

COALITION

Issue 64

*Interview with the Chairman
of the Coalition at USCENTCOM*

Coalition Counter IED Conference

Czech Contribution to Coalition



Chairman

BG Gilles Lemoine, France



Chief of Coalition Public Affairs Team

LTC José D. Arias, Dominican Republic



Coalition Bulletin Staff

Senior Editor

CPT Dritor Papa, Albania



Editorial Staff

LTC Michel C. Escudie, USA



MAJ Ghazanfar Iqbal, Pakistan



CPT Ehab El-Saheb, Jordan



Editor's Note

By the generous permission of our NATO partners, the Coalition 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.

Front Cover: A member of the New Zealand Provincial Reconstruction Team watches over Shebar district, Bamyan province, Afghanistan. (Photo by U.S. Army 1st Lt. Lory Stevens)
 Courtesy of: www.nato.int/isaf

Back Cover: Two young girls excitedly check out their bag of goods given to them by the ISAF troops on Dec 26. Photo taken by U.S. Air Force TSgt Brenda Nipper.
 Courtesy of: www.nato.int/isaf

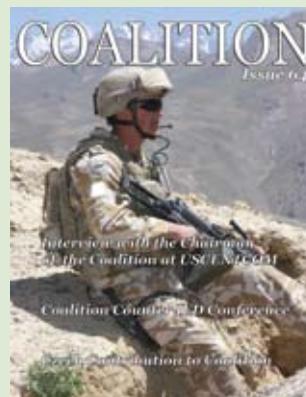
The views expressed in the Coalition Bulletin cannot be attributed to any one nation. They are items considered newsworthy by the volunteers from various nations that make up the Public Awareness Working Group (PAWG). Contributions from all Coalition countries are encouraged. All contributors to the Coalition Bulletin are responsible for adhering to PAWG policy pertaining to the accuracy and copyright laws in the content they provide.

For questions concerning PAWG policy, contact the Coalition Bulletin editor at +1 (813) 827-1728, or write to us at coalitionmagazine@gmail.com For an electronic copy of the Coalition Bulletin, visit: www.centcom.mil

IN THIS ISSUE

- **Interview with Air Commodore R.J. (Dick) Newlands, New Zealand SNR and Coalition Chairman, USCENTCOM** **Page 4-5**
- **Coalition Counter IED Conference** **Page 6**
- **A Coalition Remembrance** **Page 7**
- **Celebration of Qatar's National Day** **Page 8**
- **Coalition International Night at USCENTCOM** **Page 9**
- **Afghan Mentors** **Page 10**
- **Open Talk Advances Iraqi Legal System** **Page 11**
- **Colorado, Jordan Lead the Way as Guard Builds Worldwide Partners** **Page 12**
- **Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Visits SAF Troops in Afghanistan** **Page 13**
- **Czech Contribution to Coalition** **Page 14-15**

Cover Pages



EDITORIAL



In this issue we have an interview with Air Commodore R.J. Dick Newlands, the departing New Zealand SNR and Coalition Chairman he told us about his time in the Chairman position and here in Tampa, he impressed upon us the need to continue to support each other through sharing information and

to be open to alternative culture so we may understand the different points of view of peoples and regions across the world.

We at the CPA Office want to thank Air Commodore Newlands for the support and trust he always offered to us during his time as a Coalition Chairman.

We highlight the contribution of the Czech Republic as part of the Coalition in Afghanistan. We introduce you to the important work that the Czech Air Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT), their Province Reconstruction Team (PRT) and their Light Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear (CBRN) Unit, are executing in that country.

We bring you information about the visit of the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense of Singapore Teo Chee Hean, to the troops of that country deployed in Afghanistan. During his visit, Mr. Teo emphasized to the soldiers, the important role they were playing in Afghanistan.

Also in this issue, we bring you information about several activities celebrated in this area.

The Remembrance Day service, held by the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command Liaison Team to HQ USCENTCOM, which had as guests of honor Canadian Honorary Consul Andrew McIntosh and the Commander of USCENTCOM General David Petraeus.

The Coalition Coordination Center (CCC) IED Working Group in partnership with CENTCOM J3 JSO Counter IED branch held the first-ever Coalition Counter IED Conference. This event provided valuable information about issues that are putting both US and Coalition troops at risk.

I don't want to conclude without bringing to the attention of the readers, that it is the end of the year and some of the countries at the Coalition are getting ready to celebrate Christmas. It is a celebration about family, during which families from all around the globe celebrate their closeness over a nice cooked dinner.

We want to wish them a Merry Christmas and hope that our many friends from other religions enjoy having a 'holiday' which they can share with friends and family.

LTC José D. Arias
Dominican Republic
Chief of Coalition Public Affairs Team

NEWS IN BRIEF

Albania increases the contribution to Afghanistan

Hailing the decision of the White House and President Obama to send additional troops in Afghanistan, the government of Albania, as a NATO member country, friend and ally of the United States of America, and also a friend of the Afghan people, decided to embrace this new initiative of President Obama with an increase of the Albanian forces in Afghanistan, by sending, besides two companies operating in Herat, also 85 additional troops. About 35 of them will be combat troops, 25 will be officers for training the Afghan army, and the other 20 will be medical staff.

www.mod.gov.al

Hungarian Troops Help Afghans Brace for Winter In Baghlan

Hungarian forces distributed warm clothes and winter supplies to more than 200 local Afghan families in Baghlan Province.

The Afghan Ministry of Women's Affairs selected single mothers and widows for the delivery given out at the Afghan National Army base near the edge of the town.

The International Security Assistance Force and international aid organizations have provided aid to thousands of Afghans in recent weeks to help during the harsh winter months.

www.nato.int/isaf

Lithuania Delivers Thousands of Hats to Afghan Children

International Security Assistance Force troops serving in the Lithuanian-led Provincial Reconstruction Team Chagcharan distributed thousands of handmade winter hats Tuesday to the schoolchildren of Chaghcharan, the capital city of Ghowr province. This was the final phase of the "Warm Hats for Afghan Children" project launched by ISAF soldiers in Regional Command - West.

"The project exceeded the expectations," said First Lt. Inga Pranaitiene, a civil and military cooperation officer at PRT Chagcharan who coordinated the project. Posters promoting the program in Lithuania pleaded for donors to produce one hat per person to give to Afghan children.

"We were intending to collect 500 hats, but the people delivered ten times more," Pranaitiene said. "In one month, people delivered more than 5,000 warm hats, and they are still bringing them even after the project is closed," she said, adding that more than 1,500 additional hats are on their way to Afghanistan from Lithuania.

www.nato.int/isaf

Interview with Air Commodore R.J. (Dick) Newlands

New Zealand SNR and Coalition Chairman, USCENTCOM

*Interview by: Captain Dritor Papa
Albanian Armed Forces
Senior Editor of Coalition*

Air Commodore Newlands enlisted in the Royal New Zealand Air Force in January 1972. Following graduation from pilot training in March 1973, he served as a pilot on No. 5 Squadron (Auckland), flying Orion maritime patrol aircraft; and No. 42 Squadron (Ohakea), flying DC-3 Dakota and then Andover aircraft on VIP and transport tasks.

In 1978, Air Commodore Newlands trained as a Flying Instructor and trained ab-initio pilots on CT-4 Air trainer aircraft at Wigram, and later Strike master aircraft at Ohakea. In 1980, he returned to No. 42 Squadron for a further tour on Andover aircraft as the Training Officer and, later, Operations Flight Commander. In 1983, he was posted to the Central Flying School as the Flight Commander, Instructor Flight, and in June 1985 was appointed Officer Commanding Central Flying School.

In 1986, Air Commodore Newlands returned to fly Orion aircraft on No 5 Squadron, and was appointed Operations Flight Commander. During this tour he attended No. 28 Staff Course at the RNZAF Command and Staff College. He was appointed as Commanding Officer, No. 5 Squadron in June 1990. From June 1993 to June 1994, Air Commodore Newlands attended the United States Air War College in Montgomery, Alabama. On his return to New Zealand he was posted to Air Staff as Director of Air Force Plans and Development.

In May 1995, Air Commodore Newlands was promoted to Group Captain and appointed as the Deputy Assistant Chief of Personnel in Defense Headquarters. In June 1997, he was appointed Project Director for the Service 21 project, to develop a revised set of conditions of service for all NZDF personnel.

Air Commodore Newlands was appointed as the Base Commander of RNZAF Base Auckland in May 1998, during which time he spent a brief period as the Deputy Air Component Commander for INTERFET Headquarters in East Timor. He continued to serve as Base Commander until a reorganization of the RNZAF in January 2001, when he was posted into RNZAF Air Command Headquarters as the Director of Air Standards and Safety. He was promoted to Air Commodore in August 2001 on taking up the appointment of Defense Attaché and Head of the New Zealand Defense Staff in Washington DC. Air Commodore Newlands returned to New Zealand in August 2004 and served for two years as the Air Component Commander in Headquarters Joint Forces New Zealand, before taking up the appointment of Deputy Chief of Air Force in August 2006. He was posted to his current appointment as Senior National Representative, New Zealand National Liaison Team at US Central Command in Tampa, Florida, in January 2008.

Air Commodore Newlands was awarded the Air Force Cross in the 1984 New Years Honours List, the Armed Forces Award in 1987 (with clasp in 2002), and the East Timor and Operational Service Medals for service in 2000. He is married to Christine and they have two children, Andre (1972) and Hadleigh (1982).



Air Commodore R.J. (Dick) Newlands
New Zealand Senior National Representative and Coalition
Chairman, U.S. Central Command, Tampa

Q: Sir, you have been the Chairman of the Coalition during the last year. What were your goals when you assumed this position and how well were you able to accomplish them?

A: My main goals were to represent the members of the Coalition here at CENTCOM on matters that required collective representation to Central Command headquarters; to provide administrative coordination for the Coalition; and to ensure that we gain access to the information we seek so that we can perform our national liaison duties as effectively as possible. I also set out to represent the Coalition within the local Tampa community. Overall we have been reasonably successful in achieving these objectives, and engagement with the local community in particular has increased quite substantially.

Q: Here at the Coalition Headquarters you have shared a lot of meetings, planning, and coordination with the other Coalition partners. What can you tell about these experiences?

A: The coalition is made up of a diverse group of 55 countries and each country has slightly different needs. Some countries have a staff of only one or two representatives and they often have to focus on a narrow group of issues, while the larger countries (particularly those with forces in Afghanistan) generally have larger staffs and are able to cover a broader range of activities from within their own resources. Therefore, we have tried to ensure that briefings provided for the Coalition are relevant to as many countries as possible, and that they contribute to a greater understanding of the issues on which we report back to our home countries. We have also put effort into developing working groups that are

meaningful to Coalition members, either where they can contribute to the understanding of current issues within CENTCOM Headquarters or to generate better understanding of the issues in our home countries. These tasks have required input and effort from a wide range of people within the Coalition, particularly those who have particular expertise in the areas of interest.

Q: What would you say was your biggest challenge during your assignment?

A: The key challenge is continuing to ensure that the members of the Coalition here get the sort of information that they seek - information of value to their defense organizations in their home countries. Every country, I think, wants to get as much information as they can and it is not always easy to meet those requirements because the requirements sometimes are diverse. Some countries require low level, almost tactical information while other countries require a strategic overview of what is happening.

A recent challenge has been coordinating our International Night function for more than 1,500 people from the Tampa community, to provide tangible thanks for the support that a broad group of individuals and organizations from the community have provided to the Coalition over the past year.

Q: In your opinion, what should be the main ingredients of an action plan to fight against terrorism?

A: The CENTCOM Coalition's primary focus is on the military aspect of counterinsurgency and counterterrorism activities in the region. However an effective counterinsurgency or counterterrorism campaign requires a much larger group of capabilities than military forces alone can provide. It requires a lot of civilian input particularly around improving governance, and development and rebuilding the economy. The economy must sustain employment for indigenous people so that it is more attractive for them to undertake legitimate work than to turn at terrorism to survive.

A successful campaign therefore needs to be underpinned by a comprehensive strategy, where all the elements required to achieve security, governance and development are appropriately resourced. At the operational level, once the military forces are able to provide adequate security - the foundation for an effective counter-insurgency or terrorism campaign - the largest part of the job is the responsibility of civilian agencies. However, while military forces are structured as an expeditionary force capable of deploying into an austere and insecure environment, generally speaking civilian agencies are not. The challenge then is to find sufficient people in the civilian sector with the skills to complete governance and development tasks, and the willingness to do so in a less than fully secure environment.

Q: In your opinion, has the role of the Senior National Representatives (SNRs) evolved or changed since your arrival?

A: The role of the SNRs has not changed too much this past year, however the willingness of the senior leadership at CENTCOM to improve engagement with the SNRs and maximize the value from engagement certainly has. At General Petraeus' direction there has been an increase in communication between CENTCOM Headquarters staff and the Coalition, and

we have become more involved in providing input to emerging concepts at the development stage. While there is room for further development in this area, the perceived 'value' of the Coalition has increased.

Q: During your time living in Tampa, is there any particular story that you would specially remember?

A: I guess that there are three things that stand out in my mind. One aspect is the high level of public support enjoyed by the military here in the U.S.

A classic example of this is the support that is provided to the 'Wounded Warriors' who have paid an enormous price from their contributions to military operations. We have been involved particularly in 'Operation Helping Hand,' run by the local chapter of the Military Officers' Association of America, which provides both emotional and physical support to the wounded warriors undergoing treatment at the Tampa Veterans Hospital. The coalition has been honored to sponsor the Thanksgiving Dinner for this activity for the past two years, and I am hopeful that this support will continue in the future.

The second inter-linked aspect is the high level of support provided to the Coalition from the local Tampa community. A large number of people have taken Coalition members into their homes, or facilitated experience of the US culture that in some areas is quite different from that of our home countries.

There are a small group of people, surrounded by a broader group of individuals and organizations that we collectively refer to as 'Friends of the Coalition'. These people have been steadfast supporters of Coalition personnel in a range of areas over much of the time this Coalition has existed, and their numbers continue to grow. They have made the coalition feel very welcome here, and the overall support from the community has been nothing short of outstanding.

The third aspect I will remember is engagement where we have been able to give back to the Tampa community. On many occasions I and others have gone out into the community to speak at universities, community clubs and other community groups; to talk about what the Coalition is, what we are doing together to stem the threat of terrorism, and to explain why even the US, as the sole world super-power, needs the support of other countries to achieve many of its strategic objectives. In support of our engagement, we have this week had the privilege of hosting about 1,500 guests from the community to a Coalition International Night of food and beverage at a MacDill Air Force Base again this year to thank them for their support to the Coalition.

Q: If you had any thing to say to the Coalition members, what would it be?

A: Above all, to continue to support each other through sharing information, including lessons learned from your nation's engagement in the fight against terrorism and insurgency; and to be open to alternative cultures so that you may understand perspectives from different peoples and regions across the world. The current struggle to achieve stability in South Asia and its surrounds, in an effort to reduce the extent and spread of terrorism, will take considerable time, commitment and resources. But only through working together from a position of shared understanding do we have any hope of achieving our aims in these areas.

Coalition Counter IED Conference

*By Captain Dritor Papa
Albanian Armed Forces
Senior Editor of Coalition*

Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), often called roadside bombs as well, have been responsible for a high number of casualties both in Iraq and Afghanistan. Most of the time the target of these IEDs are the military convoys or the check points, but there are plenty of cases that they have been used against the civil population in crowded areas like markets, office buildings, etc. Usually these devices are constructed at home, using commercial or military explosives and the triggering methods cover a wide variety, starting with mobile phones, handheld radios, remote controlled toys or even simple methods like cans, strings etc.

The places where these IEDs are encountered differ. They normally are encountered in places that are impossible to avoid; sometimes they are just hidden under the road debris, inside cars, planted on people or animals. In order to prevent this deadly technique used by insurgents, there are different countermeasures being taken under consideration.

In this regard, the Coalition Coordination Center (CCC) IED Working Group in partnership with CENTCOM J3 JSO Counter IEDs Branch held the first-ever Coalition Counter IED Conference on Nov 4 here at MacDill AFB Florida. The purpose of this event was to develop a common operating picture amongst Coalition partners, share ideas and information, and discuss trends, Tactics Techniques Procedures (TTPs) and best practices being employed in both OIF and OEF.

Lieutenant Colonel Henrik Janum (Denmark Rep) who also leads the Counter IED WG decided that CCC would host this event and bring in guest speakers from the IED community to get everyone on the same page and make the CCC more aware of the No. 1 threat in both the Iraq and Afghanistan Joint Operating Areas.

Guest speakers included CDR Mark Sanders, Former Deputy Commander CJTF Troy who provided an Iraq CIED update, CDR Timothy Noonan, former Deputy Commander of CJTF Paladin, who provided an Afghanistan CIED update. Other speakers representing the Joint Improve Explosive Defeat Organization (JIEDDO) included Mr. Douglas Brownback and Ms. Julia Erdley. Representing PMS 408, Mr. Adam Barker, from North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), CDR Bob Higgins and lastly from the National Ground Intelligence Center (NGIC), Mr. Eric Cunningham.

According to Major Carlos Rivera, Deputy Director J3 C-IED Branch, the event was a complete success in providing valuable information about issues that are putting both US and Coalition troops at risk and to further emphasize the importance of participating in the Coalition Counter IED Working Group. "My cup used to be half empty, but now it runneth over." The Coalition is now better informed and understands the IED problem-set (not only JOA specific, but worldwide) and the initiatives being considered to mitigate the risk.



A Coalition Remembrance

*By Captain (N) Kenneth Stewart
Senior National Representative
of Canada to USCENTCOM*

As we have done for the previous three years, the Canadian Expeditionary Force Command liaison team (Op FOUNDATION/Task Force Tampa) to HQ U.S. Central Command (USCENTCOM) at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Florida, held Remembrance Day service and invited our U.S. and Coalition comrades-in-arms.

Hosted by Op FOUNDATION/TF Tampa commander Captain (N) Kenneth Stewart, the service welcomed guest of honor Canadian Honorary Consul Andrew McIntosh, and the Commander of U.S. Central Command General David Petraeus.

By way of underscoring the closeness of allies who were once adversaries, a German Navy bugler opened the service with "Ich Hatt` Einen Kameraden ("I had a Comrade"), the musical centerpiece of German remembrance ceremonies.

Members and a color party from Florida-based Pinellas County Royal Canadian Legion Post 144, many of whom are Second World War and Korean War veterans, participated in the service for the first time, and the CF Air Command Band's Sergeant Cindy Scott sang the national anthems and accom-

panying songs during the wreath-laying ceremony and the placing of poppies.

At the end of the service, participants and guests committed personal acts of remembrance by placing their poppies in a Canadian helmet set above a pair of desert combat boots.

What truly made this service unique, however, was the presence of many military personnel and family members from the 55 nations represented at HQ USCENTCOM, and of U.S. military personnel from several U.S. commands.

Although members of TF Tampa live in Florida and observe Remembrance Day in warmer conditions than most Canadians do, a day rarely goes by at HQ USCENTCOM without the reality of casualties in Afghanistan or Iraq. This reality highlights the fact that Canada's participation in conflicts and wars, past and present, was and is done as part of a coalition or alliance.

Together we must continue to remember our fallen, whether in battles long past or on the dusty roads of Afghanistan. Lest we forget.



From the left, the Commander of USCENTCOM General David Petraeus, the Senior National Representative of Canada to USCENTCOM Captain (N) Kenneth Stewart, the SNR of Australia to USCENTCOM Air Commodore John Samulski, and the SNR of New Zealand to USCENTCOM Air Commodore R.J. Dick Newlands (Photo by: Captain Ehab El-Saheb, Coalition Public Affairs Team)

Celebration of Qatar's National Day

On Dec 16, 2009 at MacDill AFB, CENTCOM celebrated Qatar's National Day. It commemorated the day in 1878 that Shaikh Jasim, the founder of the State of Qatar, succeeded his father, Shaikh Muhammad Bin Thani, as a ruler and led the country toward unity.

According to Col Al-Ammari, the Qatar Senior National

developments into the future for the benefit of Qatar and the region. In reference to the Qatar Armed Forces, he said they have made great progress in all aspects under the leadership of MG Hamad Bin Ali AL-Attiyah the chief of staff of Qatar Armed Forces.

In his speech, Col Abdulla Al-Ammari reminded us that a



Lieutenant General John Allen addresses the luncheon attendees



Col Al-Ammari welcomes guests

Representative at CENTCOM, under the leadership of His Highness Sheikh Hamad bin Khalifa Al-Thani, Qatar has made great strides. "He is increasing our industrial base, ensuring our continued economic development. While expanding our International Relations, he engaged several nations represented here in economic and social agreements. He reformed our educational system, including the establishment of the Educational City, chaired by Her Highness Sheika Muza bint Nasser Al-Misnad and including campuses from several major US and Canadian Colleges." He also impressed upon the fact, that their Heir Apparent, Shiekh Tamim bin Hamah Al-Thani follows in his father's foot steps and will continue these

country National Day is also a time to reflect on a country's interaction in the global community and that this gathering should be symbolic of the cooperation among our great nations. "With our united efforts, the countries represented here are working together to a future where we share a collective security."

Attendees included the CENTCOM Deputy Commander, Lieutenant General John Allen, who praised Qatar for its major contributions to CENTCOM mission and the region. He also praised the good work that Col Abdulla Al-Ammari and the members of the Qatar office are doing representing his country here at the Coalition.



Coalition International Night at USCENTCOM

Story by: *Captain Dritor Papa*
Albanian Armed Forces
Senior Editor of Coalition

On Dec. 8, the Coalition partners celebrated one of the biggest events of the year, here at MacDill AFB, Florida. This event, named “The Coalition International Night,” has become a yearly event, which involves coalition partners from 55 countries. They get together and present some of their national food, beverages, and traditional costumes, as a way to show their appreciation to the Tampa community for their endless support to Coalition. Due to the high number of guests the event was held at one of the big hangars at the base, as part of the endless support that the U.S. Central Command offered to facilitate the event. Coalition partners set up tables around the hangar and each representative brought the best things they had to share with the participants in this event.

The Deputy Commander of USCENTCOM, Lieutenant General John R. Allen, met all the representatives and thanked them for the efforts that they had put together to arrange such a graceful event. The participants, mostly from the Tampa community, expressed their gratitude and emphasized on the point that the cooperation with the Coalition remains a pleasure for

them, and indeed it has broadened their knowledge about other countries and cultures around the world.



The true essence and importance of having multi cultural events like this can be well understood by a statement made to the media covering the event by one of the participants: “I have never thought that one day I would be able to get to meet people from so many countries at one place, know about their traditions and try some of their traditional food or drinks. But above all, I would like to show my appreciation to the Coalition partners for getting together, and inviting us to this unforgettable event.”

The Coalition representatives expressed their gratitude to the participants for the support that the community has been providing to Co-alition since it was formed in the year 2001. The community has been forthcoming in inviting the Co-alition members in various professional and socially vibrant activities throughout the period. In reciprocation the Coalition members always felt honored to host the community on International Night with great sense of pride and jubilation.



Afghan Mentors

*By Captain Rhys Henderson
Courtesy of: www.forces.gc.ca*

Fighting a counterinsurgency with a recently created army in a developing nation is no easy task. There is certainly a large gap from where we want the Afghan National Army (ANA) to be, and where they are. The recently increased resources dedicated to Afghanistan have certainly helped but one major effect of three decades of war has been a setback in education and literacy, factors that translate directly into the capacity for training and education of a 21st century military. The knowledge gaps can be seen every day when we mentor members of the ANA. The movement towards stability and security is not going to happen overnight, and patience is as essential as the ANA is to the task.

This is my second tour as a mentor for the ANA. I served as a mentor last year in a nearby District. This year I am

dian Forces can read. But the large lack of literacy amongst the ANA impedes everything from complex logistics issues to reading the nightly guard duty shift log.

So how do we close the gap? As a mentor I continuously ask myself this question. Much of what my team offers the ANA is damage control. For example, we offer our mentored ANA medical training, but it cannot be too intensive or too technical. For my team medic, it is a daily fight to push the ANA medics to participate. Counter IED training requires very deliberate preparation with realistic training aids so that ANA soldiers can make the connection between the actions used during the IED rehearsal, and what they actually see on Highway 1. Essentially, I have to be able to understand and visualize how Afghan soldiers are going to see things and

teach them accordingly. But more than that, I have to teach them how to fight a complex counterinsurgency with limited resources. This requires that I change my frame of reference and strive to see things through Afghan eyes, a big adjustment and great lesson.

Regardless of the challenges, being a mentor is considered by many to be the best job in the Army.

Here in our Area of Operations, it is a multinational affair with Afghans, Canadians and Americans working together. We lean on each other, taking skills from one area to accommodate for weaknesses somewhere else. There is a lot of friction to set up a joint patrol with the three nations' involvement, but the results are worth it. ANA soldiers are particularly good at dealing with the civilian pop-

ulation in a courteous and culturally appropriate manner and all of the Coalition partners benefit from that.

The end state of mentored and joint operations remains the same: an ANA capable of running and supporting independent operations. It will not happen overnight, but I think we are well on our way and I look forward to the rest of my tour with members of the ANA.



Capt. Henderson and his ANA counterpart, Capt Ali, work near Senjaray, Kandahar, as part of operations to secure Highway 1 west of Kandahar City

again in the western approaches to Kandahar City but there are significantly more ISAF forces on the ground. The ANA's tactical skills are developing well. They are well aware of how to deal with Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) and react well to contact with the enemy. However, some mentoring issues can't be solved immediately. A quick example would be literacy. We take it for granted that members of the Cana-

Open Talk Advances Iraqi Legal System

By Spc. Maurice Galloway
Courtesy of: www.mnf-iraq.com

BASRAH — In an effort to improve relationships between Iraqi Police (IP) and judges (IJ), U.S. Soldiers and civilians hosted a conference at the Iraqi Palace of Justice on Nov. 7.

The conference, designed as a structured forum of discussion between the IP and IJ, lasted four hours and covered the responsibilities of their respective investigation officers and the current state of the facilities which house Basrah's prisoners.

"Our purpose today is to combine our efforts to come up with joint solutions that will increase our effectiveness and make Basrah safer," said Chief Judge Khaz'al Da'bol Qasim. "Only by working together will we be able to assess this current system and implement a strategy based from all the encompassing information and target key problems that we must improve."

A questionnaire regarding the roles and responsibilities of the investigation officers was handed out at the start of the meeting. The form asked questions that helped spark debate on the effectiveness of the IP and IJ investigative process.

"We can't prosecute anyone until we have evidence against that person; that's why it's important to arrive at the scene of these crimes immediately and conduct a thorough investigation," said Dr. Fallah, a lawyer with the Maqel court. "This is something that the investigation officers are currently failing to do. We need more experienced professionals in these positions to handle such a crucial part of the judiciary process."

Capt. Adann Haydar, an officer with the Karmat Ali Police Station, agreed that more extensive training was required so the investigation officers could learn to better perform the duties required of them, and stated they would request assistance from their partners at the 17th Fires Brigade and British Civil Police to conduct training sessions. "We need more training and equipment to be able to perform all that is being asked of us," he said, "but we also need the help of the judges and the ministry to provide us with the proper equipment and operating structure."

The IP has the manpower, but need improved techniques

and training, said Spc. Keagan W. Geer, a 17th Fires Brigade paralegal and native of Stanton, Iowa.

"I feel Iraqi Police have the personnel to conduct investigations properly," he said. "What they need is more defined roles and advanced training, specifically in the areas of criminal behavior, crime scene evaluation and interviewing techniques."

After a brief intermission, the conference shifted focus toward the facilities currently housing Basrah's prisoners. Complaints of out-dated buildings with rooms barely large enough to hold 30 detainees each, insufficient facilities to hold female and juvenile detainees, and lack of proper processing equipment were among the main concerns.

With more than 500 detainees currently being held, these facilities are filled beyond capacity. Some detainees are held with very little evidence against them, while others have been detained for almost two years without legal counsel.

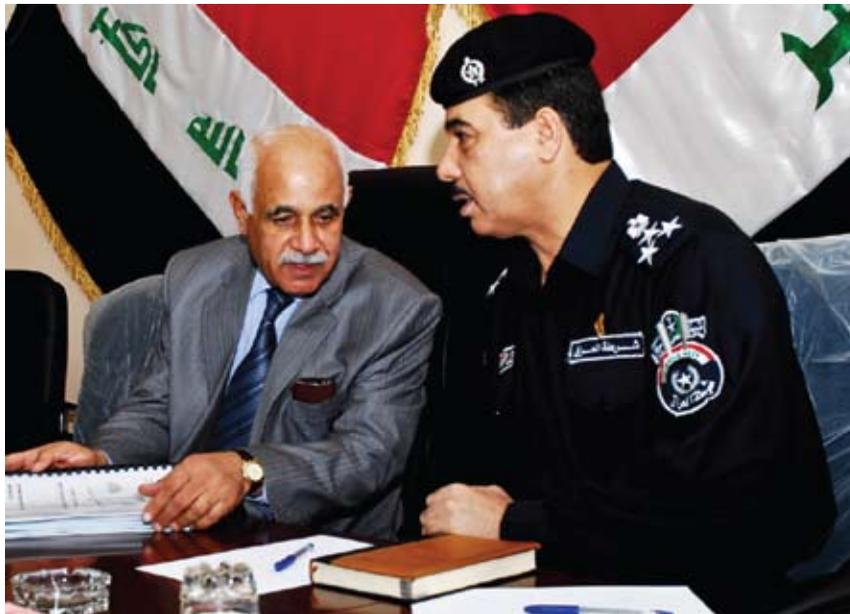
"We are addressing the situation of holding detainees for extended periods of time," said IP Brig. Gen. Eedan. "The training

that we'll conduct will include step by step instruction on how to properly evaluate a crime scene, gather evidence and question witnesses, all of which will help us to alleviate our overpopulated facilities and put in place a better judicial system."

Along with Chief Judge Khaz'al Da'bol Qasim, members of Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) - Basrah and the 17th FB legal team are developing an "Access to Justice Project," which would create at least 20 new jobs for junior attorneys. These attorneys would serve as public defenders, providing the detained individuals with legal representation.

At the conference, the IP and IJ were able to openly discuss the issues hindering the development of an integrated judicial system. This success led the two groups to agree to meet monthly in hopes of developing stronger relations and solving the current issues.

"The PRT did a fantastic job of opening the lines of communication between the two sides," said Geer. "This is the only way that the problems they are facing will have any chance of seeing an eventual solution, which will only benefit the people of Basrah as a community."



Chief Judge Khaz'al Da'bol Qasim and Iraqi Police Brig. Gen. Eedan speak during the Law Enforcement Community Conference at the Palace of Justice in Basrah, Nov. 7. Photo by Spc. Maurice Galloway, 17th Fires Brigade.

Colorado, Jordan Lead the Way as Guard Builds Worldwide Partners

By Army Staff Sergeant Jim Greenhill
National Guard Bureau
Courtesy of: www.al.mil

AMMAN, Jordan - The roar of jets and flash of live fire in the desert east of this thriving capital city are the loudest and brightest signs of a flourishing National Guard State Partnership Program.

"I have been very favorably impressed with how the military-to-military relationships between Colorado and Jordan have evolved over the years," said Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau. "It's a very mature relationship. It's a very strong relationship built on trust and mutual interests, and I can't thank the Jordanian armed forces enough for their hospitality, courtesies and willingness to share their ideas on the security issues facing this region."

Accompanied by the adjutants general of Colorado and South Carolina and other National Guard leaders, General McKinley conducted a multi-day visit earlier this year to this country of six million at the heart of the Middle East, bordered by Iraq, Israel, Saudi Arabia, Syria and the West Bank.

"Jordan (leaders) play a pivotal role as peacemakers, as a stable influence, as honest brokers, who are friends of the United States of America ... and who understand this region as well as anybody," General McKinley said. "If we're ever going to have a peaceful Central Command region, Jordan will be the lynchpin in bringing the parties together to resolve their differences."

A command pilot whose more than 4,000 flight hours include time at the controls of the F-16 Fighting Falcon, General McKinley derived personal as well as professional pleasure from attending the Falcon Air Meet at Mwaffaq Salti Air Base, near the small town of Azraq, about 62 miles east of Amman.

The 17-day Falcon Air Meet is an annual exercise involving the United States, Belgium, the Royal Jordanian Air Force and other regional countries whose air forces fly the F-16. The South Carolina Air National Guard's 169th Fighter Wing represented the United States in the event, while the Colorado Air National Guard's 140th Wing provided judges.

Sitting with His Royal Highness Prince Feisal Ibn Al-Hussein, with whom he has held several meetings during his visit, General McKinley watched live bombing, close-air support with special forces troops and formation flying.

"As an Airman watching (fighter pilots from) three separate countries deliver munitions on a time-critical target and be graded on their ability to drop iron -- not precision iron, by the way, these were manually guided munitions -- that brought back a lot of great memories, and it proves that at each generation we achieve a higher degree of proficiency and professionalism," General McKinley said.

The general was struck by the abilities, conduct and professionalism of the pilots.

"It thrills me to see these types of events," he said. "I don't think any Soldier or Airman could ever witness a friendly competition and not enjoy seeing the caliber of the performance by (aircrews from) all the countries that participate."

General McKinley has met with National Guard troops serving overseas during this trip.

"Every time I see our Soldiers and Airmen in the field, supporting either overseas contingency operations or an event like the Falcon Air Meet ... I continue to be exceptionally pleased with what they bring to the table," he said. "How proud I am to see them interact with our allies, our coalition partners. How thoroughly well-trained and led they are by their adjutants general and commanders in their states."

The State Partnership Program started in 1993, following the collapse of the Iron Curtain. State partnerships foster military-to-military, military-to-civilian and civilian-to-civilian cooperation. There are currently 62 SPP partners.



Gen. Craig McKinley, the chief of the National Guard Bureau, talks with His Royal Highness Prince Feisal Ibn Al-Hussein, Oct. 28, 2009, during the Falcon Air Meet at Mwaffaq Salti Air Base, Azraq, Jordan. (U.S. Army photo/Staff Sgt. Jim Greenhill)

General McKinley's visit is in part a learning mission to determine how the National Guard Bureau can help the nation's 54 adjutants general make the SPP even better, he said.

"They are a marvelous tool for building partnership capacity," General McKinley said. "We live in a very multi-polar world in which all countries' values, feelings and cultures should be understood, and it is probably the best program for the money in helping the foreign nations who participate to gain an understanding of how our military works, the fundamentals of our leadership and our noncommissioned officer corps, which is vital. It builds on our State Department and Department of Defense guidelines for theater-security cooperation through the combatant commanders."

Among potential areas for growth in Jordan's SPP with Colorado is a Jordanian proposal for an exchange involving chaplains and imams, to improve mutual understanding of religious diversity.

"That was a very intriguing proposal," General McKinley said, adding that he plans to discuss it with National Guard chaplains when he returns to the United States.

Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Visits SAF Troops in Afghanistan

*Courtesy of the
Ministry of Defense of Singapore*

The first days of November 2009, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Teo Chee Hean visited Singapore Armed Forces (SAF) troops deployed in Afghanistan to get a first-hand feel of their operations in Oruzgan and Bamiyan provinces. He was accompanied by the Chief of Army, Major General Neo Kian Hong and other senior SAF officers.

During the visit, Mr. Teo met the SAF Weapon Locating Radar (WLR) Team at their operating base in Tarin Kowt, the provincial capital of Oruzgan. Mr. Teo was briefed on the WLR team's tasks and responsibilities by Team Commander MAJ Vincent Koh Han Seah, and visited the team at their deployment site. Mr. Teo interacted with the SAF troops, who shared with him their operational experiences during the two months that they have been there. Speaking to the 17-man WLR team, Mr. Teo emphasized the important role that they were playing in Afghanistan and Singapore's overall contributions to international security operations.

Mr. Teo said: "I can see the tough and challenging conditions you operate under many miles from home. The SAF's deployments to Oruzgan and Bamiyan are important for the people of Afghanistan and are a part of confidence that you will continue to do Singapore and the SAF proud in carrying out your duties vigilantly and professionally." The WLR teams was deployed to Tarin Kowt in September 2009 to provide early warning of rocket attacks and enhance force protection measures for International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) personnel at the base. There will be a rotation of team in January 2010 with the second team taking over until June 2010. While in Tarin Kowt, Mr. Teo also visited the field hospital where a 20-man SAF medical team was deployed from November 2008 to May 2009, to provide emergency and trauma care and primary healthcare. The SAF will be deploying a medical and surgical team to this field hospital in Oruzgan in the coming months.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Defense Teo Chee Hean greets (from left) MAJ Jackson Wu, MAJ Collings pang and LTC Percival Goh during his meeting with SAF troops deployed in Afghanistan.



Czech Contribution to Coalition



Air OMLT

*Courtesy of Colonel Otto Zalesky
Senior National Representative of Czech Republic in
USCENTCOM*

The 5th contingent of the Czech Republic's AIR OMLT (Operational Mentor and Liaison Team) consisting of pilot-instructors and technical personnel is now on-deck and working in Afghanistan. The Czech Republic has been providing this OMLT since June 2008.

This group of soldiers from the 22nd Air Base in Namest nad Oslavou plan, control, and execute training of both air and technical Afghan National Army Air Corp (ANAAC) personnel on the Mi-35 Combat Helicopter. The team also cooperates closely with a US Mi-17 Maintenance OMLT.

ANAAC pilot training is focused on flight safety tactical employment of combat helicopters, particularly, Close Air Support. The training also focuses on cooperation and interoperability with coalition forces.

The Air OMLT spends a significant amount of time on the basics when training Afghan Pilots. ANAAC pilots receive training and instruction in English flight phraseology. Czech pilots spend additional time focusing on the proper procedures surrounding flight documentation. The Air OMLT trainers see

these basic skills as very important in the development of a professional ANAAC.

ANAAC Air Maintenance Technicians receive training with similar focus. Technicians received instruction in proper maintenance experience in the classroom as well as hands-on training. Hands-on training is focused on both preventative and emergent maintenance procedures as well as standardized technical documentation.

The Czech AIR OMLT work has developed a strong partnership with its ANAAC counterparts. With the help of the AIR OMLT, ANAAC pilots and technicians contribute to improved operational capability of Afghan Mi-35 Combat Helicopters. Czech AIR OMLT personnel see the results of the demanding training are visible in the fight operations of Afghan pilots and technicians in Kunduz province. Seeing the ANAAC perform routine operations in Kunduz is rewarding for the Air OMLT and the years of experience brought by both the pilots and technicians in all areas of maintenance and use of Mi-35 airframe.



Provincial Reconstruction Team

The Czech Republic Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) began its ISAF mission March 19, 2008. As of Sept. 17, 2009, the fourth rotation of Czech Armed Forces and Civilian Experts continues the effort.

The Government of the Czech Republic decided to establish and take the lead of the Logar PRT to afford the Czech Republic the opportunity to participate in Afghan reconstruction alongside the international community to aid in establishing security and stability. Since assuming command of the Logar PRT, the effectiveness of the Czech Armed Forces, supported by their civilian counterparts, has led to a new intensity in reconstruction projects.



The Logar PRT is a strong mix of both military and civilian expertise. It is commanded by Colonel Milan Schulc. The close cooperation between both these entities has been an essential condition for success in the effort to stabilize the province. As security is a large part of the effort to provide stability, the military contingent is much larger. There are 273 troops from the 42nd Mechanized Battalion and 43rd Airborne Battalion and specialists from the thirtytwo units of the Czech Armed Forces.



Bohumila Ranglova leads the all important 10 member civilian team through their various tasks in support of the PRT mission. The Ministry of Foreign affairs of the Czech Republic has hand-selected these experts from all areas. His civilian experts work on various reconstruction projects in education, healthcare, agriculture, water resources. All projects were prepared based on proposals generated from numerous discussions and thorough consultations with the provincial government.



Light CBRN Unit

The Czech CBRN (Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear) unit is in its third year of operation in Afghanistan. The unit is based at Kabul International Airport (KAIA) and operates throughout Afghanistan. This unit is a part of the Czech contingent deployed in KAIA, and directed by HQ ISAF.

This CBRN unit provides the following services:

- Radiological and Chemical reconnaissance and sample collection.
- Rapidly deployable Decontamination team.
- Chemical laboratory services to analyze samples from Coalition Forces in the field.
- Biological laboratory service to collect and analyze water samples of Coalition Forces in the field. These services help to provide an assessment of hygiene as well as early indication of the use of pathogenic biological agents.





Two young girls excitedly check out their bag of goods given to them by the ISAF troops on Dec 26. The girls, along with 300 other children ranging from ages 1-18, live at the Alauddin Orphanage in Kabul, Afghanistan. ISAF PHOTO taken by U.S. Air Force TSgt Brenda Nipper.