

Road to provide CMA a path to progress

Story by Capt. Robert J. Schultz
321st Civil Affairs Brigade

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – Before a Cooperative Medical Assistance Operation in Kandahar Province could be launched, the Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force had one remaining element to make its assistance plan “airtight.”

The missing element was the mode of transportation from Bagram Air Base in the Parwan Province to Kandahar Air Field in the Kandahar Province.

Air travel would be the preferred method. It’s a 450-kilometer trip by ground and convoy travel is mandatory. On the other hand, travel by ground would allow the group to have its own vehicles and equipment to conduct the operation.

Although a U.S. ground convoy of this type had never officially been done before in Afghanistan, all members of the task force agreed to do it. With a security escort provided by the 10th Military Police Company, 10th Mountain Division (Light), Fort Drum, New York, the CMA operation to Kandahar was underway.

The Kabul – Kandahar Road Rehabilitation Project has multiple participating agencies headed by the United States Agency for International Development and the Louis Berger



Courtesy Photo

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Crew keeps Kandahar journey flowing

Story by Spc. Zia Ul Haq
211th Mobile Public Affairs Detachment

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The sound of jet engines winding down is a constant at the Arrival Departure Airflow Control Group (ADACG) terminal. There is a continual flow of people in and out of the building. Their only thought is of their upcoming journey.

With these passengers arriving, departing, and some that seem to be a permanent fixture in the lobby of the terminal, it is the

crew of the Army 332nd Movement Control Team and the Air Force 451st Air Expeditionary Group (AEG) that maintains the calm and organization in so much chaos.

At a quick glance, the ADACG would seem like an ordinary airport. As flight time approaches, exhaustion from the previous day’s work is visible on the faces the customers hauling luggage into the terminal. The lobby is filled with weary travelers watching a movie that seems to be drawing everyone in like a magic show. With every hour that passes, the every growing crowd is get-

ting restless.

The attendants assist customers standing at parade rest. It is clear that this is not an ordinary airport. This is the Kandahar Air Field (KAF) ADACG.

It is the job of the MCT and the AEG to keep track of all planes, cargo, and passengers that go in and out of KAF.

“On an average day there are 15 flights that go in and out of KAF,” said Sgt. Gordon M. Herndon, NCOIC of the ADACG, Movement Control Team.

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World News (Compiled from CNN.com)



A U.S. soldier with the 1st Armored Division stops cars Monday at a checkpoint east of Baghdad.

Blasts hit Baghdad Green Zone

BAGHDAD, Iraq—Three rockets or mortar shells exploded Monday night in the highly secure area of the Iraqi capital that houses the U.S.-led coalition's headquarters, a coalition spokesman said.

The explosions came a day after a U.S. Army helicopter crashed in a suspected missile strike, killing 16 soldiers and wounding 20 others.

Three rockets or mortar shells slammed inside the "Green Zone," an area of Baghdad where U.S. occupation authorities work and live. One of the shells hit a camp of the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment, while two others struck areas near central Baghdad, according to a Coalition Provisional Authority statement.

No damage or injuries were reported from the blasts, which occurred about 9 p.m. (1 p.m. EST). The spokesman said an explosives disposal team was trying to determine whether rockets or mortar fire caused the explosions.

The area has been the target of previous mortar attacks. The Al-Rashid Hotel, which houses coalition military and civilian officials, was targeted in an October 26 rocket strike that killed a U.S. Army officer.

In addition, a bomb exploded Monday night in front of a hotel in the Shiite Muslim holy city of Karbala, causing an undetermined number of deaths and injuries, a U.S. military spokesman said. The blast occurred at 7:50 p.m. (11:50 a.m. EST) outside a hotel, the spokesman said. The hotel was empty, but some bystanders were killed, he said.

Iraqi police are investigating the bombing, while coalition troops secure the area, the spokesman said. No coalition soldiers were in the area at the time, he said.



ATF agent Timothy Curtis points out features on a rifle used in the sniper shootings.

Agent: Sniper suspect was arrested with rifle ready to fire

VIRGINIA BEACH, Va.—A federal agent testified Monday that when he removed a Bushmaster rifle from the car of sniper shootings suspect John Allen Muhammad last year, it had a live round in the chamber and was in the "fire" mode.

Officials believe Muhammad and his alleged accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, used the rifle in the sniper attacks that terrorized the Washington, D.C., area for three weeks in October 2002.

Prosecutors in Muhammad's trial have previously presented forensic evidence indicating that the bullets shot during the attacks were fired by a Bushmaster rifle.

The testimony by agent Timothy Curtis came as the third week of the Muhammad trial began. Muhammad, 42, is charged with the shooting death of Dean Harold Meyers at a Manassas area gas station October 9, 2002.

Court adjourned for the day shortly after 4 p.m. Monday and will not resume until 9:30 a.m. Wednesday, due to elections Tuesday in Virginia.

Prosecutors are introducing evidence in 16 shootings in Maryland, Virginia, Alabama, Louisiana and the District of Columbia in an effort to show that Muhammad is responsible for multiple deaths during a three-year period and engaged in a form of terrorism — necessary conditions for the two death penalty charges.

Muhammad's alleged accomplice, 18-year-old Malvo, will have a separate trial beginning November 10.



The draft envisages a strongly Islamic core to Afghanistan's government.

Afghan constitution unveiled

KABUL, Afghanistan—Afghanistan has unveiled its much-delayed draft constitution, outlining a strongly Islamic basis for the nation's future government and paving the way for elections in 2004.

The document, held up by months of wrangling over its contents, is seen as a key step on the road to recovery for a country battered by two decades of civil war.

It names the country as the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and lays the framework for a presidential style of government elected directly by the people. "I hope this will be acceptable for the people and will direct people toward peace, security and democracy," former King Mohamed Zahir Shah said at a ceremony in Kabul marking the completion of the draft constitution.

The 12 chapter document still has to be formally approved by a constitutional grand council, or loya jirga, due to convene in Kabul next month. Included in the constitution are rules on the formation of political parties, setting the stage for elections scheduled to be held next June.

Among those expected to contest the vote is incumbent President Hamid Karzai, who was appointed to office following the collapse of the Taliban regime in late 2001.

Despite the strong emphasis on Islam as a unifying force, the hardline Islamic law practiced by the Taliban is not expected to make a comeback under the new constitution.

"The draft is based on Islamic principles and recognizes that no law can be contrary to the sacred religion of Islam," Afghanistan's 35-member Constitutional Review Commission said in a statement Monday, adding that the document provided for the freedom of religion for other faiths.

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Along the route, the CMA team stopped for a night's stay in quarters provided by the Ghazni Province Governor Haji Asadullah.

After the next day's 10-hour journey, the team arrived in Kandahar without problem. The road network had its fair share of severe potholes, significant breaks in pavement and multiple side road detours due to current grading and surfacing operations.

Several bridge networks were being attended to with completed forms and rebar present, in place, and ready for concrete.

Stretches of the road had the initial coat of tar laid and awaited asphalt to shape the long blacktop that would wind and curve through the area.

Significant progress had been made, but there was still a lot of work to be done.

At completion of the CMA operation two weeks later, the team was not particularly looking forward to what lay ahead — the long convoy back to Ghazni and then on to Bagram.



Courtesy Photo

From left to right - Capt. Robert Schultz, Staff Sgt. Adrian Garcia, and Lt. Col. Don Couch pose for a quick photo on the Ring Road outside of Qalat City in Zabul, Afghanistan. All three soldiers are with the 321st CA Bde.

FLOW, from Page 1 —

The ADACG crew is responsible for the movement of many different types of cargo. With this array of unusual cargo on the different flights, there is an extra burden on the ADACG crew.

Units come and go in this theater all the time and it is the ADACG that makes the transfer smooth. The ADACG transports everything from mail, food, and medical supplies, helicopters and even main battle tanks.

"Most people think that you just take a Hummer, put it on the plane, chain it down, and it is ready to go," said Whitt.

With so many operations happening simultaneously, the aircraft must be loaded correctly the first time. If there is something wrong, it has to be corrected right away, explained Air Force Capt. Tracy L. Whitt, officer in charge of the Air Terminal Operations Control (ATOC),

with the 451st AEG.

There is much more to loading an airplane than just fitting everything together. The weight of every vehicle is certified correctly and the axle must be marked with the weight in order to maintain the center of balance, added Whitt. Because the military deals with the constant movement of troops all over the world, the ADACG works somewhat like a travel agency.

"One of our biggest jobs is customer service. Our school for 88N, Movement Control Specialist, teaches us how to do paper work, but we have to learn how to deal with the customers", said Herndon. "We don't control the birds we just identify the need for them," he added.

As passengers, with bags in hand, attempt to exit the lobby of the ADACG for a scheduled departure, it is announced that they have been bumped off the flight.

"We book people, but we don't have

Potholes and dust would surely mar the way ... or would they?

On Oct. 17, the team departed for Ghazni city in standard fashion — before sunrise. It was an optimum day for travel based on a few factors.

The forecast had predicted sunshine all day, comfortable temperatures, and hopefully, little activity along the way.

But the road surfaces provided the biggest surprise of all. Two weeks before, a section of road in the outskirts of Kandahar City had potholes big enough to swallow a pickup truck.

But the Louis Berger Group, contracted to build the road, had made amazing repairs. Curiously, the team drove on to see just how much the route had improved.

The rest of the way, almost 90 percent of the road was paved, allowing the convoy to travel 55-60 mph without any worry of roadway hazards or a trail of dust for local residents to inhale.

Continued improvements in the Kabul-Kandahar route will eventually allow travelers to make the trip in one day.

direct control over the plane. We get all the negative flak, but when we bump someone we try to tell them when the next plane is going out," said Herndon.

The reasons for bumping people are numerous. The requirements for weight may change or the Air Force may say they can't take the cargo. We may pack up a bird but the Air Force has control of it, Herndon added.

With each delayed flight, there is a disruption in the time line of events that contribute to a successful mission.

The mission of the ADACG crew is to get flights out safely, with no accidents, no one hurt, and without any damage to the cargo. Nobody wants to lose a hummer or have any damage to it, stated Whitt.

"Our main priority is to get everything out on time and make sure the cargo goes where it is supposed to go, supplies are what keep the war going," said Whitt.

ANA infantrymen prepare for deployment through endurance

Early morning on Oct. 19, Afghan National Army (ANA) soldiers from the 3rd Company, 1st Kandak, 3rd Brigade, set out for a 30 kilometer road-march.

What is the reason for such a long road-march? Just ask the men of 3rd Company. In the past several months, the men of 3rd Company have deployed to Orgun, Khost, Gardez and Zarmat.

Through their experiences, they discovered self discipline and battle focused training are the keys to survival. Thus, those who have become accustomed to long road-marches are better prepared if and when they are required to do so in a combat situation.

“We have a saying in our military,” said Capt. Hazar Mir, the company’s commander, “when you sweat on the training ground, you will not shed blood on the battlefield. These drills are important to every soldier and officer.”

During deployments, these troops march from one town to another. “We need to be prepared for long marches when we go on such missions,” said Sgt. Dawood John, an ANA soldier of 16 months. This training provides the infantrymen with the endurance, strength and stamina to persevere when the going gets tough.

“It is necessary for every soldier to undergo training similar to the conditions which they may face during a deployment,” said Mir. “Every soldier in this company knows what it is like to face these challenges, and we are making every effort to focus on the things we will have to do when we are deployed.”

This type of battle focused training is what sets a professional Army apart from irregular forces.

The ANA continues to set high standards for their soldiers in order to gain the respect of the populace of Afghanistan.

(Information provided by Spc. Douglas DeMaio, OMC-A)

Bagram Air Base MWR presents

“The Lizzie McGuire Movie”

1530Z at the MWR building:
The Lizzie McGuire Movie: The Only Risk In Taking An Adventure Is Not Taking It At All.

Tomorrow’s movie: “Dumb and Dumber”



Local weather

TWO-DAY REGIONAL WEATHER FORECAST:

	Today	Wednesday
Bagram:	Rain H: 61F L: 28F	Partly Cloudy H: 59F L: 25F
Kandahar:	Mostly Cloudy H: 82F L: 46F	Partly Cloudy H: 81F L: 45F
Kabul:	Rain H: 57F L: 27F	Partly Cloudy H: 55F L: 21F
Uzbekistan:	Rain H: 56F L: 43F	Rain H: 50F L: 40F

Weather forecast courtesy of the Bagram Combat Weather Team

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Coalition Sports Zone

(Compiled from SI.com)

USC moves up to No. 2 in BCS standings



Mike Williams' Trojans aren't No. 1 — but if they keep winning, they'll likely get a shot at Oklahoma.

said. "We hope to continue to play like we have. If we do, good things will happen."

The Sooners (9-0), the only undefeated team from a major conference, got every first-place vote in the polls and was the top pick by all seven computers used in the BCS standings.

The standings are used to determine which teams play in a national title game. The teams that finish 1-2 in the final BCS standings on Dec. 7 will play for the championship in the Sugar Bowl on Jan. 4.

The formula uses the *AP* media and *USA Today/ESPN* coaches' polls, seven computer rankings, strength of schedule, losses and a bonus-point system for quality wins.

The Sooners have a 1.0 for poll average, 1.0 for computer-rank average, 0.24 for strength of schedule and zero for losses for a 2.24 total. USC was second with 7.02 points.

The Trojans (8-1) are off this week and close the seasons with three unranked teams: Arizona, UCLA and Oregon State.

"Our focus is on the remaining three games we have on our schedule," Carroll said. "I don't pay much attention to the polls and the predictions and all that. And I really don't fully understand the mechanisms of how the BCS rankings are determined."

Miami fell two spots to No. 4 with 10.26 points following a 31-7 loss to Virginia Tech that snapped a 39-game regular-season winning streak. Florida State remained in third place with 9.52.

If Oklahoma wins its remaining three regular season games and the Big 12 title game, it is guaranteed one of the two spots in the Sugar Bowl. The other spot is still up for grabs, although USC has the inside track.

"I've got enough problems without having to worry about anybody else," Sooners coach Bob Stoops said.

Following Miami are the other three major one-loss teams: Ohio State (11.47), Virginia Tech (12.47) and LSU (14.92).

Despite falling to sixth in the *AP* poll and seventh in the coaches' poll, Miami remained in second place among the computers with a 2.83 average.

NEW YORK—Miami's first regular season loss in more than three years cleared a path for Southern California to get to the Sugar Bowl.

USC was in second place in the Bowl Championship Series standings Monday, trailing only unanimous No. 1 Oklahoma.

"I suspect that this ranking shows the respect people have for our program and the way we're playing," Trojans coach Pete Carroll

Astros ship Wagner to Phillies in trade

PHILADELPHIA

—Billy Wagner questioned Houston ownership's commitment to winning. He won't have those problems with the Philadelphia Phillies.

The All-Star closer was traded Monday from the cost-cutting Astros to the Phillies for right-hander Brandon Duckworth, and minor league right-handers Taylor Buchholz and Ezequiel Astacio.



Wagner was third in the NL with 44 saves in 2003.

Wagner, a three-time All-Star, goes from one of baseball's best bullpens to among its worst. The Phillies converted just 33 saves in 51 opportunities as Jose Mesa and Mike Williams both faltered.

"I'm excited about coming to Philadelphia because they obviously have made a commitment to winning a championship," Wagner said.

Wagner had criticized Astros owner Drayton McLane for not making a move to get another quality starting pitcher for the 2003 season and expected more of the same for next season.

"It's going to be a tape job," Wagner said after the season finale. "It's not like we're going out there and getting any marquee pitchers."

Wagner didn't back off his comments after the trade.

"My comments to Drayton were truthful. They were about winning, not about him being a bad owner," Wagner said.

Browns suspend RB Green for one game

BEREA, Ohio — Cleveland running back William Green was suspended for one game by the Browns following his arrest last week on charges of driving under the influence and marijuana possession.

Green will sit out this Sunday's game at Kansas City, head coach Butch Davis announced after Monday's practice.

"It's a disappointing situation," Davis said.

The Browns' leading rusher was arrested Oct. 27, just a few hours after leaving the team's training facility, by Westlake, Ohio, police who pulled him over for driving erratically in his sports utility vehicle.

Green, 23, failed a field sobriety test, and a breath test showed he had a blood alcohol level of .165 — more than twice Ohio's legal limit of .08, police said.

Officers searched Green's SUV, which he was driving with a flat tire, and said they found a bag of marijuana weighing 3.2 grams, less than 1/8 ounce.

Green, who was twice suspended for marijuana use while at Boston College, has pleaded innocent.

Afghanistan Hot Topics



(Compiled by CJTF-180 Public Affairs)

Former Taliban FM considers asylum in Arab country, declines cabinet post

(Press Trust of India) – Former Taliban foreign minister Mullah Wakil Ahmad Muttawakil has declined a Cabinet post and is considering asylum in an Arab country, possibly Qatar.

Muttawakil, Karzai's mediator to the Taliban, was released on last Monday after 20 months in custody at a US military base near Kabul, advisors to Afghan President Hamid Karzai were quoted as saying on Monday by the *Time* magazine.

Taliban hardliners, including former Afghan leader Mullah Mohammed Omar, consider Muttawakil a traitor for having surrendered to US forces and have ordered his assassination.

Still Muttawakil has taken the risk of sounding out some of his former comrades in Kandahar, the magazine quoted his family as saying.

The unprecedented talks between Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Taliban moderates, which began last week, seem to have the Bush administration's blessing.

By bringing moderate Taliban onboard, Karzai hopes he can garner support among the Pashtun and split the Taliban's ranks, but the President's programme could falter at the start, the report said.

Karzai's chief aide, Omar Daudzay, told a Kabul radio station that "the talks were initiated at the Taliban's request."

Pakistani, Afghan troops exchange fire, light, heavy weapons used in clash

(Kyodo) – Afghan troops fired on Pakistani checkpoints in the Mehmand tribal agency in northern Pakistan on Saturday night, using light and heavy weapons in a skirmish that continued for several hours, a Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman said Monday.

Masood Khan told a weekly briefing the Pakistani troops "exercised restraint" but gave "a befitting reply" Sunday morning that silenced the Afghan guns and mortars.

"There were no casualties on the Pakistani side," Khan said.

Local media reports said Monday that Pakistani troops saw the Afghans removing at least eight wounded from their positions on the other side of the border.

Pakistan moved troops into the tribal area in June in the wake of growing complaints by Afghan and Allied forces in Afghanistan that al Qaeda fighters were crossing into Afghanistan from Pakistan.

Afghanistan has since claimed Pakistan's new border checkpoints were set up inside Afghan territory.

American Indian Heritage Month Spotlight



The American Indian played a vital role in shaping the United States into what it is today – a country with determination and a will-not-quit spirit. The role hasn't changed and Lt. Col Valerie Jircitano-Torres, commander of the 10th Signal Battalion, is a symbol of the continuous imprint the American Indian has on America's history.

Jircitano-Torres, a native of Niagara Falls, N.Y., is a descendant of the Mohawk Indian tribe. Her tribe currently resides on the Canadian border and offers Jircitano-Torres the opportunity to experience the culture of two nations, while still keeping her heritage intact.

"The American Indian has played a big part in society," said Jircitano-Torres. "And as [we] continue to pursue and gain a culture [once] lost I hope people gain a better understanding of the American Indian."

Jircitano-Torres noted that she appreciates the military's strive to recognize the different walks of life it brings into its ranks.

Whether one looks at the Cherokee, Navajo, Seminole or any of the other 41 Indian tribes that currently exist they'll see that the values, morals and standards of the past still shape the lives of the American Indians of today.

"If [one] truly lives the American Indian way of life, he lives the [values of the past] everyday it's not celebrated (just in November)," said Jircitano-Torres. "But it's great that the [military recognizes] this month saying this is the month we celebrate your contributions."

Spoken like a true warrior.