



***Iraqi Government Wants Continued  
U.S. Troop Presence***

# ***Coalition Bulletin***



#### Chairman

Pakistan  **Brig. Gen. Changez Dil Khan**

#### Committee

Canada  **Sgt Stepharnoff Linda**  
France  **Lt. Col. Xavier Harispe**  
Germany  **Cmdr. Gerhard Beirer**  
Italy  **Cmdr. Esposto Enrico**  
Korea  **Lt. Col. Chuolhwam Kim**  
New Zealand  **Wing Cmdr. Leslie Matthews**  
Romania  **Lt. Col. Gabriel-Mihail Negrea**  
Pakistan  **Col. Bilal Saeed Ullah Khan**  
USA  **Maj. John Tongret**

#### Chief of Coalition Public Affairs Team

Pakistan  **Lt. Col. Muhammed Arif**

#### COALITION BULLETIN STAFF:

##### Senior Editor

Ukraine  **1st Lt. Andrii Kovalenko**

##### Editorial Staff

Qatar  **Maj. Rashid Al-Mannai**  
Romania  **Maj. Constantin Spinu**  
Dominican Rep.  **Capt. Manuel Matos**  
USA  **SFC Jamie Brown**

#### Editor's Note

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

**Cover photo:** Polish army soldiers make their way through the street accompanied by Iraqi children in Diwaniyah, Iraq, Nov. 4, 2007. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Gabriel Reza.

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) 827-1716, or write to us at [oeffpublicaffairs@yahoo.com](mailto:oeffpublicaffairs@yahoo.com). For an electronic copy of the Coalition Bulletin, visit: [www.centcom.mil/Operations/Coalition/joint.htm](http://www.centcom.mil/Operations/Coalition/joint.htm)

## IN THIS ISSUE:



*Multi-National Division - North Continues to Rebuild Northern Iraq...2*



*Iraqi Army, Volunteers, Cavalry Troops Celebrate Success in Ameriya...6*



*New Bridge in Teshkan Connects Afghanistan...9*



*One Mission, One Team...10*

## QUOTE OF THE MONTH

*We are working not just to fight against terrorism; we're working together to establish peace in the world in general. For this we worked together in Somalia and Bosnia, Herzegovina and Kosovo. We are currently engaged in a similar effort in Afghanistan. And we are of the opinion that it is necessary to continue to work to fight against international terrorism. I believe that this is what we must do to achieve peace and order in the region.*

**Tayyip Erdogan,**  
**Prime Minister of Turkey**

# Editorial

I have recently taken over the responsibilities of Chairman-Public Awareness Working Group (PAWG). The group, a component of the Coalition Village, is assigned the mission to project the collective pursuit of the coalition of sixty-two nations' fight against terrorism and their contributions in Iraq and Afghanistan for a lasting security, peace primarily in the fields of economic development, and humanitarian assistance. The Coalition Bulletin is one of the best platforms available to the contributing nations to project their noble cause.



My predecessors have done a remarkable job in improving the quality of the bulletin making it a balanced and wholesome reflection of the tremendous efforts put in by each nation. My endeavour will be to continue in this direction and further improve its quality and expand its scope. I will take this opportunity to request all members of the coalition enhance their input in the form of articles and photographs.

The contributing nations are employing all elements of their national powers directly and indirectly for bringing peace and stability in the region. Some use one element more than the other; however everyone is playing a significant role in some form. The military element of power is primarily oriented to creating a stable security environment for the other elements to flourish. In the past few months the military has been able to significantly improve the ground security situation both in Iraq and Afghanistan. The prevailing environment however will not last long if the domestic political forces fail to take full advantage of the situation to resolve their issues and ensure good governance for a lasting peace for their people. Both nations need continuous support from the international, regional and neighbouring countries to overcome their problems and be able to play positive role in the international community. Failure in this struggle will not only be disastrous for both the nations but also the international community and its organizations.

This issue of the bulletin covers the visit of Admiral William J. Fallon to Kyrgyzstan. Also covered are various developmental works completed by the coalition forces in Iraq and Afghanistan, the takeover and presentation activities of the Iraqi Army, the opening of a new bridge connecting Tashkan with Afghanistan, and a friendly soccer match between Afghan Junior National Women soccer team and ISAF women soccer team. It also highlights various national social functions held in Tampa. The editorial staff is making an effort to expand the bulletin by including brief country news and pictorial coverage of various national functions/activities in the region. We will include the maximum possible provided by the national representatives.

This is the first time in the history a coalition of more than sixty countries has come together for the common cause of establishing global peace and fight against the menace of terrorism. The Coalition Village is an institution which is bringing us together through better understanding of each other's culture, perspective, sensitivities and domestic compulsions. Whenever in doubt, each member feels free to approach the other partner and seek clarification of different issue. This is an unparalleled organization which works on mutual understanding and respect. Let us make the best of it.

**Changez Dil Khan**  
Brigadier-General, Pakistan SNR to U.S. CENTCOM



## Iraqi Government Wants Continued U.S. Troop Presence



Story by Gerry J. Gilmore  
American Forces Press Service

**WASHINGTON** — The government of Iraq appreciates the efforts and sacrifices of U.S. servicemembers engaged in the country's fight against insurgents, and it desires a continued American troop presence as Iraqi security forces improve in numbers and capability, an Iraqi government spokesman said Nov. 28.

The U.S.-Iraq Declaration of Principles for Friendship and Cooperation signed by President Bush and Iraqi Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki during a Nov. 26 videoconference signifies American recognition of Iraq's sovereignty and also of the United States' continued commitment of support for Iraq, Ali al-Dabbagh said during a conference call with online "bloggers" and reporters.

The declaration "is a shared statement of intent that establishes common principles to frame our future



**U.S. Army Soldier with a Military Transition Team, 8th Iraqi Army Division and an Iraqi army soldier pull security during a patrol in Ad Diwanyah, Iraq, Nov. 19, 2007. U.S. Army photo by Spc. Alan Moos.**

relationship," Dabbagh explained, noting the document moves the two countries further along the path to normalized bilateral relations.

The leaders of Iraq and the United States have committed to begin negotiations regarding formal arrangements and relations, Dabbagh said. The envisioned relationship includes American and Iraqi cooperation "in the political, diplomatic, economic and security arenas," he added.



*Story and photo by SGT Serena Hayden  
Public Affairs NCOIC*

**BAGHDAD** — North continues working with the Government of Iraq to rebuild the infrastructure and improve the quality of life for the people of Northern Iraq.

Since assuming responsibility of northern Iraq in September 2006, Task Force Lightning reconstruction has reported beginning 1,433 projects valued at \$101.4 million and completed 1,119 projects valued at \$37.4 million. The projects include supporting over 100 humanitarian assistance projects costing \$4.1 million and reconstruction of major crimes courts.

In addition to helping rebuild Northern Iraq, the projects also provided 197 grants to small businesses throughout the area.

Diyala Electric Industries, a Ministry of Industry and Minerals state-owned enterprise and the only manufacturer of high power line electrical transformers in Iraq, is increasingly operational with hundreds of employees after operating at limited capacity due to the security situation since 2003.

“DEI is arguably the most strategically important factory in all of Iraq,” and anticipates reaching peak or near-peak



**Two women from Diyala province cut wire to assist in the assembly of transformers at a Diyala Electrical Industries factory which is located in Baqouba, Iraq, Oct. 22. Diyala Electric Industries, which has been operating at a limited capacity since 2003, now employs approximately 800 citizens from Baqouba and its surrounding villages.**

In Diyala, completed projects included a water filtration system in Buhriz and a library in Muqdadiyah.

For the Nineveh province, the division renovated a business center, purchased water trucks in Ba’aj, and completed several other projects. In the works, Task Force Lightning is improving the consistency of fuel distribution throughout the province by assisting with the Ministry of Oils allocations.

For Mosul, MND-N is helping plan Mosul Dam contingencies, and continues to support reconstruction of the Mosul Major Crimes Court.

Salah ah Din projects include major crimes court construction, as well as rebuilding the provincial television station.

production levels within the next 24 months, according to the U.S. Department of Defense’s Task Force - Business Stability Operations who visited the factory in August.

The factory is located on the western side of Baqouba, Iraq, and has the ability to manufacture electrical power transformers, distribution transformers, electric meters, clothing irons, ceiling fans, spark plugs and additional electronic items, and primarily services the Ministries of Electricity and Oil.

The company, which reported running only seven commuter buses for employees in Baqouba, Aug. 29, now has 25 commuter buses operating in Baqouba and its surrounding villages, employing approximately 800 citizens.



# ISAF Gives Seven Villages in Baghlan Pure Water



*Story by Maj. Antje Krekeler-Jöris*

*Photos by HQ ISAF Public information Office*

Thanks to the co-operation of the Hungarian Provincial Reconstruction Team Pol-e Khumri and ISAF Regional Command North, the population of seven villages in Dahana Ghorī District, Baghlan province, now has access to pure drinking water.

The new pipeline, built through the mountainous area and now stretching over a total distance of 35 kilometers, provides fresh drinkable water for more than 15,000 inhabitants of Dahana Ghorī.

The water pipeline project started one year ago. The total costs were approximately USD 160,000. Each step of the construction was discussed with the leaders of the villages. Supported by civil organizations, the digging and laying of the pipelines was done by local workers.

The lack of drinkable water in the district had far-reaching consequences on the locals' daily life as well as on the development of agriculture. A young happy Afghan boy said the water pipeline even gave him the opportunity to go back to school, no longer obliged to walk many kilometers every day to fetch water from a well far from his village.



**Germans, Hungarians and local people work together for a better future – “One Team – One Mission”.**

Major Illes Csordas, a Hungarian PRT member responsible for the project, said that, “during the project, different specialists worked closely together – soldiers from the logistic platoon with the infantry company and our health group with the CIMIC group”. Other ISAF nations were involved. As Captain Michael Hofmann from Regional Command North CIMIC group pointed out: “this mutual work provided again the truth of our slogan: One Team – One Mission”.



**Hungarian soldiers are lifting pipes to prepare it for transportation by helicopter.**



## Royal Welsh Soldiers See Progress in Basra



*Story and photos courtesy of UK Ministry of Defense*

As Armed Forces personnel around the world were preparing to remember their fallen comrades on Remembrance Sunday, soldiers from the 2nd Battalion Royal Welsh were out on patrol in Basra Province looking for ways to help local people prepare for the winter.

we've brought a light-wheeled tractor. We've been digging some irrigation ditches so they can grow some cash crops and crops for feeding themselves.

"The reaction has been very positive, we've been welcomed in and seen lots of smiling faces. We've been able to discuss with the leaders what we can do to help them."



The 2 Royal Welsh soldiers endured a difficult first few months of their tour in Iraq. Having the opportunity to meet ordinary Iraqis and see the difference they have made to their living conditions and prospects gave the soldiers a considerable boost in morale as they near the end of their operational tour.

Private Read, from C Company, who was mobilised from the Territorial Army to join the Royal Welsh on tour, said:

"This operation has been really good. I've been here before on other tours and it's very different now; we can actually talk to the locals, where we couldn't before. We actually feel as if we're achieving something so it feels brilliant. We've really moved on."

The 2 Royal Welsh returned to their base in time for their Remembrance Sunday memorial service. They were planning to remember, in particular, the three friends and colleagues they have lost during this operational tour. Having now seen the positive result their efforts have had on the ground, many of the men from 2 Royal Welsh will go home feeling the last six months' sacrifices may not have been in vain.

**While elements of his Unit help excavate land for a new school, Private Read, 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh, amuses local villagers in the Al Qurna district. Photo by: Cpl Ralph Merry RAF.**

The company deployed to the Al Qurna district in the north of Basra Province, visiting projects set up by the British Army in neighbouring villages. The convoy carried a JCB digger, which was used to dig irrigation ditches for date palm plantations in one village and excavate land for a new school in a neighbouring settlement.

Major Richard Crow, who oversees the projects on behalf of the Multi-National Division (South East), explained the importance of such visits:

"We've come to the village and, following advice from the last time,



**Watched by a villager from Basra Province, a JCB from the 2nd Battalion The Royal Welsh digs drainage ditches for date palm plantations to improve prospects for the local community. Photo by Cpl Ralph Merry RAF.**



## Admiral William J. Fallon Visits Kyrgyzstan



**1st Lieutenant Kochorbaev A.  
Kyrgyz Liaison Team**

**BISHKEK, Kyrgyzstan, November 5<sup>th</sup>, 2007** – Navy Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command visited the Kyrgyz Republic.

General-lieutenant Ismail Isakov, Ministry of Defense of the Kyrgyz Republic hosted Navy Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command on November 5<sup>th</sup> during the admiral’s visit to the region to meet coalition partners.

They exchanged views on the condition and prospects of development of the bilateral military cooperation between the Kyrgyz Republic and the United States. The main directions of military cooperation, which have been successfully realized since 1994, are: training of peacekeeping units, military education, cooperation within the framework of the Partnership for Peace Program, solution to the border security problems, and the fight against international terrorism.



Navy Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S. Central Command and General-lieutenant Ismail Isakov, Ministry of Defense of the Kyrgyz Republic answer journalists’ questions.



## Awards to Kazakhstan Peacekeepers



**Story Courtesy of  
MoD of Kazakhstan**

At President Nursultan Nazarbayev’s command, Kazakhstan’s peacekeepers in Iraq have been decorated with medals for the courage and valor they showed while destroying almost 4 million explosives and saving thousands of lives. The commander of the Multi-National Force Iraq sent a letter of gratitude to the peacekeepers - the Kazakh contingent of the international coalition have also trained more than 300 soldiers of the Iraqi army.

According to Bolat Sembinov, deputy minister for defense of the Republic of Kazakhstan, he official letter reads that “Kazakhstan’s contribution gave hope for a safer, more

prosperous and democratic Iraq. Kazakhstan has made an important contribution to both the security of Iraq and the whole world.

Medical officer Major Bolat Bekbayev helped not only soldiers but also dozens of civilians in Iraq. The most horrific thing, he says, is to witness acts of terrorism which leave innocent civilians and children victims.

“Khabar” Agency journalists also worked in Iraq and through them, it was possible to follow the Kazakh soldiers serving abroad. The Deputy Minister of Defense Bolat Sembinov awarded medals to correspondent Askar Sergaliyev and cameraman Khasen Omarkulov.



## Iraqi Army, Volunteers, Cavalry Troops Celebrate Success in Ameriya



*Story and photos by  
HQ ISAF public information office*

**BAGHDAD** — Soldiers from 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Cavalry Division, recently hosted a social gathering, including a cookout and soccer tournament, for Iraqi Army (IA) troops and a volunteer group from Ameriya, a neighborhood in the Mansour district of western Baghdad.

“Today is a chance for us to get together with our partners in Ameriya,” said Huntsville, Ala., native Army Lt. Col. Dale Kuehl, commander of 1-5 Cav. His unit operates in Ameriya attached to 2nd Brigade Combat Team, 1st Infantry Division.

Those partners include 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Division IA, and the Forsan Al Rafadeen (FAR), which in

While the round-robin tournament did have a competitive edge to it, most participants just seemed to want to have fun. “We came to enjoy ourselves and play a game, not to win,” said IA Maj. Emad Kareen, commander of Company A, 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, and their team coach. “Playing sports helps to build relationships in the field.”

After the soccer tournament, trophies were handed out, and the Iraqis were then invited to the East Logistics Support Area mayor cell to join the cavalry troops in a cookout.

Being able to play a friendly game of soccer and eat steak and burgers with the Iraqis from Ameriya is quite a change from last year, when 1-5 Cav. was just getting here. “We just didn’t have that close of a relationship with the



**Army Lt. Col. Dale Kuehl, commander of the 1st Battalion, 5th Cavalry Regiment, presents Iraqi Army Lt. Col. Wail Mohamed Hussain, commander of the 2nd Battalion, 1st Brigade, 6th Iraqi Army Division, with a gift in appreciation of their cooperation in the Ameriya neighborhood of Baghdad’s Al Mansour. Photo by PFC April Campbell, Office of the Secretary of Defense PA**

Arabic means “Knights of the River”. FAR is a group of local volunteers who have come forward to work with security forces to provide safer conditions in Ameriya, Kuehl explained.

“Ameriya was a battlefield for most of the summer,” Kuehl continued. “At this time, al-Qaida is defeated. We thought it was a good time to recognize that and get together and have a good time.”

With three games in the morning, the soccer tournament was the main activity of the gathering. The 1-5 Cav. team played hard, but ended up being overtaken by both the IA team, 2-1, and the FAR team, 5-1. In the end, the FAR players were able to beat the IA team, 2-0.

community,” Kuehl said. “Now we do, and I think that’s a sign of progress not just for us, but for all of Baghdad.”

One reason for this success in Ameriya seems to be the importance that 1-5 Cav. has placed on developing working relationships with the IA and the residents of Ameriya.

“Here, it’s not so much how many doors you knock down, but how many neighbors you are able to end up with at the end of the day,” said Bakersfield, Calif. native Army Command Sgt. Maj. Fidel Gomez, the unit’s senior noncommissioned officer.

Much has changed in Ameriya since FAR volunteers began working with Coalition and Iraqi forces, Saad Abo Abid, the FAR commander said.



# Flying Activities in Kabul



*Story and photos courtesy of Belgian Defense (DGIPR)  
Translation by COL Van Roten, SNR to U.S. CENTCOM*

A C-130 left Belgium on the 21st of September, with about 40 Belgian Military on board. Its destination: Afghanistan. Starting the 1<sup>st</sup> of October, Belgium took over the lead of the International Airport of Kabul (KAIA) for a period of four months.



**The Belgian Military checks thoroughly every vehicle entering KAIA.**

The International Airport is the only entrance in Kabul by air. Roads are generally in bad shape and can be dangerous. Most of the people and freight that arrive in Afghanistan are flown into Kabul. Therefore KAIA is a focal point of great strategic importance with about 240 aircraft flying in or out each day. It needs a good and accurate organization to manage all this.

Belgium took over the “KAIA Lead Nation” mission for an initial period of six months, extendable with another period of six months.

According to the head of the detachment, Colonel Geirnaert, the mission consists of four key tasks. Besides the protection of the installations, there is also the challenge of the operational management of the airport. All the activities allowing airplanes to land and to take off, for instance, a working control tower, are his responsibility. The third challenge consists in keeping the airport open to traffic. This means also maintaining all the specific vehicles needed on a major airfield. The fourth key task is the support function. About 1000 people work and live in this small area.

The Belgian team will also deal with the preparations for important infrastructure works next year. This is when a new northern extension of the airport will host all new military installations. The southern part, where ISAF troops



**During a check, Belgian soldiers have a chat with their international colleagues.**

are currently located, will be handed over to the Afghan authorities.

Belgium has participated in ISAF operations since 2003. About 300 Belgian soldiers protect the surroundings of the airport and reassure access control.



## U.S. Soldiers Train Polish Medics as Combat Lifesavers



*Story and photos by Army Spc. Micah E. Clare,  
4th Brigade Combat Team Public Affairs Office*

**FORWARD OPERATING BASE SALERNO,**  
Afghanistan - "Czesc! Dzien Dobry!"

Hearing "Hello, good morning" in their own language was a comforting sound to the tent full of Polish soldiers attending the class, especially since it was being taught by an American.

Even though these were the only Polish words he remembered from his own ancestors, Army Sgt. Philip Kozacka, a health care specialist from Ambulance Platoon, Company C, 782nd Brigade Support Battalion, 4th Brigade Combat Team, 82nd Airborne Division, was still able to break the ice and get the four-day course off to a good start.



**A Polish medic examines the contents of a U.S. Army Combat Lifesaver bags during a training course May 5 at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.**

In order to familiarize them with U.S. military medical procedures and equipment, 15 incoming Polish Battle Group medics and combat-lifesavers were given a special medical course here Oct. 18-22.

The Polish contingent, who were integrated into Task Force Fury's battle space in Paktika Province this May, are supported by and work along side American forces, Kozacka, an Amesbury, Mass., native - said.

The medics are no different, and in the event of an emergency, will need to know our way of doing things, he said.

"While certain medical procedures like calling in nine-lines (medical evacuations) are a (North Atlantic Treaty Organization) standard, others are not," he explained. "For instance, they might have a different idea about which casualties should get treated first. Out here, everyone needs to run off of the same standard of care so that we're on the same page at all times."

To learn the Coalition standard of care, the Poles went through many different familiarization classes such as proper wound management techniques, execution of UH-60 Black Hawk medevacs and loading or off-loading casualties from an ambulance, said Paul Stevens, medical simulations training senior instructor, Fort Campbell, Ky., and Clarksville, Tenn., native.

In one such class, they were able to practice wound-management drills with the training team's "sim man," a



**Polish medics examine the contents of a U.S. Army Combat Lifesaver bag May 5 at Forward Operating Base Salerno, Afghanistan.**

life-sized, electronic mannequin complete with a pulse, realistic breathing, and gushing blood.

"This was especially good, because of how realistic it was," said Polish Maj. Mark Pierkarski, military field surgeon. "We'd never trained with something like this before."

During the final exercise in wound management, the Poles were sent into a completely dark room with sound effects from a war movie playing, and by the light of their flashlights, had to treat the "sim man".

They did exceptionally well, Stevens said.

"By far, they exceeded my expectations," he said. "They were an eager, smart group."

Showing them new ways of doing things was what the course was all about, Stevens said.

"We're just melding what we have to teach them with what they already knew," he said.



# New Bridge in Teshkan Connects Afghanistan



**Story and photos by  
HQ ISAF Public information Office**

A new, 25-meter-long metal bridge opened recently in Teshkan district after two months of construction. The new bridge is a vital part of Highway 302, the only major road connecting Badakhshan with the rest of Afghanistan.

Once a dilapidated structure nicknamed the “scary bridge”, the new bridge will now ensure safe passage for all Afghans travelling to and from Badakhshan during the critical winter months. The original 30-meters-high bridge, dating to the Soviet occupation, crosses the Kokcha River and was in such a bad state that crossing it became a danger. ISAF patrols operating in Teshkan identified the state of the bridge and concluded that it might even collapse in the near future.

With the go-ahead from the ISAF Regional Command North, Colonel Sahn, Provincial Reconstruction Team Feyzabad commander, immediately informed the governor of Badakhshan about the construction plans. Both men agreed that immediate action was required as large scale repair works during the winter season would prove next to impossible.

The two men opted for an unusual and ambitious solution—instead of trying to repair the old bridge, a new metal bridge should be placed on top of the existing structure. The PRT would immediately start the planning; the Governor’s team would inform the population, start preparing the construction site and organize security through ANP.



**The new bridge is a vital part of Highway 302, the only major road connecting Badakhshan with the rest of Afghanistan.**



**The Governor of Badakhshan cuts the ribbon as members of PRT Feyzabad look on during the opening ceremony of the new Teshkan district bridge.**

The new bridge is now crucial to the construction of the new tarmac road on Highway 302 that will connect Feyzabad with neighbouring Taloqan and Kunduz.

Construction work has already begun and will be completed in 2009.

The Teshkan Bridge project is a perfect example how provincial authorities and ISAF cooperate effectively for the benefit of the Afghan population.

“We should take the new solid bridge as a symbol – a symbol for cooperation and peace,” said Colonel Sahn.



# One Mission, One Team



## Story and photos Courtesy of MoD of Kazakhstan

Since August 19, 2003 the Kazakh mission in the Islamic Republic of Iraq is to provide the needed engineer-sapper capabilities to the Coalition Forces in Wasit province. The Kazakhstan contingent has searched, detected and



The soldiers salute anthems of Kazakhstan, USA and Republic of Iraq.

destroyed unexploded ordnance and provided water purification.

Since the beginning of Operation Iraqi Freedom, 261 peacekeeping soldiers from Kazakhstan have deployed to Republic of Iraq.

Kazakhstan provides the Coalition forces a right to use the airspace of the Republic of Kazakhstan.

The Kazakhstan contingent was responsible for destroying over 4 million pieces of ordnance. Disposal of Unexploded Ordnance (UXO) to include anti-personnel, antitank mines, various caliber ammunition, rockets, RPG's, mortar grenades,

fuses, 500kg bombs and assorted explosive materials. They have performed their duties throughout all of Wasit province in Iraq.

Kazakhstan additionally provides training for National Security Force of the Republic of Iraq. They are conducting training for a two-week sapper course for Border, Police, Armed Forces and Department of the Civil Defense at FOB Delta.

The main tasks of the training course are:

- Type of unexploded ordnance (ATM, APM, rockets, mortar grenades, fuses, and bombs, and assorted explosive materials);
- Precautionary measures of clearing an area from disposal of unexploded ordnance;
- Methods of searching the area and disposal of unexploded ordnance;
- Aviation and artillery ammunition;
- Procedures of disposal of unexploded ordnance;
- Protective barriers.

Kazakhstan currently has an open mandate and rotation of unit every six months.

### Achievements of KAZ Engineer-sapper detachment since 2003 to November 2007

**Personnel rotated:** 58 in year (261, since 2003)

**Rockets destroyed:** 27287

**Mine field searched:** 379568 square meters (17377 linear meters)

**Barbed wire expanded:** 18830 meters

**People trained:** 389 ISF

**Emplaced Signal Mine Minefield:** 3865 meters (671 mines)

**Blasting powder:** 59 kg

**Medical treatment for LN:** 4455 of locals received medical care (surgical treatment)



Sapper soldiers are loading the aviation bomb FAB-250.



A letter of appreciation was given to 1LT Smagulov.



## We're Going to Be Playing – Who?



*Story and photos by Sr Airman Wendy Salas  
The Maple Leaf, National Defence Canada*

As the team marched into the stadium, the hundred or so fans stood and cheered, all she could think of was “what have I gotten us into.” This was going through Major Eileen Vaughan’s mind, as she got ready to play what she thought was going to be a friendly game of soccer—but it turned out to be something she will never forget.

This game came about after an e-mail was sent to the Public Information Office at ISAF headquarters in Kabul, where Maj Vaughan is deputy commander of the Support Group, asking if the ISAF women’s team would like to play against an Afghan women’s team. There was no such ISAF team, so Maj Vaughan, with a little push from her daughter Holly back in Canada, started to recruit women for the team.

team, the women were fit, but many have never played soccer since they were kids,” said Maj Vaughan. They even managed to round up, an operations officer from Australia at the last minute to coach the team, which was made up of women from six different countries.

Afghan women have only been able to play soccer in their country for the past six years, which made having the chance to play against them historic and exciting for the ISAF women. Life is so different for Afghan women and what Canadian women take for granted has been a real struggle for them. From being able to shed their burqas, to playing sports, Afghan women have had to fight all the way.

So when Maj Vaughan told her daughter she was playing, she was very excited, but at age 11, she doesn’t fully understand what this game meant to the women, on both



**The Afghan Junior National Women’s Soccer team enjoyed some friendly competition recently in Kabul, when they played an ISAF women’s Soccer team.**

An avid soccer player, Maj Vaughan never dreamed it would be so hard to recruit players. “I almost cancelled the morning of the game,” she said with a laugh. “We were suppose to play 11 aside and that morning I only had five women, but just as I was about to cancel I found two more.” So through an interpreter she contacted the team and got them to agree to seven a side—which they did. In the end after much searching the ISAF team ended up at full strength.

It wasn’t until the ISAF team arrived at the field they realized it was the Afghan Junior National Women’s Soccer team they would be playing. There were speeches from the Afghan Minister for Women’s Affairs, hundreds of fans and even the Afghan media, all waiting for them to march on to the field. As for the ISAF team, “it was very much a pick up

teams. “She doesn’t understand why everyone doesn’t play soccer.” Having started playing soccer at age five, Maj Vaughan says her daughter has been playing, as longer or longer, than any woman in Afghanistan. “That’s what’s so amazing,” she said.

As the ISAF team got acquainted—most for the first time—they managed to play and communicate despite language barriers to a 4-0 loss. According to Maj Vaughan the Afghan team only scored one goal against them in the second half, due in part to the ISAF women finding their positions and gelling as a team. The Afghan women aged 16 to 22, are

skilled soccer players, but far less so then women their age in Canada. But when you consider how long they have had a women’s soccer program in Afghanistan, it’s pretty incredible says Maj Vaughan.

So with a decision to have a rematch, the ISAF team has started practices. Maj Vaughan says they are not practicing so they can beat the Afghan team, they just want to be more competitive.”We’ll do it for the absolute joy, they (ISAF women) want to play again for the whole experience, not necessarily to be competitive—just to get together and have more fun.”

“It was an exciting, unique experience to play against the women of Afghan,” she said. “It’s a rarity they (Afghan women) even get to play.”

## *SOCOM FMA Conference*



## *Romania Country Presentation at Senior School*



## *Canadian Remembrance Day*



## *Fun Run at U.S. CENTCOM*





**General-lieutenant Ismail Isakov, Ministry of Defense of the Kyrgyz Republic receives Navy Adm. William J. Fallon, commander of U.S Central Command in Kyrgyzstan**