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# COALITION

**COALITION BULLETIN**  
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A New Future***

# BULLETIN

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By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the *Coalition Bulletin* is pleased to bring you stories covering the activities of the International Security Assistance Force. As ISAF and the Coalition are separate entities, ISAF stories will be denoted by the NATO logo at the top of each page when they appear.

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**Cover photo:** An ISAF Officer (Italian Army) sets the cornerstone, on building a new school in Kabul, capital of Afghanistan.

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# EDITORIAL

In my capacity as German SNR I am more than happy to be a part of this unique community.

Our Coalition comprises 64 Nations, which equals about one third the number of nations represented in the



United Nations and more than twice the number of nations represented in NATO.

Most if not all of what we are doing is about communication and cooperation. Our coalition provides us a unique forum to talk to each, other both on a professional and on a personal basis.

It is upon us to take this opportunity and learn about each others cultural, social, religious and other commonalities and differences. Our most obvious common ground is: We are all professional soldiers.

Can this be a starting line from which we may improve our mutual understanding? Can we take it forward from there and offer our insights to responsible commanders in an attempt to be more effective for our nations, who sent us here, and ultimately for the better of our soldiers in Iraq, Afghanistan and in other places?

While the end of my term here at US CENTCOM CCC is approaching far too rapidly, I would ask your each and individual support to promote the communication within our coalition. Open your mind and let us all together be more proactive in learning about each other. This requires the will to communicate as you may be approached individually or in groups. After all we do have at least one common goal which is peace.

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*"...I would have liked that our mission in Afghanistan would finish today, so that you and your colleagues of other armies would turn back to your families, but above all, I would like the afghan children, their mothers and their fathers to be free and built their new future the same way we are doing for our children back in our countries. Only this, is the desired endstate of this mission."*

*Albanian Minister of Defense visit in Afghanistan*

# Acting Commander USCENTCOM Visits AOR



Lieutenant General Martin E. Dempsey, Acting Commander USCENTCOM called on General Bismillah, during his visit to Afghanistan.



Lieutenant General Martin E. Dempsey, Acting Commander USCENTCOM called on the Gen. Shawkat Babakir Zebari, Chief of Staff of Iraqi Joint Forces.



Lieutenant General Martin E. Dempsey, Acting Commander USCENTCOM called on the Chairman Joint Chiefs of Staff Committee, General Tariq Majid at Joint Staff Headquarters, during visit to Pakistan.



Lieutenant General Martin E. Dempsey, Acting Commander USCENTCOM called on Major General Hamad Bin Ali Al-Attayah, Chief of Staff Qatar Armed Forces.

# CIMIC Projects Role is Crucially Increasing

The 151st IN BN (ROU) , a representative unit of the Romanian Armed Forces, proudly bears the combat traditions of the 15th IN REGT, a unit that have fought in all major campaigns since late XIX century where the Romanian Armed Forces took part in.

Bridge over the Euphrates River. Besides this task, the ROU BN conducts several other tasks in order to allow freedom of movement and force protection to the coalition forces on the main and alternate supply routes within the AOR. CIMIC projects are now being brought to attention and their role is increasingly crucial. It is a proven fact that developing a CIMIC project results in good premises for security. The



Romanian soldiers of 151st IN BN distribute blankets within CIMIC project - Blankets distribution - mission in AOR.

Since 1994, when the 151st IN BN has been formed with the present TO&E, as PSO designated unit, our soldiers continuously learned and improved their skills in how to work within the challenging multinational environment. For the 151st IN BN soldiers the Iraqi Freedom Operation completes the overall life and professional experience. It all began in 1996, when our soldiers were present in Angola and Bosnia, within UNAVEM III and IFOR missions. It continued in 1997 with another deployment in Angola, as part of MONUA missions, and the participation in Alba Operation in Albania. The last two consequent deployments were in Afghanistan (2003 and 2005) within Operation Enduring Freedom.

LTC Dan Cislariu, 151st IN BN CDR: “Among the first things which the battalion undertook when arriving in Iraq, were liaising with the coalition partners, with the representatives of the Iraqi Security Forces and Local Authorities, meanwhile caring for the tasks within the AOR. One of the key tasks for the ROU BN is guarding the Strategic

CIMIC projects development boosts the local populace’s trust in the Coalition Forces. The present ongoing projects aim the roads infrastructure and electricity networks improvement, education support projects, health and economy”.

At this time, Romanian Battle group’s plan to develop 12 CIMIC projects, which consist of building 3 schools North of the Euphrates River, 4 water pumping stations in Al Badr, Khaihir, Al Rafia and Al Jadeih villages, improving a road in Al Ubaid village and 2 power lines in Al Sharertat and Al Hikmed villages. Another important CIMIC project is acquiring medical supplies in order to begin a humanitarian aid campaign.

The 151st IN BN soldiers are keen on their way to mission



1st Squad from 1st Platoon of the 2nd IN CO of 151st IN BN conducts patrolling in Area of Responsibility of Al Badr.

accomplishment. It’s not an easy thing to do and never has been. However it is the only way to go for us.

*Story and photos by  
Maj. Daniel Burlacu ROU Sen. PAO Iraq  
www.centcom.mil*

# CENTCOM Coalition Speaks to MOAA

Story courtesy of Albanian Office  
Photos by Cpt Kastriot Rexhaj



membership of 2,600.

During the event that took place in Mid-Florida Gulf Coast Chapter of MOAA in Dunedin, FL, Lt. Col Dawson shared with the participants his duty experience and especially the very challenging task of recruiting in Iraq for the Iraqi Army.

Lt Everest Haxhi spoke about the Coalition which consists of more than 60 nations and the efforts of the Coalition fighting side by side with U.S. forces in Iraq and Afghanistan.

“Iraq and Afghanistan are central fronts in the global war on terror, but the enemy is a borderless, transnational threat. They must be defeated abroad so we do not have to fight them at home. This is vital to our nations’ security” he said.

The contributions made by Coalition forces in the war against terrorism cannot be overstated. Spanning the spectrum of

On May 14 the Command Historian Lt. Col David A. “Scotty” Dawson USMCR and the Coalition Representative from Albania Lt Everest Haxhi (Albanian Navy) were invited to one of the MOAA event to address to the members of this great organization.

The Military Officers Association (MOAA) is the nation’s largest and most influential association of military officers. It is an independent, nonprofit, politically nonpartisan organization.

With about 370,000 members from every branch of service—including active duty, National Guard, Reserve, retired, former officers and their families they are a powerful force speaking for a strong national defense and representing the interests of military officers at every stage of their careers.

The association plays an active role in military personnel matters and especially proposed legislation affecting the career force, the retired community and veterans of the uniformed services.

MOAA was founded in Los Angeles, California on Feb. 23, 1929. The first leaders of the association hoped that by join together they could provide assistance and advice to other military officers.

By the beginning of World War II, MOAA’s leaders realized that they needed to reorganize and expand to become an effective force on behalf of their members so they moved to Washington D.C in 1944 with a

operations, contributions include, but are not limited to, providing vital intelligence, personnel, equipment and assets for use on the ground, air and sea.

Coalition members also have provided liaison teams, participating in planning, provided bases and granted over-flight permissions as well as sizable contributions of humanitarian assistance.

At the end Lt. Col Dawson addressed to the MOAA meeting spokesman CDR Hawkes by saying “thanks for inviting us to speak to your members; we thoroughly enjoyed your company and conversation, and were awed by the years of dedicated service, both in and out of uniform that are present in the room”.



# Azerbaijan Increases its Presence in Afghanistan



bring peace and stability. It is a tough mission, but it is a clear and essential one." "It is a tough mission, against difficult opponents: but it is a clear and essential one."

Azerbaijani Forces are deployed to Afghanistan in support of an UN-authorized, NATO-led mission, the ISAF, from November of 2002. Their platoon took part in a number of joint operations with their Turkish counterparts. It was attached to one of the linear companies of the Turkish Battalion Task Force. As the former Turkish company commander of Azerbaijani troops Captain Anil Aktash said he never worried about any language barrier or professionalism of these troops. In fact their success was instrumental in making decision to bring an Azerbaijani Peacekeeping Company to Afghanistan.

In the morning of 22nd March the formation of 6 Cobra Armored Vehicles are making their way up steadily along the narrow dirt road to reach the destination at an appointed time. Their mission is to take Azerbaijani soldiers to the strategically important site in Kabul. Azerbaijanis will take responsibility of the TV Hill from French troops for the next 10 days. That same convoy brought them back from Pol-e Charki Ammunition Storage Site 4 days ago. These two are their main tasks and it is carried out in rotation. Besides, they have some other responsibility as a force protection element. Patrols and Vehicle Check Points are conducted jointly with their Turkish counterparts.

Azerbaijanis increased their number of troops recently. Newly appointed company commander Captain Javid Abbasov wanted to make an assessment of the area of responsibility before he gave quick instructions to one of his platoon commanders. After quick turnover and setting up on the Hill the patrol has fulfilled its mission and turned to make its way back to the

camp Dogan. Local children and patrol members waved each other goodbye. Winning hearts and minds is an important part of the task. From that perspective Azerbaijani troops and Turkish Battalion Task Force overall was very successful. "It is very important that Afghani people understand that we are here to help them to rebuild their country, to establish democratic society and to construct Afghan National Security Forces," said Captain Javid Abbasov.

"With every move we demonstrate that we are here to

Azerbaijanis has a long history of contributing to other nations peace and stability. They have troops in Kosovo and Iraq as well. From the very beginning the government of the Republic of Azerbaijan condemned terrorism and ac-



tively took part in war against it. "In my country we have more than 1.000.000 refugees and internally displaced people. It is all because of terrorism," said Warrant Officer Elchin Aghayev.

"This is something that must be fought globally. Because of that reason I feel proud of being able to serve for the world peace and having our troops carry out numerous missions in hot places." Warrant Officer Aghayev has been in Afghanistan for almost a year and scheduled to redeploy the next month. Having spent 6 months in his unit based in Baku, he will be ready for the next mission in Iraq.

# Coalition Troops Teach International Law to Iraqi Forces



Maj. Stephen King, an instructor of the Law of Armed Conflict and Human Rights course, helps his students with one of their group assignments during class. Members of Iraqi Security Forces participated in a 10-day course focused on international law.

Soldiers of the 82nd Airborne Division's 1st Brigade Combat Team, along with members of the Australian army and Italian-led provincial reconstruction team of Iraq's Dhi Qar province, teamed up recently to train Iraqi soldiers and police on international law and human rights.

A group of 18 Iraqi service members attended a 10-day course to learn basic principles of the Law of Armed Conflict, human rights, police ethics and their legal obligations and responsibilities while conducting operations.

"The course was focused on training legal advisors and operators for the Iraqi security forces," said Army Capt. Eric Widmar, 1st Brigade Combat Team judge advocate and course instructor.

"The focus was to train them on the Laws of Armed Conflict with a focus on the Geneva Conventions and the Hague Conventions."

Many of the topics discussed during the training will prove useful as the students conduct routine patrols and missions, the captain said.

The distinction between an enemy combatant and a civilian was one of the topics. The students had to apply the principles they learned to scenarios they would likely face on the streets of Nasiriyah or elsewhere in Dhi Qar province.

"The legal obligation to distinguish between combatants and civilians, the legal obligation to care for the wounded and the treatment of detainees and other human rights subjects were taught. It's very, very relevant to these guys, given the security situation," Widmar said.

Another focus of the training was for the students to be able to train their fellow soldiers on the principles they learned in the classroom and apply them to situations they might encounter on the street.

"The whole intent of this was to enable these key leaders, legal advisors and operators and law faculty members to take this information back and train more people. It was essentially a train-the-trainer program on international law and human rights," Widmar said.

Many of the students said the course was significant and that they were glad they had the opportunity to attend.

"I think it was a successful course, and we are making use of the information that we received here during the course," Lt. Quassay Adil Thajeel al-Ataby, an Iraqi police

officer who attended the course, said. "The training is very valuable, and we are planning to have these types of courses in the future with our colleagues and officers in order to teach them what we learned. It is extremely important to continue doing such courses."

For some, this was the first time they received information on some of the topics taught in the course.

"I think this course was very important, because it was the first time we've learned and received so much information on international law," said Lt. Col. Jalil Al-Kadhim, a member of the Iraqi military academy and course attendee.

In addition to teaching the principles of the Law of Armed Conflict and human rights, the course instructors provided the students with necessary materials to teach an international law course themselves.

"We provided CDs with all the materials used throughout the course. We also provided them with copies of all the Geneva and Hague conventions translated into Arabic, as well as a lot of other materials," Widmar said.

After 10 days of class time, the course ended and the students received their certificates of completion. Widmar said he was happy with the outcome of the course and saw it as a rewarding experience.

"The most rewarding experience was to sit back and hear them articulate arguments based on law instead of just raw emotion," he said.

*Story and photos  
Courtesy of Army Specialist Jamie Avila*

# NATO Assists Afghanistan to

Story Courtesy of  
NATO Website



From left to right : Dr Zia Nezam, Ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan to Belgium, NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer; and Karl-Heinz Munzner, General manager of NAMSA.

munitions depots, as well as to significantly increase their capacity and effectiveness. It will also provide assistance to the Afghan Ministry of Defence in carrying out an assessment which will form the basis of a national action plan for ammunition stockpile management, including the disposal of surplus and unserviceable stocks. Finally, it will review the training needs of the Afghan National Army and the civilian workforce in its depots and provide appropriate training in ammunition logistics and technical duties.

The project will be implemented under the umbrella of NATO's Afghan Cooperation Programme as set out in the September 2006

A Memorandum of Cooperation supporting a trust fund project to improve safety and physical security at munitions depots in Afghanistan was signed today at NATO HQ by the NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency (NAMSA) and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan. NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer presided over the ceremony, in the presence of Ambassadors and Representatives of all the countries participating financially in the project. The Memorandum of Cooperation paves the way for NAMSA to act as the project's Executing Agent. The project will cost \$6.29 million and will be implemented over 24 months.

Belgium, Canada and Luxembourg will act as the Co-lead Nations for the project which aims to enhance the safety and physical security at Afghanistan's two main national



Ammunition storage bunkers at Khairabad, Kabul province

# Improve Munition Stockpile Safety



View of the temporary ammunition storage depot at Pol-e-Charkhi, east of Kabul. The proximity of the village is to be noted.

well as other interested countries and organizations. In addition to the three Co-lead Nations (Belgium, Canada and Luxembourg), Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Finland, Iceland, Japan, Slovakia, Sweden and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia have pledged funding for this project.

The NATO/PfP Trust Fund mechanism was established in 2001. It is a vehicle to assist NATO's partner nations in the safe destruction of stockpiles of anti-personnel landmines, small arms, and munitions or to help manage the consequences of defence reform. To date, NATO Member and Partner Nations, as well as other nations and international organizations, have pledged more than \$38 million to ongoing and completed Trust Fund projects.

Declaration by NATO and the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and is the first such Trust Fund of its kind established under this Declaration. It is a manifestation of international solidarity with Afghanistan and the willingness of NATO and the international community to provide concrete assistance to Afghanistan which will strengthen its ability to achieve security and stability.

All NATO/PfP Trust Fund projects are based on voluntary contributions from NATO Members and Partner Nations, as



Unboxed high explosive mortar bombs stored at Khairabad depot.

# Albanian Defense Minister Meets

Story and photos courtesy of  
Albanian Ministry of Defense



Albanian Minister of Defence greeted in Herat Airport by Albanian Commander of Peace Keeping Contingent Cpt Cera and by the Italian and Spanish Troops Commanders.

Albanian Minister of Defense, Mr. Gazmend Oketa paid a visit to the Albanian Peace Keeping Contingents in Afghanistan (Herat and Kabul). Aim of the visit was to see the way the troops conduct their mission as well as bring a special appreciation for these Albanian Armed Forces missioners, after receiving the invitation to join NATO membership. The Minister of Defense, associated by Colonel Maksim Malaj Commander of Rapid Reaction Brigade, met with the Commander of Italian Contingent as well as with Commander of Spanish Contingent in which Albanian Troops are integrated. The Minister was briefed from the Albanian Peace Keeping Contingent Commander Captain Kastriot

Cera on the mission in Herat, situation, difficulties and also with the engagement of our troops to conduct Herat's Airport defense.

Meanwhile, around 113 Albanian peacekeepers had gathered in one of the premises of their camp and improvised a reception for the Albanian Defense Minister and the other people accompanying him.

"I feel really good that on my first trip abroad as the Minister of Defense, I come to see you and to personally express the gratitude of the Albanian Government, my personal gratitude as Minister of Defense and the gratitude of all Albanians for the historic mission that you are carrying out. I thank you for all that you are doing for the benefit of your country and for the benefit of a freer and more peaceful world.

Further on in his address to our peacekeeping troops in Herat Minister Oketa said: "Today, I would at the same time like to be in Iraq and Bosnia to greet your colleagues there, who make us feel proud the same way you do. I would like our mission in Afghanistan to be finished today, so that you, your colleagues of the Italian and Spanish Contingent get back to your families, but above all I would like the Afghan children, their mothers and fathers to be free and to built their future the same way we are doing for our children in our countries. It's only under this condition I would like our mission finished."

Our full membership in NATO, which is expected next year on the 60 anniversary of the Alliance, is a challenge for all of us. It's a challenge we have to face and win the battle by joining the energies in making a better future for our children and our country."

Speaking about the cooperation between our troops and those of our partner countries, Minister Oketa highlighted that: "Now I would like to thank and express my gratitude to the ISAAF Command, the Italian Armed Forces and the Italian government, for all the support they gave to your contingent and to the Albanian Armed Forces, and the support they gave Albania for receiving the invitation for NATO membership."

Minister of Defense concluded his speech by saying: "Lastly I would like to assure you that you have my support needed to carry out the mission for peoples' freedom successfully and with professionalism. Likewise I trust in your support



Honor Guard in occasion of arrival of the Minister of Defense.

# with the "Cobras" in Afghanistan



Mr. Oketa, meets with the soldiers of Albanian Peace Keeping Contingent.

and cooperation and I'm also convinced that together we will do our best for our country and for our red flag that it proudly flies wherever it is raised. I wish success and prosperity to you and your families."

Minister of Defense put on the flag of the second contingent the medal accorded to these troops for the achievements made and a successful accomplishment of their mission. Peacekeepers were given photo albums of their families to which Minister Oketa had paid special attention. The Minister of Defense also met the Commanders of the Italian and Spanish Contingent who thanked the Commanders of

the Albanian Armed Forces for showing professionalism in preparing Albanian Troops.

Afterwards the Military aircraft took Minister Oketa and the group that accompanied him to the Kabul airport. From 3 months the 6th Medical Team, A3 component, is deployed in this city. He was received by the Commando troops there. After greeting them and showing interest on the conditions of the Albanian medics there, the Minister thanked them for the contribution they have given and continue to give in making Albania a country that deserves to be part of the Alliance.

Minister Oketa also met the Commander of the Czech medical platoon, who informed him on the hospital constructed there, and expressed his appreciation for the contribution given by the Albanian medical team.

Actually Albanian Armed Forces have 2 peacekeeping contingents in Afghanistan. The 12th contingent is composed of 22 peacekeepers and its main task is security of Kabul airport.

Whereas the 2nd contingent operates in Herat as part of the Italian and Spanish mission and is composed of 113 officers, noncommissioned officers and professional soldiers. The 6th medical team composed of one doctor and three military nurses operates in Kabul.



Minister of Defense awards the Medal of Achievement to "Cobra" Company Commander (Albanian Peace Keeping Contingent).

# Italian Support for Afghanistan is Increasing

Story and photos courtesy of Italian Ministry of Defense



On 27th of February 2008, the Italian soldiers of the Provincial Reconstruction Team gave greenhouses and new mechanical equipment to the Department of the local



agriculture for an approximate value of 162.000 Euros. The delivery has been patronized by the Afghan authorities, first of all the Minister of the Agriculture of the Government Karzai. The greenhouses with irrigation system adapt for climates with high temperature variations as the one in Afghanistan, will cover the whole territory of Herat.

The distribution will happen in fact with the following ratio: 20 for the Districts of Guzara and Injil, 15 for Zandajan and Pasthan Zarghon, 10 for Karukh Koshke Rabat Sangi and Ghoryan.

Among the given equipments - for an amount of around 110.000 Euros - there are 13 threshing-machines, 26 plows, 10 towings and 13 harvesters; they consist in modern tractors that the growers can rent at a low cost.

Such donation is added to many other important interventions of the PRT in the sector of agriculture. In 2007 in fact it has been spent around 220.000 Euros - coming from the Department of Defence - for purchase of fertilizers, insecticides, for sanitize and cleaning channels and wells, for supplying fruit trees and increase the crop of saffron, that it is very profitable in these places.

During the ceremony, the present Authorities have expressed words of depth gratitude and consideration for the notable help received by the Italian PRT asking to maintain this collaboration. Col. Bettini, Commander of the PRT, has expressed and confirmed the wish and the enthusiasm of the Italian PRT to keep on furnishing, together with international organizations, an important contribution in the development of the agricultural sector.



## 30 Years Without Going to School



Abdul Qayoum, Shajoy district administrator, tells Zabol provincial government representatives and the Zabol Provincial Reconstruction Team how happy he is to see girls from his district in school.

KABUL, Afghanistan – One hundred forty girls in the Shajoy district of Zabol province attended school Saturday, a first for females there in 30 years. The girls are currently studying lessons such as religion and math in a small mud house, however they are in need of a suitable location in the district for a school. “I hope all these girls will have a good future,” said Mr. Qayoum, district administrator. “I’m happy the girls can come to school and be in this good situation. I and the police chief are always here to work with (the government and Zabol PRT representatives) and to work for the people of Shajoy. I hope God will help us to work honestly with our people, the government and the line ministry directors.” The Zabol PRT civil affairs team accompanied Shajoy and Zabol government representatives to look at various building sites as potential locations for a new girls’ school. “In the name of God, honorable teachers and honorable students, today I am pleased I’m seeing children in school,” said the deputy governor. “I couldn’t believe you have students in a safe and secure area; I would appreciate all forces’ cooperation for security. For everyone in Shajoy, farmers, teachers and each individual,

# El Salvador's Minister of Defense and US Ambassador in El Salvador, Visiting Iraq



Salvadoran Cuscatlán Battalion is assigned.

During the visit the Salvadoran delegation also addressed the Salvadoran troops and met with the Commander of the Cuscatlán Battalion X Rotation Col Walter Mauricio Arevalo Gavidia along with staff officers to review the current situation and the way their mission is being executed.

Cuscatlán Battalion X Rotation's primary mission is the reconstruction and CIMIC projects in Iraq, improving the livelihood and fulfilling the needs of the Iraqi people. The delegation also had the opportunity to verify the final phase of one of the projects in Al Kut's Court House, where they met with the Court's Judge, who expressed his gratitude for the excellent job done by the Salvadoran troops in Al Kut.

The delegation shared some time with the troops, participating in different activities such as athletic competitions, a religious service, and a present-exchange

El Salvador's Ministry of Defense Major General Jorge Alberto Molina Contreras, US Ambassador in El Salvador Mr. Charles Glazer and El Salvador's Armed Force Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Major General Eduardo Ernesto Mendoza Morales recently made an important visit to Iraq. El Salvador has deployed ten rotations (battalion size units) supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom and the War on Terror.

The Salvadoran Delegation began their tour on May 14th, 2008 in Baghdad and then visited Al Kut, where they met with different military and civilian authorities. In Al Kut, Major General Molina and his delegation had a meeting with General Edward Cardon, Executive Officer of the South Center, and Col Peter Baker, Brigade Commander of 214th Fires Battalion, unit to which the



with the Sheikhs of different districts and villages in the Wassit Province.

These visits are regularly held by El Salvador's authorities in an effort to boost the Salvadoran troop's morale, to verify and supervise the different tasks being performed by El Salvador's brave troops.

*Story and photos courtesy of  
Army Col. Hector Erazo, El Salvador SNR*



*Macdill Air Show 2008*



**Norwegian National Day**



**Bulgarian Armed Forces Day**



# Pakistani Delegation Visits CENTCOM



## Albania and Pakistan Country Presentations



## Netherlands Queen's Birthday



**SOME SAY IT'S EASY...**



**...BUT IT'S NOT!**

**COMBAT BULLETIN**

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