

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalition Fighting the Global War on Terrorism

Volume 14, July, 2004

Honorable Duty

Romania contributes
to Iraq reconstruction

Against the World Evil

Azerbaijan Peacekeepers in
the Coalition Against Terrorism

Ukrainians Stave Off the Terrorist Actions

Actions of the Ukrainians cause
terrorists to fail

Peacekeeping Debut

Royal Tongan Marines help Comrades in Arms

The General's Daughter

A Pakistani has served the community as a
school volunteer and cultural ambassador



Operation ENDURING FREEDOM



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Cover photo: A Polish Army soldier prepares to take part in an afternoon patrol around the perimeter of Camp Babylon, Iraq.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Saddam's trial was the first brick in building new Iraq because in modern history, it is the first time that an Arab ruler stands before a court."

– Al-Mu'tamar, Iraqi newspaper



Coalition Fact

Romania contributes 440 personnel to CFC-A, the highest number of soldiers after the United States. The 402-soldier-strong "Bold Eagles" Romanian Infantry Battalion, located in Kandahar, is a key part of US security operations.



Brig.-Gen. Neville Reilly, NZ.

An election is the way in which a democratic country selects its government officials, and there are a number of different electoral systems in place to do this, ranging from proportional to majority.

Preparations for United Nations administered elections in Afghanistan are now well advanced. The United Nations has also commenced work in preparation for elections in Iraq. Arguably, for the first time in their histories, citizens of both countries will have freely-elected and truly representative national governments.

Afghanistan has developed a new constitution, and registration of voters there continues. To date, in excess of six million voters have registered, with approximately 100,000 registering each day. President Karzai has warned that his greatest concern is that warlords and militias may intimidate voters. The international community is addressing these concerns by providing security for the elections, and by training the police and army.

In Iraq, an interim constitution has been adopted and elections will be held by 31 Jan 05. Iraq's interim government has moved quickly to address security, with Prime Minister Allawi pledging to disband militias and to reorganize the Iraqi Security Forces. The coalition is also doing its part in establishing the necessary security and stability required to permit elections to take place.

Security is essential in ensuring successful elections, and all in the US-led coalition are well aware of their role in contributing to this. The conduct of free and fair elections in Afghanistan and Iraq are an essential step in the development of stable democracies in both countries. The establishment of democracy in these countries will also help prevent the rise of terrorism in the region.

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



Correction

In *Coalition Bulletin* Vol. 13, on page 7, we should have used the title "Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (F.Y.R.O.M.)" rather than "Macedonia".

President Salutes the Military at MacDill AF Base



Iraq's new leaders are rising to their responsibilities. Together with our coalition and the United Nations, they are working to prepare the way for national elections by next January," President Bush told a worldwide military audience and servicemembers assembled at MacDill Air Force Base, FL, USA, on June 16. "...Iraqis from every part of the country will gather for a national conference that will choose an interim national council to advise and support Prime Minister Allawi and his cabinet."



A video teleconference system provided the capability for servicemembers assembled in hangars at Bagram Air Base and Baghdad International Airport to view the speech. American Forces Radio and Television Service, as well as the Pentagon Channel carried the Presidents message worldwide to wherever U.S. militaries serve.

President Bush listed the successes achieved in Iraq, and assured audience in the near crash of terrorists.

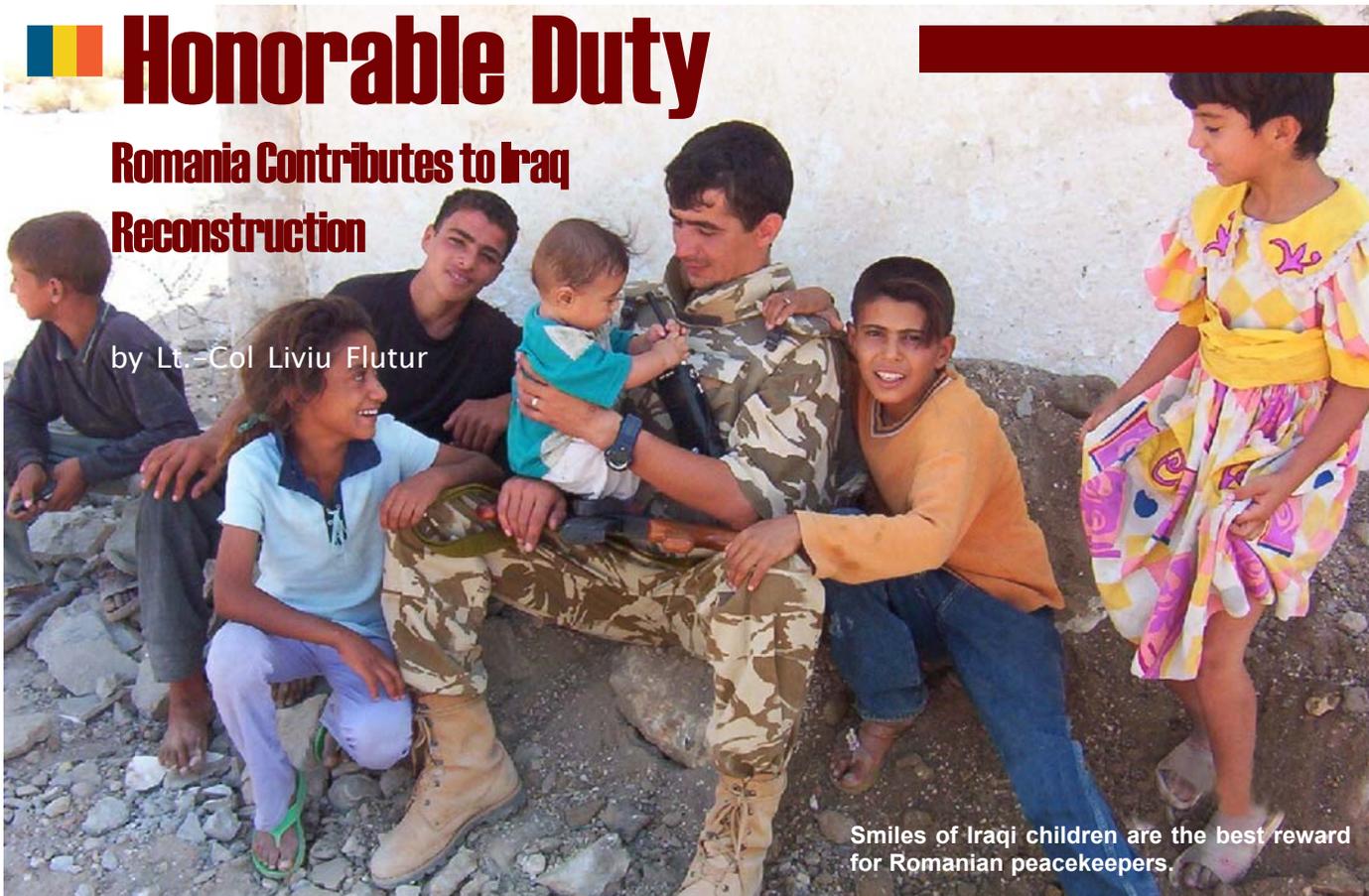
"They will fail because the Iraqi people will not accept a return to tyranny. The terrorists will fail because the resolve of America and our allies will not be shaken. And the terrorists will fail because courageous men and women like you are standing in their way," he told his worldwide military audience. **CB**



Honorable Duty

Romania Contributes to Iraq Reconstruction

by Lt.-Col Liviu Flutur



Smiles of Iraqi children are the best reward for Romanian peacekeepers.

Since July 2003, Romanian Armed Forces have been participating in the security and reconstruction of Iraq with more than 700 soldiers – infantrymen, engineers, Military Police, and staff officers. Aware of the significance of their presence among Coalition forces, they are undertaking a complex and long-term mission. Everyone involved believes it an honour to accomplish their duties to the highest standards of excellence and so prove the capabilities and professionalism illustrative of a modern army.

Task Force Red Scorpions, a unit of the 26th Infantry Battalion, is based at Camp White Horse, near An Nassirya. The unit's wealth of experience, accumulated in missions in Angola, Albania, Kosovo, and Afghanistan, has guided it in its approach to local issues. One of the most important issues is that of security.

The collapse of Saddam's regime has destroyed much of the social order in Iraq, with thievery, hijackings and armed groups commonplace. Romanian soldiers patrol the roads day and night to provide security. They have been able to sustain their work by continuously training, thoroughly preparing for each mission and by adopting new methods to counter unexpected attacks.

Lt.-Col. Nicolae Ciuca, the battalion and task

force commander, has instituted lessons learned from Romania's deployment with U.S. Forces in 2002 on Operation Enduring Freedom. Romanian soldiers in Afghanistan learned the importance of efficiency, of being able to respond quickly to situations and of respecting the local people. When armoured personnel carriers displaying the Romanian flag pass through villages, the inhabitants approach them in the streets, and are eager to talk with the soldiers. The Romanians are seen as friends, to be welcomed with friendship. "We are here to help and to protect," Lt.-Col. Ciuca says.

In these circumstances, civil-military cooperation (CIMIC) missions have been playing a significant role in the reconstruction of Iraqi facilities. With the help of programs like the school renovation projects at Suq ash-Shuyukh, Al Fuhud, and Al Fudliyah, Iraqi children are guaranteed a better future.

The Romanian CIMIC team has supervised the refurbishing of ten schools in its area of operations. Thousands of children are now learning in buildings that have running water, electricity, windows, new desks and chalkboards. Their smiles are the best reward. At the same time, many other projects such as medical equipment and medicine for hospitals, water sanitation facilities, pumping stations and communication lines continue so Iraqis can manage the work of transitioning their homeland to freedom. Coop-

eration between local Iraqi authorities and Romanian soldiers is seen as the key to fostering relationships that will ensure a better future for Iraq.

Not far from Camp Whitehorse lies Camp Mittica, where a Romanian Military Police (MP) detachment is situated carries on patrol and peacekeeping activities with Italian Carabinieri and Portuguese gendarmeries. Dr. Derrin Ray Smith, an American professor who visited the camp, recently wrote of his experiences:

“To be effective in their jobs they spend a certain amount of time in their patrol vehicles, but their best moments are on foot, mingling with the locals. That is where the goodwill is created, up close, on the beat, walking the blocks and meeting the locals in person. In the most recent few months there has been an additional calming in the villages that are patrolled by these military policemen, and the salutes, waves and shouts of “hello” greet their every turn down the streets.

There are still hard problems, sensitive areas and dangers lurking in the alleyways. But, more than likely, they are surrounded by smiling children and young adults wherever they go. The personnel have been through extensive training on international humanitarian law, UN standards for peacekeeping operations and even mandatory training on environmental protection in their areas of operation.

The coalition forces here have adopted the Belgian model for investigating traffic accidents, and take pains as well to integrate the daily lessons learned from the Italians, the Portuguese, the Americans and

from the local streets. Most of the MPs are veterans of other foreign deployments in Somalia, Bosnia or Kosovo, and several are graduates of the advanced training programs at Land Forces Staff College and Military Police Staff College. Major Dumitru Florea, their commander, says diplomacy is the tool of the trade. Setting an example of civil authority that is not abusive, while training another 160 Iraqi police officers to emulate the model. The days are busy ones and the nights are spent keeping the Iraqi townspeople safe in their homes while they sleep.”

Travelling 200 miles north of Camp Mittica to Al Hillah, you can meet yet more Romanians – an Engineers Detachment based at Camp Charlie. Romanian engineers are seen as the good guys, hard workers and work hard and constantly adjust their engineering missions to the needs of the local people building houses, schools, bridges and so forth. The Romanian engineers also are working to protect coalition forces; they built a church of sorts, some “C-huts” for people (small wooden structures) and an art school for the children in Al Hillah, numerous police security checkpoints, and base entrances.

Every construction raised by them even the spotters’ watch-towers carries the proud emblem of the Romanian Engineers. Most of their mission involves inspection of bridges; spending five days on a 140 miles loop checking a variety of spans for resistance, stability, traffic flow; and explosives. Safety of the bridges is their number one mission and concern in Iraq. It’s worth to know that twice per day they sent squads in circulation in the nearby towns, for distributing water, food and materials – missions of mercy and goodwill.

In an austere environment where the local mostly Shi’ite people are poor, there is much to be done to improve local living conditions, and all Romanian soldiers are fully aware of the importance of their mission to serve, to protect and to leave a better place for all of Iraqi people so they have been everywhere and all the time on action.

CB

LTC Liviu FLUTUR is assigned as Public Information Officer at the Romanian Army Staff and for January to July 2004 he has been acting as Senior Public Information Officer for the Romanian soldiers in mission in Iraq.



In fighting trim.



Against the World Evil

Azerbaijan Peacekeepers in the Coalition Against Terrorism



"In the battle with terrorism Azerbaijan is in one alliance with the United States. We are together with the whole democratic world and are ready to make our contribution, to do whatever is necessary to put an end to terrorism in the world."

Ilham Aliyev, President of the Republic of Azerbaijan

In the modern world, nations cannot rely solely on themselves for security. The need for states to cooperate was made painfully evident in the terrorist attacks of September 11 in the U.S. and in later attacks in Turkey, Spain, Afghanistan, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Nowadays, ensuring stability is impossible without military integration and mutual understanding.

Since it achieved independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has strived to integrate itself into the world community, become a law-abiding international citizen and an effective partner in the Global War on Terrorism. As an independent state, Azerbaijan values any improvement in international military cooperation. Indeed, establishing itself in the Euro-Atlantic Security System is one of the most significant priorities of Azeri foreign policy.

International terrorism has proven its capability to constantly develop its global network, to use new technologies and to further its extremist ideological appeal. By attacking selected civilian and military fa-

cilities around the world, terrorists challenge the world's security and stability.

Their ultimate goal is to instigate new conflicts and confrontations based on religion, ethnicity and separatism and to prevent the development of a world civilization based on common values of democracy and freedom.

Eradicating terrorism is one of the most important tasks the world faces, and more than 70 countries are currently cooperating in anti-terrorists operations. Evaluating threats and developing common principles aimed at eliminating all forms of terrorism is a major undertaking in the struggle for global security. The Republic of Azerbaijan is committed to fighting against the terrorism alongside the United States and our Coalition partners.

As early as November 2001 Minister of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan Colonel-General Safar Abiyev mentioned that as a part of Europe, the Republic of Azerbaijan has put great importance on en-

hancing its cooperation with major countries in the effort to eliminate terrorism. Azerbaijan will always actively participate in the Coalition against terrorism.

Azerbaijan is a solid partner in the global war on terror, with a history of pursuing terrorists within its borders and either trying them under Azerbaijani law or rendering them to countries seeking justice. Azerbaijan has worked hard to combat terrorist financing, the dark side of the phenomenon of globalization. Azerbaijan ratified the 1999 International Convention on the Prevention of the Financing of Terrorism.

Azerbaijan was one of the first nations to express its support to the United States and has been an active member of the US-led international Coalition combating terrorism. It provided "whatever is needed" to Coalition forces fighting in Afghanistan. It has also offered assistance in Afghanistan's democratic reconstruction and in developing the country's secular, civil institutions. In 2002, the Azerbaijani parliament dispatched a platoon to Afghanistan to participate in peacekeeping operations.

In joining NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Kabul in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, the Azeri forces become the 22nd to do so. The decision on sending Azerbaijani peacekeepers to Afghanistan was made at that time that the process of negotiations with Turkish Armed Forces had begun. The Azerbaijani military unit in ISAF consists of 1 officer, 1 non-commissioner officer and 28 soldiers, all of whom operate within the Turkish battalion.

Azerbaijan has also supported Operation Iraqi Freedom, becoming the first Muslim nation to send its peacekeepers to Iraq. On August 14, 2003, 151 soldiers from the Azerbaijani army's 112th brigade left for Iraq to serve in a joint task force with the United States troops. In keeping with earlier plans, the Azeri peacekeepers in Iraq support humanitarian assistance operations, with duties including patrol, guarding historical monuments, and helping the population.

Thus, Iraq became the third place after Afghanistan and Kosovo,

where Azerbaijan is fighting as a part of the international forces to restore order, bring peace and freedom, and uphold security.

The troops' operating locations were chosen carefully, with Azeri forces operating in cities with the highest concentration of Shiite Muslim historical relics, where the Shiites holiest shrines are located. This factor could play a significant role in ensuring stability and security in areas of unrest.

Today, the Azerbaijan division plays a major role in ensuring safety during Iraq's post-war rehabilitation and in preserving Muslim relics. Their Muslim heritage and culture is of great help in preserving the cultural and holy monuments in Iraq, in rehabilitating the country and increasing the stability in the region.

The Azerbaijan peacekeepers were initially set at spend one year in theatre. They will now make rotations every half-year. Azerbaijan's willingness to play a role in the Iraq's stabilization is not limited to peacekeeping. Our country also stands ready to render assistance in other areas where Azerbaijan has expertise, such as in health care, construction, Arabic translators and oil development. However, for the foreseeable future, the humanitarian rehabilitation of post-conflict Iraq remains its most important task.

CB



On photos: Azerbaijan Peacekeepers patrol Kabul downtown.



Ukrainians Stave Off the Terrorist Actions



Ukrainian mechanized patrol during the task performance.

Despite the insurgency in Iraq, the Ukrainian peacekeepers honorably carry out their mission. Recently not far from the Iraqi city As-Suveyra, the Ukrainian soldiers from the staff of 62 Detached Mechanized Battalion, which maintains the security of the US Engineer sub-unit, had prevented an attack on the marching column of the Multinational Coalition forces.

Having heard the blast ahead of the column route, the mechanized patrol opened with warning small arms fire. Later, checking out the patch together with the Iraqi National Guard and American representatives, the Ukrainian militaries apprehended four suspicious persons, who were trying to hide.

Also during the raid soldiers revealed the Improvised Explosive Device (IED), made of six 152-mm shells. The IED was installed next to a bridge, which the marching column of the US Engineer sub-unit would pass over.

Regarding to the probable trap embodied in the IED, the 62 Detached Mechanized Battalion commander lieutenant-colonel Oleksandr Strelenko resolved to rake the IED with fire from a safe distance. The APC "BTR-80" machine gunner sergeant Serhy Matviychuk neutralized the field charge with precision fire.

The same IED was revealed by Ukrainian peacekeepers two weeks before. That time they had managed to prevent a scaled terrorist act in the downtown of As-Suveyra.

One day the 62 Detached Mechanized Battalions' mechanized patrol, headed by senior lieutenant

ant Serhy Drachenko, had noticed a field charge, made of large-caliber shells together with a self-made time-fuse. The IED was placed not far from the central city market and the mosque, where a large number of local inhabitants were preparing to participate in the Friday's Mohammedan prayer.

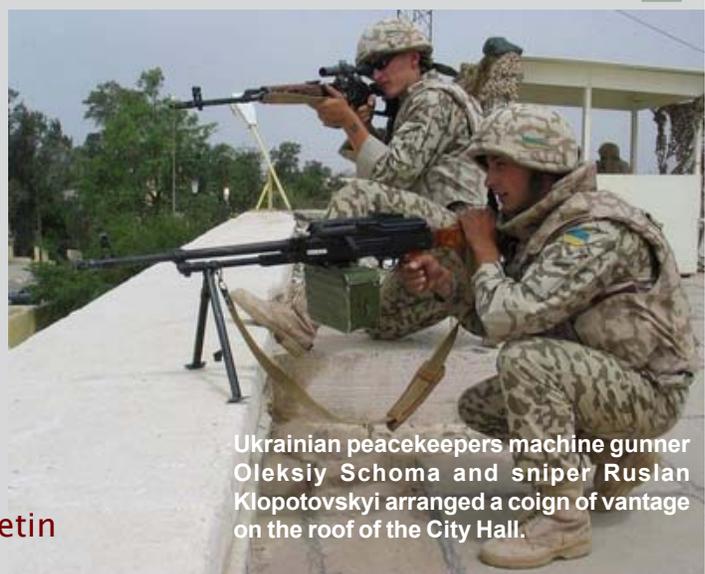
An officer reported to the Battalion command about the dangerous find and organized the inhabitants' evacuation. With sharp shooting from a sniper rifle the time-fuse was disabled. Later soldiers of a local non-established Iraq Civil Defense Corps (ICDC) combat-engineer detachment managed to take away the IED.

According to the experts' assessment, in case of explosion the IED of such capacity would have killed dozens of people.

Recently Ukrainian peacekeepers revealed the plan of a local criminal group to blast the house of one of the Al-Mahavi City Administration officials. By means of the Ukrainian Army's 6th Detached Mechanized Brigade radar installation facilities, soldiers of the Ukrainian Reconnaissance Company succeeded in intercepting the comprehensive data and informing the Multi-National Division "Central South" Command about the impending attack.

Local Iraqi policemen immediately moved to the appointed building. There they spotted and defused all the self-made radio-guided field charge, made of the two 152-mm shells.

During the visit to the Ukrainian base, the Wasit Province Governor Muhammad Rada Jaafer Abbas Al Jashami heartily thanked the Ukrainians for their actions and noted the important role of their peacekeeping contingent in aiding the Iraqi people in the country's post-war restoration.



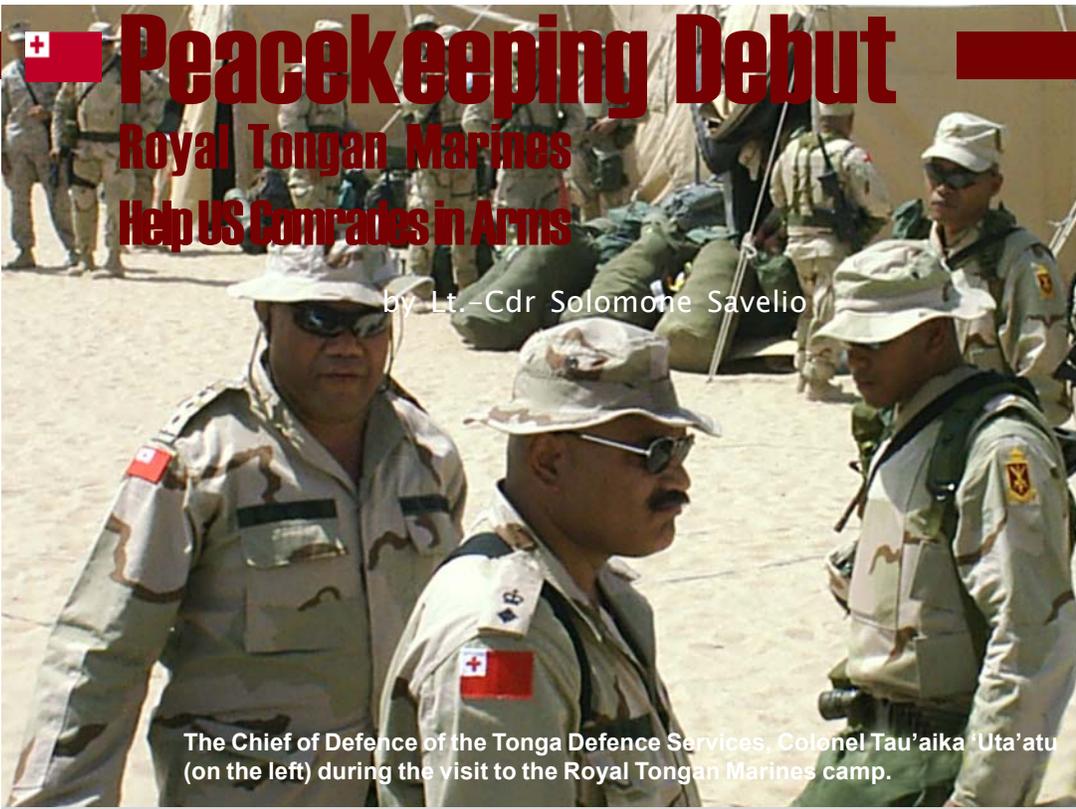
Ukrainian peacekeepers machine gunner Oleksiy Schoma and sniper Ruslan Klopotovskiy arranged a coign of vantage on the roof of the City Hall.



Peacekeeping Debut

Royal Tongan Marines Help US Comrades in Arms

by Lt.-Cdr Solomone Savelio



The Chief of Defence of the Tonga Defence Services, Colonel Tau'aika 'Uta'atu (on the left) during the visit to the Royal Tongan Marines camp.

of making its own contribution to this laudable cause.

Tonga, with a population of 100,000 spread over 170 coral islands to the north of New Zealand, had an obligation to the Coalition of the Willing to make a commitment when US asked for assistance.

With the Tonga Defense Services totaling 450 personnel, it offered to send 45 light infantry Marines to

Since the tragic events of 11th September 2001, the government of the Kingdom of Tonga without hesitation acted to support the Global War on Terrorism. In 2002, the Tongan government passed legislation to effectively combat terrorism and make it an offense with appropriate penalty under the Criminal Offenses Act.

At same time, the government of the Kingdom of Tonga supported the endeavors of the Coalition against Terrorism led by the United States. Tonga commenced Military to Military talk with the United States Armed Forces in March 2003.

The government of the Kingdom of Tonga offered a military contingent to participate in the post-war reconstruction of Iraq with the purpose

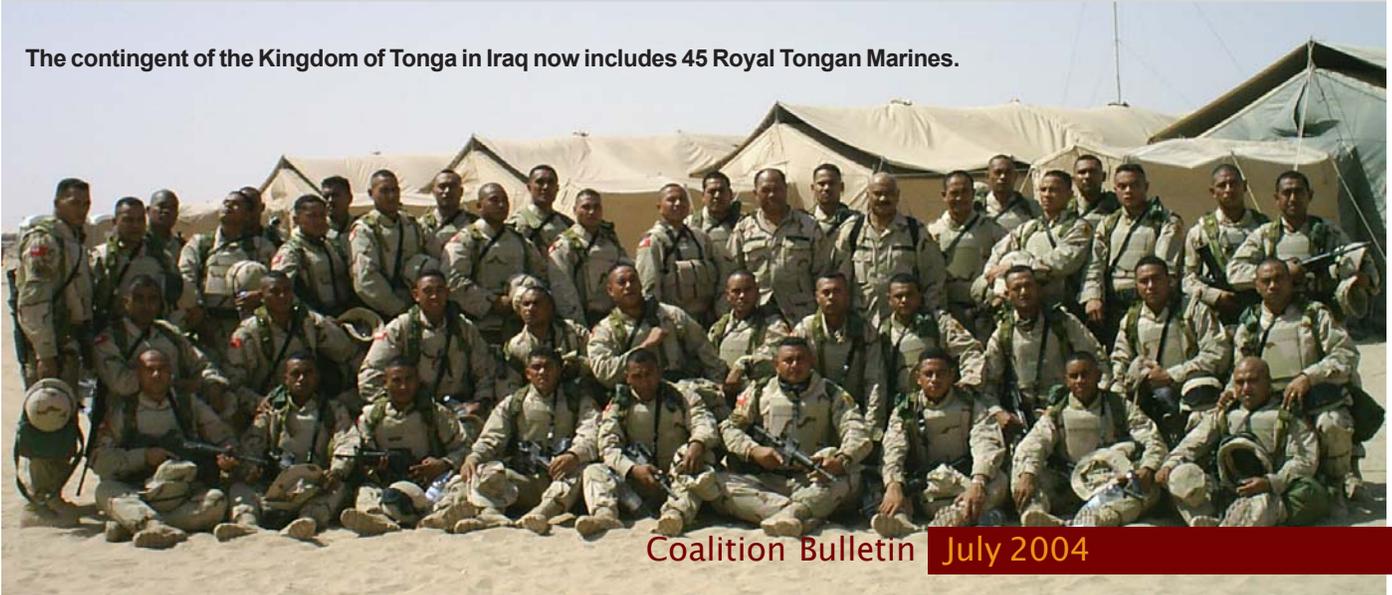
join the United State led forces in Iraq.

As the final support arrangements were finally in place May 2004, the 45 Royal Tongan Marines led by the Chief of Defense of the Tonga Defense Services, Colonel Tau'aika 'Uta'atu, departed Tonga on the 13th of June 2004. The Royal Tonga Marines currently augment the 1st Marine Expeditionary Forces in the Al Anbar Province. Tonga first served with the 1st MEF on the Solomon Island during the World War II.

This is the first Peacekeeping deployment for the Tonga Defense Services outside the South Pacific. It has 45 Peacekeeping soldiers currently deployed to the Solomon Island under the auspices of a Pacific Islands forum Agreement.

CB

The contingent of the Kingdom of Tonga in Iraq now includes 45 Royal Tongan Marines.



The General's Daughter

Sana Tariq, a Pakistani whose father is serving with Operation Enduring Freedom at MacDill, has served the community as a school volunteer and cultural ambassador

by Wendy Malloy,
Tampa Tribune correspondent
Published: May 21, 2004



Sana Tariq with her father BG Tariq Sher, Senior National Representative of Pakistani Armed Forces to USCENTCOM, and younger brother Haris Sher, volunteer at MacDill AFB.

The kids in Sana Tariq's first-grade class are wired.

With only days left till summer vacation and a trip to SeaWorld in the meantime, the energy in the room is palpable. Just like every other classroom in town.

But Sana isn't a typical Tampa teacher. She's a 20-year-old Pakistani whose father, a Brigadier General, is serving with Operation Enduring Freedom at MacDill Air Force Base's U.S. Central Command.

The children in her charge are too young to truly understand where she comes from or that her country plays an important role in shaping the world that awaits them outside Lanier Elementary School. They know only that for the past two months, they've had the devoted, patient assistance of Miss Sana, who guides them through their own, equally challenging world of learning to read and write.

On this Tuesday morning in May, dressed in a traditional Muslim ensemble of brilliant-blue lace and silk called a shalwar kameez, Sana works one-on-one with the kids at the classroom computer. Under the grateful watch of Julie Leto, a 16-year teaching veteran who calls her assistant "a godsend," Sana praises a student with a high-five, helps him log out of the computer program and calls another child to her desk.

Only three months ago, Sana was studying business administration at Islamic University in the Pakistani capital of Islamabad. She was less than thrilled when her father decided that while he served at CENTCOM, a six-month stay in America would be a valuable educational opportunity for her and her 17-year-old brother, Haris Sher.

"At first I was, like, 'No, I don't want to go,'" she says, her English clear and bubbly and peppered with Americanisms.

"My family is so all-together at home, and my school - I knew I would be sad," she says. "But now I say that it's good that I came."

'WE WANT TO HELP'

When the family arrived in Tampa in March, Sana told her father she wanted to learn about the culture and, more importantly, to serve the community.

"I wanted to do something to help you guys," she says. "Especially with the terrorism war, I want people to know that Pakistani people are really nice and that we want to help any way we can. Because of extremism, there is a view that is not accurate."

After consulting with an officer at MacDill, Sana and her father decided volunteering at a local school would be the perfect opportunity. Lanier Elementary, across the street from the family's apartment, was more than happy to provide a spot for her.

Brig. Gen. Tariq Sher says he is enormously proud of his daughter's work. In his post as the Senior National Representative for Pakistan, one of 64 countries represented at MacDill's Coalition Village for efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan, the General does a bit of his own community outreach. He has spoken to groups, including a Rotary Club and University of South Florida students, answering questions about his culture and his country's role in the military effort.

But his daughter's accomplishments are clearly important to him.

"This is a matter of great education for her," he says. "She comes here, sees a new country and learns

new things and goes back a better human being.”

His son, too, makes him proud. Enrolled for the remainder of the year at Robinson High School, Haris has aced his American history exams – topping all the other scores in the class.

At Lanier, Julie Leto wishes the family would stay in Tampa.

“Sana is wonderful,” she says. “She’s really been such an amazing resource for the children.”

The pair also have become friends.

“We’ve had many talks about her culture, the freedoms we enjoy here and whether it will be difficult for her to go back” in August, Leto says.

SOCIAL LIVES WORLDS APART

Adjusting to the American way of life wasn’t easy, although Sana points out that pop-culture exports helped mitigate the shock; at home she watches “Friends,” and she loves the Julia Roberts movie “Runaway Bride.” But for a typical 20-year-old Pakistani girl, life couldn’t be more different romantically from the exploits of Ross and Rachel.

“It’s nothing like here,” she says, shy for the first time. Giggly when talking about everything else, her eyes drop when the topic turns to dating and boys and American openness about sex.

“We can go out, but just with the girls. You [in the United States] can go with anyone you would like to. It’s not that we don’t talk to boys, but we don’t date like you do.”

Parents in Pakistan arrange engagements and marriages. Primary and secondary schools are mostly coed, but at Islamic University, Sana attends classes only with other girls.

She does not wear a hijab, the traditional veil that conceals a woman’s head and face.

“But if I marry and my husband tells me to wear something, I would have to wear it. I think that’s for my own good and for the hereafter. In our Koran, it is written that a girl should cover her head, so if he tells me to, I wouldn’t mind at all.”

She doesn’t believe she has been in any way hindered or stifled.

“There are misconceptions,” she says. “Islam, first of all, promotes freedom for a person. It’s very

simple: You have to say prayers five times a day, be sincere in your heart, believe in one God and one prophet, and that’s it. It’s, like, you are free.”

CULTURE SHOCKS

Though she was somewhat prepared for the American openness toward dating and sex, Sana experienced a bit of culture shock with another sinful pleasure: chocolate.

“Everything is so delicious over here,” she says. “I’ve been eating lots and lots of chocolate.”

Malls, too, have been an amazing discovery.

“They’re so big, and so clean.”

And, somewhat surprisingly, Sana believes Americans are healthy.

“You guys eat lots of vegetables,” she says. “The teachers in the lunchroom here, they eat salads. We go to the spicy stuff, meats – and you go for vegetables.”

Spending two months at Lanier has had a profound impact on Sana.

“I’ve changed my direction,” she says. “When I go back home, I want to finish my degree, do a master’s in finance or accounting, and then open a school. I want to make sure the children get these opportunities you have over here – you have so many books and computers and library facilities. The children are never bored! They have so much to do.”

Last month, Sana prepared a multimedia presentation about Pakistan for the second-graders she works with

in the afternoons.

“Whenever I’m in the lunchroom I go, ‘Where’s my flag?’ They point it out, and I’m so happy in my heart! I am going to miss them so much.”

Despite her fondness for the children and the experiences she’s had in Tampa, Sana will be glad when the time comes to go home. She misses her friends and her grandmother and looks forward to eventually starting a family of her own.

“I would like to marry someone from Pakistan, because I think putting two cultures together would be too difficult.

“But if my husband decided he wants to come here, I wouldn’t mind at all.”



Sana Tariq



NATO Snapshots



Alliance to support Iraq with troop training



In a letter sent to the NATO Secretary General on 22 June, the interim Iraqi Prime Minister Iyad Allawi requested NATO support through training and other forms of technical assistance.

The letter was the first formal contact between the Alliance and the interim Iraqi administration. It requested Alliance assistance in developing the country's security forces after the transfer from the US-led Coalition to Iraq on 30 June, as well as other forms of technical assistance.

The Secretary General has forwarded the request to NATO member countries. The issue discussed at the Summit meeting of NATO Heads of State and Government in Istanbul, 28 and 29 June. In a statement released on the first day of Summit meetings in Istanbul, NATO Heads of State of Government agreed to assist Iraq with the training of its security forces.

In response to the request of the Iraqi Interim Government, and in accordance with Resolution 1546 which requests international and regional organizations to contribute assistance to the multinational force, Heads of State and Government decided to offer NATO's assistance to the government of Iraq with the training of its security forces. They also encouraged member countries to contribute to the training of the Iraqi AF.

The North Atlantic Council, NATO's principal decision-making body, was tasked to develop on an urgent basis the modalities to implement this decision with the Iraqi Interim Government.

At present, NATO does not have a direct role in the international stabilization force in Iraq. So far, it has been providing support to Poland, which is leading a multinational division in Iraq's central province, in the form of force generation, secure communications, logistics, movement coordination, intelligence and logistics expertise.



NATO expands presence in Afghanistan

NATO will take on command of four new provincial reconstruction teams and deploy extra troops to support the upcoming elections, the Alliance announced at the Istanbul Summit.

NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer announced that the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) will establish provincial reconstruction teams in Mazar-e-Sharif, Meymana, Feyzabad and Baghlan.



EXTENDING SECURITY BEYOND KABUL

Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) are teams of international civilian and military personnel working in Afghanistan's province to extend the authority of the Afghan central government and to facilitate development and reconstruction.

Until now the NATO-led ISAF has been providing security in around the capital city Kabul and commanded one PRT in Konduz.

Together with a logistics support base near Mazar-e-Sharif and temporary 'satellite' presences in Sar-e-Pol, Samangan and Sherberghan, ISAF will now be able to influence security in nine provinces in the north of the country.

ISAF's new area of operations will cover some 3,600 square kilometers in and around Kabul and approximately 185,000 square kilometers in the North.

The Alliance is also in the process of filling the requirements for the expansion of ISAF to the West, with a view to establishing new PRTs, as well as to incorporate existing PRTs, currently under the command of the US-led Operation Enduring Freedom.

SUPPORT FOR ELECTIONS

Heads of State and Government also made commitments to deploy extra NATO forces at the time of the upcoming elections in order to support the process.

Each ISAF-led PRT will be temporarily reinforced by an additional infantry company (about 100 extra troops). In addition, NATO will deploy a quick reaction force of up to 1,000 troops. Further troops will be put on high readiness to move into theatre if required.

Released by NATO