

# FREEDOM

May 21, 2004

*Watch*



**Korean Hospital celebrates Children's Day**  
**Cover Story Pages 6/7**

*President Karzai visits Herat*  
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Photo by Sgt. Frank Magni

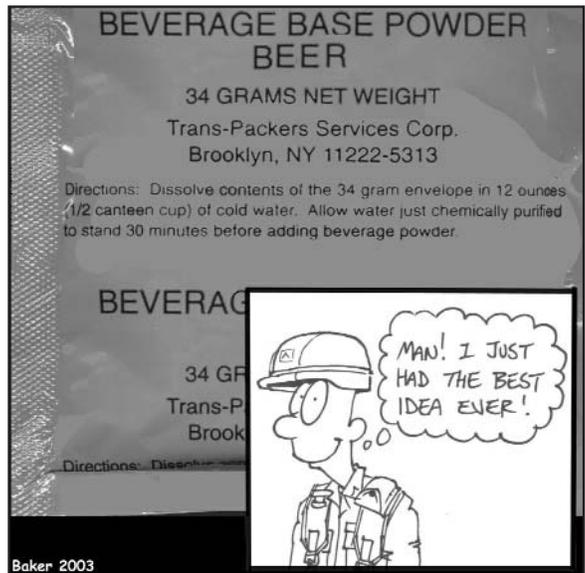
## Earth movers

Local Afghans transport soil to be used as roofing material up a ladder near a forward operations base in Konar Province. The building houses a mosque local Afghan workers use for worship while working on the base.

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Cover photo by Pfc. Chris Stump, 17th Public Affairs Detachment Republic of Korea Army 1st Lt. Koo, Joo-Hoe embraces an Afghan child during Children's Day at the Korean Hospital on Bagram Air Field May 5. Throughout the day, soldiers from the hospital shared a piece of their culture with the children, celebrating the importance of youth. Children's Day was established as a federal holiday in Korea in 1910.



Baker 2003

By Mark Baker

## Pvt. Murphy's Law

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# Afghan president pays visit to Herat

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HERAT, Afghanistan — Driving through Herat May 10, all that could be seen for miles was rows of people lining the streets, singing and throwing flower petals. On the roof tops people were waving flags. The excitement built as everyone anxiously awaited the arrival of Afghanistan's president.

During a one-day trip from Kabul,



**Hamid Karzai, Afghan president, gives a speech at the Herat Airport before touring the city May 10.**

Afghan President Hamid Karzai visited the people of Herat and observed reconstruction efforts throughout the city and its surrounding province.

Karzai also spent time with Herat Governor Ishmail Khan, one of his biggest supporters.

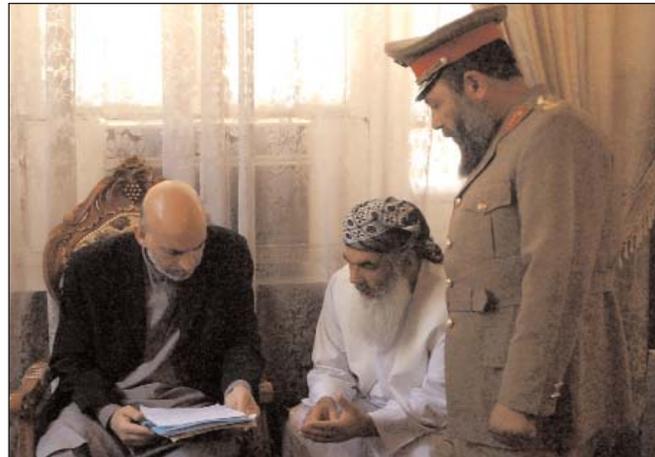
"I have talked with the governor and there is still no agreement on the disarmament of the Afghan Militia Forces," he said.

Over the past months, the president and the Herat governor have had many talks about the possible disarmament of the AMF, but as of yet there is still no agreement on when, or if, the disarmament will take place.

Karzai also took time to stop at the grave site of Khan's son, Haji Mohammad Mirwais Sadiq, who was killed in a controversial gun battle in Herat.

"I am here to give my condolences to those who have lost family members during the war and as martyrs," said Karzai. "I am also here for my friend and brother, Ishmail Khan, who lost a son during fighting in March."

Although his schedule was full,



**Hamid Karzai, Afghan president, talks with Ishmail Khan, Herat Governor, and Sharif Jan, 4th ANA Corp deputy, before a press conference at the Governors Compound in Herat May 10.**

Karzai took the time during his visit to cut the ribbon at the new power plant, as well as at the Teachers Learning Center here.

"Herat is one of the best reconstructed cities in Afghanistan," said Karzai. "They have come a long way."

At the end of the day it was clear the amount of support Karzai is receiving in Herat.

"Karzai has come to show the people that the central government of Afghanistan does care about the areas of Afghanistan outside the Kabul area," said Khan. "In coming here today, Karzai has shown the people that they do matter to the central government as well as to him. And in return, the people have shown their support for him with the hospitality that was displayed."

## Field artillery assists security for Karzai visit

Story by Pfc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HERAT, Afghanistan — For several weeks, the Soldiers from the 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment, based at Fort Bragg, N.C., have prepared for the Afghan president to visit Herat, assisting with the extra security necessary for this high-level visitor.

When Hamid Karzai came to visit the city of Herat May 10 the American forces were a big part of that, said Lt. Col. James Hand, 364th Civil Affairs Brigade, U.S. Army Reserve, Herat PRT commander.

"The field artillery Soldiers were responsible for coordinating with the Presidential Protective Services for housing and food for their overnight stay the night before Karzai arrived,

along with having good knowledge of the sites to be visited," he said.

The artillery battalion is located in Herat to provide security for the Provincial Reconstruction Team and other reconstruction efforts in the area. Therefore, they were able to provide their working knowledge of the sites and recommended the best sites for Karzai to visit while in town, said 1st Sgt. Terry Wheeler, 3rd Bn., 321st FA Rgt.

Throughout Karzai's visit to Herat city, field artillery Soldiers made sure Karzai was safe while driving and walking through the city, as well as at each site he stopped at.

"Karzai made a lot of changes to the schedule as we went, but over all I feel the mission was successful. We were able to

# K2 medics screen potential local workers

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

KARSHI-KAHANABAD AIR BASE, Uzbekistan — The medical staff at the U.S. Army Hospital in Karshi-Kahanabad, Uzbekistan, also known as K2, work around the clock to keep the service members and civilians here in top medical condition.

But that's not their only job. The medical staff not only keeps people healthy, but they also perform the medical screenings for incoming local nationals.

"Along with everything from sick call to dentistry, we also provide the medical screenings includes a PPD (tuberculosis) test, a chest X-ray and a liver functions test done through a blood test," said Staff Sgt. Karla Treadway, 1163rd Area Support Medical Company, Kentucky Army National Guard.

Every week local nationals come to the front gates of the base hoping to be hired for various jobs on base, such as working in the gift store, base exchange or dining facility, she said.

"Every Wednesday we go out to the gate and administer the PPD test to the local nationals, and on Friday they come back to have it checked," said Treadway. "For those who are already working or have jobs waiting on the medical screen to be completed, we do a liver functions test and chest X-rays to check for tuberculosis, it is very nec-



**Cpl. Jennifer Leclair, 1163rd Area Support Med. Co., measures the size of a local nationals PPD reaction site April 30. All workers coming on base are required to have these tests.**

essary due to the number of Uzbecks whose initial arm test comes back positive.

"Even though most of the local nationals come up positive when we do the TB test on their arm, they don't have TB," explained Treadway. "When the Russians were in control they gave an immunization to the local nationals that makes them come up positive even though most of them don't have it and were never exposed. So the chest X-ray

must be done to be certain."

The local nationals are also given small pox vaccinations every Friday, she said.

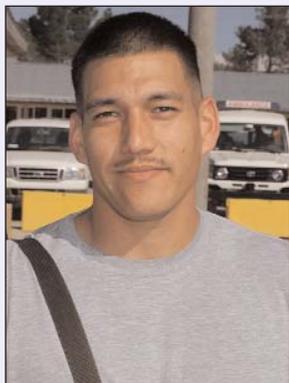
"The work we do here, for the local nationals, is in hopes of making their lives a little better," said Treadway. "The Uzbecks come here looking for a better way of life and we try to give that to them by doing the medical screenings needed for them to get jobs that pay more than a civilian job would pay them."

## Enduring Voices

*What are you doing to stay motivated during this deployment?*



**Pfc. Sahibzada Alikhan**  
LTF-725  
*"I play pingpong and snooker."*



**Spc. Sam Ferrell**  
Co. C, 125th Sig. Bn.  
*"I work out and play basketball."*



**Lance Cpl. Justin Hardy**  
2nd Bn., 8th Marine Rgt.  
*"I call back home."*



**Spc. Bryan Murphy**  
1st Bn., 501st Par. Inf. Rgt.  
*"I think about accomplishing my mission."*

# USAID rep visits Herat medical facilities

Story and photo by  
Pfc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HERAT, Afghanistan – With the help of non-governmental organizations, the people of Afghanistan are learning better methods of health care and receiving the necessary supplies to practice the skills they are being taught.

Through U.S. organizations, such as the U.S. Agency for International Development, grants are given to the people of Afghanistan to run medical facilities in areas that would otherwise not have them, said Karen Welch, USAID social sector reform health officer.

One such NGO is Coordination of Humanitarian Assistance. Sponsored by USAID, the two organizations work together to help the medical personnel of Afghanistan get a better understanding of how to keep their people healthy, she said.

“The public health system in Afghanistan doesn’t have the funds or the personnel to provide national- or village-level medical assistance,” said Welch. “They only have the resources to provide hospitals in the big cities, and even that is a challenge.”

The funds for smaller clinics have been provided to several of the provinces in Afghanistan for over two years, she said.



**Dr. E. Anne Peterson, assistant administrator, Bureau for Global Health, USAID, talks with the mid-wives at the volunteer medical center in Swoda village May 7.**

But it’s always important for those in positions that affect how much money goes where to ensure the funds are being put to good use. That’s exactly why Dr. E. Anne Peterson, Bureau of Global Health assistant administrator came to Herat May 7. “So she could see how the funds are being used to better the lives of the Afghan people,” said Welch.

During a one day trip to the Herat and Zindajan Provinces, Peterson was able to talk to the people who are being helped by

the grants.

“I was very pleased to see the progress that has been made by the people,” said Peterson. “They are taking the grants and training that we are providing to them and learning and bettering themselves.”

Everywhere Peterson went she was told of the many ways the organizations are helping to better the services provided to the people of the villages, she said.

For example, in Swoda village, Zindajan  
**See USAID, Page 10**

## CTF-Bronco takes reins from CTF-Warrior

Story by Master Sgt. Terry Anderson  
CJTF-76 Public Affairs Office

KANDAHAR AIRFIELD, Afghanistan — Tropic Lightning Soldiers of the 3rd “Bronco” Brigade Combat Team officially took charge of one of the roughest areas in southern Afghanistan May 6. The 3rd BCT, hailing from the 25th Infantry Division (Light), Schofield Barracks, Hawaii, will be the lead element of Coalition Task Force Bronco.

Col. Richard Pedersen, 3rd BCT commander, and 3rd BCT Command Sgt. Maj. James Dickie uncased the brigade’s colors during a transfer of authority ceremony held in the Kandahar International Airport terminal.

Combined Forces Command – Afghanistan commander Lt. Gen. David Barno and Combined Joint Task Force – 76 deputy commanding general, Brig. Gen. Charles Jacoby, looked on as 1st Bde., 10th Mountain Division passed the reins to the 3rd BCT.

Pedersen said it is an honor to be part of such a great team in Afghanistan, and 3rd BCT is ready for whatever comes their way.



**Col. Richard Pedersen (left), 3rd BCT commander, and 3rd BCT Command Sgt. Maj. James Dickie uncased the brigade’s colors.**

“The Broncos will always accomplish any and all missions to the highest standard,” said Pedersen.

The 10th Mtn. Div’s Coalition Task Force Warrior leaves Afghanistan after nine months. The “Warriors” took part in Operations Mountain Viper, Mountain Resolve, Mountain Avalanche and Mountain Storm, disrupting anti-Coalition militia activity, denying ACM sanctuary and setting the conditions for reconstruction throughout Afghanistan.

The Bronco Brigade takes ownership of the entire southern region of Afghanistan from Kandahar to Paktika provinces, as well as Provincial Reconstruction Teams in Kandahar, Qalat, Gardez and Khowst.

Pedersen thanked CTF Warrior’s commander, Col. William B. Garrett and CTF Warrior Command Sgt. Maj. Frank Grippe for a seamless transfer of authority.

“Thank you and the Warriors for the service you’ve given to our country, the international Coalition and the country of Afghanistan,” said Pedersen. “We’ve started a great friendship, and I’m sure that will continue.”

*Spc. Daniel Kelly*

# ROK soldiers host Children's Day

Story and photos by  
Pfc. Chris Stump  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — In Korean culture, children are respected and celebrated as the future of the nation — a concept Korean soldiers conveyed to young Afghans during a Children's Day celebration May 5.

The 924th Medical Support Group, Republic of Korea Army, with contributions from other Coalition forces, invited local boys and girls, ages 15 and younger, to the Korean hospital here to participate in a day of activities, including hair cuts, a magic show and a Taekwondo demonstration, among other activities.

Children's Day is a traditional holiday in Korean culture where the youth are celebrated as the future of both the nation and the culture, said Maj. Oh, Chung Wun, 924th Medical Support Group executive officer.

Children's Day, since its inception in 1910, has been a part of Korean life for almost 100 years and has progressed into a national tradition, said Oh.

"Fifty years ago, after the (Korean) war, we were like Afghanistan," he said. "Only through progress and investing in the children's education and well-being have we become better."

"Many of the officers in the ROK Army can remember growing up similar to how the Afghans are living now. We want to help them as much as we can to help them grow into the leaders of tomorrow."

To help the young Afghans grow up to be healthy, contributing



Some Korean troops put on a Taekwondo demonstration for the local Afghan children as part of Children's Day, an important Korean holiday and event in Korean culture.

leaders, the Koreans hosted the event to show the children they are appreciated and they are the future of Afghanistan, said Oh.

"We hope they take away hope and inspiration from Children's Day," he said. "Children are the seeds that flourish and grow into the future of society. They must be taken care of and raised with education and medical care."

That concept is one the Koreans were conveying to the children at the hospital through gifts of medical attention, clothes, food, water, candy and toys, said Cpl. Jeong Sangyol, 924th Medical Support Group.

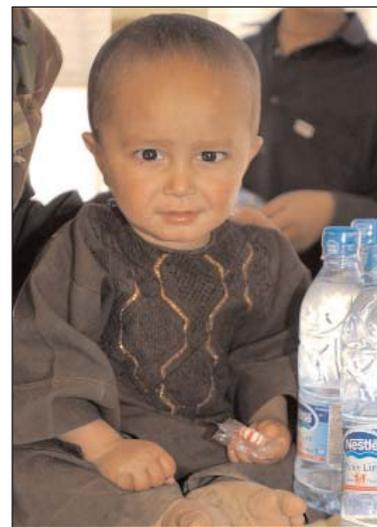
The hospital normally sees 30 to 40 children a day, but more than 150 were present to participate in Children's Day, said Oh.

The day started with hair cuts for the children — with ROK soldiers, including the hospital commander, providing more than a few "high and tights" to young Afghans who wanted them.

Following the hair cuts, Capt. Matthew Wadler, 3rd Battalion, 321st Field Artillery Regiment put on a



Capt. Matthew Wadler, 3rd Bn., 321st FA Rgt., shows the crowd of young Afghans a disappearing coin magic trick during his magic show.



A young Afghan boy holds a piece of candy and sits next to the bottles of water the Korean soldiers gave to the children.



**A ROK soldier fills prescriptions for children who were cared for at the hospital.**

magic show. He entertained the children with a variety of magic tricks, something many of them had never seen.

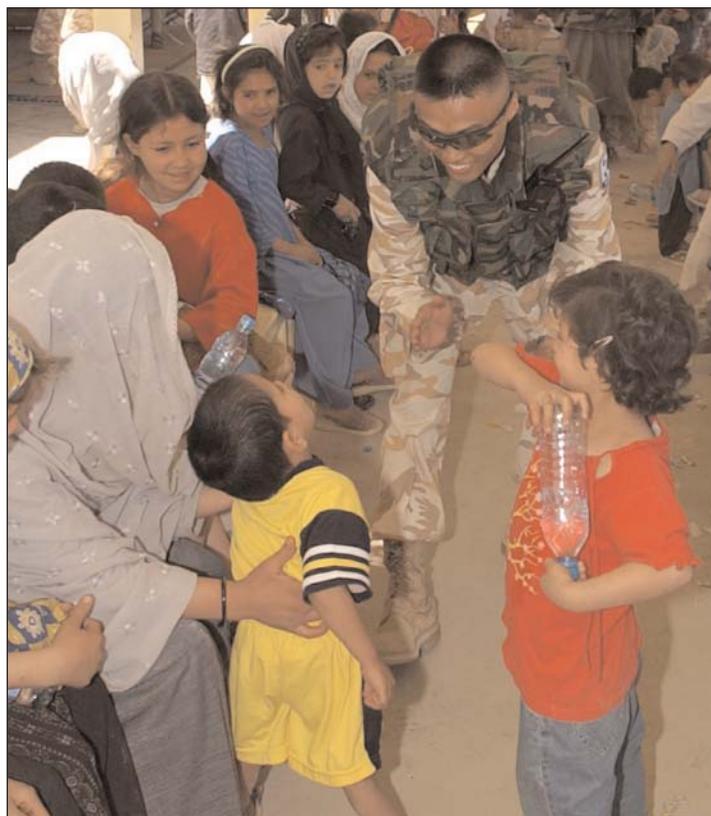
“I liked the magic show, it was very fun. I’ve never seen (magic tricks) before,” said Naji Malah, a local boy from Bagram Village. That excitement was echoed in the children’s applause and laughter throughout the morning’s events.

Throughout the course of the event, the Korean soldiers talked to and played with the children and gave out candy and bottled water, two things they don’t have much of at home, said Jeong.

After the magic show, the ROK soldiers put on a Taekwondo demonstration and showed the children some of their moves and abilities – performing flips, jumping through the air and breaking boards – all to the claps and cheers of the young onlookers.

“It was exciting when they flew through the air,” said Malah. “I want to do that.”

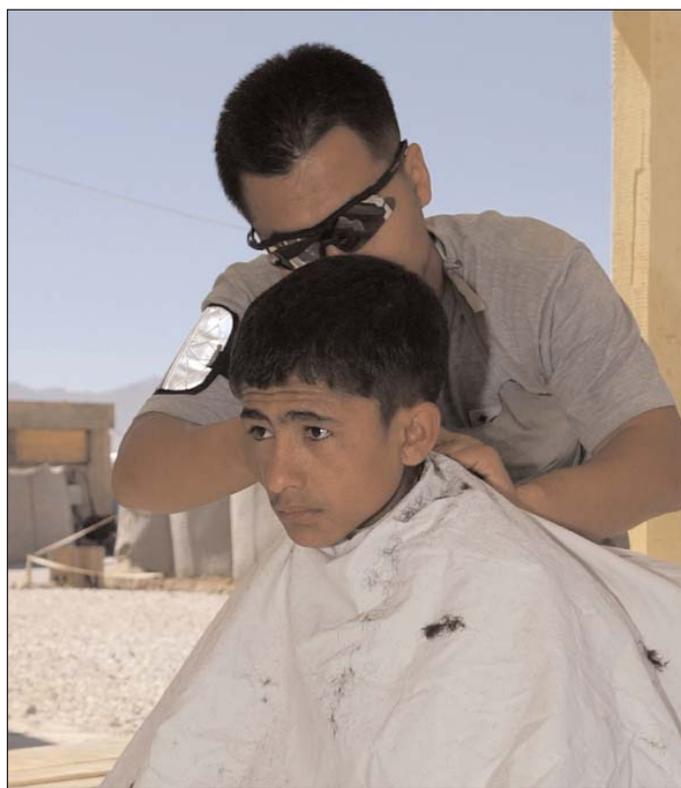
“Providing care and attention to children such as Malah and showing them a good time is very important to the Korean army,” said Oh. “We’re trying to send them the same message we send our children in Korea – only by investing in the children can you improve the future.”



**1st Lt. Koo, Joo-hoe, ROK Marine Corps, jokes and plays with some young Afghans. Many of the Korean soldiers took time to get to know the children and show them the meaning of Children’s Day.**



**Marine Chief Warrant Officer Casey Jones, HMCA773, Marine Helicopter Squadron, talks with a few local boys and answers some of their questions about the military.**



**ROK Army Cpl. Ching, Jeoung Hanyong gives Baryaly Conshirin a hair cut, just one of the things being provided to the children visiting the hospital on Children’s Day.**

# Medics teach first aid to students, teachers

Story and photos by Pfc. Cheryl Ransford  
17th Public Affairs Detachment

HERAT, Afghanistan — With the help of the Soldiers at the Herat Provincial Reconstruction Team, students and teachers of a few Herat schools are learning first aid.

The Soldiers from the 401st Civil Affairs Battalion, U.S. Army Reserve, Webster, N.Y., go to the schools and teach the students and their teachers the proper way to perform first aid, said Cpl. Shannon Kelley, 401st CA Bn.

“Each week we go out to the schools and teach the boys and girls how to perform first aid properly, so that if they come across someone who is injured they will know how to help them,” she said.

At one of the schools, Mehri High School, there are three classes, each made up of 18 students and two teachers. The Soldiers teach the same lesson for all three groups and begin a new area of first aid every three weeks, when the rotation begins again, said Kelley.

“The students are very eager to learn about first aid. When we started the program three weeks ago we asked the students what they would like to learn about and their response was great,” she said. “They told us they were interested in learning about a variety of subjects, including nutrition, bleeding, AIDS, hygiene, insect bites, and fitness.”

The classes are held at the school during the normal school day, and are focused on the areas which the students and teachers showed interest in, she explained. The girls and boys are taken to a room that has been set aside for the first aid training.

“Right now we are training 60 people per school. The teachers at the girl’s school told us there is a total of 480 girls that they would like to have go through the training,” said Kelley. “To compensate for the number of people that would like to go through the training we are looking into adding a second day each week that we go to the girls school, so that we can teach all of them.”

When the Soldiers arrive at the school they receive a warm greeting from the staff and students. They also bring snacks and water to hand out to the members of the class before they leave, said Kelley.

“We are very happy to have them here to teach us,” said Gul



**Students at Mehri High School pause to watch the demonstrator during a hands-on exercise in applying a field dressing. This was just one of the techniques the girls learned during first aid training.**

Makay, a Mehri High School teacher. “We are able to learn things from them that we would not be able to if they did not come.”

First, the class receives verbal instructions, followed by hands-on training, said Kelley. This is to ensure they know how to use the proper techniques.

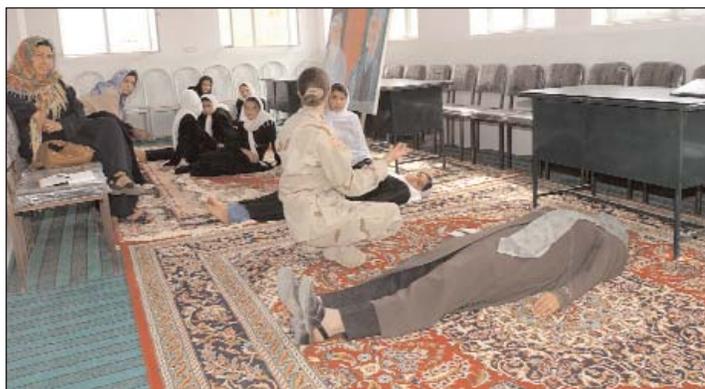
“I have never done this type of stuff before. I am very happy when they come because I get to learn something new,” said Ziya Gul, a Mehri High School student.

At the end of the program, the Soldiers will be testing the students and teachers to ensure they have retained the material. They will also certify the teachers so they can teach it to others.

“We are making up certificates and books for all the members of the class to be able to take home to their families,” said Kelley. “We are writing down each lesson in English and having one of our interpreters translate it into Dari for the class members.”

The program is expected to continue for at least the next seven months, and will hopefully continue with the PRT team that replaces the 401st CA Bn., said Kelley.

“This program is very good for the people of Afghanistan,” she said. “The first aid techniques they are currently using aren’t very safe. Our hope is to teach them a better way of caring for themselves and for others.”



**Cpl. Shannon Kelley, 401st CA Bn., talks to the first aid class while demonstrating how to control bleeding on her “patient” at Mehri High School.**

# Security forces help keep convoys safe

Story by Air Force Master Sgt. Jeff Szczechowski  
455 Expeditionary Operations Group

BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — Besides their more traditional role of providing installation security, Airmen here assigned to the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron have taken on two other important combat-related responsibilities in support of the Global War on Terrorism.

Security forces Airmen are providing security for convoy operations that maneuver over the rugged, and potentially hostile, Afghanistan landscape outside Bagram Air Base. Also, a newly created 455th ESFS tactical security element provides cover for Air Force Office of Special Investigations agents in the field conducting counter-intelligence missions and weapons searches, as well as apprehending suspected anti-Coalition forces.

According to Air Force Tech. Sgt. Earl Rogers, 455th ESFS convoy operations and tactical security element operations superintendent, security forces personnel have been running convoys for years, but not in deployed combat zones.

“The convoys are initiated to deliver humanitarian assistance to local villages in need,” he said. “Participation is strictly (voluntary), and I train all security members prior to their acceptance to this team.”

When conducting a humanitarian assistance convoy, security forces are protecting other Airmen, not the bundles of clothes and other goods being delivered to the Afghan citizens.

“Our (precious) resources during these missions are the 455th Expeditionary Operations Group personnel themselves,” said Rogers. “The cargo is expendable.”

Like the team that provides convoy security, the tactical security element is made up of highly motivated, skilled ESFS Airmen, said Rogers. Members of the team are hand-picked, and Rogers provides them with specialized training. The team, in turn, conducts additional training with the OSI. The concept of a TSE is a totally new mission for security forces, said Rogers.

He said that he is inspired by the younger troops who have bravely accepted the risk of going “outside the wire,” to be a part of the security convoys and TSE operations.

“The thing that has made me most proud is to see the young Airmen step up and volunteer to conduct these risky missions off base,” he said. “When we go outside the wire, it is no joke. There are people out there who want to kill Coalition forces, but these young troops see the need for the missions and are willing to participate.”

One of those volunteer Airmen is Air Force Senior Airman Derek Wagner, a security response team leader deployed here from Misawa Air Base, Japan, who is a member of both the convoy operations team and the TSE. He said that he wanted to be a part of both details “to gain some real experience and to make

a difference in an area where I could see the results.”

“I’m proud to be a part of Operation Enduring Freedom because I truly believe that the efforts being put forth in Afghanistan will make a difference in the lives of the people here in the long haul,” he said. “I know that later in life, I will be able to look back and be proud that I was part of that effort.”

The SFS troops assigned here come from McChord Air Force Base, Wash.; Misawa Air Base, Japan; Sheppard AFB, Texas; and Spangdahlem AB, Germany. They have meshed nicely into one cohesive unit, said Air Force Master Sgt. Joseph Ramos, 455th ESFS operations superintendent, protecting people and equipment critical to Operation Enduring Freedom. Besides their off-base missions, he said that the SFS troops ensure a secure environment on Bagram Air Base so that the aircraft maintainers and fighter pilots deployed here from Eielson AFB, Alaska, can effectively generate A-10 Thunderbolt II combat sorties.

“The troops provide security for resources vital to the worldwide war on terrorism,” he said. “These resources, in turn, support our ground forces on the battlefield. Airmen, Soldiers, Sailors and Marines are working together to take the fight to the enemy.”

Although the Airmen of the 455th ESFS work long hours and will have at least another three months to go on their deployment here when they watch many of their 455th EOG comrades begin to depart for home in June, both sergeants said that morale and focus remain high.

“The troops understand they are performing an important job, fighting the Global War on Terrorism,” said Ramos. “They also know the potential for

danger is always there. Those two things keep the troops motivated.”

“The young Airmen are doing a fantastic job. They are professional, dedicated and alert,” said Rogers. “They see the task before them and understand the reason why we’re here. They are committed to seeing that the job gets done.”

Ramos said that the entire ESFS team here is enthusiastic about being a part of OEF, while Rogers spoke of the personal gratification that he has gained from his deployment here.

“Everyone that is part of OEF is proud!” Ramos said emphatically. “I know this, because I have been told by Airmen on numerous occasions that they are glad to be here. In fact, one of them told me that the reason he enlisted was to do his part in the (Global War on Terrorism).”

Rogers said that he is “very proud to be here conducting the mission that we are involved in. The best part of this deployment is seeing all the good we are doing. When I can facilitate the delivery of supplies to a local orphanage that has kids sleeping almost on top of each other, in a building that is bullet-ridden from the Taliban occupation, it puts a whole new light on the war on terrorism.”



Photo by Air Force 2nd Lt. John Edwards

**Air Force Staff Sgt. Christopher Norte, a member of the 455th Expeditionary Security Forces Squadron, stands guard in the middle of an Afghan village while providing security during an Adopt-a-Village convoy operation.**

## FA: Soldiers help with security during Karzai visit

*continued from Page 3*

complete everything that needed to be done, along with a few things that weren't scheduled, in the right amount of time," said Spc. Nathan Fortini, 3rd Bn., 321st FA Rgt. "The mission was a success because we were able to facilitate his needs during the visit and make changes as necessary."

While the battalion normally has more of a focus on force protection in Herat, it wasn't necessary for the Soldiers to take a leading role during the visit, he said.

"Because Karzai was coming here to gain the support of the people, it was good for the Soldiers to be a part of the visit but have a background role," said Hand. "Karzai has his own security force and it was good that they did most of the personal security for him, while we were making sure the roads were clear and people were where they needed to be."

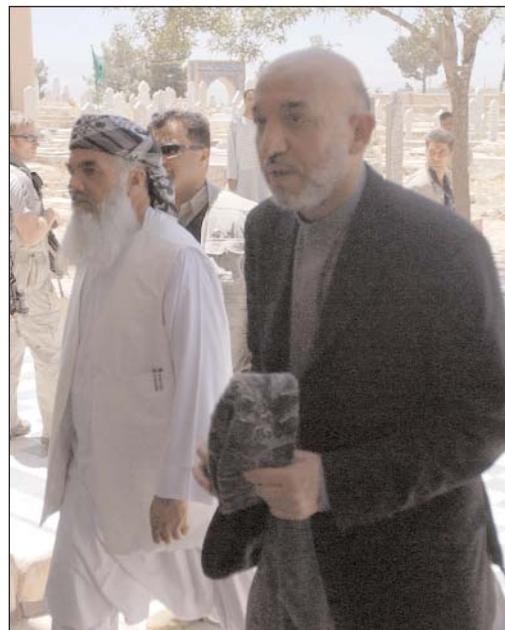
Having the American forces concentrate more on the security level of the city was good because Karzai was able to meet with more of the people of the city,

said Ishmail Khan, Herat governor.

"The Afghan press sometimes makes it seem like the government doesn't care about the little cities and villages of Afghanistan," said Khan. "By having Karzai come here and meet with the people it shows them that he does care and they will be more likely to support him."

And having the responsibility of safeguarding the visit was an important role for the field artillery Soldiers, said Wheeler.

"Since Karzai was coming to show the people that the Afghan government does care about the people in the cities and villages away from the Kabul area, it was good for them to see that while we are here to help them, we also support what Karzai is trying to do for the country in becoming president," he said. "And in turn if the people support us and see that (the Coalition forces) are supporting him, they will help us to accomplish our mission here in Afghanistan by supporting Karzai and make Afghanistan a better place."



Pfc. Cheryl Ransford

**Hamid Karzai, Afghan president, visits the Shrine of Qhwaja in Herat May 10. Soldiers from 3rd Bn., 321st FA Rgt. used their knowledge of Herat to help select sites for Karzai to visit.**

## USAID: Rep checks progress in Herat facilities

*continued from Page 5*

province, women at the volunteer center said the maternal mortality rate has gone down, and is continuing to drop, as the skills that were taught have been put into practice, said Peterson.

Prior to the training they received, the midwives were placing the birthing women on dirt floors during childbirth, and the husbands were severing the umbilical cord by stepping on it. These methods were leading to a high number of maternal deaths due to tetanus, she said. Now, the women are placed on clean cloths and boiled string is used to cut the umbilical cord, lowering the number of deaths.

"The women have also received training in family planning and the benefits of waiting a couple years between having children. They were given condoms and other forms of birth control by the NGO personnel who explained how to use them and the purpose of using them," said Peterson. "One clinic said that they had 48 women come in last month to get the IUD (Intrauterine Device) form of birth control."

However, Peterson didn't just come to Afghanistan to check on the use of funds. She also came to promote the use of a

product called "Clorin" which is used to sanitize the water supply before it is consumed, making it safe for cooking and drinking.

The product is donated to the local clinics, but, to help offset the cost of offering free medical care to their patients, the clinics charge the patrons for any medical supplies used and medications issued, including the Clorin.

"The product comes in a one-month supply and is affordable for the Afghan people. The product has already been distributed to some of the clinics and will soon go into the food stores so that more people will have access to it," said Peterson.

When visiting the Herat Regional Hospital's Institute of Health Services, Peterson saw that the hospital had posters on the walls for Clorin and also carried the product in their pharmacy, she said.

It's contributions like Clorin and the education people are receiving that make agencies like USAID so important to the citizens of Afghanistan.

Afghanistan has very large health needs and many people who need training, said Peterson.

"It is good to see that even in the face of adversity the people are determined to make the health system work," she said, "even if for now they need the help of outside organizations."



Pfc. Cheryl Ransford

**Dr. E. Anne Peterson satisfactorily inspects bottles of "Clorin" at a Herat clinic. Peterson is one of the people responsible for the water sanitizer's availability to Afghans.**

# Brickfoot performs for Coalition troops

Story and photos by  
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BAGRAM AIR BASE, Afghanistan — They weren't typical concerts, but a step outside the norm, for Coalition forces participating in Operation Enduring Freedom, as the Baltimore-based rock/alternative band, Brickfoot, performed throughout the theater of operations.

The band started their current tour with shows at Karshi-Khanabad, Uzbekistan and Manas Air Base, Kyrgyzstan. Brickfoot stopped

here May 7 to perform for Coalition troops and then went on to play at Kandahar Airfield, Afghanistan, May 8.

"We just want you to know we appreciate your service to our country, your country and the world," said guitarist Frank Chiovaro, addressing the spectators from different Coalition nations.

Brickfoot's music covered different genres, and appeared to be enjoyed by everyone present. From Sgt. Maj. Samuel Jackson, base safety sergeant major, tapping his feet and nodding his head to the

sounds of Jimi Hendrix, to German soldiers playing air guitar and dancing in a circle to a rendition of U2's "With or Without You," Bagram troops expressed their appreciation of the band's performance.

"I wasn't sure what kind of music to expect when I got here," said Sgt. Ryan O'Connell, a 2nd Battalion, 27th Infantry Regiment combat medic. "I'm impressed with their performance. It was definitely worth staying up for."

"Having Brickfoot perform gives (everyone) a chance to break away from the monotony of their days," said 2nd Lt. Linda North, an MWR coordinator for Combined Joint Task Force-76. "It's a huge morale booster, since people here rarely get to listen to live music."

Though this is the first time the band has stopped in Afghanistan, it is their fifth Armed Forces tour since 2001, according to singer Steve Herneker.

The concerts don't just benefit the troops, however. The band said they benefit from the performances as well.

"There's nothing we like more than these shows," said Herneker. "We understand the risks and the consequences that come with these tours, but it's something we believe in."

Brickfoot is sponsored by Armed Forces Entertainment, an organization that presents morale-boosting events to U.S. forces throughout the world. "AFE contacted us to let

us know we could have them for four days," said North, "so we scheduled concerts at K2, Manas, Bagram and Kandahar."

After the band finishes in Afghanistan, they will move on to Pakistan, Qatar, United Arab Emirates, Djibuti, Africa and Kuwait.

"We'll (also) be spending six days in Iraq," said Herneker. "Six shows in six days, but this is what we love to do."

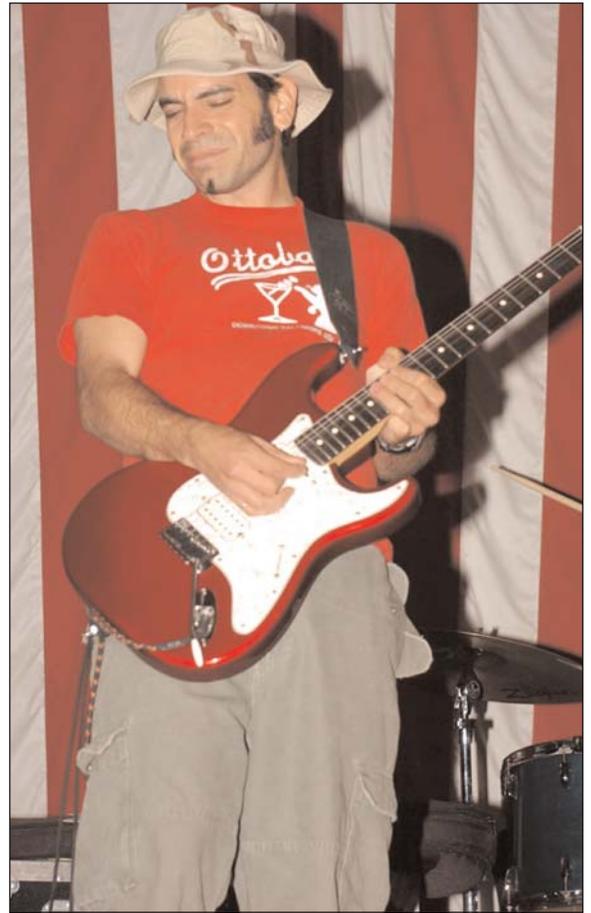
Herneker added that the band has been shooting video clips during their tours to make a DVD when they return to the United States.

"We want people to see what you guys are going through," he said. "Right now, all they get to see is a couple seconds a day that flashes on the news. We want them to see what it's really like."

"This is what's important to us," said Herneker. "Every little bit we can do to show our support for what you guys are doing — that's what really matters."



**Coalition troops applaud Brickfoot during their rendition of a Jimi Hendrix song.**



**Brickfoot guitarist Frank Chiovaro wails on his guitar during the band's performance at the Bagram Clamshell May 7.**



**Brickfoot performs for Coalition troops at Bagram Air Base May 7. The Baltimore-based band also played for troops at Kandahar Airfield, K2 and Manas Air Base.**



**Service before self**