

Coalition Bulletin

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“Together for peace”



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Cover photo: Coalition Flags Waving, November 17, 2006, Tampa, Florida
Photo by Capt. Manuel Matos

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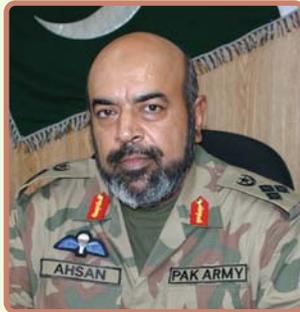
QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"Victory in Iraq is the nation at peace with its neighbors. And Iraq hasn't been at peace with its neighbors in a long time. It is a country that respects the rights of its citizens. It's a country that can defend itself. It's a country that's not a safe haven for terrorists...but the fact that they will come to a solution where they've gotta take into account the rights and desires not only of ethnic groups of individual, rights and desires, is actually a revolutionary change in the Middle East."

Gen. John P. Abizaid
U.S.CENTCOM Commander

Editorial

Last month saw some significant developments, both in the realm of political and military operations in the AOR. While some of these occurrences are being projected as major gains for the terrorists, but the blow up is relatively disproportionate in the media. Undeniably, the Coalition forces have lately seen some hard times, especially in Iraq, but terming the present situation as a major victory for terrorists will be grossly incorrect. More so, once these acts of terror are neither sustainable nor have popular support. The realization in this regard among the Coalition is actually heartwarming, which sees the present situation calling for a more united stand with unflinching determination and perseverance.



The ongoing operations are unique both in terms of their magnitude and means employed. With undefined rules and modes of engagement, it does call for a re-look with regards to our techniques of fighting at lower level and modes of engagement at higher level. Therefore, any modifications or adjustments in the ongoing military operations, will be inline with the dictates and must never be construed as a weakness, rather it reflects the ability of a commander to adjust to the changing requirements for the ultimate victory.

While the situation in Iraq may call for readjustments in strategy and more emphasis on capacity building of Iraqi administration and security mechanism, in Afghanistan the requirement will be for even a more long term approach. Accordingly, induction of 25th PRT in Afghanistan is a welcome development; however the need for improved governance is becoming critical to optimally benefit from the ongoing reconstruction effort. There is also a need to review the present mechanism for the development of indigenous security apparatus in Afghanistan. In this regard performance and efficacy of ANA may be evaluated for any improvements and changes required for evolving an effective indigenous security apparatus.

While the quest of the global community to fight terrorism in all its forms is ongoing with full swing, the Coalition today stands at a juncture where political direction will set the future course of action of this campaign. While the ongoing operations and gains against Al-Qaeda and allied movements provide a sufficient basis for a continued joint effort, we need to remain focused on our primary objective of shaping the world into a better and more civilized place for our future generations. This we need to achieve by all means, military and political, one complementing and not replacing the other.

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



Tripartite Makes Substantial Progress During Meeting in Kabul



Courtesy of ISAF Public Information Office

KABUL, Afghanistan – The Tripartite Commission, comprising senior military representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and NATO's International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan, held its 19th Plenary Session in Kabul Nov.11.

The senior delegates were Lt. Gen. Sher Mohammed Karimi, chief of operations of the Afghan National Army; Maj. Gen. Ahmad Shuja Pasha, Director General of Military Operations of the Pakistan Army; and Gen. David Richards, Commander of ISAF.

The agenda for the meeting included reports from the Border Security Sub Committee, the Military Intelligence Sharing Working Group and the Counter-Improvised Explosive Device (C-IED) Working Group. In a significant development from previous meetings, there was also a series of workshops in which officers from all three delegations discussed information operations, cooperation to enhance the Afghan National Army's ongoing Operation OQAB, and ways in which the security forces of Afghanistan, Pakistan, ISAF and the Coalition could improve their long-term planning and cooperation in the fight against terrorism.

Karimi gave a presentation on Operation OQAB, the first ever Afghanistan-wide joint security operation involving all branches of the Afghan National Army and Police with ISAF in support. The operation is already underway, is intelligence-led, and aims to disrupt enemy plans over the winter and spring months to allow reconstruction and development to get going in selected areas. The operation would involve close cooperation with the Pakistan Army.

The Border Security Sub-Committee discussed some key initiatives, including the development of a common operational picture, the development of standard operating procedures, and improvements in joint communications capabilities. These discussions have also taken into account some of the wider events that are taking place currently and over the next few months, including the Afghan / ISAF Operation OQAB and security operations by Pakistani forces in their area. The Military Intelligence-Sharing Working Group has made real progress in exchanging information relevant to operations in the Afghanistan / Pakistan border area. A Joint Intelligence Operations Centre is now being built, and this will soon include officers from Afghanistan, Pakistan and ISAF working together to share and analyze information and intelligence.

The Counter-IED Working Group has developed a close relationship and experts from Afghanistan, Pakistan and ISAF meet regularly to share information and determine ways to coordinate IED related action. Lessons have been incorporated from early efforts and have led to improvements in the speed and efficiency with which information is shared. Cooperation of this sort is a valuable asset in the fight against IEDs.

For the first time too a press conference was held at which Karimi gave further details of the meeting and its immense value and then took questions from the media.

The Tripartite Commission will next meet in Islamabad in January 2007. 

Remembrance

Story by 1st Sgt. Marvin Baker
Photos by Capt. Manuel Matos

In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders Fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved, and were loved, and now we lie*

In Flanders Fields.

*Take up your quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.*

*If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders Fields.*

- John McCrae
Killed in Action 1917

Canadians stationed at U.S. Central Command observed Remembrance Day this Nov. 11, honoring 36 of their comrades who lost their lives in the past year fighting the Global War on Terror in Afghanistan.

The Canadian Liaison Team organized the solemn affair, attended by more than 70 people from numerous Coalition nations. It was held in Memorial Park at MacDill Air Force Base.

Remembrance Day is observed at 11 a.m. on the 11th day of November each year, recognizing the exact moment that an armistice took effect ending the fighting in World War I on Nov. 11, 1918. In Canada this is a time to honor the more than 100,000 Canadians who have perished since their nation entered the Great War in September 1914.

“Let me tell you that in Canada, in nearly every town and village, one can find a cenotaph or war memorial,” said Canadian Naval Capt. Kenneth Stewart. “And on it is inscribed the names of the sons and daughters of that community who answered the call and made the supreme sacrifice.

We don’t have a village cenotaph here in Tampa, but we are part of this coalition village in Central Command Headquarters,” he added. “Thus, up front, on a small poster are the names of 36 Canadians who gave their lives over the last year in the CENTCOM Area of Operations. Almost all died fighting the enemy in Afghanistan. It is this fact, that these are the first combat deaths Canada has suffered since Korea, that makes this Remembrance Day all the more poignant. For the first time in generations, the names and faces of those who fought and died will not rise out of some faded photograph, but from the fresh memories of someone who only seemingly yesterday was a living, breathing friend, neighbor and cherished family member.”

Altogether, 42 Canadian Soldiers have died since Canada entered the Global War on Terror in 2002. The front page of the Nov. 11 edition of the Regina Leader-Post newspaper ran the photos of those fallen, along with a graphic of the Remembrance Day symbol, the poppy, made famous by Canadian doctor Lt. Col. John McCrae, in his World War I poem “In Flanders Fields.” Canada’s weekly newsmagazine, Maclean’s, printed a similar, full-page of the 42 who have died in the past four years. Prime Minister Stephen Harper remembered them during a speech at the National War Memorial in Ottawa.

“It is that each year in Canada, on this day, we pause to remember all those who made it possible for our country to be independent and prosperous,” Stewart said. “We offer solemn gratitude to those who answered the call of king or queen and country, who served their nation in war and peace, and especially those who gave their lives that we may live in freedom.”

The program included the playing of Canadian and U.S. national anthems, a salute to the last post, two minutes of silence to remember war dead, “Reveille,” Stewart’s quoting of “In Flanders Fields,” and the Act of Remembrance, prayers, placing of the wreaths and ending with “God Save the Queen” recognizing the Head of State of Canada.



Andrew McIntosh, the Honorary Consul for the Government of Canada (in the middle) along with numerous Coalition partners attended the ceremony

Day at U.S.CENTCOM

U.S. Marine Col. David Greco, the deputy director of Coalition Coordination Center, laid a wreath along with New Zealand Brigadier Mark Wheeler on behalf of CENTCOM Coalition.

Greco called it a moving event.

“We talk about being a Coalition, a village,” Greco said. “It’s important that we celebrate with our Coalition partners and they participate in events important for us. It’s a great day for us to get together and remember those who made the ultimate sacrifice.”

Several others placed wreaths including, Andrew McIntosh, the Honorary Consul for the Government of Canada; Air Vice-Marshal Mike Heath, of Great Britain’s Royal Air Force; Wing Commander Les Mathews, of the Royal New Zealand Air Force; Col. Pawel Hejna, of Poland; and Lt. Col. Ian Hope representing the Canadian Armed Forces.

Hope recently returned from Afghanistan where he commanded 1st Princess Patricia’s Canadian Light Infantry Battle Group (Task Force ORION) under Operation Enduring Freedom from January to August this year. Twenty-three of the 36 Canadians killed in action belonged to Hope’s unit. “I commanded most of these men and women,” Hope said; “and I personally watched a number of them fall to enemy fire. This is indeed a solemn moment for me.”

Countrymen McIntosh added: “It’s my honor and privilege to be in attendance in honor of the fallen and those who served on behalf of Canada and the allied forces.”

Stewart explained the importance of Remembrance Day, commemorating the nation’s baptism of fire at Ypres, Belgium in April 1915 to its first independent victory at Vimy Ridge, France, in April 1917, to the capture of Mons on the morning of Nov. 11, 1918, hours before the Armistice. It is recognized that Canada achieved nationhood through its sacrifices and successes of World War 1.

Canada has largely been a peacekeeper since the Korean War, until 2002, when the prime minister sent troops to Afghanistan to fight the Global War on Terror. With the recent losses sustained in the hard fighting in Kandahar and Helmand provinces this past year, Canada has now incorporated its commitment to Operation Enduring Freedom and ISAF to the Remembrance Day tradition.^{CB}



U.S. Army Chaplain Lt. Col. Paul Willis recites a prayer



Canadian Naval Captain Kenneth Stewart (left) and Lt. Col. Ian Hope salute the war memorial after laying a wreath



Polish Senior National Representative Col. Pawel Hejna lays a wreath on behalf of his country to the war memorial

Foreign Press Meets at U.S.CENTCOM

Story by 1st Sgt. Marvin Baker

Photos by Capt. Manuel Matos and Spc. Christopher Erickson



Maj. Gen. Gerald P. Minetti during briefing

Twenty-three journalists from various parts of the world spent Nov. 20 at U.S. Central Command, gathering news for their agencies and learning the latest on the coalition's efforts on the global war on terror.

Led by Maj. Jocelyn Baker, of CENTCOM Public Affairs, the 12 print correspondents, 11 broadcast camera personnel, along with two staff members from the Department of Defense, were briefed on GWOT, had a question-and-answer session with Maj. Gen. Gerald Minetti, were presented a Combined Planning Group briefing and had the opportunity to participate in one-on-one interviews and a round-table discussion with American Soldiers who have been in theater.

Briefings, individual interviews and lunch took place in the Davis Center and Senior National Representative interviews were later conducted in front of the CENTCOM Headquarters building. Eight members of CENTCOM Public Affairs and Coalition staff assisted the journalists throughout the day.

Minetti, the director of Coalition coordination, answered a myriad of questions about the U.S. military and its involvement in Iraq and Afghanistan.

The General acknowledged negative news reports coming out of theater and said there are

good news stories as well, many that are relayed home to families by soldiers, sailors, marines and airmen. In fact, he gave examples of U.S. and Coalition successes. In Afghanistan, he cited, elections, a developing President Hamid Karzai government and the participation of 37 nations working together to root out the Taliban as being successful.

In Iraq, Minetti reminded the journalist pool that 30 months ago, not a single Iraqi Army battalion was active. Now, there are 80. He said those units are planning, conducting and analyzing. He admitted there is more to be done, but standing up 80 battalions can certainly be measured as success.

"They've had two elections – the constitutional referendum; that's progress," he said. "The Iraqi government wants to be successful and to care for its people."

Minetti told the reporters it's not an easy process and requires somewhat of a balancing act of economic,



Turkish Senior National Representative Col. Salih Gamsiz talks to Turkish journalist

diplomatic and military options. He said unlike any foe in the past, the enemy today operates in small cells, instead of military units, has mastered the Internet to disseminate propaganda and looks for safe havens in vulnerable nations to recruit and train.

He explained that this scenario has become known as the “long war.”

“The nature of today’s enemy is different than the enemies we’ve faced in the past,” Minetti said. “It doesn’t fly a flag, it doesn’t defend its people and it doesn’t defend a border. We learn more every day. The extremist ideology is hard for many people in the world to understand.”

Despite that, he said American public support remains extremely high. And following Gen. John Abizaid’s recent Senate testimony, more American trainers will embed with Iraqi units so that companies can now be trained rather than just battalion staffs.

The foreign press visit was also a chance for many of the reporters to interview their senior national representatives, who are stationed at CENTCOM. Many of the SNRs, including those from Yemen, Pakistan, Great Britain, New Zealand, Germany, Spain, Estonia and Poland, were interviewed.

Eberhard, Piltz, the Washington, D.C. correspondent for ZDF-TV in Germany, said the briefings were informative, and although he was hoping to learn more detailed information, was satisfied with the news gathered.

“It’s not for today’s news,” Piltz said. “I will use it for stories I’m going to do on Iraq and the (U.S.) military in general. I’ll use sound bites about Afghanistan. Some of the footage, I will submit for news items, but I will use it for upcoming stories.”

Malcolm Brown, a British resident freelancing for South African media, said the best way to go is to film something military. Brown said he knew that wouldn’t happen at CENTCOM, but was able to get plenty of B-roll footage of the event.

“The fact that there were fewer briefings, was good,” Brown said. “Although TV wise, this was slightly problematic, the one-on-one was good.”

In addition to Brown, Poland, Turkey, Estonia, Spain and Al Jazeera journalists interviewed Minetti one-on-one.

Andy Strike, a military representative for DoD, said the foreign press center at the State Department serves some 2,000 foreign media in the United States and this is one way to help them get their story.

“We reach out and get them access,” Strike said. “This is about an average group with a military event like this.”^{CB}



Female Sergeants



Graduate ANP Satanman Course

*Courtesy of Combined Forces Command –
Afghanistan Coalition Press Information Center
Photos by Petty Officer of the Navy 2nd Class
Will Townsend*

KABUL, Afghanistan – Seventeen women graduated from the Afghan National Police three-month Satanman or “middle tier” course at the police academy here recently.

The graduates will use their new skills and positions to enter homes, search women and staff non-traditional criminal branches of the ANP.

“They need female police in different criminal cases,” said 2nd Lt. Humaira, one of the graduates, and a commander of the



One of the graduates receives certificate of completion the Afghan National Police Satanman course.

female dormitory at the academy. “In our society, we have violence against females and it’s a society that has a need for a female police force.”

C o l . Said Enaya Tullah, one of the officials at the ceremony, said the lieutenants would offer the most to the administrative, medical and intelligence-

gathering communities with their ability to find out what goes on inside families.

The women will also have educational opportunities to advance them to high ranks in the ANP.

“This all means the women becoming police is very helpful for the police organization of Afghanistan,” said Tullah.^{CB}



Members of the graduating Afghan National Police Satanman class pose after their graduation ceremony



Naval Forces Conduct Exercise Leading Edge



Courtesy of U.S. 5th Fleet Public Affairs Office

MANAMA, Bahrain – Naval forces and law enforcement personnel from Australia, Bahrain, France, Italy, the United Kingdom, and the United States participated in Exercise Leading Edge Oct. 30 in international waters off the northeastern coast of Bahrain.

Exercise Leading Edge is the maritime portion of a two-phase, multi-national proliferation security initiative (PSI) exercise. PSI is a response to the growing challenge posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, their delivery systems, and related materials worldwide. It constitutes partnerships of states working in concert, employing their

Other ships involved in the exercise included Australian ship HMAS Warramunga, French ship Commandant Ducuing, U.S. Coast Guard Patrol Boat Monomoy, and Bahraini ships RBNS Sabha, RBNS Al Manama, and RBNS Al Muharraq.

Photos by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Justin K. Thomas.



Sailors from the French ship Commandant Ducuing move to intercept a simulated “enemy” vessel



Australian ship HMAS Warramunga (left) and French ship Commandant Ducuing participate in naval maneuvers during exercise



The French ship Commandant Ducuing (F 795), prepares to circle the British ship

national capabilities to develop a broad range of legal, diplomatic, economic, military and other tools to interdict shipments of such items on the ground, in the air and at sea.

Boarding teams from Australia, Bahrain, France, Italy, and the United States Coast Guard practiced compliant boardings aboard a target vessel, played by British ship RFA Brambleleaf (A 81), simulating a commercial merchant vessel suspected of carrying WMD-related items.

“We are working absolutely together as a team,” said Lt. Gennaro Vitagliano, executive officer of Italian ship Comandante Fosccari, as he discussed the joint efforts of the participating countries. “What we’re doing today is no different than what we do every day. We’ll follow the same procedures we normally do when conducting boarding operations at sea.”

William Monroe, U.S. ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain, conducted a press conference for international media immediately following the exercise. He stressed the importance of the exercise and stated how pleased he was with the overall efforts of the countries that participated.

“We’re deeply appreciative that so many of our partners took part in this exercise either as full participants or as observers, and particularly note the presence of Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates from the Gulf region,” he said. “Their attendance today underscores the important point that the PSI training exercise program is a truly global effort involving countries around the world, including the Gulf region.”

The first phase of the PSI involved decision-making and command and control practices and techniques by participating partner nations.

Coalition forces conduct Maritime Security Operations under international maritime conventions to ensure security and safety in international waters so that all commercial shipping can operate freely while transiting the region.

This is the 25th PSI exercise since 2003 and the third in the region. ^{CD}



Within Our Dreams and Aspirations We Find Our Opportunities



Story by Lt. Col. Kai Kalmari (Finland)



**Finnish Senior National Representative
Lt. Col. Kai Kalmari talks to auditorium**

What do three officers from the Coalition Coordination Center and 70 lifelong learners from the University of South Florida's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute have in common?

An El Salvadorian, Djiboutian and Finnish officer embedded to U.S.

Central Command met the group Oct. 13 in a USF classroom. The common denominator was the Global War on Terror and the three CCC liaison officers addressed the international military's latest perspective on the war on terrorism.

During the same event, the officers presented the perspective of their individual countries regarding this international scourge.

The Osher Lifelong Learning Institute is a community of older adults who volunteer their time, effort and energy into program leadership, planning, execution and operation. Osher's programs support healthy aging and are organized around the notion that older adults require intellectual stimulation, physical activity and social engagement.

The Office of Public Affairs at CENTCOM was the interface between the officers and the learners. The El Salvadorian, whose country fought a prolonged war against terror during the 1980s; a Muslim Djiboutian who comes from a country in the Horn of Africa; and finally an officer from a Nordic country, which has been peaceful and stable since World War II, made for an interesting presentation. It was clearly a widespread view on the global war on terror.



University of South Florida's Osher Lifelong Learning Institute auditorium

This situation showed again, that liaison officers representing their nations really make up a brotherhood in arms. Without prior consultation, all presenters followed the same line of operation. They all took the opportunity to introduce their country and then submit national grounds for taking part in the work of the Coalition Coordination Center and Operation Specific Groups led by CENTCOM. The trio told the learners the basis of a nation taking part in the Global War on Terror is made by sharing the same values against terror, as well as respect for the United States and its actions after Sept. 11, 2001. The presenters met an active audience. It interacted with the officers during and after the presentations. Questions varied between U.S. foreign policy and national experiences and insights on a specific operation and Global War on Terror. And an academic outcome was clear. Learners will use the new information and their own insights to build on their knowledge base. All presenters were satisfied with meeting the audience and giving their national perspective. They all agreed they offered an intellectually stimulating and socially engaging event. 



**Left to right: Senior National Representatives of:
El Salvador – Capt. Guillermo Jimenez,
Finland – Lt. Col. Kai Kalmari,
Djibouti – Lt. Col. Mohammed O. Robleh**



Iraqi Troops Learn Recovery Skills



Story by Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Elisandro Diaz

Photos courtesy of U.S. Department of Defense



Iraqi students participate in the recovery of an overturned truck

TAJI, Iraq — Iraqi service members from the army, air force and navy are learning vehicle recovery skills at Taji Military Training Base here, to provide logistics and support missions to their commands.

The Vehicle Recovery Course trains students to recover vehicles incapacitated by malfunction, accident or combat damage. Students attending the 21-day course move on to form three to five-man recovery teams at their units.

First, however, they must pass the course with a 70 percent score or higher. About 180 students will attend the course this year.

Course instruction includes preventative maintenance checks, safety procedures, assessing the extent of vehicle malfunctions, vehicle recovery and final disposition.

Students also learn to use proper equipment, such as winches, hooks, 10 and 30-ton towing cranes and other specialized equipment with the capability to handle heavy military vehicles.

During one practical exercise, students ran through an actual recovery of an overturned truck. Falling back on their training, they first determined the best way to safely approach the truck that had rolled onto its side.

They then hooked winches from the recovery tow truck to the overturned vehicle. As the students continued to maneuver the vehicle via the winch controls, an instructor barked out instructions over the noise of the tow vehicle's diesel engine and the sound of tons of weight shifting.

Finally, the damaged vehicle fell back onto its wheels and was ready to be towed to its repair destination. The recovery course is part of the curriculum taught at the Iraqi Army Service and Support Institute at Taji, and according to school officials, all of the courses here equip officers and noncommissioned officers with the knowledge and skill sets they need to contribute to the military's combat readiness.

Moreover, the underlying goal of the training is to equip some of the students for leadership roles as future course instructors.

Iraqi Army Brig. Gen. Mohammed, IASSI commandant, said there's been tremendous progress in this area.

"The students are taking on more responsibilities as trainers and leaders within the school," he said. He also noted that Coalition Forces are taking more of a role as advisers. "We're in the shadows," said U.S. Army Lt. Col. John Propst, senior Coalition adviser to the commandant.

He said that Coalition Forces do not dictate to the students or instructors how to organize and present the material, but they do make recommendations and give insight on how a program or procedure can be improved or presented by the Iraqi instructors.

And while the skill sets the students are learning help the Iraqi Security Forces, they also spill over into the civilian sector after Soldiers get out of the military and transition into similar civilian jobs.

As one of the students said about the training, "It's good for me, it's good for my family, it's good for my country." 



An Iraqi soldier works the winch levers during a vehicle recovery exercise



ISAF Mission in Afghanistan

Story by Luigi-Mihail Cojocaru, Public Information Officer of the 2nd Romanian Infantry Battalion – TF Zabul

A delegation of the United Nation Security Council, led by Kenzo Oshima, Japan's ambassador to the U.N., paid an official visit to Qalat, the capital of Zabul province, Afghanistan.

At the Provincial Reconstruction Team Zabul compound, the distinguished guests met with Del Bar Arman, the provincial governor, Tom Koenigs, the leader of UNAMA, Maj. Gen. Ton Van Loon, commander of RC South, Lt. Col. Daniel Petrescu,



Lt.Col. Daniel Petrescu and Kenzo Oshima

commander of Task Force Zabul, Maj. Martin Regan, deputy in chief of PRT Zabul, village elders from all the districts of Zabul and representatives of the local Afghan National Security Forces.

The representatives wanted to be informed of the development projects, considered an example for all the southern provinces of Afghanistan.

In his public address, Oshima appreciated the effort of ISAF troops to maintain a security, stability, infrastructure, the education system.

"I'm very pleased to see the progress achieved in the province of Zabul, as a result of the fruitful cooperation among NATO-ISAF troops, UNAMA representatives, Provincial Reconstruction Team, local authorities and ANSF, Oshima said.

The United Nations encourage the peace and development process in Afghanistan. People of Afghanistan must live in a safe environment, for a better future. Therefore the phenomenon of terrorism must be eliminated once for ever... In this respect, the United Nations through their Security Council, consider the ISAF mission as being a completely legitimate one and continue to strongly support it. I'm glad to see your amazing achievements here, in Zabul."

It is worth mentioning the perception the local people have upon the support they have been getting from the international community and the role of ISAF mission, this perception being expressed through the voice of the village elders, the chosen and the most respected ones among the locals.



Romanian soldiers in civil and military cooperation activity

"The civil population and especially the poor people from villages are glad to benefit from the development projects initiated by the international community and ISAF protection. We are sick and tired of the Taliban's insurgency that provides us nothing but war and destruction. People want to live in peace; they want jobs and a better future for their children."- Abdul Bari, one of the elders' leaders said.

Development projects initiated in the province of Zabul

The security responsibility for the province of Zabul within ISAF mission belongs to Task Force Zabul which consists of the Romanian 2nd Infantry Battalion "Calugareni" and U.S. Army company Charlie 1-4. The ISAF Romanian and American soldiers have a very good cooperation with the local authorities, UNAMA office in Qalat, NGOs, the local authorities and people and the ANSF.

"Together, we form here a real and united team that we called it Team Zabul."- Petrescu, commander of Task Force Zabul said. "In this province we have a common goal: to provide peace and security, a secure environment that allow PRT and international community to initiate development programs and projects. Team Zabul comprises NATO and ISAF Forces, Embedded Training Team, Afghanistan National Security Forces, UNAMA office in Qalat and the local authorities represented by Mr. Del Bar Arman, the governor", he also added.

One of the main goals of Team Zabul consists in expanding the development projects in the other districts of the province. There is also an ongoing electrification program for Qalat and its neighborhood, initiated by the American PRT. Till the next year, more than 4,000 buildings will be connected to the electrification network.

Another important program of Provincial Reconstruction Team is focused on training the Afghan National Auxiliary Police (ANAP). ANAP is created to support Afghan National Police (ANP) in implementing the law's authority and also to cover the remote village zones of the province. ^{CB}



Hungarian PRT Deploys in Afghanistan



Courtesy of Ministry of Defense of Hungary

Hungary and the Hungarian Defense Forces recently assumed a range of even more significant and multifaceted activities in Afghanistan by taking over the command of a provincial reconstruction team (PRT) from Holland whose soldiers had led it for two years'. The 157 soldiers of the Hungarian Defense Forces PRT were deployed to Afghanistan. At the farewell ceremony the Defense Minister Imre Szekeres delivered a speech, calling the mission in Afghanistan one of the most significant challenges in the modern history of the Hungarian Defense Forces. He pointed out that the soldiers would serve in one of the most dangerous HDF missions which at the same time offers a range of excellent opportunities in terms of professional promotion.

On Sept.30, Col. Peter de Harder, commander of the Dutch PRT of Baghlan Province, handed over the command to Col. Kálmán Zsigmond, commander of the Hungarian PRT. In his speech, Col. Harder said thank you for the hard work of the Dutch soldiers.



Change of command ceremony

He emphasized, that fulfilling the tasks and missions of the PRT had been a challenging and demanding duty, but the Dutch soldiers showed excellent abilities and skills to meet the requirements.

Afterward Harder presented the Dutch soldiers with NATO medals, then turning to the Hungarians, he said there might be differences between the Dutch and Hungarian processes and methods in solving certain tasks, but the goal is the same: helping the reconstruction of Baghlan Province.

In the end he expressed his best wishes to the Hungarians and presented them with an ISAF flag. Zsigmond thanked for all the assistance the Dutch colleagues gave to their Hungarian counterparts during the handover-takeover process. At the end of the ceremony the Dutch flag was handed over to Harder.



Hungarian Defense Minister Imre Szekeres visits Hungarian PRT in Afghanistan

Hungary has a two-man Liaison Team in Tampa. Col. Gabor Nagy and Lt. Col. Endre Miszori represent their nation in both the OIF and OEF and play an active coordinating and information-sharing role in enabling Hungarian forces in the U.S.CENTCOM area of responsibility to successfully fulfill their tasks and enhance their force-protection. They also offer their experiences and expertise to assist Coalition partners and CENTCOM directorates by participating in Working Groups. Col. Nagy is the Chairman of the Coalition Counter-Improvised Explosive Device Working Group (C-CIED WG), Lt.Col. Miszori is a permanent member (Chairman for one year before) of the Coalition Analysis Cell. ^{CB}



*Hungarian liaison team to U.S.CENTCOM
Col. Gabor Nagy (right) and Lt. Col. Endre Miszori*



Lt. Col. Alexei Carasiov: Red Cell Iraq Mission Reflects Coalition Perspectives



Interview by Maj. Diana Gradinaru



Lt. Col. Alexei Carasiov, the former Chairman of Red Cell Iraq and Moldovan Senior National Representative to U.S. CENTCOM

What is the Red Cell Iraq's goal?

Generally speaking, the working group provides Coalition members with timely assessments on the key tactical and strategic issues (political, security and terrorist) occurring in Iraq. These assessments are formulated based on requests from Coalition Intelligence Center (CIC), Red Cell members, intelligence services, agencies, units or major commands.

Is it an alternative to CENTCOM J2 assessments?

I would avoid such a term as alternative assessments. Probably, the best way to describe our assessment is the following - a product which reflects Coalition perspectives.

Who is in charge of selecting the group members and who is part of the Red Cell Iraq?

Red Cell is a voluntary working group and open for everyone who is part of MCFI. In fact, we are working on permanent basis to enhance our working group and we sincerely welcome any new member. In other words, there is no selection process, criteria or requirements. Just be active, and be ready to share your views or ideas... being creative and readiness to do some research on relevant topics. Currently we have representatives from 16 nations and hopefully the number of participants will grow.

How does your group get the job done?

Approximately 10 days prior to each month, CIC distributes agenda items with topics for our assessments. It gives Red Cell members the required time to do research, or to formulate their own vision or ideas. The general rule, "no names, no countries," is always in place. So every meeting has time for arguments, visions and idea sharing. If you will, it is time for input. After the meeting, our American colleagues and facilitators distribute minutes to each Red Cell member. If there are no additional inputs

(corrections), we prepare a written assessment, based on the meeting minutes. When the written assessment is finalized, it is sent once again to every member for a final review and consideration. And only after that, the final product is posted on the Internet to be available for SNRs and interested organizations. Of course, during that process we are working closely with representatives from CIC, getting their input and assistance as well.

You have led the Red Cell Iraq group for seven months. Who appointed you to take the leadership and what has it meant for you?

After three months of being an active member of the Red Cell, I have been offered by the CIC leadership to lead the working group. My Red Cell colleagues supported my candidature. So, it was the way I became a Chairman. What it has meant for me? I would say trust, responsibility and a great deal of accumulated experience. I would like to repeat myself and say once again what I have already said. All this knowledge, experience and skill obtained and trained are my best investments in the last 2-3 years.

You have served in Iraq for six months. Has your experience helped to lead this group? How?

Any knowledge or experience never hurt. Even though my tour in Iraq was relatively short, it was an experience. At first, I was assigned as a Multinational Division Center South (MND CS) area officer in C9 section (Civil Affairs), MNC-I HQ. In two months I was assigned to additional duties as plans officer. Later on, in one month, I received two more duty position as non-lethal effect officer and information operation officer. So in three months I held four positions in the same staff section. It was really a tough time. However, each position gave me something. As MND CS area officer, I learned a great deal about southeastern Iraq, its tribal system and its importance in the Iraqi life style. The plan officer position gave me good skills to prepare operational documents and papers. Being a non-lethal effect officer gave me the unique chance to learn about Iraq's oil infrastructure, road system, health and educational system and so on. As an information operation officer, I reviewed Civil Affairs teams' reports and Iraqi media. Consequently it gave me a pretty good picture on what was going on in a different part of the Iraqi society and their approach to different issues occurring in Iraq.

What's the importance of Red Cell Iraq for the Coalition?

Here I think it is important not to overestimate the importance of the Red Cell or any other working group in the command. We did our best to be an essential asset to CENTCOM Headquarters and the Coalition Intelligence Center. And if our team efforts somehow provided some input to the success of our operation planning and assessments in direct support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, I may say that our mission was a success. And using such an opportunity, I once again would like to encourage everybody to join CIC working groups. It is fun; it is a great opportunity to be at the heart and to make the difference. 



Muslim SNRs hosted an Eid Ul Fitr breakfast in the honor of Coalition SNRs and U.S.CENTCOM officials

Coalition Thanksgiving Dinner



Coalition Flags Waving

Coalition members join hands with Patriot group in Tampa



Coalition Tennis Tournament

Sports keep the spirit high at U.S.CENTCOM



Mr. Ahmad Bedier (An Islamic Scholar) talks to SNRs during an informal lunch



Gen. Ergin Saygun, Deputy Chief of General Staff, Turkish Army visits U.S.CENTCOM





Polish army Lt. Col. Andrzej Kujawa, commander of the Civilian Military Cooperation (CIMIC) unit at Camp Echo, Iraq, gives a toy to an Iraqi girl during a site survey of a finished generator project at a medical clinic in Ghammas, Iraq. The Polish CIMIC funds, contracts, and inspects projects designed to help revitalize Iraq's economy and provides supplies and services to Iraqi army soldiers and civilians. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Dawn M. Price)