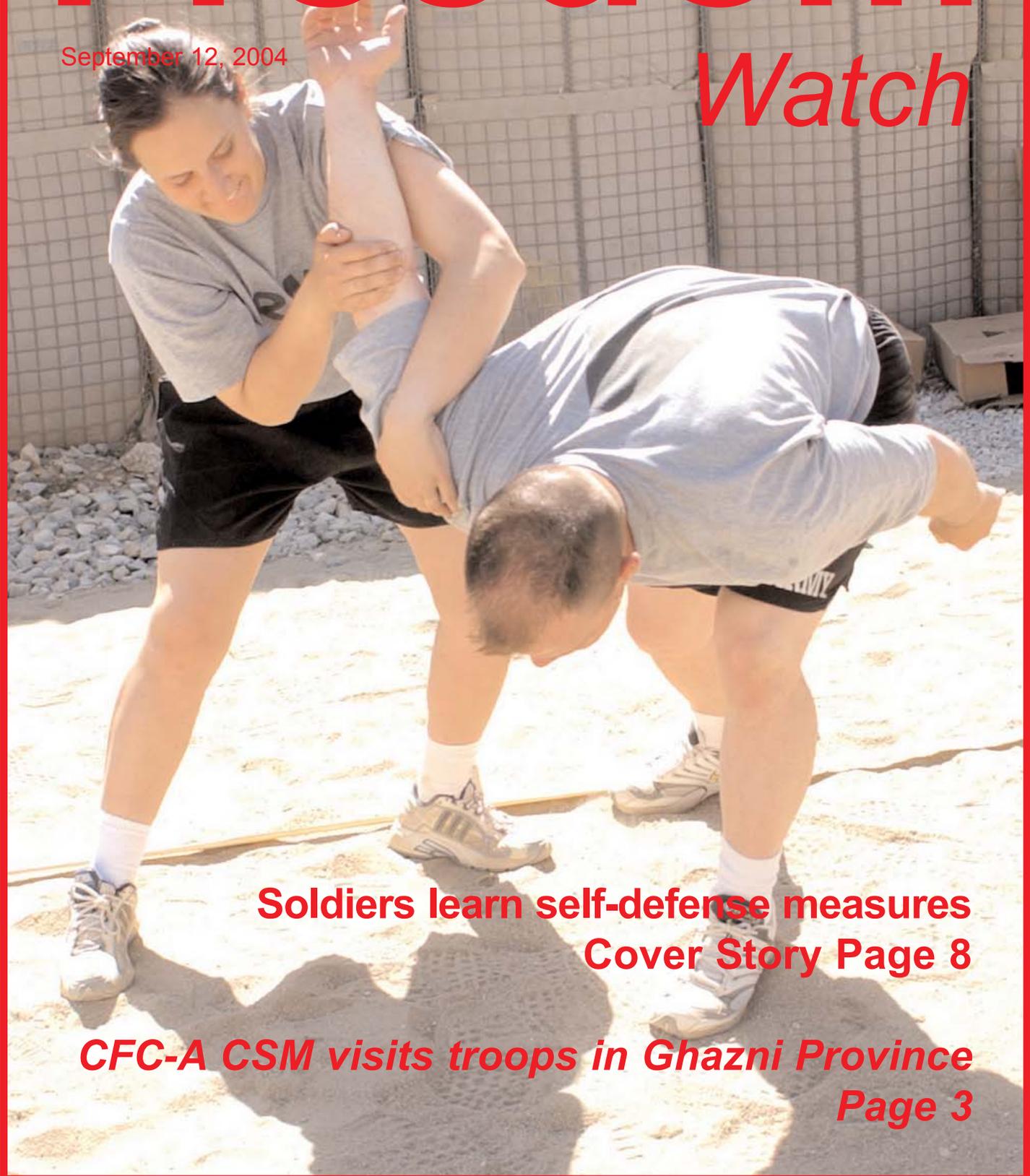


# Freedom

September 12, 2004

*Watch*



**Soldiers learn self-defense measures  
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***CFC-A CSM visits troops in Ghazni Province  
Page 3***



Sgt. Frank Magni

## Fire mission

A howitzer section from TF Steel fires a 105 mm howitzer from Kandahar Airfield. TF Steel operates in Regional Commands South and East, where they conduct both fire support and security missions in support of Coalition operations. Romanian soldiers, elements of the 25th MP Co. and 3rd Bn., 7th FA Rgt., all came together to form this fire support task force.

## Contents



Service members may not always have a weapon to use in self defense. To prepare Soldiers for these situations, leaders like 2nd Lt. Jennie Wunderlich, Lightning Task Force-725 platoon leader, seen here practicing self-defense techniques with her platoon sergeant, Sgt. 1st Class Robert Ashcraft, are scheduling training for their Soldiers. The classes are taught by Staff Sgt. Richard D. Bush, 551st MP Co., a certified instructor.

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Cover photo by Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl

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# Freedom Watch

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CFC-A Commander – Lt. Gen. David Barno  
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# CSM visits, motivates troops at FOB Ghazni

Story and photos by  
Lt. Col. Susan Meisner

Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan

FORWARD OPERATING BASE GHAZNI, Afghanistan — “Thank you for what you do here every day,” said Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett to the Soldiers gathered for lunch at Forward Operating Base Ghazni Aug. 21.

“What you are doing here is very important ... and the people back home are behind us.” A 31-year Army veteran from Brighton, Mich., Pritchett is the senior enlisted advisor to CFC-A Commander Lt. Gen. David Barno on all enlisted matters. She visits the troops in Afghanistan on a regular basis, and the Ghazni trip is one of several she has completed since arriving in May to start her one-year tour.

Her goal?

“I want to see that the Soldiers have the right equipment and tools to do the job,” said Pritchett. “What do they need for success? Did their training prepare them for their mission? If not, what can we (the command) do to help?”

“I also carry the commander’s intent to the lowest levels, and bring back the unvarnished truth to the commander,” she added.

Quality of life issues are another vital part of her visit.

As long as there’s been an Army, there have been complaints about the chow. FOB Ghazni was no different.

“What is the most challenging thing about being here?” asked Pritchett of Soldiers in the operations center.

“Hot dogs and ham for lunch,” was the answer. “Every day.”

Help is on the way via a new food service contract anticipated to begin in mid-October.

Despite their grumblings about chow, the Soldiers were a largely positive group, noting that they are “making a difference in a country that needs the help.”

“It warms your heart ... to know you are helping them (the Afghans) get a good start on their government,” said Spc. Charles Fetter.

Two parts of the new government, the Afghan National Police and Afghan National Army soldiers, are the first lines of security in Ghazni, but the Soldiers of FOB Ghazni also have vital roles to play. The military police Soldiers provide security for the Ghazni Provincial Reconstruction Team and help train the ANP. The infantry Soldiers work with their



**Command Sgt. Maj. Cynthia Pritchett delivers donated school supplies to students at the Jahan Malika Girls School.**

ANA counterparts, for whom they have high praise.

“They are fearless,” said Pfc. Phillip Read. “They are ready to go. They said if the U.S. ever got invaded, they’d come and help us.”

They also told him that once their country is squared away, they’ll go to Iraq and help there, too.

“The kandak (battalion) we are working with is one of the best,” said Ghazni FOB Operations Officer Maj. Edward Smith. “The (Embedded Training Team) did an outstanding job of training them.”

With a focus on election security for the six districts they are responsible for, Smith said he is looking forward to receiving the help of an incoming ANA reconnaissance company before the Oct. 9 presidential election. More than 10 million Afghans have registered to vote, making registration hugely successful.

On the reconstruction side, progress is evident throughout Ghazni city.

“The PRT has been effective,” said Staff Sgt. David Boehnlein, Civil Affairs Team – Alpha noncommissioned officer in charge.

In addition to the number of weapons and ammunition caches local residents bring to their attention as a result of reconstruction, there have been many changes along the main road, he said. More permanent structures have replaced many of the mud huts endemic to the area, and gas stations are “springing up” around town.

A tour of PRT projects funded by the Commander’s Emergency Response Program included a renovated building to house the city’s eagerly awaited new generators, as well as ground work – such as reservoirs to cool them and removal of an underground fuel tank – to ready the com-

pound. Once the new generators are installed, the city will have power around the clock, instead of the current five hours a day.

At another city complex, the World Bank funded the construction of a telecommunications tower. The PRT assisted with the infrastructure, installing a chimney to route exhaust from the main complex building, as well as a septic tank and other facility improvements.

In another area, PRT-funded projects include a new generator building, water tower and irrigation system to provide services to both municipal buildings and surrounding areas.

The Jahan Malika Girls School was the recipient of PRT-funded improvements to their buildings, as well as refurbishing of their basketball court, new desks and chairs for the students, and gravel walkways around the buildings. While touring the school, Pritchett donated eagerly received school supplies to the assembled teachers, students and mothers. Friends and family had sent the donations to her, as had strangers who read in her hometown paper that she was collecting them.

After seeing all the progress the Soldiers at FOB Ghazni have helped make, Pritchett focused back in on their mission.

“I think the Soldiers are doing a really good job,” said Pritchett, “and most of them know why they are here. Being here gives them a greater appreciation of their own way of life. I think they experience more during this deployment than I did in my 31 years of service,” said Pritchett.

“I want to tell them they’re doing a good job and report the same back to the (commanding general).”

# Civil military missions helping war on terrorism

Story by Spc. Claudia K. Bullard  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — In some of the most remote areas in Afghanistan, things are changing.

Civil military missions are taking medical assistance and resources for rebuilding to places like Shah Wali Kot, presenting a different approach to driving back the enemy and gaining the confidence of local villagers.

Maj. Monty Willoughby, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, executive officer, represents the variety of personnel and disciplines involved in civil military missions. Accompanying a Cooperative Medical Assistance mission to Shah Wali Kot, he has the additional task of providing support and funding for re-opening a school that serves the children of several villages. One of the main goals of a civil military mission is to provide a “presence” in the area, he said. This keeps anti-Coalition militants moving.

But keeping the enemy on the run is just part of the purpose of civil military missions, said Sgt. 1st Class Jeffery Bridges. Bridges is the noncommissioned officer

in charge of Cooperative Medical Assistance missions originating from Kandahar Airfield.

Medical missions serve a dual purpose — building relationships with village populations by bringing medical aid to outlying areas and providing a military presence during the rebuilding process.

“In this way, we gain their confidence,” said Bridges.

At another village, Haji Lalay Kalay, a CMA team has set up a temporary clinic just outside the village wall. Here, Capt. John Geise, a Combined Task Force Bronco physician assistant, and Romanian Army Dr. (Lt.) Tudor Vasicescu examine children at opposite ends of a litter set up as an exam table. The children wait obediently as Geise and Vasicescu, both members of Combined Joint Task Force-76, work through interpreters to make their diagnosis and dispense medicines.

The team mainly treats illnesses connected with unsanitary conditions.

“We treat skin problems, bad teeth and lots of digestive problems from bad food. They give their children cow’s milk, so they have dietary problems. We treat everyone for worms,” said Vasicescu.

These conditions are prevalent in the rural areas of southeastern Afghanistan.

Old habits are hard to break, even for people wanting to improve their conditions, said Bridges.

“It is very hard to make people understand that they have to separate sewage, bathing and cooking, and they must boil their water.”

The teams don’t let this discourage them, however. By continuing education and increasing the supplies to the villagers, Bridges is convinced they will curb the problem.

To ensure they continue this education, the teams have to re-visit the same villages.

But no matter how many times a team has visited a village, team leaders continuously make security a top priority.

At Shah Wali Kot, Sgt. 1st Class Mark Danley, Headquarters and Headquarters Troop platoon sergeant, Staff Sgt. Jeff Ritter, Medical Platoon platoon sergeant, and their interpreters take up positions at the gate.

The interpreters help screen the villagers,

*See Missions, Page 14*

## CTF Bronco provides motorcycles to local police

Story by Sgt. Frank Magni  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

ZABUL PROVINCE, Afghanistan — In an effort to bolster security within Zabul Province, 2nd Battalion, 35th Infantry Regiment, is providing motorcycles to the Afghan National Police.

Using money from the unit’s Commander’s Emergency Response Program, the motorcycles are the result of direct communication between Coalition forces and Afghan leaders.

“We have been providing (pickups) as the primary means of transportation to the ANP,” said 1st Lt. David Bergeron, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., CERP team. “But one other common request has been for motorcycles.”

The unit began supplementing the police with the motorcycles because many local leaders and police officers requested them during village assessments, said Bergeron.

The need for motorcycles is prompted by the extra mobility they can provide over four-wheel drive pickups.

“These motorcycles allow police to travel over the type of terrain common in the province,” said Bergeron. “They even let

them get into areas that trucks can’t travel.”

The unit has already donated two pickups and five motorcycles to the police force in the Shamulzayi District, he said.

And both the pickups and motorcycles have been already put into operational use by the ANP.

“Motorcycles work hand-in-hand with the trucks,” he said. “They are combat multipliers for the police departments. More police officers can be more places using motorcycles.”

Bergeron said he sees most of the motorcycles being used to take alternate routes, something he views as a force protection tool for the ANP. The alternate routes can also help increase a police officer’s response time.

The motorcycles also benefit the local police because they are more fuel efficient. This helps the police department conserve resources.

The unit buys the motorcycles directly from local vendors in Kandahar city. Using this method, the benefits are twofold.

“By buying off the local economy we not only get the motorcycles faster, but it

helps to stimulate growth and supports the local business,” he said.

Although transportation is one aim for use of CERP funds in 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., the money is also used for other projects to support the ANP.

“Our big focus is on security,” said 1st Lt. Ron Allen, 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., CERP team coordinator. “But the vehicles are just one part of the equation.”

The unit also provides uniforms, communications equipment, and assists in upgrading police barracks and compounds, said Allen.

Each of the 10 districts in Zabul Province has been touched by the aid 2nd Bn., 35th Inf. Rgt., provides with CERP funds. But of all the support the unit is devoting to the ANP, the motorcycles remain one of the highlights to the officers.

And the feedback for the motorcycles’ delivery has been overwhelming.

“You hear nothing but good things when we deliver these vehicles,” said Bergeron. “They appreciate them (the motorcycles) because they say they want to make sure they can provide security for themselves.”

# A-10 Thunderbolt II – the eyes in the sky

Story and photo by  
Air Force Master Sgt. Andrew Gates  
455th Expeditionary Operations Group

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — As ground forces travel throughout Afghanistan, they can rest assured there is someone available to watch over their shoulders.

A flight of A-10 Thunderbolt IIs, affectionately known as Warthogs, regularly keeps watch over the countryside and ground troops maneuvering there.

While deployed to Afghanistan, the A-10s fly close air support, or CAS, missions, said Air Force Capt. Neal (last name omitted for security reasons), an A-10 pilot with the 355th Expeditionary Fighter Squadron here.

The squadron flies two types of CAS missions in Afghanistan. The first one is in support of a specific request to provide close air support for a mission.

“This type of mission could include convoy escorts or cover for troops visiting a compound or village,” said Neal.

The other mission is similar, except the flight doesn’t have a specific target.

“In one of these missions, we take off and head to an area and stand by,” said Air Force Capt. Gage, another 355th EFS pilot. “If someone needs our assistance, we’ll get the call to respond.”

Often, the A-10s will get a call from ground forces who have either seen enemy forces or been attacked by them.



**Spc. Patrick Little, 551st MP Co., shows Air Force Capt. Tonto (call sign used for security reasons), 355th EFS A-10 pilot, the bullet holes his vehicle received during an enemy ambush. Tonto provided close air support to this convoy.**

“We then respond to the TIC (troops in contact) situation,” said Gage. “They’ll give us the information we need to respond, and we’ll start heading in their direction. We have to prioritize right then – sort a lot of information out in a hurry. We have to decide if we need to refuel from a tanker before we respond, or after, if the situation is urgent. We become experts in fuel management.”

The call can come in from any ground forces, said Neal, who has responded to calls from German, English, Canadian and Dutch forces, as well as the traditional U.S. Marine and Army forces.

“Knowing we’re up there does a whole lot to help the ground forces. I think of what our presence provides – and I know that we’re helping,” he said.

In addition to their flights, the pilots perform other duties such as working in the mission planning cell, coordinating support for the pilots in the air.

Most of the missions the A-10s face are pre-planned. Ground forces who need support fill out a request and staff it through the Combined Air Operations Center where the support request is handled, said Neal.

Once the aircraft takes off, the pilot makes contact with the joint terminal attack controller, or JTAC, who is embedded in the ground forces.

“The JTAC is the mouthpiece of the ground commander,” said Neal. “We get the ground commander’s intent from them.”

“We need certain information to accurately support a fight,” said Gage. “The JTAC helps us know where the friendly and enemy forces are, and gives us all the information that we need to make sure we protect our forces and provide cover for them.”

Once the ground and air forces have established contact, the A-10 team performs the mission.

During convoy escort missions, for example, the ground forces want the A-10

*See Warthog, Page 14*

## Enduring Voices

*What does the U.S. Constitution mean to you?*



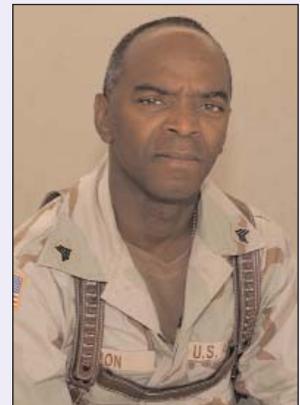
**Marine Sgt. Fernando Briones**  
HMLA 773  
*“It’s our freedom and our way of life.”*



**Air Force Senior Airman Joseph Austin**  
355th EAMXS  
*“It means more opportunities and better lives.”*



**Marine Cpl. Jackie Garcia**  
HMLA 773  
*“It’s what all our freedoms are based on. It’s the backbone of our country.”*



**Sgt. Henry Simon**  
136th RTI  
*“It means I have the right to live my life as I choose.”*

# Donations come from above to Afghan village

Story and photo by  
Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

JILDALEK VILLAGE, Afghanistan — As the helicopters touched down and Soldiers exited the aircraft, many villagers looked on with anticipation.

The two CH-47 Chinook helicopters that landed in Jildalek Village were carrying more than 800 pounds of humanitarian aid donations including food, clothing, shoes and toys for the villagers. The donations were the result of the “Operation Shoe Fly” and “Angels for Afghanistan” programs.

Operation Shoe Fly, started by Company B, 214th Aviation Regiment, and Angels for Afghanistan, started by 1st Battalion, 211th Attack Aviation Regiment, are donation programs that have been set up by the family members of the Soldiers.

Starting off as local programs in Hawaii and Utah, respectively, the home states for the two units that comprise Task Force Pirate, they have grown nationwide. Angels for Afghanistan has even grown internationally, with donations coming from Australia, said Chief Warrant Officer Terry Stauffer, TF Pirate maintenance officer.

Due to the popularity of the two programs, some of the donations have been allocated to Honduras, since the donations can be used to help the locals there as well, said Stauffer.

While the main delivery for Angels for Afghanistan, two cargo planes full of donations, has not yet reached Afghanistan, packages have been received by individual Soldiers on a constant basis during the last few months.

Using the supplies that have already arrived in Afghanistan, TF Pirate has been working with the Parwan Provincial Reconstruction Team to locate villages that are in need of donations from an outside source.

Jildalek was identified as one of those villages.

“When we found out the Soldiers were there for the donations, we sent word out to the surrounding villages that donations were available at the school construction site,” said Qayoom, the regional security commander.

The construction site that was used for distributing the donations is a PRT-funded project to help rebuild the education system in the area.

While the PRT is working on improving the educational opportunities in Jildalek, the Soldiers of TF Pirate are using the donations supplied through Operation Shoe Fly and Angels for Afghanistan to improve the everyday lives of the people.

Although not all the villagers knew about the donations in advance, more than 200 people came to the donation site to receive needed clothing, shoes and humanitarian aid from the Soldiers.

Along with supplying the villagers with needed supplies, the Soldiers are also working to make the village elders a part of the re-stabilization efforts in the region.

In an attempt to give the village elders a larger role in the donation process, the Soldiers let the elders hand out the gifts, while they oversaw the process and took care of crowd control, which was necessary due to the large turnout.

While a recent trip to Jildalek was a success, the only villagers that came to receive the donations were the men and boys, said Chief Warrant Officer Layne Pace, TF Pirate AH-64 Apache pilot. This time the Soldiers had a nice surprise.

“This time, while there were still no women, there were quite a few young girls who came to the donation site and received shoes, clothes and stuffed animals,” he said.

As a sign of gratitude for what is being done for the people in the village, Qayoom invited the Soldiers to a tea

lunch, which included green tea and cookies, in the shade of a tree.

Qayoom again thanked the Soldiers for all the help they are providing to the village.

“We welcome all the help you are able to provide to the region,” said Qayoom. “We know that all help is from the heart, and we are very grateful.”

Qayoom also talked to the Soldiers about other needs in the village and future projects with the PRT.

“This isn’t the first time you have visited our village and I’m sure you will continue to help,” he said. “My only request for more donations is for coats, blankets and warm clothes that will help the people make it through the winter. The winters here are very harsh and the people don’t have warm clothes.”

Pace told Qayoom that they were awaiting a shipment of 1,000 blankets to come in before the next donation, and also that they would find out about any jackets that are being sent.

Before the helicopters returned to take the Soldiers back to Bagram Air Base, Qayoom had one last thing to tell the Soldiers.

“We are ready and willing to help the military in any way possible in the work they are doing to improve the region,” he said. “I hope this is the beginning of a long and lasting relationship between the military and the people of our village.”

With that, the Soldiers boarded the Chinooks, with the agreement that they would return again soon.



**2nd Lt. Jon Richardson, TF Pirate, distributes shoes to a group of young girls who visited the donation site Aug. 28. The donations came from the “Operation Shoe Fly” and “Angels for Afghanistan” programs.**

# 'Rat Patrol' secures Afghan mission

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

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Their name is inspired by a '60s television show, and their concept by the movie "The Dirty Dozen," but there is nothing staged about what this band of cooks, medics, mechanics, and supply and communication specialists are doing at Kandahar Airfield.

Nicknamed the Rat Patrol, Soldiers from Headquarters and Headquarters Troop, 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, are trading in their traditional support roles and performing missions once reserved for cavalry scouts and infantryman.

"We have basically taken Soldiers from different (mili-

tary occupational specialties) and military backgrounds, put them together and begun conducting (security) missions with them," said Capt. Robert Horn, HHT, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt., commander.

Although their non-traditional mission began when the unit hit Afghanistan, their training started when the unit's leadership realized some of the support services were already taken care of within the country, said Horn.

"We knew that food service was contracted to civilians in Afghanistan, so we were looking for an alternate mission for our cooks," he said. "But we found we had other Soldiers interested in doing something different."

Not really knowing what the ultimate role of the Rat Patrol

would be, the unit began conducting training in Hawaii that would prepare them for a wide variety of missions.

The training began with weapons familiarization and broader use. Rat Patrol Soldiers learned how to proficiently operate the M-2 .50 caliber and M-240B machine guns, as well as the M-249 squad automatic weapon, said Horn.

They then conducted convoy live fire exercises, in addition to day, night and grenade ranges. The group also trained on advanced land navigation and scout observation tactics.

Finally, they tested their skills in combat simulators and performed a security role in training exercises leading up to the deployment.

"Not a lot of headquarters units get the chance to do the extensive training necessary for this type of role," said Horn. "But our chain of command was supportive and the troops were really motivated to make it happen."

The Rat Patrol's first missions were convoy escorts and pulling forward arming and refueling point security. They were also responsible for escorting engineer convoys to Forward Operating Base Tiger, where they provided perimeter security.

"They never ceased to amaze me," said Horn. "They have shown nothing but flare, professionalism and experience above what was initially expected of them."

He said one of the main factors that contributed to the success of the Rat Patrol was the unit's leadership and ability to bring their diverse backgrounds together.

Sgt. 1st Class Mark Danley, the Rat Patrol platoon sergeant, is a 12-year veteran of the infantry.

He said he never doubted

any of the Soldiers' ability to perform in a combat role, but the training they performed was just an extension of what they already knew.

"It just goes to show that practicing the basic combat skills pays off," said Danley.

He said the patrol has even showed him strengths he didn't expect.

"It is kind of convenient that each one of our guys has skills that come in handy," he said. "If we have a (vehicle) break down, a mechanic is right there."

Even with the new mission, they continue to support the rest of the squadron in their traditional roles, said Horn.

For example, the motor pool here has more of a workload than when they're at home station.

"They not only maintain the equipment we initially brought over here, but the fleet of up-armored (high mobility multipurpose wheeled vehicles) the unit added in Afghanistan," he said.

In the future, the patrol will also have the additional responsibility of escorting medical missions coordinated and sponsored by the squadron.

"The demand for them (the patrol) is non-stop," said Horn. "But they rise to every challenge put in front of them."

"I'm just proud that I can do my part over here," said Spc. Hansel Davis, cook and Rat Patrol member. "This is just my shot to do something more."

Whether the 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt., Rat Patrol is a just unique combination of Soldiers and circumstances, or every headquarters unit in the Army has a Rat Patrol of their own, Horn said he has always known that every Soldier is a rifleman, and his unit proves it every day.



Sgt. 1st Class Mark Danley, HHT, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt., "Rat Patrol" platoon sergeant, communicates with a local man while clearing traffic for a convoy he is escorting.

# Self-defense helps troops protect themselves

Story and photos by  
Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — While weapons may save Soldiers' lives in combat, there's no telling when someone may end up in a compromising situation with no method of defense other than his bare hands.

To help Coalition members protect themselves, Staff Sgt. Richard D. Bush, Headquarters Platoon platoon sergeant for the 551st Military Police Company, 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault), Fort Campbell, Ky., is teaching hand-to-hand and unarmed combat techniques.

"I'm here to give you the basics," said Bush in his introduction to his first class in Afghanistan.

With a fourth degree black belt in Shotokan, a formal Japanese form of martial arts, Bush stresses the importance of self-defense to all of his students.

"Everyone needs to know self-defense," he said. "You never know when you'll no longer have a weapon or when you might not be able to use your weapon."



**Bush (right) demonstrates a blocking move on Sgt. Howard Price, LTF-725. Bush teaches self-defense to service members.**

It was with this in mind that 2nd Lt. Jennie Wunderlich requested training for the Service and Supply Platoon of Logistics Task Force-725.

"I want all of my Soldiers to be ready for any situation," said Wunderlich, the platoon leader for the SSP. "I want to protect my Soldiers, and I believe this is one of the best ways I can do that."

To help the Soldiers learn how to protect themselves, Bush taught them various blocking moves, take-downs, punches, and other techniques that would help them in many different situations.

"Remember, all of your power comes from the ground," he said, as he moved around the circle of Soldiers, helping them to perfect their stances.

Then he went into basic punches, teaching them the proper techniques to defend themselves.

"Speed and violence of action are the keys to self-defense," he explained, after demonstrating how to get the most out of a punch.

But these actions aren't meant to be used offensively.

"These actions are meant for self-defense," said Bush. "By teaching Soldiers these different techniques, they will be able to stay calm in different situations and think a lot better. This training prepares you for something that may or may not happen."

Bush's training expands upon the hand-to-hand combat training Soldiers receive in basic training. With certification from the Army to instruct both unarmed self-defense and close-quarters combat, he said the classes he provides give a basic general knowledge of self-defense.

"The Army's self-defense training is a combination of different grappling techniques, Karate, Shotokan, Jujitsu and other Japanese martial arts," he said. "There's a reason the Army still thinks it's important to teach these techniques — you never know when you'll need them."

And for the Soldiers who are for-



**Spc. Abel Agront (right), LTF-725, and Staff Sgt. Richard D. Bush practice blocks during self-defense training Aug. 29.**

unate enough to never need them in combat, there's no telling when they may come across a potential assailant in a different setting. The self-defense measures they learn from Bush can help in any threatening situation.

"I'd say that 98 percent of the people out there aren't trained in the martial arts," said Bush. "And the ones who are usually won't try to start anything."

This is a statistic that brought even more confidence to Soldiers like Spc. Burnadette Lester, who, at just over 5 feet tall, said she is generally intimidated by others.

"This training is helping me to have more confidence," she said. "I know that if I'm in a situation, I can take anyone down and get away."

That's the main point of self-defense, said Bush.

"Once you get someone on the ground, you need to run away and scream, drawing attention to yourself."

During his class, Bush taught the Soldiers how to take down an opponent, regardless of his size. However, this isn't something they will be able to do overnight.

"I generally teach three eight-hour classes," he said. "The best way to learn is through repetition."

By working as a platoon and receiving future instruction from Bush, Wunderlich plans to continue her Soldiers' training, increasing their knowledge in hand-to-hand combat.

Bush is willing to train any Combined Joint Task Force-76 unit, and can be reached through the 551st MP Co. tactical operations center at 231-2525.

"I'm willing to work with anyone who is motivated," he said. "If someone displays an interest, I'll take the time to teach them."

# Funds help Coalition rebuild Afghanistan

Story by Sgt. Stephanie L. Carl  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — After more than a year of hard work, the Coalition was able to open the doors of a reconstructed hospital in Konduz the last week of August.

This is just one of hundreds of projects that have been completed throughout Afghanistan, using billions of dollars in funding that is provided by the United States.

This particular project was completed using Overseas Humanitarian, Disaster and Civic Assistance funds, which allowed the Coalition to reconstruct, furnish and equip the hospital so its medical staff can better treat their patients.

But OHDACA funds aren't the only resource available to the Coalition.

There are three main sources of funding in Afghanistan — operational funds, money that sustains the units; the Commander's Emergency Response Program, money specifically allocated for reconstruction and development; and OHDACA, monies that are used to return a site to its previous condition.

While each of these funds is used for different tasks that result in the reconstruction and development of Afghanistan, they all have different

guidelines for their use.

It's the responsibility of the Combined Joint Task Force-76 resource management office to determine which source should be used to pay for a project.

If a unit is completing a project for itself, or needs supplies, they would talk to Owen Roberts, resource management deputy director, who also specifically handles operational funds. "If they're doing it for Afghanistan, they need to talk to me," said Primary Program Manager Capt. James Inguagiato.

While operational funds are used to sustain units and installations, CERP and OHDACA funds are used to actually finance reconstruction projects.

"Basically, we spend this money on a first-come, first-served basis," said Inguagiato of CERP and OHDACA funds. "Commanders are responsible for determining how much money they will need for a 30-day period of time."

This is done through village assessments, in which teams of Soldiers evaluate infrastructure and villages. Part of the assessment process is communicating with local leaders to determine the needs of an area. Some villages need schools, wells or electricity. Other villages may need medical supplies or facilities.

Once these assessments are finished, the unit is responsible for determining

how much money they will need to fund any projects they would like to complete. Then the commander submits a request for funding to Inguagiato, who determines what source will be used to pay for the projects.

"There are 15 categories for CERP funds," he said. These categories are anything from water and sanitation projects, such as installing wells, to civic support vehicles, like trucks and motorcycles for local police.

"There have been more than 300 wells repaired or built with CERP funds," said Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Starbuck, CJTF-76 civil affairs noncommissioned officer in charge. He added that projects like irrigation systems, schools, clinics, civic clean-ups and many other projects have also been completed with CERP funds.

Projects that don't qualify for CERP funding can qualify for OHDACA funds, which are used around the world, mainly for disaster relief.

"OHDACA is used for projects that can (take) up to two years to complete," said Starbuck. "These projects aren't usually new construction, but reconstruction to return a site to its pre-war or pre-disaster condition."

Some of the projects that have been completed with OHDACA funds are a wheat distilling plant in Herat, the Teacher Training College in Kabul and the reestablishment of the Avecina Pharmacy plant.

While OHDACA and CERP funds are separate, they come from the same source initially.

Each of these funds is allocated by Congress through the Defense Appropriation Bill, said Roberts. Other than criteria for use, another big difference between the two is the length of time they have been in existence.

The CERP program is a new source of funding that was just implemented in January. It was initially used in Iraq, where it had such an overwhelming impact on development, that military leadership believed it could also help in Afghanistan. As a result, Congress began allocating a separate fund for use in Afghanistan.

OHDACA, on the other hand, has been in existence for more than a decade. It's been used for disaster relief in places like Turkey, East Timor, India, China, and now, Afghanistan.



Sgt. 1st Class Stephen Starbuck

Using OHDACA funds, the Coalition spent more than a year helping to rebuild and equip this hospital in Konduz. OHDACA funds are used to rebuild structures that were destroyed by events such as natural disasters or war.

See *Funds*, Page 15

# Radar techs keep combat zone airspace safe

Story and photo by  
Air Force Master Sgt. Andrew Gates  
455th Expeditionary Operations Group

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — The skies over Bagram Air Base are filled with aircraft around the clock — A-10 Thunderbolt IIs share airspace with cargo aircraft and helicopters.

Keeping those aircraft safe is an important and daunting task — but a team of Airmen recently installed new equipment to make that task a little easier.

“We installed equipment to provide a remote tower display to air traffic controllers,” said Air Force Staff Sgt. Phillip MacMillen, one of three radar technicians who installed the new equipment. “This equipment gives the controllers a basic picture of the local airspace — they can better see where the aircraft are and keep them separated.”

This new tactical equipment — the Mobile Radar Navigational-25, often called MPN-25 — was developed in 1998. This particular piece was the second of three built for the Air Force so far, said MacMillen. The first is used for training at McGuire Air Force Base, N.J., the radar team’s home station. The third is also in Afghanistan, being set up by another team in Kandahar.

The MPN-25 contains both a precision approach radar and an airport surveillance radar. The PAR gives controllers the information they need to give pilots precise guidance for landing, while the airport surveillance radar surveys the traffic in the area around an airport. With a combined radar system and one operations shelter, the MPN-25 takes a lot less airlift to bring into a theater of operations.

Since it’s smaller, it also takes less time to set up.

“It takes four people a few hours to set it up and align the system — to tell the system exactly where it is on the Global Positioning System,” said MacMillen. “Once the equipment is aligned and flight-checked, the equipment is ready to conduct operations — usually in a matter of days, instead of about a week.”

Maintaining the equipment is as easy as setting it up, said Air Force Senior Airman Wade Evans, the other member of the Bagram team. A built-in testing program tells what equipment needs to be fixed, though the team sometimes needs to troubleshoot tricky problems. However, the equipment is very reliable.

“The most I have ever had to do is replace cables and motors — simple stuff,” he said.

The MPN-25 works in conjunction with the MPN-14, the tactical air traffic control radar equipment previously used at Bagram, said MacMillen. The MPN-14 contains a precision approach radar that can focus on longer ranges, while the MPN-25 is specifically for obtaining a local area picture. Combined, the two allow the air traffic controllers to maintain visibility of all the airspace.

“We use the MPN-25’s precision approach radar for daily operations, as well as the remote tower display, since the PAR is more precise,” he said. “We use the MPN-14’s airport surveillance radar, since it can ‘see’ a bit farther.”

The equipment’s precision is a key element to making it extremely effective here, said Evans.

“You can tell within a few feet how far the aircraft is off the correct course,” he said.

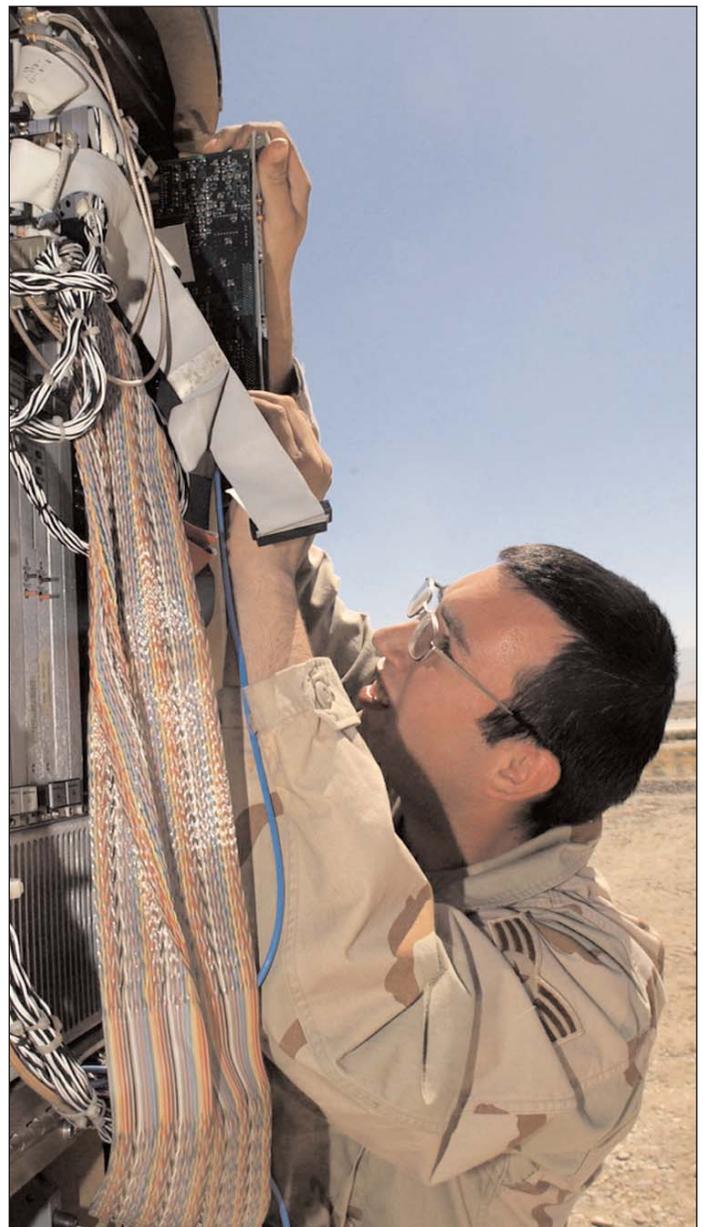
That precision helps the air traffic controllers here get accurate airfield information. The remote tower display gives controllers a visual means of seeing what happens on the airfield, said MacMillen.

“It’s a lot easier to look at a radar scope to see what’s going on in the (space) around the airport than it is to use binoculars and visually examine the field,” said MacMillen. “It also helps during nighttime operations — many times aircraft here may not use lights at night for operational safety — this radar display

gives the air traffic controllers precise information on where the aircraft are at night.”

In addition, the Airmen are teaching the civilian air traffic management team here how to operate and maintain the equipment. Soon, they will turn over operation and maintenance of the MPN-25 to the Air Force Contract Augmentation team that controls air traffic, said MacMillen.

“I’ve helped them train to use the equipment as well as ... maintain it,” he said. “It’s been an outstanding time — our team has gotten nothing but cooperation in getting this system up and running.”



**Air Force Senior Airman Wade Evans replaces a circuit card in the Mobile Radar Navigational-25 tactical radar system. The system, developed in 1998, is one of three in the world.**

# Clinic provides health care to women

Story by Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — With many females deployed around the world, the task of providing timely and efficient health care to women has become a priority.

In the past, women serving in Operation Enduring Freedom had to leave Afghanistan to address many of their gender-specific health care needs. But with a new clinic on Bagram Air Base that specializes in women's health care, females can continue their mission relatively uninterrupted.

"Women's health is important because women have more of an active role in, and percentage of, the deployment force we now see," said Lt. Col. John Farley, officer in charge of the gynecological clinic on Bagram. "It's important that we have the specialized means to take care of them in theater."

The clinic is primarily for the acute care of women with gynecological problems, said Farley. One of the most common problems women face is abnormal pap smears.

The main thrust of the clinic was for



Video stills by Sgt. Jennifer S. Emmons

**Staff Sgt. Alma Alexander, gynecological clinic NCOIC, takes medical information from Staff Sgt. Anna Curtis, 125 MI Bn., at the beginning of her appointment. The clinic is designed to treat women in theater to keep the operational tempo even, and still provide quality health care.**

the follow-up of abnormal pap smears. Now, women who have had an abnormal pap smear prior to deployment can come here for a follow-up exam, said Farley

The clinic has all the resources necessary to give quality health care to women, said Staff Sgt. Alma Alexander, noncommissioned officer in charge of the gynecological clinic. "The same procedures that are done in a hospital, we can do here."

The clinic also offers many services in addition to pap smears and colposcopies, an advanced procedure conducted after abnormal pap smear results are received.

"We offer urodynamic testing, which is bladder testing for women who might have urinary problems," said Farley.

The clinic also offers follow-up exams for women who underwent surgery before deployment.

"Before I deployed, I had surgery," said Staff Sgt. Anna Curtis, clinic patient. "If this clinic wasn't here, I would probably feel a little concerned, because if I did

have problems it would be hard to get a follow-up exam. Since it's here, I feel more confident."

Having women's health care services available in theater plays a big role in maintaining operational tempo.

The main purpose for the clinic is to get women in and seen by the doctor, and then back out to accomplish their mission, said Alexander.

During previous deployments, women who needed even simple gynecological procedures had to go to Germany, Kuwait, or even back to the United States for the treatment. That could keep a woman away from her duties for a month or longer, said Farley.

"That definitely has an effect on the manpower for the unit," said Farley.

Regardless of the type of unit a female is with, she is just as important to the mission.

The clinic is available for women, both military and civilian, throughout the area of operations, said Alexander.

"We've had women from Kandahar, Salerno, even (Karshi-Kahanabad) come to the clinic for services," she said.

Healthy women are a key to the success of Operation Enduring Freedom, said Farley.

"Women's health is very, very important to the military," he said. "It helps to preserve our fighting force, number one, and also keeps morale high."



**Curtis listens to instructions from Alexander before her exam at the new clinic.**

# ANP Rapid Action Division ready to support election

Story and photos by

Sgt. 1st Class Darren D. Heusel  
105th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KABUL, Afghanistan — In order to provide more security for the Oct. 9 presidential election, the Afghan National Police, backed by the U.S.-led Coalition and the International Security Assistance Force, have developed a Rapid Action Division.

The RAD is the Afghan equivalent of a quick reaction force. U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld made mention of the group's potential during a recent visit, saying that it is vital to the security and stability of the region. This view is shared by others throughout Afghanistan.

"This RAD is going to be a very important organization because they're going to respond to serious election-related contingencies," said Col. Jon Lopey, chief of the Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan Civil Military Operations Law Enforcement Cell.

"I've been very impressed with the enthusiasm and professionalism of our Afghan counterparts. These police officers recognize the importance of their mission and I'm confident that with the training they've received they will be able to provide much needed security for the upcoming elections and beyond," said New Zealand Maj. Bede Fahey, who was sent to Afghanistan to work with the Police Technical Assistance Teams and oversee the RAD training. Gen.



**Staff Sgt. Damian George, 58th MP Co., demonstrates to Afghan national policemen the proper way to handcuff a suspect. This was part of a training exercise in the use of modern police tactics such as riot control, convoy security and dignitary protection.**

Mahboob, ANP commander who only goes by one name, said the training has been "very effective and very practical," and that he'd like to see the training continue well into the future.

"We plan to take the new police force and send them to other areas of the country to provide security for all the people of Afghanistan," said Mahboob.

The RAD was recently thrust into action ahead of the election when they were

deployed to Herat Province to help quell factional fighting among armed gunmen belonging to local militia commanders and bring the Shindand Airport back under control of the Afghan government.

"I'm very happy to be providing security for my country," said Abidullah, who only goes by one name. "Putting myself in harm's way is part of my job. Whenever I get a mission, I am ready. If I have to lose my life, I'm ready to do my job."

Abidullah, 25, said he joined the ANP because he had always dreamed of becoming a police officer as a child and he wanted to serve his people and help provide security for the country.

To provide this security, each member of the RAD is equipped with an AK-47. The United Nations Assistance Mission Afghanistan has also provided 100 vehicles with communications, 300 police kits and 106 tents.

The Law Enforcement Cell at CFC-A has also pitched in four 25-man tents and 10 portable generators, as well as 200 complete sets of riot gear.

In addition to providing the trainers, Combined Task Force Thunder, part of Combined Joint Task Force-76, supports the RAD by providing vehicles, communications and other logistical support to RAD elements in their areas of responsibility.

"I'm very proud that the RAD has been formed in a very short time," said Mahboob. "This division is going to provide hope and promise for the people of Afghanistan and provide security at a high level."



**Members of the Police Technical Assistance Teams from the Parwan and Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Teams observe Afghan national policemen as they practice transferring casualties from a stalled vehicle.**

# Adverse user habits threaten network

## Safeguarding the Coalition

Story by Sgt. Frank Magni  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

AFGHANISTAN – Computers are used for a variety of tasks throughout Operation Enduring Freedom. From communications to battle tracking, computers have not only become an integral part of missions, but of operational security as well.

Linking together the many members of the Coalition not only in Afghanistan, but throughout the world, computers add increased capabilities to forces on the ground. But with these increased capabilities come increased vulnerabilities.

As many Coalition computers remain linked through networks, the responsibility of every computer user grows.

Sgt. Jeffrey Sabean, Combined Joint Task Force-76 Joint Operations Center Information Assurance noncommissioned officer in charge, comes across poor operational security by Coalition computer users every day. From installing free software to improperly exchanging files, Sabean sees firsthand how poor user habits affect the rest of the Coalition's mission.

"Every user must understand that you can't do the same things on a government computer as you can on a personally-owned computer," he said.

One of the most harmful trends he sees with Coalition computers is the downloading and use of prohibited peer-to-peer software like Napster, BearShare and Kazaa.

While Coalition members use these programs to exchange music, movies and software from computer to computer, Sabean said using these programs is not only in violation of Combined Joint Task Force-76 policy, but violates many other rules and laws.

"Not only is exchanging copyrighted material illegal, but installing software to government computers is strictly prohibited," he said. "Many times I hear that a person didn't know any better, but these programs can have harmful effects users don't even know about."

According to both the CJTF-76 non-secure Internet protocol router, or NIPR, and secure Internet protocol router agreements, or SIPR, installation and use of peer-to-peer software is strictly prohibited.

In addition, officials in CJTF-76 are taking proactive steps to ensure those Coalition members that continue to use peer-to-peer software are punished.

"If Soldiers have peer-to-peer software programs on their computers, they can suffer (Uniform Code of Military Justice) action, along with loss of network privileges," said Capt. Michael Voss, CJTF-76, JOC Information Assurance officer.

Each time a user uses peer-to-peer programs, the individual computer becomes exposed to anyone on the Internet, said Sabean. This world-wide exposure not only has the potential to harm the individual computer, but every computer connected to the network.

"Since our computers are all networked, outside intruders can do a lot of damage to our domain (group of computers)," he said.

Playing online games where users connect to other players on the Internet also has the same effect as using peer-to-peer software.

"Playing games online not only exposes our network, but eats up essential bandwidth (computer connection speed), critical to other Soldier's missions," he said.

In addition to the rash of peer-to-peer software use, Sabean also sees a dangerous trend with digital video discs and software bought from local bazaars.

"There have been cases where DVDs and software bought from bazaars have contained viruses meant to attack our computers," he said. "The disc might play fine in a DVD player, but things might happen if they are put on a computer."

Many things happen on computers without the user even knowing it warns, Jim Prosba, Directorate of Information Management network administrator.

"There are many ways viruses are introduced to any network," said Prosba. "But some people have misconceptions on what a virus is.

"Viruses aren't just designed to destroy or disrupt computers, they can also do other unfavorable things," he said. "Some go into systems to find information and send it back to a source."

Prosba said users should never open attachments from unknown emails and should never put anything on a computer without checking with an Information Management Officer first.

Just having anti-virus software isn't enough, said Prosba.

The software must be updated at least once a week to make it effective, he said.

"Although updates many times happen automatically, if you think your computer doesn't have updates, contact your unit

IMO," said Sabean.

Peer-to-peer software and purchased DVD and software from the bazaar remain external threats to Coalition computers and networks, but poor internal procedures can also affect productivity.

Many users are still unclear or ignore warnings in reference to exchanging files and information between the Army's unclassified computer network, NIPR, and classified computer network, SIPR, said Sabean.

Not properly using external media such as external hard drives, floppy disks, compact disc recordable and thumb drives between the two systems can have many adverse effects, said Sabean.

"Seventy percent of all viruses found on the SIPR are introduced through external media," he said.

Even though it is authorized for data to be transferred from the NIPR to the SIPR, all data must be scanned with anti-virus software before being put on a SIPR computer, said Sabean.

Even though this process is common, many individuals violate security procedures when they take external media that was inserted on a SIPR computer and reuse it on a NIPR computer.

"Many people don't understand that once a thumb drive is inserted into a SIPR computer, it can only be used on SIPR computers after that," said Sabean. This also applies to any floppy discs, CDRs, and, most importantly, internal and external hard drives.

The process of taking data from a SIPR computer to a NIPR computer is commonly called "spillage," and is strictly prohibited because of operational security policies, said Sgt. 1st Class Jerri Balbin, DOIM NCOIC.

To prevent "spillage," all external and internal computer media should be marked either "classified" or "unclassified" when systems are located close together.

"It is required to mark media," said Sabean. "This prevents any security leaks from happening."

Of all mistakes Coalition members can make in relation to computer operational security, Prosba said the worst is not asking an IMO if something is allowed.

"If you have a doubt, ask," he said.

While computers will remain a key component to the efficiency of Operation Enduring Freedom, safe security procedures on these systems must remain a primary concern for Coalition forces who frequently use them.

## Missions: CMMs make a difference in Afghanistan

*continued from Page 4*

admitting those who need care the most. Most of the villagers at the gate are children.

While the Shah Wali Kot CMA relied on U.S. Soldiers for security, many CMAs team up with Afghan National Army troops.

Afghan soldiers are responsible for crowd control and are a great asset in recognition of ACM, said Bridges. The ANA soldiers are able to quickly identify personnel who don't fit in, which helps to create a secure environment for the missions.

At Haji Lalay Kalay, medical personnel had the opportunity to see another benefit of working with the ANA. ANA and Romanian troops guarded the perimeter. Closer in, a few Afghan soldiers helped to keep the village children from creating disturbances.

"We have a system for treating patients and the kids will go through it over and over by getting back in line," said Bridges.

An ANA soldier known to U.S. troops as "Sadiq" is an example of this type of involvement. A familiar figure on civil

military missions, his reputation as a fighter against former invaders and the Taliban is well known, and he is adept at creating order out of chaos. An imposing figure among Afghans, he orders the village children to sit on the ground in a semicircle while a medic and other ANA Soldiers hand out toothbrushes and toothpaste. Soldiers like Sadiq enable the medical staff to concentrate fully on their mission.



Spc. Claudia K. Bullard

**Maj. Monty Willoughby, 3rd Sqdn., 4th Cav. Rgt., executive officer (right), walks to the Shah Wali Kot school with Superintendent Lal Mohammad (left) after meeting to discuss needed renovations.**

## Warthogs: A-10s provide added security for ground troops

*continued from Page 5*

overhead as long as possible, doing reconnaissance, said Neal.

"We're looking for suspicious activity. We make our presence known when we're escorting them," he said.

The support the A-10 pilots provide if they need to employ weapons is extremely effective.

"On one of my convoy escort missions, I was flying directly overhead when the Marines I was escorting got ambushed from a ridge," said Gage. "I talked to one of the Marines to find out where the attack was coming from, then flew lower to identify the friendly forces. When I saw the enemy forces and started shooting at them, the Marines stopped taking fire."

But the key to the A-10's success is the coordination with the JTAC.

"We cannot employ ordnance without them," said Neal. "They are our liaison with the guys on the ground and, more importantly, they are our eyes and ears on the ground."

He describes an interdiction mission where they were attacking a specified target. This mission was unusual for the pilots

because their missions are generally basic support maneuvers.

"My wingman and I were told to attack two radio towers, as long as we could positively identify them – which was a difficult job since each tower was about 10 feet tall. The JTAC did a superb job," said Neal. "He directed me into the area. Once I got close, I was able to see the towers. I put a laser on the target and my wingman dropped two laser-guided bombs on the towers."

Being ready for on-going operations in Afghanistan took a lot of training. The 60,000-square mile Pacific Alaska Range Complex at Eielson Air Force Base, Alaska, helped the pilots extensively before coming here.

"We were able to work with the same JTACs on Alaska ranges that we are working with here – it's great," said Neal.

Moreover, the pilots were able to use the targets on the range, which is approximately the size of Kansas, to help prepare for various missions here.

"Some of the structures they've built on the range are outstanding for urban combat," said Neal. "When we support a village visit or a compound takedown, the villages

Another element of the civil military missions is the Psychological Operations and Civil Affairs units that determine where the missions should take place. Through village assessments, these units are able to determine what villages are most in need of help.

Villages that exhibit a "progressive" attitude are more likely to have these types of missions coordinated, said one PSYOP Soldier.

At Haji Lalay Kalay, one sign of progressiveness is the absence of burkhas, still a common sight in the rest of south-eastern Afghanistan. He points out the Afghan women are veiled only in scarves, even though there are U.S. Soldiers present. This progressiveness is a sign that the village is willing to change from ways imposed by the Taliban, and an indication the village is not likely to be sympathetic to ACM. Other signs of progressiveness are a willingness to educate females and to lend a hand to improve their village.

"The more progressive the village, the more we are able to help. We don't want to just give a handout," said the PSYOP Soldier. "We want to go where we can do the most good."

look very similar to what we've practiced on."

Training on the Alaska ranges allowed Gage to perform a key mission in Afghanistan. "The first time I shot a Maverick was on the Alaska ranges three weeks before I deployed," he said. "I was able to get some great training with it before I left."

That Maverick training helped him complete a mission the A-10 is renowned for – that of tank killer.

"We got a request to take out some tanks," he said. "We went on the mission and there were two T-62 (Russian-built) tanks out in the open. We shot two Mavericks – I did a pass and hit one, and then my wingman came in and shot the other tank."

But the training is most effective when dealing with the uncertainty and rapidly changing conditions in a conflict.

"You have to sort things out in a hurry," said Gage. "When you get the call in the air, you have to determine how long you can help, how soon they need ordnance – the response could be anywhere and you want to be effective in a short amount of time. That's when your training kicks in and it all seems to work out."

# Retired Afghan soldier works as an interpreter

Story by Spc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

GHAZNI PROVINCE, Afghanistan — After serving 35 years in the Afghan National Army, one soldier found a way to continue to serve the people of Afghanistan after retirement.

At the age of 57, retired ANA Col. Baryalay Sayed Azim has been using his experience with the ANA to work as an interpreter with Task Force 168, a security force for the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghanistan's Ghazni Province.

Azim served his country for 35 years before receiving his retirement papers in July 2003.

After retiring from the ANA, he decided he was going to find another way to continue serving the people and decided to apply for a job as an interpreter.

While Azim would like to still be in the army, he knows that by working as an interpreter he is still able to serve the people of Afghanistan.

"After retiring from the ANA, I started studying English again and going over notes from my training in the United States," said Azim.

Azim applied for an interpreter job with the U.S. military in January, six months after retirement, and was hired to work with the Ghazni PRT.

"Doing this job, I am still able to serve the people and that is what is important," he said. "And with my background in the military, I am able to do a better job since I already know military rules and discipline.

"I graduated from the Afghan Military Academy as a second lieutenant in 1968,"

he said. "Shortly after joining the army, I went to Lackland Air Force Base, in Texas, for an English language course.

Azim said the English language course really paid off in 1973 when U.S. Army officers traveled to Afghanistan to select artillery officers from the ANA to attend the U.S. Army's Field Artillery Officer Advanced Course at Fort Sill, Okla.

"When the American officers came to select the officers who would attend the training, they gave us a couple tests to see which officers qualified for the course," he said. "The qualifications included an

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***"Doing this job, I am still able to serve the people and that is what is important."***

Retired ANA Col.  
Baryalay Sayed Azim

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English test and a test on basic military knowledge."

After the qualification process was complete, Azim, by then a first lieutenant, became one of a select few afforded the opportunity to go to the United States for one year to learn more about their job and become better soldiers, he said.

One year later, when Azim returned to Afghanistan, he was promoted to captain because of the work he had done prior to going to the United States and the completion of the advanced course at Fort Sill.

In the following 29 years, Azim climbed

from the rank of captain to colonel — holding several command positions along the way.

"Throughout my time in the military I had many jobs," said Azim. "After completing the Advanced Officer Course at Fort Sill, I was given my first command position as an artillery battery commander. From there I moved up to artillery division commander and finally to artillery staff officer."

Through the years, Azim has seen many changes in the Afghan military and the country itself.

Five years after he returned from Fort Sill, Azim saw his first combat action — the Soviet invasion.

"The country was torn apart when the Soviets came in, but we never backed down and they finally left," he said. After the Soviets left Afghanistan, the country continued to suffer from civil infighting and a reign of terror under the Taliban. Today, the fighting continues while Azim continues to do his part.

As he helps the Coalition, Azim is able to see his homeland improve from both points of view — interpreter and Afghan national.

Azim has seen the changes that have already been made and looks forward to Afghanistan returning to the way it was before the Soviet invasion and the reign of the Taliban.

"The Coalition is doing many things to help the people, and changes can already be seen," he said. "Being able to help the Coalition and be a part of the reconstruction is a great way for me to serve the people of Afghanistan."

## Funds: Allocated monies lead to reconstruction

*Continued from Page 9*

Both of these programs have been used to help rebuild and develop Afghanistan, but neither would do any good without the operational funds that keep the military units supplied.

Roberts is the person responsible for making this happen. Operational funds in Afghanistan are handed down from Forces Command, and then dispersed throughout the area of operations.

"This money is for the life support of installations," said Roberts. "All classes of sup-

plies get purchased with operational funds."

With this money, units are able to provide for their service members and purchase the resources they need to accomplish their mission. Everything from food to repair parts is purchased with operational funds.

Combined, these three sources of funding are helping the Coalition accomplish its mission in Afghanistan — from developing a stable environment for growth and reconstruction, to completing some of this reconstruction. By using these funds and

coordinating with other agencies, the Coalition is able to ensure more projects can be completed.

"By coordinating what we're (CJTF-76) doing with the other agencies, we can stay synchronized and match our plans with their plans. We also have to make sure they match with the plans of other national programs. We want to do things to support the national, provincial and district governments," said Inguagiato.

Doing things to support the national government and development in Afghanistan

are the real reasons these different sources of funding exist.

"All the projects we do with these funds create a base for the people of Afghanistan to start rebuilding their country. It's reached the point now where the government of Afghanistan has been able to start providing its own civic assistance," said Starbuck. "While we are still here to support the people, our end state is to enable the country and its people to provide for and support themselves and their families for years to come."

# Safety First: Hydration



**Leaders should ensure service members are staying properly hydrated. The amount of water required varies with conditions and activity.**