

**U.S. TOUR BRINGS KARZAI
TO U.S. CENTCOM**



Coalition Bulletin

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

"We're engaged in a global struggle against the followers of a murderous ideology that despises freedom and crushes all dissent, and has territorial ambitions and pursues totalitarian aims. ... And against such an enemy there is only one effective response: We will never back down, we will never give in and we will never accept anything less than complete victory. ... We will defeat the terrorists and their hateful ideology by spreading the hope of freedom across the world".

George W. Bush
U.S. President



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Cover photo: *Afghan President Hamid Karzai during a news conference*

Photo by Spc. Patrick Ziegler, U.S. CENTCOM PAO

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Editorial

It is with great sense of honour and privilege that I assume my responsibilities as the Chairman of Public Awareness Group and establish my contact with all the readers through this first editorial. But, before I do that, let me acknowledge the good work done by my predecessors in making the Coalition Bulletin a true expression of coalition activities. I would also like to make a specific mention of the outgoing Chairman, Brig Gen Ikram ul Haq, who gave his best to the Bulletin both in terms of quality and insight. I would also like to acknowledge the commitment of the members of Public Awareness Working Group and would urge them for a continued support both in terms of time and expertise for an improved magazine.



The Coalition Bulletin not only provides perspective to coalition activities through provision of relevant information, it is also reflective of the unequivocal commitment the coalition members have to fight terrorism, while working towards achieving peace and stability at the global level. At the same time, the magazine also endeavours to pay tribute to many nations, who are sacrificing so bravely to improve the security situation and recognise the rebuilding efforts, which are being undertaken within the CENTCOM areas of responsibilities (AOR).

Assumption of command responsibility of all security and other military efforts in Afghanistan by NATO was a milestone event, which saw a major transformation of the command articulation in the CENTCOM AOR. The change has brought all US forces operating in Afghanistan under NATO's command, less those employed on CT. The new command structure is projected to harmonise and bring together the security and rebuilding efforts, duly integrating and empowering the local administration and law enforcement agencies.

As the coalition makes noteworthy progress in fighting terrorism, the military cooperation to defeat this curse continues to remain foremost; however, there is an increasing realisation that military operations alone cannot achieve the lasting peace. These operations can at best shape the environment for other elements (political, social and economic) to work towards bringing social order and normalcy in war torn regions. This is where; rebuilding infrastructure, recreating institutions and making the administrations representative of their populace becomes so essential for any sustainable peace effort. The coalition rebuilding efforts; quite a few reflections of which, you will notice in the present issue as well, address this requirement. There may however be a case of widening the base of the ongoing rebuilding efforts and injecting more expertise and resources in it.

As the war on terror goes on, it is opening new dimensions and new forms of war fighting, with no parallels. While on one hand we can be relatively satisfied with gains against Al Qaida, the means, intensity and mechanics of operations in Iraq and Afghanistan are suggestive of the ever-changing application modes of 4th Generation Warfare, which in all probability would demand a LONG WAR. There is, therefore, a case to deliberate more on the objectives and implications of such a war, as it may not only require a varying approach and adjustments in the strategy, but also redefined political and military demands. If nothing else, it would certainly demand commensurate resolve, determination and perseverance to make the world a better place for our future generations.

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

In Memory of Warrant Officer Class 1 Nete Kaloucava Naiduki



THE LAST PHOTO...

WO1 NETE NAIDUKI shakes hands with Lt. Col. Stanislav Stulrajter (Slovak Republic) on 31 August 2006

More than 90 Coalition members and Fijian friends were present for a memorial service Sept. 7 to demonstrate their respect and admiration for Warrant Officer Class 1 Nete Kaloucava Naiduki, who suddenly passed away Sept. 1.

The memorial service was held in the MacDill Air Force Base Chapel.

Commander Vakatali, the Fijian Senior National Representative addressed Naiduki's illustrious military career. Australia's Commodore Cullin and New Zealand's Brig. Gen. Wheeler spoke highly of his contribution to the Coalition and reminisced about his great rugby skills. Wheeler also remarked that the weather on the day of the memorial was very appropriate, the rain would hasten Nete's spirit ascension.

A condolence letter, signed by Maj. Gen. Gerald P. Minetti, director of Coalition Coordination, was sent to Mrs. Naiduki. "On behalf of the men and women of United States Central Command, please accept my heartfelt condolences to you and your family on your husband's death. We empathize with your family and the entire Fijian nation during this time of mourning," the letter said.

"Please accept our deepest sympathy during this time of mourning. Your husband will be sorely missed by all. As we offer our prayers for the comfort of your family, please take pride in knowing that his contribution to the Global War on Terror will continue to make the world a better place."

Naiduki was assigned to CENTCOM in 2006 where he served as the liaison officer for Fiji.

Naiduki was born on May 23, 1958. He joined the Army Engineers on July 3, 1978.

Before his position to CENTCOM, Naiduki served in many positions. Among those postings were Lebanon (1979), Sinai (1982, 1986, 1991 and 1998), Ready Reaction Force, Fiji (2000), Bouganville, Solomon Islands (2002) and as Regimental Sergeant Major of the Engineering Battalion (2004-2006). 

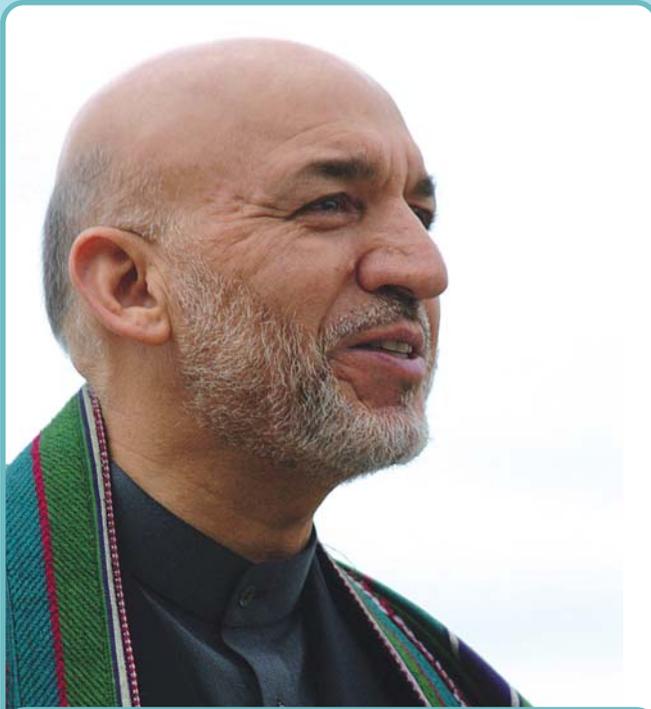


U.S. Tour Brings Karzai to U.S. CENTCOM



Story By 1st Sgt. Marvin Baker

Photos By Capt. Manuel Matos and Spc. Patrick Ziegler



President Hamid Karzai

It was the Dec. 5, 2001 Bonn Agreement that first brought Hamid Karzai to power in Afghanistan. The agreement, an accord signed in Bonn, Germany by representatives of militias fighting against the Taliban, named Karzai chairman of a 29-member committee on Dec. 21, 2001 that began governing a post-Taliban Afghanistan.

Under provisions of the Bonn Agreement, an emergency grand council met in June, 2002, to pick a two-year transitional government. At that meeting, Karzai

On Sept. 27, Afghanistan's President, Hamid Karzai, spent several hours visiting U.S. CENTCOM Headquarters.

The president addressed the Senior National Representatives of the Coalition and briefly spoke to the media and met with CENTCOM commander Gen. John Abizaid.

Speaking to the media pool at MacDill Air Force Base, Karzai reiterated his message that the Afghan people are grateful for the continuing support

that is gradually making his nation a better place to live.

was appointed first president of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan with a democratic election process to follow in 2004.

On Oct. 9, 2004, Karzai won the presidential election in 21 of 34 provinces throughout the land-locked country. He defeated 22 opponents, receiving 55.4 percent of the votes, which represented 4.3 million of the 8.1 million votes cast. Karzai held high name recognition among voters, and was admired for his leadership during an uncertain post-war period.

Karzai was officially sworn in as president on Dec. 7, 2004 during a formal ceremony in Kabul, the capital city. Many Afghans interpreted the ceremony as a symbolically important new start for the war-torn nation.

Born on Dec. 24, 1957 in Kandahar, Karzai took a postgraduate course in political science in India from 1979-1983. He thereafter returned to work as a fundraiser supporting anti-Soviet uprisings in Pakistan during the Soviet intervention for the rest of the 1980s. After the fall of the Najibullah government in 1992, Karzai served as deputy foreign minister in the government of Burhanuddin Rabbani. In March, 2003, he received an honorary doctorate in literature from Himachal University in India.

Karzai, who is 48 years old, is married to Zinat Karzai, who is an obstetrician by profession. They were married in 1998 and have no children. The president is well-versed in Pushtu, Persian, Urdu, Hindi, English and French. He was made an honorary British Knight in 2003 and has been lauded for his excellent personal dressing style, particularly his caps and fezzes.

that is gradually making his nation a better place to live.

"I'm here at CENTCOM to thank you for the sacrifices made for my country's security," Karzai said. "I thank the Tampa community for the help of CENTCOM and the Florida National Guard."

While addressing the SNRs, Karzai spoke about the efforts and sacrifices of Coalition partners working in Afghanistan to help bring a better security environment to the war-torn country. The Afghan



Gen. John P. Abizaid, Commander of U.S. CENTCOM (right) and Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, the commanding general of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan (left), flanked Karzai during the news conference.

people recognize the support and are grateful for the Coalition efforts toward making Afghanistan a better nation, he said. Infrastructure development, rebuilding, reconstruction and increased economic activity are expected to improve the situation.

Marine Corps Col. David Greco, the deputy coalition coordinator, said Karzai's visit with Coalition members was a short one but he really wanted to spend some time with SNRs and recognize their efforts on the Global War on Terror.

"He really wanted to talk to the coalition," Greco said. "His message was one of thanks, but it wasn't just for the Afghan people, it was for everyone."

Greco added that while addressing the SNRs, Karzai noticed a service member with a Pakistani shoulder patch in the audience. "He said 'I recognize you from across the room, brother,'" Greco said of Karzai.

Afghanistan and Pakistan have had varying approaches on how to handle the war on terror along

the rugged, mountainous border between the two countries. In a recent United Nations speech, Karzai called for the destruction of safe havens and elaborate networks operating in the region to recruit, train, finance, arm and deploy terrorists.

"I am not critical of Pakistan," Karzai said. "I am seeking more coordinated and an intense approach to terror. Afghanistan has to do more, Pakistan has to do more, we all have to do more. It's not criticism, it's a request."

Greco said Afghanistan and Pakistan have a shared vision of security. He said Karzai and Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf have talked about agreements to stop cross-border activity.

Karzai's trip to Tampa lasted less than 24 hours and came at the end of nearly two weeks in North America. He spoke at the U.N., addressed Canadian Parliament and met with Prime Minister Stephen Harper and held high level talks in Washington, D.C.

Following his trip to Tampa, Karzai met with President George W. Bush and Musharraf before returning to his homeland. ■



This was Karzai's first trip to CENTCOM since becoming interim President of Afghanistan in 2002.



Pakistan Navy Completes Term in Command of Task Force 150



Story By Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class David Hamilton

Photos By Mass Communication Specialist 2nd Class Bobby Northnagle and Mass Communication Specialist 3rd Class Nicole Carter

MINA SALMAN, Bahrain - German Rear Adm. Heinrich Lange relieved Pakistani Rear Adm. Shahid Iqbal as Commander, Task Force (CTF) 150 during a change of command ceremony aboard PNS Shahjahan (D 186) pierside at Mina Salman, Aug. 22.

The ceremony successfully concluded the Pakistan navy's term as the first Navy in the region to command CTF 150, which conducts maritime security operations (MSO) in the Gulf of Aden, Gulf of Oman, the Arabian Sea, Red Sea, and the Indian Ocean.

CTF 150, established at the beginning of Operation Enduring Freedom, is comprised of naval ships from numerous coalition nations, currently including Germany, Pakistan, France, United Kingdom and U.S.

The change of command marks the fourth time the German Navy has commanded CTF150.

"Germany is living up to it's commitment in combating international terrorism and I am more than happy and ready to build upon the basis established by my international and national predecessors who have taken the duty of CTF 150," said Lange.

"I feel obliged to serve the coalition to the best of my abilities and to care for the officers and Sailors under my command."

Walsh said the change of command ceremony was a momentous occasion for U.S. and coalition forces. "Today is an opportunity to highlight a defining moment and mission in all of our lives as we continue our work in conducting MSO in support of Operation Enduring Freedom," said Walsh.

MSO help set the conditions for security and stability in the maritime environment, as well as complement the counter-terrorism and security efforts of regional nations. These operations deny international terrorists use of the maritime environment as a venue for attack or to transport personnel, weapons or other material.



Rear Adm. Shahid Iqbal (center) shakes hands with Vice Adm. Patrick Walsh, Commander, Combined Forces Maritime Component Command (right)



"As I look back on my tenure in command, I have no hesitation to say that it was the most rewarding and productive experience," said Iqbal. "Having to conduct a diverse nature of operations in a large area of responsibility, every single day brought new challenges."

Guest speaker, Commander, Combined Forces Maritime Component Command Vice Adm. Patrick Walsh praised the work of Rear Adm. Iqbal and his staff. "Your presence made a difference," said Walsh. "The maritime environment and all those who lived and operated in it during your command remained safe and secure. You and your staff have every reason to be proud of your contributions, and the legacy that you leave behind will be one for others to emulate."

Iqbal expressed confidence that he's turning over CTF 150 to very competent hands.

"I take great pleasure in handing over the command of this fine force to Adm. Lange," he said. "In him I find a thorough, professional and an extremely capable commander. I'm sure that he and his team will continue with the finest traditions of the highly qualified Navy to which they belong."



German Rear Adm. Heinrich Lange (left) speaks during a change of command ceremony, aboard Pakistani naval ship PNS Shahjahan in Mina Salman, Bahrain.

"The innocent who sail the waters, people who live in the region, and citizens of the world rely on coalition patrols to provide security at sea," said Walsh. "Your presence here today is reflective of the goals of the international community: regardless of culture, religion, or language people desire a world where there secure or free to pursue social economic, and their own religious growth - a world of tolerance that bonds us all."

"Through MSO, our forces contribute vigilance, dedication, and professionalism," said Walsh, "that builds a promising future."



CENTCOM Reflects On Recovery Role A Year After Deadly Pakistani Quake



Leaders Say Command's Presence In Region Greatly Aided Disaster Assistance, Recovery

Story By Sgt. 1st Class David Dodds
Photo by Airman 1st Class Barry Loo

One year ago, the earth reshuffled the mountainous landscape of Kashmir in northern Pakistan, killing more than 73,000 people and leaving more than 3.4 million homeless.

Tragic as it was, the toll from the major earthquake could have been much worse had it not been for the quick response and resources provided by a multinational team of disaster relief crews, led by the service people of U.S.CENTCOM.

Maj. Gen. Brian I. Geehan, director of logistics for CENTCOM, said military leaders keyed in on unfolding news reports about the quake on that Saturday morning in October. "By that evening, we knew we had a sizable disaster of truly horrendous proportions," he said.

Scientists pegged the minimum magnitude of the earthquake at 7.6 on the Richter Scale, similar in intensity to the infamous 1906 San Francisco quake. When it was done, the disaster lingered in the form of aftershocks, avalanches and landslides.

Whole villages were wiped out or buried by rocks, including Muzaffarabad, where 30,000 people are thought to have died. The disaster struck as the region was preparing for another unforgiving Himalayan winter.

"The biggest challenge was how to reach the affected and save them from harsh weather," said Pakistani Senior National Representative Brig. Gen. Mohammad Ahsan Mahmood, "We pooled all our national resources to help the affected region but the magnitude of the disaster demanded much more."

Geehan said the go-ahead for CENTCOM to get involved in a massive humanitarian relief effort came immediately from the top of the command.

Gen. John P. Abizaid, Commander of CENTCOM, and Lt. Gen. Karl Eikenberry, Commanding general of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan, essentially laid out a mission with two concrete goals: help people in need and sustain the positive relationship between the United State and Pakistan, an important coalition partner in the Global War on Terror.

Both objectives would be achieved. The effort involved units from all services under the CENTCOM flag, beginning with the Air Force and Army's airlift assets, Navy ships and SEABEES, Marine expeditionary units and medical specialists. And according to Col. Glen E. Gulleckson, the senior ranking operations officer during the effort, all performed proudly while at the same time fighting the war.

"It was a mission put on top of the mission they were already accomplishing," Gulleckson said. "This is a clear example of CENTCOM's ability to react to various crises that pop up in the area." "We were in a race that went from zero to 100 miles an hour over 100 feet; there was a lot going on."

Just hours after the quake, American CH-47 Chinooks and UH-60 Blackhawks, as well as Afghan helicopters, were ferrying more than 220 passengers and more than 32,000 pounds of supplies to supply centers where the Pakistani military would push them farther to people in need. Pakistanis in the quake zone dubbed the Chinooks as "Angels of Mercy" because of the quick help they provided.

The choppers were joined by huge C-17 Globemaster and C-130 Hercules airlifters, delivering food, water, medicine and blankets from Bagram Air Field in nearby by Afghanistan.

Through it all, American military aircraft flew nearly 4,000 sorties and delivered about 10,500 tons of relief supplies that helped treat 30,000 patients in three field hospitals. "The real advantage that CENTCOM has is that we have forces in theater that can respond quickly," Gulleckson said.

The U.S. military also turned over more than \$6 million worth of equipment to the people of Pakistan, including portable refueling stations, dozers, dump trucks and generators. A fully-equipped field hospital, with a

surgical unit, anesthesia supplies, ventilator and x-ray equipment was also part of the turnover.

"When we left, we didn't just pull out and leave," Gulleckson said.

The American military also left an impression on the Pakistani people they helped.

"The response of USCENTCOM was extremely forthcoming," Mehmood said. "It facilitated rapid delivery of essential aid from U.S. and Coalition counties."

That sentiment also was apparent on the streets of quake-rattled cities and villages throughout Pakistan. A poll taken by the Nielsen Group only two months after the relief effort got under way found that America's approval rating among Pakistanis rose from 23 % to 46 %.

America's not done helping either. According to a release from the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad, Pakistan, the United States has pledged \$206 million in earthquake reconstruction assistance to Pakistan over the next four years.

"We've always had a great working relationship with the Pakistani military, but I think the people of Pakistan got to see the American military in a completely different light," Geehan said. "It was an enormous human to human effort."



U.S. Army Maj. James Mancuso from the 212th Mobile Army Surgical Hospital administers a vaccine to a Pakistani child at Muzaffarabad, Pakistan



Bagram PRT, Korean Engineers Give School a Second Chance



Photos and Story by Army Sgt. Nina J. Ramon



On Photos: Korean engineers and the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team attended a ceremony for the reopening of the Aroki School in the Kapisa Province and also provided students with humanitarian aid.

BAGRAMAIRFIELD, Afghanistan – Korean engineers and the Bagram Provincial Reconstruction Team attended a ceremony for the reopening of the Aroki School in the Kapisa Province and also provided students with humanitarian aid assistance.

With more than 60 students in each of the six classrooms, including grades 1 through 12; the school was originally built 43 years ago with a small gap between the roof and the top of the walls. In early June, a strong wind blew into the gap and created enough pressure inside to literally blow the roof off. Fortunately, none of the students were present at the time.

Within 20 days, Korean engineers and the Bagram PRT evaluated the site and reconstructed a new, sturdier roof.

“The school was not permanently shut down during the reconstruction of the school’s roof,” said Abraham, Aroki School Head Master. “Most of the children attended class in the school’s courtyard.”

The ceremony began with an Islamic prayer and the Afghan National Anthem which was followed by speeches from the PRT, Korean engineers, headmaster and the Kapisa governor.

“On behalf of the Coalition forces and the Bagram PRT, I would like to dedicate the new and improved Aroki School to all the children of Afghanistan,” said Army Maj. Donald R. Johnson, Bagram PRT director of civil-military operations from Williamsburg, Va. “I challenge the students to study hard with the understanding that the prosperity of Afghanistan is on their shoulders.”

The Korean engineers used their own country as an example that Afghanistan’s future can be a positive one despite nearly 30 years of war.

“About 60 years ago Korea was also suffering from war and poverty. However our craving for learning and working hard led us to become the 10th wealthiest democratic nation,” said Korean Col. Soon Ku Kim, Republic of Korea Support Group commander.

“By working as one under the primary objective of national reconstruction, I have high hopes for Afghanistan and its future.”

Kapisa Province Governor Mirad praised the hard work and dedication of all those involved with the rebuilding of the school.

“I would like to thank the elders and students as well as the Coalition forces for rebuilding and refurbishing the Aroki School,” said Mirad.

Immediately after the ceremony, the Koreans distributed humanitarian aid to the children. Donated by a Korean church, the aid included clothes, blankets, shoes, sports equipment, first aid kits and school supplies.

Ensuring Afghan children receive a formal education is just one of the ways the government of Afghanistan and Coalition forces are working together to provide a brighter future for the country and to prevent the re-emergence of terrorism.

The Aroki School’s rich history—including 19 alumni who currently hold positions within the Afghan government—will continue to pave the way to a safe and prosperous Afghanistan. ¹⁰





Korean Hospital Reaches 40,000 Patients



Story by Multi-National Division - Northeast PAO

On a recent hot morning, a 76-year-old woman from a small village near Irbil was ushered into the hospital in a wheelchair pushed by her son. She was greeted with thunderous applause. Mariam Mhiadin had become the 40,000th patient admitted to the Republic of Korea's Zaytun Hospital since it opened Nov. 27, 2004.

During the brief ceremony that followed, Republic of Korea Lt. Col. Lee Hae-Seol, commander, ROK Division's Medical Battalion, handed flowers and gifts to Mhiadin and other Iraqi patients in front of a beaming hospital staff.

"The forty thousandth visitor is not really a cause for celebration," he said. "It is more of a chance to reflect on the pain the locals are going through, and to remind ourselves of the work that needs to be done for more devoted treatment."

After welcoming its 10,000th local visitor in the hospital's first six months of operations, the Zaytun Hospital had treated 20,000 patients by the end of its first year.

This year, it took only seven months to match the previous year's total. As word of the staff's kindness and skill spread, more and more patients started coming, some traveling three to four hours from Dahuk and Sulaymaniyah provinces.

The 40,000th visitor brought both joy and temporary relief from a busy work load, as well as a chance to recall the patients that have been treated, said ROK Capt. Kim Keun-Hwan, a surgeon in the hospital.

"I especially remember this little girl who suffered a serious burn all over her body. She was in great despair, but we could treat her really well," he said. "Giving life back and spreading love is really all medicine is about. Hopefully I can keep doing that here for a long time."

Admission to the hospital requires a ticket given at local clinics operated by the Kurdish Regional Government Ministry of Health or the Zaytun Mobile Clinic, a traveling unit that visits remote areas without access to KRG clinics.

The tickets have become coveted items in the region, reflecting the hospital's soaring popularity.

But the Koreans' work in promoting the medical condition in the region goes beyond the walls of Zaytun.

Their division has provided the KRG and the regions' clinics with medical supplies, including eight ambulances and 450 wheelchairs, at a cost of \$3.6 million.

The hospital also ran an intensive, eight-week internship program starting in December 2004 for local doctors and nurses recommended by the KRG as representatives of growing a pool of skilled, home-grown medical personnel.

In a letter to the hospital, the KRG's Minister of Health, Mohammad Qadir Koshnow, thanked the staff for their role in so devotedly assisting the population.

"Along with the (Korean) reconstruction projects, the Zaytun Hospital's work is playing a vital role in saving many lives in Sulaymaniyah and Irbil," Koshnow said. CB



Kyrgyzstan Remembers



*Story by Captain Nurgazy Isakov
Photos courtesy of the Kyrgyz Republic
Presidential Press Service*



MANAS AIRBASE, KYRGYZSTAN. The President of the Kyrgyz Republic, Kurmanbek Bakiev, took part in a memorial service at Manas Airbase devoted to the fifth anniversary of the tragic events that took place in the United States on Sept. 11, 2001.

President Bakiev said that Kyrgyzstan is committed to counteracting terrorism. He emphasized the important role of the airbase in ensuring security in the Central Asian region.

Leaders from the Coalition Airbase and U.S. Embassy expressed gratitude to the people of the Kyrgyz Republic for the ongoing assistance in fighting international terrorism and for allowing the coalition use of the Airbase. They underlined the important role of the Airbase in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in Afghanistan.

Prime Minister Felix Kulov and Speaker of the Jogorku Kenesh (Kyrgyz Republic Parliament) Marat Sultanov also attended the ceremony.

Mufti of Kyrgyzstan (National Spiritual Leader of Muslims) Murataly aji Jumanov offered up a prayer in memory of the lost on Sept. 11, 2001 in the USA. CB



President Kurmanbek Bakiev, U.S. ambassador to Kyrgyz Republic Ms. Iovanovich and Manas Air Base Commander Col. Reese during the memorial service



Helping Iraqi Youth 'Best Part of My Job'



Story and Photo By Norris Jones



GRC Project Engineer Peter Debski makes a final inspection at the Shu'la Youth Center

BAGHDAD, IRAQ— Bettering the lives of Iraqi youngsters is what Peter Debski says is the best part of his job.

He's been involved in overseeing millions of dollars of reconstruction work in and around Baghdad over the past 10 months including new water and sewer networks, electrical distribution projects, police and fire stations, and primary healthcare centers. But he says "renovating two youth centers and four schools were definitely the most personally rewarding projects, seeing the joy on the children's faces, knowing we're bringing a little normalcy to their lives."

Debski is a project engineer with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Gulf Region Central District. One day he'll always remember was when they celebrated the re-opening of Al Huriya Youth Center March 25 and U.S. Ambassador Zalmay Khalilzad spoke. "The United States stands with Iraqis as they attempt to improve their community. The various sporting activities that Iraqi children will

engage in here offer several useful and timely lessons. This center will provide activities for youth of all sects and ethnic groups and teach them the benefit of teamwork. The sports that will be played here encourage children to compete but within an established system of rules. Finally, sports will allow us to succeed or fail – not based on who we are or where we come from – but rather on our merits as individuals."

That \$442,000 project, financed by the 10th Mountain Division through their CERP (Commander's Emergency Relief Program) funds, included upgrading the plumbing and electrical systems, installing new air conditioners, repairing and replacing floors, as well as replastering and painting both interior and exterior walls. In addition, a new basketball/volleyball court was built.

"The youth center project was selected because the community itself identified it as a top priority. They know how important it is to their community," Debski said. "It's a legacy we're leaving behind as Al Huriya families will use that youth center for years to come." About 1500 young people are involved in various sporting activities there on a daily basis including wrestling, boxing, soccer, weightlifting, basketball, volleyball and judo.

Debski says he's grateful to be part of USACE's historic mission and for the opportunity to work alongside some incredible Iraqis.

"I'm in awe of the courage our Iraqi project engineers demonstrate every day reporting to work and getting the job done. They're professional, highly educated, care about their work, and know they're making a difference. I admire each and every one of them."

Debski is leaving Iraq this month and will be heading to Jordan to work with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers there. He and his wife Teresa have two children, Julia and Matt.

"This has been a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity, a great experience. I've worked for contractors on construction projects in Antarctica, Pacific Islands, and Europe, but nothing compares to what we're doing here." **CB**



Task Force Evacuates Sick Children, Saves Lives



Story by Sgt. Sam Smith

RIONGO, Kenya — Service members from Combined Joint Task Force - Horn of Africa (CJTF-HOA) saved the lives of three village children Aug. 16 while conducting a veterinary civil action program (VETCAP) during Exercise Natural Fire 2006.

The race for care started in the small village of Riongo, home to a tribe of herdsmen of the Great Rift Valley, when a physician assisting the veterinary team was asked to treat a young girl suffering from a snakebite. "I treated the wound and assessed her condition when we first got there," said U.S. Air Force Maj. (Dr.) Dai Tran. "After about two hours, the swelling in her foot had increased, and she had nausea. Her parents requested we take her to the nearest clinic."

The nearest clinic was in the village of Nginyang, about one-hour drive away. The VETCAP team also took a young boy with severe dysentery and dehydration to the clinic.

Once at the clinic, U.S. Army Staff Sgt. Joseph Fausto, the non-

commissioned officer- in-charge of force protection for the VETCAP, a nurse there brought him a young boy who was seriously ill from anemia caused by malaria. She requested the team take the boy to the nearest hospital to get a blood transfusion.

Additionally, the two Riongo children were further assessed at the clinic, and it was determined that they required hospitalization as well.

Fausto and his team's trip to the Nginyang clinic quickly turned into a life-saving mission to the Kabarnet hospital, a drive that would take over two hours. "It's situations like this that really make the difference," Fausto said.

The three children are expected to make a full recovery and will return to their village soon.

Exercise Natural Fire 2006 was a multilateral training exercise where East African Community nations, U.S. and coalition service members provide medical, veterinary and engineering civil assistance to rural areas in Tanzania, Uganda and Kenya, that helped thousands of people in need **CB**



Spanish Military To Carry Out Afghan Reconstruction Projects



Courtesy of Spanish Ministry of Defense

They will build eight schools in the province of Badghis and will work on a canal that will irrigate the farm land and bring potable water to the residents.

With a global investment of more than 1.6 million Euros, the Spanish Provincial Reconstruction Team in Qala i Naw, is expecting numerous new projects in this Afghanistan province in the coming months.

But for now, the emphasis is on the eight schools located in various areas of the province, as well as the canal and several retaining walls.

Located in the western part of Afghanistan, Badghis currently lacks suitable infrastructure, which is the reason for the construction effort. It will not only help the children in their education, but will improve highways and drinking water, as well as bring much-needed electricity.

The base of operations for the Spanish military is in the provincial capital city, Badghis, with an outpost in the community of Herat. Thirty-six nations are represented in this area that is under NATO command and it is that organization that responds to the commitment of the international community to rebuild the province following years of conflict and social desolation.

In addition to the building the Spanish PRT will also assist the Afghan government in creating an atmosphere of stability in their zone of responsibility. But supporting the reconstruction process remains the priority.

Projects Finished.

The military component of the Spanish PRT has completed 36 projects thus far with another nine currently being executed. A total of 540,000 Euros were used to install electricity in public buildings and a lighting system in the streets of Qala i Naw, as well as rehabilitate schools,

mosques, highways and stabilize the water supply. A neighborhood childrens' park and garbage dump have also been built.

The funding has also improved the facilities of the local police station and airport; the city orphanage and mosques have been recovered; a school in Muqur has been built and pesticides have fumigated nearby farmland.

Additional projects have been completed in the Valley of Gargheitu. Prison facilities, automobile parks, a local police station and water wells have all been repaired in the valley villages of Pada i Nokdari, Garchagay and Ghormach.

In The Coming Months.

Projects that are still in the planning stages include well repair and diverse buildings in the communities of Tagat Ismail, Qara Deh i Berenj, Palawan and additional projects in Qala i Naw. Several kilometers of river-

bank retaining wall sections are forthcoming in Dahane Koca, Muqur and Zaymat.

Also in the months ahead, control posts of the Afghan National Police on the Qadis, Muqur and Sang Atesh highways will be completed. Tile roofs, ceilings and school furniture repairs will be made in various places. A clinical septic tank will be provided in Qadis and canals will be constructed in Sange Kers, Sang Atesh, Muqur, Kundalan, Dahane Koca and Garchagay.

Smaller projects have been completed in most of the aforementioned villages, highlighted by a kilometer-long park with green zones and recreation areas for children in Qala i Naw.

In addition to the construction projects, the Spanish PRT offers medical assistance to the Afghan population and teaches Spanish to local children. It also guarantees the security and work of the cooperators of the Spanish Agency of Cooperation International. 





The Cooperation Between the American and Romanian Soldiers In Afghanistan Is An Outstanding One



Story by Public Affairs Officer of the 2nd Infantry Battalion “Calugareni”
Maj. Luigi-Mihail Cojocaru

Task Force Zabul

The 2nd Infantry Battalion “Calugareni” is one of the most representative Romanian Armed Forces units, due to its professional personnel which are well trained and prepared for NATO and Coalition forces missions. Since its creation, in 1993, the battalion was established to conduct defense missions within the national territory of Romania and peacekeeping operations entrusted by international organizations such as United Nations, European Union and NATO, in Africa (UNAVEM III, 1995-1996), Albania – 1997, Bosnia-Herzegovina and Kosovo (between 2002 and 2004, as a Strategic Reserve of NATO for that theatre of operations), Iraq, within ANTICA BABILONIA Operation in 2005.

Since the middle of July 2006, the 2nd Infantry Battalion, “CALUGARENI”, has been serving in Afghanistan within the province of Zabul to support the ANSF (Afghan National Security Forces) in creating and maintaining a peaceful and safe climate. The U.S. Army is serving alongside the Romanian military with Charlie Company, 1st Battalion, 4th Infantry (Air Assault). Both militaries are a part of the NATO mission, and fall under the

Provincial Reconstruction Teams in the Southern Afghanistan led by Lt.Col. Kevin Mc Glaughlin that collaborates very well with the Romanian and American soldiers deployed there.

From his first public address, the Romanian battalion’s commander, Lt.Col. Daniel Petrescu, has clearly stated his unit’s goals: *“As a part of NATO forces we are pleased with the warm welcome provided by the provincial governor, Mr. Del Bar Jan Arman. We also wish that all the local people understand the purpose of our presence here. We are determined to help the peaceful people of ZABUL live a better life, in peace and safety.”*

Zabul Team

In Zabul province, the Romanian and American militaries have been sharing the same battle space, being deployed in four forward operation bases (FOBs), such as Qalat, Mizan, Baylough and Shajoy.

The Romanian and American soldiers know one another well, since they were training together for this mission in

the mountain troop camp in Prislop, Romania or in American military bases in Germany.

Regarding the way the soldiers



of the 2nd Infantry Battalion “Calugareni” and Charlie-4 Company have been acting together to fight the Taliban and insurgency in their area of responsibility, Maj. Glenn Nichols, stated: *“Co-operation between us is outstanding. My people integrated very well in the Romanian tactical operation center, and in the mission outside FOBs, in terrain.”*

In his turn, chief of PRT from Zabul, McGlaughlin, also added: *“Together, Romanian and American soldiers deployed in Zabul are really forming a single and united team that we called it “ZABUL TEAM”. Our development project initiated for this province would not have been successful if our American and Romanian soldiers deployed here had not provided security and peace in this area. They perform their mission very well by keeping the Taliban and other hostile elements at distance, and the local people trust us because in these conditions we can easily help them.”*

A large range of missions

Taking into consideration the risks and threats in the area, the battalion’s main missions are consisting in:

- protection of forces;
- conducting operations against the hostile forces in partnership with the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF);
- forbidding the attempts of the hostile forces to infiltrate in Zabul province;



command of ISAF, within Task Force ZABUL.

In this province, in Qalat, its capital there is also one of the best

- performing, in cooperation with the PSYOPS teams in the area, a campaign of informing the local people in order to gain their support;
- maintaining the dialogue with the local leaders and the representatives of the local authorities;
- supporting the operations performed by the Provincial Coordination Center;
- supporting the Peace Plan of the Afghan authorities;
- facilitating the development projects in the area initiated by Zabul PRT;
- performing humanitarian missions according to the existing capabilities;
- patrol missions together with ANSF;
- medical focused missions, according to the existing capabilities. ■



Operation "Combined Watch". Ukrainian Personnel To Assist Iraqi Security Forces



Courtesy Of Ministry Of Defense Of Ukraine Press-Service



Ukrainian military personnel in Iraq took an active part in developing and conducting joint operation "Combined Watch" together with Iraqi security forces.

The main objective of the operation, which took place at the Iraq-Iran border, was to prevent further illegal traffic of weapons, drugs etc.

Trained by Ukrainian military experts, the Iraqi customs and police units of Wassit province were involved in "Combined Watch" operation.

This operation consisted of several phases. For example, during the preparation phase the servicemen from the military assistance section of the Ukrainian servicemen in Iraq conducted the general operation planning and practical training with the commanding staff of Wassit province security forces.

The general commanding of the military assistance section was carried out by Lt. Col. Andriy Tulin. During the operation, Ukrainian officers and warrant officers observed the mission and made necessary corrections to the servicemen of Iraqi security forces particularly during the organization of tactical interoperability with the Iraqi army, customs and police units.



The main focus was put on organizing and maintaining the order of patrolling missions, checkpoints functioning and the coherence with Coalition forces and intelligence.

Summarizing the outcome of the "Combined Watch" operation, the representatives of commanding staff of Multinational division "Central South" and Multinational corps "Iraq" underlined the high level of preparation and conducting of the operation, which was commanded by Ukrainian personnel.

The objectives of Ukrainian servicemen in Iraq are as follows:

- to plan and implement the program for training Iraqi forces;
- to train instructors and assist the coalition partners in establishing military schools and training new Iraqi units;
- to train experts for public administration institutes;
- to assist Iraqi forces in handling and maintenance of armament and equipment;
- to train specialists in spheres of accounting and demolition of ammunition, communications and control systems, as well as to train experts in human rights and law enforcement. ■





Afghan Woman Joins Police Force



Story and Photo By Army Sgt. Mayra Kennedy

KANDAHAR, Afghanistan – The Afghan National Police is currently conducting a recruiting campaign where Afghan men and women are invited to join the force, and without hesitation, one young woman stepped up to become a police officer.

“When I was a young girl I used to watch cop movies and I always wanted to be one,” said Sakina, a 24-year old police officer who works at the ANP training academy’s headquarters in Kandahar.

She joined the police academy six months ago and impressed everyone there with her shooting skills. To her, this wasn’t just a job, but a career and a dream come true.

“Training wasn’t too difficult for an Afghan woman, but I found the drills hard because all instructions were given in Pashtu and I speak Dari,” she said. Even though there are many similarities between the two languages, Sakina explained that distinguishing between some words like right and left, was a challenge.

“I just couldn’t remember one from the other,” she said.

With Sakina’s determination, she was able to receive a badge and her first assignment as a weapons instructor at the academy where she currently teaches 32 new trainees. “I enjoy teaching all these students at the academy,” she said. “Other women can’t believe that I work here because 99 percent are male. They can’t believe that I actually teach men how to become police. They all treat me like I’m their daughter or sister.”

But Sakina is a police officer, just like any other.

Her training schedule Sept. 14 was dedicated to weapons qualification at the range. Prior to the range, students must attend all lectures regarding technique, posture, parts and function of the rifle.

The second portion of this training included going to the range and using what they learned in a practical exercise. Like any instructor, Sakina provides individual training to each of her students. The purpose is to have them feel comfortable with their weapon and qualify at the range.

At the qualifying range, Sakina wears her uniform, burka and hearing protection. With her exceptional teaching skills trainees are able to meet the requirements with their weapons.

Naqeeb Ullah is also a weapons instructor and police officer who works hand-in-hand with Sakina since she first joined the ANP.

“When she came here for training she had very high scores, so we decided to hire her to be one of the instructors,” said Ullah. “She is a hard working police officer.” He said that the ANP needs more women like Sakina, to help them make a better police department.

“I’m going to be here permanently unless my boss gives me another assignment or if I’m needed somewhere else,” said Sakina about her future in the police force. Many neighbors in her community are surprised to see Sakina wear a uniform every day to work, but they accept her and are very proud of her for getting a job outside the house.

The future of Afghanistan not only involves the government, but also its residents, including Afghan women. Sakina is an example of how women can and are helping shape this country. **CB**

On Photo: Afghan Police Officer Sakina, sorts rifles by serial numbers after all her trainees qualified with their assigned weapons here Sept. 14. Sakina is one of three female police officers currently working at the police academy in Regional Command South.





PRT Breaks Ground on \$3 Million Road Project



Story and Photo By Air Force Tech. Sgt. Joseph Kapinos

BAGRAM AIRFIELD, Afghanistan —

The Bagram Provincial Reconstruction team officially started a new road system Sept. 28 in the Kapisa province that will connect all districts and the provincial capitol.

“Today is a great day for the people of Kapisa, as well as the people of Afghanistan,” said Canadian Brig. Gen. Daniel Pepin, deputy commanding general for all reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, to a large audience of religious, political and military leaders.

The contract is the first of its kind in Afghanistan and was awarded to Shams Construction Company of Kabul.

“This road is significant,” said Army Major Donald Johnson, the director of Civil Military Operations for the Bagram PRT. “This will be the first time that people will be able to travel to all the districts across the province, bringing commerce, security and stability to the region.

The Kapisa Province, which is located close to Bagram Airfield, is home to approximately 450,000 residents and is one of two provinces that work hand-in-hand with the Bagram PRT. The other province is the Parwan Province.

“This is your road, to be built by your people,” said Pepin to the large crowd. “Roads bring people and people bring business. Business improves life for everyone.”

A mix of civilian, U.S. military and Coalition forces, the PRT works to promote conditions for self-sufficiency, enduring prosperity, and a secure, stable environment.

The PRT genesis began with humanitarian operations units created by the Army in 2002. From wells to schools to hydro-electric projects, the teams are helping to rebuild Afghanistan.

Slowly, project-by-project, the teams work throughout Afghanistan with the purpose of bringing stability and prosperity to the region. They do not do the work themselves, but work with local contractors who then empower villagers in the area to do the work. The completed projects then truly belong to the village instead of just being given to them by coalition forces.



The road opening was just one of the two goodwill projects that the Bagram PRT accomplished that day. Another was a large food donation, part of the “Meals for Mullahs” program that the team has taken on.

The goal is to give the food to local religious leaders for distribution to the surrounding villages.

The food donation this day will feed several hundred people in the province.

“All villages in the province have Mullahs, or religious leaders,” said Air Force Tech. Sgt. Derril McDonald, a structures journeyman from Vandenberg Air Force Base. “People follow the Mullahs. It’s the easiest way for us to get food to them.” ^{UB}

On Photo: Canadian Brig. Gen. Daniel Pepin, deputy commanding general for reconstruction efforts in Afghanistan, cuts the ribbon on the Kapisa road system project. The \$3 million project is the highest construction project ever awarded in the country. When completed, it will be the only province to have all districts and the capitol connected by roads. Pepin oversees all construction in the country.



An Iraqi army soldier from 3rd Battalion, 3rd Brigade, 5th Iraqi Army Division holds a young girl during a visit to a village outside Mujahida, Iraq. (U.S. Navy photo by Mass Communication Specialist 1st Class Jackey Bratt)