moved to Dallas, where he met and married his wife. They moved to Reno, Nevada to be near his wife's family.

Neziri witnessed Marines help liberate the war-torn country of Kosovo in 1999, and he was grateful for everything the Marines had done for his country and family, he said. He decided to give back, and he joined the Marine Corps, July 13, 2009.

"I wanted to give back for what they've done for me, my family and my nation," he said.

According to Baird, 37, from Aransas Pass, Texas, Neziri is mature and focused on his job, overseeing all of the gear and equipment in the 1st MLG (FWD) supply warehouse here. He knows exactly

what he wants out of life and he's determined to get it, his boss observed.

"It makes me proud to be an American," said Baird, who is humbled to see Neziri, who had nothing, become a U.S. Marine and a U.S. citizen. "To see that we're allowing good people to have the opportunity to come here and become better...I'm honored to witness it all. It gave me chills just listening to it all and imagining what it would be like to be in [his] shoes."

The naturalization ceremony for servicemembers is

"To see that we're allowing good people to have the opportunity to come here and become better...I'm honored to witness it all. It gave me chills just listening to it all and imagining what it would be like to be in [his] shoes."

- Gunnery Sgt. Michael J. Baird, supply chief with H&S Company, 1st MLG (FWD)

held twice a year, Memorial Day and Veteran's Day, explained Petty Officer 1st Class John M. McBroom, noncommissioned officer in charge of Client Services and Legal Assistance at Bagram Airfield. At the ceremony on June 3, 70 servicemembers were naturalized at the ceremony, said McBroom, 36, from Los Angeles. He said he's never experienced anything like this in his 10 years of service.

"It's a special experience," said McBroom. "It means a lot that people who came from other countries want to be part of America. I have guys who lost their [arms] and legs from IED attacks and they're apologizing to me because they can't be here. They're not even Americans yet and they're putting their lives on the line for me. I'm proud of them and I hope they can live their dreams in America."

Neziri is happy knowing he can finally live "The American Dream," alongside his Marine Corps brothers and sisters in Afghanistan.

"As I am holding the certificate in my hands, I still [can't] believe that it's true," said Neziri. "It's an honor and a privilege to be a United States citizen. It's a dream come true. It doesn't get any better than this. I just wish my wife and family were here to share this moment with me." 🇺🇸

Lance Cpl. Betim Neziri, supply clerk with Headquarters and Service Company, 1st Marine Logistics Group (Forward), waits to take the Oath of Allegiance during a naturalization ceremony at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, June 3. Neziri, 29, from Prishtina, Kosovo, still can't believe he's a United States citizen. "I just wish my wife and family were here to share this moment with me."

Safety Watch

Heat Injuries

Courtesy of Mr. Armando M. Alfaro,
TF Provider Safety

Military activities in hot and humid environments are persistent, significant threats to the health and operational effectiveness of service members.

Of all servicemembers, the youngest and most inexperienced are at highest risk of heat-related injuries. It is especially important for Soldiers to remember how to protect themselves, and their battle buddies from heat-related injuries.

Because of the dangerous nature of heat illnesses, heat injuries frequently result because Soldiers often don't recognize their symptoms until it's too late.

Our body's protective cooling mechanism against heat injury is sweat. As long as we can sweat and the sweat can evaporate, we can continue to cool ourselves efficiently. If either the sweating mechanism begins to fail or the sweat cannot evaporate, then the cooling mechanism will fail, and heat injuries may occur.

Additionally, our ability to sweat diminishes as we become dehydrated. We lose body fluids in many ways every day.

Sources of fluid loss include respiration, perspiration, urination and defecation. The loss rate from each of these will vary according to activity levels, air temperature, humidity and altitude.

With normal daily activities, we typically lose about 1-2 liters just from respiration, and another 1-2 liters from normal perspiration. During heavy exertion, we can lose 8-10 liters of fluid over an afternoon of exercise or heavy activity.

A 150-pound person can lose 2 percent of his body weight—3 pounds—in fluid in just one hour!

Because muscles are made up of about 70 percent water, this can definitely affect our ability to continue to do both aerobic and anaerobic work.

How much fluid do you need? One of the best ways to judge hydration status is to check the color of your urine: it should be relatively odorless and no darker than the color of straw. The rule of thumb is "clear fluids in, clear fluids out."

A dehydrated person is more susceptible to developing a heat-related illness. Early symptoms of dehydration include thirst, fatigue, loss of appetite, lightheadedness and flushed skin.

Later symptoms may include difficulty in swallowing, stumbling, numbness, blurred vision, painful urination, muscle spasms and delirium.

It's extremely important to pay attention to these early symptoms so that heat illnesses can be averted. If it continues and goes untreated, heat exhaustion and heat stroke may occur.

Heat exhaustion is a condition caused by water and electrolyte loss. The primary cause of symptoms is related to the amount of sodium chloride (salt) lost. Symptoms can include excessive thirst, fatigue, exhaustion, nausea, muscle cramps, anxiety, agitation and headaches.

If treatment is further delayed, heat stroke may result. Heat stroke is a potentially life-threatening situation. Death can occur in less than 30 minutes.

As the brain overheats, the person may become disoriented, combative, argumentative and may hallucinate. Symptoms may also include seizures, vomiting and coma.

We assume that our sense of thirst will protect us from dehydration. This is not always the case. Our thirst sensation doesn't normally kick in until we are already 2 percent dehydrated! You don't want to wait until you feel thirsty to drink; it may be too late.

Here are some easy things you can do to protect yourself from heat injuries. Stay well hydrated by drinking fluids beginning about 12 hours before a scheduled work/exercise period. Our bodies can lose up to 2.5 quarts per hour, but can only absorb about 1 quart of water per hour.

Always have a water source available, pay attention to work/rest cycles and take frequent breaks from the outdoor heat.

Leaders need to pay close attention to where their Soldiers are and what they're doing. Everyone should be able to recognize the early signs and symptoms of heat illness, so further progression can be avoided.

There are many drugs and influential drinks which can promote dehydration and should be avoided in hot environments. If you suspect someone is suffering from a heat-related injury, it is important to get help immediately. 

Follow these tips for maintaining optimal health during hot weather and reducing your chances of becoming a heat casualty.

Drink water: Water is the best single preventative to heat injury. Don't wait until you are thirsty to drink water. Also, avoid caffeinated beverages as the caffeine has a diuretic effect and will add to your chances of suffering a heat injury. "Sports" drinks are of limited usefulness in preventing heat injuries as the sugar content is significant and some contain caffeine. Use sports drinks sparingly.

Take a break: Utilize and enforce the Army's work/rest schedule to prevent heat injuries.

Eat well: Meals are important in reducing heat stress. Try to avoid high-fat and carbohydrate-laden foods so they digest more easily. The water in fruits and vegetables also helps improve your fluid intake. Eating smaller meals also will help reduce the chance of heat cramps and other heat related injuries.

Exercise regularly: Physical conditioning is one of the best ways to reduce your chances of suffering a heat injury.

Dress for conditions: Depending on your work regulations, you may find some advantage in wearing synthetic undergarments beneath your work uniform to help reduce heat and wick away moisture. If you can't wear synthetic, look for lightweight wool or silk undergarments that promote wicking and breathability.

ANP's Ring of Steel

Story and photos by Air Force Staff Sgt. Sarah Brown
NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan

A series of 25 ANP checkpoints, known as the Ring of Steel, create a new layer of perimeter security around central Kabul.

Designed to cover Kabul's points of entry, by both foot and vehicle traffic, the Ring of Steel is considered to be a low-cost, high-payoff project for the Combined Security Transition Command - Afghanistan, which helped fund and equip the checkpoints. Although leaders say the security plan for Kabul is still relatively immature, vast improvements have been made in recent months.

"Security is better than it was even two months ago," said Army Maj. James Cheney, Afghan National Police support operations officer. "In January they only had about 35 guys running the Ring of Steel, and with no money and no training it was an ad hoc effort."

With CSTC-A's help, the ANP work to make each checkpoint a visible and legitimate area. Blue signs indicate each checkpoint as an official ANP security stop and traffic measures direct drivers to follow the flow of traffic.

These measures help prevent accidents and help

decrease traffic congestion. Cheney said with the six-ton booths that will be added, the checkpoints will be difficult to replicate.

Since January, the number of checkpoints, once scattered randomly, were consolidated to key points of entry into the city. These, include checkpoint four, which sees the most traffic and checkpoint two, which is on a main highway leading to the Kabul International Airport. The Ring of Steel Kandak (battalion) works for Kabul City Police Command. A force of 800 police officers mans checkpoints, working in six-hour shifts, 24 hours a day. The police rotate checkpoints, which helps minimize complacency and risk. The rotations give them shared duty among more dangerous areas.

Tasked to search suspicious vehicles, verify identity documentation, look for unauthorized weapons, tinted windows and explosives, Afghan National Army Maj. Ahmad Farid Hotal, Ring of Steel Kandak operations officer, said the police who work the checkpoints do so in service of their people.

"The policeman stands in hot summer weather for six hours, so the people of the city can feel secure inside the Ring of Steel," said the eight-year ANP vet-

"The people used to be kidnapped and there used to be a lot of terrorist attacks but the Ring of Steel is covering the city and we've had good results."

- ANA Maj. Ahmad Farid Hotal, Ring of Steel Kandak operations officer.

eran. "The people are glad because since the Ring of Steel was created, they are feeling more secure. The people used to be kidnapped and there used to be a lot of terrorist attacks but the Ring of Steel is covering the city and we've had good results."

Future plans to protect the city include a series of city gates outside the Ring of Steel perimeter. Even further outside the Ring of Steel, five ANA Forward Operating Bases will provide an outer cordon.

Despite that, Cheney said Kabul needs another layer of security between the city gates and Ring of Steel, especially until the police complete checkpoint training to run the stops effectively.

"After their six- or eight-week basic training course, they go to their unit, but there's nothing in the course about manning a checkpoint," Cheney said.

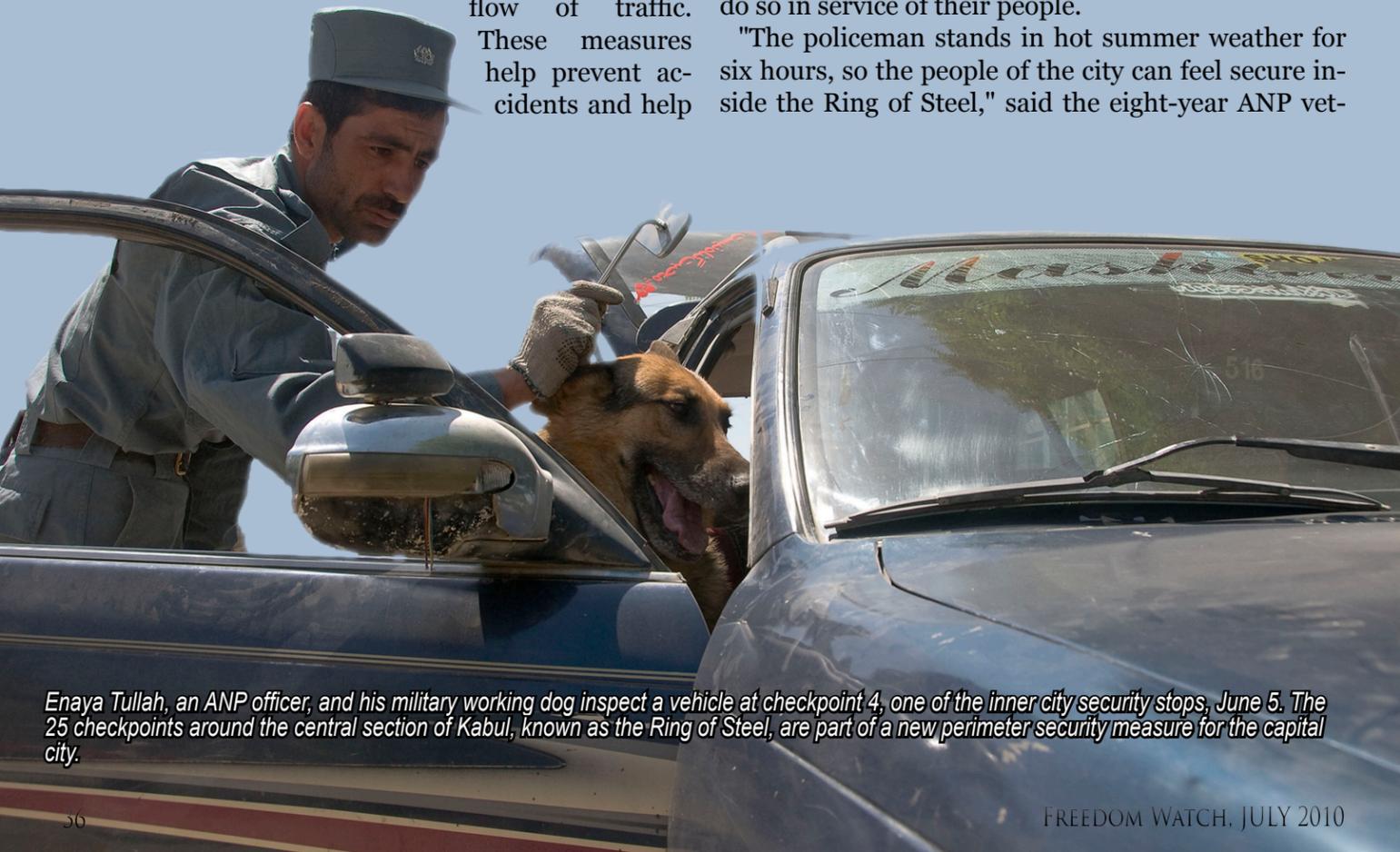
"There's a huge amount of training that goes on after the fact, but with very little partnering, they don't know how to use the checkpoints to pull cars aside without disrupting the flow of traffic or limit the number of cars piling up for inspection."

Each checkpoint is equipped with a minimum of five police officers and a portable explosives detection system. Those areas with heavier traffic flow have a military working dog for easier searches. Giving the

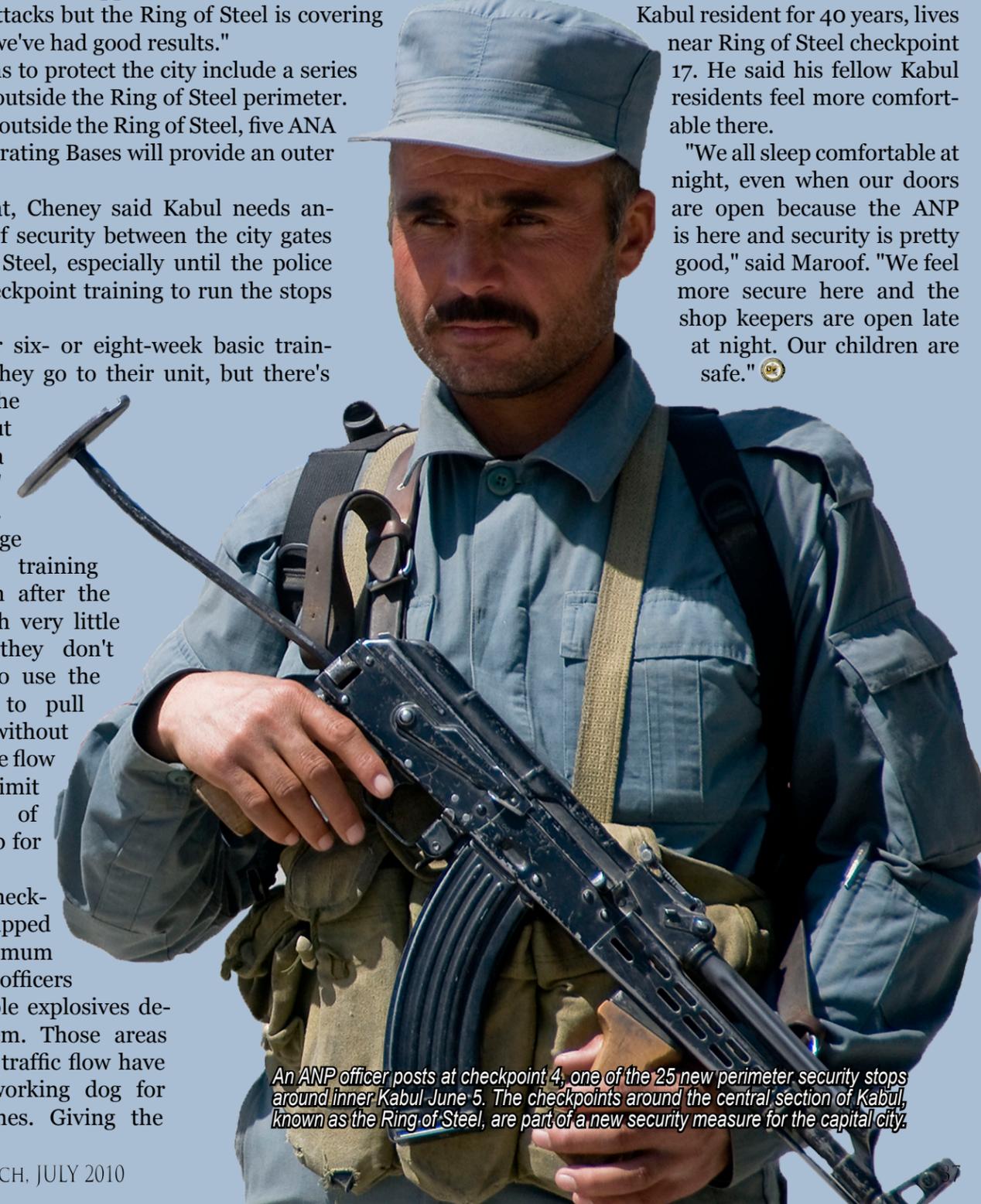
ANP a highly visible, legitimate checkpoint area has resonated with the Kabul residents.

Mohammad Maroof, a taxi driver who has been a Kabul resident for 40 years, lives near Ring of Steel checkpoint 17. He said his fellow Kabul residents feel more comfortable there.

"We all sleep comfortable at night, even when our doors are open because the ANP is here and security is pretty good," said Maroof. "We feel more secure here and the shop keepers are open late at night. Our children are safe." 🇦🇫



Enaya Tullah, an ANP officer, and his military working dog inspect a vehicle at checkpoint 4, one of the inner city security stops, June 5. The 25 checkpoints around the central section of Kabul, known as the Ring of Steel, are part of a new perimeter security measure for the capital city.



An ANP officer posts at checkpoint 4, one of the 25 new perimeter security stops around inner Kabul June 5. The checkpoints around the central section of Kabul, known as the Ring of Steel, are part of a new security measure for the capital city.

**Freedom Watch is
now on !**

Facebook.com/

Freedom Watch Afghanistan Magazine

**Become a fan and talk to others about the magazine, tell us
what you think or submit your photo submissions!**

This is your forum for everything Freedom Watch!

AFN Radio: 94.1 FM

Get Connected to CJTF-101

facebook

**Facebook.com/
RCEAST**



**Twitter.com/
RCEAST**

You Tube

**Youtube.com/
RegionalCommandEast**

**Send all submissions and inquiries to
FreedomWatch@afghan.swa.army.mil or call DSN 481-6367**

PHOTOS

From the Field



Local laborers working on school construction projects in Kunar province attend a construction technique seminar, May 4.



A German Soldier at Kunduz Airfield gives boarding instructions to passengers about to load up for a flight to Kabul on a German C-160 aircraft

Army Pfc. David Cryale, Spc. Brenton Breeze and Army Sgt. Antonio McDonald, of Cipher Co., 96th Aviation Support Battalion, 101st Combat Aviation Brigade, rig an STT-D Ku satellite trailer for CH-47 Chinook sling-load movement in support of TF Destiny redeployment operations at Kandahar Airfield.



Your photo could be featured next month! Entries need to include Who, When, Where, and What, also your Branch, Rank, Full Name, Job Title, Unit and FOB.

AIRBORNE



A F G H A N I S T A N

Herat

Qala-i-Naw

Chaghcharan

Maidan-Shahr

KABUL

Nangarhar

Peshawar

ISLAMABA