

Coalition Bulletin

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Cover photo:

Polish soldiers provide humanitarian assistance for Iraqi children

Photo by Pfc. Timothy Villareal

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

THE CHALLENGE PLAYING OUT ACROSS THE BROADER MIDDLE EAST IS MORE THAN A MILITARY CONFLICT. IT IS THE DECISIVE IDEOLOGICAL STRUGGLE OF OUR TIME. ON ONE SIDE ARE THOSE WHO BELIEVE IN FREEDOM AND MODERATION. ON THE OTHER SIDE ARE EXTREMISTS WHO KILL THE INNOCENT, AND HAVE DECLARED THEIR INTENTION TO DESTROY OUR WAY OF LIFE.

George W. Bush
President, U.S.

Editorial

Coalition Bulletin 38 marks the beginning of year 2007, a year which is being proclaimed by some of the think tanks and strategists as the make or break year for the future of ongoing war on terrorism. However, the point missed in such deliberations is that this ongoing war is a long term struggle, in which military operations are one component only and any sustainable resolution would actually call for means other than military. Thus more than anyone else, it is the policy planners' world-over who need to remain cognizant of it and evolve policies which make commensurate demands on the military component of the security strategy.

As the new command hierarchy assumes responsibilities at strategic and policy levels in United States, the world is analytically evaluating unfolding of the events in the wake of adjusted strategy in Iraq. With unprecedentedly high violence level, Iraq continues to plunge into a sectarian strife; however, with suitable reinforcements to the security apparatus and shift of emphasis on capacity building, the situation is expected to improve to a level where Iraqi Government will assume greater responsibilities.

Contrary to the media perceptions, situation in Afghanistan has improved during last six months, where in the words of Commander NATO forces, "we are not complacent. But why should we worry about Taliban's 'spring offensive' that the media talks so much about. 'The Taliban should worry about our offensive'", the General said. However, he conceded that insurgents are doing well on the propaganda front, which needs to be redressed. Intrinsically, operations in Afghanistan demand a better understanding of the cultural diversities the areas of operations present. It is extremely important that while undertaking operations, modalities are worked out to handle these diversities, with an aim of co-existing instead of endeavoring to bring about major changes. Situation in Somalia also got a major turn where Ethiopian forces duly supported uprooted a regime, which was becoming a threat for the region. It is hoped that as the withdrawal of Ethiopian forces gets completed, the legitimate government of Somalia will be able to regain effective control and establish a security apparatus, duly assisted by the regional countries and members of the African Union.

Like always the present issue is reflective of numerous reconstruction and capacity building initiatives being done in the AOR and amply highlights the emphasis of the coalition operations. I would also take this opportunity to acknowledge a major transformation the Coalition Village underwent in the realm of administration, whereby representatives of 65 countries have now shifted from temporary trailers to a purpose made structure. The move is reflective of the long term nature of the arrangement and has brought a major improvement in the working environment of the coalition liaison officers.

Ahsan Mahmood
Brigadier-General, Pakistan
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group



Combat Lifesaver Course



Story by Sgt. Paula Taylor

COP NIMUR, Iraq — Troops from 3rd Squadron, 4th Cavalry Regiment, attached to the 4th Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, spent four days training Iraqi security forces in first aid, and provided them with some advanced medical techniques at Combat Outpost Nimur.

The class consisted of 28 Iraqi Army soldiers, four Sinjar area Iraqi police and five Iraqi border policemen. One of the instructors of the course was Sgt. Richard Kyle, a combat medic, from Hawaii. "We were teaching them the Combat Lifesaver course," he explained. "This was an initial introduction to first aid for them. Most of them have never experienced any of this, so they were pretty excited to learn."

Kyle said they organized the course so that basic instruction would be given in the morning and that they would break into smaller groups for hands-on, practical exercises in the afternoons.

"After each block of instruction, I had my group pair up, then they were given scenarios and tasks they had to practice on each other. I walked them through exercises, like splinting a fracture, and let them try it on each other. When they did it correctly, they would switch roles and do it again. If they didn't do it correctly, I would make sure they understood what they did wrong, then they would get to do it again."

Some of the classes taught were treating abdominal, head and chest injuries, splinting fractures, applying pressure dressings and tourniquets, how to stop a patient's bleeding, treating for shock, and airway management, he said.

For the airway management class, Kyle said they first taught the group how to check for a pulse. "Some of the students had never known how to check for a pulse," said Kyle. "They were all anxious to learn."

Kyle agreed with Oppelt and said he enjoyed spending time with the Iraqis. "I had a really good time teaching them. They asked a lot of questions, were attentive and excited to be learning something new. With these new life-saving skills that the Iraqi Army soldiers are starting to acquire, they will be better suited to help save their fellow soldiers in combat. I'm glad to have been a part of that." 



On photo: Sgt. Richard Kyle helps Iraqi Army soldiers properly insert J-Tubes. U.S. Army courtesy photo.



A Vital Runway is an Essential Part of Afghanistan's Future



Story and photos by Tech. Sgt. Joseph Kapinos

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Despite inclement weather and the possibility of snowfall, a new \$68 million runway was opened here and celebrated by Air Force and Army service members, civilian contractors and Afghan officials Dec. 20.

The project was executed by Contrack International workers from Cairo, Egypt, with an Afghan workforce supervised by the Army Corps of Engineers and Air Force members.

“Bagram Airfield has been here in this valley for decades,” said Brig. Gen. Christopher D. Miller, the 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander. “Afghan airmen have flown from this field in years past and I look forward to the day when it again can be a purely Afghan airfield, serving whatever roles the people of Afghanistan choose. This is a vital runway and an essential part of Afghanistan’s future”.

The runway project began in 2004, when it became evident that the older Russian-built runway was not able to support the continuous operations in and out of the airfield. The runway was being subjected to use beyond its capability. On average, the airfield saw a landing or take off once every four minutes.

“The old runway could serve for years to come, but it needs daily repair by our Airmen to keep it in active service,” said General Miller.

Using a workforce of Afghan nationals upward of 400 working each and every day, Contrack International members worked closely with their military partners to build a runway and aircraft ramp capable of handling most aircraft in the military inventory. The new runway is 2,000 feet longer than the older and is 11 inches thicker, which gives it the ability to handle larger aircraft if necessary, such as the C-5 Galaxy or the Boeing 747.

“This runway is designed to accept the majority of aircraft in the military inventory and mainly in place to accept ‘medium load’ aircraft; however, it can accept the larger aircraft, but it will wear out faster if heavy airplanes use it on a regular basis,” said Lt. Col. Eric Mulkey, U.S. Central



On photos: 1. Brig. Gen. Christopher Miller, 455th Air Expeditionary Wing commander (L) along with Abdul Taqwa, governor of Parwan Province and Maj. Gen. Benjamin Freakley cut the ribbon officially opening the new runway at Bagram Airfield.

2. An A-10 Thunderbolt II lifts off the new runway opened at Bagram Air Base, Afghanistan.

Command Air Force construction management officer. Speaking to the large crowd, General Miller emphasized the importance of the airfield in the continuing effort to secure a modern infrastructure for the country.

“This is a milestone in Bagram Airfield’s ability to support the battle for a strong and stable Afghanistan. This is a concrete and lasting expression of America’s commitment to the future of the Afghan people,” said General Miller. 



Iraqi Police Serve As Reaction Force



*Story by Special Police Transition Team
Photo by Capt. Jared Levant*

BAGHDAD, Iraq — The Airport Road here was once one of the most violent and dangerous roads in the country. Roadside bombs, small-arms and rocket-propelled grenade attacks were an everyday occurrence. Visiting dignitaries, news reporters and the soldiers tasked with providing security were well aware of these dangers along this five-mile stretch, known to the coalition forces as Route Irish.

Things began to change in late 2004 and early 2005. The coalition recognized the critical importance of this main artery between Baghdad International Airport and the International Zone, located in the heart of Baghdad. A new focus was given to clear the road of debris, reduce the number of “blind spots,” and control access to the highway. Slowly, the number of attacks on Route Irish fell until it became one of the safest and most secure, and most heavily traveled main highways in Baghdad.

It was during this time that the 1st Mechanized Brigade, Iraqi National Police, took the lead in providing security along the airport road. The 1st Mechanized Brigade is the heavy-hitting reaction force for the Iraqi National Police. Based in Baghdad, its two battalions use a combination of fast Chevrolet pickup trucks and heavily-armored, six-wheeled vehicles used by Army military police units, to man checkpoints and run patrols along Route Irish. But their responsibility does not stop there. The 1st Mechanized Brigade was designed to quickly deploy throughout the region to augment security operations wherever they are needed.

Col. Emad, commander of 3rd Battalion, 1st Mechanized Brigade, is a soft-spoken, relentlessly determined, and realistic individual. He recognizes the need for a different mindset when confronting the security issues of contemporary Iraq.

“We are all Iraqis fighting for the Iraqi government,” he said through an interpreter, emphasizing the need to look past sectarian divisions when it comes to performing his role in the National Police.

Public distrust for the National Police is perhaps the biggest obstacle to effective policing. The intelligence officer for 3rd Battalion, Maj. Hamza, agrees.



“The people should feel safe so they can come to the police when something is wrong – they must trust us before things will get better,” Hamza said.

The dynamic nature of Iraqi internal politics today can make it difficult to establish a lasting relationship between the national police and the people, especially a unit designed to be a quick reaction force.

Over the past eight months, elements of 3rd Battalion have deployed to numerous locations both in and outside the capital to augment local security forces. They operate out of a base in southwest Baghdad but often find it difficult to patrol the surrounding neighborhoods, either because of constant deployments or because of conflicting battle-space with adjacent units. The people respect and occasionally fear the deep rumbling of their armored vehicles’ diesel engines, but that does not always translate into trust.

Helping the unit work through these concerns is an American transition team, a 10-man coalition unit that is assigned to work directly with the battalion. Designed to mentor and assist Iraqi units as they take control of the fight, these teams reflect the full spectrum of modern military specialties: “Colonel Emad and his battalion, 3-1 Mech, have made incredible improvements over the past nine months, in both efficiency and effectiveness, in the accomplishment of their assigned tasks,” said Erker, the transition team chief working with 3rd Battalion. “This is a direct result of their desire to serve Iraq and its people.” ^{CB}



Quarterly Host Nation Coordinators' Conference at Camp Lemonnier



Story by U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Brett Hart

Photo by U.S. Navy Mass Communications Specialist Philip A. Fortnam



CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Military officers from around the Horn of Africa, East Africa and Yemen gathered Tuesday for a conference to learn about the mission of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa and how they can represent their nation as an officer with the task force. Known as the Host Nation Coordinators Conference, the event took place Jan. 9-16.

“We [host the conference] to bring officers from surrounding areas together to share with them the mission of CJTF–HOA and to talk with them about the challenges and opportunities from this part of the world,” said U.S. Navy Cmdr. Ted Summers, CJTF–HOA’s Host Nation Coordinators Conference director.

Delegates from the various nations arrived to participate in the conference. They included people from Comoros, Djibouti, Germany, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Seychelles, Uganda and Yemen. Nearly 100 officers from surrounding nations have attended conferences in the past.

According to Summers, conference participants have returned to Camp Lemonnier and successfully served as officers on the CJTF–HOA staff benefiting both the task force and the host nations.

“CJTF–HOA benefits by helping other officers in the area understand that we are here to help and also by hearing their views regarding solutions to current regional challenges,” said Summers. “The attendees benefit by witnessing first hand the coalition’s objectives and methods for promoting peace and stability and for countering ideological support for terrorism. They are also able to network effectively with fellow officers from surrounding nations which leads to increased dialogue and understanding.”

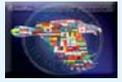
The last HNCC took place at Camp Lemonnier September 2006.

The mission of CJTF-HOA is to prevent conflict, promote regional stability and protect Coalition interests in order to prevail against extremism. The CJTF-HOA organization began operations at Camp Lemonnier May 13, 2003.

With the help of many from Djibouti, it works with partner nations on humanitarian assistance, disaster relief, consequence management, civic action programs to include medical and veterinary care, school and medical clinic construction and water development projects. 



A Step Forward



Story by Lt. Col. Ehtisham Tirmizi (Pakistan)
Photos by U.S.CENTCOM and Capt. Manuel Matos



As the war progressed against terrorism, Coalition Village also took a step forward. A new building known as Coalition Village 3 was constructed in a minimum time period and liaison groups started shifting in a very organized manner without jeopardizing the operational communications links and essential information tools.

“We completed the move to our new setup in CV3. The move required a lot of patience and flexibility and I want to thank all of the CCC and Coalition nations for pitching in to make it a successful evolution.” Said Maj. Gen. Gerald Minetti, Director of the Coalition.

Approximately 65 countries were shifted in two phases. The new building is well equipped with modern telecommunication facilities and computer networks. Well laid out and better furnished conference rooms, meeting rooms and office for each country with a scope of expansion.

Coalition Village a unique entity located next to the main U.S.CENTCOM building at Mac Dill Air Force Base was recently shifted to a new setup called CV3(Coalition Village 3).

The shift left behind a short but deep history as first half decade of war against terrorism used to be coordinated from this place. Coalition Village1 was established just after 9/11 to house the Coalition Countries National Representatives temporarily.

View of more than 50 trailers well arranged as per military discipline, each having a flag of a Coalition country proved to be an important landmark in the history of war against terrorism. Temporary set up but well equipped with all the modern day communication facilities served as coordinating platforms for Senior National Representatives (SNRs) whose forces were actually deployed in theater of war. As more countries started joining this biggest coalition, the requirement of more and better space was felt. Now this village has been abandoned and view of soldiers moving from one trailer to another dressed in different uniforms also started fading away.

Chairman of SNRs group Brig. Gen. Mark Wheeler said, “CV3 is an important development as it takes the Coalition from an ad hoc basis to a permanent institution. CV 3 will prove to be an excellent facility to enhance interaction between nations”.

With an open door policy enforced in the building, the new setup is already resulting in increased harmony and improved environment. The Coalition looks forward to an official grand opening by Gen. John Abizaid during last week of February.





Civic Action Programs



Story by U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Brett Hart

Courtesy Photo by 489th Civil Affairs Battalion

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Members of Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa recently participated in water system improvements at Djibouti City schools here. It’s one of many activities with partner nations in the region that help to improve the quality of life for residents. People from Camp Lemonnier made these water system improvements to various schools in the region such as the Gulleh Batel primary school.

“The Gulleh Batel Primary School latrine project is just one example of many projects we have conducted in the region,” said U.S. Army Sgt. 1st Class Gary Robinson, team sergeant with the civil military operations center of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion. “Our projects are generally small enough to allow us to further CJTF–HOA’s objectives quickly and simply. We can take what we have to offer to the people in Africa quickly.”

“My job in Team Alpha 16 of Bravo Company is working school projects,” said U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Justin Lockhart, a Soldier with Bravo Company



U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Justin Lockhart removes straps from a water tank

of the 489th Civil Affairs Battalion. “I identify the needs and try to use whatever assets we have here to make an impact on the people here. By accomplishing this,

my team is not only successful, but the overall mission of CJTF–HOA is successful.”

“Replacing the cracked water tank was our main focus at Gulleh Batel,” said Sgt. 1st Class Robinson. “This project will protect the kids by giving them a healthier environment. It will help to prevent the spread of disease. The project was not only a partnership between CJTF–HOA and the local community, but also with Save the Children.”

Lockhart regularly visits Djibouti schools to assess plumbing and sanitation conditions and determine which schools have the greatest need for renovation.

“Over the past month I have visited numerous schools conducting latrine assessments and prioritizing those we can help,” said Lockhart.

“These schools range from small repairs to complete overhauls. Some schools do not have any running water, [and] the school children have no place sanitary to use.” 



19 Wheelchairs to Families



Story by Sgt. Cheryl Cox

TAJI, Iraq — Building relationships with the local population is the first step in building a safe, secure and stable environment for the people of Iraq.

The Soldiers of Company C, 414th Civil Affairs Battalion spent Jan. 7 doing just that by helping people, providing them with wheelchairs and sewing materials. The day began with the Soldiers visiting the Taji Qada (City Council Building) to deliver 19 wheelchairs to families in need.

“We have had these wheelchairs for a while, and have just been waiting for a date to deliver them to the families,” explained Capt. William LeFever, a team leader with Co. C, 414th CA Bn. “We are now working to get more.”

Because of severe injuries and a lack of vaccines, many Iraqi people, young and old, are unable to walk and need the assistance of a wheelchair to get around easily. One family that received a wheelchair has a 5-year-old girl, Fatima Abdullazhara, who will never be able to



Zahra Kamer, an 8-year old girl in new wheelchair. U.S. Army photo.

walk. “Fatima was thrown by her sister when she was a baby and it injured her legs,” said her mother, Alham Hassam. “We have always just put her on the ground, but now

we can take her outside. I am so happy.” It wasn’t just the families who were happy about the delivery. The Soldiers were also very happy about the reactions from the people receiving the wheelchairs.

As the day progressed and all 19 wheelchairs were handed out and it was time for the Soldiers to go to their next destination to hand out supplies to the Al-Assriah Women’s Clinic. When they Soldiers arrived at the women’s clinic the unloaded several boxes that contained a sewing machine, material and other items needed for the women to sew at the center. The clinic was designed for the women of Al-Assriah to have a place to work. The women can sew clothes to be sold on the local market or just sew clothes for their families.

At the end of the day, the Soldiers said they felt as though they had made an impact on the lives of many people and were ready to get back to Camp Taji to begin the planning and arrangements for future missions to assist the people of Taji and other local communities. 



Jalalabad PRT Reaches Out to the Community



Story and photos –courtesy of Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan Press Center

BAGRAM AIR FIELD, Afghanistan — The Jalalabad Provincial Reconstruction Team is working hand-in-hand with the government of Nangarhar Province to help improve the quality of life for its citizens.

Acting on a request from the Nangarhar provincial government, the Jalalabad PRT donated clothing, toys, blankets and various supplies to the office of the Director of Hajj and Mosque, Director of Women’s Affairs and the Afghanistan Women’s Council and Orphanage.

In another mission, Hanif Gerdiwal, the Nangarhar Director of Education, came to the Jalalabad PRT with the hope of starting a soccer and volleyball league in the city schools.

Members of the PRT worked with companies in the United States to provide more than 2000 T-shirts in 10 colors for the different teams. The International Security Assistance Force provided 325 soccer balls, 125 volleyballs and 85 hand pumps to give the league a strong start. The PRT also handed out school supplies to the girls at a school in Behsud District on Jan. 15.

Some of the items were donated by a school in Dallas, as part of the Pencils for Peace program headed up by PRT family members to help the children of Afghanistan.

More than 150 people have been working to clear the canals and drains throughout Jalalabad since the project began more than two weeks ago, Pacha said. The laborers clear more



than 1,300 meters of canal per day. So far more than 20,000 meters have been cleared of debris and waste.

In a ceremony in Hiserak District on Jan. 8, members from the PRT, representatives from the Engineering Construction and Highway Construction Organization Ltd., Hiserak elders and the Hiserak sub-governor participated in the ground breaking of a new watershed management facility to be built in Hiserak District.

The project, which will be completed in approximately six months, will double the amount of irrigated land in the district and will help control flood waters. 





10 Afghans First to Graduate AMC Afghan First Program



Story and photos by Sgt. Michael J. Taylor

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Ten Afghan nationals were the inaugural graduates from the Army Material Command’s (AMC) Afghan First Apprenticeship Program here Jan. 15.

The program started on July 15, 2006, to support the Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan commander, Army Lt. Gen Karl Eikenberry’s vision to help build a better economy and help make a brighter future for the Afghan people.

“By finishing this six’ month training, the workers are able to get skilled positions with more authority with the AMC, ultimately teaching them useful traits that can help them find better jobs or start their own businesses within Afghanistan,” said Don E. Stagg, the program’s project manager, from Birmingham, Ala.

Through establishment of an apprenticeship program for Afghan nationals, the command assisted in marketable skills training and contributed to continued economic expansion in the local area. The program empowers the Afghan nationals with skills for technical jobs in areas such as supply, light wheel mechanics, add-on armor, welding, carpentry, power generator and billeting.

“I want to start my own logistics company one day, and I believe that after having this training, I am ready to go out and get started,” said Nazir Ahmadi, the AFAP’s first honor graduate from Charikar Province. “I will just continue to try to take advantage of any training that they will give me and hopefully use it to help further build my country one day.”



AMC Afghan First program manager, Don E. Stagg, presents Aziz Gul with a gift after finishing the training

The instructors also helped the graduates by offering English language classes to them in the evenings after work. “Our goal is to simply give them the tools needed to go out on their own and legitimately compete for better jobs and help contribute to the establishment of their country,” said Stagg. 



Nazir Ahmadi, from the Charikar Province, signs the first work contract as an employee after finishing the Army Material Command’s Afghan First Apprenticeship Program



School Supplies Bring Smiles to Children



Story and photo by Army Staff Sgt. Mary Rose



Sgt. 1st Class Bill Bowen hands-out candy and gum to child outside the Al Hamdaniyah School in western Baghdad.

CAMP SLAYER, Iraq – An infantry unit from the Kentucky Army National Guard spent the morning of Jan. 14 not patrolling the streets of Baghdad like they usually do, but delivering supplies to local school children.

Soldiers from Company C, 1st Battalion, 149th Infantry Regiment, loaded up an up-armored Light Medium Tactical Vehicle with wooden crates full of backpacks, pencils, pens, rulers and notepads. Then they headed out to the Al Hamdaniyah School with an entourage of Humvees for security.

The troops arrived a little early for school, but it didn't take long for the children to start coming from all directions to greet the Soldiers.

The children seemed excited to see the Soldiers and asked for pens by pretending they were writing on paper with their hands. While the Soldiers interacted with the horde of children, they tried to teach them English words, to help with communication.

For the children, they were open to taking whatever the Soldiers had to give them whether it was an English word, a smile or better yet, a pen.

"It doesn't matter what you give them they'll take anything," said Spc. Jason Davenport, a medic for Company C and a native of Barbourville, Ky.

The children, with their pants tucked into their socks to keep from getting muddy, are willing to take what the Soldiers give because they have so little themselves. Their nine-room school house has 310 students, water damage, no electricity, no running water, no heat and many of its windows broken out, said Maj. Chris Cline, a civil affairs officer with the unit.

Along with all the damage, there is no money being given to the school to fix the problems.

"The teachers haven't been paid in three months," said Cline a native of Hodgenville, Ky. Despite that, he said the teachers still come in to teach the children who attend the school.

The supplies from U.S. Soldiers are the only thing the school has received in months, according to a teacher at the school. While at the school, troops unloaded the vehicle and played with the children, until it was time for classes to begin. One of the teachers, who spoke through an interpreter, said there is no school being held in many of the more populated areas around Baghdad, because of security issues.

"We need security," the teacher said. "With security, we can make better education."

Security and lack of financial assistance wasn't the only problem the school had; they had children with medical needs.

Davenport assisted two girls who had ailments, but because of the limited resources on hand, he referred them to the Civil Military Operations Center's free medical clinic for local Iraqis.

"It is important for them to know that we are here to help them," said Davenport.



Kenyan SNR Promoted to Major General



Story by Lt.Col. Ruto Dickson (Kenya)

Photos by MSgt. Donna Martin

Kenyan Senior National Representative (SNR) Maurice Walugu was promoted to the rank of major general Jan. 9 by Gen. John Abizaid, the commander of U.S. Central Command.

Walugu, who was serving at CENTCOM as SNR of Kenya is now appointed Assistant Chief of the General Staff in Charge of Operations, Training and Doctrine at the Kenya Department of

Defense. However he will continue to work as SNR till completion of his tenure. Walugu is married to Eddy and they have three children, Sharon, 24, Paul, 23 and Maurice, 19.

Kenya's Role in the Global War on Terror

"Together We achieve success in GWOT irrespective of the size and capacity of the Coalition member State"
MG MA Walugu (January 2007)

Kenyan engagement in the ongoing Global War on Terror started in 1998 after the terrorist attacked U.S. Embassy in Nairobi. Since then, the government of Kenya admitted that the Al Qaeda terror network was and still present in the region.

As a result of 9/11 attacks against the United States, the Horn of Africa became under increased scrutiny as a strategic focal point in the war against terrorism.

In this regard, Kenya increased its tempo in security cooperation with the United States and other international communities in order to deter Al Qaeda and its operations in the region as well as denying this organization access to possible safe havens in Kenya in particular.

Kenya's contribution toward this effort is in the form of information sharing, granting of U.S. over flight rights, basing facilities, liaison and diplomatic engagements in support to Operation Enduring Freedom and conducting and supporting maritime interdiction operations in the Horn of Africa.

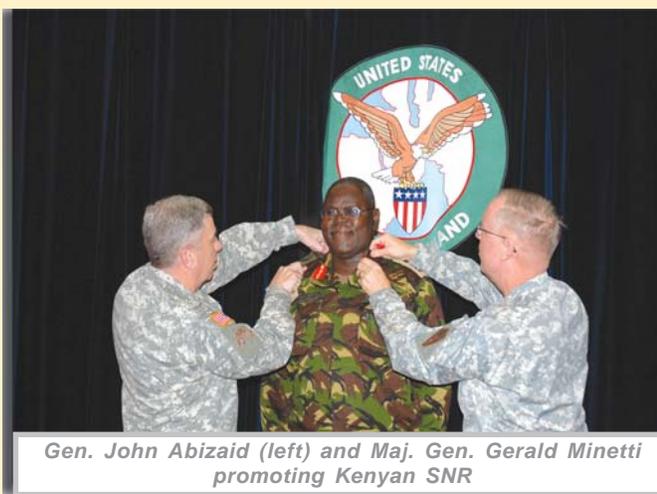
Kenya has remained engaged in the anti-piracy campaign in an effort to eradicate piracy in its coastal/territorial waters in close cooperation with other allies' Maritime forces. Kenya is and will be engaged in ensuring that Somalia and the greater Horn of Africa is stabilized and that the region is free of Al Qaeda and associates/terrorists in order to have the regional states enjoy peace, security and sustainable development.

In order to succeed in our mission, the need for integrated approach to international security issues is critical. Orchestration of military, political and socio-economic components in the War on terror will bring desirable effects. In this regard, acting together as a team in the coalition will bring long lasting achievement.



Defense. However he will continue to work as SNR till completion of his tenure.

Born in Kenya on Nov. 20, 1954, Walugu has a long list of military education since his commission in the Armoured Corps in 1978. He is a graduate of the U.S. Armor School, Pakistan Command and General Staff College and Kenya National Defence College. He also holds a diploma in International Relations and Strategic Studies.



Gen. John Abizaid (left) and Maj. Gen. Gerald Minetti promoting Kenyan SNR

His military experience includes command of a tank battalion, chief instructor in the School of Combat, Military Assistant to Chief of General Staff the Kenya Department of Defense, secretary of the National Defense College, Chief of Operations and Director of Army Logistics at the Kenyan Army Headquarters and Senior Operations Officer in U.N. peacekeeping missions.



Officer Returns to Camp Lemonier for Duty as a Liaison Officer



Story by Ms. Angela Scherbenske
Photo by Tech. Sgt. Lee Harshman

CAMP LEMONIER, Djibouti – Ethiopian Army Maj. Mohammed Goled Guyo’s role with the Combined Joint Task Force – Horn of Africa is different from any other duty during his 15-year military career. He now serves as a liaison officer for CJTF – HOA at Camp Lemonier.

“Coming to Camp Lemonier is a very different experience from other areas that I was stationed previously,” Guyo said. “I enjoy observing the American military and their operational process.”

The role of a liaison officer, according to Maj. Guyo, is multi-dimensional and requires knowledge of other cultures and countries. Additionally, liaison officers coordinate CJTF - HOA activities with the countries they represent.

“In Ethiopia, there are 85 different ethnic groups,” said Guyo. “They all have their own culture and language. I am from Somalia as a tribe. Everybody is proud of their country. I am proud Ethiopia is my motherland.”

Guyo’s current position began after training during a Host Nation Coordinators’ Conference at Camp Lemonier in September 2006. Acting as an Ethiopian representative, Guyo learned



about CJTF–HOA’s mission in Africa. Guyo also found that networking with his peers during this conference enhanced his role.

“I have come to realize that as a Horn of Africa [liaison] officer, there are many good things being done by CJTF-HOA to help the people in this region,” Guyo said. “I feel that through CJTF-HOA’s continued efforts, many humanitarian projects have been done in Africa.”

“I am impressed with the professional and humanistic approach CJTF-HOA shows toward the African nations it interacts with and how HOA constantly searches for success in these areas,” Guyo said. “They (CJTF-HOA) continue to pursue their mission to assist African countries. I have observed CJTF-HOA’s desire to constantly continue to pursue regional growth and stability.” ^{CB}

On photo: Ethiopian Army Maj. Mohammed Goled Guyo





“Admiral Tahir Reaffirms Continued and Proactive Commitment of Pakistani Armed Forces to Remain Actively Engaged in the GWOT”



Story by Cmdr. Faisal Lodhi (LNO Pakistan Navy)

Photos by Capt. Manuel Matos(Dominican Rep.)

Adm. Afzal Tahir (Chief of the Naval Staff Pakistan Navy) reaffirmed Pakistan’s support to Coalition during a short visit of HQ CENTCOM on 17-18 Jan. 07. Besides furtherance of Pak-US military collaboration, main purpose of the visit was to interact with senior CENTCOM and coalition military commanders to share and deliberate strategic perspectives relating to Pakistan’s contributions in Global War on Terror including the ongoing multinational maritime security operations in North Arabian Sea.

During the visit Admiral had a formal meeting with CENTCOM’s deputy commander Vice Adm. David Nichols and attended operations briefings by CENTCOM and coalition staff apprising him with the current dynamics of politico-military situation prevailing in the region.



Adm. Afzal Tahir and Vice Adm. David Nichols

In addition to US CENTCOM officials, all Senior National Representatives and members of coalition maritime working group attended these sessions. The interactions enabled senior military leadership of Pakistan and US to exchange views on all important issues of mutual interests. Keeping in view the CENTCOM AOR’s diversity based on a host of political, strategic, ethnic issues and nature of enemy being confronted, it was mutually agreed that it requires a network to defeat the terrorist’ net works and thus the coalition of likeminded nations is critical to the success in GWOT.

Vice Adm. Nichols, reiterated that US-Pak relations are long term and strategic in nature and are neither event based nor time related. He was of the view that success in this war is not

possible without Pakistan’s support. He also praised the critical role being played by Pakistan Navy in the multinational maritime security ops in the AOR and said Pakistan’s performance as commander of multinational naval task force 150 in Arabian Sea has been unprecedented. “It has brought a paradigm shift in CENTCOM’s theatre security cooperation concepts and has very positively influenced other regional nations to contribute in the coalition”.

Adm. Tahir reaffirmed continued commitment of Pakistani Armed Forces to the coalition in line with his Government’s policy to remain actively engaged in the GWOT. He also highlighted that Pakistan is doing its utmost along Pak-Afghan border to control the so-called AQAM’s activities and has been quite successful. Admiral also highlighted some important aspects of the critical Anti Terrorist Operations being waged by Pakistan’s Armed Forces in FATA, an area where has never been a successful military expedition. He also reiterated, that before forming any opinions about perceived large scale infiltrations from this area to Afghanistan, one must take into consideration the social setup, political advantages granted since decades and the nature and terrain.

The Admiral said that Pakistan is keenly looking forward to take over the duties of Commander naval task force 150 again in Aug 07. He concluded by emphasizing that in line with the govt’s policy, “Pakistani armed forces will continue to actively participate in the GWOT and the maritime security operations despite having limited resources”. CB



Col. Pawel Hejna, the Polish Senior National Representative to US CENTCOM, wishes to express his gratitude for everyone’s thoughts during his wife’s recent illness. Hejna’s wife, who received a liver transplant, is recovering. Her ordeal has taken a long time to conclude and now that the operation is over, she continues her recovery. Hejna family wants to thank all the Coalition partners for their thoughts and assistance, as well as personnel at US CENTCOM and Polish service members who were concerned about Mrs. Grazyna Hejna.

Australia National Day Celebratuon



Pan Arab Media Visit to U.S.CENTCOM





*An Iraqi soldier from 2nd Battalion, 2nd Brigade, 5th Division provides overwatch security for his teammates during a cordon and search in Chubainit, Iraq
(U.S. Air Force photo by Staff Sgt. Stacy L. Pearsall)*