

# Coalition Bulletin

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A publication of the Coalition fighting the Global War on Terrorism

**Better Vision for  
Afghan Child**

**4th Iraqi Army To Take  
The Lead**





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**Cover photo:** Capt. Eric Guzman, right, and Maj. Ronald Allen check the fitting of Faizal's prosthetic eye. Guzman is the chief optometrist and Allen is the chief ophthalmologist for Task Force Med, 14th Combat Support Hospital. (Photo by Army Spc. James Tamez, 19th Public Affairs Detachment)

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## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

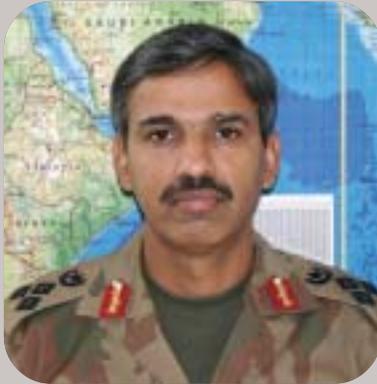
*The war on terror is more than a military conflict. It is the decisive ideological struggle of the 21st century. And we're only in its opening stages.*

*To win this struggle, we have to defeat the ideology of the terrorists with a more hopeful vision. So a central element in our strategy is the freedom agenda...  
...so we're taking the side of democratic leaders and reformers across the Middle East, we're supporting the voices of tolerance and moderation in the Muslim world, we're standing with mothers and fathers in every culture who want to see their children grow up in a caring and peaceful world.*

**George W. Bush**  
U.S. President

## Editorial

**M**y tenure of duty at CENTCOM is nearing its end. This is my last editorial for the Coalition Bulletin as I will be returning back to my country on Oct.5. I will take this opportunity to bid fare well to my colleagues at the coalition and at CENTCOM. I would also like to thank the members of Public Awareness Working Group who have consistently worked hard and given their best to this bulletin to affect visible improvements in media management.



It was a great experience to interact with representatives of 63 countries who continue to serve selflessly and tirelessly in the execution of our common mission i.e. to make this world a better and safer place to live in. This bulletin comes at the time of the anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. The fifth anniversary, besides reminding of the fateful day, also stands testimony to the unflinching unity of the international community in the Global War on Terror (GWOT).

The GWOT has now entered 6<sup>th</sup> year. During this period, international coalition members succeeded bringing its sixth liberation to Afghanistan and Iraq. Both countries now have democratically elected governments, new armies in various stages of reorganization and are making steady progress toward long term stability. Their progress however is being marked by an increase in violence, sectarian and ethnic division and rising sense of insecurity amongst certain segments of society. Pace of the progress may appear frustrating to many but we should not forget that it is a long war and our accomplishments so far are just the initial steps. People of Afghanistan and Iraq still require our support in their long journey to overcome problems created by decades of infighting and oppressive rule.

As I depart I must acknowledge the exceptional performance and courage of men and women of the coalition who have sacrificed their lives to accomplish the mission. I firmly believe that victory in this long war will be ours. It may come slowly and subtly but it will come. The coalition and its efforts will ultimately prevail and we will leave behind a better place for our next generation to live.

**Ikram ul Haq**  
Brigadier-General, Pakistan  
Chairman, Public Awareness Working Group



## Australia – Responsive Coalition Member

Air Chief Marshal Angus Houston gave a presentation to the Senior National Representatives during his visit to HQCENTCOM. He gave an overview of the strategic interests of Australia and a commitment to building relationships that foster security and stability in our region and further afield. He spoke about the threat of terrorism and stressed that the fight is for the long term which requires a whole-of-government approach, using all levers of national power and international cooperation, be they diplomatic, legal, economic, humanitarian aid or military.

He spoke of his concern about the threat from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction which is a feature of our new security environment. He also spoke about instability in key flashpoints, particularly the Middle East, North Korea, Iran and Taiwan.



Photos by Maj. Namaddin Karimov (AZE Army)

Houston spoke about the requirement for the Australian Defence Force to be able to respond to a range of contingencies as well as a robust capacity to deal with military threats of a conventional kind should they arise. Also, the Australian Defence Force is capable to give credible options for the pursuit of international security policies necessary to support Australia's interests.

Also, he presented an Award of the Chief of Defence Force Commendation to Lt.Col. Rodger Harrison - Coalition Liaison Chief, Coalition Coordination Centre for support of the Australian Defence Force and all Coalition Countries past and present, which have been represented at HQCENTCOM Tampa.



Air Chief Marshal Houston (AUS) presents a medal to Lt.Col. Rodger Harrison (USA)



# Better Vision for Afghan Child



**Story and photos by Army Spc. James Tamez  
19th Public Affairs Detachment**

**BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan**—Army doctors from Coalition performed a surgery for injured Afghan child. In preparation to prepare him for a prosthetic eye.

Doctors from Task Force Med, 14th Combat Support Hospital, removed built-up scar tissue from the left eye of Faizal, an 8-year-old boy who lost the use of his left eye from a blast injury he received when he was 3.

“There were no complications with the surgery and the recovery went well,” said Army Maj. Ronald Allen, chief of ophthalmology, Task Force Med., 14th CSH. “We are anticipating three weeks or so for the tissue to fully heal.”

Allen said Faizal’s eye was turned inward severely. Removing the scar tissue and turning his eye to a normal position will help the prosthetic eye move easier after it is installed.

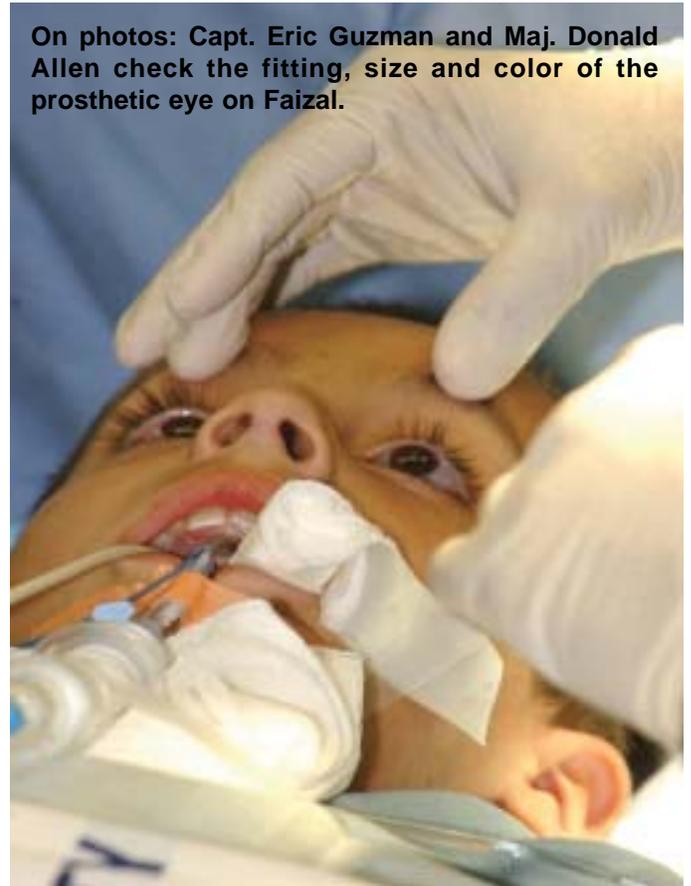
“We placed the prosthetic shell in to check the size,” said Army Capt. Eric Guzman, chief of division optometry, Task Force Med., 14th CSH. “We checked the color and pupil sizes to make sure they were a close match. The fitting was perfect. We are very happy with the result.”

Faizal still had corneal feeling in his left eye, in spite of the amount of damage, Guzman said.

“When people begin wearing a prosthetic, there is discomfort, and we wanted to make sure there wouldn’t be any more pain than normal,” said Guzman. Allen said they covered the cornea with conjunctiva, the clear skin on the eye to ensure [his eye] wouldn’t be so sensitive. Faizal’s father was elated and very appreciative of the services provided for his son, Allen said.

“Surgeries like this, in this environment,” said Allen, “are very good opportunities to show the Afghan people we are here to help them in the difficult environment they live in.” 

**On photos: Capt. Eric Guzman and Maj. Donald Allen check the fitting, size and color of the prosthetic eye on Faizal.**





# 4th Iraqi Army To Take The Lead



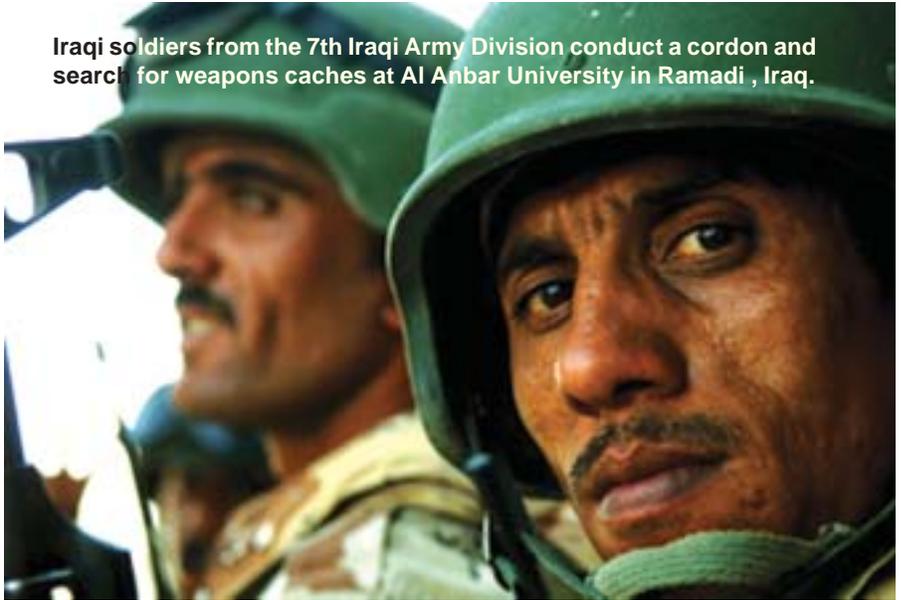
## Story by Multi-National Force-Iraq

**T**he 4th Iraqi Army Division (IAD) officially assumed the lead for security operations in most of Salah ad Din and Kirkuk provinces, previously controlled by units from the 101st Airborne Division (AD). The handover of forward operating bases and security demonstrates the progress being made by the Iraqi security forces, reiterates successes, and highlights the progress of the legitimate Iraqi government as a positive move toward full national sovereignty and self-reliance, said a Multi-National Force-Iraq spokesman. This transfer occurs as the Iraqi security force takes charge and shows it is capable of coordinating, planning and conducting security operations with Coalition forces acting in a support role. According to a 101st AD spokesman, the 4th IAD has demonstrated it is fully capable of assuming security responsibility by taking over security operations in provinces covering major cities of Tikrit, Kirkuk and Samarra.

The 4th IAD is the fifth of 10 Iraqi army divisions to assume security responsibility, which represents the halfway mark of Iraqi divisions assuming responsibility for providing security in their country. In total, Iraqi security forces are in the lead with five Iraqi army divisions, 22 army brigades, and 76 army battalions, and the Iraqi National Police have two battalions, for a total of about 275,000 trained forces. According to Coalition officials, 48 of 110 Forward Operating Bases have been transferred to the Iraqis; the result of the increased capacity of the Iraqi security forces and the Iraqi government.

“This (handover) is a brave quest

Iraqi soldiers from the 7th Iraqi Army Division conduct a cordon and search for weapons caches at Al Anbar University in Ramadi , Iraq.



and significant milestone toward garnering security self-reliance for the Iraqi citizens, the Iraqi security force, and the government of Iraq,” said Coalition officials. According to a fact sheet released by the 101st A D, “more than 275,000 trained and equipped Iraqi security personnel work every day to protect Iraq and its people. These numbers continue to grow as more troops are scheduled to assume independent control in the coming months.” As evidence to the 4th IAD’s capabilities, about 3,000 Iraqi security forces, with support from Coalition troops, recently detained 154 terror suspects and seized a large weapon cache during Operation Gaugamela west of Kirkuk. The 10-day operation was conducted to search for suspected al-Qaida terrorists in and around the cities of Hawaija and Riyadh. Following a request from local Arab leaders to rid the area outside Kirkuk of terrorists,

the 10-day operation - covering 25 cities and villages spanning more than 900 square miles - began with a series of smaller Iraqi Army operations targeting 20 objectives in the Rashad area, southwest of Kirkuk. Using their own intelligence information, Soldiers from the 2nd Brigade, 4th IAD planned and conducted the missions, detaining nine terror suspects and seizing a cache of weapons.”

“This was the first time the Iraqis in our area have self-sustained during an operation,” said Capt. Krista Jekielek, a U.S. logistics representative to the Iraqi security forces. “It was a significant validation, showing they are capable of moving the necessary personnel and supplies required to perform their mission.”

Capt. Lyn Graves, an Army spokesman who patrolled Hawija with the Iraqi security forces during the operation, said the Iraqi forces were extremely proficient and professional.

In addition to taking terrorists and weapons off the street, the discipline of the soldiers involved in the mission truly stands out, according to Maj. Greg Bishop, a 1st BCT spokesman. “The Iraqi and Coalition Soldiers went into two of the most contentious cities in the Kirkuk province, searched hundreds of homes and buildings and detained more than 150 suspects with no violence whatsoever,” said Bishop. “That’s an incredible success and a true measure of the professionalism of everyone involved in the operations.” <sup>CB</sup>





## “For Faithful Service Under the Colors”



**O**n 9 August 2006 Major General Gerald Minetti, Director of the Coalition Operations at USCENTCOM was awarded a Bulgarian decoration “For Faithful Service Under the Colors”, second class.

This is in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Defense and Armed Forces Law of the Republic of Bulgaria and the Statute of the Prize Decoration. It serves as recognition of General Minetti’s persistence and positive attitude in the bilateral contacts and military cooperation. It was presented before the staff of the Coalition Coordination Center and the Senior National Representatives in the Coalition by Colonel Cvetan Colov, Senior National Representative of the Republic of Bulgaria at USCENTCOM, on behalf of the Bulgarian Minister of Defense Veselin Bliznakov. CE



Photos by Maj. Namaddin Karimov (AZE Army)





# Coalition Force Provides Financial Assistance for Reconstruction



By John D. Banusiewicz  
American Forces Press Service

**KABUL, Afghanistan** – Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan announced today that more than \$90,000 will be provided in family assistance, reconstruction and development projects for Tolucan village in the Panjwai District of southern Kandahar Province, Afghanistan.

The village of Tolucan was the location of a significant combat engagement on May 21 and 22 in which several non-combatant civilians were killed following a Coalition operation to defeat more than 200 Taliban fighters.

The funding addresses immediate necessities and is provided through family and community assistance projects. These projects are funded mostly through the Leahy Initiative (named for U.S. Senator Patrick Leahy), which is designed to provide U.S. support for war-affected communities in the south and east regions of Afghanistan.

On May 21, Taliban fighters fired on Coalition forces from various buildings, including protected places such as schools and mosques. The Taliban also used the homes of innocent civilians as fighting positions. A subsequent investigation revealed that the extremists violated the laws of war by endangering the local civilian population, and it was enemy action that caused casualties.

Despite this, Coalition forces on May 21 were able to help two families to safety during the operation, but were unable to assist remaining noncombatants. The government of Afghanistan subsequently estimated that 16 civilians died in the engagement.

Since the operation, Coalition forces, in partnership with the U.S. Agency for International Development, developed a comprehensive plan to assist the village. Coalition Civil Affairs personnel and USAID field officers from the Kandahar Provincial Reconstruction Team met with village families and local authorities in order to assess local needs and provide the most appropriate form of support to the affected village.

USAID will support reconstruction and development projects for the village based on feedback from community members most familiar with the community's economic and social priorities.

Potential projects include food and material assistance, farming and agricultural support, and reconstruction of the school compound. The total assistance package is equal to the approximate amount allowed, based on the number of affected



people in the village.

Assistance to the village, however, is ultimately based on when security conditions allow aid workers to enter the village. Taliban extremists continue to target aid workers in the area, including both Afghan citizens and international non-governmental representatives.

“Aid workers provide assistance purely on humanitarian grounds. Such attacks cut basic services to Afghan communities,” said Collins.

“The Taliban want to hamper the aid work of the international community because it means progress, which they are against. By their actions, they are hurting the most vulnerable people in Afghan society and the lives of ordinary Afghans whom we seek to serve.” <sup>CB</sup>





# Navy Individual Augmentees Help Rebuild Al Anbar Province

Story by Chief Mass Communication Specialist (SW) Daniel Sanford

**C**AMP FALLUJAH, Iraq - The Army Corps of Engineers (ACoE) has recently been augmented by some senior enlisted Navy leadership who volunteered as individual augmentees to help rebuild cities within the Al-Anbar Province in western Iraq.

“Right now we’re rebuilding more than 50 new houses in Fallujah,” said Yule, a native of Pittsburgh. “We’re also repairing roads and coordinating the expansion of office and living spaces on camp and building billboards that promote the Iraqi army and police.”

The ACoE arrived at Camp Fallujah in 2004. Since then, it has helped to

Yule coordinates projects between the Camp Fallujah’s ACoE area office and local and regional companies. Because he’s one of only two Sailors attached to this unit, he often finds himself doing more than coordinating.

“I coordinate, but I’m also the manpower,” said Yule, an 18-year Navy veteran. “We have a large spectrum of people who are trying to make these projects work, but often I’m the guy who’s also out there helping to build these projects.”

For a Sailor who has spent the majority of his career around aircraft, it may seem unusual to find him managing the construction of sewage lines in the middle of the desert. However, Yule says it was just a matter of raising his hand.

“I was the command career counselor at the time,” he said. “We kept receiving requests for someone to fill this billet and after no one responded, it looked like they were going to pull one of the guys who just arrived at the command with recent months. So I stepped up and said I’d do it.”

Like many individual augmentees, Yule is taking six months away from his current shore duty to assist in the U.S. and coalition efforts in the Middle East. While his wife and two children were disappointed in his departure, Yule says they also support his decision.

“It’s difficult to be away from them, but they understand what I’m trying to do out here and they support me.” But even with their support, Yule realizes that he’s stationed in a very dangerous place. “At first I was a little apprehensive, but as time rolls on you can see progress,” he said. “You see the dedication of the workers and the importance of the job firsthand.

“I love it when the kids run out to see us when we arrive,” said Yule with a smile. “The workers come up to us, shake our hands and slap us on the back. You can sense the general feeling toward the U.S. and coalition changing for the better. “And to be a part of it,” said Yule, “you can’t beat it.” **CB**



Chief Aviation Boatswain’s Mate Handler (AW/SW) Michael Yule, who three months ago was teaching at the Center for Navy Leadership in Little Creek, Va., has now found himself playing a vital role in the rebuilding of the provincial cities of Al-Asaad, Ramadi and Fallujah.

coordinate dozens of projects - all aimed at rebuilding the war-damaged country.

“We’re building a whole new electrical grid system in Fallujah,” said Yule. “We’re also giving them in door plumbing and a sewage system that works.”



# Sailors Play Major Role with 354th Civil Affairs Brigade



By Chief Mass Communication Specialist Daniel Sanford

**C**AMP SLAYER, Iraq - The 354th Civil Affairs Brigade (CAB), homeported out of Riverdale, Md., completed its first four months here, Aug. 16, as the primary administrative controlling manager for civil affairs units throughout Iraq. During the first months of its year-long deployment to Baghdad, the 354 CAB coordinated and ensured the successful completion of numerous community-oriented projects. Uniquely, it's also the first civil affairs brigade in Iraq made up primarily of Sailors. Whether active-duty individual augmentees or reservists called upon to deploy with the unit, more than 75 percent of the brigade headquarters is U.S. Navy.

Army Col. Vernon Harris, 354th CAB's commander, says working in a joint environment with U.S. Sailors has been a wonderful experience. "It's been a great marriage, so to speak," said Harris, who hails from Columbia, S.C. "There were a lot of unknowns at first and I wasn't sure if this was going to work out or not, but the Sailors are extremely capable and their skills and expertise have worked out perfectly with the job they're here to do."

The brigade manages three civil affairs battalions based in Iraq: the 414th Civil Affairs Battalion stationed out of Camp Victory in Baghdad, the 402nd Civil Affairs Battalion in Tikrit, and the 403rd Civil Affairs Battalion in Mosul. The brigade provides administrative control of the battalions and monitors their operational mission objectives which support the maneuver divisions civil military operations objectives and quality of life projects for the Iraqi people. "Basically we make sure the battalions are trained, have the right people in the right jobs and ensure they have the correct materials," said Navy Cmdr. Tim LaPlante, 354th CAB's deputy operations officer. The brigade also coordinates the projects that the battalions are charged with carrying out. These projects are coordinated by the brigade's six functional specialty teams: Public Health, Humanitarian Assistance, Essential Services, Veterinary Services and Agriculture, Rule of Law, and Public Infrastructure.

"The functional specialty teams are a culmination of different skill sets," said Navy Capt. L. George Wingfield, deputy functional specialty teams chief. "Each team has personnel whose skill sets match the team. So we have service members with backgrounds in civil engineering, forestry, business, electrical engineering and several who are just project manager qualified." "Our civil affairs battalions are out there doing assessments; they're finding out what the Iraqi people need," said the native of Fort Collins, Colo. "They report their findings to the functional specialty teams who take their findings for action." In many cases, the brigade is able to restore critical services to pre-war condition, or better.

"Once we assemble our plans, we coordinate with the provisional reconstruction teams (PRTs), which are sponsored by the State Department," said Wingfield. "We give our plans to the PRTs and they speak with local jurisdictions and try to establish a plan that'll accommodate the U.S. military and the Iraqi people." The 354th has coordinated several major humanitarian aid projects since arriving in Iraq in April. "We handle anything dealing with medical supplies, school supplies, clothing, toys, sporting equipment and many other materials," said Navy Cmdr. Jimmy Cox, humanitarian assistance team leader. "We can also get material from DRMO (Defense Reutilization and Marketing Office) and distribute it to the people in Iraq."

A recent success story involving DRMO included the redistribution of 55 two-and-a-half ton stake trucks. The trucks were turned over to DRMO, but weren't shipped back to the U.S. because the cost of shipping the trucks exceeded their actual value. Cox and his team negotiated a deal that turned over the vehicles to the Iraqi Ministry of Agriculture. Other humanitarian aid projects had the CAB distributing more than 15,000 school kits and thousands of soccer balls to Iraqi children and coordinating the delivery of more than 3,000 wheelchairs throughout Iraq. "We also send a lot of what we receive to the Iraqi military units," said Cox. "They can then distribute them to the locals and that really helps to legitimize the government of Iraq and the Iraqi army."

Ultimately, according to Cox, that will help the Iraqi government achieve its goal of self-sufficiency and allow U.S. and coalition forces to depart the country. "As much as the Army has needed to recall its reservists to assist with civil affairs operations, The Navy has been asked to assist as individual augmentees," said Lt. Cmdr. Jeff McClanahan, deputy humanitarian assistance team leader. "The brigade is commanded by an Army colonel and we also have some Air Force personnel attached, but the 354th headquarters is now predominately manned by the Navy."

According to members of the CAB, it didn't take long for all three services to appreciate what each group brought to the table. "Once we got past the preconceived notions about each other's services, things took off and we're doing great," said Sgt. Maj. John Blair, non-commissioned officer in charge of brigade logistics. In fact, Blair, who works in the brigade's logistics office, is quick to pull a yellow sticky note from his computer's CPU. On it is the inscription "June 30, Eureka!" "That was our Eureka Day," he laughed. "I keep that note around to remind me when it all came together. We had a closed-door office meeting and discussed our differences. From that point on we've really clicked. I can't say enough about the Navy."

Neither can the 354th Brigade's Command Sergeant Major Harry Shubargo. "It's been terrific having them here," said the native of Ashburn, Va. "If this is the future of the military, then I'm all for it." "The Sailors bring a wealth of knowledge and a 'can-do' attitude with regards to the mission," he said. "The thing you have to realize is that these Navy people come from active and reserve components with all sorts of skill sets. Yet somehow, they've all managed to become civil affairs experts." "Plus they survived the training at Fort Bragg," he joked. While there certainly is much to be proud of, Harris believes that the brigade's best efforts are still to come. "It's been a great journey thus far and we've made great strides," said Harris, as he recalled the brigade's accomplishments. "However the final chapter hasn't been written yet and I think great things will come to fruition in the coming months. 



# Scientist Sees Fruit of His Labor



Story and photos by the British Ministry of Defense

**A** British Ministry of Defense scientist who helped improve the design of a protective suit worn by bomb disposal experts is now working in Iraq close to a military team that uses the suit.

Scientist Mark Helliker is completing a tour as the head of an operational analysis team working in the Headquarters of the Multi-National Division - South East based in Basra. Helliker normally works in Warminster as the lead deployable analyst for the British 1 Armored Division in the Land Warfare Center. The post is a two-year duty from the Defense Science and Technology Division.

“I was the junior member of a team which looked at the development of the Mark VI version of the suit used by explosive ordnance disposal teams,” said Helliker. “The three things we looked at were; a more effective visor, greater ballistic protection to head and body and a higher level of impact protection around the head. “Other departments looked at other aspects of the suit design,” said Helliker, who was on a two-year training plan in 1999 and 2000 with the Defense Clothing Textile Agency, Science and Technology Division at Colchester. During this time he also passed his Master of Science in Systems Engineering.

“We were working closely with the customer to find out what improvements we could make to help them perform their job more effectively. Part of this required working with Defense Equipment and Research Agency on trials. “There were problems with the inflexibility of the two protective plates in the Mark IV suit and the helmet’s visor was quite a large piece of glass, which was difficult to manufacture effectively.

“With the visor we wanted to make a smaller version without reducing the operator’s situational awareness and to stop it misting up on cold mornings. We looked at motorcycle helmets – particularly those that lifted up, as these provided good head coverage. We needed a closer fit round the face so that the operators had more protection when working closely over a device.

Other problems were with the visor. When demisting sprays didn’t work his team sought another solution.

“We found a manufacturer which used a thin layer of metal laminated to a Perspex (acrylic glass) sheet which could be seen through but could also be heated. Using an environmental chamber to do trials, it proved very good and the idea is now in place,” said Helliker. According to soldiers, the Mark VI EOD suit is easier to use than its predecessors



Scientist Mark Helliker in the bomb disposal suit.

and is being used on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. It also has its own air conditioning system for use in very hot conditions.”The Mark VI is much more user friendly for the operator. It’s much more dexterous when you’re down at the target end,” said Staff Sgt. Don MacLean, one of the EOD specialists serving in the Maysaan region of Iraq who has used the new suit on several occasions.

“The development on the visor is good. It doesn’t mist up like we ones we used in Northern Ireland, and it creates greater all-round visibility and therefore a much safer environment,” said MacLean. Military matters are fascinating to Helliker, who will be lining up as one of King Harold’s elite guard at a re-enactment of the special 940th anniversary of the Battle of Hastings in October. “I will be one of Harold’s Huscarls (elite warriors armed with the fearsome 5ft Dane Axe). They fought to the death – none of them left the battlefield that day, even after Harold was killed. It was an honor thing. I’m a member of The Vikings re-enactment group, who cover the early medieval period between 600 and 1100AD.” Also lining up will be Helliker girlfriend Bella. The couple met at a fair when they were with the society in Maidenhead last year. “We are an equal opportunities organization – the girls get to fight as well!” said Helliker.



# Fighting Terrorism Through Development



FATA, a region of 27,220 square kilometers bordering Pakistan and Afghanistan comprises semi-autonomous tribal agencies with a total population of 5.7 million. Geographically, the difficult terrain with high mountains ranging up to 15,000 feet, non existent communication infrastructure and absence of basic civil amenities make it one of the most inhospitable areas.

Historically the area has had a special status during the British rule that continued even as part of Pakistan. The *Pashtun* tribes spread across the border have always been sensitive to any military presence and control of the area. Due to porous borders, the refugees and tribes have always criss-crossed the borders.

During the Afghan War (1979-87) the area served as a base for *Afghan Mujahedeen* due to its geographical affinity. After the war, continued instability in Afghanistan impacted negatively and the area previously a base for genuine Afghan struggle, continued to serve the interests of ex *Mujahedeen* commanders.

There was a dire need to bring this region into the main stream with the rest of the country as a step forward to fight terrorism. After 9/11, for the first time in history, the Pakistan Army moved-in to rid the area of terrorist elements and brought with them the ray of hope and a better future. Besides continued military action, a deliberate development of the area has been undertaken. Pakistan Army has extensively been engaged in well being of the people throughout the length and breadth of FATA with a view to improve the quality of life and to win the hearts and minds. The efforts initiated by the Army have been received well and are widely acclaimed.



Ongoing Development Works Comprehensive Development plan for FATA has evolved to its ultimate integration into mainstream Pakistan. The overall development plan encompasses communication infrastructure, education, health, irrigation, public health engineering, live stock and other important allied civic amenities. The focus is on building communication infrastructure and establishment of education and medicare system. The upcoming education and health projects are self-sustained having hostels and residential quarters and other basic amenities/utilities for the employees. Besides employing a good number of local contractors, five Army engineer battalions have also been placed in the area for speedy development works. While the various projects are in different stages of

completion, as an immediate measure the Pakistan Army has extended its medical services to the people and so far has treated a total of approximately 56,000 patients. Moreover, financial assistance and medicines worth 40 Million Rupees have also been provided. Besides, special celebrations of festivals, friendly sports matches/competitions, distribution of sports gear and stationary items have also been arranged on a regular basis. Since 2002, a total of 2.5 Billion Rupees have been allocated by the government and distributed to different agencies for development. The distribution of funds to various *Tribal Agencies* has been made considering susceptibility of each to terrorist elements. Thus, maximum funds have been spent in *North and South Waziristan*, the most notorious for housing foreign terrorists. CB



www.centcom.mil/Operations/Coalition/joint.htm



# Tajikistan Maintains Peace and Stability



Story by Capt. Khodzhiyev Umed  
Tajikistan Armed Forces

Since the Global War on Terror began, Tajikistan has allowed the United States to use its airspace and also has provided refueling services for U.S. aircrafts. Tajikistan provides airspace not only to U.S. forces, but to other countries of the anti-terrorist coalition as well as other facilities.



Tajikistan President Emomali Rahmonov and U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld

Dushanbe (capital city) Airport has been the home for the group of French Air Force for five years. There are more than 400 French military personnel, and eight planes deployed to the airport including six "Mirage" and two C-160 military-transport "Transal" aircrafts. Dushanbe Airport is located close to Operation Enduring Freedom area of operation, and plays a significant role as an important air asset. Tajikistan is a mountainous country. Ninety-three percent of its territory is surrounded by mountains, referring to the highest mountain systems of Central Asia: Tyan-Shan and the Pamirs. Almost half of the territory of Tajikistan is situated at a height of more than 3,000 meters.

The area of Tajikistan stretches east-west for 700 kilometers, and north-south for 350 km. The area of Tajikistan stretches east-west for 700 kilometers, and

north-south for 350 km. Tajikistan borders Uzbekistan in the north and west (910km), Kyrgyzstan - in the north (630km), Afghanistan - in the south (1,400 km), China - in the east (430km). The area of Tajikistan stretches east-west for 700 kilometers, and north-south for 350 km. Tajikistan borders Uzbekistan in the north and west (910km), Kyrgyzstan - in the north (630km), Afghanistan - in the south (1,400 km), China - in the east (430km).

The climate is continental and is characterized by sharp seasonal and daily fluctuations. The cold winter passes into rainy spring and is quickly replaced by dry summer, with the exception of Pamirs. Tajikistan belongs to two climatic areas: Asian and Central Asian.

U.S. Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld visited Tajikistan on July, 10. He was welcomed by the President of the Republic of Tajikistan, Emomali Rahmonov, and defense officials. The aim of the visit was to foster ongoing military cooperation between Tajikistan and the U.S. This was Rumsfeld's third visit to this country.

The situation in Afghanistan was a central topic of the discussion. Afghanistan's stability is very important to the entire Central-Asian region, especially for Tajikistan, because of its 1,400 kilometer border with Afghanistan, so the support of countries in that region to U.S. efforts in Afghanistan is vital, Rumsfeld said. "Our goal for our country is to have as many countries cooperating in the global war on terror and providing as many types of cooperation as they feel comfortable providing," he said. "The relationship between Tajikistan and the U.S. is multifaceted, encompassing political, economic and security issues. The U.S. has been involved in infrastructure projects within Tajikistan in addition to the work the countries have done together in the war on terror. Since 2001, the relationship between the two countries has developed significantly and will continue to do so," Rumsfeld added. One of the

steps that were made recently by Tajikistan to help the ongoing infrastructure development process of Afghanistan is the construction of the bridge between the borders of two countries. It will link the border crossing town of Nizhniy-Pyanj, Tajikistan, with the town of Shir Khan in Afghanistan's northern Kunduz province.

The bridge is 672 meters long by 11.5 meters wide, and it is being built keeping the international seismic standards.

E.Rahmonov said that in the future electricity, gas and water lines will be laid by Tajikistan through this bridge and another bridge, designed for the



Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov, Afghan President Hamid Karzai and US Ambassador to Tajikistan Richard Hoagland at the Pvanzh river bridge groundbreaking ceremony June 2005

Dushanbe - Kurghonteppa - Kunduz railway, will be built next to it. Hydropower industry for Tajikistan is one of the main sectors of economy. In terms of clean and fresh water Tajikistan is one of the richest countries in the world. Water gives an opportunity for Tajikistan to generate electric power for the whole Central Asian region.

One of the largest American energy companies, AES Corporation plans to invest \$1 billion for realization of a power supply project from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan and Afghanistan. It was reported by vice president of AES, Dale Perry on the press-conference in Almaty, Kazakhstan. It is the positive outcome of the Power, Transit and Trade International conference which took place recently in Turkey. During this conference Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Afghanistan and Pakistan signed quadrilateral agreement on implementation of power supply project from Tajikistan and Kyrgyzstan to Pakistan and Afghanistan.



Maj. Naimjon Husaynov and Capt. Umed Khodzhiyev, Tajikistan liaison team in U.S. CENTCOM, Tampa, FL



# Pakistani General Briefs Coalition on His Country's Role in Fighting Terrorism



Lieutenant General Athar Ali Shah

**“Leaving aside the United States, no other country has suffered and contributed more in GWOT than Pakistan”,** said Lieutenant General Athar Ali Syed, the Director General of Pakistani Joint Staff Headquarters, during his address to the Coalition SNRs at HQ CENTCOM on 21 Aug 06.

The General was on a short visit to CENTCOM to deliberate areas of mutual interests and furtherance of existing level of relations with U.S. CENTCOM commanders. He also interacted with Coalition SNRs and enlightened them on Pakistan's role in fighting GWOT.

While addressing SNRs, he said, “Pakistan has itself been a victim of terrorism since long, perpetrated by foreign elements and their local facilitators. We have paid a very heavy price in politico-economic and security fields in fighting this war”.

The General explained that a “post 9/11 international environment has transformed global geo-political landscape and reshaped interstate relationships; security policies of nations and brought terrorism to the world's sharp focus. He reemphasized that “Pakistan has strongly condemned terrorism in all its forms and manifestation anywhere in the world”. That is why, he said, “our commitment to world peace and principles led us to join international coalition to fight terrorism”.

Regarding Pakistan's position on global issues such as Kashmir and Palestine, the General explained that, “Notwithstanding our commitment to fight

terrorism, Pakistan does not ascribe to the idea of equating terrorism with the rightful struggle of people in different parts of the world against foreign occupation i.e. Palestine and Kashmir”. He said that “Pakistan is also of the firm belief that terrorism is also not specific to religions or ethnic groupings but is a global phenomenon, which needs efforts at that level to be defeated”.

He elaborated that “even before 9/11, Pakistan had embarked upon far reaching measures to rid the country of extremism and militancy.

Armed Forces in FATA. (Federally Administered Tribal Areas). “This was a difficult decision because there had never been any military presence in our Tribal Areas, which have enjoyed a semiautonomous status since centuries and had been virtually a “No Go Area”.

He went on and said that “Pak-Afghan Border belt consists of one of the most inhospitable and difficult terrain in the world. Historically Afghan governments have opposed Pakistan's efforts of fencing the 2,538 km long Pak-Afghan border to prevent unwanted cross border movements. Pakistan Army has



Photos by Capt. Y. Kalaiyev and Spc. P. Ziegler

“These efforts, he said, were intensified after 9/11 and numerous additional steps were taken”. Pakistan has scrupulously implemented all anti terrorism measures taken by the UN. Other steps include coordination and sharing of vital intelligence with coalition partners, deployment of 80,000 troops along the Pak-Afghan Border, immigration control reforms, crack down against fanatic and extremists / militant organisations, establishment of Tripartite Commission and provision of logistic support to US/ISAF/NATO Forces operating in Afghanistan”. The General further highlighted critical Anti Terrorist Operations being waged by Pakistan's

established around 1000 posts and have placed approximately 80,000 troops along Pak-Afghan border for well-coordinated cordon & search operations, which are still continuing”.

The General said that “Pakistan has assumed the role of a front line state in the U.S.- led Global War on Terrorism.

Pakistan and its Armed Forces in coordination with the international community, are playing a significant role in addressing security concerns at the international and regional level to bring peace, harmony and stability around the world in general and Afghanistan in particular”. 



# Georgia Infantry Battalion is Keeping the Peace and Security



Story and photos by 1st Lt. Beka Amroladze, Georgian Armed Forces

A high sense of responsibility and motivation is how one Georgian commander describes the 22<sup>nd</sup> Georgia Infantry Battalion, which is currently deployed in Iraq.

MAJ. Lasha Karmazanashvili, who was named commander of the new unit in January 2005, said his battalion not only meets the NATO standard deployment, but their integrity and professionalism was noticeable from the beginning. "Most of the officers, who were assigned to the leadership positions, have graduated from the Georgian Military Academy," L.Karmazanashvili said. "Some of the officers have NATO's standard education and some of them have battle and working experience."

The 22<sup>nd</sup> has come a long way in a short time, according to Karmazanashvili. He said the first recruits were enlisted on Jan. 5, 2005, and by Aug. 22 of last year, had begun preparation training for deployment to Iraq to fulfill its UNAMI mission. In March, the 22<sup>nd</sup> was involved in a field exercise where they learned practical training. By early June, the unit created its own flag and emblem, it was sent to Batumi, the site of

the dislocation base of the 23<sup>rd</sup> Light Infantry Battalion. By Aug. 16, the 22<sup>nd</sup> was providing security for Russian military base procedure withdrawal, according to the basic combat readiness program plan.



MAJ. Lasha Karmazanashvili

Karmazanashvili said the readiness is linked to implementation of significant changes inside the Georgian Armed Forces and he isn't surprised at how quickly the unit stood up. In addition, the commander said the unit went through the Stabilization Support Operation Program, aided by American Navy instructors. "After graduating the above mentioned program, they passed through the Peace Support Course and arrived in Kuwait to pass their next

redeployment training," MAJ. L.Karmazanashvili said. "Since April 21, 2006, the battalion has been in Baghdad fulfilling its mission." That mission, according to the captain, is to assist in fulfilling United Nations missions in Iraq.

"We're keeping the peace and security inside the International Zone so the local government has the possibility to work and act in a safe circumstance," L.Karmazanashvili said. "The Soldiers provide checking and searching procedures for incoming vehicles and pedestrians."

More specifically, vehicles and pedestrians coming from the Red Zone are checked by MAJ.L.Karmazanashvili's Soldiers, along with a group from the Peruvian Armed Forces. At another entrance gate to the International Zone, the Georgians are working together with the Fiji Republic Armed Forces, checking and searching vehicles and pedestrians. In addition, the 22<sup>nd</sup> escorts the Iraqi president and carries out convoy missions.

Reflecting on the deployment, Karmazanashvili said history is playing a part in the success of this mission. "Inside each Soldier you can find reflection of the





structures are being replaced with new modern institutes and structures, which is a consecutive process to build democracy in Iraq,” he said.

“I’d like to compare it with Georgia in the near past. Everything was done with international support and today we can say aloud that our country develops very fast and day by day is becoming a democratic country.

“Today, we have the same situation in Iraq,” he continued, “International assistance in peace support, education reforms and democratic elections. We have no doubt that in the near future Iraq will become a completely improved democratic country and they will be proud. It will be an essential victory for the Iraqi nation.”

MAJ Lasha Karmazanshvili is thankful that he has had the honor of being a commander of an international unit that is helping to rebuild Iraq.

“The Iraqi nation deserves to live in peaceful circumstances and I hope soon they will celebrate victory and have a successive result,” MAJ. L. Karmazanshvili said. “But today, all of us have the obligation to assist them in fulfillment of their purpose.” 

Georgian history and past,” he said. “As you know, during its existence, Georgia has had numerous battles and has few periods of peaceful time. That’s why each Georgian became intimately linked with the war situation. Existence of the Georgian contingent in Iraq is the continuation of that rich history, which Georgia has been carrying out with alliance forces and frequently fought with other Coalition members.”

Beyond working with Peru, Fiji and the United States, Karmazanshvili said his unit has a good relationship with British headquarters and the two countries share information to provide the International Zone with a high level of security.

“Every military unit inside the IZ has a friendly link with us,” Karmazanshvili said. “I’d like to mention that the U.S. 4<sup>th</sup> Brigade assists us in solving daily problems. We feel high attention from the Multi-National Division and Corps. Last month Multi-National Corps Commander Deputy General Mortuory visited our forward operating base and introduced our battalion’s mission and living conditions.”

According to Lasha Karmazanshvili, Georgian parents are proud of their children being a part of the global war on terror.

“I’d like to highlight again, the huge influence of historical values,” he

said. “Georgian history has several examples and I’d like to remember one of them, when a mother sent her nine sons and after their heroic death, she took the Georgian flag and continued the fight herself. They are excellent representatives of their motherland outside Georgia and they are doing their bit to develop Georgia’s friend nation, Iraq.”

The Iraqi nation has realized how significant the Georgian presence is in keeping peace inside the International Zone. He said Iraqis try to support and assist the Georgian battalion in every situation they can. To take it a step further, Karmazanshvili said his Soldiers assist contracting agencies as well, which, in turn, helps living conditions within the zone.

Karmazanshvili said that Iraq continues to be in transition. It’s been a period of significant change and the entire country has felt that transformation. “Old false thoughts and,





# Significant Weapons Cache



**Story and photos by the British Ministry of Defense**

**BASRA** - British troops in Basra uncovered a large cache of terrorist weapons and equipment in a dawn raid on July 18. The operation involved Coalition members from Multi-National Division - Southeast (MNDSE), operating in the northeast suburbs of Basra.

The intelligence-led operation was conducted to search property where weapons were believed to be stored in support of terrorist activities. Early in the operation, British Soldiers were attacked and returned fire. Attacks on the British troops continued from rocket propelled grenades, mortar rounds and small arms fire throughout the operation.

The Soldiers discovered a significant weapons cache that included sophisticated bomb making equipment, improvised explosive devices, rockets, mortars and hand grenades. More than two tons of weapons were seized by Soldiers from the British 20th Armor Brigade. Three suspected terrorists were detained during the search operation.



**Sophisticated bomb making equipment, improvised explosive devices, rockets, mortars and hand grenades discovered near Basra.**

No British troops were injured in the fighting. Brig. Gen. James Everard, the brigade's commander, said the raid was "highly successful" and achieved the objective. "MNF will combat the threat from terrorists and this is an example of the measures we will take to meet our commitment," he said. "Along side the governor of Basra and members of the

provincial security council this was our pledge, signed in a written undertaking. We have made it clear that in support of the Basra Security Plan, we will combat those who attempt to incite sedition and destabilize the security situation. We will take the necessary steps to reach our mutually desired end state." 



# Australian Troops Take on New Role



**Story by Australian Maj. Mark Tanzer**

The formation of Overwatch Battlegroup – West has opened a new chapter in the Australian army's long and distinguished history of military operations in the Middle East. Formerly known as Al Muthanna Task Group 3, the 450-strong Australian unit is tasked with providing operational supervision in support of Provincial Iraqi Control in Al Muthanna province, southern Iraq.

Al Muthanna on July 13 became the first province in Iraq to achieve PIC. It gives Iraqi security forces the lead role in maintaining a secure environment for their people. Following Iraqi control, Multi-National Forces in the province began handing over their bases, a process completed on July 26 when the last Australian and British elements left Camp Smitty. Battlegroup commander Lt. Col. Michael Mahy said operational supervision in Al Muthanna was a new experience for Coalition forces in Iraq. "This is a first for both MNF and the

Australian army, and we're extremely proud to have been given this very important role," Mahy said. "PIC was a great day in the history of modern Iraq," said Mahy. He said Coalition forces have all worked hard to make this day happen.

"In a dangerous environment the unassuming professionalism, pragmatism and dedication of Australian soldiers has made this day a reality for the people of Al Muthanna," he said. Coalition forces now can take a back seat and support Iraqi forces when needed. "The Iraqi army, the Iraqi police service and the Department of Border Enforcement now have the lead for security in Al Muthanna province," he said. Iraqi forces and the Iraqi government are now in charge. "All public institutions and services are now under the control of a democratically elected Iraqi government and that the future direction of the province will now be set by Iraqis," said Mahy. Mahy said elements would continue to visit the province to conduct routine engagement with Iraqi leadership. The goal is to help monitor, mentor and strengthen an already strong

friendship. He praised the men and women of OBG-W for their courage and dedication to duty in dangerous and difficult conditions since deploying as AMTG 3. "All Australians can be proud of what the task groups have achieved, and continue to achieve, in Iraq.

They're a credit to the army, and it's a privilege for me to be their commanding officer," Mahy said. MNDSE Chief of Staff British Army Col. James Cowan said the creation of OBG-W was a landmark event. "It's always rewarding to work in partnership with Australian troops," Cowan said.

"We share a common bond of professionalism, which has ensured the force in Al Muthanna province is a cohesive one. Australian Brig. Mick Moon praised the efforts of the Australian army in Iraq. This unit is breaking new ground in the reconstruction mission in Iraq, he said. "I have absolute confidence in your ability in setting the conditions for those Coalition forces that will follow your example," said Moon. 