

Kazakh Contribution to the GWOT

***Airmen Improve Iraq's Security One Eye
at a Time***

Coalition Bulletin



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Cover photo: An Iraqi National Policeman with the 1st Battalion, 6th Brigade, 2nd Iraqi National Police Division, pulls security in Khadra. Photo by Sgt. James Hunter, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 101st Airborne Division (AA) Public Affairs.

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QUOTE OF THE MONTH

“Working with the Afghans, we have made significant progress, but we recognise that remaining challenges demand additional efforts. Neither we nor our Afghan partners will allow extremists and terrorists to regain control of Afghanistan or use it as a base for terror that threatens all of our people.”

NATO Bucharest Summit Declaration

Editorial

I write this editorial in my role as the new Deputy Director of the CENTCOM Coalition Coordination Centre in Tampa. My appointment to the position marks an important step, embedding a coalition officer into the US billet. This can only enhance the already excellent relationships that exist within the CENTCOM Headquarters. I take my appointment as a great honor, and I look forward to working with the coalition representatives over the next two years in support of the mission.



While I contemplate the next two years, and the challenges that face us all, I have been trying to work out the secret to success in working as part of a coalition. But first, we must remind ourselves that without doubt, the most important part of the coalition are the men and women deployed in the AOR. They *are* the coalition. We at the Headquarters play a vital role, but in support of those troops. So, how do we help maintain and enhance any coalition? I've come up with my own basic principles, which will be confirmed or dispelled over my time here. They are: communication, patience and respect. I suggest that these three attributes are just as applicable deployed forward in the arena of battle as they are in a combined headquarters. What do you consider to be the secret to success?

This month's edition of the Coalition Bulletin certainly highlights the ongoing contributions of the coalition, and demonstrates teamwork in all aspects of the mission. I commend the great work done by the editorial team.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate LTGEN Dempsey on his appointment at the Acting Commander CENTCOM. While we do not know how long he will serve in that position, I do know that he has the full support and respect of all the coalition representatives here in Tampa.

John Samulski
Brigadier-General, Australian SNR to U.S. CENTCOM

Coalition News in Brief

BRUSSELS, Belgium – NATO Secretary General Jaap de Hoop Scheffer and the Afghan Ambassador to Belgium, H.E. Mr. Zia Nezam, signed the NATO-Afghan Security Agreement in Brussels.

The Security Agreement provides a framework for the future exchange of classified information between the Alliance and Afghanistan. It will facilitate the exchange of information necessary to ensure co-ordination between the NATO-led International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) and the Afghan authorities.

KABUL, Afghanistan – ISAF troops celebrated the opening of two new structures.

Sarobi district sub-governor, Seyid Suleyman, and ISAF's Italian Task Force Sarobi inaugurated a new pavilion of the district hospital. The pavilion will enhance the hospital's capacity as it will be equipped with a radiology station, a surgery room and an analysis lab.

FORWARD OPERATING BASE KALSU — Soldiers of the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division and Sons of Iraq conducted a combined medical engagement in Arab Jabour.

Two hundred and twenty-seven people were treated during the event, which provided treatment for minor injuries, such as scrapes, sprains and allergies.

KABUL, Afghanistan – ISAF along with Afghan Ministry of Energy and Water representatives and Nangarhar and Laghman Province engineers met for an energy conference on Forward Operating Base Fenty, Nangarhar Province

The conference was held to exchange ideas on future power projects and to discuss existing facilities in the region.

KABUL, Afghanistan – More than 600 children of northeast Kabul suburbs now have a new school built by ISAF troops.

ISAF's Regional Command Capital French troops celebrated the completion of the school in a ceremony today attended by the first council of French Embassy, the French Senior Representative and the French Battle Group commander.

AFGHANISTAN - An official opening ceremony of the first Czech-led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) in Logar Province took place at Forward Operation Base (FOB) Shank.

The Czech delegation was headed by Lieutenant General Vlastimil Picek, Chief of Staff. Mr Abdullah Wardak, Governor of Logar Province and General David Rodriguez, Commander for Regional Command East also attended the ceremony.



Airmen Improve Iraq's Security One Eye at a Time



Story by Tech. Sgt. Joel Langton
U.S. Central Command Public Affairs

BAGHDAD – Fifteen security forces Airmen helped Iraq become more secure Saturday, when they kicked off a three-day operation to improve identification of Iraqi policemen.

Members of Detachment 3 of the 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, processed 157 new Iraqi policemen into a database that will help ensure the correct policemen are getting paid. By Monday, the team will have added more than 500 new recruits in the database.

The database includes each policeman's name and background, an iris scan and fingerprints. Tech. Sgt. T.L. Miller, flight chief, said there's a simple reason they are building the database.

"The iris never lies, the finger print never lies," Sergeant Miller said.

As a result of the database, there will be more identification control when the policemen are paid.

"We were seeing odd members showing up on payday. These guys are hired, but they never show up until payday, and we know exactly where the money goes," said Sergeant Miller. "We want to deter money getting into the hands of militias."

Establishing control in the district hasn't been easy.

The fifteen security forces members, known as a police transition team, rolled into Camp Black Lion, an Army coalition on their way to a nearby Iraqi police compound. Upon arrival, there were 175 of Iraq's newest law enforcement members waiting. The Airmen, with the aid of interpreters and two full-fledged Iraqi policemen, lined-up the recruits.



Iraqi police officers from the Rasheed area line up to be entered into a data base by a handheld interagency identity detection equipment by U.S. Airman from Det. 3 732nd Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Sather Air Base, Iraq, Feb., 23, 2008. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway)



U.S. Air Force Senior Airman Eric Riley waits in his tactical vehicle prior to patrolling the East and West section of Rasheed, Iraq. Airman Riley is deployed to Det 3, Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron Sather Air Base, Iraq and is from the 90th Missile Security Forces Squadron F.E. Warren, Wyo. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway)

The transition team divided into three parts: one part provided security outside the compound, another part searched each recruit before they entered the processing center, and the last part processed the recruits into the database. The first step in the processing line involved the iris scan, then the new policeman was finger printed and finally, his photograph was taken. Eventually, all the new policemen will give DNA samples.

Sergeant Miller called the effort a huge success.

"This had taken thousands and thousands of dollars away from militia and has made the Iraqi Police a stronger force to be able to bring peace here," he said.

Besides building the identification database, the transition teams train, coach and mentor policemen in the district. They also help recruit Iraqi Policemen and oversee the building of an Iraqi police academy and police stations.



Conference Addresses Key Issues in Air, Ground Synchronization



**Story by Capt. Paula Kurtz
Media Operations Officer, AFCENT (CAOC)**

More than 100 Coalition members met March 3-5 at Al-Faw Palace in Baghdad to discuss ways to better synchronize airpower with future ground operations across Iraq. Dubbed simply the Air Synchronization Conference, the meeting brought together ground operators and planners from the Army-led Multinational Corps-Iraq and its subordinate units, as well as airpower experts from the Combined Air and Space Operations Center and the 18th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group. Most discussion took place at the secret classification level and fell into one or more of three key focus areas: streamlining the kill chain, optimizing intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, or force protection.

“This was truly a joint effort...from the planning stages through to execution,” said Lt. Col. Matt Isler, an Air Liaison Officer in MNC-I Plans Division and the project officer for the conference. “We worked with the Army from the very beginning of planning and asked what they would like to see included or addressed at the conference.”

Day one of the conference opened with a series of short briefings given by experts on various weapons systems. The briefings included detailed discussion of each platform’s capabilities, covering everything from communications, weapons, targeting, reconnaissance, and electronic jamming to fuel capacity and loiter time in the airspace. Such a specific level of detail facilitates greater understanding between operators and planners, both in the air and on the ground.

“We needed to establish a baseline understanding of terms and capabilities before going into our breakout sessions so that everyone could talk at the same level on the issues we wanted to address,” Colonel Isler said. “And it also allowed operators to bring current issues to the table for discussion – both problems and best practices.”

Once capabilities were understood, discussion and debate shifted to tactics, techniques, and procedures, or TTPs, associated with specific types of missions, such as counter-improvised explosive device, counter smuggling and close air support. Whether identifying new processes or adjusting old ones, the goal lay in streamlining practices to



Maj. Gen. George J. Flynn, deputy Commander, Mult-National Corps Iraq address the participants of the Joint Air Synchronization conference in the Al Faw Palace at Baghdad, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen)

enhance interoperability across joint-service and Coalition platforms. With more than 168,000 troops in Iraq representing joint and Coalition services across a myriad of career fields, it is no small task to ensure everyone is working from the same strategic plan and toward the same set of objectives.

“It was important to understand what each coalition member, service and specialized unit brought to the fight, but it was more important under the banner of this conference to determine how best to bring those capabilities together and maximize the synergy gained through crosstalk and collaboration,” said Col. Peter Donnelly, commander of the 18th Expeditionary Air Support Operations Group and host of the event.



Royal Australian Navy Corporal, Bruce Harvey, Non-commissioned Officer in Charge Task Force Troy shows an example of an Improvised Explosive Device to the participants of the Joint Air Synchronization conference. The conference was aimed at improving the synchronization air power with ground operations. (U.S. Air Force photo by Tech. Sgt. Jeffrey Allen)



USF Students meet Coalition Senior National Representatives



Story by Spc. John Higgins, 131st MPAD
Romanian Air Force photo by Maj. Constantin Spinu

to attend four breakout sessions with key-leaders from



several countries to include: Col. Samuel Thuita of Kenya, Air Commodore John Samulski of Australia, Brig. Gen. Yves Christophe of France, Brig. Gen. Hardenbol of the Netherlands, Air Commodore Richards Newlands of New Zealand, Brig. Gen. Changez Khan of Pakistan and Col. Iskandar Dadabaev of Tajikistan.

Each speaker illustrated their particular nations' perspective on security, their challenges as dictated by their economy, their history and their geography, and illustrated how their governments worked compared to the U.S. government.

Brig. Gen. Arne Skjaerpe, the Coalition Chairman of U.S. Central Command and the Senior National Representative closed the symposium with a few words on national security and cooperation. Skjaerpe said he hoped all the attendees gained a broader understanding of the complexities of different countries working together toward global goals.

From left to right: Air Commodore John Samulski of Australia, Brig. Gen. Yves Christophe of France, Col. Samuel Thuita of Kenya, Air Commodore Richard Newlands of New Zealand, Brig. Gen. Changez Khan of Pakistan and Col. Iskandar Dadabaev of Tajikistan listen to the Director of U.S. Central Command Coalition Coordination Committee, Maj. Gen. Michael Diamond (out of frame), Brigadier General Hans Hardenbol of The Netherlands (out of frame), at The University of South Florida's Joint Military Leadership Center, in Tampa, Fla., during the universities international symposium entitled "The U.S. Central Command Coalition Partners: Their Armed Forces . . . Their Security Perspectives,".

TAMPA, FL.— The University of South Florida's Joint Military Leadership Center held it's Spring 2008 Symposium in C.W. Billy Young Hall. The symposium was entitled The U.S. Central Command Coalition Partners: Their Armed Forces. . . Their Security Perspectives."

The U.S. Central Command Coordination Center Director, Maj. General Michael Diamond, a native of Alabama, encouraged the attendees to keep an open mind, ask many questions, and take advantage of the educational opportunities afforded by both the conference that day and the college in general.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Thomas A. Marks, Chair, Department of Irregular Warfare, School for National Security Executive Education at the National Defense University, opened the symposium by addressing a wide range of issues, from terrorist organization procedure and structure to long-term planning and strategy, as well as war fighting with international partners.

Reserve Officer Training Corps. cadets, and students of USF's Department of International Affairs were invited after the opening remarks



Maj. Gen. Michael Diamond, Director of the U.S. Central Command Coalition Coordination Committee, addresses attendees at an international symposium entitled "The U.S. Central Command Coalition Partners: Their Armed Forces . . . Their Security Perspectives," at The University of South Florida's Joint Military Leadership Center, in Tampa, Fla.



Village of Hope Students Get Real Payday



Story by Tech. Sgt. Joel Langton
CENTAF News Team

HAWR RAJAB, IRAQ – Red Horse Village of Hope students got a lot more than hope Thursday afternoon when students had their first payday.

Members of the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron, headquartered at Balad Air Base, paid out nearly \$10,000 to 120 students, according to Master Sgt. John Hudson, a Red Horse logistics technician, who oversaw the payday. Sergeant Hudson is an Air Force Reservist who worked in an accounting department in the civilian sector for 11 years.

The 30-members of the 557th are a combination of active-duty, Reservists and Air National Guardsmen.

The Village of Hope program is a test program that has many in the Department of Defense watching. Similar to a technical school, Iraqi students are taught rebuilding skills such as masonry, electrical and plumbing. Students are paid \$10 per school day they attend.

Although the school's technical curriculum hasn't begun, students have started building a foundation of reading, writing

and arithmetic skills, earning their first payday.

Each student received about 125,000 Iraqi Dinars, or about \$100 dollars, for the two weeks of studies. "This is happy and cool," said Hassan Alwan, the first person paid who added it was the largest payday he has had since the end of the war.

Although everyone was happy to receive the money, there were lessons learned for both sides, said Capt. Josh Aldred, Village of Hope commander and project manager. "The students learned how important attendance is, and we're taking steps to have stronger proof of attendance," Captain Aldred said.

Sergeant Hudson said that the Red Horse team established much more credibility by following through with the payday.

"A lot of the students had a wait-and-see attitude," he said. "They didn't think they were going to actually get paid so we gained a lot of trust."

Most of the students are residents of Hawr Rajab and when they graduate from the school they will receive an increase in pay and go to work rebuilding the local villages.



Students are paid 10 dollars a day for attending classes at Patrol Base Stone that the 557th Expeditionary Red Horse Squadron built to help students with the basics of math and basic Arabic before they learn plumbing, electrical and building, Iraq. (U.S. Air Force photo by Master Sgt. Andy Dunaway)



Mayor of Tampa Meets the Coalition



Story by Sgt. Steve Reeves
CENTCOM Public Affairs

Pam Iorio, the mayor of Tampa, Fla., told an audience of Coalition Senior National Representatives at U.S. Central Command that they are critical in helping Americans understand the importance of winning the War On Terror.

“This particular war, the War on Terror, as well as the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, presents an educational challenge to most Americans,” said Iorio, who made her remarks on Feb. 26 before an audience of approximately SNRs at CENTCOM headquarters, MacDill Air Force

Base. “Most Americans are used to being at war with a single enemy or single country. But this war is different because this time we are at war with an ideology.”

There are currently more than 80 nations supporting the War On Terror and to date 21 nations have deployed more than 16,000 troops to the CENTCOM area of responsibility. Iorio said the international aspect of the War On Terror and the diversity of nations that have joined the Coalition is changing the way Americans view not only the war, but themselves and the rest of the world.

“This global conflict forces us to think in a different way,” she said. “We now have to think globally. I think most Americans would have had trouble finding Iraq or Afghanistan on a map before the War On Terror.”



Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio shakes hands with Brig. Gen. Arne Skjaerpe of Norway on Feb. 26 outside of U.S. Central Command headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla., as U.S. Army Maj. Gen. Michael Diamond looks on. Skjaerpe is the Coalition Chairman for CENTCOM.

Base. “Most Americans are used to being at war with a single enemy or single country. But this war is different because this time we are at war with an ideology.”

Iorio said it is important for Americans to see the progress being made in the War On Terror and that it will be successful.

“This war is of such a different nature that it is difficult for Americans to see when and how it will end,” she said. “We’re not at war with a particular country, we’re at war with terror.”

The diversity of the SNRs assigned to CENTCOM can help Americans make sense of the War On Terror, which has proven to be a complex and difficult undertaking which many believe will take years to successfully prosecute.

“What helps us is to have friends and partnerships,” Iorio said. “I think the educational component of this undertaking is so very, very important.”

The different cultures represented by the Coalition partners are a key component in attaining ultimate victory in the War On Terror, Iorio said.

“If we can understand our differences and also how we are alike, perhaps we can find a solution to terrorism,” she said.

Iorio fielded questions from the audience after finishing her remarks. She was asked how the Coalition could help the Tampa community better understand the role of the Coalition in the War On Terror. She suggested that SNRs go to local schools and speak about the Coalition to students, who then can inform their parents about the global effort required by the war.

She told the SNRs that their presence in Tampa is valued by the community.

“I hope that you always consider Tampa a place you can call home and a place you will want to visit later after your time at CENTCOM is completed,” Iorio said.

Iorio is serving her second four-year term as mayor of Tampa, the United States’ 55th largest city and host to CENTCOM.



Spanish Air Force Supports GWOT



Story by Tech Sgt. Jerome Baysmore
376th Air Expeditionary Wing Public Affairs

MANAS AB, KYRGYZSTAN — From Operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and now as part of the International Security Assistance Force, the Spanish Air Force has contributed to the Global War on Terror.

The Spanish C-130 detachment at Manas Air Base supports both transportation and medical evacuations for Spanish and coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Here the focus is the daily mission of supporting operations in Afghanistan and specifically supporting the Spanish contingent in Herat. The Spanish detachment also sponsors an orphanage, which they buy fresh food for. And when the mission allows, they use the free time wisely.

“We still do our jobs, but we also have some time for sports, going downtown for dinner, and reading,” said Colonel Alvaro.

Capt. Guillermo “William” Martin, detachment chief of operations agreed.



Spanish Air Force Capt. Guillermo “William” Martin, detachment chief of operations checks out the detachment’s C-130 here Thursday. Captain Martin said their detachment appreciates being accepted as fellow Liberandos. (Air Force photo by Senior Airman Tabitha Kuykendall)

“We work very close with the American forces here,” said Lt. Col. Antonio Alvaro, Detachment Commander. “It’s an honor to be here, and we’re proud of that—it’s very important to contribute, and we’re happy that we can help.”

Their primary mission is supporting the Spanish component of the ISAF team in Herat, Afghanistan. The forces there support the Italian-lead Regional Authority Coordinator in that area along with several other nations.

The Mizar detachment here delivers supplies and supports troop rotations for the unit as well as stand-by aeromedical evacuation capability. They do this with about 50 personnel, including maintainers, security forces, aircrews and medical professionals serving here on 60-day rotations from bases back in Spain. Like U.S. deployers, the Spanish military members juggle mission, training, staff work and family when they serve back home.

“Life is very fast in Spain—it’s complicated,” Colonel Alvaro said. “We fly just about every day because we have very few pilots, and we still have a lot of work afterwards.”

“Manas Air Base is OK,” he said. “We fly three or four times a week, and there’s time for sports.”

Captain Martin also served as part of the Spanish team that took first place in the base soccer tournament here.

According to Col. Harrison Smith, 376th AEW Commander, the Spanish are a big part of the base mission.

“Our coalition partners are a vital part of the mission here and have been since 2002 shortly after the base stood up,” he said. “The Spanish Airmen are great allies in the Global War on Terror, and we’re grateful to join with them in our efforts here supporting operations in Afghanistan.

“We’re all united in our mission and our sense of community at Manas Air Base,” Colonel Smith said.

Capt. Oscar Villagrasa, detachment Chief Pilot said they appreciate being accepted as fellow Liberandos.

“We’re very happy with the support we get from the base,” said Capt. Oscar Villagrasa, Detachment Chief Pilot. “From the dining facility, lodging, vehicle operations—the support here is great.”



Defense Minister of B&H Visits EOD Unit in Iraq



Story and photos courtesy of B&H Ministry of Defense

From Jan. 29 to Feb. 1, Bosnia and Herzegovina Minister of Defense Selmo Cikotić paid an official visit to Camp Echo in Ad Diwaniyah, Iraq.

He was accompanied by Branko Zrno, the chairman of the Joint Committee on Defense and Security, Gen. Richard Wightman from NATO headquarters in Sarajevo and generals from the armed forces of B&H, Maj. Gen. Milošević Miladin,

The sixth rotation of the Bosnia and Herzegovina military contingent has 36 soldiers. Most of them specialize in explosive ordnance disposal (EOD).

The main task of the Bosnian specialists, commanded by Maj. Stjepan Musa, is to detect and to defuse explosives remaining from the war.

After finishing his visit, Minister Cikotić said, "I am more satisfied now than I was last time when I have visited our soldiers. My impressions are more positive because we have

less practical problems and soldiers are very pleased. Our soldiers, NCOs', officers demonstrate high quality of professionalism, courage and humanity in carrying out their dangerous and complex tasks.

I have met Gen. Petraeus, who familiarized me with the successes of Coalitions Forces within the meaning of control situation on the field and readiness of ISF to take over responsibility for their country. I also met the Iraqi Defense Minister who emphasized the determination of ISF to improve security and stability in Iraq.

Our participation in the future peace-keeping operations will be enlarged and we expect a decision will be made very soon."



Minister of Defense Selmo Cikotić with B&H soldiers in Iraq.

Maj. Gen. Puljić Slavko and Brig. Gen. Gutić Mirsad; as well as the military attaché in B&H, U.S. Col. Jaime Bonano.

During the visit, minister Cikotić met with the commander of the Multinational Division Central South (MND CS) Maj. Gen. Tadeusz Buk, and Bosnian and Herzegovina soldiers from the Multinational Division.

During the meeting, Maj. Gen. Tadeusz Buk familiarized the Bosnian minister with the current situation in the Qadisiyah province. He also emphasized the great role of the Bosnia and Herzegovina contingent in restoring security in the region. The next point of the visit was a meeting with Bosnian soldiers. The Minister of Defense found out about their tasks and everyday living and combat experiences. The commander of MND CS expressed his heartfelt thanks to Bosnian soldiers and awarded them with commemorative medals and small gifts.



Bosnian Minister of Defense Selmo Cikotić meets with General David H. Petraeus Multi-National-Force-Iraq Commander.



Mirage and Rafale : Six French Fighters at Kandahar Airfield



Story and photos courtesy of France Ministry of Defense

Since 2001, France has been providing air support to Operation Enduring Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force in Afghanistan. France's contributions are multi-faceted and consist of close air support, intelligence surveillance and reconnaissance (ISR), tactical transport, and air refueling. The French Air force is continuously tailoring its deployed air assets to meet ISAF requirements. As a result, since September of 2007, France has moved its fighters from Dushanbe, Tajikistan to Kandahar, Afghanistan.

This relocation increases the efficiency of Coalition fighters by reducing the transit time from their air base to the area of operations. In addition, grouping coalition air assets on the same base ensures a more efficient use of support services and fosters synergy in air operations.

The redeployment has been carried out in three phases. First, three Mirage 2000Ds and 90 support personnel moved from Dushanbe to Kandahar on Sept. 26, 2007. The second phase took place Oct. 29, 2007, when three Mirage F1CRs and the remaining 60 support soldiers made the move. Finally, these Recce aircraft

With the French detachment now stationed in Kandahar, the fighters continuously ensure a longer time on station (TOS) over the objective area. Each aircraft saves almost two hours of en-route time at every sortie, which benefits the ground troops due to much longer loiter time. This was particularly advantageous when the F-15 fleet was grounded for safety inspections. In three days, the French fighters flew 22 missions, delivering 11 GBU12 bombs, something



French mixed patrol Rafale & Mirage 2000D over Afghanistan.



French Mirage 2000D in Kandahar.

have been replaced Feb. 8 by three RAFALEs, the latest generation multirole fighter just commissioned into the French Air Force. Today, the French detachment is 160 people strong, flying 3 Rafales (F2 standard) and 3 Mirage 2000Ds.

that could not have been possible from Dushanbe. Since the move to Kandahar and as of Feb. 11, the Mirage 2000Ds have flown 354 sorties totaling 1,229 flight hours while the Mirage F1CRs flew 266 sorties in 775 flight hours.

The French fighters have been providing tactical air reconnaissance (Mirage F1CR) and Close Air Support (Rafale, Mirage 2000D and Mirage F1CR) in support of the Afghan National Army, ISAF and OEF. Any coalition partner that needs assistance from the air receives support. The involvement of our assets in support of the ground forces follows strict procedures. Ordnance targeting is provided by the joint terminal air controller (JTAC) on the ground. The pilots are bound to follow the rules of engagement (ROE), taking into account the exact location of friendly forces and the possible presence of civilians. When in doubt, no ordnance is dropped.

By moving its fighters closer to the operation areas, France has confirmed its intention to support the Global War on Terror. This permanent relocation to Kandahar strengthens the overall effort of the French Air force in Afghanistan, which also includes two C-160 Transall tactical airlift aircraft stationed in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, since 2002, one C-135FR tanker operating out of Manas, Kyrgyzstan, since 2004, and two medium transport helicopters based in Kabul since 2007.



Kazakh Contribution to the GWOT



**Story by Lieutenant-General Bolat Sembinov
Kazakhstan Ministry of Defense**

The tragedy on Sept. 11, 2001 and the following chain of events changed dramatically our perceptions of threats and challenges that acquired new scale and character. When assessing threats for Central Asia, one should also take into consideration region's geopolitical neighborhood.

It is apparent that the Afghan problem has a primary influence on security issues.

The Taliban created in Afghanistan an exceptional environment and potential for its fighters both in terms of sanctuary and possibility to gain funds by illegal trafficking. Now international efforts in Afghanistan become more and more important for stabilization and creating environment for the economic development. More than 41 000 Coalition, NATO and ISAF personnel are an important factor that can make Afghanistan hope for a stable economic development, a future free of violence and religious extremism.

Kazakhstan makes a considerable contribution by providing its airspace free of charge to Coalition and partner aircraft for over-flights within "Operation Enduring Freedom." Since 2003, more than 6300 aircraft used Kazakhstan's airspace and more than 100 aircraft made emergency landings on Kazakhstan's airfields. More than four thousand metric tons of wheat were donated as a humanitarian aid and it is planned to deliver two thousand more tons. A considerable amount of logistics equipment and technical documentation have been donated to the Afghan national army.

The Kazakhstan government approved an assistance plan for Afghanistan that foresees Kazakhstan's participation in the rehabilitation of the Afghan economy, implementation of

investment, trade and humanitarian projects, training of personnel and village infrastructure development. Plans are to spend more than 2.5 million US dollars out of Kazakhstan's budget for those projects.

The goal of our joint efforts is to secure the stable economic development of Afghanistan. Until the Afghan government, together with the international community, provides for sustainable economic growth, Afghanistan will remain an arms market and trafficking safe haven, and one of world's biggest drug suppliers.

Combating evils such as terrorism, Kazakhstan undertook some preventive measures. One was the creation of a base necessary for efficient consolidation of counter-terrorist efforts.

Twelve international organizations are recognized as terrorist and extremist in nature and their activity is forbidden. These include Al Qaeda, the Taliban and the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, Hizb-Ut-Tahrir.

In 2007, 15 leaders and activists of Hizb-Ut-Tahrir were detained, as well as some 10,000 pieces of extremist literature confiscated. It is apparent that in order to handle terrorism efficiently, one needs interaction between states. Kazakhstan signed a number of bilateral and multilateral agreements in this sphere.

In 2006, thru joint efforts of countries from the region, the information and analysis center of Hizb-Ut-Tahrir responsible for Central Asia was eliminated and its leader was arrested. In Tajikistan, 56 members of the organization were detained and some 16,500 pieces of printing materials were confiscated. In Uzbekistan, more than 30 followers were convicted.



Kazakh deputy Minister of defense Lieutenant-General B. Sembinov poses for picture with officers in Iraq.

In 2007, military doctrine was adopted in Kazakhstan. For the first time, new sections were included in the document that deal with coalition building and peacekeeping activity. The international aspect of the doctrine gains in importance and is described in a separate chapter.

Peacekeeping occupies a special place in our cooperation. We are proud of our "Kazbat" that performs its mission in Iraq with honor. Our engineers disarmed more than 4.5 million EODs, military doctors provided assistance to more than 2 500 peaceful Iraqi citizens. Our officers and sergeants successfully teach EOD handling to Iraqis. Currently a peacekeeping brigade "Kazbrig" is established on the basis of "Kazbat". We started sending our officers as UN observers to UN missions, for example to Nepal.



New Equipment for Agriculture Have Been Given to Afghanistan



Story and photos courtesy of Italy Ministry of Defense

Italian soldiers from the Provincial Reconstruction Team gave greenhouses and new mechanical equipment to the local Department of Agriculture. The greenhouses and



Among the equipment given there are 13 threshing-machines, 26 plows, 10 towings and 13 harvesters.

equipment were valued at around 162.000 Euros. The delivery was patronized by the Afghan authorities, first of all the Minister of the Agriculture of the Government Karzai.

The greenhouses (altogether 100), with an inside irrigation system adapted for climates with high temperature variations as the one in Afghanistan (the greenhouses have a device to water the plants very efficient that allows to compensate for the great difference in temperature that occurs in Afghanistan), will cover the whole territory of the province of Herat. The distribution will occur at the following ratio: 20 for the Districts of Guzara and Injil; 15 for Zandajan and Pasthan Zarghon; and 10 for Karukh Koshke Rabat Sangi and Ghoryan.

Among the equipment given - for an amount of around 110.000 Euros - there are 13 threshing-machines, 26 plows, 10 towings and 13 harvesters; these machines 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 the Department of Defence spent around 220.000 Euros for purchasing fertilizers and insecticides, sanitizing and cleaning channels and wells, supplying fruit trees, and increasing the crop of saffron, which is very profitable in these places.



Official ceremony of the equipment hand over.

During the ceremony, the present authorities expressed words of deep gratitude and consideration for the notable help received by the Italian PRT, and asked to maintain this collaboration. Col. Bettini, commander of the PRT, expressed and confirmed the wish and the enthusiasm of the Italian PRT to continue to furnish, together with international organizations, an important contribution toward the development of the agricultural sector



Japan Donates 600 Motorcycles to Iraqi Police



Story and photos by MNSTC – Iraq Public Affairs Office

BAGHDAD – Kenjori Monji, Ambassador of Japan to Iraq, along with Iraqi Minister of Interior Jawad al Bolani attended a hand over ceremony of 600 motorcycles to the Iraqi Police here.

The motorcycles were donated to Iraq from the government of Japan as a part of its effort to help in the reconstruction of Iraq.

“I am much encouraged to observe a drastic improvement in security in Iraq thanks to the effort of the Iraqi Security Forces, Coalition forces and many other people concerned,” said Monji.

Japan has been conducting humanitarian, reconstruction and rebuilding assistance to Iraq through their self defense force and by the aid of more than 5 billion U.S. dollars.

The contribution of these motorcycles allows the Iraqi

Police to move more freely and quickly through the congested streets of Baghdad and other outlined cities.

“I expect further effort will be made by all Iraqis towards the national reconciliation under the improved security,” said Monji. “And Japan will continue to support Iraq and its people in rebuilding the great nation.”



Iraqi policeman ride their new motorcycles up around Kenjori Monji.

Maj General Gerald Minetti Farewell



Norwegian Secretary of State Visits CENTCOM



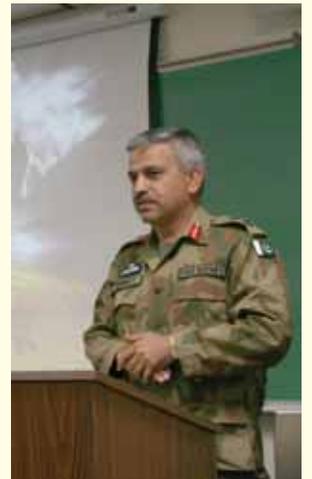
Reception at the Brandon Chamber of Commerce



Flag Waving Ceremony



Pakistan and Germany Country Presentations



CENTCOM Fun Run





UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
MACDILL AFB TAMPA, FLORIDA
26 FEBRUARY 2008

Tampa Mayor Pam Iorio poses with a group of Senior National Representatives on Feb. 26 in front of U.S. Central Command Headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base in Tampa, Fla. Photo by: MC1 Alisha Fredrick