

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

Volume #12

May, 2004



A Farewell To Arms

DDR slowly spreads in Afghanistan

Resolved to Help

Philippines demonstrates "unequivocal resolve"

Welcome, New Friends

NATO welcomes seven Coalition nations

ANZAC Day

Coalition remembers
Gallipoli

Operation ENDURING FREEDOM



The Coalition Bulletin Editorial Board:

 New Zealand	BGen Neville Reilly / chair/
 Pakistan	Capt(N) Azir Mumtaz
 Romania	Cdr Cipriah Lungu
 Germany	Cdr Wolfgang Schaefer
 USA	LCol Jack Mason
 France	LCol Serge Metge
 Spain	Maj Javier Oton
 Hungary	Maj Geza Boros-Lesko/photos/
 Ukraine	Maj Oleksiy Andriushyn
 USA	Capt Bruce Frame
 Canada	Capt Jeff Manney / editor/

Arabic Translation:

 Jordan	Capt Ahmad Al Lawama
--	----------------------



Editor's Note

By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the *Coalition Bulletin* is pleased to bring you stories covering the activities of the International Stabilisation Force in Afghanistan. As ISAF and the Coalition are separate entities, ISAF stories will be denoted by the NATO logo at the top of each page when they appear.

For an electronic copy of the Coalition Bulletin, visit: www.centcom.mil

The views expressed in the Coalition Bulletin cannot be attributed to any one nation. They are items considered newsworthy by the volunteers from various nations that make up the Public Awareness Working Group. Contributions from all Coalition countries are encouraged. All contributors to the Coalition Bulletin are responsible for adhering to Public Awareness Working Group (PAWG) policy pertaining to the accuracy and copyright laws in the content they provide. For questions concerning PAWG policy, contact the Coalition Bulletin editor at +1 (813) 827-1716, or oeffpublicaffairs@yahoo.com.

Cover photo: USAF Airman 1st Class Marcus Wells sounds the Last Post during ANZAC Day

IN THIS ISSUE

A Farewell to Arms

Japanese-led disarmament effort continues in Afghanistan as elections near **2**

Resolved to Help

Humanitarian contingent, government support demonstrate Philippine resolve to fight GWOT **4**

Delivering the Goods

Humanitarian Assistance Working Group tackles distribution challenges **5**

Welcome, new friends

Largest expansion in NATO history sees seven Coalition nations join Alliance **6**

Critical Link

France, Tajikistan cooperate as Dushanbe airport hosts French Air Force **7**

“Our Sons As Well”

Coalition Forces pause to remember ANZAC, Turkish sacrifices at Gallipoli **8**

Fuel for Freedom

Japanese Maritime Self Defence Forces refuel Coalition warships in OEF **9**

Rescue at Sea

German sailors save Iranian man **10**

Coalition Snapshots

Coalition accomplishments in brief **10**



QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“...as a NATO officer, I value the contributions these seven nations can add to NATO. Your present engagement in the Balkans, Afghanistan and Iraq is a true sign of these values.”

- Lt.-Col. Ole Noerretranders, Coalition NATO Liaison Officer

Editorial

The Public Awareness Working Group is pleased to present its new chairman, Brigadier General Neville Reilly of New Zealand. Brig.-Gen. Reilly was the first commander of New Zealand's Provincial Reconstruction Team in Bamian, Afghanistan

The rule of law. It is the basis upon which all free nations are built and the very key to their continuing existence. With the rule of law in place, society can flourish. Without it, it will fail.

In Afghanistan, Security Sector Reform (SSR) is the process by which the Coalition is helping Hamid Karzai's government assert the rule of law. As a part of SSR, the U.S. continues to sponsor the creation of the new Afghan National Army. The Afghan police force grows ever-larger thanks to Germany's leadership of the program. Members of the Italian judiciary are rebuilding Afghanistan's legal system, while the U.K. implements its counter-narcotics strategy, aiming to eradicate the lucrative drug trade and thus undercut those warlords continuing to challenge the authority of the central government.

Perhaps the most important element of SSR is the Japanese-led Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) of Afghan Militia Forces. Like the other elements of SSR, DDR has also made steady progress in the last 30 days. Over 6,000 former soldiers have now been disarmed, although another 34,000 must still be convinced to hand over their weapons before the coming elections. While progress has not been as rapid as desired, DDR is welcome at any speed, for it is fundamentally tied to the rule of law. If allowed to remain, armed factions may threaten candidates, intimidate voters and corrupt the electoral process. The spread of DDR in Afghanistan is reducing the impact of armed factions, clearing the way for free and fair elections. A secure, stable society is now in sight in the war-torn country for the first time in decades.

The same challenge exists in Iraq, where armed militias have attempted to derail the political process in advance of the handover of sovereignty to an interim government. Coalition forces, in concert with Iraqi units, are slowly but surely re-establishing conditions that will allow the rule of law to prevail throughout Iraq.

Included in those forces is a humanitarian contingent from the Philippines, who are training members of the Iraqi Border Police and Civil Defense Corps. You can read more about the Philippines' resolve in fighting the Global War on Terrorism on page 4, followed by other unique stories from some of the 64-nations represented by the Coalition Bulletin.

I hope you enjoy this issue. If you have any questions on our material or the Coalition itself, please contact us via e-mail at oeffpublicaffairs@yahoo.com.

Cheers.

Neville Reilly
Brigadier-General, New Zealand
Chairman
Public Awareness Working Group



Coalition Fact

The 6 Apaches of the 1st Netherlands Helicopter Apache Detachment ISAF became operational April 13, 2004.



A Farewell to Arms



DDR initiative not just an AK-47 collection program



Members of a soon-to-be disbanded AMF unit line up to hand over their weapons. More than 6,000 former Afghan soldiers have been disarmed so far in the Japanese-led DDR effort.

The delay in its long-promised elections has presented Afghanistan with an unexpected opportunity – the chance to move ahead with the planned demobilization of 40,000 soldiers before ballots are cast in September.

With just 20 per cent of its citizens so far registered to vote, a summer election in Afghanistan was clearly not feasible. But aside from registering enough voters, the country must also address the proliferation of militias, most of which are armed factions of political parties. If its elections are to be truly free and fair, if security is to have a real chance to flower in Afghanistan, these militias must be disarmed.

The Japanese-sponsored DDR program – which stands for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration – aims to do precisely that. Not just an AK-47 collection program, the program targets members of the Afghan Military Forces (AMF), which constituted the former Northern Alliance, and all of their light and heavy weapons

The DDR initiative is integrated through the Afghan government’s “New Beginnings Program”, which has a staff of 80 and spreads a budget of US \$167 million among its Kabul headquarters and eight regional offices.

A fundamental requirement in the creation of a stable Afghan state, DDR is bound up with the other four pillars of Afghanistan’s Security Sector Reform. For instance, the U.S.-led effort to create the new Afghan National Army will get much of its armaments and many of its recruits from the disarmed militias and demobilized soldiers.

The German-led program to revitalize the National Police is critical if there is to be security in the vacuum left by disarmed soldiers. The U.K.-led counter-narcotics initiative will reduce the funds available to warlords to sustain their militias. And the Italian-led effort to reshape the Judiciary will ensure former soldiers charged with war crimes face justice, rather than remaining free to continue fomenting unrest.

DDR officially began in October 2003, following several months of delay during which time the Afghan Ministry of Defence was reformed to make it more neutral. The pilot project in Konduz disarmed 1,025 combatants and collected 926 weapons.

While promising, the numbers demonstrated the difficulty in achieving the Coalition’s original goal of demobilizing 100,000 soldiers before the elections. Past experience has shown that DDR takes time. Indeed, it took Sierra Leone nearly five years to disarm

72,000 soldiers before elections were held there in 2002.

Setting the bar a little lower, officials now plan to DDR 40,000 soldiers in areas where they are most at risk of influencing voters. The process goes like this:

DISARMAMENT

The Operational Group

- Consisting of members of the Afghan Ministry of Defence – a demonstration of Afghan ‘ownership’ of the DDR process – Operational Groups survey the military structure of an area to determine who should be disarmed and what weapons should be collected.

- The OG accepts only serviceable weapons, thereby taking dangerous weapons “off the street” and ensuring the ANA, to whom they will ultimately go, get weapons that work.

Regional Verification Committee

- Staffed by local elders, RVCs verify the work of the Operational Groups, countering any undue influence of military commanders. RVCs interview combatants and reject them if their authenticity is suspect.

Mobile Disarmament Unit

- MDUs travel to surveyed areas where they register soldiers via computer and issue each an identification card, signifying them as officially disarmed.

International Observers Group

- Neutral military observers from the international community provide impartial verification throughout the DDR process and, by their presence, help ensure the security of disarmed combatants.

DEMOBILIZATION

Reinsertion Benefit

- Disarmed combatants are referred to DDR Regional Offices, where they receive anywhere from U.S. \$100–\$200 and some grain intended to ease their transition from soldier to civilian.

- Former soldiers receive an orientation in becoming a civilian and register the profession they wish to pursue.

REINTEGRATION

- Soldiers wishing to pursue a civilian career have the option of taking a variety of vocational training including agriculture, public works and even de-mining.

- Soldiers hoping to join the new Afghan National Army must become civilians before they are eligible to join. They then must undergo fitness and educational testing and be free of any factional influence.

Still in its early stages, the DDR process has been slowed by reluctant warlords and deceptive local commanders. Some have sought to downsize their units rather than fully disarm, preserving their unit’s military structure by giving up part-time soldiers while retaining full-time officers.

Other commanders have attempted to extort money from disarmed combatants, or have encouraged them to simply rejoin their AMF units once the DDR process is complete.

Dealing with these commanders presents its own problems. Military units cannot be declared dismantled if the commanders retain their power. Older, professional officers may be encouraged to disarm through appointment to government, special buy-out packages or the provision of training opportunities abroad.

However, younger Jihadi commanders, some of whom exercise substantial power, pose a great threat to stability. Finding them a peaceful role will prove to be one of DDR’s most important challenges.

Nevertheless, the DDR effort in Afghanistan has already disarmed 6,000 soldiers. Recently, the program received a boost with the passage of the Political Party Registration Law, which prohibits any political party with a military wing from taking part in elections.

Like the DDR process, the law has encountered opposition from groups unwilling to yield their grip on power. But, also like the DDR process, the law represents a significant step in reducing the influence of armed factions on the political process – a development critical to free elections and a stable, prosperous Afghanistan.

CB



A Mobile Disarmament Unit processes an Afghan soldier for Disarmament.

Resolved to Help

Philippines demonstrates “unequivocal support” to GWOT

By Col Essel C Soriano GSC (CAV) PA



Brig.-Gen. Pedro Ramboanga AFP, NCE Commander, with Philippine military officials in Iraq.

and former US bases as transit points and staging grounds for possible attacks on terrorists hideouts.

The Philippines has also taken the initiative in building a regional consensus against terrorism, especially with ASEAN and APEC partners. Among other efforts, it proposed the creation of a permanent working group at the Asia-Pacific International Parliamentary Forum (APPF), held in Thailand on January 19, 1996, to support

The terrorist attacks in the U.S. on September 11, 2001 shocked citizens around the world. They clearly demonstrated that economic and military might alone are not enough to insulate a nation from the scourge of international terrorism.

This threat continues and will likely intensify in the future. Religious militants and political extremists and their local minions are targeting many peace-loving countries in ASEAN and the Asia-Pacific region and the rest of the world.

The Philippines supports the adoption of a Comprehensive Convention on International Terrorism to supplement the 1994 Declaration on Measures to Eliminate International Terrorism.

The Philippines adheres to the international covenants on terrorism. It works with the international community to build a strong and formidable bulwark against terrorism. In particular, it reaffirms its commitment and abides by the international instruments related to the prevention of terrorism UN Charter, the UN Security Council Resolution No. 1368 and other relevant international laws.

To demonstrate its unequivocal support for the global campaign against terrorism, the government has allowed U.S. forces and other members of the international Coalition to use local seaports, airports

the fight against international terrorism. Furthermore, the Philippines hosted the first-ever International Conference on Counter-Terrorism on 18-22 February 1996, which was attended by 120 delegates from 19 countries.

The Philippines condemns in unequivocal terms international terrorism, which is an aberration of the political framework of global cooperation. The world cannot stand idle in the face of such horrible destruction of lives and property. As other countries work to prevent similar or even deadlier attacks from occurring on their own soil, the Philippine government is preparing to be more actively engaged in the international fight against terrorism.

The war will be a long and complex campaign, hence the government has taken concrete steps to redirect its efforts in light of the recent global events. While rationalizing scarce defense resources, the Philippines has responded without delay to the Coalition's call for support.

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM

Among a number of actions undertaken by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, two military officers have been sent as Armed Forces of the Philippines representatives to Coalition Headquarters at US Central Command. The pair were reinforced with a 3-man Joint Planning Team prior to the deployment



Delivering the Goods

of the Philippine Humanitarian Contingent to Iraq on Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Under the Polish-led Multi-National Division-Central South "CIMIC" Battalion, the Philippine component is significantly involved in the capability build-up of the new Iraqi Security Forces, where they train Iraqi Border Police and Civil Defense Corps. Their success was demonstrated when, during a training mission, they arrested five terrorists armed with weapons and ammunition.

Jointly, the component conducts routine patrols with the 442nd US MP and Polish MP units. The DOH component, as part of the Tactical Support Teams, conducts extensive medical outreach programs. These have brought hope and a chance for dignity to many Iraqis, oppressed for so long under Iraq's former dictatorship.

Construction assistance and life-support improvements are making an important, relevant contribution to rebuilding Iraq. Worn to a frazzle from constant IED attacks and shooting, some Iraqis have voluntarily assisted in the recovery of heavy weapons.



New friends: A Philippine soldier with Iraqi children.

Despite the ongoing threats, robust military offensives have brought hope to Iraq. *Now we must build upon our successes.*

Today, the entire world has awakened to the idea that we are now indeed living in a new dimension, one of boundless opportunities...and significant risks. The world must galvanise, it must come together as a community of nations and speak with a single voice if we are to address one of the greatest threats of the millennium.

CB

Coalition's 'HAWG' put to the test distributing relief to the Middle East

TAMPA, Florida – The recent donation of two huge water purification units by the government of Uruguay has posed a tough question for a Coalition group coordinating the delivery of humanitarian assistance. Exactly how do you move a pair of six-ton machines from South America to the Middle East?

The question is just one of many the Humanitarian Assistance Working Group faces daily as it oversees efforts to provide much needed supplies to the people of Afghanistan, Iraq and to those in the Horn of Africa (HOA) region as well.

The HAWG was established in October 2001 as a Coalition working group under the supervision of US CENTCOM. The group is an integral part of US CENTCOM's mission to restore stability and hope in Afghanistan and prevent destabilization in the HOA.

Composed of representatives from all Coalition Partners represented at US CENTCOM, the HAWGs' primary role is to identify countries able to donate humanitarian relief supplies as well as those able to provide transportation.

Airlift is the preferred means of transport, although the HAWG is now examining rail and sea transport as well. Indeed, sealift is the likeliest means of moving Uruguay's donation to the people it was intended to help.

The specific duties of the HAWG include:

- Processing HA requests from Afghanistan (CJTF 180) and HOA (CJTF HOA)
- Identifying Coalition nations willing to provide the required aid and those capable of moving it.
- Collecting information on capabilities/restrictions of different nations and agencies.
- Monitoring and following-up on the Humanitarian Assistance operation until its completion.

Apart from its core functions, members of the HAWG actively participate in a variety of social functions aimed at enhancing cohesion, understanding and cooperation among its members. HAWG members also routinely provide briefings on their own nations, lending further insight into the diverse cultures that make up the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

CB

Welcome, new friends

Addition of 7 Coalition nations to NATO bodes well for Global War on Terrorism



The Coalition's NATO Liaison officer, Lt.-Col. Ole Noerretranders, welcomes Senior National Representatives of NATO's newest 7 members at an Accession ceremony April 15, 2004.

Improvements to the militaries of seven Coalition countries resulting from their new membership in NATO are expected to have a positive impact on the Coalitions fighting the Global War on Terrorism.

On March 29 the countries of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia and Slovenia formally deposited their 'instruments of Accession' with the United States, NATO's depository nation. On April 2, the flags of the seven nations were raised for the first time at the Alliance's Brussels Headquarters, signifying their entry into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. The additions represent the largest increase in the organization's history, bringing its membership to 26 nations.

All seven new members currently participate in either Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Iraqi Freedom or in both. Romania, which has more than 740 troops in Iraq and another 488 in Afghanistan, sees the NATO transformation as an opportunity to continue transforming its own military.

"Two years ago we didn't even have desert fatigues," says Dr. Colonel Catalin-Marius Tarnacop, Romania's Senior National Representative in the Coalition Village. "That is a small step, but it proves you can change everything - doctrine, procedures, training - if your mentality changes."

Tarnacop says the official date of Accession for the new members marked a simple declaration that his military's transformation was well underway.

"We came to April 2 with our homework done," he says. "Our forces know their business. Now we can work with all our allies in ISAF and our Coalition partners in Operation Enduring Freedom and in

Operation Iraqi Freedom without any trouble. But our accession is not an end-state. It is just a starting point. We will work together to bring the NATO team forward."

The belief that the NATO changes are a work in progress is echoed by one of Tarnacop's new NATO colleagues, Lt.-Col. Egidijus Karvelis of Lithuania. Although his nation first applied for NATO membership a decade ago, Karvelis says finally achieving Accession is not the end of the journey.

"This is just a first step, there's no point at which you can stop and say we're done," Karvelis says. In anticipation of its NATO membership, Lithuania has embarked upon its own military transformation, developing new skills or improving existing ones. This includes forming a rapid reaction brigade, training more Special Forces and strengthening its logistic capabilities.

As for its effect on the Coalitions fighting the Global War on Terrorism, Karvelis says not to look for drastic change. "We had good relationships before with our allies, and that support and cooperation will continue. What we will achieve by joining NATO is more favourable conditions to acquire equipment, better sharing of information and, most importantly, improved security and stability in the region."

Lithuania has deployed 45 soldiers to Afghanistan as part of the Coalition for Operation Enduring Freedom. Another 120 Lithuanian infantry are also serving in Iraq.

Despite the many benefits of membership to his own nation, Karvelis hints at the real benefits of belonging to an international alliance. "It seemed a

miracle 10 years ago, when we first applied to join,” he muses. “But now that it’s real, we feel even more responsibility. Joining NATO doesn’t just mean taking advantage, but contributing as well.” **CB**

CURRENT COALITION CONTRIBUTIONS

Bulgaria: Afghanistan – 45 personnel in a guard platoon in Kabul with ISAF; and a 22-person mobile training team for the ANA at Base Phoenix training drivers on the BMP-1 and BMP-2.

Iraq – One mechanized battalion (approx. 450 troops) in Karbala assigned to the Polish Division.

Estonia: Afghanistan – 6-person EOD team plus one doctor with ISAF in Kabul.

Iraq – 45 troops plus 1 officer serving in CJTF-7.

Latvia: Afghanistan – 8 medical, 2 logistics and 1 CIMIC personnel in Kabul.

Iraq – One Infantry Company (97 troops); 14 Headquarters staff; 3 EOD members; and 2 Military Police.

Lithuania: Afghanistan – 45 soldiers; 2 members serving in the British-led PRT; and 2 Liaison Officers in Tampa.

Iraq – 120 Infantry with British and Polish forces.



Romania: Afghanistan – One Infantry Battalion (405 troops) in Kandahar; 47 troops with ISAF plus one C-130; 25 troops for ANA training in Kabul; 6 officers in Bagram (CJTF 180); 2 CIMIC officers and 2 engineers in Kabul; one military observer in a British-led PRT; and 7 liaison officers at USCENTCOM headquarters in Tampa, FL.

Iraq – One Infantry Battalion (405 troops) in An Nasiriyah; 1 Engineers Detachment (149 troops) in Al Hillah; 1 Military Police Company (100 soldiers) in An Nasiriyah; One Intelligence Detachment (56 troops) in Babylon; 28 staff officers in Basra; 3 expert officers, 2 within CPA and one within CJTF Baghdad; and 2 liaison officers in London and Rome. The Romanian government will also deploy an additional 56 civil/military personnel.

Slovakia: Afghanistan – 40 members of an Airfield Construction Unit at the Bagram airfield.

Iraq – 100 members of an Engineering unit (mine-clearing); 4 officers at MNFI HQ, 1 officer at CJTF-7.

Slovenia: Afghanistan – 18 soldiers with ISAF; 2 officers at USCENTCOM; 1 police expert in Afg., 10 firefighters deploying to Kabul; 1 officer to PRT.

Iraq – 5 police instructors in Amman, Jordan. **CB**

Critical Link

French Air Liaison Team, Government of Tajikistan cooperate in support of Operation Enduring Freedom



Two French C-160 Transalls sit on the ramp of Dushanbe airport, where they are permanently stationed in support of OEF.

An airport in Tajikistan is playing an important role in Operation Enduring Freedom, thanks to French Air Force personnel who have turned it into a fully functional airbase.

Dushanbe airport, located in west-central Tajikistan and serving the capital city, has traditionally provided air links to Moscow and the Central Asian Republics. Since 2001, due to the generosity of the Tajik government and the hard work of its 130-strong French contingent, Dushanbe has become a major staging area for operations inside Afghanistan.

With Afghan airports in Bagram and Kabul overcrowded, French forces required a safe operating base located close to Afghanistan. “The less distance an airplane flies the more payload it can carry,” says French Brigadier-General Guy De Haynin, France’s Senior National Representative at Coalition Headquarters. “Thanks to Tajikistan’s goodwill, Dushanbe happened to be the best compromise between security and proximity to theatre.”

The French team, including pilots, mechanics, transport and security personnel, operate two C-160 Transalls. The aircraft are permanently stationed in Dushanbe, providing tactical airlift to Afghanistan. The French team also supports Airbus, DC-8 and C-130 strategic-lift flights from France.

Since becoming operational, the Dushanbe contingent has flown 3,300 flight hours, delivered 7,700 metric tons of freight and carried 26,000 passengers, including 700 civilians and 400 foreign troops.

French forces plan to build on the success of its Dushanbe operation, dispatching a specialized French Air Force engineering unit to the base. The engineers will repair Dushanbe’s tarmac and runway over a four-month period. The repairs will improve the efficiency of French operations and leave a lasting legacy for the people of Tajikistan.

“Tajikistan has been willing to help France from the beginning and we have always had very good relations,” De Haynin says. “Our cooperation at Dushanbe has tightened links between our two nations. It’s a win-win situation.” **CB**

“They have become our sons as well”



Coalition representatives gather at a sunrise ceremony in Tampa to honour the sacrifice of Australian, New Zealand, Turkish, British and French forces at Gallipoli in 1915.

Coalition Forces pause to remember Gallipoli landings

Those heroes that shed their blood and lost their lives... You are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore rest in peace. There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehmets to us where they lie side by side now here in this country of ours... you, the mothers, who sent their sons from faraway countries wipe away your tears; your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace. After having lost their lives on this land, they have become our sons as well.

– Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, 1934

Australian Prime Minister John Howard paid a surprise visit to Baghdad April 25 as Coalition Forces around the world arose early to remember a bloody 1915 campaign that claimed over 120,000 soldiers.

Howard visited Australia's 223 troops serving in Iraq to remember the attack on Turkey's Gallipoli Peninsula 89 years ago. The landings by Australian, New Zealand, British and French forces on the Gallipoli Peninsula were aimed at opening a second front, bringing the Great War to a speedy end.

The campaign was called off after eight months of stalemate and brutal attrition. However, in the crucible of conflict three nations had come of age. The Australian and New Zealand Army Corps, or ANZACs, fought together for the first time, doggedly holding onto a small parcel of land and inspiring generations to come. And among the successful defenders emerged the Saviour of Gallipoli, Mustafa Kemal Atatürk, who eight years later would found the modern Turkish Republic.

At Coalition Headquarters, as in ANZAC Day celebrations worldwide, old foes stood beside one another, bound by new goals and past sacrifice.

“It's history,” said Col. Hasan Durak, leader of

the Turkish contingent in Tampa and a wreath layer at the sunrise service. “They fought against each other and died as heroes, all of them – Australian, New Zealand, Turkish. As our leader said, they are our sons, all of them lying on the ground.”

Group Captain Ted Prencel, Australian Liaison Officer to US CENTCOM and Senior National Representative of the Australian contingent, said Turkey's inclusion in the ceremony is critical to its longevity. ANZAC Day, he said, was an important reminder of war, of its cost, and of the continuing relevance of sacrifice to new generations.

“We do not celebrate victory or glorify war,” Prencel said. “We are here to celebrate the human spirit – what we call ANZAC – to face challenges together and to overcome them. We should all continue to be proud of our heritages.”

The spirit of the ANZACs takes on even deeper meaning in the context of the Coalition and the Global War on Terrorism, Prencel added.

“Where necessary, to preserve the peace in our own regions and elsewhere in the world, we must be prepared to deploy our forces,” he said. “We cannot isolate ourselves and ignore our responsibilities and waste the sacrifices of those before us.”

CB



A Japanese AOE refuels an Italian warship at sea.

Government of Japan of U.S. \$125 million.

This long and sustained first-ever deployment – now at more than two-and-a-half years – has yielded the JMSDF a number of valuable lessons learned. The top two priorities to be addressed are the AOE rotational tempo and operational tempo. For the Japan Defense Ship

Transformation underway for Japanese Navy as lengthy OEF deployment continues

by Cdr Hiroshi Ito, JMSDF

Reaction to the attacks of September 11, 2001 sparked significant change to Japan’s military, changes that continue today as its Maritime Self Defence Forces continue a mission now underway for more than two-and-a-half years.

In the aftermath of the September 11, 2001 attacks on the United States, Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi’s cabinet submitted an anti-terrorism bill to the Diet, Japan’s parliamentary body.

The bill was enacted following a month of heated debate. Known as the “the Anti-Terrorism Special Measures Law”, it marks an epoch-making step in Japan’s national security history.

Deployments abroad in the post-World War II era are nothing new to the Japanese military. Japanese forces are frequent participants in international exercises and have contributed to several peacekeeping operations. After the first Gulf War, Japanese mine-sweepers also scoured the Persian Gulf for mines.

The new anti-terrorism law has for the first time, however, enabled deployments of Japanese forces to an active theatre of operations. Approximately 550 ground troops have been sent to Iraq, another 200 air-men are in Kuwait and Japan’s Maritime Self-Defense Force (JMSDF) has deployed destroyers and Auxiliary replenishment ships, or AOEes, to the Indian Ocean.

Part of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Japanese AOEes provide fuel to Coalition naval forces from the United States, the United Kingdom, France, New Zealand, Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Canada, Spain and Germany. By the end of March 2004, the JMSDF had dispensed approximately 345 million litres (90 million gallons) to Coalition warships, at a cost to the

(JDS) Towada, one of three deployable AOEes in the JMSDF, the current deployment is her fourth to the Northern Arabian Sea (NAS) since November 2001.

Efforts made to improve the tight AOE rotational tempo were recently buoyed by the commissioning of a new AOE, the “JDS Mashuu”, on March 15, 2004. The “Mashuu” will join the AOE deployable force in the Arabian Sea upon completion of her shake-down training, and will greatly help the AOE rotational tempo.

Op Tempo is the other priority for review. By the end of March 2004, the JMSDF maintained a fleet with 53 destroyers. About half are deployable to the NAS in terms of capability and sustainability at sea. But reflecting a widely shared concept regarding Op Temp among navies, about one third of the fleet is under repair/reconditioning at any one time, while another third is in training, leaving the remaining third fully operable and deployable.

With a third of its fleet, therefore, the JMSDF must meet both its national security requirement for areas surrounding Japan and its OEF deployment. Increasing force requirements at a time of a shrinking Defense budget is forcing the JMSDF to consider a revision of its concept regarding force readiness. This has led to a bottom-up review covering not only ship building plans, but the Navy’s very organization as well.

The comprehensive review continues as the JMSDF maintains its OEF deployment. The review will be finalized when a new National Defense Program Outline and a Midterm Defense Build-Up Plan are issued at the end of this year. On completion of the review, a transformed JMSDF will further contribute to future Coalition maritime operations.



German sailors rescue

Iranian man



Sailors aboard a dhow comfort an ailing colleague. Doctors from a German frigate later successfully removed the man's appendix.

MANAMA, Bahrain – German sailors helped save the life of an Iranian mariner on April 17 while on patrol near the Horn of Africa in the Arabian Sea as part of Commander, Task Force 150.

The incident began after a nearby dhow named al shams relayed a distress call to the German frigate FGS Augsburg (F 213). Augsburg, with four embarked doctors, sent a medical team to the dhow by small boat.

Once aboard, a member of the German medical team diagnosed the unidentified man as having a perforated appendix. Augsburg dispatched its Sea Lynx helicopter to airlift the patient to the frigate for an emergency appendectomy.

The operation was successful. The stabilized patient was later transferred to a Djiboutian hospital.

“We are delighted to have been able to assist in this medical evacuation and are relieved that the operation was a complete success,” said Commander, Task Force 150, Commodore Tony Rix, Royal Navy. “We are extremely fortunate that FGS Augsburg has such excellent medical facilities onboard which were put to good use on this occasion. The swift reaction of the Augsburg medical team undoubtedly saved this patient from what could have been a far more serious outcome.”

At this time Task Force 150 is a UK-led maritime operation that includes support from France, Germany, Italy, Spain and the U.S. The force patrols the Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, North Arabian Sea and the Straits of Hormuz and conducts maritime interception operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. 



Coalition Snapshots

Italian soldiers save child's life

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq – Italian Joint Task Force soldiers saved the life of a 5-year-old stung by a scorpion in the suburbs of An Nasiriyah May 5.

Italian doctors quickly administered scorpion venom antidote after the hospital to which the child was brought had run out.

The medical assistance is among a range of activities undertaken by Italian medical personnel to improve living conditions in Dhi Qar Province. 

Marines aid literacy program

FALLUJAH, Iraq – U.S. Marines provided U.S. \$133,134 to the Al Anbar Adult Literacy Program earlier this month to improve the education of more than a 1,000 local residents.

The money will support 48 teachers as they instruct courses in basic reading, writing and arithmetic to men and women over the age of 15. 

Italian-built school opens

AN NASIRIYAH, Iraq – Al Musataaq has a new school, thanks to the hard work of the Coalition's Italian Task Force.

The school opened its doors April 27. It boasts six large classrooms, toilet facilities, two playgrounds, and a perimeter fence.

The construction is the latest of several projects the Italians have completed since their arrival last summer. Two more schools are due to be rebuilt in the near future. 

PRT helps explosion victims

KABUL, Afghanistan – Members of Herat's Provincial Reconstruction Team came to the aid of Afghans injured in a fuel truck explosion May 2 in the village of Aziz Abad.

The PRT's medical staff helped treat burn patients and delivered basic trauma supplies to the Herat hospital. Other burn-treatment materials were purchased through local medical suppliers and immediately made available to the hospital. 