

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

Volume #13, June, 2004

The "Coalition of the Willing"

Historic, challenged, stronger than ever

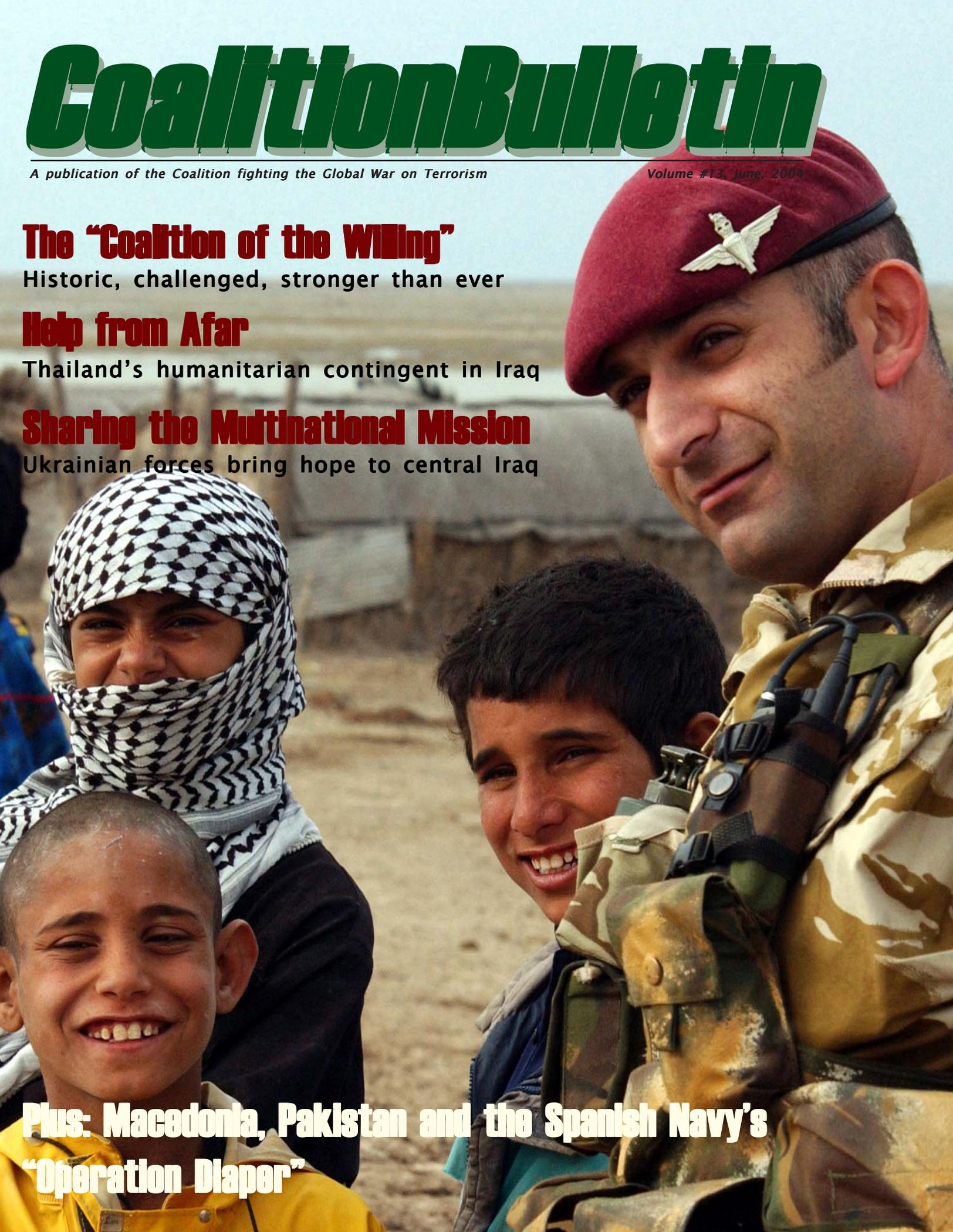
Help from Afar

Thailand's humanitarian contingent in Iraq

Sharing the Multinational Mission

Ukrainian forces bring hope to central Iraq

Plus: Macedonia, Pakistan and the Spanish Navy's
"Operation Diaper"



Operation ENDURING FREEDOM



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Editor's Note

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Cover photo: British paratrooper Captain 'H' Halawi, an Arabic-speaking spokesman for MND(SE), jokes with children in Basrah, Iraq.

IN THIS ISSUE

The "Coalition of the Willing"
Historic, Challenged, Stronger than Ever.....2

Help from Afar
Thailand's Humanitarian Assistance Task Force helps improve the quality life in Iraq.....5

Sharing the Multinational Mission
More than 1,600 Ukrainian soldiers keep the peace while helping Iraq rebuild.....6

Macedonia in Iraq
Deployment marks just the second international mission for Macedonia's military.....7

Untold Story
Pakistan's continuing efforts towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan.....8

"Operation Diaper"
Spanish naval vessels bring comfort to the Horn of Africa region.....10

QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We view this resolution as the most significant step since the first Gulf War towards the full normalization of the situation in Iraq."

- Munir Akram, Pakistan's ambassador to the United Nations, on the passing of Resolution 1546.



Coalition Fact

Jordan runs a hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif that sees up to 4,200 patients a week.



Coalition Fact

Korea's 100th Engineer Unit provides construction and repair services, primarily at Bagram Air Base.

Nation-building cannot be accomplished overnight. The international community's nation-building experiences in Germany, Japan, and more recently in Somalia, Haiti, Bosnia, and Kosovo have demonstrated just how expensive in time, money and people successful nation-building can be. Indeed, it took years before democratic governments were elected in Germany and Japan after World War II. Considering the tremendous political transformations being undertaken, however, the postwar timetable can be seen as relatively short. And that speed pales in comparison to the pace set by the Coalition in bringing change to Afghanistan and Iraq.



Brig.-Gen. Neville Reilly, NZ

Certainly, both nations continue to face many obstacles to success. Attacks against the international community in Afghanistan have increased as opponents to democracy seek to undermine the coming elections. The same is true in Iraq, where insurgents are also attempting to prevent Iraq's move to democracy.

Here we are, however, not yet three years since the fall of the Taliban, and half that time since the fall of Saddam Hussein's dictatorship, and democracy is already flowering in both countries. In Afghanistan, voter registration continues in every province, accompanied by a growing willingness among the powerful to abandon violence and give politics a try. That theme is echoed in Iraq, where Shia cleric Muqtada al-Sadr has recently announced his intention to work with Iraq's new interim government. That recently appointed body has not had to wait for the June 30th handover, as many ministries have already come under Iraqi control. Elections in both countries are mere months away.

The change is evident internationally as well. Iraq's new interim government leader, President Ghazi al-Yawar, appeared at the G-8 Summit this month to meet the leaders of the world's most powerful economies. Afghan president Hamid Karzai soon followed, attending the funeral of President Ronald Reagan. These remarkable events would have been unimaginable a few years ago, yet now they are part of the routine of international relations – a sure sign that change is taking hold in these emerging democracies.

Of course the surest sign of change in recent days must be the passing of Resolution 1546. On June 8, the United Nations Security Council unanimously approved the resolution endorsing sovereignty in Iraq and authorizing a U.S.-led multinational force. It's too early to say what this will mean to the Coalition, but the consensus on Iraq should serve to strengthen it significantly.

The violence we see in our news media must therefore not be allowed to hide the Coalition's deep and lasting successes. Instead, it must be seen in the proper context of nation-building, a process that, by its very nature, is a long and difficult one. As UN envoy Lakhdar Brahimi put it, "Iraq's current challenges will take years, not months, to overcome."

That is an observation long recognized by the Coalition, as is the knowledge that the Global War on Terrorism will not be over any time soon. But success will come, and, as was the case 60 years ago, the world will be a better place for it.

I hope you enjoy this issue.

Cheers.

Neville Reilly

Brigadier-General, New Zealand
Chairman
Public Awareness Working Group



Correction

In Coalition Bulletin vol. 12, we incorrectly reported the amount of fuel provided by Japan's Fuel for Freedom mission. To date, Japan has pumped more than 358 million litres, or 95 million gallons, to Coalition naval vessels.

The “Coalition of the Willing” – Historic, Challenged, Stronger than Ever

by Brig.- Gen. Arthur F. “Chip” Diehl III

Too often, when the going gets tough, we tend to forget about the past to focus on the present. We venture from our goals and paths to worry about tomorrow, and the future slides from the target screen.

Now, while the Transition of Authority in Iraq is just ahead, and while Afghanistan continues toward its first elections this fall, it is more important than ever to remember and to reflect upon one of the most successful stories in the Global War on Terrorism (GWOT). It’s known as the “Coalition of the Willing.”

Contrary to popular impressions, there is a Coalition of nations resolute and determined to fight and eliminate terrorism across the globe – a Coalition that



Brig.- Gen. Arthur F. “Chip” Diehl III, Deputy Director J5 Engagement, US Central Command Headquarters.

has been the cornerstone to both Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF), a Coalition that has set the foundation for the Global War on Terrorism.

To Remember On Sept. 11, 2001, almost 80 nations lost countrymen and loved ones in the World Trade Center, in the Pentagon, and in Pennsylvania. The world suffered and came together. Immediately, nations willingly pledged their support to fight alongside the United States. Military delegations began at once to arrive in Tampa, offering assistance to U.S. Central Command. The Coalition of the Willing sym-

At a glance: Just a few of the Coalition contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom

- *Hospitals: Russia, Jordan, Spain, Republic of Korea, and Egypt have treated more than 350,000 Afghan men, women, and children – for many patients, these are the first doctors they have ever met.*
- *France and Italy have deployed their only aircraft carriers and conducted combat operations.*
- *The French carrier “Charles De Gualle” completed its second deployment supporting OEF in April, 2004.*
- *Romania, Canada, UK, and Italy have deployed infantry battalions – for Italy and Romania, they represent the first major deployments outside their nations since World War II. Romania’s Battalion recently extended for a third consecutive year.*
- *Sweden, Turkey and many other nations have provided Civil–Military Cooperation (CIMIC) support*
- *Germany has deployed ships, airlift aircraft and soldiers.*
- *Croatia has deployed a contingent of military police*
- *Japan’s “Fuel for Freedom” operations over the last two–and–half years have provided more than 95 million gallons of fuel “free” to Coalition ships. Japan’s deployments are also its very first to an active theatre of operations since the Second World War.*
- *Afghan National Army: more than 25 nations, including Bulgaria, France, UK, Hungary, Pakistan, Albania and Poland have donated weapons, ammunition, uniforms, monies for salaries of Afghan soldiers, and training toward the building of the new Afghan army.*
- *Norway, Poland, and many more nations have contributed to the rebuilding of Afghan schools, pledging construction, books, equipment, and funding, making education a reality for Afghans.*
- *Engineers from Thailand, Slovakia, Italy, and South Korea have built the infrastructure of Coalition bases.*
- *Kyrgyzstan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan have opened their airfields to Coalition forces.*





bolizes the global commitment to fight together against this global threat.

Today, the Coalition of the Willing is historic, the largest ever built. Almost 90 nations around the world have joined. In Tampa, 64 allied nations are present, with highly experienced, senior national representatives and delegations offering military support, humanitarian assistance, as well as direct connectivity to their nation's political and military leadership. In Afghanistan and Iraq, there are over 35 nations alongside US forces engaged in military and humanitarian operations. [* As a reference, 36 nations comprised the Coalition of nations supporting Desert Shield/Desert Storm].

To Reflect Besides the number of nations, the contributions of our Coalition partners are far beyond anyone's expectations. In every facet of operations, from direct combat to civil-military affairs, nations have provided forces, donations, and funding as well as collective expertise and counsel to Central Command and the United States.

We must appreciate that not all nations have militaries the size of the United States, United Kingdom, and our major NATO allies, but they have sent their battalions into Afghanistan and Iraq nonetheless. Not all nations' constitutions and laws allow them to engage in missions such as direct combat, but they contribute as best they can, perhaps with diplomatic support, humanitarian missions, or pledges of funding.

Some nations authorize overflight of their country, access, and basing – which often proves pivotal to planning, preparations and the execution of military operations. Finally, it's important to note that nations are deploying forces to Iraq and Afghanistan in addition to other worldwide commitments. For example, several nations are supporting Bosnia as well as a number of U.N. peacekeeping operations worldwide.

The most important reflection is the fact that Coalition soldiers, sailors, airmen, and civilians are also dying beside us – shedding their blood and giving their lives for this enduring cause, the ultimate sacrifice in this fight.

At a glance: A sampling of Coalition contributions to Operation Iraqi Freedom

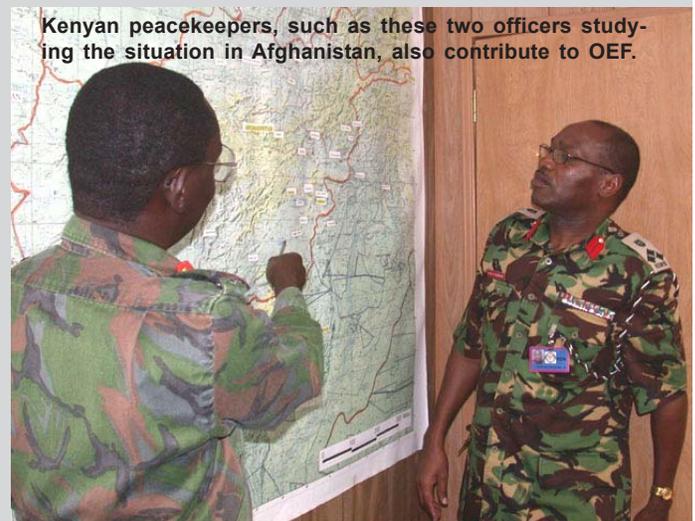
- Poland, UK lead major multinational "sectors" across southern Iraq.
- Ukraine has deployed a 1,600-strong Mechanized Brigade
- Japan has deployed airlift aircraft, a medical unit, and water purification units – another first!
- Kazakhstan has deployed its first military unit outside the country, sending engineers and security forces.
- Norway, New Zealand, Romania, Slovak Republic, and Philippines have also deployed engineers.
- El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Dominican Republic have deployed infantry troops.
- Jordan, South Korea, United Arab Emirates, Mongolia, and Thailand have deployed medical teams.
- Australia has deployed army, air force and naval units
- Portugal, Philippines, Czech Republic, Italy, and Macedonia have sent military police units.

CHALLENGED, YET RESOLUTE

Individual nations have been challenged in their support to these operations – some from public opinion, some from the scope of defense budgets, and some from the limited size of forces available to sustain deployments. But none

have departed the Coalition.

Nations with limited forces and personnel have sent their troops home to rest and reconstitute but have pledged to return as soon as possible. For example, New Zealand deployed troops and ships into Afghanistan early on, but withdrew them after an extended period for resupply and rest; it simply doesn't have the depth in troops and equipment to sustain a continuous deployment. However, New Zealand has since returned to the theater. This situation is similar to that of other allied nations.



Kenyan peacekeepers, such as these two officers studying the situation in Afghanistan, also contribute to OEF.

Some nations have faced difficulties deploying their forces into theater, but have found support from the U.S. and other Coalition partners – making for a tremendous team effort. For instance, Japan sailed a logistics ship to assist Thailand in transporting its engineer unit and its heavy equipment to the Persian Gulf and, ultimately, into Afghanistan.

Countless Coalition airlift aircraft have moved partner nations' equipment and troops into the region. Canada, Singapore, Japan, Italy, Greece, and Belgium continue today to offer airlift for GWOT operations.

Departure of Spain Spain is redeploying its troops from Iraq, ordered home by their newly elected Prime Minister. While this represents a challenge to ongoing operations, we should salute the Spanish military and remember “the rest of the story!”

First, salute them for their outstanding and continuous contributions to OEF and OIF. Spain was one of our first delegations to arrive here in Tampa. Spanish forces, on boarding and inspecting the North Korean ship *So San*, found it to be carrying SCUD missiles to Yemen in one of the most professional military operations ever witnessed. Spain deployed two helicopters and a C-130 Hercules to Kyrgyzstan for more

than a year conducting high altitude search and rescue. They have ships at sea and have commanded the Coalition maritime task force. Its troops have deployed to Afghanistan and Iraq. Spain setup one of the first hospitals in Afghanistan at the beginning of OEF. Spain also lost 55 countrymen in an unfortunate airplane crash as they were returning home from supporting OEF.

Horn of Africa (HOA) Operations

- *Djibouti has opened its main military base to host the HQ for the Coalition Task Force.*
- *Kenya has opened airfields and ports to support maritime and surveillance operations.*
- *Ethiopia has teamed with Coalition nations to increase surveillance of terrorist movements.*
- *Germany, France, Spain, The Netherlands, Canada, and others have deployed ships to curb freedom of movement for terrorists into HOA.*

We should also appreciate the whole picture as Spanish troops leave Iraq. Spain **remains** a member of the Coalition. Its delegation in Tampa is not leaving. Spanish ships will continue to support maritime counterterrorist operations and Spain will remain engaged in Afghanistan. Its

forces may be leaving Iraq, but Spain is not leaving the Coalition.

Madrid Bombing The recent bombing in Madrid also hit home with many of our Coalition partners. It is a tragic reminder that terrorism threatens the entire world. We understand upwards of 17 nations lost countrymen in these bombings, with almost 200 killed and over 2,000 wounded. Spain lost more than 140 loved ones killed, Romania lost 16, and France, Bulgaria, Morocco, Ukraine, Honduras and Poland all suffered, too. This was another terrorist attack **against the world.**

Members of Coalition Forces supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom pay their last respects to an Italian soldier at Tallil Air Base November 15, 2003. The soldier died in an attack on the Italian military compound in An Nasiriyah.



STEADFAST & STRONGER THAN EVER

No nation of the Coalition has wavered; in fact, tragic attacks like those in Madrid and Istanbul have ignited a renewed commitment to fight this war to the end. Today, the Coalition is the largest, most diverse ever assembled. More than 35 Coalition nations are physically deployed in both Afghanistan and Iraq. More nations are considering joining our Coalition, as well as coordinating possible offers of troops and resources.

While the number of troops may be small compared to those of the United States, the fact is more than 90 nations are engaged. We are proud to have Moldova, Mongolia, Albania, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Japan, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Philippines, Romania, Slovak Republic, Thailand and Ukraine represented on the ground with us in Iraq. We are also proud of the unprecedented contributions of nations like Italy sending its only aircraft carrier, the Garibaldi, to support OEF, while El Salvador, Nicaragua, Dominican Republic, and Honduras have sent troops to OIF.

Yes, there is a Coalition of Willing nations deeply engaged in this war. Now, while the going is tough, it is time to remember and reflect on who makes up the Coalition of the Willing, and to salute each and every nation, each soldier, sailor, airman, Marine, and civilian, and to pray for the day Iraq and Afghanistan emerge as proud nations once more.

Most importantly, this Coalition will defeat the evil scourge threatening all of us – terrorism. **CB**

U.S. Army Gen. John Abizaid, Commander USCENTCOM, greets a Polish officer before a briefing at Camp Babylon, Multinational Division Central South.



Help from Afar: Thailand aids Iraq



by Lt.-Col. Nattapol Saengchan

Nourishing the desire to help Iraqis rebuild the new Iraq, Thailand committed to Operation Iraqi Freedom on September 5, 2003. The mission of the Thai Humanitarian Assistance Task Force in Iraq is to relieve the present suffering of Iraqis and help restore their quality of life.

Corresponding to this intention, the Thai Humanitarian Task Force, with a strength of 443 personnel, was mainly tailored to conduct reconstruction tasks, CIMIC (civil-military cooperation) activities and humanitarian assistance. It consists of an engineer battalion, six level-one medical teams, one CIMIC team and one self-protection platoon.

The Thai Task Force deployed to Karbala in September 2003 under the Multinational Division Central South (MNDCS). Its mandate is to provide engineering support, CIMIC and Humanitarian Assistance (HA) to MNDCS stabilization operations in the sector, with the aim of creating a secure and stable environment for transition to post hostility and civil administration. Thailand completed its first rotation of troops at the end of March.

In addition to tasks assigned by MNDCS, the Thai Task Force also launches its own CIMIC and HA projects. Widely cooperating with Thai Non-Governmental Organizations, the Thai TF has been in charge of transferring donations monthly from Thai citizens to Iraqis using a Thai C-130 Hercules. Most of the donations meet basic needs, such as medicines, food, clothes, and blankets.

Other HA projects include: the donation of medical equipment and medicine to a local hospital in Karbala; the building of nine roads in the Area of Responsibility, allowing increased aid to be brought into the area; the renovation and reopening of schools; the construction of community sport grounds; the establishment of a treatment clinic to improve the standard of health care; and, the establishment of rural health care teams: in the last six months, 19,623 Iraqis have been treated.

Thailand strongly believes that the rebuilding of Iraq must be done by Iraqis themselves, with the support of the international community. Our intent is sincere. Our success in Iraq will help Iraqis rebuild their society and progress at their own pace from individuals to societies, to communities, to one nation. **CB**



Ukraine: Sharing the Multinational Mission



Lt.-Col. Saad Ali Mohammad, commander of the Iraqi frontier-guard police squadron, looks for common ground with Ukrainian Maj.-Gen. Sergiy Ostrovskiy, commander of the Detached Mechanized Brigade.

to the border of Iran. Ukraine's area of responsibility lies within and includes the province of Wazit in the southwestern part of the country. The Ukrainian Detached Mechanized Brigade is located near Al Kut, administrative centre for the province.

The Ukrainian's primary mission is to support stability and order in the region. They

In the company of many other nations, Ukraine's government made a fundamental decision to join the Global War on Terrorism in the autumn of 2001. Practical steps soon followed political ones and with the start of Operation Enduring Freedom, Ukraine immediately provided the Coalition with overflight permission and heavy transport aircraft for troop airlifts. Ukraine also quickly provided humanitarian assistance to the Afghani people, who had suffered from decades of war.

Ukraine's contribution to GWOT widened with the start of Operation Iraqi Freedom. By the summer of 2003, the Armed Forces of Ukraine deployed a peacekeeping contingent as part of Multinational Division Central South, under the leadership of the Polish Armed Forces.

The Polish-led joint forces, headquartered in Babylon, consist of contingents from about 20 countries and include two mechanized brigades and several maintenance units. From an initial strength of 500 soldiers, the Ukrainian contingent has since grown to 1,640, making the Ukrainian Detached Mechanized Brigade the second largest contingent in MNDCS after Poland's. The contingent is set to increase yet again with the coming deployment of another 145 servicemen.

The Central South division's area of responsibility (AOR) stretches from central Iraq

are also charged with providing military support to the Coalition administration and assistance to civilian administration and local government. With a view to maintaining Iraqi self-determination and ensuring the region's long-term viability, the Ukrainians aim to support the reconstruction of Iraqi government bodies as well as the rebuilding of the province's infrastructure.

To that end, Ukrainian soldiers recently finished building a six-mile power line near the town of Umul-Hula and assisted the local population in rebuilding two schools. Over the last three months, the Ukrainian Brigade Civil-Military Cooperation Department developed and realized 97 significant civilian



Master Sergeant Andriy Zhovtiy introduces Iraqi children to Ukrainian sweets.

projects, at a cost of more than \$US 4.5 million.

The Ukrainian soldiers have also assisted local populations in long-term social projects throughout 24 provincial settlements. They have helped repair and refurbish 16 schools and seven kindergartens, mounted three power lines and re-stored four water-supply lines. They have also repaired the hospital in the town of Al-Ahar, which sees more than 40,000 patients annually, and built the town a new water-supply circuit and a new water-filtration station.

Another successful Ukrainian initiative saw the donation of 24 new Hyundai cars, 10 "UAZ" jeeps and four specially equipped Kia cars, along with 40 sets of body armour and 200 pistols, to Iraqi police forces. The police put the gift to quick use the next day, apprehending a gang of robbers who had terrified local citizens for months. Using the new equipment, the police operation took less than 10 minutes.

There are another 53 Ukrainian military projects aimed at supporting Iraqi security forces and frontier guards. Furniture, office and household appliances for the projects were donated by the Ukrainian peacekeepers. Construction work was carried out by the

local population, thereby creating new employment.

Despite the continued violence in Iraq, the Ukrainian contingent continues to carry out its mission. The unit conducts a wide variety of tasks, including everything from defending its base camps to patrolling and protecting local communities, guarding ammunition depots at the airfield near As-Suveira, patrolling the Iraqi-Iranian border, and escorting convoys.

The scope of the Ukrainian effort is huge, as demonstrated in a single day's activities recently near the town of An-Namania. Ukrainian engineers discovered and neutralized about 300 shells, 370 mines, more than 500 self-propelled grenades and about 4,000 rounds of small-arm ammunition. Throughout their Iraqi mission, Ukrainian peacekeepers have collected more than 650 weapons and destroyed 146,000 explosive devices, 250 kilograms of TNT, 119 triton blocks, and about 2 kilograms of narcotics. They have also detained about 14,000 people for various crimes.

Four Ukrainian soldiers have lost their lives in Iraq. The losses, however, will not cause the government of Ukraine to waver in its resolve. The Global War on Terrorism will be a long struggle, but Ukraine, along with its allies, will see it through to the end. **CB**



Iraqi children get their picture taken with APC driver Senior Sgt. Sergiy Sidoran during a visit to the Ukrainian base.

Macedonia aids Iraq



Macedonia's peacekeeping contingent on parade in Iraq.

The deployment of a Macedonian army contingent to Operation Iraqi Freedom is just the second peacekeeping mission – after Afghanistan – in the country's history.

Members of the Army of the Republic of Macedonia (ARM) Special Unit were dispatched to Iraq

following a decision by the Assembly of the Republic of Macedonia in May, 2003. A month later the 33-person unit deployed to Iraq. Since then, the level of interoperability demonstrated with other nations confirms Macedonia's successful implementation of NATO standards.

Despite continued unrest in Iraq, Macedonian forces have not wavered in their OIF mission or in their pursuit of the Global War on Terrorism. The Macedonian people were aware of the challenges that lay ahead when they joined the Coalition and the position of their government remains the same: difficult times will only fuel the Coalition's determination to see the mission through.

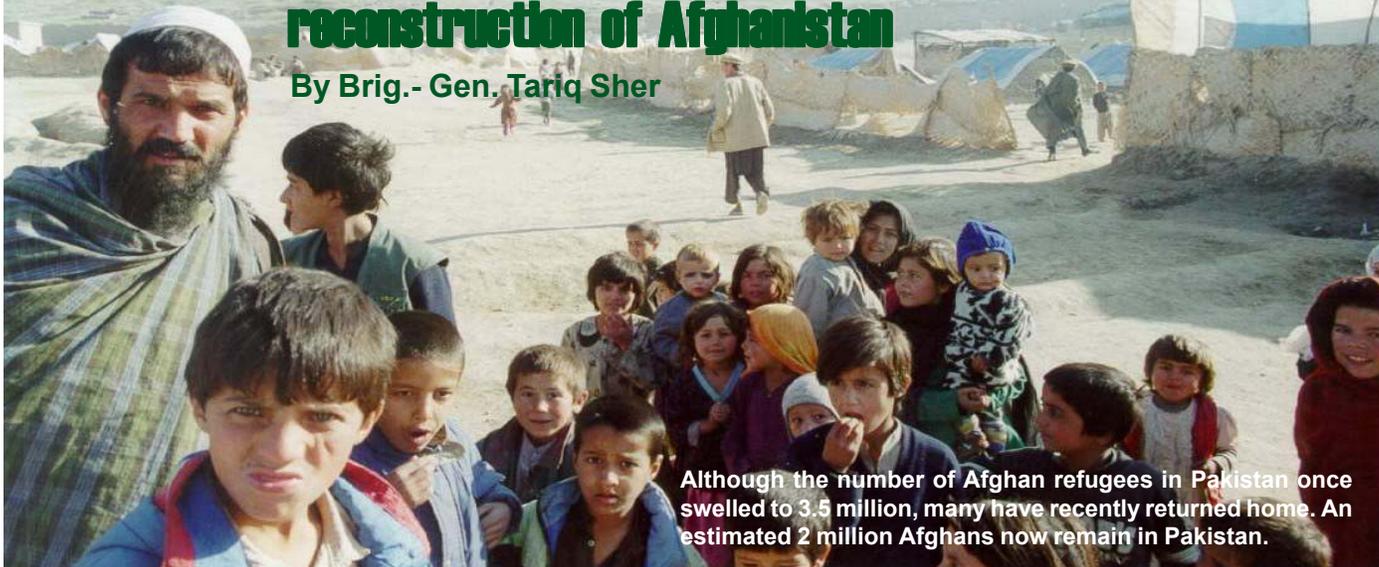
The Republic of Macedonia remains a proud part of the Coalition, enhancing its strategic partnership with the United States and counting itself among those nations committed to securing peace and stability throughout the world. **CB**



Untold Story:

Pakistan's continuing efforts towards the reconstruction of Afghanistan

By Brig.- Gen. Tariq Sher



Although the number of Afghan refugees in Pakistan once swelled to 3.5 million, many have recently returned home. An estimated 2 million Afghans now remain in Pakistan.

Being geographically contiguous, Pakistan and Afghanistan are important for each other, as developments in one country directly affect the other. The Soviet occupation of Afghanistan and now the Global War on Terrorism have had profound ramifications on Pakistan's security, economy, politics and social milieu. Afghanistan is a landlocked country and historically has depended on Pakistan for its imports by sea; indeed, both countries share a trade pact known as the Afghan Transit Trade (ATT).

After the events of 9/11, Pakistan joined the international community not only in the GWOT, but also in contributing towards the economic development and stability of Afghanistan. As a consequence, on the eve of the Tokyo Conference in January 2002, Pakistan pledged US \$100 million for the reconstruction of Afghanistan. Details of my government's support to Afghanistan are elaborated below.

AID/ASSISTANCE

Cash An immediate cash transfer of US \$10 million was provided to assist the effective establishment and functioning of the Islamic Transitional Government of Afghanistan (ITGA). During the recently concluded Berlin Conference, Pakistan pledged an additional US \$5 million towards reconstruction.

Wheat Wheat worth US \$8.2 million has been supplied so far, alleviating a lack of staple food crops caused by a drought-like situation in Afghanistan.

Pilgrimage (Haj) On request of the ITGA, admin-

istrative arrangements were undertaken in 2002, enabling pilgrims to perform the annual pilgrimage (the Haj) to Saudi Arabia. The cost was US \$0.7 million.

Donations to Afghan National Army (ANA) A variety of both heavy and small arms and ammunition worth US \$272,538 was airlifted to Afghanistan in February 2003. Arrangements continue for another transfer of ammunition to Afghanistan in the near future.

Torkhum - Jalalabad Road Pakistan agreed to rebuild the Torkhum - Jalalabad Road, spending 10 million Rupees on a feasibility study. Work on the road has now commenced. Once complete, Afghanistan will be better integrated into the region, helping it become the new 'Silk Route' between South and Central Asia.

Training For better management of the country, Pakistan is also helping improve the capability of a number of Afghan institutions, including:

Police Appreciating the need for effective, modern policing in Afghanistan, Pakistan offered to train 1,250 police officials. Currently, 39 police officers are undergoing training at the Police Academy in Islamabad.

Judiciary 19 judicial officials including two judges are being trained in Islamabad in law and court procedures.

ANA Training Package A gratis special training package to train cadets at the Pakistan Military Academy (50 x 2 groups), as well as various advanced professional courses for officers, has been offered.

Likewise, training of recruits (400 x 2 groups per year) and leadership-related training of NCOs (50 per year) is also planned.

Transport The Pakistani Prime Minister committed to donate 100 buses and 200 trucks to Afghanistan, out of which 35 trucks have thus far been delivered.

Chaman-Kandahar Railway Linkage of Afghanistan with the Indian Ocean via railway would be a great economic boost. The feasibility survey of a track from Chaman (Pakistan) to Kandahar is underway for which 17 million Rupees have been allocated.

Commodity Assistance Ten thousand tons of sugar have been donated for distribution among the people of Afghanistan.

Establishment of Banks Two Pakistani banks have established branches at Kabul, with more branches to follow in the near future.

Social Sector Development of a strong social sector is an important measure of progress in any country. In Afghanistan, Pakistan has so far:

- (1) donated 60,000 textbooks/printed material;
- (2) allocated US \$0.6 million for construction of two schools;
- (3) disbursed, through its ambassador to Afghanistan, clothing, blankets, sewing machines, medicine, sports goods, dialysis machines, computers and cash worth 5 million Rupees among widows, youth, educational institutes and hospitals; and
- (4) doubled the number of scholarships to Afghan students in Pakistani educational institutions.

Elections Pakistan will spend US \$5 million towards the holding of elections in Afghan Refugee camps in Pakistan. This would enable refugees to participate in their national elections. Pakistan has also offered to train Afghan electoral staff for the forthcoming elections.

Refugees After the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, Pakistan became home to about 3.5 million Afghan refugees. As the situation slowly improved, a large number returned to Afghanistan. About 2 million remain in Pakistan.

Miscellaneous In addition to the Government's efforts, some private organizations such as the "Edhi Foundation" and the Pakistan Red Crescent Society continue to help the Afghan people.

POTENTIAL FUTURE ASSISTANCE

Future assistance is continuously evaluated and

modified according to the desires of Afghanistan's interim government. Some of these include: improving the postal service, (aiding the communications sector); supplying electricity to Afghanistan, (aiding the social sector); supporting the Orthopedic hospital, (aiding the social sector); constructing an additional block in Kabul and Jalalabad universities/Model School in Afghanistan, (aiding the education sector); establishing an IT Centre, (aiding the education sector); and building a Kidney Centre at Jalalabad and a Limb Centre at Kandahar, (aiding the medical sector).

SUPPORTING MEASURES

In addition to direct assistance, my government has taken measures to develop trade and the private sector, leading to the growth of the Afghan economy. Noteworthy among these are:

(a) the establishment and meetings of the Joint Economic Commission co-chaired by the Finance Ministers of both Afghanistan and Pakistan;

(b) the reduction on freight charges by 50% for goods imported through Pakistan as part of the Afghan Transit Trade Agreement;

(c) a reduction on the import duty on Afghan fruit from 25 per cent to 10, providing an incentive to Afghan exporters by making their commodity competitive;

(d) the waiving of demurrage charges on Afghan cargo which has been lying at Karachi's sea port for several years, in order to help Afghan importers;

(e) the reduction of the ATT's 'negative list' to just six items. Afghans can now import anything other than these six items through Pakistan. This change comes at the cost of local industry in Pakistan, as many of these items are subsequently smuggled back into the country;

(f) the opening of additional trade transaction points besides those at Chaman and Torkhum. The transit point at Ghulam Khan (North Waziristan Agency) is to become operational soon, involving the people in trade and generating economic activity on both sides of the border; and

(g) Pakistan's successful backing of the Afghan bid to win chairmanship of the ECO Chamber of Commerce and Industry, thus ushering in a new era for Afghan's trade community.

CONCLUSION

My government is committed to supporting Afghanistan in its reconstruction and the successful evolution of its political environment. Pakistan fully supports the Bonn process, the efforts of the international community and the UN. We will continue to support and assist the ITGA and its people in reconstruction, economic development, the improvement of its security apparatus and in the holding of elections. A stable, peaceful and economically viable Afghanistan is in the greater interest of Pakistan.

CB



“Operation Diaper”

Spanish Navy brings comfort to the Horn of Africa

by Lt.- Cdr Lorenzo Gamboa, Executive Officer of the frigate *Numancia*; adapted and translated by Maj Javier Oton



The distribution of nine tons of diapers, children’s clothing and food to orphanages in Djibouti is but one of many accomplishments for the Spanish Navy as its frigate *Numancia* replaces the *Victoria* in the Horn of Africa.

While preparing the *Numancia* for the deployment, Spanish Navy officials received a message from the *Victoria* advising them of the urgent need of food and diapers for the Djibouti orphanages. The message was rapidly spread among the Spanish Navy based in Rota, and the response from schools, families and parent’s associations was overwhelming. In just a few days, *Numancia*’s cargo space was overflowing with goods, earning the humanitarian mission the nickname “Operation Diaper”, even within the local press.

Once in Djibouti, sailors distributed the goods between two orphanages, Charity Missioners and St. Teresa, whose sisters openly received the Spanish crews. Said one Spanish petty officer: “When you see the cargo on the vessel, it seems to be a lot, but once you distribute it, it is nothing... I would love to adopt one of these kids.”

Most of the Spanish sailors seemed to feel equally torn after the humanitarian operation. Though they were happy to have been able to help, many were sad they could not do more for the children. The feelings were shared by their departing crewmates: the *Victoria*’s deployment taught its crew there was no shortage of suffering at sea in the Horn of Africa region.

Most of the boats boarded in the *Victoria*’s patrol area are known as dhows, wooden vessels ranging anywhere from 20 to 50 meters in length and distinguished by a lack of comfort. When visiting or

boarding such ships, the *Victoria*’s crew often encountered sailors in desperate situations.

Off the Somalia coast, for instance, the frigate’s crew spotted a fishing boat with six seamen aboard. They had run out of fuel three days earlier and were almost out of water. Moved by the sadness in their eyes, the crew supplied them with water and enough food to last them until their next port of call. It was then the crew realized the true nature of living conditions in the part of the world known as the “Third World”.

Sailing in the Strait of Hormuz, the *Victoria* later found a single crewmember aboard a small boat frantically trying to attract their attention. He was delirious due to lack of food and water and had run out of fuel. *Victoria*’s crew repaired his motor and gave him enough water and food to reach the coast. The lack of fishing tackle aboard his boat suggested he was more likely a smuggler than a fisherman, but without the Spanish help he surely would have died.

Yet another discovery by the *Victoria* involved a large dhow with 19 crewmembers sailing under a Hindu flag. On reaching the dhow, the *Victoria*’s boarding party realized that most of its sailors were sick. The frigate’s medical crew confirmed the sailors were suffering from pneumonia. The *Victoria*’s crew did everything they could for the men, even administering antibiotics, before directing them to the nearest port of call.

Finally, in April of 2002, the *Victoria*’s crew stabilized and air-evacuated a Romanian seaman from a Maltese vessel sailing off Somalia’s coast. Doctors aboard the German frigate *Ausburg*, the only suitable hospital within helicopter range, were able to save the injured man’s hand.

Behind these stories of help and heroism lies not only the glorious naval and maritime tradition of Spain, but also the strength of 64 nations working together in the fight against international terrorism. Eleven of these Coalition countries provide units to the Multinational Naval Force. All Coalition naval forces continue to demonstrate the highest standards of professionalism as they follow the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea while promoting peace and stability in the Horn of Africa region.

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