

Coalition Bulletin

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

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Kiwis rebuilding Afghanistan

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100% Mission

Photo and story:
New Zealand delegation to US CENTCOM



After over two months flying in the Middle East, a Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Orion aircraft assigned to Operation Enduring Freedom has conducted all assigned missions without missing a beat.

The RNZAF Orion has been conducting surface surveillance missions for NAVCENT in three vital areas: the Gulf of Oman, Arabian Gulf,



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Success for New Zealand Orion



and the Horn of Africa. In the first two months of operations, the Orion has completed 35 eight-hour missions and investigated over 1400 vessels, including 12 vessels designated “contacts of interest” by coalition forces.

The Commanding Officer of the Number 5 Squadron detachment in the Middle East, Wing Commander Carl Nixon, said the detachment completed its first mission within 36 hours of arriving from New Zealand. The aircraft and crews have since conducted all missions as ‘fully mission capable’, which is quite extraordinary given the small detachment and the harsh environment. The maintenance crews are working in temperatures of up to 50°C (130°F) to get the aircraft ready for flight.

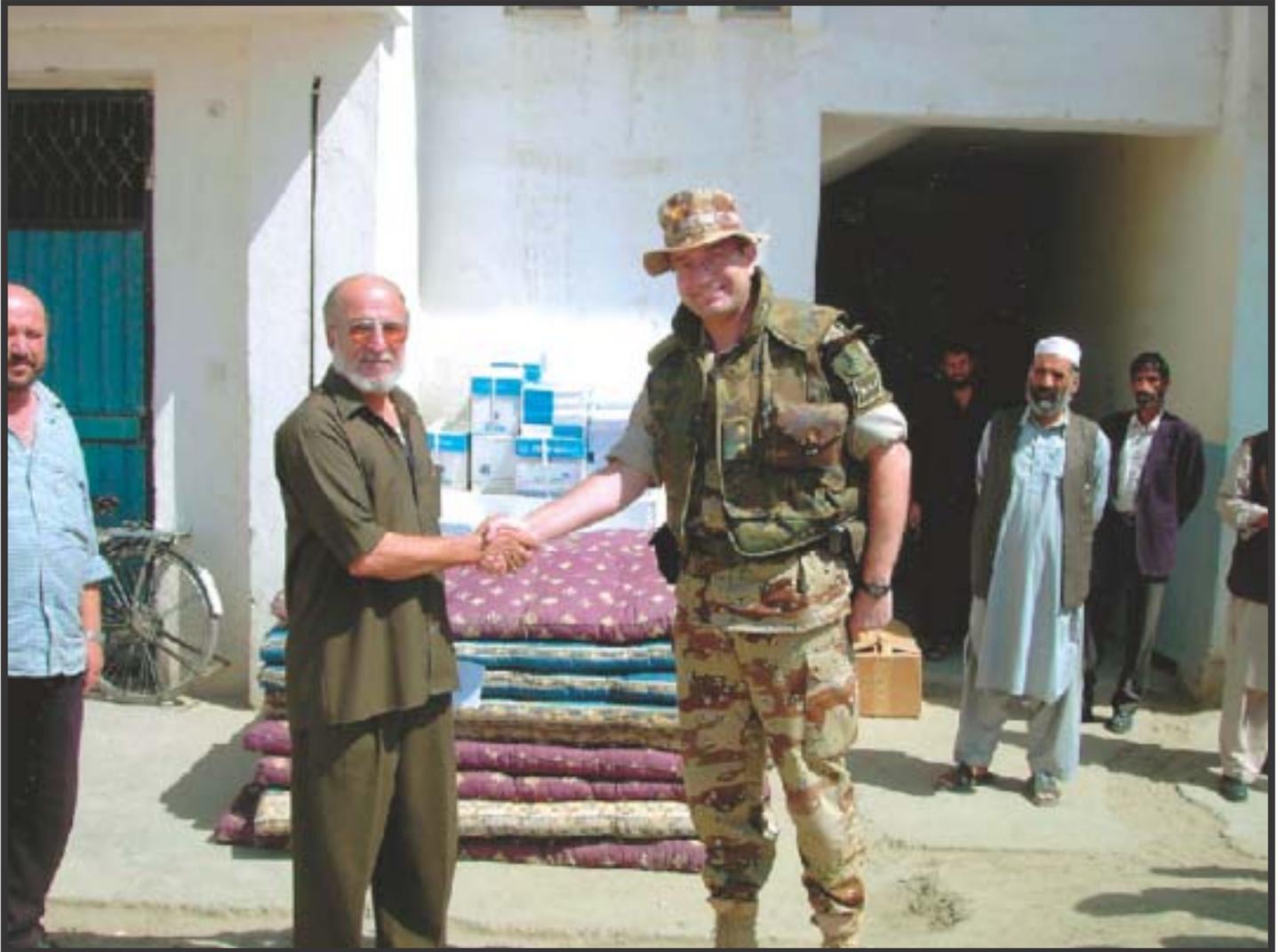
“The 100% mission success rate is testament to the preparation of the aircraft, and long hours devoted to maintaining the Orion in peak condition”, said Squadron Leader David Long, the detachment’s Maintenance Officer. “Before we left New Zealand we installed several new modifications onto the aircraft to ensure we were interoperable with the Coalition naval forces. Despite a very tight development schedule, we have been delighted with the aircraft’s performance. It is a tribute to the ingenuity of New Zealanders that they turned off-the-shelf equipment into operational reality in such quick time”.

The Orion’s missions are flown in direct support of the Task Forces on patrol in each area. Once on station, the ship controlling the Orion can be from any of the nations on patrol: Canadian, American, or French. Even New Zealand’s own HMNZS TE MANA controlled the RNZAF Orion occasionally.

The first crew captain, Flight Lieutenant Scott Williams, says the operation is about providing timely surveillance. “It is important that we check in on-station with our controller on time. Our role is like a game of rugby for us. If one person drops the ball, then that person lets the whole team down”. This is the first time for many years that a RNZAF Orion has operated in a coalition of this size. The detachment has acquitted itself extremely well, meeting and exceeding the challenges....100% of the time.

Spanish handover of

Photos and story:
Spanish delegation to US CENTCOM



LTC MANUEL GODOY AND THE PRESIDENT OF THE HOSPITAL ABDUL WASI SHAKE HANDS AT THE MOMENT OF THE HANDOVER OF SPANISH HUMANITARIAN AID.

LTC Manuel Godoy, Commander of the Spanish Contingent in Kabul ASPFOR V “Salamanca”, handed over to the president of the hospital for malaria treatment in Kabul, Doctor Abdul Wasi Asha, a set of medicines that will allow him to fight against this illness.

The donation has taken place on September 11th and the director of the hospital thanked, once again, the outstanding support Spanish military are doing to that center. In the same way, a few weeks earlier it was handed another important lot of medicines and clinic instruments.

The delivery consisted in specific medicines for malaria treatment, as well as a variety of clinic material, office items, mattresses and fuel, that in due time was donated by the former Spanish contingent. In that way, it is guaranteed the continuity of the electric provision at the hospital, because right now they only receive electrical current from 09:00 to 12:00.

medicines



SPANISH TRUCK LOADED WITH HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO HOSPITAL FOR MALARIA TREATMENT

The most remarkable about this donation is that it has been collected from Spanish members of ASPFOR V (ISAF) which has permitted to buy medicines to cover the most urgent necessities at this hospital, specialized in Malaria disease.

This hospital was opened 55 years ago for the treatment of two frequent illnesses in that country, Malaria and Leishmaniasis, that are transmitted by insects.

According to the hospital records of the last three months, there have been 1500 cases of "leishmaniasis", which has a treatment of a few weeks. From all of them, 698 cases have been cured successfully, and the rest keeps on the treatment.

In relation with Malaria, for the same period of time, they have been checked 22.500 people, from which 2808 were positives.

Spanish Detachment is made up by 122 people, the majority coming from the Regiment of Engineers 11, based in Salamanca (Spain). During their deployment, Spanish soldiers have been able to see the great poverty of a country that is characterized by the hospitality and apart from the security missions, recovery of ammunition and reconstruction of building, they have experienced the humanitarian feeling to aid Afghanistan people in the very basic as food, clothing, medicines, education material and toys.

Tajik - Afghan

Story by Tadjik Senior Representative to US CENTCOM
LTC Iskandar Dadabaev

Real sovereignty and the independence of any state is determined by the ability of the state to defend its borders and provide security and stability inside the country. A major element for sustaining the peace and stability in society is the army.

Events of the last two years and the antiterrorist Operation Enduring Freedom dramatically changed the political situation all over the world and especially in Central Asian region, Middle East, and in the area of Horn of Africa. Global society recognized the fact, that practically no one state in the world can guarantee 100% to fence and defend itself from extremism and terrorism. It is necessary to combined efforts and actions for their liquidation, as shown by historical experience; it is impossible to do it alone.

Modern Afghanistan since the 80's is in condition of permanent war and political instability. Hunger, destroyed infrastructure, national disintegration, millions of refugees, problems of production, and trafficking of drugs, are some of problems the Government of President Hamid Karzay obtain in legacy from extremism Taliban regime.

There are more than five million ethnic Tajik's living in the territory of Afghanistan, that's why situation in this neighboring, traditionally friendly, state was always in the center of attention of the Government of Tajikistan. Having suffered itself all the horrors of civil war and attack by international terrorist groups Republic of Tajikistan was one the small number of states of the world which is firmly and consistently carried out the policy of non-recognition of the Taliban Government and



supported the efforts of the Northern Alliance in the struggle against Taliban and Al-Qaida. From the time when Government of President Hamid Karzai came in to the power the Government of Tajikistan actively participated in providing humanitarian assistance to Afghanistan. More than 60% of international humanitarian assistance is coming via its territory for the rebuilding of power objects, training of specialist for the national economy in High educational establishments of republic. In March 2002, in a frame of cooperation development between our two countries, in days of celebration Navruz holiday, on the initiative of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan held sport competitions between combined teams of the armed forces of Afghanistan and Tajikistan on wrestling and football, it was the first steps of our military cooperation. During the first official visit of Marshall K.Fahim, Minister of Defense of Interim Government of Afghanistan in May 26, 2002 in Tajikistan, about providing assistance to the Afghan National Army for training of officer

officers Training



cadres, an agreement was reached. By the decision of the Minister of Defense Colonel-General S. Khayrulloev on a base of Military Institute of the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan a special six month course for training of the commanders of motor-rifle company's on APC and AM was organized.

The instruction began on March 3, 2003 with twenty six officers of new Afghan Army, representative of different nationalities began training. Taking into account customs and traditions of Afghan people, the special necessary conditions for feeding, accommodation and praying was created. All expenses connected with the training process, uniform, feeding, accommodation for the Afghan officers was borne by the Ministry of Defense of the Republic of Tajikistan. Training was carried out on Tajik language (Tajik is very similar to Dari) that's why there was no language barrier. Program of the courses includes such subjects as: military topography, mountain combat tactics,

exploitations of APC and AM, Law of Armed Conflict, engineering training, motor-rifle weapons fire training, management of active troops, English language, marching, and hand-to-hand combat. All training process was conducted by teachers with military academy background. From the first days between teachers and officers-students good relationships were established. Then needed teachers organized additional lessons taking into account different levels of preparedness of the Afghan officers. It was very interesting in particular; officers with high civil education were of lower rank than officers without higher education. All colonels have a great battle experience in comparison with high skills captains, typical representatives of some generations which were grown during Afghan wars a characteristic phenomenon of the young Afghan army. All 26 officers successfully completed the training course and received certificates. During training process Marshall Fahim visited the Afghan officers; he was greatly satisfied by the level of their training and successes. On August 31 the momentous ceremony of completion training courses was held.

I'm confident that these Afghan officers became deserving warriors, ready to defend Afghanistan from extremism and terrorism. First stage in training of the officers cadres for the new Afghan National Army in a frame of bilateral cooperation successfully completed. Military cooperation between Afghanistan and Tajikistan will be expand and improve.

Only by joint efforts of the coalition countries we can help to the Government of Afghanistan to create modern, fit for combat army, capable to solve the tasks on providing peace and stability on long-suffering Afghan land.



Canadians completes 1000th

Story and photos by
Canadian delegation to US CENTCOM



KA-2003-0002d
2 Sept 03
Arabian Gulf Region
Canadian Air Force CC-130 Hercules 316 taxis toward the terminal in Kabul Afghanistan, this marks the 1000th successful mission for the Canadian Tactical Airlift Unit (TAU) in Southwest Asia. The TAU consists of and is comprised of nearly 300 personnel and two to five CC-130 Hercules aircraft, operating out of the Arabian Gulf Region, airlifting personnel and cargo to various locations around southwest Asia.

Photo: MCpl. Brian Walsh 3 RCR Battalion Group Photographer



KA-2003-0003d
2 Sept 03
Arabian Gulf Region
Canadian Air Force CC-130 Hercules 316 taxis toward the terminal in Kabul Afghanistan, this marks the 1000th successful mission for the Canadian Tactical Airlift Unit (TAU) in Southwest Asia. The TAU consists of and is comprised of nearly 300 personnel and two to five CC-130 Hercules aircraft, operating out of the Arabian Gulf Region, airlifting personnel and cargo to various locations around southwest Asia.

Photo: MCpl. Brian Walsh 3 RCR Battalion Group Photographer



KA-2003-0006d
2 Sept 03
Arabian Gulf Region
Personnel from the Canadian Tactical Airlift Unit (TAU) form in the figure 1000, to celebrate the marking of the 1000th flight for the Canadian Tactical Airlift Unit in Southwest Asia. The TAU consists of nearly 300 personnel and two to five CC-130 Hercules aircraft based out of the Arabian Gulf Region airlifting personnel and cargo to various destinations within Southwest Asia.

Photo: MCpl. Brian Walsh 3 RCR Battalion Group Photographer

On September 2, 2003 the crew of a Canadian CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft achieved a major milestone — the 1,000th flight completed since their unit began operations in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in January 2002.

“All Canadians can be proud of the efforts of our service men and women,” said the Honourable John McCallum, Minister of National Defence. “They continue to rise to the challenge and help keep Canada at the forefront of nations trying to bring peace and security to our world.”

flight in SouthWest Asia



KA-2003-0004d

2 Sept 03

Arabian Gulf Region

Cargo is unloaded from a Canadian Air Force CC-130 Hercules in Kabul Afghanistan. This event marks the 1000th flight for the Canadian Tactical Airlift Unit (TAU) in Southwest Asia. The TAU consists of and is comprised of nearly 300 personnel and two to five CC-130 Hercules aircraft, based out of the Arabian Gulf Region airlifting personnel and cargo to various locations around Southwest Asia.

Photo: MCpl. Brian Walsh 3 RCR Battalion Group Photographer

"Overall, the Tactical Airlift Unit has logged more than 6,700 flying hours and airlifted more than 9,100 passengers and almost 8 million kg of cargo. The unit's payloads include equipment and supplies to support the Coalition. "The tempo of operations places high demands on both people and equipment," added General Ray Henault, Chief of the Defence Staff. "Milestones such as this are reached only through the tireless efforts of these dedicated professionals." The unit is comprised of over 300 Canadian Forces personnel as well as three CC-130 Hercules transport aircraft. Its mission is to support Canadian Forces operations in the Southwest Asia region, transporting personnel, equipment and supplies needed to ensure the contingent accomplishes its missions safely and effectively. "We reached this milestone thanks to the efforts of each and every member of this detachment, pilots and technicians, past and present," said Lieutenant-Colonel Michel Latouche, the unit's commanding officer. "We are proud of our service to Canada and the world, and will continue our work for as long as necessary."



KA-2003-0005d

2 Sept 03

Arabian Gulf Region

Navigator Captain James Brown (left) and Pilot Capt. Michelle Goulet, watch the controls of their aircraft as they fly the 1000th flight for the Canadian Tactical Airlift Unit (TAU) in Southwest Asia. The TAU consists of nearly 300 personnel and two to five CC-130 Hercules aircraft, operating from the Arabian Gulf Region, airlifting personnel and cargo to various locations around Southwest Asia.

Photo: MCpl. Brian Walsh 3 RCR Battalion Group Photographer

New Zealand takes reconstruction reins in Bamian

Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Keith Thompson
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAMIAN, Afghanistan – There's officially a new flag flying over the Provincial Reconstruction Team compound here as "Old Glory" was brought down to make room for the approximate 100 service members from New Zealand taking over during a transfer of authority ceremony.

"Today is a day the people of Bamian will never forget," said Gov. Muhammad Rahim Aliyar, the Afghanistan Transitional Government's leader in the province and one of the many guest speakers at the ceremony. "We are sad the U.S. is leaving, but we're happy to have our new friends."

The "Kiwis," as they are affectionately called due to the kiwi bird on their hats and unit patches, will be responsible for helping to maintain security and will oversee reconstruction efforts in the province known for its centuries old Buddhas.

They will join other PRTs, both U.S. and British, in their mission to work with the Afghan Transitional Government to reverse the years of war and destruction that have left its footprints in the Afghan countryside.

"The security and peace we have in Bamian is because of the work of the PRT," said Aliyar. "They did a good job here."

Until Tuesday, reconstruction in the land once controlled by Genghis Khan during the 13th Century and the site of the destruction of the famous giant statues of Buddha by the Taliban in 2001 rested on the shoulders of U.S. Civil Affairs soldiers.

The New Zealand joint force is looking forward to the challenges they will face in the historic province, according to Lt. Col. Neville Reilly, the new PRT commander.

"We're guests here ... and we're going to do everything we can to help you," Reilly said to the many guests present at the



ceremony. "We're pleased and proud to work with the Afghan Transitional Government."

New Zealand's ambassador to Afghanistan, Neils Holm, echoed Reilly's optimism as he read a statement from the country's Prime Minister Helen Clark.

"Our countries may be distant, but in an increasingly inter-dependent world, the challenges of Afghanistan are also New Zealand's challenges," he said on behalf of the prime minister.

Holm went on to say that the PRT was a way that New Zealand could "join with the U.S. in a very tangible way" in the global war on terrorism.

Under a newly raised New Zealand flag, and with the 1,500-year-old Buddha statues as a backdrop, the New Zealanders ended the ceremony by performing a traditional Maori Haka dance to the crowd's delight.

NZ prime minister pays Kiwis a visit



Story and photo by Sgt. Greg Heath
4th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM, Afghanistan – New Zealand Prime Minister Helen Clark completed a two-day visit to Afghanistan Friday in which she witnessed first hand her troops deployed in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

During the two-day visit Clark, accompanied by New Zealand Chief of Defence Force Air Marshal Bruce Ferguson and other New Zealand officials, visited Kiwis in Kabul, Bagram and Bamian, where, since early August, the bulk of the Kiwi forces in Afghanistan have been operating the Bamian Provincial Reconstruction Team.

For the Kiwis stationed here, the prime minister's visits was a significant gesture of support.

"When the prime minister arrives, it shows that there's recognition of what we do here," said Navy Lt. Cmdr. Andrew Law, who works at Bagram for the logistic support element for the Bamian PRT.

"It's pretty exciting to have her here," said Navy Lt. Danielle East, CJ-4, Combined Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force, adding that she wasn't surprised that the prime minister came all this way.

"When we deployed over here she came to the airport to see us off," East said.

East added that for New Zealand to be supporting operations in Afghanistan is a big deal for her country, whose armed forces number less than 15,000 but are engaged in 18 peacekeeping missions around the world, including in Iraq.

Clark and the other New Zealand officials met with various Afghan government officials and Coalition forces leaders during their visit.

But the main purpose of their trip was to show support and increase their awareness of what the Kiwis are experiencing in Afghanistan.

"It's good to have an understanding on the ground of what people are actually doing and experiencing here," said Clark. "I'm really proud of the job they're doing; they're helping build a platform on which hopefully a lot of development and progress can be made."

After visiting the service members in Afghanistan, Clark headed over to Iraq to visit the group of Kiwis deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.



51,326 Banana Bread... and counting

Al Davis and his wife Barbara are dedicated patriots and supporters of the War On Terrorism. Ever since the international coalition was established at Central Command in Tampa they have come to give coalition troops a taste of real American hospitality.

By Major Brede Hertenberg, CPAO

"This is what we can do, a way we can show the troops, both our own and from the coalition, that they are appreciated", says Al, smiling as he hands over a case of homemade banana bread.

Since 1991 Al and Barbara has made banana bread to support the troops. Over 8000 loaves came out their oven between 1991 and 2001. After September 11th they have really stepped up production. In mid-November 2003, they were counting the 51,326th loaf. All hand made, all from their small kitchen in a mobile home in Largo, Florida. They use no preservatives and only the best ingredients.

"September 11th hurt everybody, not only America, but the whole world. For us it was like going into war-time mode again", says Barbara. The couple spends almost all their retiree pay and social security to buy ingredients for the banana bread. Chiquita sponsors the bananas themselves, but everything else is bought from the Davis' pockets. Sometimes they get contributions, but most often it's their own dime. "We choose to do this. It is our pleasure. Many think we are crazy, but we'll rather give something back than spend the money on expensive vacations or parties", says a determined Al as he lifts another case of bread from his bright yellow car with "Banana Bread For The Troops" printed on the side. The dealer put that on there for free.

Al himself is a former Navy Seabee serving in World War II, Korea and two tours in Vietnam. He knows how it is to be away from home, and how much it means to know that what you're doing is appreciated when serving far away from your loved ones.



Here sharing their bread with Belgian colonel Marcel Van Der Auwera

"We have chosen to make banana bread because we heard that troops deployed in the Middle East region were not getting enough potassium, so we spent months developing that was both nutritious and tasted good", explains Barbara. She has dealt with so many bananas the last 14 years that she developed an allergy. But that is not stopping her.

Al and Barbara has sent banana bread to American troops all over the Middle East region, and on a regular basis visits the coalition at Central Command at MacDill Air Force Base in Florida to give the foreign soldiers here a taste of their bread. And with it, a piece of their heart....

To learn more about the Banana Bread Man and his wife, or to donate, visit www.bananabreadforthetroops.org



Al's last car broke down from carrying too much Banana Bread.



Al and Barbara are a welcome sight at Central Command. They try to come at least once a month, if not more often.