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Volume 55

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Commander Special Operations Command, USA, Visits Pakistan

Czech Provisional Reconstruction Team, "Logar"

Romanian "White Sharks", Prowl the Desert

Czech Provisional Reconstruction Team's Efforts in Afghanistan

Rebuilding Together

BULLETIN

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Cover photo: Czech soldier gives the attendees of Logar Police Academy AK-47 ammunition for tactical firing training, Logar Province, Afghanistan.

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...AND MORE TO COME...!



Back page photo: Convoy is ready to leave FOB Shank for filling a daily assignment, at FOB Shank, Logar province, Afghanistan.



United Nations Security Council resolutions numbers 1368, 1373, and 1377 gave member nations the authority to combat terrorism in the Indian Ocean. Since this area is an important link to the West, it is not surprising that in this zone one can also find all sorts of trafficking to a greater or lesser degree. This trafficking can very well have

a link, albeit an indirect one, with Al Qaeda.

One of the first famous actions of the Marine Corps took place during the Barbary war and their fights against pirates: *“from the halls of Montezuma to the shores of Tripoli”*. International piracy is now on the rise. With simple but well-dimensioned means and well practiced tactics, the pirates have put into place operations that are extremely well-organized.

With a little luck and their perfect understanding of traffic in this region, the pirates intercepted French ships twice. Twice this year, respectively in April and in September, France has successfully set up intervention to retake control of sailboats, *Le Ponant* and *Le Carré d’As*, kidnapped by pirates who were asking for a ransom.

The President of the French Republic gave a strong warning to the pirates: France will not allow any of her ships to become the prey of pirates. He not only called for concertation and common action among bordering nations, but also within the European Union.

Since this area is an important maritime intersection, does it occupy a considerable role in the scheme of Al Qaeda? Asking this question seems legitimate. The regularity of the attacks and the large amount of money demanded by the pirates could lead one to think that they go past the simple financing of Somalian wackos.

Obviously this once latent crisis in the region has seen an increase in activity. Is it not time to add the fight against piracy to the mandate of the coalition? The flow of money that this activity generates could have a great impact on the financing of terrorism. Certainly this is difficult to prove, but this is also difficult in all criminal financial activities.

Only the future will allow us to confirm this hypothesis, but one thing is sure: This money is not being used to aid in the development of local populations!

Brigadier General Gilles Lemoine
French Senior National Representative
Coalition Coordination Center

The Tripartite Commission Meeting

The Tripartite Commission composed of senior military representatives from Afghanistan, Pakistan and Coalition Forces in Afghanistan, held its twenty third meeting in Afghanistan on 19th August 2008. Delegations were headed by General Ashfaq Parvez Kayani, Chief of Army Staff, Pakistan Army, General Bismullah Khan, Chief of General Staff, Afghan National Army and General David D. McKiernan, Commander International Security Assistance Forces.

The meeting reviewed the security situation in areas along the Pak-Afghan Border. They showed satisfaction at the existing level of cooperation and reiterated their resolve and commitment to contribute towards peace and security in this volatile region.

ANSF and Coalition Forces provide medical assistance to more than 1000 Afghans

Afghan National Security Forces and Coalition forces conducted a Medical Civil Action Program in Qalat District, Zabul province, August 24-25.

Coalition forces medical personnel treated 728 children, 373 women and 89 men during the two-day program for various ailments ranging from stomach pains to broken bones.

Medics also taught preventive care by distributing handouts advising Afghans to boil water before drinking to prevent illness.

Educational supplies, Korans and Afghan national flags were also distributed to the local populace.

The Jordan King Urges Arabs to Support Iraq



His Majesty King Abdullah, this month held talks in Baghdad with Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri Maliki and Vice President Adel Abdul Mahdi, on expressing his willingness to support the security and stability of Iraq. The King said that: *“...a strong Iraq, is a source of power for Arabs”*.

President Karzai, Expresses His Gratitude to International Community

Story and pictures Courtesy of CJTF 101, Public Affair Office

Afghan President Hamid Karzai took the opportunity to thank the international community for their help in reconstructing Bamyan and all of Afghanistan during a ceremony held in Bamyan, Thursday.

The ceremony celebrated the reconstruction of a road that runs from the provincial capital to Nayak in the Yakawlang District. The 60 million dollar project is being financed by the Asian Development Bank and the people of Japan. Karzai stated that this important project would employ hundreds of people and open up areas of opportunity for economic growth.

Task Force Warrior assisted in providing security for Karzai while he was the special guest at an event in Bamyan.

Since 2003, the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team has worked with numerous aid organizations to complete projects in the area with the primary purpose to support the people of Bamyan. The added security allows focus on development and governance.

Roads, culverts and flood protection, as well as schools, police stations, and healthcare are the focus of development efforts. Water and sanitation, along with micro hydro systems, are other projects in the works for Bamyan.



President of Afghanistan, Hamid Karzai, speaking with Pfc. Natylie Gourley prior to his departure from Bamyan where he attended a road opening ceremony on Thursday. Task Force Warrior sent members of their SECFOR to provide additional security for Karzai's visit.



Afghan President Hamid Karzai shakes hands with the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team commander, Colonel Darryl Tracy, prior to Karzai's departure from Bamyan.

The “White Sharks” Prowl the Desert

Story and pictures Courtesy of
Major Toni Ene, Romanian Senior PIO in Iraq



Romanian soldiers doing a wonderful job in southern Iraq. We are very proud to have them as members of our team. They are professionals, and they treat Iraqi civilians kindly to rebuild their lives”. At the end of the ceremony, he added that he would expect the new battalion to complete its mission just as well as the *Black Wolves* did.

The 151st Infantry Battalion spent six month in Iraq conducting patrols, check points and securing the main roads in the Iraqi Dhi Qar province. The

151st Infantry Flag Guards during the Tranfer of Authority in “Dracula Camp”

The Transfer of Authority Ceremony between 341st *Black Wolves* Infantry Battalion and 151st *White Sharks* Infantry Battalion took place in “*Dracula Camp*”, Iraq on 21 August 2008. The ceremony was attended by Air Flotilla (One Star) General Liviu Burhala, Deputy Commander of Romanian Joint Operation Center, Brigadier General Mihai Chirita, Deputy Chief of the Multinational Operation Corps Iraq, Major General Michael Oates, Commander Multinational Division Center, and representatives from the Iraqi local authorities.

General Burhala appreciated the *Black Wolves*’ efforts in Iraq and he wished a safe mission for the newcomers. “Referring to the co-operation within the Coalition I want to express my full gratitude for the constant aid from our Coalition partners and want to express our openness and commitment to fulfill our military objectives” General Burhala said during the ceremony.

General Oates expressed his satisfaction of the Romanian troop’s professionalism, “I’ve seen the

Romanians also completed humanitarian projects, such as water and power supply systems in several villages, construction and improvement of roads and construction of schools and a medical center.



General Oates, Commander of MND South and Gen. Burhala, DCOM of Romanian Joint Operation Center, reviewing the Transfer of Authority Ceremony.

Commander SOCOM Visits Pakistan



Admiral Eric T. Olson, Commander SOCOM called on Chairman Joint Chief of Staff Committee (CJCS), General Tariq Majid during his visit to Pakistan. Wide ranging discussions focused on matters of mutual interest and bilateral cooperation.

General Tariq while discussing regional security issues, emphasised on the need to evolve a regional approach and coordinated holistic strategy suiting the local dynamics to deal with violent extremism and militancy in the troubled border regions of Afghanistan and Pakistan. He also highlighted that due to contiguity of the troubled areas, ethnic and social linkages events on either side of the border have a spillage effect on the other side and the coalition partners need to synchronise their efforts to achieve the ultimate objective of peace and stability in the region.

Admiral Olson appreciated the efforts by Pakistan to fight terrorism and expressed satisfaction over ongoing military to military cooperation especially in the field of training and discussed way forward to further enhance these ties.

Admiral Olson also expressed condolence on the recent incidents of suicide attacks and loss of precious lives in Pakistan.



Admiral Eric T. Olson, Commander Special Operations Command, called on Chairman Joint Chiefs Of Staff Committee, General Tariq Majid.

Celebration of Pakistan's Independence Day

Pakistan emerged on the world map in August 1947. The region forming Pakistan was home to the ancient Indus Valley Civilization and then, successively, recipient of ancient Vedic, Persian, Indo-Greek and Islamic cultures. It was under British Rule from 1858 to 1947, when the Pakistan Movement, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah and the Muslim League resulted in the independence. Pakistan divided into four provinces and two territories, shares its borders with Afghanistan, China, India, and Iran.

Pakistan's geography is profoundly a mixture of landscapes varying from plains to deserts, forests, hills, and plateaus ranging from the coastal areas of the Arabian Sea in the south to the mountains of the Karakoram Range in the north. Pakistan has a rich and unique culture that has preserved established traditions throughout history. Many cultural practices, foods, monuments, and shrines were inherited from the rule of Mughals. Pakistan



is a climber's paradise. It is home to five out of fourteen mountain peaks over 8,000 meters, which attracts adventurers and mountaineers from around the world.

The armed forces of Pakistan are a completely volunteer force and the largest contributors to UN peacekeeping efforts. Pakistan is an active member of the United Nations, a major non-NATO ally of the US and a proud nuclear state.

Pakistan celebrates its independence on the 14th of August every year. Like other Pakistani Communities, Pakistan Liaison Team also celebrated 61st Independence Day with traditional fervor at MacDill AFB. A large number of dignitaries from USCENTCOM, USSOCOM, Coalition Coordination Centre, SNR's of about 60 Coalition Nations, US Citizens and members of the Pakistan Community at Tampa graced the occasion.

Brigadier Changez D. Khan, the SNR Pakistan, welcomed the guests and briefly explained the ideology of Pakistan and struggle premised on Two – Nation Theory, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah that resulted in creation of Pakistan on 14 Aug 1947. He elaborated on the history of Pak-US relations. Towards the end he reiterated Pakistan's commitment and support to international efforts in fighting Terror.

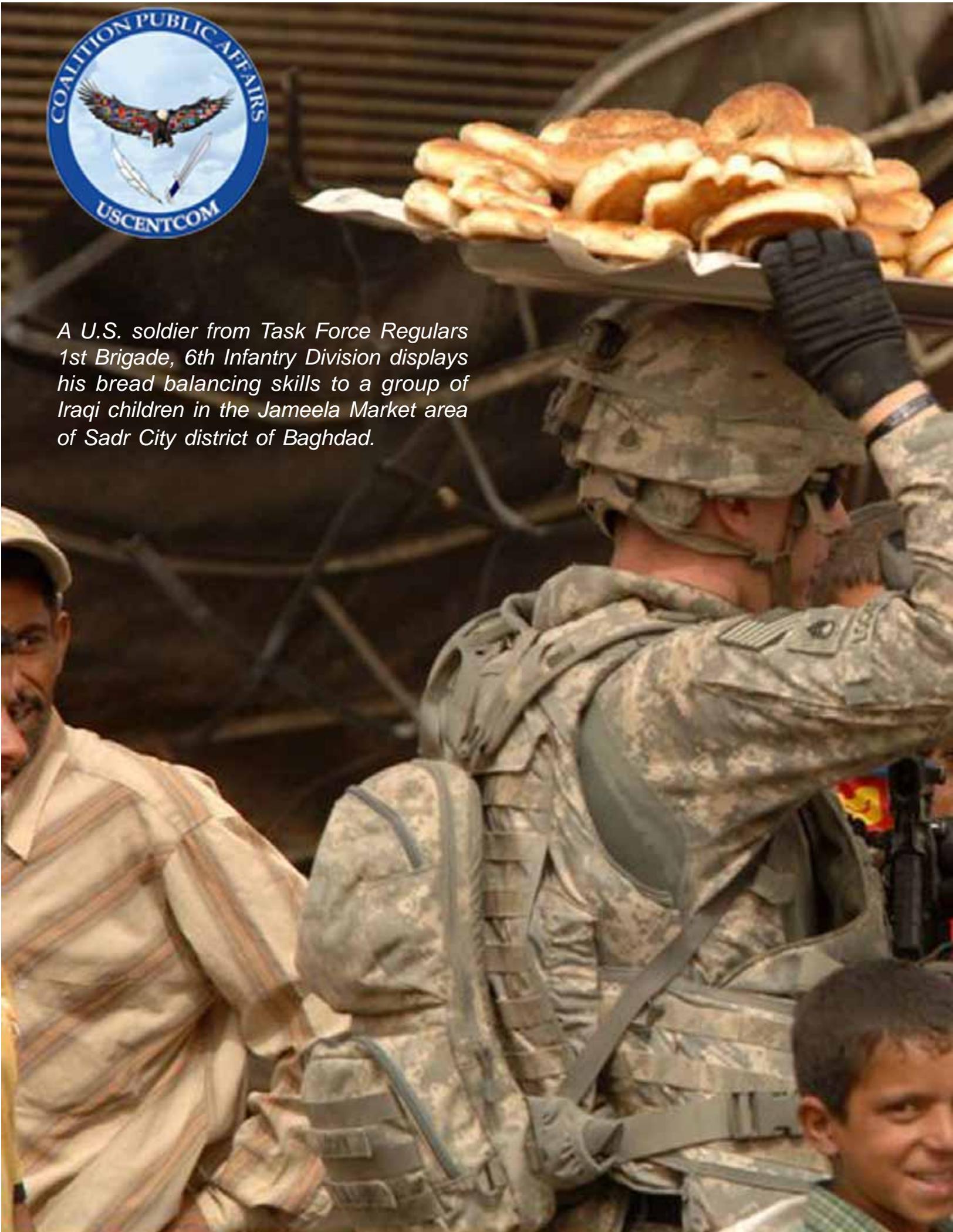
Admiral Eric T. Olson, Commander USSOCOM, the Chief Guest while expressing his views, congratulated all Pakistanis on the Independence Day. He appreciated the role of Pakistan as major and frontline US ally in fighting War on Terror and promised to help Pakistan all the way.

The arrangements were meticulously planned and executed to perfection. The guests were served with traditional Pakistani spicy foods which were highly appreciated. All in all, it was a highly enjoyable Independence Day celebration.





A U.S. soldier from Task Force Regulars 1st Brigade, 6th Infantry Division displays his bread balancing skills to a group of Iraqi children in the Jameela Market area of Sadr City district of Baghdad.



SEPTEMBER 2008

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U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Cohen A. Young

Czech Provisional Reconstruction Team (PRT) “Logar”

The First contingent of the Czech-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar Province, Afghanistan, started the mission in the middle of March 2008.



Colonel Ivo Strecha, the Czech PRT Logar Commander, talks to boys from the boys school Umar-e-Faruq in Pol-e Alam during the Opening Ceremony for the New School Year.

About 200 Czech soldiers and eight civilian experts, the members of the Czech PRT Logar, created one Logar Team together with the American soldiers of the 101st Airborne Division (TF Apache). The members of the Czech PRT and TF Apache are deployed at FOB Shank near Pol-e Alam, the capital and the administrative body of the Logar Province in Afghanistan.

The goal of the PRT is to continue assurance of Czech PRT's strong capacity to work together with people of Logar in alleviation of the most pressing problems facing the province. Afghanistan Compact and consultation on sub national level have played an active role to the development of the Logar province in accordance to Afghan National Development Strategy. They aid to empower government at the provincial level through high level of involvement during decision making processes. These should also contribute to sustainable growth and increase the capacity of security forces through careful and pointed process of prioritization and development of projects in education, health, water management, agriculture, governance and Security.

The Czech PRT commander, Colonel Ivo Strecha, has been working closely together with the chief of the civilian element from the Czech Republic. The Czech PRT has brought a

Story and pictures Courtesy of Czech Office in Coalition Coordination Center (CCC)

large civilian team to Logar province. Its purpose is to contribute to the development of Logar province, strengthen the role of Afghan government and enable its people to take on a greater role in their everyday lives.

The team at its full strength will consist of experts whose skills range from civil engineering to agriculture. The team's overall responsibility lies in the implementation of its own projects in close coordination with major provincial players and in line with the national development strategy.

The beginning of the Czech mission ISAF PRT Logar was marked by a rapid development of friendship and cooperation with the American

colleagues of the 82nd Airborne Division (TF Diablo). American soldiers, who had been operating in the province of Logar for more than one year, shared their knowledge and experiences about the situation on the area of operations with the Czech soldiers.

Before initiation of planned reconstruction programs within the Province of Logar, members of the Czech PRT, US



Umar-e-Faruq boy's school students are responding to the Czech PRT Logar Commander speech.



Czech civil engineers from PRT Logar working closely together with Ministry of Water and Irrigation on assessment of the water structures in the province. Assisting in improving irrigation and access to water is one of the priorities of PRT in Logar.

forces and representatives of the Logar government participated in several celebration activities. One cooperative activity centered on recognition of women on the International Women's Day in the surrounding around to Pol-e Alam.

Another event was the Opening Ceremony for the New School Year that the New School Year Campaign preceded.

Since April 2008 the Czech PRT has visited all districts of the Logar Province. The most problematic area is Kharwar district, at the south of the province. Dominated influence of Taliban is the main reason why the Czech PRT has not planned program for this area.

The most inaccessible district in Logar Province is Azra in the north-east of the province. It takes more than seven hours by vehicle to get there. Currently the coalition forces used helicopters to meet the local people.

In May 2008, representatives of the Czech PRT and American forces organized a two day mission to visit Shura in Azra district centre. Shura is the gathering of local elder people respected by local population. They are the key persons in the process of development of their homeland. "Although Azra is difficult to reach, it is not forgotten by the



About five hundred women from the surrounding around Pol-e Alam visited the International Women's Day celebration at Hades, Logar Province Afghanistan.

Czech PRT," Colonel Strecha stated to the district elders.

The Czechs took over responsibility for a number of projects initiated by the US-led PRT Gardez, such as the girl's school in the Chark district or the new buildings for two comprehensive health clinics in Pol-e-Alam and Mohammad Agha district. Now the PRT is preparing up to 30 new development projects for Logar in the field of agriculture, water and irrigation and education. Together with the Afghan Ministry of Education PRT prepares the rehabilitation of seven school buildings for both boys and girls in Logar. The PRT focuses also on repairing existing traditional irrigation system of karezas, the underground canals, and weirs on the river of Logar. Besides refurbishment of karezas and weirs, the PRT is rebuilding Surchab dam, the only major operational water dam in Logar province. Agriculture, governance and security projects, or support of free media in Logar, are the other priorities of the Czech PRT. Civilian experts together with the Afghan Ministry of Agriculture



The Czechs took over responsibility for a number of projects initiated by the US-led PRT Gardez, such as the girl's school in the Chark district or the new buildings for two comprehensive health clinics in Pol-e-Alam and Mohammad Agha district.

have launched training for apiculture farmers in Pole Alam district, Logar province. For the local farmers' cooperatives the PRT builds the cold storages for keeping the fruit harvest.

Czech soldiers actively support Afghan National Security Forces with the training of Afghan National Police (ANP). The ANP compound, where the Logar Police Academy was established, is directly adjacent to FOB Shank. The Police Academy, led by American Police Mentoring Training Team, cooperates daily with the Czech PRT Logar soldiers. These efforts focus on training the Afghanistan National Auxiliary Police to become members of the ANP.

At present time the Czech and Afghan instructors are teaching the fourth group of students at the Academy. Each group attends a three week cycle which includes first-aid treatment, tactics, patrolling, weapons training, vehicle check point procedures and many police related subjects. According the Czech instructors, the training is essential for the ANP. "Just being able to react properly on the ambush is going to increase the probability of saving policemen's lives," said course instructor Warrant Officer Petr Furst.

ISAF Commander Met Zabul Task Force

Story and pictures Courtesy of
1st LT Alina Hangan, Romanian PIO, Afghanistan



Maj Pop, Commander of 30th Maneuver Battalion briefs General McKiernan and local representatives.

The ISAF Commander General David D. McKiernan paid a visit to Romanian 30th Maneuver Battalion “Dragoslavele” during his tour in Zabul province, on 23 August 2008.

The Battalion Commander, Major Pop presented the troops to General McKiernan.

The visit was attended by the Regional South Commander, Colonel Napier as well as the local civil and military institution representatives.

The discussions were focused on the level of cooperation between Task Force Zabul and Afghanistan Security Forces,

the freedom of movement on the Zabul main communication routes and the Command & Control of ongoing military operations.

General McKiernan expressed his appreciation toward the effort of the Romanian soldiers and he was pleased to have them under his command.

Task Force Zabul secures the main highway which connects the second large city in Afghanistan, Kandahar and Kabul, the capital of the country. The Romanian 30th Maneuver Battalion started the mission on July 2008.



“It is my honor to continue to serve with the great soldiers of Romania. We are friends, allies and soldiers together, always” General McKiernan wrote onto the Romanian Battalion Book of Honor.

Coalition, ANSF Provide Medical Humanitarian Assistance in Mawwyand

Story and pictures Courtesy of
CJTF 101, Public Affairs Office

Coalition forces and Afghan National Security Forces conducted a medical clinic and provided humanitarian assistance to Afghan villagers in Maywand District, Kandahar province Wednesday.

More than 350 Afghan villagers were treated at the clinic for various ailments and injuries.

Dentists were also on hand to provide fillings, teeth cleaning and tooth extractions.

ANSF and Coalition forces also handed out nearly 45,000 pounds of supplies including food, clothing and cold-weather items in preparation for the harsh Afghan winter.



Afghan National Security Forces distribute humanitarian aid to villagers in Maywand District, Kandahar province.

Drug Bust Cutts Off Distro in Southeast Anbar

Story and pictures Courtesy of
Cpl. Ryan Tomlinson Regimental Combat Team 5



Marines with C Company, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, Regimental Combat Team 5 disrupted the drug flow after a drug bust in western Al Anbar province, July 8, 2008. After the arrests, the company maintained their tempo of operations to prevent future illegal activity in the province.

The flow of drugs in southwest Al Anbar province diminished last month after a bust of more than 500 pounds of narcotics.

U.S. Marines with Regimental Combat Team 5 and patrolmen with the Iraqi Highway Patrol apprehended three individuals smuggling a truck full of methamphetamines during a patrol outside Rutbah, Iraq.

“That drug bust was a major disruption of the drug trafficking in Western Al Anbar,” said Capt. Christopher S. Norton, an intelligence officer. “Because of the key individuals brought into custody and the load they were carrying, it will disrupt the flow for quite some time.”

The company has maintained its vigilance to prevent future instances of bootlegging, whether drug trafficking or oil smuggling, and has continued to support the Iraqi Highway Patrol’s efforts against the bandits.

During the operations, the Marines conduct patrols throughout the area on highways and main roadways to cut off traffickers attempting to smuggle narcotics into the region. Since the beginning of the company’s tour, they have successfully detained more than 10 individuals and rid the area of more than 800 pounds of narcotics.

“It felt really great to aid the War on Terrorism and stop the funding for future operations in western Al Anbar,” said Cpl. Cameron S. Nelson, a light armored vehicle gunner. “We’re stopping the money coming in and keeping them from crossing the border to do whatever they want.”

This operation was a success, but the job is not over for the company. Smugglers and drug dealers will still try to conduct illegal operations, but the Marines will continue their efforts to ensure the drug trafficking is challenged in the western Al Anbar province.

Zaytun Division Giving a Great Contribution to the Local Community

Story and pictures Courtesy of
S. Korean Office in Coalition Coordination Center



Ribbon cutting Ceremony for the newly completed road in Erbil, Iraq.

Located in Erbil, IRAQ within the Multi-National Division North East, the Republic of Korea's Zaytun Division held a road opening ceremony on August 18, 2008 in conjunction with the Green Angel Operations. In attendance were more than 700 people including staff members from the Multi National Forces Iraq, the Zaytun Contingent Commander and support staff, BG Chirita from MNF-I, BG Matern from MNC-I and most importantly leaders from the local government.



Mobile medical clinic team treats local nationals at Gainz School in Erbil.

Zaytun Division provided medical support through mobile medical clinics that treated local citizens as well as provided a set of living goods, balls and stationeries to residents. The new 2.8Km road, costing \$470.000, was built over a 10-month period will improve conditions for Gainz residents in Erbil and provide better traffic accessibility.

Furthermore, the Zaytun Division contributed to the development of strong relationships between the Erbil community, its citizens and the Coalition Force.



Zaytun soldiers open food courts at Gainz School in Erbil for local nationals during "Angel" Operation.

Operation Green Angel is a unique Multi-Functional Civilian Military Organization in which the Zaytun Division runs the renovation projects (called the High Priority Desired Projects) for a specified period of time in order to improve the LNs' poor standard of living. During the renovation projects Zaytun's reconstruction battalions, in coordination with sub units, utilize necessary materials, equipment, maintenance, medical support and budgets in conjunction with the festival with the soldiers and the locals to celebrate the completion of all activities.

Creating a Stable Afghan Future to ‘Bank’ on

Story Courtesy of Staff Sgt. Matt Meadows
4th Brigade Combat Team, 10th Mountain Division

U.S. forces here will now utilize commercial Afghan banking services, which will bolster Afghanistan’s economy by putting approximately \$100 million worth of monthly-business transactions into private banks’ hands.

Abdul Qadeer Fitrat, the Central Bank of Afghanistan’s governor, and officers from the 101st Joint Logistics Command met at Camp Eggers, Aug. 7, to sign a memorandum which changed the banking relationship between U.S. forces and the Central Bank.

Monetary procedures between the Central Bank and U.S. forces will still remain in tact to help reduce the volatility of the Afghan exchange rate, said Fitrat. In the end, business will still flow to the smaller private banks. Central Bank is anxious to support transition efforts, said Fitrat.

The Central Bank will convert the U.S. dollars to Afghan and then transfer the currency to commercial banking services, explained Maj. Noah Cloud, 101st JLC finance officer. The Central Bank will have to remain engaged in the transactions.

“The Central Bank uses U.S. dollars to purchase Afghan on the open market,” said Cloud. “[This] allows the Central Bank access to foreign currency reserves, which are necessary to the legitimacy of the Central Bank in the eyes of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank Organization.”

Private banking is critical to the economic development in Afghanistan, said Fitrat.

The ultimate goal is to build confidence in Afghan banks, agreed Cloud.



Abdul Qadeer Fitrat, the Central Bank of Afghanistan’s governor, and Maj. Noah Cloud, 101st Joint Logistics Command finance officer, met at Camp Eggers, Aug. 7, to sign a memorandum which changed the banking relationship between U.S. forces and the Central Bank of Afghanistan. U.S. forces will now utilize commercial Afghan banking services, which will bolster Afghanistan’s blossoming economy by putting approximately \$100 million worth of monthly-business transactions into private bank’s hands.

“The more confidence we can build in Afghan banks, the more vendors will utilize them for payment via Electronic Funds Transfers,” said Cloud. “This new [process] paves the way for U.S. forces to utilize private banks in Afghanistan for commercial services. This is vital because previously the Central Bank provided commercial services to our forces.”

In the years gone by, Afghanistan did not have a substantial private banking infrastructure or an economy to support it, said Cloud. As the nation continues to develop, both the Afghan government and Coalition forces must continue to find ways to help bolster Afghanistan’s development.

Fitrat agreed cooperation and progression must come from both sides and said he shared the vision of a strong relationship between the Central Bank and U.S. forces.

