

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Public Awareness Working Group of the Operation Enduring Freedom Coalition
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Rebuilding Afghanistan

Humanitarian Assistance
in a country torn by war

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A Coalition of the Willing



By Major Kevin J. Woods, CENTCOM, Coalition Coordination Center

President Bush's speech occurred on the one year anniversary of September 11th, but the Operation ENDURING FREEDOM coalition began forming almost immediately following the attacks. The coalition is more than twice the size of that formed for the 1991 Persian Gulf War. It consists of diverse nationalities, backgrounds, and religious

history. An efficient location was required to facilitate effective coordination of operations, and on 19 September 2001 the concept of "Eagle Village" was born.

"This is the beginning of a new world order in which coalitions are the key to solving future problems."

Rear Admiral Gonzalo Rodriguez, Spanish Senior National Representative

affiliations, joined by one common goal-- to eradicate terrorism and those who perpetuate it on a global scale. Operation ENDURING FREEDOM is not just a U.S. mission; it is not a NATO mission; it is not even a United Nations mission; rather, this great endeavor has been undertaken by almost the entire world community.

It has been called a "coalition of the willing," meaning those member nations willing to risk the lives and treasure of their sons and daughters to eradicate this affront to human decency. The community of nations was galvanized into action by the terrorist attacks. As the Bush Administration compiled a list of countries eager to participate, U. S. Central Command, under the leadership of General Tommy Franks, became the focal point of the largest coalition in

Originally, the village was prepared to accommodate 50 countries and 500 people. We knew however that although many countries would fully support the endeavor, would do so from their home bases. The French were among the first to support the coalition, and they have made significant contributions in every phase of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. Challenges were plentiful in the beginning. Where were all these personnel going to operate on a daily basis? How was this operation going to be staffed? How was classified material going to be shared between countries? How well were countries that have been adversaries for decades going to work together in this common cause? The list of difficulties seemed endless, yet a spirit of cooperation and understanding existed as every country worked together to solve them one by one.

"There is a line in our time, and in every time, between those who believe that all men are created equal and those who believe that some men and women and children are expendable in the pursuit of power. There is a line in our time, and in every time, between the defenders of human liberty and those who seek to master the minds and souls of others. Our generation has now heard history's call, and we will answer it. America has entered a great struggle that tests our strength and even more our resolve. Our nation is patient and steadfast. We continue to pursue the terrorists in cities and camps and caves across the Earth. We are joined by a great coalition of nations to rid the world of terror. And we will not allow any terrorist or tyrant to threaten civilization with weapons of mass murder."

George W. Bush
11 Sep 2002

Since 9/11, "Eagle Village" has steadily grown to more than 60 portable buildings in the former parking lot adjacent to US Central Command Headquarters. Each building is interconnected via phone lines and a secure computer network created specifically to support the coalition. Each country is able to communicate directly with their senior leadership in their home country and senior leadership at Central Command. This significantly increases the effectiveness of the entire coalition. In a pure sense, it is a collection of 48 countries working together to coordinate the generous contributions of the world community to various aspects of the ongoing efforts throughout Afghanistan and to support the global war on terrorism

The heart of Eagle Village is known as the Coalition Coordination Center (CCC). This is the U.S. manned building that coordinates all facets of the coalition effort. Active duty personnel are involved in the daily CCC operation, but it is manned primarily by Reservists and Guardsmen from all branches of military service, and most of

the lives of their sons and daughters, because of their belief in the principles of freedom.

According to many senior Afghan officials, the number-one priority in establishing a long-term stable government is the creation of a national army. The formation of this army would significantly aid in giving legitimacy to the central government and stabilizing the region. Weapons and training are provided by multiple countries as the Afghan government establishes a national army. Both the United States and France provide the bulk of the training in establishing the Afghan National Army (ANA). Along with food and clothing donated from around the world, critical weapons and ammunition are also donated. Coordinating the pick-up, transportation and delivery of these assets is an extensive process. Countries desiring to contribute to the ANA will first contact the ANA donations team within "Eagle Village". In turn, a US liaison officer will begin the process. In many cases, the transportation and delivery is completed free-of-charge as a donation by another country.

whom volunteered to serve in Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. These American patriots are involved in efforts ranging from requesting food and blankets for the Afghan people to the deployment of coalition

"Freedom, liberty, solidarity, democracy; these are key words for French people."
 Brigadier General Alain Roche
 French Senior National Representative

"We did not view the attacks as against the United States, but against all of us. Freedom was targeted!"
 Rear Admiral Filippo Foffi
 Italian Senior National Representative

Greece in particular has provided many flights to deliver critical supplies to Afghanistan.

Another hurdle to cross was the integration of various air, ground, and

country fighter-planes used to destroy Al Qaeda terrorist cells.

Each country represented in Tampa sent varying numbers of personnel. Some contingents are as small as one representative, while others have more than fifty members on the ground here. Each delegation is headed by a General, an Admiral, or other senior officer. Recently Colonel Charles Nearhood, Director of the Coalition Coordination Center, remarked "The personnel we work with daily are hand-picked by their Ministers of Defense or other senior government officials, and are always of the highest quality and education." These personnel work daily with the U.S. personnel to coordinate all aspects of contributions offered from their country, as well as those from other countries.

A total of 48 countries are directly represented in "The Village," but the coalition is made-up of over 90 different member nations. Generous donations of every type continue to flow in support of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM from nations around the world, most destined for Afghanistan. Each country's contribution, regardless of size, is critical to the overall operation. Many nations have made a significant commitment of national treasure, to include risking.

naval forces into a single unstoppable force for freedom. Aircraft from many countries are continuing the fight on a daily basis. Fighters from Norway, Denmark, and The Netherlands are flying close-air-support missions to protect ground troops engaged with the enemy. Special Operations Forces (SOF) are conducting various missions throughout Afghanistan and have been, and continue to be, the backbone of Operation ENDURING FREEDOM.

Airborne tankers are also flying daily to refuel fighters and other types of aircraft. Cargo planes move personnel throughout the region as-well-as tons of supplies. Naval task forces support operations in the Horn of Africa (HOA), the Gulf of Oman and the North Arabian Sea, and the North Arabian Gulf. These forces are supporting maritime interception operations, surveillance, reconnaissance, as-well-as leadership interdiction operations. Stopping the flow of supplies and personnel, before they arrive, is critical.

The forces provided are as diverse as the countries providing them. The Jordanian hospital currently deployed to Afghanistan has provided treatment for over 145,000 Afghans, and together with hospitals from Spain, Russia,

“Terrorism represents a new phenomenon of war and we are standing firmly against it! We remember the US, and others, coming to our aid when we were invaded and wanted to repay them.”

Lt Col Musaed N. Al-Mutairi
Kuwait Senior National Representative

and the Republic of Korea essential medical care for almost 200,000 Afghans has been provided over the last 14 months. Mine clearing teams and equipment have been donated by Norway, Poland, Germany, and Jordan. Removing mines to protect innocent civilians as they traverse the countryside is among the most important and visible steps necessary to reassure the Afghan people their future is secure. Construction teams are hard at work rebuilding roads and buildings. Germany, with the exception of combat aircraft, is contributing to the whole scale of operations in Afghanistan and will soon, along with The Netherlands, assume the lead in the International Security Assistance Force from Turkey. Others contribute the use of their airfields and air space to facilitate safe and efficient execution of the conflict. Rear Admiral Filippo Foffi, the Italian Senior National Representative, stated that “this organization is one of the best tools for combating the lack of justice around the globe.”

“Eagle Village” is a wartime effort. As the fight against global terrorism evolves, so to will the coalition evolve. Terrorism, in all its guises, is on the run. As their strategies change and adapt to the coalitions efforts, the methods employed will also change until the worldwide community is safe.

“It is very heartening to see all the Muslim countries here as full partners. Pakistan’s resolve to fight against terrorism is without any preconditions and will never end!”

Brigadier General Tahir M. Malik
Pakistan Senior National Representative



The Afghan people have lived in constant conflict for several decades. Removal of the terrorist Taliban regime by the coalition has spurred hope for the country. A victory on the way to the overarching goal: Removal of Global Terrorism (Photo: CPA)

More than just wrenches....



With the Petersberg – Conference, Germany has taken over responsibility for the build up of Afghanistan. Since the US and France have taken over the training of the Afghan National Army (ANA), Germany in this context provides a training program for maintenance personnel and motor-pool management.

The German activity, processed by the department of armament in the GE MoD, included the following:

- Projecting the establishment of a maintenance hall incl. equipment

- Procurement and shipment of the material
- Construction and - after 15 days - topping-out ceremony

In the meantime the training of available maintenance personnel had successfully started. Major Armin Gerber stated: “The basis is already laid. There are many qualified mechanics in Afghanistan. They are only lacking special skills, workspace and technical equipment. By providing this we will make a good start and I’m looking forward to begin further work.”

When end of March the construction project will be finalized, the working conditions will have improved remarkably. The hall will be 16 yards wide, 95 yards long and 7 yards high. Aside from workspace it will contain machinery, energy supply, battery charging room, offices and social facilities.

Furthermore, Germany already delivered a set of trucks as a donation to the ANA, more to come...



EUROMARFOR



EUROMARFOR foundations are anchored back in June '92, when the Petesberg Declaration, with its associated missions, was signed by the ministers of foreign affairs of the Western European Union (WEU) countries.

After a process of consultation that started in 1993, France, Italy and Spain demonstrated their willingness to contribute to the accomplishment of such missions by signing on May 15th 1995 the declaration of Lisbon, that formally created the euroforces (EUROMARFOR and its sister land force, the EUROFOR). On that same day Portugal joined the initiative.

EUROMARFOR is a non-standing multinational maritime force, which, although constituted by four nations, is open to other WEU nations. Since its creation, this FORCE has only been activated for exercises and show-of-the-flag tours, with an average of three activations per year.

Among the EUROMARFOR's basic features it's important to stress the non-permanent nature of the force. As a pre-structured force, the EUROMARFOR has available a number of units that are periodically assigned by the member countries. These units continue their national activities and will be recalled after a decision to activate the force has been adopted.

Depending of the nature of the operation, the size of this force may range from a small task group, made of a few ships, to a full range task force consisting of aircraft carriers, escorts and support vessels, and an amphibious component, as necessary to accomplish the task. For each task the required force and organisation will be commonly agreed by participating nations.

Further, the force can incorporate units from non-euromarfor nations, for training purposes or real world operations.

The four nations, met in Lisbon in May last year, agreed to activate the force for real world operations, as a clear sign of commitment to fight international terrorism.

It was decided to activate a Task Group into the eastern Mediterranean theatre, in order to cooperate with NATO operation "Active Endeavour", which mission is to carry out Operations in the Eastern Mediterranean, in order to contribute to the global effort against international terrorism. This activation should be considered as a first step or a trial for the following participation in the OEF

After this successful warm-up period in the eastern Mediterranean, EUROMARFOR nations



decided in November last year that they were ready to be employed in the most demanding scenario of the horn of Africa (HOA), in support of operation Enduring Freedom (OEF).

Nations committed themselves to activate a similar Task Group by the end of January. Besides, the US offered Spain the possibility to take over command of TF-150 already operating in the area. The units that are composing the force are the ITS Mimbelli, FS Aconit and Meuse, SPS Canarias.

To sum up, it can be concluded that operations Coherent and Resolute Behaviour have been a good test to prove EUROMARFOR operational capability.

This operational employment shows the degree of commitment that EUROMARFOR nations assume, to join the global fight against international terrorism.



The Humanitarian Assistance Working Group:

Helping to Win the War on Terrorism in Afghanistan

By: LTC Fahed Al-Shelaimi (KUW) chairman HAWG & LTC Joseph Tauber (USA)

In conjunction with military operations associated with Operation ENDURING FREEDOM, Coalition Forces at Central Command formed the Humanitarian Assistance Working Group (HAWG) to win the “hearts and minds” of the Afghan people. The HAWG is dedicated to working with the United Nations (UN), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), Other Governmental Organizations (OGAs) and Civil Military Personnel (CMP) to provide needed Humanitarian Assistance (HA) to the Afghan people. Although much has been done, the HAWG will continue to work towards winning the “hearts and minds” of the Afghan people.

The HAWG began operations in October 2001. To assist in providing HA to the Afghan people, the HAWG developed a Request for Assistance (RFA). An RFA is generated by the UN, NGOs, OGAs, CMP, and other sources. The items requested include: food, cooking supplies, blankets, tents, generators, medical and school supplies. Upon receipt of an RFA, it is placed on the RFA Matrix. The RFA Matrix is discussed at the HAWG meeting to solicit Coalition support for the mission. The mission not only includes which country will provide the donation, but, what country will provide the airlift into Afghanistan. Additionally, it is determined which group noted above (UN, NGOs, OGAs and CMP) should receive the donation for distribution to the Afghan people in the most efficient and effective manner.

A few examples of what the HAWG has done are in order. Egypt donated 63 tons of HA, to include tents and blankets. The HAWG coordinated the airlift of the Egyptian donations from Belgium, Greece, Canada and Iceland. At a HAWG Meeting, Diibouti donated 5,000



The HAWG donating food to a local Florida Charity. The HAWG is active on a truly global basis (Photo: HAWG)

sheep. The United Arab Emirates and Kuwait Red Crescent had donated supplies and clothing delivered by the Canadians. Recently, the HAWG coordinated the repairing of bridges and tunnels in Afghanistan. New Zealand sent an engineering



Above: Reconstruction efforts in Kabul

Below: Three girls walking in the streets of Kabul



team to assess the repairs. The bridges and tunnels were to be repaired using Afghan labor and material supplied by countries surrounding Afghanistan. The repairs were to be paid by the UN. The repairs are ongoing.

To date, the HAWG has generated and delivered over 200 tons of HA into Afghanistan. It has flown over 24 flights into Afghanistan bringing in these donations. The HAWG has also worked to coordinate and facilitate the delivery of items belonging to the UN, NGOs and OGAs. The HAWG has proven to be a cooperative working group bringing together the many different nations that comprise the Coalition Village at CENTCOM. HAWG Meetings are held three times a week in the Coalition Village.

In conclusion, the HAWG has been and will continue to be a very effective tool in winning the “hearts and minds” of the Afghan people. Through winning the “hearts and minds” comes the ability of the Afghan people to determine their own destiny. Needless to say, it is the HAWG’s objective to put itself out of business because its mission has been accomplished.

ROTATION OF ROMANIAN TROOPS IN KHANDAHAR



Since the mid December 2002, Romanian troops in "Enduring Freedom" have been rotated: the soldiers from the 812th Infantry Battalion in Bistrita (their base location in Romania) are to replace those belonging to the 26th Infantry Battalion in Craiova.

The completion of this rotation has just ended. This can be achieved with the HERCULES C-130, which the Romanian Air Force Staff made available for the mission. The pilots of the **HERCULES C-130 aircraft** 4000 kilometers between Bistrita and Kandahar disappear in long flight hours but in the most safe manner.

Once in Afghanistan, the troops from Bistrita nicknamed SOIMII CARPATILOR (Carpathian Hawks), led by their commander, Maj. Dorin Blaiu, began their training. Reconnaissance missions were undertaken with the Romanian colleagues of the 26th Infantry Battalion SCORPIONII ROSII (Red Scorpions) and the **Americans**. Reconnaissance took place on both land and air with the available equipment but also with the help of the American helicopters APACHE and BLACK HAWK.

At present, the CARPATHIAN HAWKS are already assigned combat missions. The forces that ensured the guard of the Khandahar Airfield are

being **renewed**. Among their missions there are patrol missions of the combat area, ensuring the security of the convoys carrying food and fuel and their antiterrorist control. Under way are also missions with troops of the Afghan Military Forces consisting in guarding the Khandahar Airfield. The CARPATHIAN HAWKS began their missions in the combat area along their American colleagues of the 2nd Airborne Brigade RED DEVILS, also at the beginning of their activity in Khandahar.

The Afghan operation theatre is still a hotspot. There are still threats to the Antiterrorist Coalition Force. The threats are asymmetric, unpredictable and continuous and target all Coalition forces. Bomb cars are frequent, as Afghanistan is one of the most mined countries. The fight against terrorism has a lot of peculiarities all the more so in this desert area. Local populace is used to war and shortages of all kinds on a long term (for 25 years, Afghanistan is ground of battles and endless wars).

Romanian troops are in good health and have excellent morale. They wish to send a message home, "don't worry, we are doing our duty!".



GERMANS AND DUTCH TAKE THE LEAD OF ISAF III

On 10 February 2003, Germany and the Netherlands took command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) to stabilize the Afghan capital following the extended UN – mandate.

Outgoing Turkish Major-General Hilmi Akim Zorlu handed command to German Lieutenant-General Norbert von Heyst at a ceremony in the presence of Afghan President Hamid Karzai. The Defense Ministers of Germany Dr Peter Struck, of the Netherlands Henk Kamp, of Turkey Sabahattin Cakmakoglu and of Afghanistan, Mohammed Fahim were also attending.

President Karzai said ISAF made “a major contribution to Afghanistan...for which we are very, very thankful. “Your work is providing the common Afghan man with the security and safety in which he can send his children to school and his woman to work and earn money... where life begins to function as life

does in other parts of the world.

The people of Kabul feel the streets are more secure with you around.”

Germany and the Netherlands will share command on the 30 – nation force for the next six months. Lieutenant-General van Heyst said the aim is “a self – sustaining peace that will finally allow ISAF troops to go home.”

Germany doubled it’s contingent to about 2,500 men, while the number of troops from the Netherlands, serving under Dutch Brigadier General Robert Bertholee, who is now deputy commander of the force, will be about 700 in a force of approximately 4,500 personnel in total.

Afghan Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah announced last week the government would like to see the force’s mandate extended beyond 2003 and both the government and the United Nations have called for an expansion of the force’s role outside Kabul.

You make a mistake only once...



People that don’t know them question, “What did they go there for?” The men in question are Polish Sappers that work in a blazing sun, penetrating dust, and mud of the dangerous Afghanistan landscape.

The view from an airplane appears wild, yet beautiful. However, when travelling by car, you can see the wounds of this pastel land from its countless wars. Scattered military wreckage, destroyed villages as well as natives haggard faces are testimony of the wars and..... mines. There are mines everywhere; close to roads, on paths and nobody knows exactly where else. Those mines are the scourge of this Land.

Every day numerous children are killed or injured from mines. The children are naturally curious about everything. Tragically, there are places where human bones are scattered on fields that no one will bury. These grotesque minefield sentinels cry out for eternal rest

The Sappers move slowly with their huge ‘Moon’ boots and hold mine detectors in hand. Their faces reveal the intensity of their task. Intense yet slow. One reckless step can be a mistake.... they must not trust that a place is safe, even though the mine flails or mine detection dogs cleared here. As they proof an area, when the detector sounds in a Sapper’s ears, he stops. Next he moves aside the soil, weighing every gram of sand. Maybe this is only a piece of metal, maybe it’s a mine. The task is full of risk, yet no Sapper gambles. The stakes are too high and there is no second chance. Polish Sappers are respected and valued in Afghanistan. They are thorough, systematic, and professional.

The surrounding mountains are amazing and majestic. The snow covered peaks reaches almost 5000 m. Sappers see them and feel their pull to hike and explore. But not now, not yet... However, the day will come. These Sappers will make this place safe, allowing all to admire the natural beauty of this wild and beautiful Afghanistan.



TACTICAL AIRLIFT DETACHMENT CREW DELIVERS HUMANITARIAN AIDE

Text and photos: Capt Rick Perreault, Op Apollo NSU Public Affairs Officer,

Kabul, Afghanistan – On January 28, 2003, a crew of the Op Apollo Tactical Airlift Detachment (TAL Det) delivered what constituted the first of five loads totaling over 60,000kg of humanitarian aid from Kuwait to Afghanistan.

The project to send the white flour, a gift from the people of Kuwait to those of Afghanistan, is “the result of collaboration between the American Red Cross, the Kuwaiti and Afghani Red Crescent Committees, and the Canadian Air Force,” said Mr. Youseef F. Al-Meragg, Head of Relief Committee for the Kuwait Red Crescent Society. “We appreciate the Canadian Air Force’s help to transport supplies to help the people of Afghanistan who need so much of everything,” he added.

The help being provided is not limited to flour. “Books and blankets will also be sent during these five trips,” said LCol Salem Al-Abdul Razzaq, Coalition Liaison Officer with the Kuwaiti Army. “It is not



the first time the people of Kuwait help others, regardless of religion. In fact, we have few other projects in the works for the near future,” he added.

“It felt nice to do a mission, which would help needy people,” said Capt Howard Tetzlaff, Aircraft Commander on the first flight. “We fly all sorts of missions out here and it feels nice to actually do something that will eventually help needy people on the ground. It makes us proud of our work, of being Canadians,” he added. From the crew of six, all were from 429 and 436 Sqn at 8 Wing Trenton.

The mission of the TAL Det is to support coalition forces by transporting military personnel, equipment and cargo between destinations in the theatre of operations, including Afghanistan. The versatile CC-130 Hercules is ideal for this mission: it can lift a 16,000-kg payload, fully loaded, it can land safely on a basic airstrip approximately the length of three football fields, and be loaded and unloaded quickly with simple equipment.

The aircrews and ground personnel of the TAL Det are equally well suited to the mission; in recent years, they have delivered military supplies and humanitarian aid to Somalia, Kosovo, Eritrea and other troubled areas.



MEDICS AMONG THE RUINS



With the onset of Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF), many countries are engaged in humanitarian assistance to the war ravaged Afghanistan. A notable contribution from the land of the prophets is the hospital set up by Jordanian military, which is the only medical facility in the plains of Mazar-e-Sharif.

The hospital was officially opened on 8 Jan 2002. The aim is to provide medical support to common Afghan people suffering for years from hardships of war, coordinate medical relief and provide medical support for the OEF coalition forces

The 50-bed hospital has 10 intensive care and recovery beds. This small but efficient facility is managed by a dedicated team of 27 specialists and 40 qualified paramedics. The range of surgical facilities includes general surgery, orthopedics, plastic reconstruction and burns surgery, neuro, vascular, chest, urology ophthalmology, ENT, oral, gynecology and anesthesia. The list of medical specialists made available is equally impressive; comprising of pediatricians, internist, gastroenterologist, cardiologist, dermatologist, rehabilitation physician, psychiatrist, psychologist, preventive medicine specialist and emergency physician.

The hospital also has its own laboratory, a blood bank, a radiology department, pharmacy, a proper sterilization unit and – perhaps the most notable – a water purification plant. The laboratory is equipped to perform routine as well as specialized work, while the blood bank has the capabilities of preparing blood components and screening for Hepatitis B, C and HIV. While initial provision of blood was brought from Jordan, the hospital now depends on the donations from the USA and by the relatives of Afghan patients. The pharmacy is capable of supplying a wide range of drugs and medicines.

While setting up the hospital, concerns were high on its remote location from the nearest city, Mazar-e-Sharif. It was feared that the distance from Mazar would make it difficult for the patients to visit the hospital.

To avoid that, contact was established with numerous people interested in medical services in the whole district of Balakh, and it was explained to them how the hospital could be used to the maximum advantage. As a result of this farsighted effort, large crowds were received for medical services from the day of opening. The number of patients only kept increasing.

Among its staff, the hospital has a large number of Afghan translators – both male and female – so that the visiting patients can communicate well with the Jordanian specialists and are adequately attended by the paramedical staff.

Parallel to the basic medical services, the hospital staff is also providing teaching and training of local doctors, both from the military and civil university hospitals. This contributes significantly in ensuring that the Afghan doctors and paramedics take benefit from the experience of Jordanian staff and enhance their own skill in return.

The hospital has provided medical services to more than 160 000 Afghans by now, a vast majority of which have been women and children. These included more than 1,500 surgery cases. This high turn out at the hospital is provided equally efficient service by the Jordanian medical staff. Their zeal can be gauged by the fact that since last one year the hospital has been regularly treating the patients on inpatient as well as outpatient basis, and even expanded its volume of work by dispatching teams to run outpatient clinics in other local hospitals, including surgery where required. The hospital was built to serve the Afghan people in the district of Balakh, and its staff is working to the best of its ability to make the humanitarian assistance by OEF in Afghanistan a complete success

