

ISAF MIRROR



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A Tribute to Fallen Comrades



Cpl Beerenfenger

Sgt Short

We are deeply saddened by the loss of our Canadian comrades, Sgt Robert Alan Short and Cpl Robbie Christopher Beerenfenger, who died after their vehicle struck a landmine while on patrol. Our thoughts and prayers go out to the families, friends, and loved ones that have suffered such a terrible loss.

These heroes died while trying to help others. Their losses are not to be taken lightly. The price that we pay for such a gallant mission is sometimes great, and should not be measured by loss of life, but rather what these soldiers have given their professionalism, their patriotism and their commitment to a greater cause that of the pursuit of freedom for others. They gave their lives so that others might someday live free.

Their loss is a terrible one and shows that our mission here is dangerous but one that will continue. It only increases our resolve to achieve success. Sometimes there is a price to pay for freedom and for helping others. These two fine soldiers have paid the ultimate price.

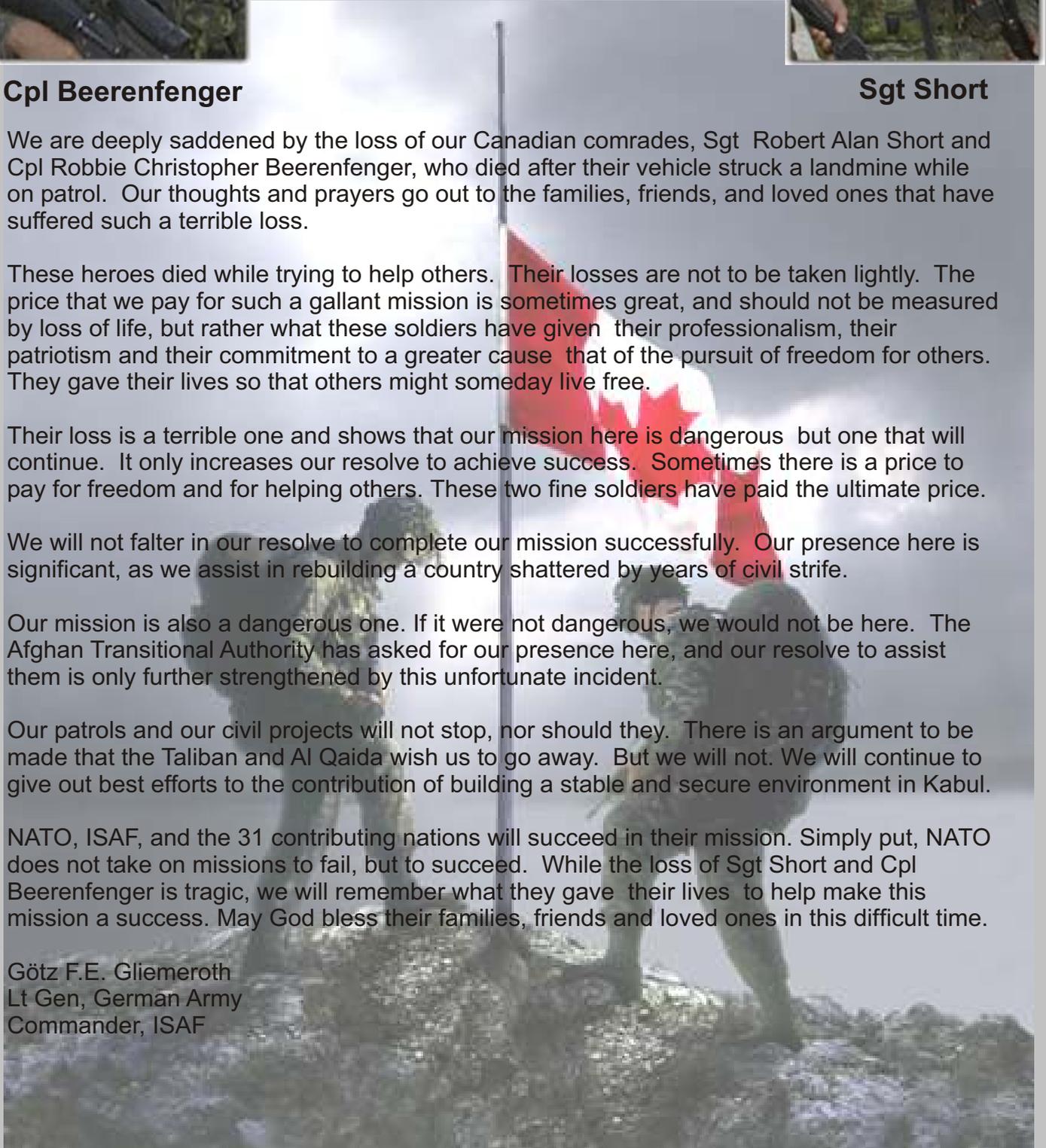
We will not falter in our resolve to complete our mission successfully. Our presence here is significant, as we assist in rebuilding a country shattered by years of civil strife.

Our mission is also a dangerous one. If it were not dangerous, we would not be here. The Afghan Transitional Authority has asked for our presence here, and our resolve to assist them is only further strengthened by this unfortunate incident.

Our patrols and our civil projects will not stop, nor should they. There is an argument to be made that the Taliban and Al Qaida wish us to go away. But we will not. We will continue to give out best efforts to the contribution of building a stable and secure environment in Kabul.

NATO, ISAF, and the 31 contributing nations will succeed in their mission. Simply put, NATO does not take on missions to fail, but to succeed. While the loss of Sgt Short and Cpl Beerenfenger is tragic, we will remember what they gave their lives to help make this mission a success. May God bless their families, friends and loved ones in this difficult time.

Götz F.E. Gliemerth
Lt Gen, German Army
Commander, ISAF





HELICOPTER OPERATIONS IN AFGHANISTAN

By Warrant Officer Robert Beaudry, Kabul Multinational Brigade

Once again, the guns of 2 RCHA are in a theatre of operations, this time not in Bosnia-Herzegovina but in Kabul, Afghanistan as part of OP ATHENA.

Our main mode of transportation is of course our Medium Logistic Vehicle Wheeled (MLVW) but our preferred method is by far, flying with the howitzer slung underneath any aircraft. Travel by road is sometimes too lengthy in certain cases, which brings us to a very popular alternate means of transportation, namely the helicopter.

After much planning and coordination, the German Helicopter Squadron decided to allow the gunners of "F" Battery, 2 RCHA to show them what they do best: Helicopter Operations. Since the German CH-53 is designed specifically for medium lift capabilities, our German friends were more than willing to accommodate us and in the process, gained some invaluable experience lifting artillery pieces which they had never done before.

Before proceeding to an actual helicopter lift, their doctrine required us to demonstrate to them exactly how the LG-1 Giat Mk II 105mm Howitzer and 20 rounds of 105mm ammunition are rigged for helicopter transport. After being satisfied that the gun and ammunition loads had passed their stringent regulations, their Chief Flight Engineer gave the thumbs up to attempt the lift with their own aircraft.

The moment of truth came shortly thereafter when the first lift by helicopter was attempted. With the guidance of Sergeant Brian Quigley (LZ/DZ Controller), Bombardier Radoslaw Weron (Hook-up man) and Bombardier Nathan Sylvester (Safetyman), the gun and ammo loads were successfully hooked and flown around the Kabul Afghanistan International Airport (KAIA) for a short familiarization flight. After flying with both loads two consecutive times, the German pilots were very impressed with not only how the loads handled in flight but the professionalism and speed in which the rigging of the loads were carried out by our soldiers.

All in all, another page in "F" Battery's history has been turned. This is the first time that a howitzer has been lifted as part of OP ATHENA, here in Kabul, Afghanistan and the first time that our howitzers have been lifted by the CH-53. The CH-53 can now be added to the list of aircraft that has transported our guns, along with the CH-146 (Griffon), CH-147 (Chinook), US Blackhawk, Czech Hip and the Dutch Super Puma (Cougar).



ISTAR Company, Kabul Multi-National Brigade

By Cpt Iain Clark

The Canadians in Kabul like to brag about their ISTAR Company, which was formed in June 2003 in preparation for deployment on Operation ATHENA, Canada's contribution to ISAF.

"We are the eyes and ears of the brigade," says Lieutenant Rowena Peden, a young Coyote troop leader who is full of praise for her crew and equipment. One reason for her enthusiasm is the wide range of capabilities ISTAR Company has to offer.

ISTAR Company is built around two Reconnaissance Troops and the Squadron Headquarters from Reconnaissance Squadron, The Royal Canadian Dragoons. The two Recce Troops are mounted in Coyotes, eight-wheeled armoured fighting vehicles armed with a 25-mm Bushmaster chain-gun and two 7.62-mm machine-guns, and able to perform a remarkable range of reconnaissance and surveillance tasks.

As well as advanced day and night optics for the Bushmaster, the Coyote has a state-of-the-art surveillance suite that uses day and night cameras that can be mounted on masts or remote tripods, and a Doppler radar that detects moving targets at very long range. With this equipment, Coyote crews gather information about their area and activity around them information that the brigade intelligence staff uses to build a comprehensive picture of the battlespace.

ISTAR Company is not an all-Dragon organization, however. It also includes the Electronic Warfare Troop, comprising soldiers from many units, and two troops of gunners from the 2nd Regiment, Royal Canadian Horse Artillery: Radar Troop, with their brand-new ARTHUR counter-battery radar, and Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) Troop, which operates the Sperwer tactical unmanned aerial vehicle.

Most of ISTAR Company's soldiers are from the garrison at Petawawa, Ontario, and have served in 2 Canadian Mechanized Brigade Group. Before joining the rest of ISTAR Company for pre-deployment training, Radar Troop went to Norway for two weeks of intensive work with experts on the ARTHUR equipment. UAV Troop is currently in France for similar training with the Sperwer, and will join Task Force Kabul soon.



The Kabul Multi-National Brigade awaits their arrival eagerly, as the Sperwer offers much-needed target-acquisition and surveillance capabilities. ISTAR Company's combination of reconnaissance, electronic warfare, counter-battery radar and UAV assets promotes integration of valuable resources on the human plane as well as at the equipment level.

The soldiers of ISTAR Company come from many units, but they have already teamed up and adopted a new unit identity with pride. Their various technologies are much more productive when used together than when they are used separately, and the new organization is already earning compliments.

ISTAR Company is a component of the Brigade Troops supporting the Kabul Multi-National Brigade (KMNB). Its members operate throughout the KMNB area of operations, and are keen to work with members of every national contingent.



Foto: Hennie Keeris

CIMIC (Civil- Military Cooperation)

French CIMIC Team in Action

Since France is enlisted within ISAF, it grants CIMIC an important place. Every week, many actions are carried out by the French CIMIC team to help local people. These actions can belong to several fields : education, health, sport, food, and more.

Two illustrations can be provided to show the CIMIC importance in the life of the Afghan civilians. First, the opening the elementary school in Zemma, on June 30th. Here, the purpose of this kind of action is, in the end, to give to Afghan children chances to acquire knowledge and give Afghanistan a new breath of fresh air. Secondly, the French CIMIC Team brings the local population food and sanitary help.

The success of these different actions make CIMIC an essential element of the French contribution in Afghanistan because it builds the necessary confidence links between the French contingent and the local people. The Afghan reconstruction process, in part, depends on this kind of deep links between the Afghans and those here to help them.



Two containers to be prepared



CIMIC 1st Lt MeierStefan speaks with Ellen Mengen, coordinator from "Kinderberg"

Civil-Military Cooperation Personified!

By SqnLdr Paul Rice, ISAF HQ PIC

It's not often, you might think, that the military sits down with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGO's) and Governmental Organizations (GO's) to consider ways to make the world a better place. But this is a daily routine for members of CIMIC here at ISAF. What could typify the process better than a couple of representatives from each of these organisations chatting over a coffee, thinking about how to resolve the problem of extending medical aid and appropriate facilities to remote areas of Afghanistan.

Mobile medical facilities of this nature are extremely expensive and well beyond the budget of many NGOs. But one thing that Afghanistan has a lot of right now is containers. It was at that point in the conversation that the collaborative spark lit the tinder and the idea ignited: convert surplus containers into mobile med units, as seen in the photos at left.

Over the next few weeks, the first two containers should be complete. If it works, who knows, the idea might just catch on!





Water project refurbishment in local Kabul village

By Maj Kevin Arata, ISAF HQ PIC



In the middle of September, the first water refurbishment project of its kind was launched in Den Khodaïda, in Kabul, involving repairs to the water reservoir, water supply pipes, and water distribution pipes. This is the first time that a Mayor's office will be directly responsible for the oversight of an entire project of this nature. Den Khodaïda is the biggest village in Police District 9.

"This project is good because the local villagers are taking part - they do the work, and we are doing things together with them to ensure success," says Esko Mikela, a team member of Nordic Team 5. Nordic Team 5 had made the original assessment that stated the need for this project.

The idea behind the project is to empower the Mayor's office to take charge of overseeing the project. It gives the Mayor's office credibility in the eyes of the villagers, as it is his office that is responsible for organizing the efforts of the entire project.

To start this project, the Mayor's office, in conjunction with the Kabul Municipal Engineer, hired a site manager from within the village. The site manager then assisted in hiring 13 workers, also from within the village, to complete the project. During the hiring process to employ the workers, more than 60 villagers applied to fill the 13 vacancies. Although this is a small project, it provides a good starting point from which to build for future projects.

"If this works, we will try it again on a larger scale. It makes the Mayor look good, it helps the town and we, as a CIMIC organization, accomplish what we set out to help the people by letting them help themselves," said Maj Howard Gray, Deputy Chief J9. "We will let other villages know what we did in the area, and see how this works, so that we can expand this concept to other areas in the future," says Gray.

To honour the efforts of the villagers, and to show their gratitude to all involved, a ceremony was held celebrating the opening of the project. The Kabul Municipal Engineer and the Mayor of Police District 16 attended the ceremony.

After one of the village elders opened the ceremony with a prayer, a group of school children sang the Afghan national anthem. Afterwards, several speeches were made and the comments made during one of the speeches were indicative of the pride felt in this project.

"Before we could not start this project. Now that we have the ISAF CIMIC teams, they have worked with us to start this project. We appreciate ISAF CIMIC, the elders, and the people of the village. May God guide us in the right way for the people and for our future," said the Kabul Municipal Engineer.

Nordic Team 5 plans to continue to visit the project every week until it is completed. They want to follow the progress of the project, and show the villagers they are interested in the project's successful completion.



ISAF's new ammunition storage site opens in Pol-e-Charkhi

By Maj Gerrit Mons, CJ4 Log Ops

The opening of PASS marks a successful multinational cooperation between ISAF Headquarters, KMNB Headquarters, US authorities, and the KMNB Multinational Engineer Group.

Initially ISAF and KMNB stored their ammo at the Kabul Explosives Storage Area (KESA), just behind the Engineer camp and east of the Afghan National Army (ANA) training ground. Storage of the ammunition was in sea containers that were partially covered and surrounded by sandbag walls and Hesco Bastion. Apart from this security issue, the conditions for the ammo were not favourable either, with temperatures inside the containers reaching up to 70 degrees Celsius.

In the beginning of 2003, the US's Task Force Phoenix, who is training the ANA, requested ISAF to swap KESA for a former Russian-built ammo storage complex, located approximately 3 kilometres east of Camp Warehouse, and comprised of more than 60 bunkers, in various stages of repair. This would permit the training area for ANA to be extended to the east.

Since the new ammo storage site was located opposite the village of Pol e Charkhi, it was designated the Pol e Charkhi Ammunition Storage Site (PASS). PASS in its existing condition did not meet western safety regulations. Therefore, a decision had to be made on which bunkers ISAF would use and which ones would remain with the AMF. Additionally, strict Separation between bunkers was needed between the bunkers used by ISAF and the ones remaining in use with the AMF. New steel doors were added to the bunkers for security, and new roads and a fence were constructed in and around the site.



New ammunition bunker

For all these improvements, a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) was signed on June 7th between the US Army Corps of Engineers Afghanistan Area Office and ISAF. In this MOA, ISAF agreed to provide



an engineer platoon and an EOD team to assist in the necessary upgrades. When construction began, some bunkers still contained Russian munitions from the AMF forces. Some of the ammunition was taken away by the AMF for future use, but ISAF EOD destroyed most of it with the consent of the AMF. The AMF still uses some of the bunkers now, although they are located outside the PASS complex.

Task Force Phoenix provided funding for all materials and labour associated with local contractor support for the upgrade and also coordinated with the Afghan MoD for providing the bunkers to ISAF. Contractors were hired to erect the fences and install the steel doors. In the meantime, the ISAF Headquarters Engineers calculated the nature and quantity of the ammunition that could be stored in each bunker. KMNB wrote an extensive Standard Operating Procedure for the new storage site, to include details on security, storage of the ammunition, divisions of various types of ammunition, fire safety and prevention, and accident and incident reporting.

With the establishment of PASS, an important step has been taken to improve the storage of ISAF ammunition. In the future, PASS will be further improved to make it comply even more with NATO standards. Such improvements will include protection against thunderstorms, the establishment of improved communications and the improvement of roads and other bunkers within the PASS complex. The opening of PASS marks a successful multinational cooperation between ISAF Headquarters, KMNB Headquarters, US authorities, and the KMNB Multinational Engineer Group.

International Stories



En la Operación de ISAF. KABUL (AFGANISTAN)

Un nuevo contingente militar llega a Afganistán

Kabul, 30 de septiembre de 2003.- Los primeros 41 hombres que forman parte del sexto contingente español en Afganistán, integrado en la Fuerza Internacional para Asistencia y Seguridad (ISAF) compuesta por 31 países, han llegado hoy a las 13:00 horas locales, dos horas y media menos en España, a la capital del país, Kabul, donde iniciarán el relevo del quinto contingente que se encuentra en Zona de Operaciones desde el pasado mes de mayo. En el mismo avión llegaba personal del Ejército del Aire, 9 hombres y 1 mujer, para relevar al personal destacado en el Aeropuerto internacional de Kabul. El citado personal, bajo el mando del teniente coronel Ignacio Albiñana Celma partió ayer, en un avión Hércules C-130 del Ejército del Aire, de la Base aérea de Zaragoza e hizo noche en Bakú, capital de Azerbaiyán.



Llegada teniente coronel Albiñana (en la foto, de paisano) a Kabul recibido por el teniente coronel Godoy

Mientras que ASPFOR V está constituida fundamentalmente con personal del Regimiento de Especialidades de Ingenieros nº 11, de guarnición en Salamanca, ASPFOR VI tiene como base el Regimiento de Pontoneros y Especialidades de Ingenieros nº 12, con sede en Zaragoza, ambos pertenecientes al Mando de Ingenieros.

La nueva fuerza continuará realizando el mismo tipo de misiones que las realizadas hasta ahora por sus antecesoras ("Pirineos" I, "Sangenis" II, "Arapiles" III, "Brunete" IV y la actual "Salamanca" V), que consisten, básicamente, en contribuir al restablecimiento y seguridad de las instituciones afganas, ayudar a la reconstrucción del país, y llevar a cabo acciones de carácter cívico militar y ayuda humanitaria.

El Contingente, tiene una constitución similar a la de su antecesor, pues cuenta con una Plana Mayor de Mando, Unidad de Ingenieros, Unidad de Transmisiones, Unidad de Apoyo Logístico y Equipo de Apoyo al Mando. Esta Agrupación permanecerá en Kabul por un periodo aproximado de 4 meses, al igual que las agrupaciones anteriores.

El jefe de la unidad relevada, teniente coronel de Ingenieros Manuel Godoy Malvar, hace un balance muy positivo de su estancia en Afganistán, valorando la profesionalidad y el buen trabajo realizado por todos sus hombres, y destacando muy especialmente el regreso de todos a casa con la íntima satisfacción del deber cumplido.

El primer grupo de la Unidad que regresa a España, tiene prevista su llegada a la base aérea de Salamanca el próximo domingo 21, haciéndolo al día siguiente el resto del contingente.



Los tenientes coroneles Albiñana y Godoy en las instalaciones de las fuerzas españolas en Kabul.



Le Colonel Thierry Lion remet symboliquement une paire de gants au vice-président du comité olympique afghan

France Supports Afghan Boxing

Remise de matériel de boxe



Le 18 septembre 2003, le Colonel Thierry Lion, REPFRANCE en Afghanistan, a remis un ensemble d'équipements de boxe à l'équipe nationale afghane. Cette équipe qui se présentera aux Jeux Olympiques d'Athènes en 2004 peut désormais s'entraîner dans de meilleures conditions.

Ce sont les ACM du contingent français qui ont organisé cette manifestation, en présence du vice-président du comité olympique afghan. Elle illustre les liens d'amitié entre nos deux pays.

Von Zweibrücken über Kabul nach Regensburg



Melden Sie mir die Übergabe der Kompanie,“ befahl Oberst i.G. Rudi Retzer dem Chef der Stabskompanie, Hauptmann Reinold Saller. Fast musste der sich zweimal bitten lassen, denn er wäre gerne geblieben und hätte seinen Auslandsaufenthalt, wie seine Männer auch, nach sechs Monaten beendet. Aber seine neuen Vorgesetzten haben anderes mit ihm vor. Bislang in Zweibrücken Kompaniechef der 5. Kompanie des Fallschirmjägerbataillons 263, wird Saller nach drei Monaten Einsatz zukünftig seine ganze Erfahrung in der Verwendung als S 3 Ausbildung der DSO in Regensburg einbringen. Hohe Motivation, ein gutes Organisationsvermögen und die Ruhe und Ausstrahlung eines gestandenen Kompaniechefs zeichneten ihn und seine Arbeit aus, so Oberst Retzer bei dem Appell der Kompanie. Die Arbeit mit neuen Bedingungen, vermindertem und aus verschiedenen Einheiten und Stäben zusammengesetztem Personal habe ihn vor eine große Herausforderung gestellt, die er sehr gut gemeistert habe.

Neuer Chef ist Major Christoph Bünemann. Im Zivilberuf Groß- und Außenhandelskaufmann hat er seine aktive Zeit im Panzergrenadierbataillon 323 in Schwanewede lange hinter sich. Mit vielen Wehrübungen hat er sich so weit qualifiziert, dass er heute als Jägerstabsoffizier eingeplant ist. Die Verwendung als Kompaniechef der Stabskompanie in Camp Warehouse ist für ihn durchaus als vorläufiger Höhepunkt seiner Karriere zu betrachten. Oberst Retzer wünschte ihm viel Erfolg und das notwendige Maß Soldatenglück für seine Arbeit in Kabul.



Oberst Retzer, Hptm Saller und Major Bünemann während der Übergabe

Kabul International Airport Norwegian Surgical Unit in Dienst gestellt



Am Samstag, 13. September 2003 konnte der Leitende Sanitätsoffizier in Kabul, Oberstarzt Dr. Karl Pecher, die „Kabul International Airport Norwegian Surgical Unit“ in Dienst stellen. Keine neue Einheit, aber eine Einheit unter neuer Leitung.

Mit der Übergabe des Kommandos an Lieutenant Colonel Sven Svensson versorgen die norwegischen Ärzte und Sanitäter die Soldaten am Flughafen klinisch. Mit einem kurzen und stilvollen Appell auf der Wendepalte im militärischen Teil des Kabul International Airport (KAIA) erfolgte der offizielle Beginn eines kleinen, aber wichtigen Teiles in der multinationalen Landschaft der Medizin bei ISAF und KMNB.



Die Norweger haben ein Rettungszentrum aufgebaut, um nach dem Abzug der Niederländer wieder eine umfassende Versorgung zu gewährleisten. Sie stellen den OP-Anteil auf KAIA. Damit ist eine hochqualifizierte medizinische Versorgung der am Nordrand Kabuls stationierten Soldaten sichergestellt. Die Fachuntersuchungsstellen, wie HNO, Labor oder Röntgenabteilung sind auch weiterhin im Feldlazarett in Camp Warehouse zu finden. Zwei Krankenhäuser auf so engem Raum wie Kabul zu betreiben, übersteigt nicht nur die Möglichkeiten von Deutschland, sondern auch die der anderen beteiligten fünf Nationen, die wie wir auch in andere Einsatzländer ebenfalls Soldaten zur Friedenssicherung geschickt haben.



Zu dem Appell war eine Abordnung der Kameraden des Sanitätseinsatzverbandes aus Camp Warehouse unter Führung des dänischen Klinikdirektors, Major Kurt Feddersen, angetreten. Sie demonstrierten damit, dass beide Einrichtungen miteinander in enger Kooperation arbeiten, damit alle unter ISAF-Kommando eingesetzten Soldaten der besten und ihrem Heimatland entsprechenden medizinischen Versorgung sicher sein können.

Visit of Deputy Commander to the French battalion



Maj Gen Leslie, DCOM ISAF, visited the ISAF French battalion. After conversing with Col Thierry Lion, French Commander, the DCOM went on a patrol in Police District 15. He noticed the professionalism of the French contingent and the good contact with the population. The patrol occurred in the northern region of Kabul.



Maj Gen Leslie, Deputy Commander of ISAF, on patrol with the French in Police District 15

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Terry Fox Run September in ISAF HQ



"Let me out"



Afghan Children



ISAF Soldier Talking With Children



Afghan Balloon-Seller



International Haircut



Promotion



Exercise



Interview with ABC News



8 Sep 03 – In order to foster relationships and to better understand his new neighbours, Brigadier-General Peter Devlin (centre), the Kabul Multi-National Brigade (KMNB) Commander, and Chief Warrant Officer Wayne Ford, the KMNB Sergeant-Major (left) hosted 15 Mullahs from the Kabul area during an open and frank discussion and luncheon. The traditional meal was eaten under the canvas-tent kitchen in the Canadian extension of Camp Warehouse. The Mullah is a Muslim trained in the doctrine and law of Islam and also the head of a mosque.

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