

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Public Awareness Working Group of the Operation Enduring Freedom Coalition

Volume #6, July 2003



Coalition countries collaborate for EOD convention ... Page 11

Also in this issue: -----

**Finland and Sweden provide
CIMIC in Afghanistan**
Page 4-5

**Gen. Tommy Franks says farewell
to the Coalition**
Page 2

Operation **ENDURING FREEDOM**



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The Coalition Bulletin is a pilot project to highlight Coalition efforts in the Global War On Terrorism. The format is under development and will change significantly in the coming editions.



COMMANDER
UNITED STATES CENTRAL COMMAND
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July 21, 2003

My Dear Friends,

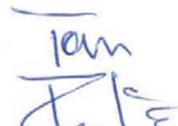
After three years as the Commander of US Central Command, I will proudly relinquish command to another great soldier, General John Abizaid.

As I step to the side, I want to pass on my heartfelt appreciation to each of you as the Senior National Representatives and leaders of our historic Coalition supporting Operation ENDURING FREEDOM. We came together as a Coalition of the Willing focused on a common goal of ridding the world of the scourge of terrorism. Together, the commitments of our nations as well as our combined forces, have virtually destroyed the Al Qaida and Taliban across Afghanistan bringing new hope and comfort to the Afghani people. While we have enjoyed success, we have also suffered great sadness when our brethren have died on the battlefield. This is a bond which grows closer and stronger with every passing day.

I now ask you to give the same trust, dedication and friendship to General Abizaid that I have been privileged to enjoy.

I am honored to have led and served such a magnificent Coalition. I will forever cherish your friendship. Until we meet again, you have my very best wishes for your continued success, happiness, and prosperity

With great admiration, I salute you !


TOMMY R. FRANKS
General, U.S. Army

Correction:

In the last edition of the CB, in the page 4 story "Dutch operates on Afghan Girl", some information was unclear. Dr. Lefevre Lucien is a part of the Belgian contingent in Afghanistan, not the Dutch as the headline suggests. The Belgian doctor works as a part of the Dutch hospital in Afghanistan. The photographs were provided by the Belgian contingent.



A glimpse inside the intensive care unit at the German hospital in Kabul

German hospital serves ISAF, Afghan civilians

Story and photos courtesy of LTC Martin Peinemann

German Representative to USCENTCOM

Where in Afghanistan can you get first-class medical treatment?

There are a few sites around the country, and in the Kabul area, the first address for such a case is not to be found behind a multi-story hall of glass and steel, but a fairly insignificant entrance tent with a Red Cross flag in a military installation on Kabul's dusty road to Jalalabad. Here beats the heart of military medical support to ISAF troops, the German field hospital.

Appropriate medical support to our troops is an indispensable element of all Bundeswehr deployments. Especially in remote areas where Host Nation Support is out of the question, the implementation of a capable medical system including a full rescue chain back to the homeland is imperative. Backbone of such a system is the central treatment facility, a mobile modular field hospital like the one established at Camp Warehouse, Kabul.

Here, a staff of around 100 medical personnel is committed to preserve and restore the health of the 5000 ISAF

troops as well as Afghan civilians in humanitarian assistance efforts. In an example for successful multinational cooperation, medical personnel from the Netherlands, Austria, Denmark, France, Hungary and Lithuania has been integrated.

The hospital fills an area of two football fields with its multitude of specialized containers, connected by long rows of tents, offering all services demanded from a regional medical center at home: Advanced surgery, various specialties like internal medicine, neurology, dermatology or ENT, a state-of-the-art intensive care unit, clinical and microbiological laboratories, radiological department including CT scanner, supported by a full-scale pharmacy and blood bank.

Being "mobile" is quite a deceptive attribute for such a structure, as for its installation more than 1500 tons of equipment had to be air-lifted from Germany over 5000 km.

Since its completion in March 2002, the hospital has treated well beyond 20.000 out- and inpatients while performing about 2800 surgical procedures. With its dedicated staff and broad capabilities, the facility is not only a cornerstone for the protection of the ISAF mission, but as well ambassador for a better future in a peacefully reconstructed Afghanistan.



A doctor heads into an operating room.



Above -- Afghan children gather around car guards for a photo opportunity. Below -- Afghan LtCol Amanullah Khan (middle) is joined by SrLt Ahola (right) and 2lt Piirainen (left) from FINCON ops for a group photo.

Finland and Sweden dedicated to civil-military work in Afghanistan

Photos and Story By Senior Lt. Pekka Ahola
Finnish Army Leader of NORDIC CIMIC Team 4

Civil-Military Cooperation, more commonly known as CIMIC, is a term well-known by Nordic military servicemembers who have served in missions such as Kosovo, Bosnia and Afghanistan.

CIMIC is an abbreviation for Civil-Military Cooperation. The terms Civil Affairs (CA) or Civil-Military Operations (CMO) are included in CIMIC-work.

Similar to Civil Affairs or Civil-Military Operations, the implementing level CIMIC-work includes establishing and maintaining relations, making assessments or estimates of Afghanistan humanitarian needs, coordinating with International Organizations and Non-Governmental Organizations, and supporting displaced persons and refugees.

There are 44 Finnish peacekeepers in the contingent cur-

rently in Afghanistan. Nine of them are regular officers and reserve officers. At the end of April 2003, the first two female Finnish officers started their duty as CIMIC-officers in Afghanistan.

The Finnish and Swedish peacekeepers form the NORDIC CIMIC teams. There are total of six NORDIC CIMIC teams. Cimic Coordination Centre (CCC) coordinates the teams and is directly under the command of J9 ISAF HQ. Liaison officers represent the KMNB (Kabul Multinational Brigade) in CCC-meetings. The CCC supports the work of the teams by giving security information, guidelines and resources for the job. Altogether, CCC has 14 teams under its control in the ISAF AOR.

The NORDIC CIMIC team consists of six officers. Two of the six teams are lead by a Swedish officer and four teams are lead by a Finnish officer. Each team has two cars, which are not armoured. The team uses Digital cameras, GPS in





Above -- A team member uses spray paint to mark unexploded ordnance so it can be removed. Right -- Senior Lt. Ahola meets with the Wakil (village elder) and his child at their home.



cars, car station radios, hand radios and Laser Range Finders to complete their duties. The CIMIC officers are equipped with heavy flak jackets, helmets, ABC-suits, gas-masks, and first aid kits. Personal weapons are the rifle and pistol, and usually all officers are carrying both weapons while patrolling.

Every morning the team leader participates in the morning briefing. The main task of this briefing is to update the security situation in the AOR. The security officer of the CCC informs teams about the incidents during the last 24 hours. He also briefs threats and warnings. There are usually two

to four warnings about improvised explosive devices (IED), demonstrations, rocket attacks, and ambushes.

The chief CCC also checks the schedule of the teams. Every team leader gives a short briefing about the program of his team for the day. After the morning briefing, the team leader conducts his meeting with the team members, where they promulgate the program of the day.



Swedish Lt. Sofie Tocklin takes time to play games with Afghan girls.

Lithuanian SOF important member of OEF



Photos courtesy of Lithuanian SOF

Top -- Lithuanian SOF trek through mountains in the snow. Below -- Lithuanian SOF base camp.



Photos courtesy of Lithuanian SOF

Top -- Lithuanian SOF patrol streets in Afghan village. Below -- SOF travels through the mountains in Afghanistan.

Story courtesy of LTC Jouzas Kacergius

Lithuanian Representative to USCENTCOM

Terrorism and increasing threat of terror attacks resulted in the establishment of the Special Operations Force in Lithuania in 2001.

After an international counter-terrorism campaign has commenced in the wake of the terror attacks on the United States on Sept. 11, 2001, Lithuania has decided not to stand aside. Lithuania joined the international efforts in the fight against terrorism after an official request from the United States.

The Parliament of the Republic of Lithuania approved the involvement of the Lithuanian Armed Forces with a contingent of up to 40 troops of the Special Operations Force as part of the Operation Enduring Freedom in Central and

South Asia on Oct. 1, 2002. Involvement in OEF is the first of this type of operation attended by the Lithuanian Special Operations Force.

The first unit Eagle 02 of the Lithuanian Special Operations Force was deployed to the US-lead international operations in Afghanistan in Nov. 2002. The unit's mission included a number of tasks ranging from special reconnaissance and direct actions to the conduct of VIP protection related operations.

The second unit of the Lithuanian Special Operations Force left for Afghanistan as a replacement for the first group to continue the country's contribution to the global efforts against terrorism in May 2003.





Photo by Cpl Henry Wall, Canadian Forces Imaging Technician

Mobile Air Movement Section prepares numerous pallets of field medical supplies bound for Afghanistan. The mission of the TAL Det is to support coalition forces by transporting military personnel, equipment and cargo between destinations in the theatre of operations, including Afghanistan

Coalition sets-up new field hospital in Bagram

Story By Capt Richard Perreault
Canadian Public Affairs Office

MacDill AFB, Tampa, Fla. -Afghans in the Bagram area can now benefit from badly needed medical care, thanks to an Egyptian field hospital transported by Coalition Air Forces May 18-21.

While Belgian and American aircraft transported the supplies from Egypt to Afghanistan directly, the Hellenic and the Italian Air Forces transported a part of this 54-bed military field hospital to a location in the Arabian Gulf Region. Canadians then took over, bringing close to 100,000 pounds of medical supplies and hardware required to destination.

The Hospital is ready to treat patients and should register an average of 150-200 visits per day, giving first priority to the Bagramis.

"The transportation of this field hospital is the biggest single project the Coalition forces have executed. It is also an excellent example of coordination in a limited time. Six countries were involved in the transportation of the field hospital and have finished this job without any problems," said Col Dimitrios Prokopiou of the Hellenic Air Force. Greece has performed four C-130 sorties in support to this humanitarian mission.

The hospital airlift project represented hard work for Canadian traffic technicians.

"The team personnel has offloaded the various coalition C130s at night and re-loaded the same freight on Canadian CC130s the next morning for their final destination," said Warrant Officer Claude Perron, their Deputy Commanding Officer.

Once in Bagram, American person-

nel offloaded the cargo and transported the hospital's components to its destination for set-up.

"The experience of supporting different countries to help the people of Afghanistan made us proud," said Warrant Officer Perron. "Having the opportunity to represent all the Canadian people in this humanitarian mission was a morale booster for us."

"We wish to thanks to the Coalition Air Forces for their support," said LCol Salem Taha, the Egyptian Air Force representative at CENTCOM Headquarters. "Comforting the people of Bagram is a contribution that is dear to the heart of all Egyptians, and this is precisely what our medical facility is going to do. With its specialized medical personnel, its operating room, laboratory and various other sections, our facility will certainly make a difference in the life of Bagramis."

Royal New Zealand



Kiwis patrol Middle Eastern waters in support

Navy

HMNZS TE KAHA (CDR John Martin RNZN + 175 crew) is a New Zealand ANZAC Class frigate which was involved in Operation Enduring Freedom maritime interdiction operations in the Straits of Hormuz, the Gulf of Oman and the North Arabian Sea from 6 December 2002 until 3 March 2003

On arrival in the area of responsibility and on completing joining procedures in Bahrain, the ship began a 34 day stint at sea with the Operation Enduring Freedom Coalition multinational task force. During this time the ship's boarding parties checked a wide range of ships, ranging from giant oil tankers, to big 'box boats' with containers stacked high above their decks to small coastal dhows.

An investigation of a ship or vessel begins with a hail on a marine band radio. The vessel's name is obtained from its Master and then compared with a database held on board TE KAHA of ships and vessels in the area.

If the vessel has not been checked recently or there is more information required of its circumstances, there is further inquiry known as a Query.

Should there be no response or if further investigation is warranted a Close Investigation is conducted. The ship's Boarding Party are dispatched in a Rigid Hull Inflatable Boat (RHIB) to establish particulars at close range to the vessel.

Sometimes a Consensual Visit is necessary. Permission is requested from the Master to have the Boarding Party embark in the vessel concerned. Once aboard the Boarding Party secures the vessel and conducts a search for any person(s) who may be hidden on board.

Interviews are conducted with the Master; the vessel's documentation is inspected and details of the crew, cargo last and next port of call are recorded. This data is correlated with the Coalition database. On completion the vessel will be cleared to continue

or its crew will be questioned and the ship further searched.

Much of this activity takes place in the Straits of Hormuz. The ship's Seasprite helicopter is invaluable in conducting surveillance and inspections. Armed with a door mounted M60 machine gun the Seasprite provides cover for the ship's Boarding Party and deters any possible hostility.

TE KAHA carried out three patrols over December, January and February. Some were very busy.

Personnel exchanges were made with fellow British and Canadian ships, a chaplain was borrowed for two Divine Services and all efforts were made to keep the ship's company on their toes.

The boarding crews were armed "but we've never had to use deadly force."

CDR John Martin

Christmas Day was recognised with Carols by Cyalume-light, an officer-served meal and food parcels from home, despatched by the New Zealand Returned Services Association and the RNZN Chaplains.

Port visits were not completely relaxing; CDR Martin said that while the ship was in port the crew were constantly vigilant for the risk of terrorist attack, even from the air.

While the ship was alongside, armed guards patrolled the decks while RHIBs patrolled the harbour in conjunction with the port's security boats.

"The fact that we haven't found any al Qaeda and the task force has done more boardings in the last couple of months than it has done in almost the whole year means we are getting the message out," he said.

Civilian mariners accepted the naval presence with good grace: "The merchant seaman community up here knows that it's (monitoring) going on. By and large they are very welcoming ... but the tension is, I guess, the unknown, of putting our guys on to boats or ships and not knowing what they're going to find." The boarding crews were armed "but we've never had to use deadly force," CDR Martin reported.



of OEF

Story by CDR Tony Parr

Photos courtesy of New Zealand Royal Navy

HAWG briefs US State Department

Coalition teams led by Lt. Gen. Michael DeLong speaks about HAWG mission, PRTs

Story By LTC Fahed ALshelaimi

Chairman of the Humanitarian Assistance Working Group

Sixty-five ambassadors and Diplomats gathered inside the U.S state department's building to share information and discuss with their counterparts from USCENTCOM about Afghanistan. A group of four National representatives from UK, Australia and Kuwait, headed by the CENTCOM Deputy Commander, Lt. Gen. Michael DeLong, held a briefing for the distinguished audience.

LTC Fahed Alshelaimi (Kuwait), Chairman of the Humanitarian Assistance Working Group (HAWG), gave a presentation about the HAWG, discussing countries donations and participation in Operation Enduring Freedom.

The main topics of the presentation were supporting the people of Afghanistan and the history of the HAWG.

BG Kelly from Australia, Head of Coalition Planning Group (CPG) spoke about the CPG, its members and their tasks, as well as the future proposed vision for the Coalition.

Gen. DeLong explained the work and nature work of the Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Afghanistan and their



Photo courtesy of HAWG chairman

Coalition and State Department officials take time for a group photograph.

role to reconstruct the country. He encouraged the audience to support the people of Afghanistan through humanitarian efforts.

MG Willson from UK explained the PRTs role in Afghanistan and the possible way of cooperation between the groups in addition of the role of UK in PRTs.

Yellow Ribbon symbolizes remembrance of those who serve

Story By Major PhD Aki Huhtinen and Laura Loikkanen

Finnish National Defense College

The recent Yellow Ribbon campaign for homecoming soldiers began already in early 2003, not only on the Internet, but also in towns all across the United States. The yellow ribbons symbolized that people were waiting for their loved ones to come home from war.

This is an old tradition. Peace demonstrations have somewhat overshadowed the yellow ribbons tied to trees or fastened to people's clothes, but still, **the ribbons appear as a reminder that soldiers are missed and they are not forgotten.**



The Yellow Ribbon symbol refers to missing a person who is not with you in everyday life anymore. Family members, relatives and friends tie yellow ribbons to trees or fasten them to their clothes as a sign of their longing.

Traditionally, yellow ribbons have been used to welcome home men and women who have been away for a long time under adverse or particularly difficult circumstances, such as war or prison.

One explanation is that the **Yellow Ribbon Tradition is inspired by the 1973 song "Tie a Yellow Ribbon Round the Ole Oak Tree" by Tony Orlando.**

A prisoner had been released and was bound for home and his wife whom he still loved. He had asked his wife to tie

a yellow ribbon around an oak tree in the town square of the city where she lived if she still had any feelings for him. The story quickly spread throughout the country, inspiring songwriters Irwin Levine and L. Russell Brown to write the ballad.

The yellow ribbons are a show of general concern and it speaks of human sacrifices.

In the United States, yellow ribbons generally show support for American soldiers, who are ready to give their lives for their country. The use of the peace sign logically follows the yellow ribbon. **There can be no peace signs without yellow ribbons.**

The yellow ribbon symbolizes overcoming despair and pain. The ribbon can be carried in a pocket and it gives permission to seek help and understanding in times of distress. The yellow ribbon symbolizes being part of society and justifying the sacrifices of people.

Convention brings Coalition EOD specialists together

Story and Photos By
Pvt. 2 Terri Rorke

11th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan - An international Explosive Ordnance Disposal convention took place recently. This is the third convention EOD coordinated since April. They do this for many purposes.

"This is one of the few times EOD nations get together," said Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705th EOD, Fort Polk, La.

Germans, Estonians, Italians, French, Polish, Spanish, British and American EOD personnel gathered for a full day of learning about the different militaries' capabilities.

"So far this is the largest group that we've had," said Maj. Charles Phillips, battalion operations officer for 184th Ordnance Battalion (EOD), Fort Gillem, Ga.

About 50 coalition members showed up to the convention, said Phillips. This number doesn't include the U.S. EOD companies at Bagram and representatives from Kandahar Air Field.

Some of the 705th's equipment was displayed, including new mine detectors, two robots - a remote ordnance neutralizer called the Remotec and a mission-ready Talon robot - a .50 caliber rifle, improvised bomb suits, radio transmitters and receivers, disrupters and more.

A couple of months earlier, representatives from the British International Security Assistance Force came here for intelligence about what the EOD here does, said Phillips.

"We decided to improve upon that - to not have just one representative from the ISAF come - but bring our (team) and theirs together in a larger group so we can pass information and share a little bit better. So not only are we sharing intelligence, but also tools, techniques and procedures," he said.

According to Phillips, the convention is turning into a monthly event, and this is important for many reasons.



Staff Sgt. Shawn Prather, 705th Explosive Ordnance Company, Fort Polk, La. teaches a Polish and French EOD soldier about some of his companies equipment, which was on display here during an EOD convention.

The biggest thing is that it's both Combined Joint Task Force-180 and ISAF EOD, said Phillips.

Both entities are facing the same type of ordnance devices. If the two can share what they encounter, what problems they had and how they went about fixing it, **the information can help for the execution of future missions.**

"We can use that (information) to pass on to our companies that are supporting the coalition forces so they can provide better support as well and be more knowledgeable about the things encountered," said Phillips.

When the companies return to the States, they will have a better idea of what to look for future projects, said Phillips.

"Maybe the other countries had a little better piece of equipment or enhanced capability of what we have. It gives us an idea of what equipment to look for. We continue to improve our



Coalition soldiers share stories about different weapons.

equipment. They get the same benefit," added Phillips.

The next EOD convention takes place in July at the German compound in Kabul.

He said he hopes this convention will continue in the future as well.

"It's developed into a very good program for us as far as intelligence, technology, etc. ... Hopefully even after our battalion rotates out, it is something continued and built upon."

HMCS IROQUOIS' Boarding Party Hears Iraqi Sailors' Story

Story by Lt Morgan Bailey
Canadian Naval Forces

With the fall of Iraq's former regime, the tides may be turning in the region's illegal oil smuggling industry. Recently, the Canadian, Operation Enduring Freedom ship HMCS IROQUOIS' boarding party approached a known "bandit" vessel of interest destined not for the usual suspected ports; rather, the scrap yards in India and Pakistan. What made this experience particularly poignant, however, was the unexpected interaction of the vessel's crew.

Each boarding normally begins as a riddle with team members, shipping and intelligence personnel working quickly together to figure out a vessel's history, legitimacy of sailors and intended destination.

The boarding party team noted during preliminary background checks that although this vessel had passive defensive capability, normally to avoid piracy, none were used during the consensual boarding. Instead, **a crew full of jubilant sailors welcomed the team aboard the vessel**, which was to become a significant moment.

"I knew this experience was going to

be special when the crew identified themselves as Iraqis," says Lt (N) Brian Foxtan, boarding party team leader. **"Once we determined that they were legitimate sailors, we were able to breathe a little easier,"** he says just days after US-led coalition forces entered Baghdad's city center.

The Iraqi seamen appeared to be the "happiest crew I've ever seen," says Lt (N) Foxtan. "These guys were ecstatic. They told me that they were from 'The free country of Iraq' asking if we'd heard about them." The Iraqi master indicated that the vessel, which had been used for smuggling, was now being sent for scrap due to the declining market, says Lt (N) Foxtan.

Master Seaman (MS) Shane Allan, Naval Electronics Technician (Tactical), and two-tour boarding party team veteran, noted that all **crewmembers seemed in good spirits and were told they were very "relieved that the regime had fallen."** The vessel's crew told the boarding party team about various family tragedies seen throughout their lives under former Iraqi dictator, Saddam Hussein. "It changed my whole view on

the war," says MS Allan.

Ordinary Seaman (OS) Glenn Trane, Naval Communicator, says **"they really had a sparkle in their eye as they described how much they looked forward going back to Iraq to begin their lives again with new freedoms."**

This experience stood out in the 20 or so boardings the team has carried out this month since entering Task Force 151's area of operations in the Gulf of Oman. For the first time in 13 years of UN sanctions, sailors involved in the illicit oil trade offered a first-hand account of the business and their perceptions of what it would become in the coming months. Instead of being evasive, as perhaps would have been expected a month ago, the Iraqi sailors felt it was now time to tell their story.



Photo by Cpl. Shawn M. Kent
Lieutenant Brian Foxtan briefs HMCS IROQUOIS' boarding team before a boarding.



Photo by MCpl Frank Hudec

Ordinary Seaman Glenn Trane (left), Master Seaman Shane Allan and members of HMCS Iroquois' naval boarding party, await their Zodiac after a search of a suspect tanker in the Gulf of Oman.