



KBC INSIDER



VOL. 1 - ISSUE 4

NEWSLETTER OF THE KABUL BASE CLUSTER INSTALLATION COMMAND

NOVEMBER 2010



ENGINEERS SUPPORT KBC

Troop permanent-living quarters near completion

ONE TALL ORDER

Logisticians keep supply lines open for KBC

SECURITY AND SUPPORT

101st and 1136th provide support to KBC bases

AFGHAN INVESTMENT

Contracting centers work to boost local economy

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Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs Office
196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade

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ON THE INSIDE

- 4 New vehicles assist Afghan Rule of Law
- 6 METF transfer authority in Kabul
- 7 ANA School of Artillery opens
- 8 Afghan Soldiers work to win local support
- 9 German Unification Day honored in Kabul
- 10 Engineers help finish troop living-quarters
- 12 101st Airborne Soldiers provide sustainment, security
- 14 Logisticians keep supply lines open
- 16 RCCs work to boost Afghan economy
- 18 Maine unit provides force protection
- 20 Chaplains provide spiritual, emotional support



6



7



10



12



18



20



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New vehicles assist Afghan rule of law efforts

By U.S. Navy Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager
Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 Public Affairs

KABUL – Beginning Oct. 10, officials of the Supreme Court of Afghanistan will use 19 new vehicles for safe and reliable transportation in and around the four regional courts of Kabul, as the country increases its rule of law capacity.

“These vehicles will be used to transport the judges from their home to the office so they will not face intimidation,” said Mr. Khesrawee, deputy administrator for the Supreme Court of Afghanistan. The vehicles are needed because of the dangers judges face.

“Afghan judges face many problems. Some have been killed and some have been kidnapped,” said Khesrawee. “One judge who was hearing a drug case was shot in the chest and killed in his own home after he refused to accept money in exchange for a verdict.”

“Having this (vehicle) package will definitely solve a big problem in Kabul. We are very pleased,” said Chief Justice Abdul Salam Azimi, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

“Providing safe and reliable transportation to judges who hear sensitive national security cases is of critical importance to the development of rule of law in Afghanistan.”

**– U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Robert S. Harward
CJIATF-435 commander**

The U.S. government purchased 13 vans and six sedans to provide secure, dependable transportation for some of the 1,600 judges in Kabul.

Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 facilitated the \$1.2 million purchase using Commander’s Emergency Response Program funds, which enable commanders to successfully respond to urgent humanitarian relief and reconstruction requirements within their areas of responsibility by carrying out programs that immediately assist the local population.

“Providing safe and reliable transportation to judges who hear sensitive national security cases is of critical importance to the development of rule of law in Afghanistan,” said U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Robert S. Harward, CJIATF-435 commander. “The lack of reliable transportation in Kabul results in the delay and cancellation of scheduled court sessions, undermining rule of law efforts.”

CJIATF-435 is coordinating several CERP projects throughout Afghanistan including a road improvement project near the Afghan National Detention Facility.

CJIATF-435, in partnership with the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and U.S. interagency and international



(U.S. Navy photo by Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Maria Yager)

Chief Justice Abdul Salam Azimi, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, officially accepts delivery of 19 new vehicles for use in the four judicial regions of Kabul. Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 facilitated the purchase by the U.S. government using Commanders Emergency Response Program funds in order to increase Afghanistan’s rule of law capacity.

partners, conducts operations in detention, corrections, judicial sector and biometrics. CJIATF-435 seeks to create conditions for Afghan criminal justice and dispute resolution participants to work free from intimidation and attack and to do so in an integrated and transparent manner. Military members work with Afghan partners and civilian interagency counterparts to help establish sustainable Afghan formal and traditional rule of law institutions that are legitimate, accessible and responsive to the Afghan people.

Road project to increase ANDF access, help locals



Afghan National Army Maj. Gen. Marjan Shuja, Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 Afghan commander and second from left, cuts a ceremonial ribbon for a road project Oct. 7, 2010, along with local villagers and Afghan National Army Brig. Gen. Safiullah Safi, commanding general of the Parwan and Pol-e-Charki military police brigade at far right.

(U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Adam M. Stump)

By U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Adam M. Stump
Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 Public Affairs

KABUL – Afghan and U.S. officials cut a ceremonial ribbon Oct. 7 to break ground on a road construction project that will increase access to the Afghan National Detention Facility and also help local villagers by increasing business traffic in the area.

The public ribbon cutting for the \$974,230 project marked the start of construction to restore and pave 2.5 miles of road outside the facility. The road is scheduled to be complete in mid-December.

This road project will help develop a center of commerce, said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Robert Lynch, director of logistics for CJIA TF-435. Due to the condition of the road, traffic is

impeded from the city to the prison, Lynch said.

“This is yours, this is for your children,” said one of the village elders to the assembled crowd of locals. “This is for your livelihood. This will be built on the highest standard. It is your responsibility to protect it.”

Just under one mile of the road must be completely restored and paved, while the remainder of the road will primarily require resurfacing. Improving this road with a level asphalt surface and proper drainage to each side will ensure immediate and safe access to shops and residences along the northern portion of the road as well as safe access to Jalalabad Road, which feeds the cities of Kabul and Jalalabad, Lynch said.

Once completed, the road will allow

family members and legal representatives to more easily visit prisoners held at the ANDF facility. As a secondary benefit, the amount of neighborhood traffic and the corresponding increase in business traffic to shops along the way will also indicate the project’s success, Lynch added.

“The more roads we can build, the better,” said U.S. Navy Vice Adm. Robert S. Harward, Combined Joint Interagency Task Force 435 commander. “It’s important for their families and their future.”

Harward said he plans to visit once the project is complete.

“When they finish, we’ll come back and we’ll all walk this together,” Harward told the villagers. “We’ll walk it together and make sure it’s good before the cars drive on it.”

METF transfer authority in Kabul



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Soldiers from the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force III (METF) sound off during a transition of authority ceremony Oct. 15, 2010, at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan. The METF will continue to provide a variety of missions throughout the Kabul Base Cluster including base security operations and mentoring and training of Afghanistan National Security Forces.

By Capt. Anthony Deiss

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

CAMP EGGERS, Afghanistan – A new rotation of about 200 Soldiers from the Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force III (METF) transferred authority Oct. 14 from the previous contingent on Mongolian forces serving in Kabul, Afghanistan, during a change-of-command ceremony at Camp Eggers.

As a NATO and International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) coalition partner, Mongolia provides six-month rotations of Soldiers in support of security operations on U.S. and coalition installations in the capital region for Task Force Rushmore and the Kabul Base Cluster Installation Command.

“I want to thank the leadership and Soldiers of METF II who have worked so

hard, and given so much to Camp Eggers and Afghanistan,” said Brig. Gen. Ted Johnson, Task Force Rushmore commander, during the ceremony. “I have every confidence in a seamless transition of military operations from METF II to METF III, and we will build on the partnership between the international military and the Afghan National Security Forces, who are the future of the security in Afghanistan.”

The METF also mentors and trains Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) at the Kabul Military Training Center and Darulaman Infantry School, as a part of the NATO Training Mission–Afghanistan (NTM-A) and Combined Security Transition Command–Afghanistan (CSTC-A) mission.

“The opportunity for METF III to assume responsibility for providing security to Camp Eggers has made it possible for NTM-A/

CSTC-A to operate at such a high level,” said Johnson. “I know all of you present here are committed to building on this legacy and taking it forward in the footsteps of your predecessors.”

The METF specializes in the training of Soviet-style artillery, mortars and rocket weapon systems. The Mongolians also have a small team of aviation maintenance and repair technicians who mentor ANSF counterparts.

“We are ready to serve all of Camp Eggers and all of Afghanistan,” said Lt. Col. Sodov, incoming commander METF III.

“Building on the outstanding legacy put forth by prior rotations of the METF, I am convinced that with the efforts of the Mongolian government, ISAF and the brave and steadfast people of Afghanistan, we will accomplish our goals,” added Johnson.

ANA School of Artillery opens



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Two Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers fire a 122 mm D-30 Howitzer during a live-fire demonstration Oct. 4, 2010, at the Kabul Military Training Center, outside of Kabul, Afghanistan, to celebrate the official opening of the ANA School of Artillery.

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

KABUL MILITARY TRAINING CENTER, Afghanistan – Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers along with U.S. and coalition forces took part in the official opening ceremony of the ANA School of Artillery Oct. 4 at Kabul Military Training Center in Kabul, Afghanistan.

The ceremony included a live-fire demonstration by ANA student instructors who fired 122 mm D-30 Howitzers, which finalized the completion of a two-month, train-the-trainer course taught by the Australian Training Team – Kabul (ATT- K).

According to a fact sheet by NATO Training Mission - Afghanistan and Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan, the new school will serve as the foundation for the professionalization of the ANA artillery branch. The school's opening is the first major step forward in developing a capable and professional ANA artillery branch.

"Mastering artillery will add a greater level of capability to the ANA," said Australian Army Maj. Piero Bertocchi, executive officer, ATT- K. "This enhanced capability equates to more fire power and an increased ability to fight."

About 20 to 170 students will attend one of nine different courses targeted for enlisted and officer personnel. Each course ranges from

eight to 16 week classes, and this year, nearly 2,500 students will graduate as artillerymen.

Soldiers at the school will be educated on gun drills, fire support and direction of fire and further learn about artillery tactics, leadership responsibilities, radio procedures, map reading and navigation skills. In addition artillery education, each Soldier will have approximately 70 hours of literacy and numeracy training in the curriculum, added Bertocchi.

The Australians are not alone in training the Afghan students. With expertise from 10 Soldiers of the Mongolian Mobile Training Team (MTT), Soldiers are able to train on weapons such as the 122 mm D-30.

"The MTT brings a wealth of knowledge on the technical and tactical aspects of field artillery," said Maj. Kyle Holt, liaison officer, Mongolian Expeditionary Task Force III, 761st Military Police Battalion, Alaska Army National Guard. "The Mongolians have had a train-the-trainer relationship with the ANA for 10 years. They live and work with the ANA at Camp Alamo for six-month [rotations] and help train the Soldiers."

With a partnership of training from the Australians and the Mongolians, ANA Soldiers will be ready to fight with the skills and knowledge they learn at the ANA School of Artillery.

Afghan Soldiers work to win local support



An Afghan National Army Soldier gives a child a bundle of clothing during a humanitarian aid drop Sept. 29, 2010, at Chantala village outside of Kabul, Afghanistan. Several U.S. and Afghan servicemembers partnered to prepare, coordinate and execute the mission to provide more than 100 bags filled with clothes and stuffed animals.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Story by Sgt. Matthew Nedved

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

KABUL – Afghan National Army (ANA) Soldiers visited the Chantala village outside of Kabul Sept. 29 to deliver humanitarian aid and to gain the trust and support of the local population here by executing an important principal of the counterinsurgency strategy (COIN) – building a relationship with the people.

“We are bringing clothing to the people of Afghanistan with the help of the U.S. forces in order to build a stronger relationship between our people and the government here,” said Col. Noor Alam, executive officer, Logistics Command, ANA. “The building of a strong relationship and the maintaining of that relationship is very important – it puts the people on our side.”

“This is what our main goal is here,” said U.S. Air Force Master Sgt. Robert Johnson, Combined Security Transition Command – Afghanistan. “This is what COIN here in Afghanistan is all about.”

With the help of the U.S. forces, the ANA delivered large amounts of clothing to hand out to the local citizens and start the process.

Although building a relationship between the ANA and the local citizens has been slow, it’s one that is gaining ground.

“Distributing these items helps us to gain the love of the people,” said Col. Zarin Alizai, company commander, Logistics Command.

A fundamental idea in the COIN strategy is for the ANA to deliver aid to the people they are protecting – demonstrating their support for them and establishing a foundation for a relationship to be built.

“Having the ANA as the face of each one of these humanitarian drops is key,” said Johnson, who helps to plan and coordinate missions with the ANA. “When we leave Afghanistan, the ANA will be the ones that are still here to maintain what we have worked for – it is important for the trust and relationships that are built be mainly between the ANA and the people.”

Some of the locations for the humanitarian drops are focused near military compounds. Afghans in these particular areas help the ANA and U.S. forces gather information about planned attacks and movements by insurgents.

“Having the trust of the people helps us gather important ‘intel’ that can prevent attacks against the coalition forces,” said Alizai.

According to Alizai, the information shared by these Afghans is a good indicator that this COIN principle is working, and that the relationship the ANA is developing with the people is winning their trust.

German Unification Day honored in Kabul



Col. Neumann of the German Armed Forces Tactical Advisory Group, salutes German Soldiers as he does a 'pass and review' with Ambassador Rudiger Kunig during the German Unification Day ceremony Oct. 3, 2010, at Camp Warehouse in Kabul, Afghanistan.

(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

By Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

CAMP WAREHOUSE, Afghanistan – German, Afghan and coalition forces honored the 20th anniversary of German Unification during a ceremony Oct. 3 at Camp Warehouse celebrating the re-unification of East and West Germany after decades of separation after World War II.

Several hundred German and coalition Soldiers attended the ceremony that signified the Oct. 3, 1990, date when the five re-established states of the German Democratic Republic (East Germany) joined the Federal Republic of Germany (West Germany), and Berlin was united into a single city-state. To commemorate this day, Oct. 3 became the official German national holiday, the Day of German Unity.

German Ambassador Rudiger Kunig was on-hand for the event, and said the ceremony was also symbolic of Germany's commitment in supporting the Government of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and the partnership between the two nations to work together to help provide peace and stability for the Afghan people.

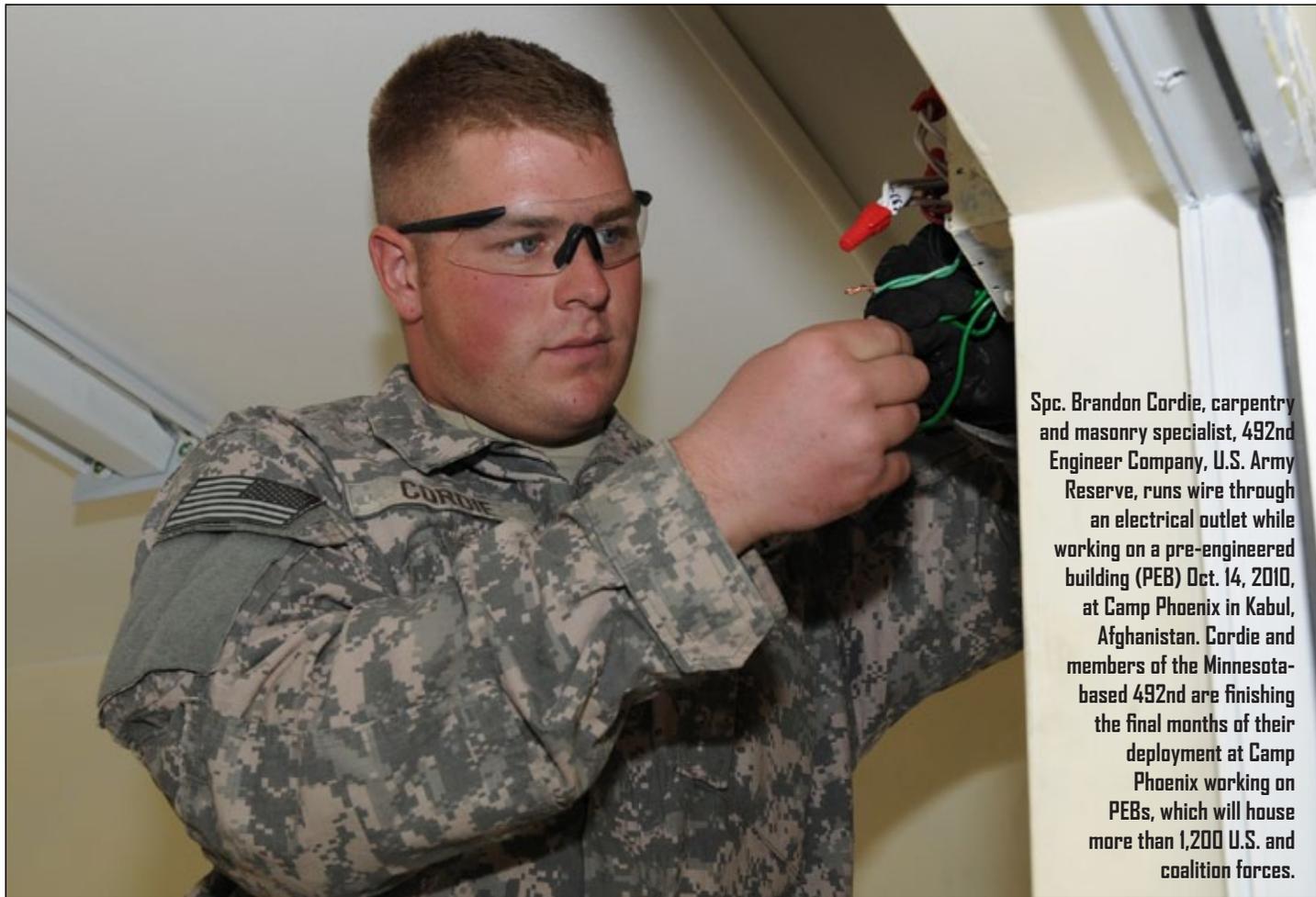


(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

German and Afghan Soldiers play the German National Anthem during the German Unification Day ceremony Oct. 3, 2010, at Camp Warehouse in Kabul, Afghanistan. The German military has partnered with the Afghan National Army Soldiers to train and help establish one of the first Afghan-military bands.

ENGINEERS SUPPORT KBC

Troop permanent-living quarters near completion



Spc. Brandon Cordie, carpentry and masonry specialist, 492nd Engineer Company, U.S. Army Reserve, runs wire through an electrical outlet while working on a pre-engineered building (PEB) Oct. 14, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Cordie and members of the Minnesota-based 492nd are finishing the final months of their deployment at Camp Phoenix working on PEBs, which will house more than 1,200 U.S. and coalition forces.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

Soldiers deploying to support two wars in one year doesn't happen often, but Soldiers of the 367th Engineer Battalion and 492nd Engineer Company, both of the U.S. Army Reserve, have supported Soldiers in Iraq and Kuwait, and are now supporting servicemembers in Afghanistan.

Initially mobilized to help sustain construction projects for the drawdown of U.S. forces in Iraq, these vertical engineers have taken on a new mission to finish construction projects in Afghanistan to provide more permanent-living space for troops within the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) in the capital region.

"The biggest reason this mission is important is that housing is a very limited commodity within the KBC and there are a lot of troops that need to move in to accomplish missions; there just isn't the permanent housing available right now," said Capt. Joel Welter, deputy of operations, 367th. "We want to move people into these buildings and out of tents before winter sets in."

Relocating from Kuwait, these units have taken on a number of high-priority construction projects within the KBC, but the main focus is the pre-engineered buildings (PEB) located on Camp Phoenix and Camp Alamo.

"A PEB refers to a building that essentially comes in a kit," said Welter. "It comes together as subcomponents and they are put together on site."

A total of 10 PEBs are being worked on by this Minnesota-based unit for the next month and will complete as many of the PEBs as possible before finalizing their year-long tour.

"To help bring these unfinished buildings up to code, the Soldiers are ensuring electrical standards are in compliance and are safe for servicemembers," said Sgt. Jordan Dibble, electrical supervisor, 492nd.

Ensuring these buildings are safe comes with ease for these engineers – having had prior experiences with PEBs in Iraq – they

are ready for the challenge and started working on the project within days of arriving to the construction site.

“The 492nd was actually selected for this mission based on their experience of putting together a pre-engineered building in Iraq,” said Welter, of St. Anthony Village, Minn. “They had a large degree of success with that. It was a mission that sat idle for more than two years...and the 492nd rolled in with their 2nd platoon and actually knocked it out two months ahead of schedule.”

Because of their dedicated work, Soldiers living in tents will soon be able to enjoy the comforts of living in permanent housing. The 10 two-story buildings, which will house more than 1,200 personnel, will contain rooms made for two people with showers and bathrooms located inside each building. Each room will also be wired to accommodate cable and electricity-needed items such as computers and lamps, said Sgt. 1st Class Daniel Toleno, platoon sergeant, 492nd.

“The electrical work we have started on will provide lighting, heat, air conditioning, outlets for utilities, fire alarms, which will all help to boost morale,” said Dibble, of Westbrook, Minn. “There are enough outlets to plug in what you need, not like in a tent where everyone is waiting around one outlet to use their computer.”

“All the Soldiers are excited to be here, excited about the nature of the work they are doing and having the chance to do something gainful,” said Welter. “A lot of them haven’t had the chance to come here before and it is good to end the deployment on a positive note helping other servicemembers.”

With the Soldiers working eight to 12-hour shifts to complete as much as possible, they will be able to achieve their goal of providing more permanent housing for the troops serving in the KBC.

“I’m glad to be finishing up these buildings here so our troops can move out of the tents into these nicer buildings,” said Spc. Colten Rozeboom, electrician for the 492nd, of Sioux Center, Iowa. “It is going to be a good accomplishment for us ending our tour to improve the Soldier’s way of living.”



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Spc. Joshua McHugh, right, carpentry/masonry specialist, holds heating, ventilating and air conditioning tubing while Staff Sgt. Joshua Anderson, both members of the 492nd Engineer Company, tapes the tubes together on Oct. 14, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. McHugh, Anderson and other members of the U.S. Army Reserve unit based in Mankato, Minn., are finalizing their deployment by working on pre-engineered buildings at Camp Phoenix, which will house more than 1,200 U.S. and coalition forces.



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Spc. Colton Rozeboom, electrician, 492nd Engineer Company, sorts through electrical wire before running it through conduit Oct. 14, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Rozeboom, of Sioux Center, Iowa, and other members of the U.S. Army Reserve unit based in Mankato, Minn., are providing construction work on 10 pre-engineered buildings (PEB) at Camp Phoenix and Camp Alamo. These PEBs will house more than 1,200 U.S. and coalition forces to help relieve the limited space for troops serving in the capital region.



Spc. Robert Whitehead, of Purvis, Miss., a security guard for Headquarters Support Company of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), stands guard near the entrance to Camp Black Horse on Oct. 10, 2010. Whitehead and other Soldiers from the 101st provide security and sustainment support services for more than 700 U.S. and coalition forces who reside on the camp.

(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

WELCOME TO BLACK HORSE

101st Airborne Soldiers provide sustainment, security

By Capt. Anthony Deiss

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

Within the walls of the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTC), just outside Kabul, is Camp Black Horse, a small base that houses U.S. and coalition troops who provide mentorship and training for Afghan National Army forces.

While the tenants who stay here are providing a vital mission in training Afghan security forces at KMTC, a small contingent of Soldiers from the Headquarters Support Company (HSC) of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) are conducting an equally important mission; providing sustainment support and security for camp residents.

Known as the mayor cell, or camp support group (CSG), these 101st Soldiers keep the base functioning and make daily

life as convenient as possible for troops living and working here.

“The mayor cell is the hub of the camp,” said 1st Sgt. John O’Keeffe, senior noncommissioned officer, HSC, 101st. “We’re running operations from early morning to nearly midnight – dealing with issues and helping people coming off a mission. We keep the camp clicking and we try to be as user friendly for the troops staying here as we can.”

From managing billeting and dining services to coordinating maintenance and contracted services for the camp; the 50 members of the CSG help to house and feed more than 700 U.S. and coalition forces stationed here.

“There are anywhere from 11 to 13 different coalition countries who live here at any given time,” said O’Keeffe, a native of Boise, Idaho. “Troops from the Czech Republic, Germany, Italy, Spain, Lithuania,

Greece, France – along with the U.S. Army’s 10th Mountain Division – are here and we help to get them what they need, where to go, and where to get supplies.”

Whether it’s fixing barracks plumbing, repairing tactical vehicles or even picking up the mail, the mayor’s cell has personnel who handle it, and it’s a service O’Keeffe said the troops really appreciate.

“We help to provide peace of mind for the Soldiers living here,” said O’Keeffe. “It’s good for their morale when they come in off the road and they don’t have to worry about basic necessities – the value of good food, a hot shower, a bed and a roof over their head – that’s a huge thing. We make sure it’s all readily available and they have everything they need.”

Another mission these 101st Soldiers based out of Fort Campbell, Ky., provide is base security. Manning the camp’s base defense center, perimeter and entry



(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

control points; the CSG has an important role in protecting the troops.

“While Camp Black Horse is located within an Afghan military compound, there is still a threat from the enemy who wishes to infiltrate the base and would like to breach our security,” said O’Keeffe, a 24-year veteran of the U.S. Army. “For this purpose, we have a very significant mission in protecting those who stay here and keep people from sneaking onto our camp or probing our defenses.”

While 101st Airborne Division Soldiers are known for their combat arms mission and capability, they are showing troops staying at Camp Black Horse they are equally versed in providing sustainment support to the warfighter.

“These 101st Soldiers are great and are highly motivated,” said O’Keeffe. “Camp Black Horse is a nice place to be and the Soldiers here appreciate our support. It’s a good place to stop over.”

Spc. Vincent Mormando, left, of Orlando, Fla., a security guard for Headquarters Support Company of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), reviews security procedures with Sgt. Clifford Morrow from the 10th Mountain Division on Oct. 10, 2010, at Camp Black Horse in Kabul, Afghanistan.



(U.S. Army photo by Capt. Anthony Deiss)

Spc. Dustin Hinkley, of Addison, Mich., a vehicle mechanic for Headquarters Support Company of the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), changes the oil on a humvee Oct. 10, 2010, at Camp Black Horse in Kabul, Afghanistan.

ONE TALL ORDER

Logisticians keep supply lines open for troops in the KBC



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Maj. Jason Kettwig, director of the Directorate of Logistics (DOL), 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, talks to a local Afghan contractor about ordering more electrical equipment Oct. 2, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Kettwig, and members of the DOL, work with Afghan businesses throughout Kabul to help improve the country's economy and to provide necessary commodities, such as food, water, wood, repair parts, ammunitions, and vehicles, to servicemembers throughout the Kabul Base Cluster.

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

Providing life-essential supplies for nearly 9,000 U.S. and coalition servicemembers operating in the capital of Kabul, Afghanistan, is one tall order, but it's a mission Soldiers from Task Force Rushmore's Directorate of Logistics (DOL) strive to fulfill on a day-to-day basis.

As members of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, these logisticians are keeping

the supply lines open for these troops – ordering a variety of products needed to sustain and accomplish their mission.

“The DOL is actively involved in supporting nine bases and nearly 9,000 troops throughout the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC),” said Maj. Jason Kettwig, 196th director of logistics. “We conduct a variety of missions with the goal of sustaining the KBC, not only for the U.S. troops, but our coalition partners and Afghan civilians who work in and operate around our bases.”

“We support the whole KBC with any

type of logistic support, from class one supplies all the way up to class nine,” said Master Sgt. Richard Albertson, 196th logistics noncommissioned officer-in-charge. “We get the supplies and equipment they need to accomplish their mission.”

These classes of supply range from the life-essential commodities of food and water to the mission-essential equipment of personal-protective gear and vehicle-repair parts.

“A part of the DOL is the maintenance section, which helps manage the flow of parts in and out of the KBC and tracks how fast



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Master Sgt. Richard Albertson, left, Directorate of Logistics (DOL) noncommissioned officer-in-charge, and Spc. Angela Anderson, DOL transportation clerk, both members of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard unload electrical supplies from a local Afghan contractor Oct. 2, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Albertson, Anderson, and other members of the DOL, provide life-sustaining supplies to personnel throughout the Kabul Base Cluster.

(disabled) tactical vehicles can get back up and mission capable in order to improve the operational readiness rate inside the KBC,” said Kettwig.

The DOL also ensures personnel throughout the KBC have comfort items to improve their daily lives. Bed mattresses, construction materials, computers and television monitors help to make living and work areas feel more like home.

“We provide commodity purchases that improve the life quality of Soldiers,” said Kettwig, of Milbank, S.D. “We try to improve all the different services and nice to have things that Soldiers deserve and require.”

Another mission the DOL has been delivering on is providing equipment and construction materials needed for building projects throughout the KBC. The renovation of older structures and the construction of new buildings provide servicemembers with a safer living and working environment.

“We are working with other members of the 196th in the Directorate of Public Works to determine what we need to order for building materials, such as electrical and plumbing supplies, for new living and work areas,” said Kettwig. “Make life better for the troops – our part of that is critical – helping improve the life support for the Soldiers, Airmen, Marines and Sailors.”

With 13 Soldiers in the DOL, other

operations needing attention is the accountability of government property and management of dining facilities. The proper

tracking and management of these services ensures efficiencies are applied to them and gives peace of mind for servicemembers.

“By improving the efficiencies of how things are ordered, how they arrive and how things are accounted for, troops can live at ease knowing the essentials will be there when needed,” said Kettwig.

To keep these supply essentials on hand, the section works closely with local Afghan contractors to purchase them and boost the local economy.

“The idea is to increase the Afghan economy by buying Afghan supplies first,” said Albertson, of Brandon, S.D. “The monetary and measuring systems here are different, and sometimes a challenge, but we are constantly trying to increase the productivity of how we get our supplies.”

Providing support and necessities for the KBC comes naturally to these Midwestern Soldiers, and with their kind hearts, are willing to get almost anything that is needed to help U.S. and coalition forces accomplish their mission.

“At times this job can be challenging, but there are so many rewarding things about my job; one being to help any servicemember and make them happy and stay happy,” said Albertson.



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Master Sgt. David Glawe, Directorate of Logistics (DOL), 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, supervises as workers within the dining facility prepare dinner Oct. 3, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. Glawe, Kabul Base Cluster dining facility inspector (DFAC), ensures the DFAC operates efficiently and follows sanitation practices so personnel who live and work on Camp Phoenix can enjoy fresh meals.

ECONOMIC \$TRATEGY

Regional Contracting Centers work to boost economy



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Nedved)

Afghan citizens work on a construction site Oct. 21, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. The U.S. military uses the “Afghan First” policy, and focuses on hiring Afghan companies to provide services and to create jobs and income for Afghan employees in an effort to stimulate economic growth.

By Sgt. Matthew Nedved

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

To help boost the economy throughout Afghanistan, the U.S. military relies on Regional Contracting Centers (RCC) to work with Afghan businesses and contractors to provide goods and services for military installations and construction projects throughout the country. It’s a strategy that is not only contributing to the economic development and infrastructure of Afghanistan, but is also supporting the counterinsurgency principle of demonstrating support for the people.

“Contracted services drive economic development,” said Air Force Maj. Douglas Leedy, chief of contracting, Phoenix Regional Contracting Center. “Providing contracts to the Afghan people in order to promote economic growth is exactly what the coalition

forces are trying to do here. Getting the Afghan people to stand on their own is the main idea behind our counterinsurgency doctrine.”

Leading the effort to incorporate Afghan companies into military contracts is CENTCOM Contracting Command. Under CENTCOM, there are 13 RCCs throughout Afghanistan that work with businesses to provide service, construction and commodities contracts for military base services and construction projects.

“Companies in Afghanistan are being hired for big jobs put on by the U.S.,” said Haroon Shah Hamidi, deputy director of Hamid Chardihiwal Construction and Logistics Company of Afghanistan. “These jobs are providing employment to Afghan citizens all over the country.”

One RCC that provides oversight of many contracts in the Kabul area, as well as throughout Afghanistan, is the new Phoenix Regional Contracting Center (PRCC). Incorporating what is known as the



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Nedved)

U.S. Air Force Capt. Casey Pease and 1st Lt. Elijah Horner, Phoenix Regional Contracting Center (PRCC), review a contract Oct. 21, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. The PRCC provides oversight of many service, construction and commodities contracts for U.S. military installations and projects in Kabul, and throughout the county, to stimulate economic growth and boost business for local Afghan contractors.

“Afghan First” policy, PRCC focuses directly on the use of Afghan companies to provide services and to create jobs and income for Afghan employees; all in an effort to stimulate economic growth.

“The Afghan First policy is a demonstration of political and economic hope in the potential of the Afghan people. This entrusts the Afghan people, themselves, with their own growth and development,” said Leedy. “Nearly 100 percent of the cost of contracted services stays in Afghanistan – whether it’s to the business owners’ direct labor cost, operating expenses, supplies, or personal profit.”

“Not only is the U.S. helping to build security for our country, but also our economy by relying on Afghan businesses and its labor force to create a better future for Afghanistan,” added Hamidi.

Working with the PRCC to coordinate contracts with local businesses are the military units that provide oversight for military bases and projects. Task Force Rushmore, an installation management command responsible for 11 bases in the Kabul region, provides support for nearly 9,000 U.S. and coalition troops, and relies on contracted services to sustain base operations.

“We correspond with the PRCC on a daily basis and have seen firsthand the benefits these contracts provide to the overall mission here in Afghanistan,” said Master Sgt. Gary Devries, noncommissioned officer-in-charge, Task Force Rushmore Directorate of Public

Works. “The role of contracting in the counterinsurgency strategy is very important, because by hiring Afghan companies and workers, it benefits the local economy along with the population’s overall view of their government.”

When it comes to building a school, procuring equipment or maintaining daily life-support operations for a base, the RCC oversees the contracts that make it happen.

“We provide a large amount of service contracts,” said Air Force Capt. Casey Pease, services-section chief, PRCC. “Anything that involves man power – be it plumbing technicians or people to do general cleaning.”

“Commodities keep the bases running that is not construction or service alike,” said Air Force 1st Lt. Elijah Horner, commodities-section chief, PRCC. “Gravel for the bases, technical equipment such as computers, or any purchase that needs to be made to keep a base running smooth.”

By relying on Afghan businesses to provide services, construction and commodities to the U.S. military, the RCC’s contracting efforts are helping to build the economic future of Afghanistan.

“Focusing on the Afghan’s economic potential with contracting for both our operational needs and our rebuilding efforts encourages the growth of Afghan skills and promotes long-term economic development,” said Leedy.

Maine Guard unit provides force protection for KBC installations

By Sgt. Rebecca Linder

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

For the 1136th Transportation Company, providing base security is not the typical mission for this Maine Army National Guard unit, but it's a mission they have taken on to protect servicemembers stationed throughout the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) in Kabul, Afghanistan.

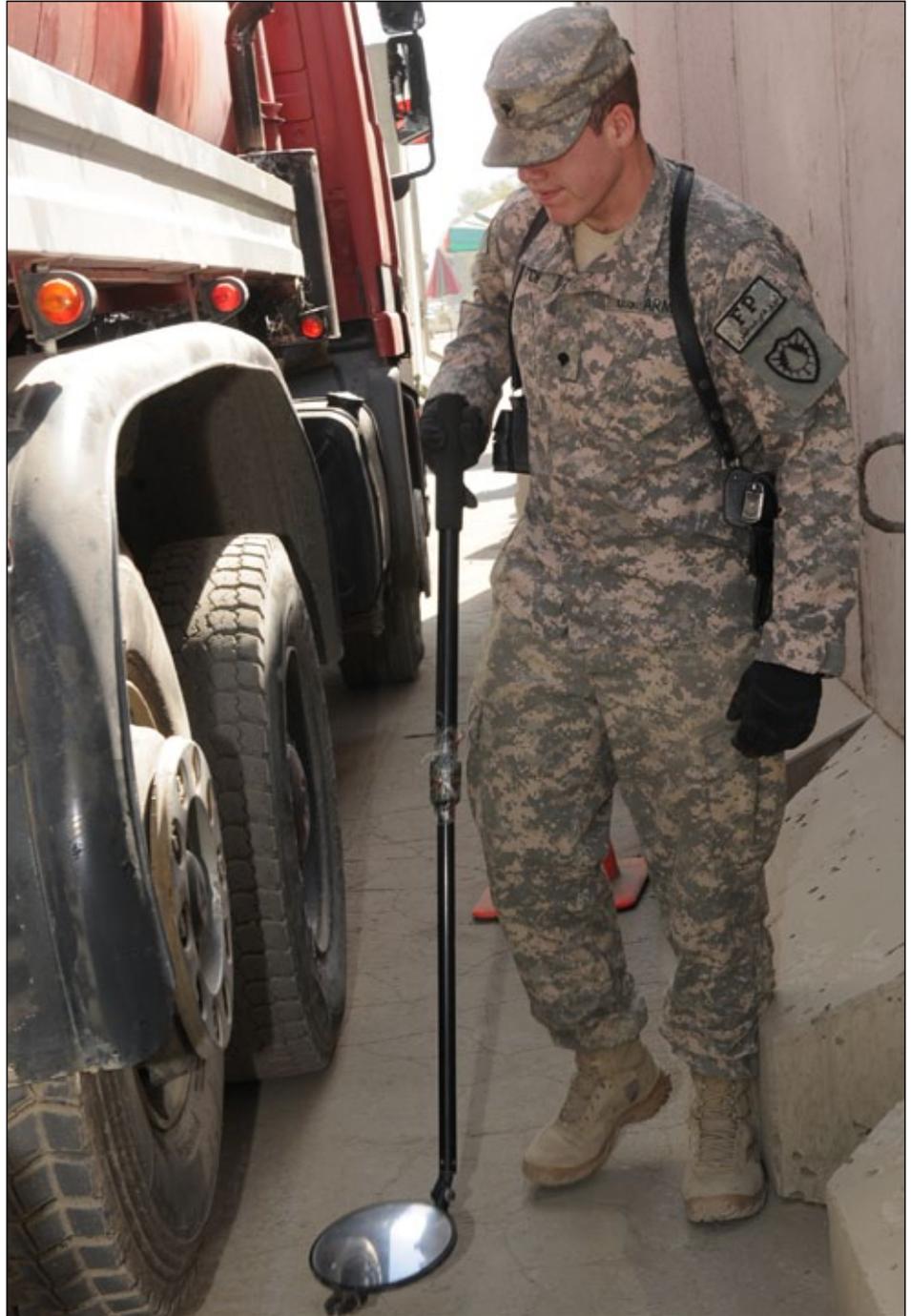
"It was a challenge transitioning from a transportation company to a MP (military police) type company," said Capt. Peter Carter, 1136th commander. "We brought about 50 Soldiers from a different unit who were already MPs who helped train the Soldiers who had no experience and we also brought several engineers with us to help with force-protection upgrades."

Stationed at Camp Eggers, New Kabul Compound and Camp Bala Hissar, these citizen-Soldiers bring different skill sets to help execute the mission of force protection for the more than 3,000 U.S. and coalition servicemembers stationed at these three locations throughout the capital.

"That's the great thing about the National Guard," said Carter. "Not only do these Soldiers come from different units, but they all have a lot of knowledge in their particular job and it is a great thing to have all that experience rolled up into one company."

To help provide a secure operating environment for troops who live and work in the KBC, these Soldiers manage base-security operations, personnel movement security, and provide a quick reaction force. By taking on this mission, the Bangor, Maine-based unit allows other U.S. and coalition forces to focus on their primary mission of training and mentoring the Afghan National Police (ANP) and Afghan National Army (ANA).

"By us providing force protection for other servicemembers, they don't have to worry about that particular mission, and they can focus on their mission at hand [training



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Spc. Adam Hatch, 1136th Transportation Company, Maine Army National Guard, checks the underside of a truck for explosives Oct. 7, 2010, at Camp Eggers in Kabul, Afghanistan. Hatch, a Mobile Vehicle and Cargo Inspection System operator, and other members of the 1136th, provide force protection for Camp Eggers and New Kabul Compound to ensure the security of the personnel who live and work at the camps.



Sgt. 1st Class Corey McLver, center, 1136th Transportation Company, Maine Army National Guard, observes a security guard scan a local Afghan before entering Camp Eggers on Oct. 7, 2010, in Kabul, Afghanistan. McLver, a contracting officer for camp force protection services, and other members of the 1136th, work with private security contractors to ensure the highest level of security for personnel who live and work on the camp.

(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Rebecca Linder)

Afghan National Security Forces], which is vital to U.S. troops coming home,” said Carter, of Belfast, Maine.

Helping the 1136th provide base security are other coalition partner nations and local Afghan security contractors. The Maine Guardsmen provide management and oversight of the services they provide.

“We make sure the other security forces that help us are doing their job properly,” said Pfc. Patrick Callahan, of Lamoine, Maine, 1136th guard mount. “We control the gates and make sure they enforce all the policies and procedures to guarantee the gate is clear of any threats.”

“I was really surprised by the joint mission of force protection we have here,” added Carter. “It is amazing the amount of liaison partnership that goes on here to provide security. My Soldiers do an outstanding job here working with the coalition forces, and it really has a positive impact of the missions here and the force protection we provide.”

Carter also said they requested the support of the local Afghan police to help provide security during a recent visit from a U.S. Defense Secretary Robert Gates, which

helped build a sense of pride letting the local police know they are wanted and needed.

Besides managing gates, the 1136th also provides a quick reactionary force (QRF).

“We are responsible for the well-being for all the Soldiers in and around Camp Eggers,” said Spc. Joseph Jett, of Springvale, Maine. “If something happens...you can get that call. Anything can happen so you have to be ready.”

Recently, the QRF was tasked to support several high-profile areas within Kabul, and can react to any attack outside the base if needed said Carter, “Because of our location, we have taken on responsibilities for all the embassies, the majority of ministries and several non-governmental agencies,” he added.

Another mission the 1136th has is aerostat recovery for Camp Bala Hissar. The aerostat, or the Persistent Surveillance System (PSS), is a floating blimp with high-tech cameras, which provide Afghan forces with an extra layer of security and surveillance capability within the city of Kabul.

“If for some reason the tether loosens and it starts to fly away, my Soldiers would have

to go out and recover it,” said Carter.

Lastly, the Soldiers of the 1136th also conduct personnel movement security – providing a security detail for distinguished visitors who visit the camps. The 1136th has assisted with the protection of Defense Secretary Gates, Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Adm. Mike Mullen, and even retired Marine Col. Oliver North.

With all the force protection duties these Maine National Guardsmen are assigned with, they have shown that no security mission is too big for these transportation Soldiers, and that they are motivated and up for the responsibility of protecting U.S. and coalition servicemembers, as well as helping the Afghans secure their own country.

“Every day that goes by where we don’t have an incident in Kabul is another day of success for the Afghans and us,” said Carter. “By providing force protection, we help provide peace and stability in the city, which is definitely a step in the right direction. Peace is contagious, and once the Afghans have that peace and stability, we will be able to leave this country knowing we helped satisfy that goal.”



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Nedved)

Lt. Col. David Gunderson, chaplain, 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, delivers communion during a religious service on Oct. 10, 2010, at Camp Phoenix.

Spiritual Aid

Chaplains provide religious, emotional support

By Sgt. Matthew Nedved

Task Force Rushmore Public Affairs

For troops serving in Kabul, Afghanistan, being physically, emotionally, socially, family and spiritually fit in a war zone are vital to a servicemember's overall well-being. Helping to maintain these dimensions of strength, are chaplains from the South Dakota Army National Guard.

As the senior-chaplain team for the Kabul Base Cluster (KBC) Installation Command, the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade's unit-ministry team is responsible for providing oversight of religious and counseling services for troops stationed throughout the capital.

"Our job is to make sure that all the religious needs of the tenants within the KBC are being met," said Lt. Col. David Gunderson, KBC command chaplain, 196th. "We oversee all of the camps in the KBC, and work with other camp's ministry teams to make sure they have all of the materials they need to complete their mission."

With 11 bases and nearly 9,000 U.S. and coalition forces in the KBC, one goal the chaplain team strives to achieve is making sure services are available for servicemembers. By holding services for

several religions, the chaplains find a way to support each Soldier's specific beliefs.

"We have chaplains of different religious backgrounds stationed throughout the KBC," said Gunderson, of Yankton, S.D. "In order to support the views of all the troops, a lot of the chaplains are moving from camp to camp on weekends to perform these services."

If a camp within the KBC does not have a chaplain, Gunderson, or a member of his team, makes it a priority to travel to that camp to perform a religious service and spend time with the servicemembers.

"Camp Black Horse currently does not have a chaplain, so we personally have been traveling there once a week to perform religious services," said Gunderson.

Traveling from camp to camp, the chaplain's mission is focused on supplying servicemembers with a different type weapon.

"We don't bring any beans or bullets to the fight," said Capt. Kenny Honken, deputy KBC command chaplain, Freeman, S.D. "Our mission is to strengthen the Soldier spiritually so they feel ready and prepared to go out and complete their mission."

Aside from keeping Soldiers spiritually fit, the chaplains emotionally strengthen the troops by being available for general



(U.S. Army photo by Sgt. Matthew Nedved)

Chief Warrant Officer 2 Gwen Dungey and members of the 196th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade, South Dakota Army National Guard, join together in singing hymns during a religious service on Sunday Oct. 10, 2010, at Camp Phoenix in Kabul, Afghanistan. The chaplain's team performs religious services every week for the servicemembers stationed on Camp Phoenix and other bases throughout the Kabul Base Cluster.

support, to counsel, or even just talk with a servicemember going through a tough time during their deployment.

"A lot of times Soldiers come in and are just having a difficult time. It could be marriage, family problems or even separation issues," said Gunderson. "We have had Soldiers lose family members so they come to us to deal with their grief. Our office is a place to come and talk about any issues that may be going on in someone's life."

Being the KBC command chaplain, Gunderson also has the responsibility of guiding and mentoring the younger chaplains throughout the KBC.

"There are a lot of young chaplains out there who might not have been in the ministry very long, so they face issues like anybody does being new," said Gunderson, chaplain of 22 years. "They look to me for guidance and direction on how they can deal with it, such as missing key supplies – bibles or even chairs for the chapel."

Within the ministry team, one of the key assets is the chaplain's assistant. The assistant is tasked with a lot of behind-the-scenes work that keeps everything running smooth for the chaplains - from prepping the chapel for services to ordering supplies.

"Our main responsibility is to make sure the chaplains are taken care of," said Staff Sgt. Quintin Steely, chaplain's assistant, of Pierre, S.D. "We are their support system so they can complete their daily tasks and run their ministry without worrying about the little things."

With the help of the chaplain's assistants, the chaplains are more

available to interact with servicemembers socially. Because the work done by the chaplains is not limited to the office or chapel; they frequently find themselves performing their duties during lunch or even on their way to the post office.

"We might sit down in the chow hall and next thing you know we've been sitting there for an hour just talking with a Soldier," said Gunderson. "It's not always in the office that we are doing our work, a lot of times the work will just randomly find us."

The chaplain's strong relationship with the troops is reflected in more ways than one. They keep in close contact with families, churches and other supportive groups of the 196th who send boxes filled with hygiene supplies and food for servicemembers.

"They send everything from toothpaste and deodorant to beef jerky and cookies," said Gunderson. "We place most of this in our Soldier care room in the chapel for the Soldiers to come and grab."

The chaplains serving overseas help keep servicemember's morale high, whether it be with gifts from back home, providing spiritual services or sitting down and just having a conversation with one of the troops. All of these things provide the strength each Soldier needs to maximize their potential during a deployment.

"We are here to help the servicemembers, especially in the area of spiritual needs," said Gunderson. "Giving the troops spiritual guidance is only one of the ways we help them, but any way that we are able to support the troops we do."

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