

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalitions fighting the Global War on Terrorism

Volume #11, April, 2004

Sixty-Five Nations, One Global Village

A look inside Coalition Headquarters

Notes From The Commander

Gen. Abizaid updates the GWOT

Close to Home

Kyrgyzstan's support to OEF



Spotlight on Pakistan

Pakistan pursues the fight against terror

Operation ENDURING FREEDOM



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Editor's Note

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IN THIS ISSUE

From the Commander

Gen. John Abizaid updates the US House Armed Services Committee on the progress of the Global War on Terrorism.....2

Global Village

A look inside Coalition Village, home to history's largest, most diverse Coalition.....4

Close to Home

Memories of terrorism on its own soil fuel Kryrgyzstan's support to OEF.....6

Spotlight on Pakistan

The fight against terrorism intensifies along Pakistan's 2,500-km border with Afghanistan....8

Kiwis to Re-commit forces

New Zealand increases its contribution to the Global War on Terrorism.....10

Gift from Romania

Romanian donation improves readiness of the new Afghan National Army.....10

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"The solidarity and collective will of the Coalition is our strength against an enemy that preys on weakness."

**General John Abizaid
Commander, US CENTCOM**

Cover photo:

Members of the Humanitarian Assistance Working Group stand alongside a few of the national trailers in the Coalition Village.



The first anniversary of Operation Iraqi Freedom, on the heels of terrorist bombings in Madrid, have done much to draw the world's attention away from Afghanistan.

However, as the march towards elections there continue, and as our forces further isolate remnants of the Taliban, the true strength of the Coalition is becoming ever more apparent. Provincial Reconstruction Teams are flourishing throughout the country; the judiciary is getting back on its feet, the reach of the central government is becoming ever broader and, as the security situation gradually improves, aid agencies are delving deeper into the country, bringing hope to Afghans everywhere.

Although our work in Afghanistan is far from over, the scope of the improvement wrought by the Coalition in this beleaguered state is nothing short of extraordinary. Operation Enduring Freedom has much to teach the world, not the least of which is the awesome power of 65 nations united by a common will, sharing a common goal.

It is an important lesson to remember as the world focuses on the situation in Iraq. As a nation struggling to improve itself, Iraq shares many similarities with Afghanistan, the most important of these being the attention of a broad coalition of nations.

Headquartered alongside OEF, the Coalition for Operation Iraqi Freedom aims to bend the considerable resources of many countries towards the goal of improving life in a far off land. Indeed, in terms of reconstruction, revival of government and improving security, the Coalitions for OEF and OIF are practically indistinguishable.

For this reason, the Coalition Bulletin will soon begin carrying stories from nations working in Iraq as well as those operating in Afghanistan, the Arabian Gulf and the Horn of Africa. No one can dispute the Global War on Terrorism is being played out in all of these theatres. With that battle being waged not by one country but by many, the exploits and achievements of all Coalition nations merit inclusion in this magazine.

To prepare the groundwork for this natural shift, this volume of the Bulletin brings you a look inside Coalition Headquarters here in Tampa, Florida. The Coalition's commander, General John Abizaid, also makes an appearance, as we recount excerpts of his recent testimony before the U.S. House Armed Services Committee. Stories from across this great Coalition – the largest, most diverse allied force ever assembled – round out the edition.

I hope you enjoy our magazine. As ever, if you have any questions or comments, you can always reach the Public Awareness Working Group via e-mail at oeffpublicaffairs@yahoo.com.

Cheers.

John Vryenhoek
Brigadier-General, New Zealand
Chairman
Public Awareness Working Group



Coalition Fact

Egypt runs a hospital at Bagram Air Base that sees more than 1,000 patients a week.

From the Commander

General Abizaid updates House Armed Services Committee on the Global War On Terrorism

Success in the Global War on Terrorism will not come overnight or without further sacrifice, but it will come so long as the Coalition stays the course.

This was the message General John Abizaid delivered to the U.S. House Armed Services Committee on March 3, 2004 in a comprehensive update of the Global War on Terrorism in the US Central Command Area of Responsibility.

THE CENTCOM AREA OF RESPONSIBILITY (AOR)

Abizaid, commander of US CENTCOM, leads over 200,000 soldiers, sailors, airmen, marines, Coast Guardsmen and Department of Defense civilians, alongside 30,000 Coalition partners. The forces are responsible for the USCENTCOM AOR, home to more than 500 million people and spanning 6.4 million square miles including Egypt, the Horn of Africa, the Arabian peninsula, Pakistan in South Asia, and the Central Asian states as far north as Kazakhstan.

CENTCOM operates within the geographical and ideological heart of the Global War on Terror and remains engaged on three principle fronts: the disruption of transnational terrorist networks working within and from the AOR, and countering insurgencies in both Afghanistan and Iraq. Its goal is straightforward.

“Success in Afghanistan and Iraq will result in stable states that do not harbor terrorists and provide a visible alternative to the terrorists’ vision of chaos and conflict.” Abizaid said. “I visit our troops and commanders frequently and they are confident we are winning the war in terror, winning the peace in Afghanistan and Iraq, and contributing to stability in volatile regions such as the Horn of Africa.”

THE GLOBAL WAR ON TERROR

Despite the intensive engagement in the AOR, CENTCOM’s approach is to tread lightly around the region’s significant cultural challenges. “We operate in a region that has a low tolerance for a major foreign military presence – no matter how well-intentioned,” Abizaid said. “Our longer term presence in the region must therefore be tailored to be effective but not overbearing. Our vision in this region must be to help nations help themselves.



Gen. John Abizaid, Commander, United States Central Command.

“Ultimately, our partnerships throughout the region aim to foster strong and stable states fully capable of helping themselves and regional communities of nations willing and able to help each other,” he added.

Abizaid also took pains to accurately define the nature of the Global War on Terrorism. “Partnered as we are with many Islamic nations, we recognize that the War on Terror is not a war against Islam,” he said. “We are cognizant of an ongoing struggle within our region between extremism and moderation. Al Qaida is attempting to exploit and amplify regional tensions to the point they can cause global effects.”

While acknowledging that the military can and will continue to disrupt and defeat Al Qaida on the battlefield, Abizaid reminded the Committee that the root causes of terrorism have inherently non-military solutions. “It is important to isolate the Al Qaida network and other transnational terrorist organizations from their sources of ideological, financial, and material strength.”

To that end, the U.S. and Coalition forces have put significant pressure on the Al Qaida terrorist network throughout the region. Together with interagency and host nation partners, they have killed and captured terrorists, attacked their infrastructure, restricted their movement, disrupted their financial support, and depleted their leadership.

“Sixty-five countries have military representatives at the CENTCOM headquarters in

Tampa sharing information and integrating plans,” Abizaid said. “The solidarity and collective will of the Coalition is our strength against an enemy that preys on weakness.”

IRAQ

Over 114,000 U.S. personnel and over 23,000 coalition personnel from 35 nations are currently fighting to achieve security and stability in Iraq. Multinational forces are currently responsible for northern and southern portions of Iraq while U.S. Army units are deployed in Baghdad, central, northern and western Iraq. Over 26,000 U.S. and Coalition personnel are deployed in Kuwait, providing logistical support to Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Speaking on Operation Iraqi Freedom, Abizaid told the committee that he expects further violence in the country as Iraq moves towards sovereignty. Referring to a letter written by Mus’ab al-Zarqawi intended for Usama Bin Laden, Abizaid said insurgents see the window of opportunity closing if they are to disrupt the political process.

“We are racing time,” Abizaid said. “It is clear Zarqawi and others see this milestone as a major danger and intend to surge against it.”

“While there is a possibility that civil war could break out,” he added, “we currently believe the probability of such a conflict is low. We believe there are many more people working to keep Iraq together than to break it apart. As those of you who have visited Iraq know, the performance of our Coalition servicemen and women is outstanding. They are accomplishing complex tasks under difficult and dangerous conditions.”

AFGHANISTAN

Coalition activity in Afghanistan, under the name Operation Enduring Freedom, sees close to 13,800 deployed Coalition personnel. Of these, nearly 12,000 are U.S., the remaining 1,800 are Coalition troops from eighteen nations. All are commanded and controlled by the Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan (CFC–A).

The North Atlantic Treaty Organization is also present in the country, running the International Security Assistance Force primarily in Kabul, although ISAF recently expanded to Konduz, where it now runs a Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT).

The PRTs, (12 of which are now running in the country, with another 4 expected by summer), are considered vital to isolating CENTCOM’s enemies and depriving them of their support base. Their purpose is to create enclaves where representatives from the Afghan Government, the international community and aid organizations can bring reconstruction and capability to the outlying regions. “The key,” Abizaid said, “is visible reconstruction progress, which gives people a hope for a better future.”

For reconstruction to be possible, of course, there must be security. Abizaid said Coalition and Afghan forces will continue to attack remaining pockets of Al Qaida and Afghan opposition fighters. “Pakistan’s cooperation has contributed to our success in this regard,” Abizaid noted. “Our continued support to them will further improve their ability to disrupt the enemy’s efforts to reorganize and conduct operations.”

Another major player in improving the Afghan security situation is the emerging Afghan National Army. Where it has deployed, the ANA has earned the trust and confidence of Afghan citizens, Abizaid noted. The growth of the ANA, along with the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of Afghan militias and the establishment of police forces, he said, will ensure viable security sector reform.

CONCLUSION

Calling the terrorist vision inherently unappealing “given its foundation of intolerance, restricted freedoms and forced compliance,” Abizaid told the committee that moderates will only move in the extremist direction “if they see it as the only way to achieve sustenance, personal security and a sense of community. It is important to make every effort to help the host nations improve essential services, enhance security and provide venues for political participation.”

Abizaid ended his comments on a personal note, acknowledging “the courage and dedication of our Coalition troops and especially those Afghans and Iraqis who have joined us to win a peaceful and prosperous future for their children.”

“We are committed to doing all we can to support them, he added. “We and our Coalition partners will prevail in Afghanistan and Iraq and in the Global War on Terror because of the efforts of our servicemen and women and because we offer a positive vision and hope for the future.” *CB*

Global Village

Coalition Headquarters offers glimpse of a world united



Coalition representatives Col. Dr. Catalin-Marius Tarnacop of Romania, left, speaks with Maj. Bernard Noof of Belgium and Capt. Gen. Yuze Shibata of Japan following a briefing in the Coalition Village.

The contingents are not large, numbering anywhere from a single representative to a dozen or more. Nevertheless, in its breadth and diversity the collection of nations pursuing the Global War on Terrorism makes up the largest coalition force in the history of the world.

A number of Middle Eastern nations fill out the ranks of the Coalition, among them Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Egypt, Jordan, U.A.E. and Yemen. Russia, Ukraine, Krgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan work side-by-side with their western allies. African countries such as Kenya, Ethiopia, Djibouti and Eritrea are represented, as are the Central American nations of El Salvador and Nicaragua. Smaller nations, like Tonga and Nepal, add their voices in equal measure to Great Britain, Germany, France, Australia and the United States.

The Coalition has continued to grow in strength and capability since first assembled by General Tommy Franks in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks on the United States in 2001. Aside from taking advantage of the Village's many multi-lateral and bi-lateral opportunities, each nation contributes to a number of working groups, which plan, facilitate and

oversee Coalition operations in the CENTCOM Area of Operations (AOR). They include:

COALITION PLANNING GROUP (CPG)

The CPG comprises a 27-person team representing 20 different countries. The group forms a unique, multinational US CENTCOM staff element, integrated directly into the command. The CPG directly advises the Combined Forces Commander, conducting strategic planning and assessments in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

COALITION COORDINATION CENTRE

Known as the "triple C", this unit is the primary coordination office between USCENTCOM and Coalition militaries. Its staff solicit force-offers from

There are few places in the world where one can munch on a croissant with the French one minute, shout "Barev" to an Armenian the next, and share a smile with a Kenyan on the way to a meeting with a Pakistani.

There are fewer places still where the flags of old adversaries – and some not so old – fly just metres from one another, while soldiers pledged to defend them chat and laugh easily nearby.

The Coalition Village is one of those places. Headquarters of the coalitions for Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom, the Village is a remarkable achievement in multi-nationalism. Sixty-five nations are represented at MacDill Air Force Base, housed in an impromptu trailer park beside the headquarters of United States Central Command.





Coalition partners, coordinates these with the U.S. government and then facilitates the deployment and integration of Coalition forces into military, Humanitarian Assistance and Consequence Management operations within the CENTCOM AOR.

HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE WORKING GROUP

On request and in cooperation with USCENTCOM, individual nations, the United Nations, Independent Organizations, and Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, the HAWG plans, prepares and supervises the provision of Humanitarian Assistance into Afghanistan and the Horn of Africa. To date, the working group has overseen delivery of over 515 metric tons of food items, over 171 metric tons of medical supplies, over 80 metric tons of school supplies and over 22 metric tons of clothing.

COALITION MEDICAL WORKING GROUP

The CMWG is an advisory body aimed primarily at linking Coalition partners into an Integrated Healthcare System for Coalition military personnel. However, the CMWG also provides advice and can search for volunteer nations when medical Humanitarian Assistance support is required.

CONSEQUENCE MANAGEMENT

Consequence Management defines those operations conducted to mitigate damage and provide assistance to governments affected by a deliberate or inadvertent chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear contamination or high explosive event within the CENTCOM AOR. Working hand in hand with Coalition nations, the international community, Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, CM coordinates such services as hazard area reconnaissance, decontamination, emergency medicine, search and rescue, food and water, communication and public information.

AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY

The ANA cell supports the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan in developing

the core of a professional army accountable to the legitimate government of Afghanistan and able to assist in establishing a stable environment. Nearly 10,000 strong, the ANA will one day be able to provide the security currently offered by the international community.



Japanese Senior National Representative Capt (N) Yuzo Shibata speaks with Hungarian SNR Col. Jozef Tokovicz during a brief of the Senior Coalition Group.

LESSONS LEARNED WORKING GROUP

The LLWG gathers, discusses and adds to a database lessons learned from all Coalition nations, so soldiers deploying from any nation can benefit from the experience of those who went before them.

PROVINCIAL RECONSTRUCTION TEAM

The PRT cell is the “centre of gravity” for all efforts aimed at stimulating reconstruction in Afghanistan, as well as facilitating Security Sector Reform, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration, and good governance. Thanks to its work, and the generosity of Coalition nations, 12 PRTs are already operational in Afghanistan, with four more to come by summer.

PUBLIC AWARENESS WORKING GROUP

The PAWG aims to increase international awareness of Coalition country contributions to the Global War on Terrorism through publication of this magazine, maintenance of the Coalition web site and engagement with international media.

SENIOR COALITION GROUP

The SCG leads all of the Coalition working groups. It comprises the senior national representatives of each nation, providing a forum for free discussion, a non-US Coalition perspective and, most importantly, guidelines for the exchange of information, liaison, and coordination between USCENTCOM and Coalition nations. **CB**



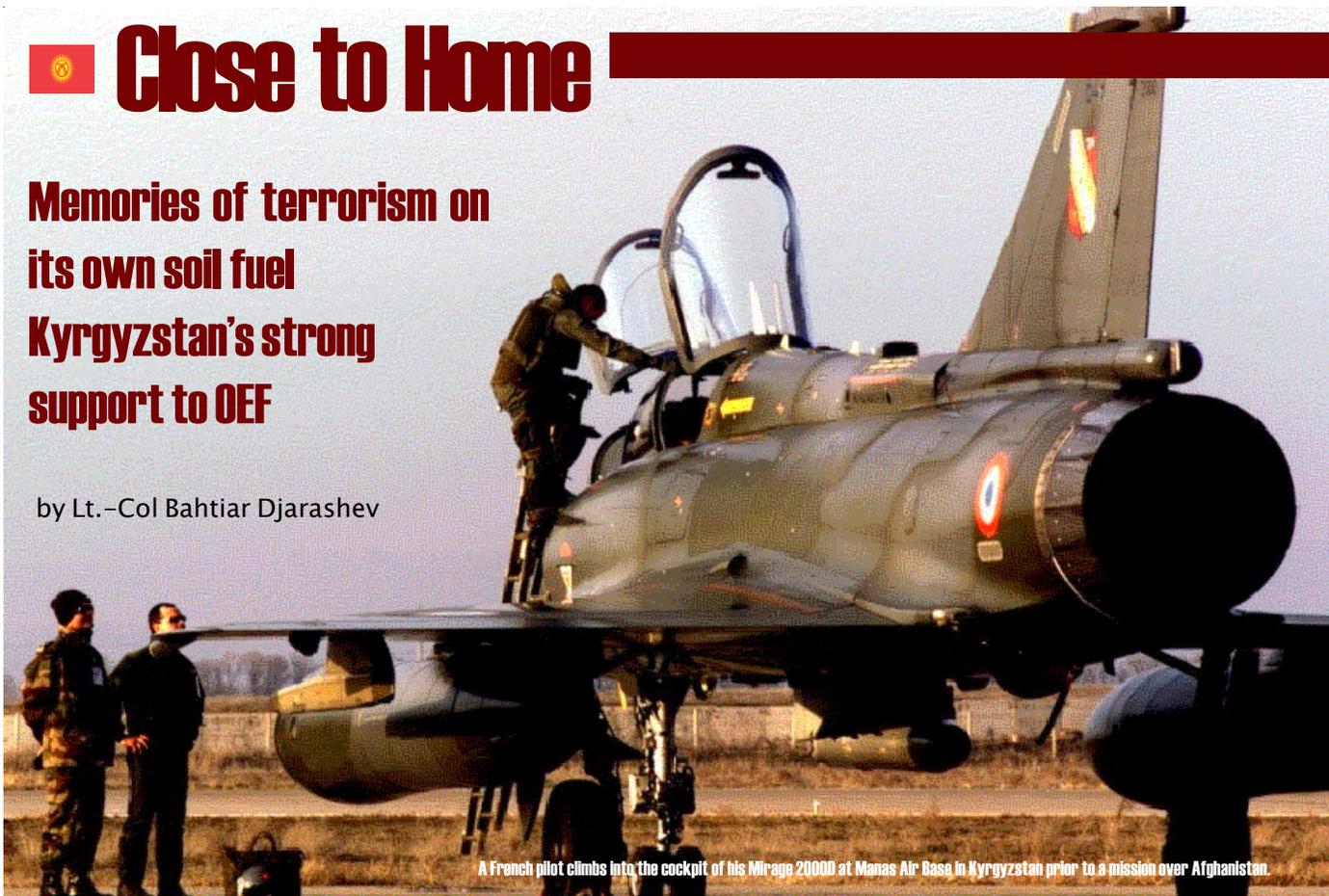
Coalition Fact
Slovakia contributes an engineering unit that is part of the team improving the Bagram airfield.



Close to Home

Memories of terrorism on its own soil fuel Kyrgyzstan's strong support to OEF

by Lt.-Col Bahtiar Djarashev



A French pilot climbs into the cockpit of his Mirage 2000 at Manas Air Base in Kyrgyzstan prior to a mission over Afghanistan.

Kyrgyzstan's fight against international terrorism and extremism grew dramatically in the end of the 1990s.

At the time, militants of the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan (IMU) were attempting to entrench positions in the southern part of the country. Fifty-five officers and soldiers of the Kyrgyzstan Armed Forces gave their lives in the fighting that followed. Ultimately, the extremists were driven out. Later, following the attacks of September 11, Kyrgyzstan joined the Coalition, strongly determined to wage the Global War On Terrorism based upon its own tragic experience.

In a speech to Parliament, Askar Akaev, President of the Kyrgyz Republic, called international terrorism "the plague of the twenty-first century". Defeating it could occur only through international cooperation.

To this end, the President created a variety of tools to counter regional threats. One such tool is the Special Anti-Terrorist Center, part of the Shanghai Cooperation Treaty that includes China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. The center is now fully operational.

As terrorism continues to spread, becoming

more complex and multi-faceted, countries around the world are combining efforts to counter it, often regardless of borders.

Despite its limited resources, Kyrgyzstan has offered substantial assistance to the Coalition. In early December 2001, the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic received a request to base Coalition aircraft on its territory. The Parliament agreed to the request immediately, permitting Coalition access to the country's largest airport.

Located in close proximity to Enduring Freedom's operating areas, Manas airbase played a significant role during the active phases of the conflict in Afghanistan. Today, the base remains a strategic air asset, continuing to serve as a base for OEF and further enhancing Central Asia's regional security.

Kyrgyzstan's support to the Coalition goes beyond the provision of a major airbase, however. Since November 2001, Kyrgyzstan has been involved in a number of humanitarian assistance operations.

The Ministry of Emergency Situations, in concert with Russian and Tajikistan ministries, has granted Afghanistan a wealth of material aid. One such donation, under the World Food Program, saw a Kyrgyz convoy deliver about 16,500 tons of flour to Faizabad in

northern Afghanistan. The grueling journey from southern Kyrgyzstan covered about 1,100 kilometers (684 miles) of mountainous terrain.

In 2003, another humanitarian assistance operation saw the Kyrgyzstan Government donate medical supplies, flour, clothing, fuel and agricultural tools to the remote Afghanistan region of eastern Badakshan.

In order to restore infrastructure throughout the post-war recovery period, Kyrgyzstan has also declared its readiness to export construction materiel to Afghanistan.

Kyrgyzstan has been no less busy helping out Afghans within its own borders. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, hundreds of Afghan refugees have settled in Kyrgyzstan. A great number of students from Af-

ghanistan are also studying in the country's different universities.

Given the availability of resources in Kyrgyzstan, the country's contribution to the Coalition and its support of the Afghan people is truly significant - another example of Kyrgyzstan's commitment to the exercise of decisive action in the Global War on Terrorism.

Although no Kyrgyz troops are currently deployed in Coalition operations, the country continues to closely monitor events in the

CENTCOM Area of Responsibility, sharing feelings of losses and achievements with other Coalition nations. The efforts of the Coalition men and women deployed forward, risking their lives to make our planet a better, safer place to live, can never be overestimated. **CB**



A U.S. C-5 transport aircraft comes to a halt at Manas Air Base, a major staging ground for Coalition activities in Afghanistan.

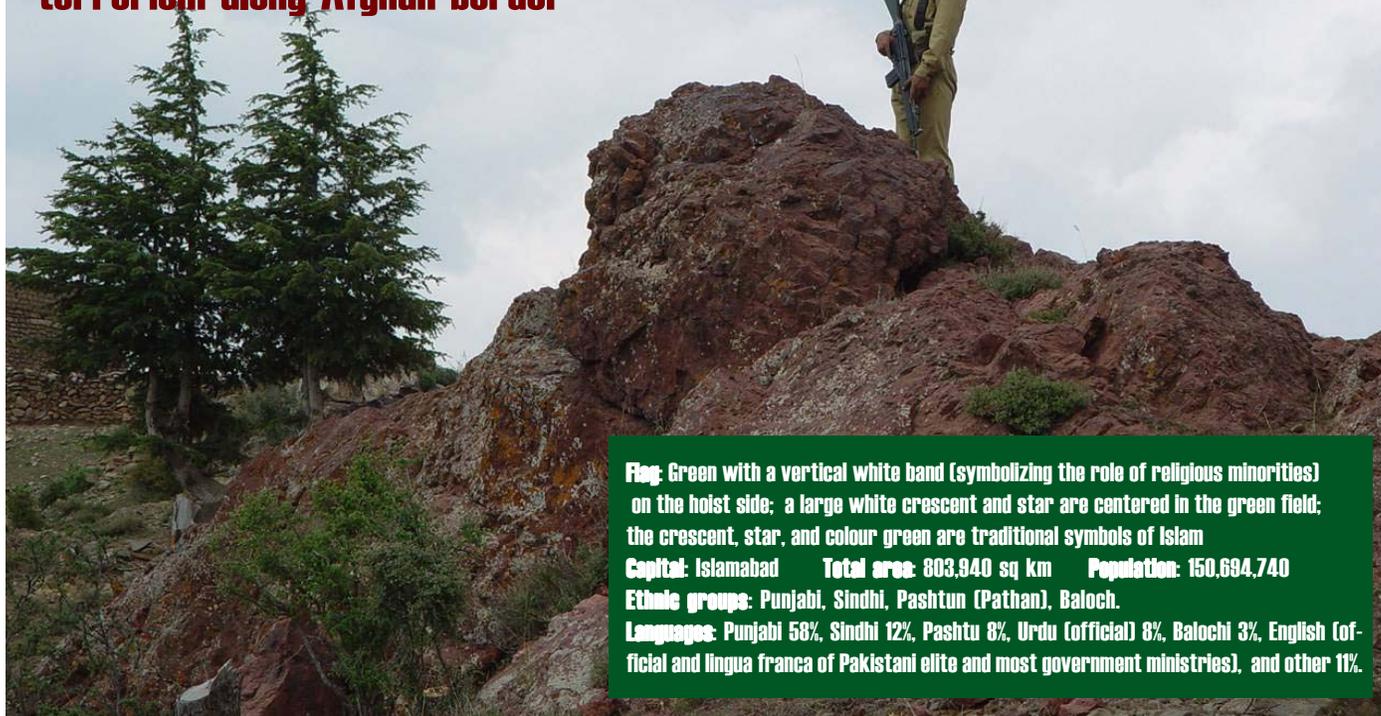
Brothers in Arms: Kyrgyzstan's Maj.-Gen. Kubanychbek Oruzbayev (centre) meets with Col. Olexander Sherstyuk of the Ukraine and Lt.-Col. Hilal Alnajjar of Jordan at Coalition Headquarters.



Spotlight on Pakistan

Pakistan makes “total policy commitment” in effort to end terrorism along Afghan border

A Pakistani soldier stands guard near his country's border with Afghanistan. The Pakistan military mans over 800 posts along the frontier.



Flag: Green with a vertical white band (symbolizing the role of religious minorities) on the hoist side; a large white crescent and star are centered in the green field; the crescent, star, and colour green are traditional symbols of Islam
Capital: Islamabad **Total area:** 803,940 sq km **Population:** 150,694,740
Ethnic groups: Punjabi, Sindhi, Pashtun (Pathan), Baloch
Languages: Punjabi 58%, Sindhi 12%, Pashtu 8%, Urdu (official) 8%, Balochi 3%, English (official and lingua franca of Pakistani elite and most government ministries), and other 11%.

The recent fighting in Pakistan's tribal areas near Afghanistan may have failed to catch top Al Qaida suspects, but the unprecedented show of force by the Pakistani military has sent a clear message to terrorists: there is no safe haven here.

Sharing a 2,538-kilometre border with Afghanistan, Pakistan has an enormous stake in securing its borders. It also has much in common with its western neighbour, including significant religious, ethnic and institutional ties. That makes Pakistan a key nation in the Global War on Terrorism.

In 2001, the defeat of the Taliban brought great pressure to bear on Pakistan's western border. The country is vigorously engaged in combating the menace of terrorism, violent religious sectarianism, and drug trafficking. Despite the risks, Pakistan's Senior National Representative at Coalition Headquarters, Brig.-Gen. Ithar Hussain, says his government has made a total policy commitment to defeat terrorism.

“Pakistan has always condemned terrorism in all its forms and wholeheartedly abides by the UN charter,” says Brig.-Gen. Ithar. “We have embarked on a phased program to curb religious extremism,

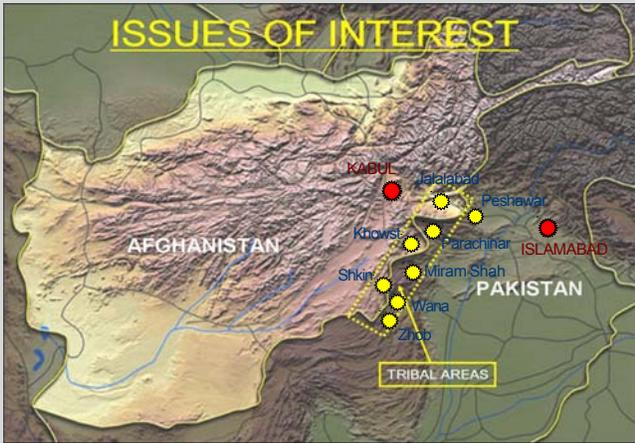
but this change won't happen overnight. The strategic shift in regional and international orientation has produced a complex problem that will require time, resources and patience to surmount.”

While his government's counter-terrorism initiatives are likely to pay dividends in the long-term, Brig.-Gen. Ithar is under no illusion about the difficulties his country is likely to face in the near future as it cracks down on terrorism.

“In the short-term, the deep-rooted menace of terrorism will continue to pose a significant threat at the operational level,” he says. “However, there is no going back. Our resolve is firm: Pakistan will see the issue through to its logical conclusion.”

In order to counter terrorism, Pakistan has introduced a number of measures, among them:

- Amendments to the Anti-Terrorism Act of 1997, intended to curb terrorism and sectarian militancy;
- Establishment of Anti-Terrorism courts throughout the country to ensure speedy trials of



terrorism-related cases, one example of which was the quick disposition of the Daniel Pearl murder case;

- Nation-wide de-weaponization drive, which has so far led to the recovery of 200,000 illicit arms;
- Police reforms, including better training facilities, directed at improving professionalism and effectiveness;
- Regulation of religious schools, aimed at bringing them into the mainstream educational system and effectively controlling their registration, regulation and audit;

The Pakistan Government's vision:

"To make the Islamic Republic of Pakistan a country where rule of law reigns supreme; where every Pakistani feels secure to lead life in conformity with his religious beliefs, culture, heritage and customs; where a Pakistani from any group, sect or province respects the culture, tradition and faith of the other, where every foreign visitor feels welcome and secure."

- New Border Control System designed to monitor movement of people through the country's entry and exit points. It includes forensic laboratories, construction of a criminal investigation division, establishment of anti-terrorist units, machine-readable passports, a help line and an e-mail facility;
- \$73 million border automation project launched on Pakistan's western border, enhancing ability to interdict illegal immigrants, drug and arm smugglers;
- Deployment of more than 70,000 troops along the Pakistan-Afghanistan border; These troops are manning over 800 posts along rugged, mountainous border. To effectively monitor the borders, some of these posts are stationed on 15,000 foot snow-covered peaks;
- Crisis-management cells established at both the national and regional level and inter-linked, allowing 24-hour collection and collation of information on incidents occurring anywhere in Pakistan;

- Arrests of over 2,500 activists belonging to extremist religious organizations since Jan 2002; the closure of 600 of their offices and the outlawing of seven sectarian militant organizations; Pakistan security agencies have also arrested four of the most-wanted Al Qaida terrorists;

- Implementation of the PISCES Project. The Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System has been installed at major airports and other entry/exit points to monitor the activities of suspected terrorists;

- Establishment of Counter Terrorist Centres. Headquartered in Islamabad with satellite centres in provincial capitals, CTCs will help the government deter or respond to terrorist acts;

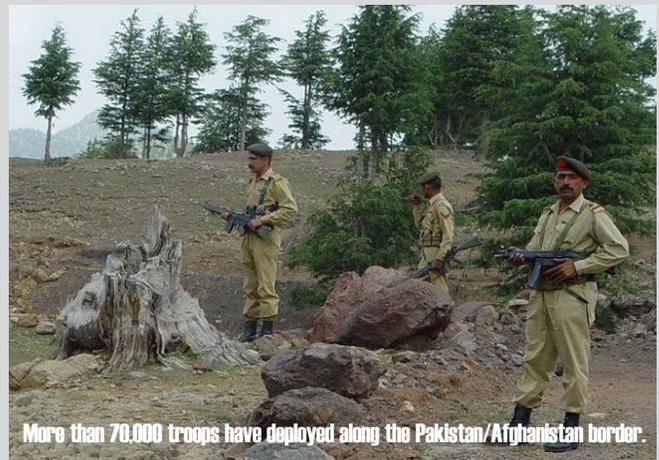
- Freezing of assets and accounts of individuals and organizations linked to terrorism;

- Extradition treaties signed with 27 countries to date, with more to come, and participation in the Coalition for Operation Enduring Freedom, including

sharing intelligence, providing logistic support and committing substantial numbers of forces along Pakistan's western border.

- Pakistani security forces have launched a number of search and cordon operations especially in tribal areas bordering Afghanistan and have been able to dismantle Al-Qaida network.

- In recent operations against Al-Qaida/Taliban elements, more than 90 Pakistani soldiers have lost their lives. *CB*



More than 70,000 troops have deployed along the Pakistan/Afghanistan border.

Kiwis to Re-Commit Forces



A New Zealand frigate on patrol prepares to replenish at sea.

PPrime Minister Helen Clark and Defense Minister Mark Burton have announced the deployment of additional New Zealand Defense Force personnel to Afghanistan and the Gulf region.

These deployments underline New Zealand's commitment to supporting both nation-building and reconstruction in Afghanistan and the international campaign against terrorism.

Helen Clark said that there was a clear need in Afghanistan for assistance to improve stability. "Without stability, efforts to reconstruct this war-torn country cannot proceed effectively. There is a particular need for support during the next few months, as voter registration takes place for the elections.

The New Zealand government will re-deploy around fifty New Zealand Special Air Service (NZSAS) personnel to Afghanistan for 180 days. A RNZN frigate will also deploy to the Arabian Gulf/Horn of Africa region for a four-month tour.

Additionally, the government will extend the commitment of two NZDF non-commissioned officers to provide command and leadership training to the Afghan National Army to June 2005. If required, New Zealand will also re-deploy one P-3 Orion for a six-month period to the Maritime Interdiction Operation.

Helen Clark and Mark Burton said that New Zealand Defence Force personnel are experienced in each of the areas of the new deployments.

"Obviously none of these deployments is without risk. Nonetheless, it is the government's assessment that further New Zealand contributions are warranted to support both Afghanistan and the international campaign against terrorism at this time." **CB**

Gift from Romania

by Col Dr. Catalin-Marius Tarnacop and Capt Shonry Webb

Over the past 2 years, the Coalition has been striving diligently to assist the people of Afghanistan in the reconstruction and restoration of their country. A major component of these restoration efforts is to support the security of Afghan territorial borders.

With this goal in mind, the Coalition has been working to rebuild the Afghan National Army (ANA). To date, more than 32 countries have provided some type of support to rebuild the ANA. On February 25, 2004, an AN-124 cargo jet with more than 80 metric tons of small arms and munitions arrived at Kabul International Airport courtesy of the Romanian government.

Romania, a new member of NATO this month, has provided a total of four donations to the ANA, valued at \$5 million. In addition to providing equipment and munitions to the ANA, Romania has also provided around 500 military personnel, a combat battalion, and staff support to Provincial Reconstruction Teams.

The Romanian government has made a commitment to remain fully involved in providing security, peace, and stability to Afghanistan in concert with its Coalition partners. These donations represent the combined support and overall commitment of the Coalition nations to support the ANA and Afghanistan on its path to success and self-reliance. **CB**



A giant Antonov-124 unloads the Romanian donation at the Kabul International Airport. The equipment will go to the new Afghan National Army.



Coalition Fact

Poland provides an engineering unit to OEF. The approx. 100 soldiers conduct explosive ordnance disposal and demining.