

FREEDOM

April 30, 2004

Watch

*CMA medics/vets take care of locals, herds
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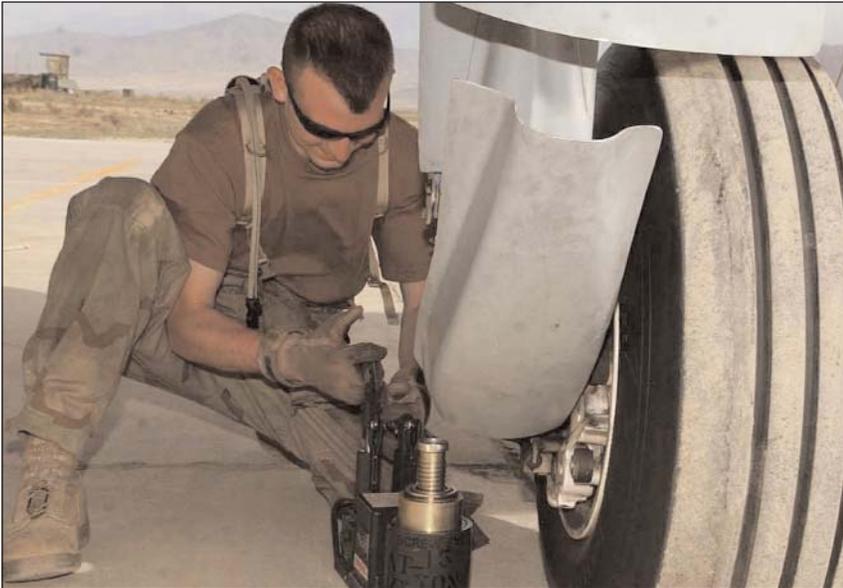


Photo by Air Force Master Sgt. Jeff Szczechowski

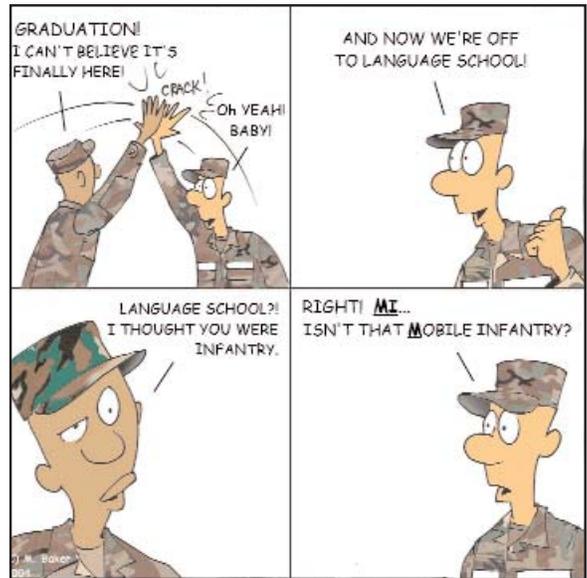
Jacked up!

Air Force Staff Sgt. Eric Lundberg, 455th Expeditionary Aircraft Maintenance Squadron crew chief, gets set to jack up an A-10 Thunderbolt II so he can change its main landing gear brake. Lundberg, based out of Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, is originally from Kane, Pa.

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Cover photo by Lance Cpl. John E. Lawson, Jr., combat correspondent
Capt. Anthony Schuster, 485th Med. Det. entomologist, holds a cow's head while an Afghan veterinarian administers de-worming medicine.



By Mark Baker

Pvt. Murphy's Law

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SECAF addresses Bagram Airmen

Story and photo by
Master Sgt. Jeff Szczechowski
455th Expeditionary Operations Group

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Damp, drizzly weather greeted Secretary of the Air Force Dr. James G. Roche when he visited Camp Cunningham and the men and women of the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group here April 16. But the conditions didn't dampen the spirits of the hundreds of Airmen and civilians who enthusiastically turned out to meet Roche and listen to his comments.

Standing upon a stage erected in an A-10 Thunderbolt II maintenance "clamshell," the secretary surprised his audience by applauding their efforts — literally — clapping his hands in personal tribute to their sacrifice and dedication in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

The secretary also applauded the Airmen verbally, telling them: "Thank you for what you do. What you do is much appreciated. You are at war, and you are at one of the leading edges of our Air Force. And for that, you have our gratitude and compliments."

Roche touched on several topics that applied directly to those serving here at Bagram Air Base. He talked about the importance of the A-10 Warthog and its effectiveness in supporting ground forces, the expanding role and increased capabilities of Joint Tactical Air Controllers and the fact that special operations is "not a sideline to the Air Force, but just as mainline as anything else."

He made the numerous A-10 fighter pilots and aircraft maintainers here beam when he provided his views of the venerable "Hog."

"We have realized that our Army colleagues love the A-10, so why shouldn't we?" said Roche. "Therefore, we have made a point of ending the debate over the A-10. It's a wonderful weapon system, and we're going to absolutely support it."

The secretary said that the Air Force plans to take a "chunk" of the A-10 fleet and up-engine the aircraft, install new avionics systems and furnish it with other upgrades.

He said that he supported the National Guard's initiative of putting Litening Pods on the Warthogs, calling it a great idea. The new pods will help pilots with targeting and acquisition.

Turning to the JTACs, Roche said that individual controllers would continue to

be vested with dramatic power, even more than they've had, and that they will have better equipment and less cumbersome loads to carry into the field. He said that JTACs and aerial assets like the A-10 help to make the Air Force's notion of close-air support real, and they will continue to make unmistakably clear the Air Force's commitment to supporting land forces. JTACs are attached to ground units, and are responsible for providing guidance and coordination for close air support during operations.

On the human relations front, Roche reminded his Airmen, almost in a fatherly way, that there are areas in which "we can get better." He said that he, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper, and other Air Force leaders will continue to make the following point whenever they can.

"We will not tolerate sexual assault. No Airman should ever have to fear his or her wingman, or fear another Airman."

Roche said he wants to approach the issue in a positive manner, if possible, and he did so by asking all Airmen to please respect each other. He said that professional behavior is all the more important in a war zone like Afghanistan, because everyone is so dependent on one another for their well-being.

He reaffirmed that "we will have an Air Force where each Airman can give his or her best without any kind of fear."

The secretary also addressed the fact that the Air Force needs to reduce its manpower numbers by 16,000 Airmen. One option is to expand the Palace Chase program, he said, which would reduce active-duty numbers, bolstering manpower levels in the National Guard, while at the same time making an aging Guard a younger component of the total force.

Roche said the cost of maintaining an average of 16,000 Airmen could add up to between \$1.4 - \$1.8 billion. That's money that could be used on modernizing



Secretary of the Air Force, Dr. James G. Roche, pauses at the gate to Camp Cunningham, where he received a post briefing from Airman 1st Class Donald Wilburn, 455th Expeditionary Security Flight Squadron. Roche was at Bagram Air Base to meet the men and women of the 455th EOG.

aircraft and purchasing spare parts and equipment, he said. At the same time, the secretary made it clear that the welfare of his people was still foremost in his mind.

"We're trying to find ways where we can both satisfy an individual's aspirations and help the Guard, while bringing us down to our normal strength, without breaking the faith with any Airmen who want to stay with us," he said.

Roche said that an exciting era lies ahead for the Air Force. Besides increased emphasis on close-air support functions, he cited other areas of importance, such as joint war-fighting in space, increasing the precision of weapons so that more can be done to destroy the enemy without causing collateral damage, and the future and direction of long-range strike capabilities.

The secretary closed his talk by telling the 455th EOG to "keep up the good work, and thank you for what you are doing."

He asked that each Airman take it upon himself to make the Air Force an even better service than it already is.

DISCOM transforms to JLC for CJTF-180

Story and photo by
Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE — Throughout the Army, Soldiers filling a transportation or supply job typically fall under division support commands, corps support groups or transportation units. But as things in Combined Joint Task Force-180 have adapted to operations in Afghanistan, so have the Soldiers from these traditional support units, coming together to make the Joint Logistics Command.

Made up of not only reserve and active units from throughout the Army, the JLC also incorporates other military assets from the Air Force and Marines. Diversity doesn't stop there for the JLC, as their mission supports all coalition members in some way.

From bullets to beans, repair parts to toilet paper, the JLC touches every item throughout Afghanistan, right down to a Soldier's first ride into theater to his last ride out.

Col. Robert Guglielmi, former JLC commander, said the JLC's mission can basically be broken down into four areas — food, fuel, ammunition and maintenance.

Starting with what Guglielmi categorizes as "the hardest thing we do," food is probably the most visible mission for the JLC.

"Coming into this job, I didn't realize how hard getting food into Afghanistan

was going to be," said Guglielmi.

With a 70-day trip from the day an item is ordered, to when it reaches the country, the delay is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to the dinner table. The JLC orders food from Germany, Bahrain and Qatar, with each using different methods of transportation from ships to rail, some traveling over a history-making supply route.

"Currently, CJTF-180 uses the longest logistical supply route in history," said Lt. Col. Mary Ann O' Connor, 330th Transportation Battalion commander and former CJTF-180 movement center officer in charge. Food and water from Europe are traveling anywhere from seven to 10,000 miles through different countries, including Russia, a country never before used as a supply route.

Guglielmi said although much of the food remains the same, no matter what location it comes from, slight variations make each dining facility throughout the country unique. "You might see Powerbars in Kandahar and another brand in Bagram."

While keeping a 20-day supply of food on the ground, Guglielmi said as supply and demand fluctuates, the challenge for the JLC is to micro-manage so supplies don't run out.

Construction of three dry-storage warehouses and one cold-storage warehouse on Bagram are expected to help ease the



Sgt. Ronald Peters, Lightning Task Force 725, directs a truck, while a crane hoists a Humvee overhead.

crunch of food to all bases.

With food coming primarily from the west of Afghanistan, fuel from Pakistan is what keeps coalition troops moving. But the country's close proximity doesn't always make for constant flow.

Coming via tank truck from refineries in Pakistan, the drive can sometimes take as

See JLC, Page 10

Enduring Voices

How do you feel about your role in the Global War on Terrorism?



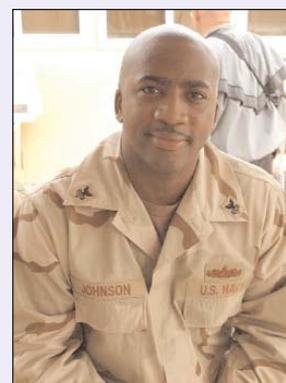
Staff Sgt. Scott Smyth
HHD, 109th AVN, 10th Mtn. Div.
"We are keeping bad people from being worse."



Sgt. Mark Sims
125th MI Bn., 25th ID (L)
"I'm happy for the opportunity to come here and serve and find my purpose in the current world situation."



Senior Airman Ronald Blake, Jr.
U.S. Air Force
"I play a big part because the planes can't fly without fuel."



Petty Officer 1st Class Eric Johnson
U.S. Navy
"All forces should work together to help the cause and be a part of the cure."

OEF reunites mother, daughter

Story and photo by
Pfc. Chris Stump
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — There are many parents who are concerned for their deployed children. And there are many children who feel the same about their parents. Very few can jump in a vehicle and drive to see their deployed family and see how they're doing.

Of course, there are some exceptions. Like Sgt. 1st Class Jannette Wildfong, 485th Medical Detachment first sergeant, and her daughter, Spc. Katherine Storlie, 551st Military Police Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault). The two are stationed in Afghanistan at Bagram Air Base and Kabul, respectively.

The two have lived in numerous locations across the United States, as do many military families, but most of their family is in West Virginia, so that is where they call home.

The two haven't seen much of each other in the past few years due to deployments and the requirements of military careers. In the past two years Storlie has been deployed to Djibouti, Africa and Iraq before receiving orders for Afghanistan.

Wildfong has been on Bagram since August, and was excited to hear that her daughter would be stationed so close. Storlie, who has been here for about a month, was equally excited when she found out.

"I haven't seen my mom in a while," said Storlie. "It's really cool to have her

See Mother-daughter, Page 10



Spc. Katherine Storlie (left), 551st MP Co., and her mother, Sgt. 1st Class Jannette Wildfong, 485th Med. Det., were reunited at Bagram Air Base.

Coalition team works to polish 'jewel' of Kabul

Story by Staff Sgt. Ron Burke
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — Two enlarged black-and-white photographs on top of a storage cabinet caught the attention of everyone in the classroom. The photos date back to the 1960s, a time where a diverse group of learned professors populated the campus and the university had the educational clout comparable to the United States' Yale University. The frayed edges and bronze tinting add to the mysteriousness behind the hey-day of Kabul University's College of Pharmacy.

Now, after 24 years of war and instability, the university is in the midst of a recovery program. A team comprised of Timothy Allish, Shelter For Life contractor and coordinator of all contracting within Afghanistan; Navy Capt. Craig Hostetler, Public Health Advisor for the Department of Health and Human Services in Washington, D.C. and a pharmacist; and Capt. Michael Rice of the 1163rd Area Support Group (Army National Guard), from Louisville, Ky., commander of the Office of Military Cooperation-Afghanistan medical team and physician's assistant were called upon to conduct an assessment of the university's Departments of Education, Pharmacy and Business facilities. Also on the team is Sayed Askar Mousavi, the senior Education Advisor to the Afghan Ministry of Higher Education and Professor of Anthropology at Oxford University.

The leader and facilitator of the team is Lt. Col. Curtis Kinnard of the 364th Civil Affairs Brigade (U.S. Army Reserve) from Portland, Ore., and a member of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan's National Provincial Reconstruction Team. Kinnard works as an administrator in the Seattle Public Schools system and taught Special Education for 15 years.

"Our main goal right now is to refurbish and repair their restroom facilities, re-establish the out-dated curriculum and install new phones, computers and satellite Internet service to each department," said Kinnard.

Kabul University, the educational jewel of Afghanistan, was founded in 1931, opened in 1932, and formally established in 1947. Currently, around 7,000 students attend classes which are taught by 40 faculty members in fifty-seven departments.

"One of our problems is a need to acquire and retain good quality professors," explained Mousavi. "Many of our current professors are young and inexperienced. During the Taliban reign, many skilled professors left the country."

The team recently visited the university for an afternoon meeting with the chancellor to hash out exactly what is needed and to assess the situation of the three departments before the project's implementation.

After the meeting, Mohammad Osman Babury, Professor of Pharmacognosy and Dean of the faculty of Pharmacy, escort-

ed the team to his building. Many of the buildings on campus show Afghanistan's destructive past. Outside, pock-marked walls and cracked windows welcome students each day, while inside, several large classrooms and laboratories are clean and functional. Many students are now female, roughly 1,700 of them, a drastic change from when the Taliban reigned.

"This year's graduating class is roughly 40 percent female," proclaimed Babury proudly as the team toured the lab.

As Babury guided the team around the lab, Rice annotated the equipment deficiencies that the professor brought to their attention. Babury also stopped to display examples of the various indigenous plant projects that the students have completed.

"They will have to tailor the curriculum for the accessible pharmaceutical drugs within this region and teach the pharmacy students according to what's available for use here," explained Rice.

"The school of pharmacy is the only one in the country," explained Kinnard, as he examined the dust covered vials and bottles lining the shelf. "Their curriculum is at least 20 years behind compared to the United States."

Hostetler reached up and angled one of the large photos downward to get a better look at what once was. The picture was taken in the same laboratory where he stood.

"It'll be a great thing to see students doing this again," he said.

Coalition teams up, provides medical care

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. John E. Lawson Jr.
Combat Correspondent

SAROBI, Afghanistan — Marines, Soldiers and Sailors, along with other coalition forces, conducted a three-day cooperative medical assistance operation here and at surrounding villages April 11-13.

During the CMA, 723 Afghan women and 350 Afghan men were treated by medical personnel from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment, Soldiers from the 325th Task Field Hospital at Bagram Airfield, and South Korean doctors assigned to the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team, while Marines from 2nd Bn., 8th Marine Rgt. provided security.

The CMA was part of the coalition's continuing efforts to accelerate the well-being of the Afghan people. These operations occur frequently throughout Afghanistan and treating Afghans has become commonplace for Coalition medical personnel supporting Operation Enduring Freedom

The operation was divided into two separate clinics co-located in the villages in Eastern Afghanistan. One clinic treated females while the other treated males. The clinics traveled to three different villages during the three-day operation.

Maj. David Ferris, provincial reconstruction team operations officer, said, "The females won't go to male doctors because of religious and cultural differences. In order to better provide for the local population, we offer female doctors

for the female patients."

Males are completely cordoned off from the female clinic area, with the exception of interpreters when female interpreters aren't available.

Capt. Heather Canzoneri, CJTF-180 critical care nurse, explained Afghan women are commonly shy in the presence of men. "They were embarrassed to talk about their problems with men in the room," she said.

The Afghan females were treated for ailments such as worms and other common conditions and provided female-specific healthcare. Prenatal vitamins and tetanus vaccines were given to all the pregnant women who sought care.

Sgt. Janetta Scates, combat medic, said the female technicians accomplish things with the female population the males can't.

"We can treat the female patients the same way the males can treat the male patient," said Scates. Many of the local women wouldn't seek medical care from male doctors.

Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Patrick Thompson, 2nd Bn., 8th Marine Rgt. aid station leading petty officer, was one of the practitioners treating male patients during the CMA. He saw patients with ailments including knee pain, kidney infection, eye irritation and other ailments, including cerebral palsy, an incurable, debilitating birth defect.

"You come to terms with not being able to help everybody," said Thompson, adding modern medicine has its limitations. "There are some things we just aren't equipped to handle," he said.

They did, however, successfully treat hundreds of patients during the operation.

"Being (in the medical field), you always feel good about your day's work," he said. "If you aren't busy, it's because everyone is okay. If you are busy, you are working to help and heal people."

Navy Lt. Samuel Turner, battalion surgeon, was pleased with the operation, stating, "We saw everyone who came for treatment. Not a single person came to our clinic and didn't see a (medic)."

Treating patients is all in a days work for the Navy corpsmen and Army medical specialists.

"Helping people that need so much doesn't make it so hard to be away from home, away from my family. What we're doing matters," said Canzoneri.

"I can see we are giving hope to these people. I see them smile; see them laugh. They see we're here to help. They see us rebuilding Afghanistan as a country. Added Scates, "They know we want to make their lives better."



Navy Lt. Samuel Turner, 2nd Bn., 8th Marine Rgt. surgeon, examines an Afghan child during a cooperative medical assistance operation in the Sarobi area. Coalition doctors and medical practitioners provided care to hundreds of patients in three area villages.



Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Robert Ward, 2nd Bn., 8th Marine Rgt. corpsman, examines an Afghan during a cooperative medical assistance operation April 12 near Sarobi.

Vets, locals join forces to treat herds

Story and photos by
Lance Cpl. John E. Lawson Jr.
Combat Correspondent

SAROBI, Afghanistan — Marines and Soldiers teamed up with local veterinarians and other coalition forces to conduct a three-day cooperative medical assistance veterinary care operation here and in surrounding villages April 11-13.

The CMA aimed to provide veterinary treatment and study the animals and diseases in the region. A majority of Afghans rely on livestock to carry out daily tasks, in addition to providing sustenance.

"Eighty-two percent of Afghans own livestock. It's the main legal industry in the country," said Maj. Trudy Salerno, 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, based in Portland, Ore. "If we help the livestock, we help put the economy back on its feet."

During the operation, more than 2,450 animals in three villages were treated by the Task Force Victory veterinarians with help from other Soldiers and coalition forces. Marines from 2nd Battalion, 8th Marine Regiment provided security and assistance for the veterinary personnel.

Dr. S. Rafiallah Halim, Nangahar University dean of veterinary medicine, Dr. Sultan Muhammad, Sarobi provincial vet-

erinarian, and Drs. Abdul Haq and Muhammad Kazeem, Jalalabad provincial veterinarians, accompanied the coalition doctors and treated animals hand-in-hand with their American counterparts.

Animals treated included goats, sheep, cows, dogs, donkeys and a few camels.

While most of the treatments administered were vaccinations and de-worming, some first aid was provided for injured animals.

"De-worming and vaccinating has a more long-term effect than administering first aid. It can last a whole season and can be the difference between an animal surviving or dying. It can affect whether or not an animal will reproduce," said Col. Lyle Jackson, 321st Civil Affairs Brigade veterinarian, based in San Antonio. "We want the Afghans' herd loss to be less and their reproduction to be higher."

The sheep and goats received a five-in-one vaccine to prevent many common illnesses for animals in the region. Additionally, all the animals were treated with a combination de-wormer mixed by the veterinarians. The dewormer kills liver flukes, a common and serious parasite amongst livestock in Afghanistan. The concoction also kills any parasites, such as ticks, which take a blood meal from the treated animal, within the next couple days, said Jackson.

Those ticks the veterinarians aim to rid the animals of caught the attention of another man — Capt. Anthony Schuster, 485th Medical Detachment entomologist, Mexico, Texas. Schuster studies external parasites including ticks and fleas. He accompanied the veterinarians to assist them in their work and to collect external parasite specimens for further research.

"I found four different genuses of ticks on three different goats," he said after his second day of collection. Schuster plans to take the ticks back to Bagram Air Base to further identify them down to the species.

"There is not enough information about the Afghan ticks. This type of research hasn't been done here since 1976," he said.

The tick species identified in the region will be cross-referenced to determine the different diseases they are capable of transmitting.



Maj. Trudy Salerno, 364th Civil Affairs Bde. veterinarian, examines an injured sheep during a cooperative medical assistance veterinary care operation held in Sarobi April 11-13.

"There are four debilitating diseases spread by ticks," said Schuster. Preventing these diseases makes the livestock healthier and happier, thus making the people of Afghanistan healthier and happier, he added, stating that ticks can also spread disease to humans.

In addition to the de-worming, vaccinating and specimen collection, some first aid was administered — some animals were treated for diarrhea, small cuts and wounds, and injured limbs.

An Afghan carried a sick calf, unable to stand on its own and barely breathing, to the veterinarians on the third day.

"It came in dying," Jackson said of the dehydrated newborn. Jackson and Salerno worked together to try and revive the calf's health, but there was only so much they could do before sending the animal home in slightly better shape than it had arrived.

"Hopefully we boosted its health enough for it to survive," he said.

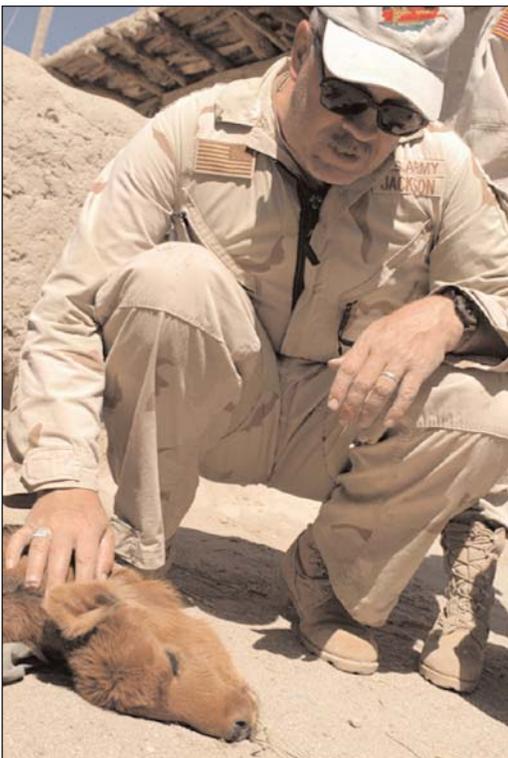
The CMA was part of the coalition's continuing effort to better the lives of the Afghan people, but future programs may soon provide more stable and frequent care.

Salerno said the veterinarians are planning to work together with several non-governmental organizations throughout Afghanistan to support a total national herd health plan.

Under the tentative plan, Afghans could pay a subsidized cost to have their herds properly cared for with the help of the coalition and the non-governmental organizations.

"We provide these CMA programs, but we can't possibly provide free veterinary care for every head of livestock in the country," she said.

While future missions may differ in focus, many of the participants said they believed this CMA operation was a success.



Col. Lyle Jackson, 321st Civil Affairs Bde. veterinarian, examines an injured calf during a CMA in Sarobi.

Medics extend services to locals

Soldiers treat Afghans at Ghazni tactical assembly area

Story and photo by Sgt. Frank Magni
17th Public Affairs Detachment

GHAZNI, Afghanistan — The gates just outside the tactical assembly area for Company C, 2nd Battalion, 87th Infantry Regiment, are under constant surveillance. Any person approaching from the neighboring village of Qala-i-sufkh can be seen coming from hundreds of meters in any direction. But seldom does anyone but Soldiers and interpreters travel in and out of the compound.

However, on April 19, battalion medics opened the gates to hundreds of local Afghans for a monthly medical civilian aid project — better known as MEDCAP.

As information about the treatment is passed to the local cit-

izens through Soldiers on patrol in the days prior to the event, lines for medical treatment start hours before the medics even arrive.

Only 100 men and children can be seen each day, a limit that is normally met within four hours. The rest must be turned away.

The physicians, physicians assistants and other medical personnel see a wide range of ailments when the Afghans come to be screened, said 1st Lt. Brandon Wampler, 2nd Bn., 87th Inf. Rgt. physician's assistant. Wampler and his team of medics travel to different villages each week, going to each of the company's TAAs for MECAPS similar to this one.

"Since these people work in the fields, many of the common problems they have are joint pain, skin rashes and headaches," said Wampler. "Children also come to us with stomach worms."

While doing their best to treat mild conditions, the team also encounters more serious problems out of their control.

"We have people coming in and out of here with polio and tuberculosis," said Wampler.

With no cure for these ailments, the medics can only rely on vaccination programs from other non-governmental organizations to treat the next generation of Afghans. To help facilitate the NGOs, the medics track which villages have received vaccinations and pass the information to the local provincial reconstruction team. The PRT then will inform the Afghan Ministry of Health.

MEDCAPs create a flurry of interest in the communities, so many times the medics see children with no medical problem at all. Sgt. Wilfrid Nicaise, 2nd Bn., 87th Inf. Rgt., medical platoon medic said this isn't a waste of time, but a good practice in preventive medicine. Just for showing up, children are commonly given a tooth brush, tooth paste and vitamins.

"They appreciate any medication or treatment they can get," said Wampler. "In many cases, our treatment can have a placebo effect. (People) leave feeling like something has been done, and this will help them greatly."

With the ultimate goal for these MEDCAPs being to gain trust from local community members, Wampler said they have already seen progress. Just a week ago, a local family brought their daughter to the compound for emergency treatment. "It was just a simple cut above the little girl's eye, but we encourage them to come to us with emergency problems. This reflects they are increasing their trust toward the U.S. Army."

Wampler said once the more nervous people finally decide to come to the MEDCAP, his team sees people that have had medical problems for years and does what they can to reverse the effects of these problems.

"Most of these people have simple medical problems and symptoms we can treat with simple drugs," said Nicaise. "It is very rewarding to do this type of work. It is kind of the reason I joined the Army."



Sgt. Wilfred Nicaise, 2nd Bn., 87th Inf. Rgt. medic, checks the teeth of an Afghan child during a MEDCAP. The 2nd Bn., 87th Inf. Rgt. medics treated 93 children and 17 adults during the recent MEDCAP outside Qala-i-sufkh.

Food inspectors ensure safe eats

Story and photos
by Pfc. Cheryl Ransford
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Every day, food comes through the front gate of Bagram on its way to the dining facilities on base, as well as to several forward operating bases.

But before it can be served to anyone, it must pass rigorous inspection processes and be properly stored.

Veterinarians from the 358th Medical Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve, inspect the food as it comes in to make sure it's safe for consumption, said Spc. Latonya Murrell, 358th Med. Det.

"Everyday we come down and inspect all food that has been dropped off. We walk through the five 'clamshell' tents and numerous conexes looking for overdue expiration dates, proper temperature and anything that shows signs of rotting or pests," she said.

"If the expiration dates have passed, the product must be taste-tested to determine if we should extend the date or condemn the product."

If any products are found that need to be condemned, a certificate of unfitness is written and the food is taken to a pit to be burned, she said.

Once the food in the clamshells and conexes has been inspected, the inspectors go to the transportation office to find out if any trucks are scheduled to arrive or waiting outside the gate to come in each day.

"Every morning there are several trucks outside the gate waiting to bring in food from Bahrain or United Arab Emirates," said Spc. Joshua Cook, 358th Med. Det. "Whether they are bringing in bottled water and ramen or bread and milk, the source must match the authorized vendor list, provided by the Joint Operations Center, before the food can be allowed on base."

Once the food is on Bagram Air Base, it is stored until it is needed. Some food in the storage area will be distributed to Kabul and some of the forward operating bases, such as Salerno, Jalalabad and Gardez.

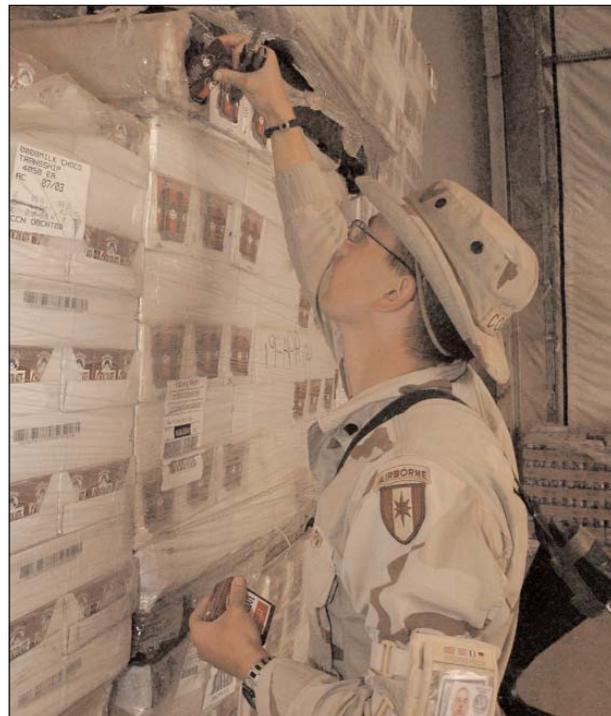
Once the food is distributed to the dining facilities and FOBs, it is up to the food inspectors at the designated locations to ensure that it is properly stored.

On Bagram, Soldiers assigned to preventive medicine take over for the veterinarians once the food is distributed to the dining facilities, ensuring it stays safe.

"We inspect the dining facilities once a month, along with courtesy inspections, to ensure everything is up to code," said Spc. Brian Slusher, 485th Medical Detachment.

"We look for things such as food that is improperly stored and wrong temperatures. When checking for proper temperatures, we check to make sure all thermometers are working and in plain sight. If we find something that is wrong, we inform the dining facility supervisor so they can fix the deficiencies before the next inspection."

To keep the number of deficiencies down, the food is rotated



Spc. Joshua Cook, 358th Med. Det., inspects the milk cartons in the clamshell tents to make sure the expiration dates have not passed.



Spc. Brian Slusher, 485th Med. Det., inspects the kitchen utensils to ensure they have been cleaned properly.

according to expiration date.

"The food is on a first in, first out rotation. New food comes in three times a week, and as the food comes in, we make sure the food that just arrived is behind the food that was already there," said Russell McNeil, North Dining Facility supervisor. "If it comes up that a major deficiency, such as wrong temperatures, happens, we call service operations. They will then come out and make sure the equipment is calibrated correctly and correct the problem."

The inspections are very important. It keeps the chance of food-borne illnesses down, said Reggie Winbush, North Dining Facility cook. "The last thing we need out here in the desert is for someone to get sick from food that is improperly stored."

When it comes to the health of the service members, coalition forces and civilians in Afghanistan, the medics make sure the food on base is not only stored properly, but that it stays at the proper temperature during serving.

The food has been checked and rechecked from the time it comes through the gate to the time it is eaten, said Slusher. He said people deployed to Afghanistan, military and civilian alike, can feel safe eating, no matter where they are.

JLC: Keeping supplies moving into country

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long as ten days, over bad roads and across a tricky border.

Guglielmi said near the beginning of operations in Afghanistan, the high demand for fuel strained the finite capacity of the trucks that carry the fuel and the refineries that produce it.

On top of production capabilities and capacity, he said, the JLC also had inconsistencies with when to expect the delivery of fuel.

"Because of holidays and other factors, fuel delivery could be very inconsistent," said Guglielmi. "Some days we will have zero trucks out here and other times we will have trucks waiting to be downloaded."

In response to the inconsistency, Bagram, K2 and Kandahar have nearly doubled storage capacity within the last nine months.

As ground transport brings in the majority of food and fuel, ammunition flown in is another area the JLC concentrates on.

"With different command group rotations there are different priorities," said O'Connor. "When the mission here changed from stabilization operations to more intense combat operations, the priorities changed, such as providing more ammunition.

After Operation Iraqi Freedom started, O'Connor said the challenge for the JLC remained keeping the necessary equipment coming to Afghanistan.

O'Connor, who first worked as the 18th Airborne Corps deputy transportation officer when CJTF-180 began, has been in Afghanistan 20 of the last 24 months.

She said one of the JLC's most important tasks is to carefully manage the order in which certain cargo is shipped on the aircraft.

In no area is this more important than in Guglielmi's fourth area of focus for the JLC, which is maintenance and repair parts.

"We have to fly every part in," said Guglielmi. "For any aircraft, non-mission capable flight time has to be minuscule. Many times when an aircraft is down it is only for the actual repair – very rarely do we wait for a part."

Mother-daughter: Family comes together in OEF

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stationed close to me."

Wildfong and Storlie didn't act like they have been apart for almost two years though.

Instead, they talked just like any mother and daughter would.

"It's going to be easy to keep in touch," said Wildfong. "I'm lucky to have a job that takes me all over and gives me a chance to see my daughter when we're on missions near each other."

They might even see each other more here than they did back home, as Wildfong has been in the Army for most of her children's lives, switching to the

reserve component to raise her kids, then returning to active duty.

Her daughter, who grew up in a military environment and always enjoyed the atmosphere, followed her mother, father and grandfather into the service.

"It (the Army) has always interested me," said Storlie.

Storlie said she enjoys her job as an MP, despite all the long deployments and being away from her family. But at least here she can see her mother more often than most other Soldiers who are deployed.

The two have seen each other three times since Storlie arrived in



Sgt. 1st Class Ernest Salazar, 453rd Cargo Transfer Company, signals Spc. Rachael Albarado, 453rd CTC, while lowering a fork lift in the ADACG area.

Guglielmi attributes much of the success of keeping CJTF-180's aircraft flying to the relationship the JLC has forged with the units.

"In the last nine months we have been able to build relationships with units like the aviation brigade," said Guglielmi. These relationships are especially important when the JLC is working with units not from their home station.

Aside from the good support the JLC has provided with rotary wing aircraft within the last nine months, the unit was also able to help ground units consistently keep 90 percent of CJTF-180's ground combat systems working.

As the transition takes place within the JLC from DISCOM elements in the 10th Mtn. Div. to the 25th Infantry Division (Light), Guglielmi said success in all areas of the JLC comes from the Soldiers and their motivation.

"I think my Soldiers know this is where it all started (with the war on terrorism)," he said. "We make the difference. If this was your only enlistment and you came over here and served in Afghanistan, you made a difference in the lives of the Afghans and you made a difference in the lives of Americans. It is so much more rewarding here."

Afghanistan. Her mother's job in preventive medicine allows her to visit periodically in Kabul or when she is out with provincial reconstruction teams in the area.

The two enjoy being stationed close together, but it doesn't stop a mother from being concerned.

Wildfong doesn't worry too much about her daughter, but she knows firsthand what the dangers are around Afghanistan.

Dangers aside, this mother and daughter feel very lucky to be so close to each other, in addition to having the support of their military families.

ROK troops teach locals Taekwondo

Story and photos by
Pfc. Chris Stump
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Over 2,000 years ago, during the Silla Dynasty in Korea, a martial arts form called Taekwondo appeared. Since then, Korean warriors, including soldiers from the Republic of Korea Army, have been learning and practicing this invaluable skill.

The ROK soldiers of the 100th Engineer Group have brought not only their knowledge of engineering to Bagram Air Base, but also Taekwondo. They encourage Coalition troops and local children to stop by their camp to learn and train with them.

This form of martial arts is an institution of the ROK Army that has been a part of training nearly as long as their army has been in existence, said Col. Tae Whan, Kwon, Korea Eng. Grp. commander.

“Taekwondo is essential for the spirit, mind and a soldier’s self defense,” he said. “It is a very important form of training that cultivates his body and mind and helps him control himself as a soldier.”

All soldiers in Kwon’s group practice their skills twice a week.

“Everyone in my command participates in Taekwondo, including me. As a commander I have to do the things that I

expect my soldiers to do.”

Someone just coming into Taekwondo starts training on the basics of the art, stance and basic moves. Next, he would put those skills to use in formation training, becoming more proficient before he moves on to the final stage in training — training to fight with the skills that have been learned, said Kwon.

In the final stage of training, soldiers use what they have learned and put it all together to spar with each other, becoming even more proficient at their skill.

Training in Taekwondo never really ends, those who practice it just keep getting better.

Just as U.S. forces are instructed in unarmed combat drills, Korean soldiers are trained in Taekwondo to be able to defeat their enemies by hand if necessary, but most already have some kind of background in it. Taekwondo is built into Korean society and many have had instruction in it prior to joining the army, said Kwon.

Thousands of miles away from where



A Republic of Korea Army soldier instructs a local Afghan boy on the proper form and techniques of Taekwondo.

Taekwondo originated, and is ingrained into culture, as many as 20 Afghan children come to participate in the twice-weekly sessions at the Koreans’ compound.

Korean soldiers can be seen sharing their knowledge with the local children by showing them stances, punches and kicks.

Opening up their compound is a very important part of sharing themselves with the community, both Coalition and local, said Kwon.

“When the child becomes an adult, he will remember who taught him Taekwondo,” he said.

The ROK soldiers also welcome coalition troops to participate and learn.

“This is a great opportunity they have extended to coalition troops to share in the Korean culture,” said Lt. Col. Joseph Ruda, 325th Medical Detachment, U.S. Army Reserve.

Coalition personnel who wish to receive the many benefits of Taekwondo are encouraged to stop in and learn. The engineer group conducts Taekwondo Monday and Thursday, 11:30 Zulu, inside the 100th Engineer Group compound.



A Korean instructor leads a Taekwondo formation at the 100th Engineer Group compound on Bagram Air Base. The Korean Engineers perform Taekwondo twice weekly.

Honor

A full-page photograph of a soldier in silhouette, standing in a field at sunset. The soldier is wearing a helmet and holding a rifle. The sun is low on the horizon, creating a bright glow in the sky. The foreground is dark, and the background shows a line of trees and hills.

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