

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Coalition for Operation Enduring Freedom

Volume # 9, 2004



Germans 'Can-Do' in Konduz

Germany takes over Provincial Reconstruction Team in northeastern Afghanistan

The PRT concept

A closer look at Afghanistan's new hope for the future



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Quote of the month:

"I expect that more PRT's will be placed under the mandate of ISAF in the future.. The objective, however, will remain the same: to achieve an enduring stability by supporting the Afghan Government to extend its sovereign authority throughout the provinces,"

**Lt. Gen. Götz F. E. Gliemeroth ISAF Commander
at the handover ceremony in Kunduz.**



What a difference a year makes. Last February there was just a single Provincial Reconstruction Team operating in Afghanistan. Now, hot on the heels of the success in Gardez, 9 more PRTs are operational throughout Afghanistan, with another five in place by summer. The pace is nothing short of remarkable. A number of nations have now expressed interest in joining the United States, United Kingdom, New Zealand, and Germany in the task of running PRTs.

2004 promises to be a critical year for Afghanistan, with voter registration and democratic elections due. Although significant challenges, and significant threats, remain, the advances made so far would have been unthinkable just a few years ago.

Who would have believed a nation ruled by so many competing demands could come together for a Constitutional Loya Jirga and produce a constitution? Who would have believed peace and stability could take root throughout Afghanistan? We in the Coalition did. And now, assembled from our ranks, PRTs are nourishing the desire of Afghans for a better life. We are not there yet, but the momentum is on our side. Each day brings greater hope for the people of Afghanistan.

PRTs are just one of the coalition contributions to Operation Enduring Freedom you'll read about in this, the ninth edition of the Coalition Bulletin. While this modest publication cannot hope to cover all of the activities of the Coalition, the articles in this edition will give you a flavor of the substantial progress made in the rebuilding of Afghanistan. This is a message that must be heard.

The Global War on Terrorism concerns us all. To win it, we must earn the support of our national audiences. That won't happen if we don't tell people what we're doing. The good works of our soldiers, sailors, and airmen deserve to be publicized. To that end, we solicit your stories and encourage you to distribute the Bulletin as widely as possible. Mail it to your chain of command, to your government, to your media. If you don't find your nation on any of these pages, contact us. We'll see to it you're covered in the next issue. Finally, let us know what you think of the Bulletin. Your ideas and suggestions are always welcome.

You can reach us any time at: oefpublicaffairs@yahoo.com

Brigadier General John Vryenhoek
Chairman
Public Awareness Working Group

Citizens Cheer Coalition

The people of Tampa voiced their support for Coalition Forces loud and clear January 24 with a noisy tribute along a major area highway.



Drivers ending their workday honked and waved as they passed a line of more than 60 national flags stretching along Tampa's Bayshore Avenue. Beneath each flag stood uniformed members from the various nations stationed at Coalition Headquarters, based at MacDill Air Force Base.

A local organization known as the Bayshore Patriots coordinated the event. The group sprang up after the September 11 terrorist attacks. Each Friday, they wave American flags along Bayshore Avenue in an effort to promote patriotism and support "those who protect and serve".

Gen. John Abizaid, commander of U.S. Central Command, dropped by the event to personally thank the Coalition participants. "It's wonderful," Abizaid said. "This is a great opportunity for everyone to understand this is a global war. What else can we say other than to say, 'Thanks.' "



German Forces Aid Canadian Soldier

German forces airlifted a Canadian soldier to Germany January 27 after he was seriously wounded by a suicide bomber in Kabul.

The soldier was one of four Canadians conducting a routine International Security Assistance Force patrol at the time of the attack. They were just a kilometer from their base, Camp Julien, when they slowed for a bump in the road. As they slowed, a man threw himself at their vehicle and detonated an explosive.

The blast killed one soldier and wounded three others. Two of the men received treatment at the Canadian camp. A third soldier, suffering from a serious eye injury, was taken to a German medical facility at Camp Warehouse, 15 kilometers east of Kabul.



After providing immediate care, doctors at the facility recommended the soldier receive further treatment. He was immediately taken to a waiting German Air Force C-160 Transall at Kabul airport. The aircraft evacuated him to a hospital in Germany for surgery.

"The assistance we received from Germany was outstanding," said Col. Terry Chester, Canada's Senior National Representative at Coalition Headquarters. "The care and concern demonstrated for our wounded soldier was not only extremely professional, but came in the true spirit of friendship."

The soldier is expected to recover from his injuries.



The PRT concept

Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) are aimed at promoting the emergence of a strong and credible central government able to extend its influence nation-wide. An effective central government in Afghanistan will be better positioned to assist in the removal of regional causes of instability.

Concept of Operations:

PRTs are not intended to function as peacekeeping entities. They are relatively small, inter-disciplinary groups formed to assist local authorities, the national government, non-governmental organizations, and United Nations agencies, *in their efforts* to rebuild Afghanistan, reform its security sector and disarm, demobilize and reintegrate its armed members.

Emphasis

While the military component of some PRTs will undertake some engineering work, reconstruction is but one aspect of the PRT mission. Rather than *implement* change, the PRT's emphasis is to *enable* change. By providing security and basic support, PRTs will

facilitate the exchange of information amongst various groups, thereby stimulating reconstruction and contributing to the process of normalization.

Chain of Command

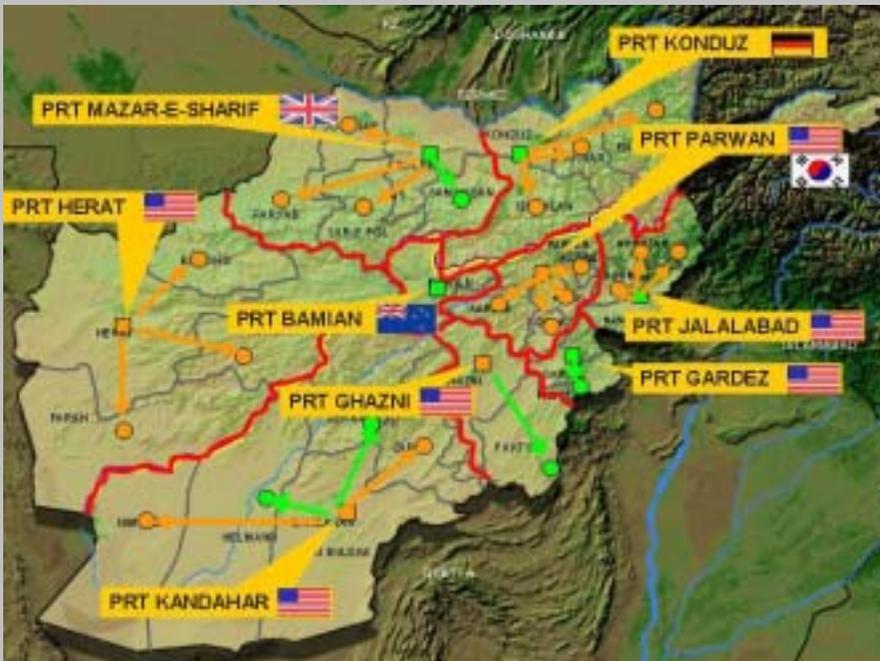
PRTs currently report to the HQ Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force (CJCMOTF) within HQ Combined Forces Coalition Afghanistan (CFC-A).

Security

Given their relatively small size, the military component of PRTs is intended to provide local security only. Combat operations, should they be required, will be conducted by other forces.

Tasks

PRTs will focus on supporting change to a wide variety of areas, among them education, customs, infrastructure, agriculture, police, the judiciary, and public health. As capabilities improve over time, PRT duties will gradually be transferred to the government or the commercial sector.



There are currently 9 PRTs operating in Afghanistan:

Gardez - United States
Bamian - New Zealand
Konduz - Germany
Mazar-e-Sharif - United Kingdom
Herat - United States
Kandahar - United States
Jalalabad - United States
Parwan - United States/ROK
Ghazni - United States

Five more coming this summer:

Qalat
Farah
Lashkar Gah
Tirin Kot
Sharan



Germans 'Can-Do' in Konduz

Germany takes over Provincial Reconstruction Team in Afghan region

The pot-holed streets of Konduz may not be turned into autobahns anytime soon, but the promise of a little German engineering is continuing to brighten the future of northeastern Afghanistan.

On January 6, a joint German civilian-military "provincial reconstruction team" took over from their U.S. counterparts in the Afghan city, which lies 250 kilometers north of Kabul. Protected by a force of more than 200 soldiers, German workers from both governmental and non-governmental organizations have begun assisting local authorities and international agencies with the task of rebuilding the area.

The initiative, under the command of ISAF, is named the "PRT Pilot Project ISAF Island Konduz". The title provides a visible distinction between the task of fighting terrorism in Operation Enduring Freedom and the nation-building operation envisaged for Konduz.

Germany decided to commit itself to establishing the PRT "based on the reputation won by ISAF since its creation, the continuity the NATO framework provides, the positive experiences with the PRT-concept in general and the U.S.-led PRT in Konduz in particular, and of course, the need to also support the Afghan people outside of Kabul," said Brigadier General Winkelmann, Germany's Senior National Representative at Coalition headquarters.

The basic principle of the project is to combine a civilian workforce with a military security element. The combination will see confidence and security building synchronized with a number of economic development projects, Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), as well as Security Sector Reform (SSR), including training of police and the Afghan National Army.

"Germany assesses that only this could lead to a stable environment," said Winkelmann.

"One where the Afghans themselves will be able to rule their country through extension of the central government's influence and power to the provinces."

The civilian element of the pilot-PRT in Konduz is led by the German Foreign Office, and includes representation from the Ministry of the Interior and the Ministry for Development and Economic Cooperation.

With the exception of handling security crises in an extreme situation, the military and civilian leaders share no direct command relationship within the PRT-project. However, Winkelmann said cooperation between the two will be close.

"Precise synchronization between the PRT's civilian and military elements is of the utmost importance, and is considered key to its success."

The deployment of PRT members will vary in



relation to the project work conducted. The main tasks are confidence building through diplomacy, institution building, support of security forces, (mainly by police training), and development work with both 'Quick Impact Projects' and longer-term projects.

The detailed tasks of the military element consist of force protection, including protection of the civilian nucleus, improvement of security and stability within the AOR through confidence building measures, support of the DDR process, support of SSR, support of ANA training in the region, and support of the 2004 elections.

One example of cooperation between the PRT's civil and military elements is the "Quick Impact Project." Some of these will be infrastructure improvements required by the military to increase tactical mobility, such as the repairs of roads and bridges. Civil contractors will carry out the work.



In addition to these projects, each of which enjoys a relatively modest financial backing of around 2,500 EURO, NGOs are undertaking other medium and long-term projects. These projects require special skills, involve a larger amount of money and are specifically designed around the goal of "nation rebuilding". Examples of such projects would be the rebuilding of schools, hospitals and other infrastructure.

Finally, the DDR process will primarily be supported through Intelligence gathering and surveillance operations. Training of the ANA will be accomplished with embedded trainers once ANA forces are deployed in the region.

The speed of the German handover in Konduz comes courtesy of the excellent support by the U.S. team, which included a thorough introduction to the local environment.

The PRT is expected to begin expanding into the whole Area of Operations in the spring, following a hub and spoke principle. Two Swiss officers are expected to be integrated into the contingent by the end of January 2004.

A number of countries have indicated interest in participating in the PRT Pilot Project, which is open for international participation on both the military and civil side. For BGen Winkelmann, the growing interest bodes well for the future.

"International contributions are highly welcome," he said. "They signal to the people of Afghanistan that the international community remains committed to their welfare."

Learning Spanish in Kabul

Spanish soldiers teach students in Kabul. / Revista Espanola de Defesa /

Soldiers serving with the Afghanistan Spanish Force, ASPFOR, are preparing to mark the second anniversary of an unusual hobby – teaching Spanish to students studying in Kabul.

Since March 2002, Spanish soldiers have come to the aid of Kabul University's Faculty of Literature and Foreign Language. Volunteer soldiers, coordinated by the ASPFOR chaplain, have helped a tiny staff of four civilians teaching Spanish two hours a day, twice a week.

The soldiers participate in practical classes that include reading, phonetics, grammar and oral comprehension. At the same time, they teach Spanish customs and cultural awareness.

Conditions have improved dramatically since the program first began. There were only 10 books available at first in a classroom with no heating, no electrical power and no visual aids. But though means were few, morale was high.

Once word of the program made it back home, Spain's *La Gaceta Universitaria* launched a



campaign to support the soldiers' initiative. Universities from around Spain responded with a variety of materials. In no time, the soldiers had received 140 cubic meters worth of donations – everything from computers to books, chairs and learning materials.

At the same time, soldiers worked to improve the Spanish department's facilities, donating their own money to pay for the work. Now, despite its small size, (there are just 16 Spanish students, compared to 300 studying English, 100 studying German and 50 studying French), the Spanish Department boasts one of the best classrooms in the entire faculty.

The small Spanish student body consider themselves a close group of friends. And they have come a long way from the days when only 10 textbooks were available. Students can now choose from a number of courses including Spanish Language and Literature, Spanish History, Spanish Literature History, Spanish Islamic Culture, Dari, and other Islamic Culture related subjects.

The Dean of Faculty in Kabul, Ms. Hoson Bono, called the Spanish aid that came through ASPFOR "providential". Another fan of the Spanish volunteers is Mohammad Kabir Nezami, an ASPFOR interpreter and Director of Kabul University's Spanish Department.

Thanks to the Spanish soldiers, the future now looks bright for students studying Spanish in Kabul. Four of the students are now working as interpreters. They hope to finish their studies in a Spanish university.

Two Years Of Comfort - and Counting

Spanish Force completes latest rotation in Afghanistan / Revista Espanola de Defesa /

Spain's contribution of security, food, medicine and reconstruction to Afghanistan is set to continue following the rotation of 117 Spanish soldiers to Kabul.

The rotation, completed by the end of January, saw ASPFOR VII (Afghanistan Spanish Force) replace ASPFOR VI, the Spanish contribution to the NATO-lead peace support operation in Kabul.

Among the departing force's many accomplishments was the donation in October of 400 family care bags to the inhabitants of Qalae Samajon quarry, one of the poorest areas of Kabul. Spanish soldiers made the donation in collaboration with *World Need*, a non-governmental organization.



The bags contained water, bread, dry beef, turrón (a Spanish Christmas candy), chocolate, candies and energy complement pills. Soldiers handed the bags directly to the mothers of each selected family to guarantee its reception.

The donation followed the distribution of 12,000 bread rations and a number of medicines to the Malaria and Leishmaniasis Hospital of Kabul. The hospital is the only medical facility in Afghanistan dedicated to the study and treatment of the diseases. Both illnesses are transmitted by the bite of mosquitoes and are endemic to the area. Leishmaniasis is characterized by sometimes painful skin sores that, if left untreated, can last weeks or even years.

In addition to the generous donations, Spanish engineers continued their construction of a road to link Kabul with Jalalabad and Bagram. Spanish military units also reconditioned a number of social facilities that directly support the civilian population.

The rotation marks the end of a four-month tour for ASPFOR VI "*Zaragoza*". Ninety-eight of the departing soldiers will return to the 12th Engineers Regiment from Zaragoza and the 21st Signal Regiment from Valencia.

The remainder will return to the Spanish Air Force Air Mobility Support Squadron, based at Zaragoza AFB. The unit is currently detached to the Kabul International Airport.



House Call in Kabul

Minister checks in at Kabul's Norwegian Surgical Unit

By Lt. Elisabeth Tonheim, Norwegian Surgical Unit

Just hours after releasing its first patient, Norway's newly established Kabul-based surgical unit won the praise of its first official visitor.

"This hospital is impressive," said Hilde Frafjord Johnson, Norway's Minister for International Development after touring the complex. "It really puts things into perspective when I see how big the differences are between what is available locally and what the Norwegian field unit is able to offer."

Frafjord Johnson made the remarks after touring local clinics, hospitals and Norway's Rapid Reaction Force for International Services (FIST). She was in Kabul in the company of Norwegian Civil Military Cooperation team (CIMIC), which provides equipment for local clinics and schools in the Afghan countryside.

Frafjord Johnson applauded the surgical unit for extending its care to Afghan nationals. "I



am very glad you have decided to provide care for the local civilians, even though your primary mission is to care for the troops of ISAF," she said.

Noting past examples in which expensive equipment has sat idle because recipients do not know how to use or maintain it, she also commended the unit for its contribution to the peace effort beyond that of running the hospital.

"The fact that you are willing to travel between clinics and provide training in the use of the medical equipment provided to local hospitals and clinics ensures that the development aid provided by Norway takes on a more total dimension," she said.

Able to support two operation tables, the Norwegian Surgical Unit also has up to four intensive care beds and eight recuperation beds. It comes complete with an X-ray capability, a staffed pharmacy and a blood bank. The entire unit is housed in a container-based system able to provide



up to 48-hour resistance against Nuclear, Biological and Chemical attacks.

The unit is the first part of a larger project that will eventually become a complete field hospital for use in operations abroad. Completed in April, 2003, the unit deployed to Kabul in September, where it became part of a German field hospital.

Wrapping up her visit, Frafjord Johnson stressed the need for long-term, detailed planning. "This ensures that our contributions become more meaningful, and ensures that the knowledge gained from observing Afghanistan will result in a greater commitment from Norway in the future," she said.

Finally, Frafjord Johnson expressed her gratitude and admiration to the personnel contributing to an improving situation for Afghanis. "Both those who are serving in Afghanistan and their loved ones at home are making a valuable contribution of which they should be proud."



Lithuanians Return to Afghanistan

Special Ops Forces To Continue Afghan Mission

With two rotations now complete, Lithuania is set to continue support to Operation Enduring Freedom with the ongoing deployment of its Special Operations Forces this spring.



Following the successful deployment of Eagle 02 Squadron, AITVARAS 03 deployed to Afghanistan from May to November last year. Like its predecessor, AITVARAS 03 was fully self-sustained, distinguishing itself over the course of ten missions ranging from special reconnaissance to direct action.



The ability to conduct such a wide range of operations has earned the Lithuanian contingent widespread praise. Having proved itself a worthy partner to its counter-terrorism allies, Lithuania is eagerly anticipating continuing its OEF mission this spring.



Canadian Warship Returns To Gulf

Latest departure signals Canada's continuing commitment to Operation Enduring Freedom

By Sub-Lt. Dale St. Croix, Unit Information Officer

For the second time in less than two years, the Canadian frigate HMCS TORONTO has sailed for the Arabian Gulf region, part of Canada's ongoing commitment to the multinational campaign against terrorism.

TORONTO departed her home port of Halifax, Nova Scotia January 14 with more than 200 sailors aboard. Families and dignitaries bid them good-bye from shore as the warship slipped her moorings.

HMCS TORONTO is a 5,000-ton multi-purpose frigate, one of 12 modern warships built in Canada in the 1990s. With her broad array of sensors and weapons systems and her helicopter capability, she is an ideal platform for the operations she is expected to undertake in the eastern Mediterranean, the Arabian Sea and the Gulf. TORONTO's first stop will be Norfolk, Virginia, where she will be integrated into the USS GEORGE WASHINGTON Carrier Strike Group. She will then travel through the Mediterranean to the Gulf region via the Suez Canal.

This time, TORONTO is deploying under *Operation ALTAIR*, the new Canadian contribution to *Operation ENDURING FREEDOM*. During this tour, she will perform surveillance in the Gulf region, hailing vessels of interest, participating in maritime interdiction operations, escorting other warships as well as merchant vessels, and conducting routine boarding of suspicious vessels. If warranted, a boarding can include the search, detention and seizure of a vessel and its cargo.

In preparation for this deployment, HMCS TORONTO has been extremely busy over the past year, conducting readiness operations in concert with other Canadian warships and our allies to the south. The Canadian Forces is committed to the campaign against terrorism, and HMCS TORONTO will live up to her motto of "Excellence With Vigour".

HMCS TORONTO maintains a website, enabling anyone wishing to contact her to do so easily. To find out what TORONTO is doing today, visit:

www.navy.forces.gc.ca/toronto/home/index_e.asp

