

Coalition Bulletin

A publication of the Public Awareness Working Group of the Operation Enduring Freedom Coalition
Volume #5, May 2003

Italians, U.S., Afghans work together in historic mission

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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.



Romanian soldiers raise tents during Operation *Carpathian Odyssey*, an operation to survey ring road so repairs may be planned. The operation began Wednesday and is scheduled to be completed in 10 days.

U.S., Polish and Romanian soldiers help jump-start the Afghan economy

Story and photos by Spc. Debralee P. Crankshaw
11th Public Affairs Detachment

RING ROAD, Afghanistan - U.S., Polish and Romanian soldiers began a 10-day Ground Assault Convoy from Kandahar to Kabul Wednesday.

Operation *Carpathian Odyssey* are conducting a route reconnaissance of the road, accurately describing its condition to include obstacles or impediments to the flow of traffic as well as describing all bridges and calculating their load capacity.

The survey gives road contractors an idea of the condition of the road so they may make specific plans for its repair. The only work currently underway is grading and smoothing of the road near Kabul. The project is estimated to take three years.

This is the first reconnaissance mission conducted on the road.

"Ring Road is critical to the economic recovery of the country. They don't have rail to ship things and they don't have rivers so if we get this road up and running again we will make the economic recovery of Afghanistan much easier," said Maj. Mark Cerda, officer in charge, roads, bridges and tunnels section, engineers, Combined Joint Task Force-180.

"The road is like a rotten tooth."

Maj. Mark Cerda

CJTF-180

Three forces were chosen for this mission for different reasons according to Cerda.

The U.S. engineer, Cerda, was chosen to accompany the Romanians because of his knowledge of roads, bridges and tunnels. The Polish engineer is an expert in reconnaissance and the Romanians were chosen because they have proven themselves very capable of organizing GACs. The Romanian engineers consist of a five-man squad, a commander, a non-commissioned officer and three soldiers.

These soldiers have performed mine reconnaissance, but this is their first time surveying a road.

"We can see if what we learn in Romania is applicable in the real world," said 1st Lt. Mihai Ghita, Romanian Engineer officer. "In Romania we train, but here it is different because it is possible to discover minefields and booby traps. This is the best place for confirmation of good training back home - apply and see the results. We do not have a chance at home because simulation cannot be real life."

The convoy has reached Kabul and is already compiling their results.

"So far (the survey has found) a majority of the road is in dismal shape, primarily because of a lack of maintenance," said Cerda. "Maintenance costs money and money is in short supply when fighting a war. Prevention measures have not been taken to prevent erosion and potholes have weakened the road. The road is like a rotten tooth."



Above: Romanian soldiers measure the length of a bridge during *Carpathian Odyssey*.

Below: A Romanian soldier measures the overhang of a bridge.



Dutch operates on Afghan girl

Dr. Lefevre Lucien

Dutch contingent in Afghanistan

On March 11, 2003, the first surgical intervention ever in the Dutch military mobile operative room system (MOGOS) was performed at Kabul International Airport.

The Belgian military surgeon Lefèvre Lucien, specialised in plastic surgery, corrected a cleft lip deformity on a nine-month old Afghan girl. He was assisted by Van Egmond Theun, a Dutch trauma surgeon and the anesthesia was done by doctor Chevolet Thierry of the Belgian surgical team.

The operation was successful and the girl was dismissed from the hospital the day after the operation.

Humanitarian aid to the civilian population by military medical personnel is a rewarding way to enhance the co-operation between ISAF and the Afghan people. When one sees the incredible medical infrastructure of the ISAF com-



Photo courtesy of the Dutch contingent

Dutch surgeons work to repair an Afghan girls cleft palette.

ponent, it would almost be immoral not to put that also at the disposition of the local population.

Cleft lip surgery is particularly suited because of the minimal surgical risks, the short hospital stay and the dramatic change in the appearance of the patient after the operation.

This first intervention gave an extra boost to the motivation of the staff of MOGOS, that already did a beautiful job deploying their operative system in a very short time.

That the gesture of help was appreciated, was illustrated by the radiant face of the father of the child at the moment he saw his daughter back after the operation. Without any spoken word, the pure grateful felicity shining in his eyes, made it indisputably clear that what we are doing here in Afghanistan is worth while.



Photos courtesy of the Dutch contingent

Above: The Afghan girl before the operation. Left: After the operation. The girl was released from the hospital the next day.

Republic of Korea clinic offers Asian medicine



Photo courtesy of the Korean delegation

Traditional practices available to coalition forces

LTC Yong Chul Kim
Korean Delegation

Doctors from South Korea provide more than just standard medical care to coalition service members. The 924th Republic Korea Medical Hospital offers oriental treatment anyone who wants it.

"Oriental medicine originated from the oriental philosophy and has been used in traditional Korean medicine for thousands of years," said ROK Capt. (Dr) Gwang-Sik Jung, one of the doctors providing the service.

"It is different from western medicine in that it incorporates a "whole person philosophy" - the education, individual concerns and personality of the patient," Captain Jung said.

Instruments used in oriental medicine include acupuncture needles, Buhang (a traditional Asian medicine instrument), Moxa and other herbal medicine techniques, Kinesio taping, Choona (similar to chiropractic medicine), and physical therapy.

"Each patient is treated individually with his or her concerns as a top priority," said the captain.

The oriental medicine clinic offers treatments for several ailments, including muscle and skeletal problems, anemia, back pain, chronic fatigue, pain management and sleep disorders.

Also in Bagram Korean doctors treat coalition soldiers with acupuncture.

Cpl. Jaehyung Im is an oriental medical care medic in the Korean Army, as a civilian he is an internal medicine doctor and runs his own clinic in Korea.

In Afghanistan He offers acupuncture for free daily at the Korean Clinic and sees approximately two patients a day. Lately, his patient-base has grown due to word of mouth.

Acupuncture is a several thousand year-old oriental traditional healing method that uses pins to stimulate spots on the body to balance the body's energy. It is believed that invisible energy flows inside the body and is released and taken in. There is positive and negative energy, so for a person to be healthy, the two must be balanced.

Im has treated people with back and muscle problems, but that is not all acupuncture can be used on.

Im started this treatment because he thought treating coalition forces would be a challenge and would allow others to see a piece of oriental tradition.

"I see response of the soldiers I treat. They tell me they have less pain and their response to the procedure is good," Im said.

"Patients feel better with one or two treatments. I feel good knowing I'm doing my part"

PRT:

Military personnel provide unique reconstruction capabilities

Lt. Col. Frederic Greenwood
U.S. Central Command

Provincial Reconstruction Teams - "PRTs" - are important key enablers to the stability and security of Afghanistan - fully endorsed by President Karzai, the United States and Coalition Allies. President Karzai has declared 2003 a year of national institution building for Afghanistan, a year when economic and social benefits of peace are extended throughout the country.

PRTs were developed to meet the intent of UNSCRs, which call on member states to support the reconstruction and rehabilitation of Afghanistan and assist the Afghan central government to meet the needs of the Afghan people. The Afghan Minister of Foreign Affairs, Dr. Abdullah, noted that the "PRTs are considered extremely successful by the people, are supported by the central government ... [and] their impact on reconstruction, development and peace will benefit all."

He stressed that the key element is coordination by the PRTs with the central government and welcomed contri-



Courtesy photo

President Bush and President Karzai reaffirmed their common vision for an Afghanistan that is prosperous, democratic, at peace, contributing to regional stability, market friendly, and respectful of human rights.

butions by the coalition in the PRT process. Their primary focus is to improve stability within Afghanistan through the

Enhancing security

Assessing military, political, and civil reform efforts.

Facilitating negotiations to defuse local and inter-regional tensions.

Assisting regional development and security sector authorities.

Extending government influence

Engaging and reinforcing provincial or regional governments successfully by working with the central government to meet the needs of the Afghan people

Enable the central government to lead reconstruction throughout Afghanistan to meet Afghan reconstruction and development priorities.

Facilitating reconstruction

Supporting information sharing among international organizations, donor countries, and Afghan central government to synchronize efforts.

Facilitating interaction of central government with provincial governments to meet the needs of the Afghan citizen.

following initiatives:

Afghanistan has established a legitimate government and the local provincial governments are beginning to interact with the central government to meet Afghan needs. Reconstruction is beginning to take hold and international aid agencies are reaching outlying regions. The local economy is improving; foreign investment is up with over 2000 business applications in 2002 and agricultural production increased 81 percent in 2002. Hundreds of schools, clinics, wells, and roads are being built or repaired. Over 15 Million Afghans have been immunized against polio and more than 3 million Afghan children have returned to school.

A PRT generally consists of 60-80 personnel, tailored to meet the specific needs of each region. PRTs are designed to be multi-national with active government and civilian agency participation. Typical composition of a team consists of military personnel that provide unique capabilities in security, communications, and civil affairs; coalition foreign affairs officials to include an appointed Afghan central government representative and other governmental development and humanitarian agencies such as US DoS, USAID and DFID.

Strong relationships have been developed with UNAMA (Pillar I, Political Affairs, and Pillar II, Relief, Recovery & Reconstruction) to achieve unity of effort while recognizing the need for independence and neutrality of the wider humanitarian assistance community. PRTs are responsible for facilitating and charged with assisting governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations (NGO), which have the primary responsibility for reconstruction efforts.

The Afghan government has established a PRT Commission, headed by Interior Minister Ali Jalali, which interacts with each PRT through the appointed Afghan government representative to ensure Afghan reconstruction priorities are being met.

We are beginning to see the positive impacts of the initial PRTs established in Gardez, Bamian and Konduz provinces. The Gardez PRT has assisted in the repair or construction of four schools, three water wells and other ongoing projects to improve medical facilities, roads and bridges. The Bamian Team has facilitated repairs to 11 schools, and five road or bridges along with repairs to



Courtesy photo

Window of opportunity for reconstruction success in Afghanistan is NOW... There is much more to be done to assist the Afghan people recover from over two decades of tyranny and we need your help.

medical facilities. The Konduz PRT projects include repairs to six schools, one medical facility, and establishment of three wells.

We are presented with a unique window of opportunity for the coalition to make a significant impact with reconstruction in the future of Afghanistan. Coalition participation in the PRT process currently includes 2 Italian officers assigned to the Gardez PRT, 4 Romanian officers working in the Coalition Joint Civil Military Operations Task Force (CJCMOTF) headquarters in Kabul responsible for operation of the PRTs, and the United Kingdom's commitment to lead and establish the next PRT in Mazar-e-Sharif in late June.

The Republic of Korea has just recently announced that it will provide 10 more officers, in addition to their officer already working in CJCMOTF headquarters. Other nations continue to express interest and are evaluating how they can best participate.

There still remain opportunities for countries to participate in PRTs. Participation opportunities include: committing to lead a PRT (establishing one of the remaining PRTs or taking over one of the established PRTs), providing personnel to a PRT or offering needed equipment, funding or logistical support. Countries interested in participating or offering support can contact USCENCOM through their Senior National Representative.

Fueling Freedom



Photo courtesy of the Japanese delegation

Japan fuels fight against terror

Japanese Navy Capt. Umio Otsuka
Japanese Senoir Representative to U.S. Central Command

Immediately after the September 11, the GOJ submitted a bill to enable the Self Defense Forces to conduct logistic support to the Coalition Forces fighting against terrorism. Since the Anti Terrorism Special Measures Law was enacted, 3 to 5 JMSDF ships including 1 to 2 Combat Support Ships (AOE) have continuously been deployed in the Northern Arabian Sea to conduct Replenishment At Sea (RAS) to the coalition forces.

In 16 months of continuous operational support, Japan has provided 294,086 KL (approximately 77.7 Million Gallons) from Japan Maritime Self Defense Force (JMSDF) ships to 202 coalition ships in support of OEF. It consisted of 42% in total amount of fuel consumed at sea for OEF as of the end of 2002.

For this invaluable contribution, the Government of Japan (GOJ) budgeted \17B (approximately \$140 Million) in Fiscal Years 2001 and 2002 for the fuel freely supplied to support OEF operations at sea.

R.A.S

Replenishment At Sea requires true seamanship. During a routine RAS, the receiving ship approaches the beam of the oiler as close as 30 meters and a thick wire is passed between the two ships. The oiler provides the fueling rig and hose, guided along a wire. The hose is connected to the ship's fueling station. After seating the connection, fueling commences and continues with the oiler and the receiving ship moving in unison, separated by a distance of only 30 to 50 meters.

Keeping the ships aligned at a safe distance for up to four hours is a demanding and tension-filled endeavor. Keeping the ships moving as one despite heavy winds and wave effects requires expert ship handling and constant attention. In addition, ships engaged in replenishment are most vulnerable to any kind of attack, since their freedom to maneuver, train weapons and radiate sensors is restricted.

On the deck, sailors work hard to make sure all the lines and the hose are kept just right. The hot sunshine of the North Arabian Sea adds additional burdens on the crew, because the temperature of the deck easily rises up



Photo courtesy of the Japanese delegation

Japan replenishment at sea. Japan has provided 77.7 million gallons of fuel to Operation Enduring Freedom.

to 80C degrees (146F) -hot enough to fry an egg. AOEs periodically go to a port to reload fuel, but they anchor outside of the port in order to minimize the time for reloading so that they can feed hungry customers satisfied as soon as possible.

Since JMSDF has only three deployable AOEs to support its own 53 ship surface combatant fleet, it has been an historic and demanding undertaking to continuously deploy 1 or 2 of these ships in a region 6,000 nautical miles away from home.

The GOJ has concluded bilateral Exchange of Notes in terms of provision of fuel with 10 countries, and the JMSDF AOEs have conducted RAS to date with the ships of the U.S., the U.K., France, New Zealand, Italy, Netherlands, Greece, Canada, and Spain.



The temperatures aboard the ship can reach as high as 146 degrees. So hot, sailors can fry thier eggs on the ship's deck.

Photo courtesy of the Japanese delegation



Photo courtesy of the Japanese delegation

Japanese fuel contributions consisted of 42 percent of the total amount of fuel consumed at sea for OEF as of the end of 2002.



Two American soldiers wait for the HH60 Black Hawk to touch down and unload Italian soldiers.

Italians, U.S., Afghans come together

Story and Photos By Staff Sgt. Christina Bhatti
11th Public Affairs Detachment

BERMEL VALLEY, Afghanistan - May 2 marked a historical day for the Italian Military. The Alpini battalion L'Aquila and the 3rd Battalion, 504th Parachute Infantry Regiment "Blue Devils," Fort Bragg, N.C., executed the first combat air assault in Italian Military history.

The mission was in the Bermel Valley. The helicopters landed and released a flood of Italian and Afghan National Army soldiers.

The day before the assault began differently for the rest of the Italian troops. Against the backdrop of the rising Afghanistan sun, approximately 20 Italian vehicles and one American vehicle headed for the Bermel Valley. Fifteen hours later, after driving on every imaginable terrain, the convoy arrived at Forward Operating Base Shkin. The next day started with the move into the valley.

Their mission was to secure the valley and establish a sense of security and trust in the ANA in the villages of Bermel and Margah, said Maj. Dan Fields, Task Force

Nibbio liaison officer, Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade, 3-504 PIR.

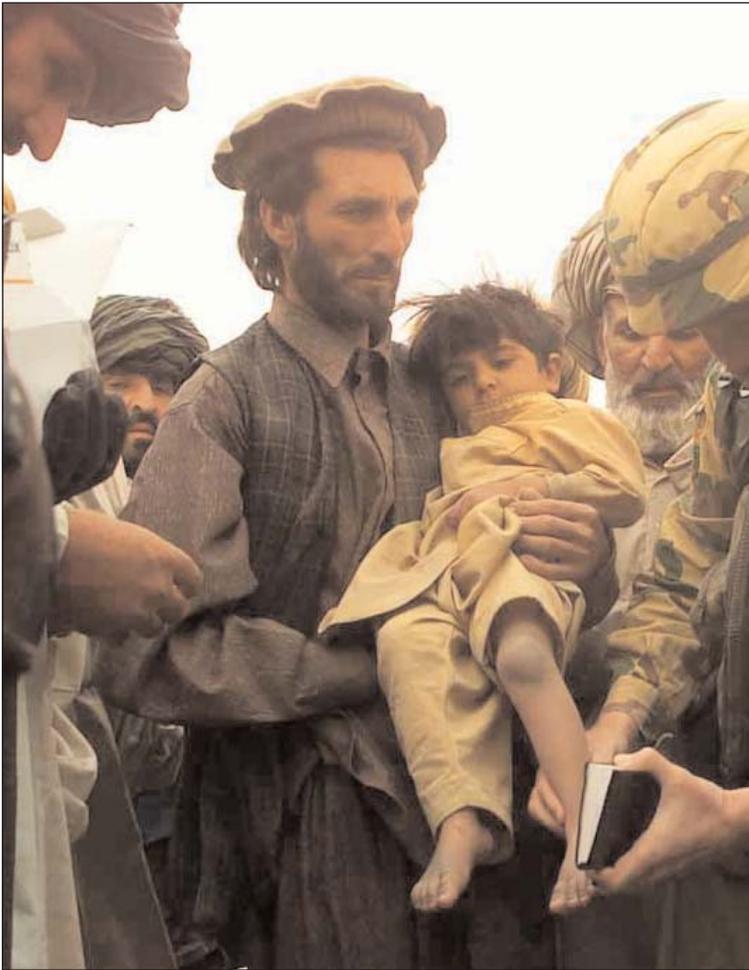
Once in the valley, all of the soldiers merged to accomplish the mission. They set up blocking positions within the valley to prevent unfriendly forces from entering or exiting the valley, said Fields. The positions are not permanent due to the lack of manpower and for strategic and security reasons, he added.

The next step was to win the hearts of the people through the distribution of aid by the peoples' own new national army. The villagers, who wanted any little thing they could receive, immediately crowded the ANA soldiers.

"This is very important," said Italian Maj. Gianpaolo Romolli, L'Aquila commander. "We want to show the people that their army is here to help them and that we will be here also - as a coalition - to rebuild Afghanistan."

Along with humanitarian aid, medical aid was also given. Limited medicines were given out to those who most needed it. The ANA and Italians donated all of the aid that was handed out.

"We are hoping to promote a more stable country -



Italian Dr. (Capt.) Ferderco Lulardo, 9th Alpini Regiment, Napoli, Italy examines the foot of a child during the visit to the outskirts of Margah.



Above and below: Afghan National Army soldiers hand out aid to the villagers of Margah.



politically and within the population," said Fields.

Both Fields and Romolli said that the mission was a success.

"This was a big effort and brought together many elements that normally don't work together," Romaolli said. "I think we have made a great impact on the people in the valley.

Fields agreed.

"I think we started to show the people of the villages that they can trust their army," he said."

Fields also praised the Italian soldiers and the ANA.

"These soldiers executed very well," he said. "They are confident in their skills and abilities and they proved to be capable and compassionate."

This mission was a first for the Italian Army and is being touted as their first combat mission since WWII.

But the people of Italy are being told a different story.

"They don't say war for political reasons," said Romolli. "The people are told that this is for peace, and for the people it is difficult to see otherwise when they don't see any injuries. But the soldiers know that this is a potentially dangerous mission in a dangerous area."



Photo by Pfc. Christina Carde

Brigadier Gen. Giorgio Battisti, commander, Task Force Nibbio, Italian Army, pours Brigadier Gen. Byron Bagby, director, Combined Joint Task Force-180 some refreshment at the Italian Republic celebration Monday.

Canucks collect humanitarian donations; Kiwis deliver goods



Canadians load a Royal New Zealand Air Force C-130 with humanitarian aid bound for Afghanistan

Story and photo by Capt Richard Perreault

Public Affairs Officer, National Support Unit, Op Apollo.

Arabian Gulf Region - Canadian Forces personnel deployed on Op APOLLO have recently joined hands with the Royal New-Zealand Air Force to airlift humanitarian aid to Afghanistan.

The goods, consisting of about 30,000 lbs of clothes, shoes, and school furniture, were given by a charitable aid foundation from the Arabian Gulf Region. The New-Zealand Air Force received the tasking to fly it out to Kabul, while Canadian troops were responsible to gather the donations, build the pallets loads and transfer them to the Kiwis' C-130 Hercules.

"It was interesting to meet with the New-Zealanders and see how they work. We build the pallets like the way we always do. Once this was done, we only had to make few minor changes to meet their national requirements," said Sgt Todd Downey, a Traffic Technician with the Mobile Air Movement Section (MAMS) employed at Camp Mirage. "This

kind of load makes you feel like you're making a difference. Plus, it's a nice change to the routine since we get to load something different than spare parts and supplies," added Sgt Downey.

"These rewarding tasks give us a chance to establish contact with the local people and with coalition allies. Canadians are famous for helping others out and I'm proud to keep the tradition going," said Cpl Dave Bickford, also a Traffic Technician with the MAMS. "You know that the cargo you are loading will probably make a big difference at the other end," he concluded.

"This was a significant example of a successful combined activity, carried out under the auspices of Operation Enduring Freedom", said RAdm Parr, New-Zealand senior national representative at US Central Command Headquarters in Tampa, Florida. "The mission would not have been possible without the willing cooperation of our Canadian friends."

It is the third times within four months that Canadians deployed in the Arabian Gulf Region have taken part in a major humanitarian aid mission destined to Afghanistan.

