

ISAF MIRROR



Volume 5, April 2004

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Photo by Lt R. Scarth RN

Commander ISAF - Lt General Rick Hillier

Two months have passed since I assumed command of ISAF from General Gliemeroth. Much has happened in this short time and I must say I am most impressed with the quality of work and professionalism I have seen at this multinational headquarters. Each and every one of your contributions, no matter in what discipline, is equally important. Now, and in the future, you can all be proud of yourself for having contributed to something so fundamentally good for so many people. This is a rare privilege that most of your compatriots will never know.

I know that Afghan people throughout the country appreciate ISAF and our efforts in support of the Afghan government to create an environment conducive to building a proud, strong and free nation. Afghans attach great value to ISAF's presence, and it is for these people, their children and grandchildren, that we work towards building a secure environment. It is an important mission. We will be busy over the next few months as we focus on voter registration and elections, the expansion of ISAF's mission outside Kabul and Kunduz, and the ongoing operation of the Kabul International Airport, the gateway to Afghanistan. Support to these activities is in the best interests of all Afghans and we will do whatever we can to make them successful.

We live in a difficult environment, an environment that demands constant vigilance by all. You are away from your families and loved ones and that is not easy. But be assured, you are important to this mission. I am grateful for the support that each and every one of you provides in maintaining our high level of operational capability.

The Afghan people are a proud people who are working hard to achieve their ultimate goal of a safe and secure environment, a democratic state with an elected Parliament, a functioning government, and economic and social reconstruction. They are building a future for their children and we are helping ... ISAF makes a difference ... you make a difference.

Photo by Hfw Hans-Dieter Scherer



Change of Command Ceremony for COMISAF

By Ed Frieser

KABUL The ISAF change of command ceremony took place Monday 9 February, at the Amani School in Kabul. General Gerhard Back, Commander in Chief Allied Forces NORTH, symbolised the transfer of command by handing over the ISAF flag from Lt General Götz Gliemeroth, German army, to Lt General Rick Hillier, Canadian army. The ceremony took place in the presence of the President of the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan, President Hamid Karzai, NATO's Secretary General, Jaap de Hoop-Scheffer, and the Supreme Allied Commander Europe, General James L. Jones.

The new ISAF commander, Lt General Hillier, stated in his address that with this ceremony, 34 nations have entrusted him with the responsibility for their soldiers. In reference to this the general said, "I am delighted to accept that responsibility, but also cognizant of what it means. My commitment to the representatives of those countries is that for this mission, I will make your soldiers my soldiers and care for them accordingly as they execute their duties. If anyone is looking for a tangible sign of the

Commitment of the international community to help Afghanistan rebuild, it can be found in that trust. No nation can send a more precious resource to help a people in need than those men and women who wear their nation's uniform."

In addressing President Karzai the general said, "Lastly and most importantly to you Mr. President and members of the government here today, I emphasize that we are in support of you, and all our capabilities will be used to help you establish conditions that permit Afghanis to develop the kind of country they want. A country in which all can have a life without fear of terrible poverty, where families believe that life for them is getting better each day and where hope is real that life for their children and their children's children will be much better indeed."

NATO has proven, during its first out of area mission, to be able of supporting TISA. Although the Commander of ISAF and his team will change, NATO will remain in charge of the overall mission and will build further on the fundamentals laid by the first ISAF commander and his team. As the mission expands the new team will continue to assist and support the TISA in providing a safe and secure environment.



 **OM Anika Wolff and Ssgt Christiane Wolf**



Women who hold their own

By Lt Col Geier

The German element within the Multinational Medical Task Force includes around 200 soldiers, one out of five being a woman. SSGT Christiane Wolf and OM Anika Wolff are two of 29 medics.

Christiane Wolf Christina Wol, whose home unit is the Bundeswehr hospital in Hamburg, works at the field hospital, while Anika Wolff, who comes from Bad Zwischenahn, works in the intensive care unit. Both women work shifts in their areas. "While all shifts comprise the same number of working hours, the women's favourites are the afternoon shifts," according to Wolf. "Then you can sleep in and have some time for other things during the day." In addition to accompanying the doctors on their daily rounds, it is Wolf's job to administer medications and infusions, change bandages and sometimes even plump up the patients' pillows and make their beds.

"When I was only sixteen I knew that I wanted to be a soldier," said Wolff, "but my parents wanted me to train for a proper job first. Therefore I started out to train to be a doctor's assistant and joined the Bundeswehr in April 2002." For Wolff, this is her first foreign deployment, whereas Wolf served a tour of duty in Kosovo in 2001. Being able to make phone calls and send and receive letters are important connections with home. Going shopping with her partner and eating at Mc Donald's are at the top of the list after a safe return home.

When supplies arrive at Kabul International Airport

By Lt Col Geier

When SSGT Frank Grube and his Transport Group of Coy 2 leave Camp Warehouse, the German soldiers are happy. Twice a week, he and his crew head for Kabul Airport to pick up mail, PX supplies and all other supply goods. When the majestic Ilyushin 76 cargo aircraft has reached its parking position, it is time for action for the soldiers of the Transport Group. They unleash tie-down straps and unload the cargo. What seems to be a chaotic hustle and bustle for bystanders is professional routine for the transport team members who works well together. After one hour the goods have left the belly of the Ilyushin. By the time the aircraft has left for Germany again, SSGT Grube has cleared the paperwork with the shipping and handling platoon and his

convoy is on its way back to Camp Warehouse.

Regardless of the route the convoy takes, having to deal with the Kabul traffic is always a special challenge for the truck drivers. Dealings with pedestrians, cyclists, donkey carts, horse-drawn carts, cars and trucks from all directions require special mastery. A constant, uninterrupted flow of information from the lead vehicle is absolutely vital. The aim is to keep the convoy together and to prevent "unwanted guests" from squeezing in-between the convoy vehicles. The post office at Camp Warehouse is already yearning the arrival of the mail. The rest is done by the drivers of the forklift trucks and operators of other materials handling equipment.

THE ITALIAN NBC COY arrived in AFGHANISTAN



A specialized unit in NBC Group lost some of its units that went under NSE control. Many are the capabilities of the IT unit which cover all the main NBC activities.

In particular, the Coy has armoured reconnaissance and detection vehicles, the French VBR-1-NBC.

It can do chemical and radiological detection in secure conditions. The filtered-air conditioning system, in fact, allows the crew to work without wearing gas masks and protective suit.

For the reconnaissance activity the Company has also the capability to provide LLR control in the areas where ISAF troops are stationed and, on order, in the whole area of operations. The unit is also specialized in the sampling activity using the SIBCRA procedures.

The solid and liquid samples taken pass through laboratories runs by specialized teams. The lab for biological analysis uses the RAPID system, a particular instrument that makes a reading of the DNA through the PCR reaction. With this method, we can have an answer within three hours and we can find some of the most dangerous bacteria for human beings. The Italian NBC Defence Regiment deployed to Afghanistan in January 2002 with a specialized company. Since the beginning of the ISAF operation, the IT NBC COY has been under the operational control of the Kabul Multinational brigade. At the beginning, there was a multinational NBC Group

composed of units from Italy, England and Spain. Another lab uses a particular system that allows us to identify CW and a list of 270,000 TIM (toxic, industrial, chemicals).

Part of the IT Coy is also a decon team that provides decontamination of luggage, vehicles, containers and personnel that leave Afghanistan and goes back to Europe.



In February, a different sampling activity was conducted in cooperation with the German RCC. Some samples were collected in four of the main wells of Kabul. The analysis gave all negative results.

In the near future the IT NBC Coy will provide the decontamination at KAIA for all ISAF contingents materials that will leave Afghanistan.



Mohammed Yasin (81) leaves ISAF grounds

Photo by Lt R. Scarth (RN)

In the name of Allah, the compassionate, the merciful:

Story by: Torialai Bahadery



My name is Mohammed Yasin. I am 81 years old and have been working in this Military Club for 41 years as a gardener. Thus introduced Mohammed Yasin himself when we asked him to tell us about the history of the ISAF headquarters location, a former military sports club.

“ I remember the days when this entire region was desert, called the Dasht-e-Taiyara or airplanes desert. Nobody could walk around at evenings because of the wild wolves. When Shashdarak District changed to a residential area some 70 years ago, they planted trees here because there was sufficient water in this club for irrigation.”

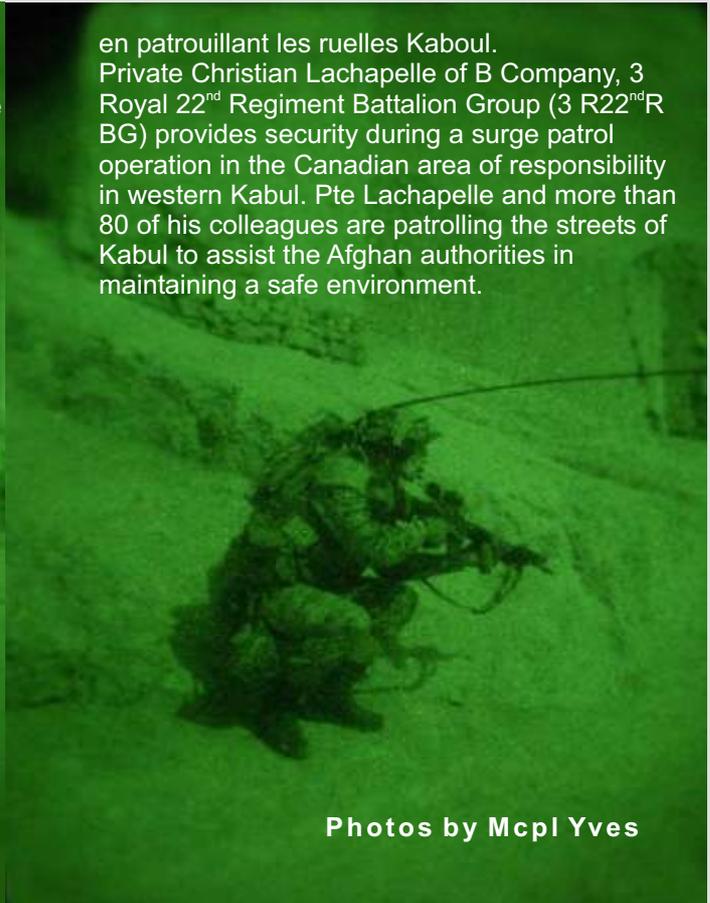
“And as time passed the club got greener and greener. When King Nader Shah was assassinated, his son King Mohammed Zahir Shah succeeded his father. Consequently he named the club after his father. Ever since then the club was used by the military and high ranking government officials. The club comprised a football ground, tennis courts, wrestling, boxing and other sports facilities. The “yellow building” was used for wedding parties of the military officers and other governmental officials. And the chairs for these wedding parties were quite expensive. In those days sometimes as much as 50 Afghanis. I remember quite well the late parties in the club with lots of liquor and the great time the ladies and gentlemen had here in the garden. It really was an exciting time.”

With so much care Mohammed Yasin designed and planted the daffodil beds in the Destille garden and decorated the renovated garden in front of the yellow building. At the end of March 2004, Mohammed Yasin went retired at the amazing age of 81, recognized with the non-article V NATO medal, presented by COMISAF, Lt General Rick Hillier, for his 41 years of employment. But his important work will be continued by his grandson.

Le soldat Christian Lachapelle de la compagnie B du Groupe-bataillon du 3^e Royal 22^e Régiment (GB 3^e R22^eR) assure la sécurité lors d'une opération de renforcement de patrouilles de présence dans le secteur de responsabilité canadien à l'Ouest de Kaboul. Le soldat Lachapelle et plus de 80 de ses collègues ont assisté les autorités de sécurité afghanes afin de maintenir un environnement sécuritaire



en patrouillant les ruelles Kaboul. Private Christian Lachapelle of B Company, 3 Royal 22nd Regiment Battalion Group (3 R22ndR BG) provides security during a surge patrol operation in the Canadian area of responsibility in western Kabul. Pte Lachapelle and more than 80 of his colleagues are patrolling the streets of Kabul to assist the Afghan authorities in maintaining a safe environment.



Photos by Mcpl Yves

KMNB in action

Après presque deux mois depuis notre arrivée en théâtre, en Afghanistan, les artilleurs de la Bie Athéna ont finalement eu la chance de laisser leur marque. Jeudi, le 11 mars, deux détachements de la Bie, accompagnés du poste de commandement du camp Warehouse et des quatre groupes d'OOA, ont bombardé l'impact de 19 obus de 105mm LG1. Le champ de tir, aménagé depuis la ROTO 0, est situé dans la région de Wayse Qarni, dans le Sud-Est de Kaboul. L'exercice de tir a permis aux artilleurs de vérifier le bon fonctionnement des canons ainsi que de renouer avec la passion du travail, d'entendre l'ordre "Feu" et de sentir l'odeur de la cordite d'un obus se dirigeant tout droit en direction de l'impact. Comme le Général Dallaire, ancien commandant du 5e RALC, aurait dit : Bravo 5e !



After almost two months since we arrived in theater the gunners of the Athena Bty finally got the opportunity to leave their mark on the ground. On Thursday, March 11,, two detachments of the Battery, followed by the command post of Camp Warehouse and the four crew of FOOs, have bombed the impact with 19 rounds of 105mm LG1. The range, built by the engineers of ROTO 0, is located in the Wayse Qarni region, in the south east of Kabul. The exercise permitted gunners to verify the equipment and also gave them the chance to renew with the passion of gunnery. They were all dying to ear the word of command, "Fire", by their number one, pull the lanyard and inhale the smell of cordite when a round is shot straight down range.

KABUL Multinational In



Un peloton du Bataillon français appuie les forces de sécurité afghanes à un point d'entrée de Kaboul (« Kaboul entry point » : KEP). Les policiers afghans fouillent les passagers et les véhicules passant sur les axes menant à Kaboul.
French soldiers working with Afghan security forces on a Kabul Entry point (KEP). Afghan policemen search peoples and vehicles on the way going to



Bulgarian soldier in the city of Kabul after the distribution of SADA-E-AZADI among Afghani people.



"Nous sommes arrivés-We have arrived" - Arrival of the 3R22eR on 16 Feb 04 at KIA.



On 9 March, Finnish CIMIC Team 6 and KMN B G9 Ops conducted a joint patrol in the Eastern District. They visited the governor's office, met the local police chief and discussed the security situation in the Eastern District and its importance for ISAF. Team also discussed the new school project in the village of Chakari and a possible school project in the village of Charoti.

From Left to Right : 1st Lt Jari Mustonen (FI Army), Interpreter Khalid Ahmad, Chief G9 Ops LCdr Tanzer Örsak (TU Navy), FI CIMIC Team 6 Leader Mil Off Niko Heimola (FI Army) during a CIMIC patrol in the Eastern District.



Dans le cadre de l'opération TANIÈRE, le caporal-chef Mario Bénard, ingénieur de combat au sein du Groupe-bataillon du 3^e Royal 22^e Régiment (GB 3^e R22^eR), termine son inspection d'une grotte qui a été découverte quelques jours auparavant dans le secteur de responsabilité canadien lors d'une patrouille de routine conduite par des membres du GB 3^e R22^eR. L'opération avait pour but de vérifier la probabilité que la grotte soit utilisée comme cache d'armes. Le caporal-chef Bénard est membre du 52^e escadron de Génie. Tout en exécutant des tâches comme la destruction de munitions et le déminage, le rôle principal de l'escadron de Génie est d'assurer la protection et la mobilité des militaires faisant partie de la Force internationale d'assistance à la sécurité (FIAS) en Afghanistan.

As part of Operation TANIÈRE, Master Corporal Mario Bénard, combat engineer in 3 Royal 22^e Régiment Battalion Group (3 R22^eR BG), 52 Field Engineer Squadron, finishes inspecting a cave for weapons. The cave was discovered a few days earlier in the Canadian area of responsibility during a routine patrol conducted by members of 3 R22^eR BG. The purpose of the operation was to investigate whether the cave was a likely hiding place. The squadron performs tasks such as destroying unexploded ordnance and clearing mines. The squadron's principal role is to ensure the protection and mobility of the soldiers who are part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) in Afghanistan.

Brigade (KMNB) action



By/Par Lt Beaulieu

Details of the plane: The Antonov (An-2) is an aircraft that was designed in 1947 and was adopted by the Soviet Air Force. The An-2, "Colt" was used in various roles, such as paratroop-transport, glider tug, navigation trainer, utility transport and light bomber. This picture depicts the loading of one of the three An-2 aircrafts onto a trailer-truck, as it headed towards its eventual destination, at an Afghan museum. The overall operation, for the movement of the aircraft, was based on the collaboration amongst the following countries and organisations:

The Afghan government provided the trailer-trucks, the German forces provided the EOD team and the crane-trucks and KMNB HQ provided a Canadian liaison officer for the overall coordination. This recovery operation was based on a request made by General Shariff, to the KMNB HQ. In his request, General Shariff noted that the An-2 planes were poorly located along the Kabul international airport runways, and as such were exposed to environmental degradation leading to irreparable damage. A recovery operation would therefore see the relocation of these aircraft to a more suitable location, on their way to an Afghan museum. Following that the KMNB HQ launched a successful multinational operation which took less than six hours to accomplish.

Détails de l'avion : L'avion Antonov An-2 a été adopté par la Force Aérienne Soviétique. L'An-2 Colt a été employée comme avion de transport de troupes, avion remorqueur planeur, avion d'instruction pour la navigation, avion de transport utilitaire et comme bombardier léger. Cette photo montre le chargement d'un avion An-2 sur un camion-remorque pour que les vestiges de l'avion soient transportés dans un éventuel musée afghan. Ce travail a demandé une collaboration multinationale, les Afghans ont fourni les camions-remorques, les Allemands ont fourni l'équipe EOD et les grues, et le QG BMNK a fourni un représentant canadien pour coordonner l'événement.

Au total, la tâche de récupérer trois avions Antonov An-2 a été effectuée en l'espace de six heures.

Contexte : Le général Shariff a demandé l'aide du QG BMNK afin de récupérer les vestiges de trois avions Antonov An-2. Ces avions étaient situés en bordure des pistes de l'aéroport international de Kaboul (KAIA) et ils menaçaient de s'endommager davantage s'ils demeuraient à cet endroit. L'objectif était donc de récupérer 3 avions An-2 Colt pour éventuellement les exposer dans un musée Afghan.



Photo by: Mcpl Yves Proteau

Le soldat Patricia Bergeron, technicienne en approvisionnement au sein du Groupe-bataillon du 3^e Royal 22^e Régiment (GB 3^e R22^eR), range une veste anti-fragmentation après qu'elle eut été utilisée lors d'une patrouille.

Private Patricia Bergeron, a supply technician in 3 Royal 22nd Regiment Battalion Group (3 R22ndR BG), puts away a fragmentation vest that was worn during a patrol.

Everyone has a friend who, for some strange reason, continues to drive a 1969 "rust bucket" claiming it still has a few years left in it; but when the friend finally decides to trade his wheels in, he usually goes for the most luxurious car on the market.

Well, the army's love affair with the Iltis has finally turned cold and it now rides in nothing less than a Mercedes-Benz!! The first 60 of the 802 G Wagons acquired by the army to form part of its Light Utility Vehicle Wheeled fleet replacing the 19-year-old Iltis have arrived in Afghanistan on March 5 to 10. Dedicated to operationally tasked field units - both regular and reserve - and training establishments, the G Wagon will be used to provide tactical transport in the fields of command and control, liaison, reconnaissance and military police.

You only need to take one look at the new 4x4 to appreciate the sharp and rugged style of the G Wagon. With its 2.9 liter, 5-cylinder turbo charged diesel engine, near a ton of plated armour and bulletproof glass, and almost half-meter of ground clearance, it has nothing on your normal SUV.

Those who had the chance to test drive it back from the 20 km drive from the Kabul airport to Camp Julien were unanimous, "The G Wagon is robust, drives smoothly and leaves you with a confident feeling of security. Yep! It'll do the job!"

The G Wagon is certainly not the flawless (there is no perfect Light Utility Vehicle on the market)- a distinctive blind spot from the rear wall-mounted communication system and a roof-rack that becomes the only storage area - but it certainly has many advantages over similar vehicles.

One of those advantages is the armour protection systems kit. Tailor designed so complete sections of the vehicle - such as doors and windshield - can be removed and replaced by armoured modules, it will provide NATO level 1 protection against small arms and protection against hand grenades and anti-personnel mines. Additional armoured components are included to protect the floor, roof and rear wall of the crew area.

A total of 802 G Wagons and 160 armour protection systems will be supplied to the Canadian forces by Mercedes Benz Canada through the \$130.4 million contract awarded in October 2003. In addition, 1061 militarized commercial off-the-shelf (MILCOTS) Silverado (4x4) vehicles in three variants: basic, cable layers and military police- are being acquired from General Motors and will be distributed to both regular and reserve units across the country to replace the Iltis.

Beyond the 60 G Wagons already received by troops deployed in Kabul, an additional 40 will be delivered to the CF shortly and the remainder of the fleet will be fielded over the next several months to units in Canada.

Already, the vehicles are put to good use. They are cruising the streets of Kabul in lieu of some of the Iltis and LAV III, giving our personnel a distinct feeling of safety and a professional look.

Only one sore eye on this otherwise mean looking machine: sign in the dusty rear window, "Wash me."





Brits and Canadians raise funds for fallen comrades

By Ed Frieser,

Close to 10,000 Euros were raised during an international charity night at headquarters ISAF in Kabul on Thursday 5 February. The money was raised to help the bereaved families who faced the loss of Cpl Jamie Murphy of the 2nd Battalion, The Royal Canadian Regiment and Pte Jamie Kitulgoda of the Rifle Volunteers (UK). Both tragically lost their lives whilst serving in Afghanistan.

The charity event took the form of a horse race evening and barbecue. It was organised by a group of international soldiers and civilians led by Major Richard Jones, UK Army, of the ISAF national Liaison Office. The major also acted as the auction manager to sell the wooden horses to the highest bidder. His loud and forceful voice together with a little persuasion from the Canadian Embassy staff, and the 'Men in Black' as they called themselves, who represented ISAF CI, successfully encouraged people to donate their money. In the end Maj Jones proudly announced that the event had raised an amount of close to ten thousand Euros. The evening was closed by Regimental Sergeant Major WO Donald Cameron thanking the generous ISAF community, but also the men who successfully organised the fundraising event. It was a jolly good night with an astonishing result.



Special thanks to:

Cpl Chris Skirrow (UK), L/Cpl Cocks (NZ), Cpl Thomson (CA), SAC Dirk Copland (UK), Cpl Mark Atkins (CA Army), Lt Col John Kirke (IRL), Maj Sam Williamson (NZ), Capt Matt Kerr (NZ), Sgt Steve Nightingale (UK), Mr. Gordon McFadden (UK), Mr. Bruce Creek (UK), Mr. Roque D'Souza (IND), Mr. Ajith Cheyirkal (IND).



TESS ISAF
TERRORISM
ESPIONAGE
SUBVERSION &
SABOTAGE
 directed against
INTERNATIONAL
SECURITY
ASSISTANCE
FORCES

Report any suspicious activity to HQ ISAF Main
 Allied Command Europe Counterintelligence
 (ACE-CI) office (Mark or Easy)
 Located across from HQ Tera (locker green)
 Cell: 070-298328

TESSISAF

Terrorism Espionage Sabotage Subversion directed against International Security Assistance Force. Allied Command Europe Counter Intelligence (ACE-CI) would like you to report anything that is out of the ordinary or suspicious as soon as you recognize it. Security awareness is the key to saving lives. Be aware of your surroundings at all times. Be aware of people taking pictures of you and your equipment as well as the installation where you live. If you work at HQ ISAF and have something to report, please contact ACE CI at IVSN 1245 to report any suspicious activities or security violations.

Celebrating International Women's Day in Kabul



By Michele Fisher

For a group of Western women, working with ISAF in Afghanistan, International Women's Day celebrations in Kabul held special significance. The multinational team included female officers, NCOs and civilians from many ISAF participating nations. The formal program for the celebrations included a welcome by the Minister of Women's Affairs Habiba Sarabi and a speech by President Hamid Karzai. Both Minister Sarabi and President Karzai condemned recent incidents of self-immolation and stressed the importance of registering for and voting in upcoming elections. President Karzai proudly pointed out that the percentage of women registered to vote in Afghanistan has surpassed levels in other nations in the region. After his speech the president took questions from women in the audience resulting in spirited and light-hearted exchanges.

As the event progressed the atmosphere became more and more informal. Women were meeting and networking. With some help from an interpreter, it was possible to exchange stories of work and family. For the women from ISAF it was a unique opportunity to meet and share experiences with remarkable women from Kabul and the provinces.



Photo by Michele Fisher

For International Women's Day a calendar was created showing the female soldiers of HQ ISAF. Copies of the calendar are available for a minimum donation of 3 EUROS or 5 USD. The proceeds will go to a charity in support of improving the position of Afghan women. At the time of press it was not yet known which women's organization would receive the money, but the Liaison Office is working the issue with the Ministry of Women's Affairs.



Photo by Ed Frieser

Football a way to make bridgesand goals

By Ed Frieser

British Army football trainers together with their Afghan colleagues coached some 60 Afghan junior football players under 17 in an event organized by Capt Jeff Heaps from CIMIC BRITFOR at Camp Souter.

Coaching Clinic

The football field just outside of the ISAF Headquarters was the scene of a colourful and successful event. Some 60 talented young players demonstrated their skills in front of an audience of British soldiers and Afghan football enthusiasts.. Much press took an interest and questioned why this was all taking place. Capt. Tom Smith BRITFOR Public Information Officer explained and said: "It is building bridges between the youngsters and the military. That is what it is all about. What better way than through playing and practising football together? It is a universal sport loved by many in the world. It is a follow on event after the match between the Afghan players under 21 and the Brits playing in 2002 in the Olympic Stadium following the downfall of the Taliban." Excellent weather conditions helped the youngsters to show their great skills. After more than two hours of intensive training they all received a medal, certificate and a football from the President of the Afghan Football Association. Col Mike Griffith, Cdr BRITFOR, handed out the certificates. He stated: "There was little we could learn you from what we have seen you all seem to have great skills."

The match

Following the coaching session and an intermission and barbecue, an exciting football match took place between a selection of national Afghani players under 21 and BRITFOR. The Afghanis were technically skilled and fast. The Afghanistan team managed to take a lead of 2-0 in the first half. In the second half the Britfor team, passionately coached by Capt. Jeff Heap, managed to score, but they needed the help of the referee who decided to give a penalty after an incorrect tackle within the sixteen meter area. The Brits didn't miss and scored 2-1. The Afghani however, determined to win, managed to score with a strong goal in the end phase bringing the final score to 3-1. A strong match with physically powerful tackles kept the spectators entertained until the last whistle. Following the match, a huge trophy was presented to the Afghani team captain who proudly showed the cup to the crowd and assembled media. Everybody rushed home as a thunderstorm was approaching fast. Allan was with the Afghani this day. A hard fought match and rain after so many years of drought.



Afghanistan under 21 - BRITFOR 3 - 1

Photo by Ed Frieser



Dutch Apaches to reinforce ISAF mission

By Ed Frieser

ISAF will receive new assets in support of its mission. The Royal Netherlands Air Force is providing six Apache helicopters that will be stationed at Kabul International Airport. It was former NATO Secretary General Lord Robertson who asked the Netherlands government to provide helicopter support to ISAF. The Netherlands government and parliament subsequently decided by the end of January to support ISAF with the formidable Apache AH-64D.

Preparation of KAIA

On 18 February the advanced party arrived, led by Maj Ben van Daatselaar, RNLAF. The advanced party had to coordinate all the work to prepare the airfield for the deployment of the Apaches, thereby following a tight time



schedule. A special platform had to be built for the helicopters, as well as other logistical, sleeping and sanitary supporting facilities had to be built. The Apaches were flown in by Antonov 124 cargo aircraft. The first Apaches arrived March 30th. A second flight is required and the second flight arrived 1 April. Full operational capability is subsequently expected as of 5 April. Together with the Apaches, some 135 Dutch military personnel were flown in. They will be deployed for a period of six months, with the possibility of an extension of another six months.

Role

The Apaches belong to 301 & 302 Squadron of RNLAF Airbase Gilze-Rijen and have a specific role through its versatility in weaponry:

A 30 mm gun with a maximum of

1,200 rounds, 16 hellfire anti-tank missiles or 76 unguided 2.75 in Pod-launched rockets or a combination of these weapons. Remarkable of the Apache is its set of day and night sensors (forward looking infra red, day and tv and direct view optics). These sensors can be used very effectively during peacetime for the search of objects and to gather all kinds of information. The Apache is therefore very suitable for its primary tasks: close air support, air reconnaissance/ surveillance and providing security for ground forces.

Apache-AH-64D facts

General characteristics

length	: 15.5 metres
height	: 3.9 metres
main rotor diameter	: 14.6 metres
empty weight	: 16,000 Lbs
max. weight	: 23,000 Lbs
Speed, cruising	: 225 km/hr
Max	350 km/hr
endurance	2.2 hours
engines	2 x T700-General Electric-

701C

2 pilot crew
&

front seater (Pilot in Command
Gunner)

Back seater (Pilot Flying)

Sensors

PNVS (Pilot Night Vision System) with
FLIR (Forward Looking Infra Red)
TADS (Target Acquisition & Detection System)

With:

FLIR
DTV (Day Television)
DVO (Direct View Optics)
LST (Laser Spot Tracker)
LRFD (Laser Range Finder & Designator)
RWR (Radar Warning Receiver)
LWR (Laser Warning Receiver)
MAWS (Missile Approach Warning System)

Weaponry:

Hellfire anti-tank missiles (max. 16)
2.75 inch unguided in pod-launched rockets

(max. 76)

Dual

30 mm gun, max. 1160 HEDP (High Explosive Purpose) ammunitions
Active Aircraft Survivability Equipment
IR Jammer
Flare dispenser system

Norwegian CIMIC team hands over new school in Bala Karez

By Ola Boe Hansen CDR / PIO NoNCC



The newly built school of Bala Karez was bathed in sunshine when hundreds of pupils sat down on large carpets waiting for the opening ceremony. The whole atmosphere was filled with hope for the future. Distinguished guests such as the District Governor, Head of Education of Shakadara District, Head of the Community Council, Head of the Construction Company, Maliks and a representative for the elders of the community, as well as the principal of the school, teachers and pupils were present. Chargé d'Affaires of the Norwegian Embassy together with the French and Norwegian CIMIC teams, as well as the delegation from KMNB, and elements from the Finnish CIMIC Team expressed their happiness and were content with the completion of this project. Together with many locals they celebrated the opening. Speech after speech emphasised the importance of the new school and the education material. This

was the last Norwegian CIMIC project that came to a conclusion. It was the fourth school built with Norwegian funds. Between the speeches there was room for a national song. Seven children sang for all the people present. Following the ceremony a barbecue was served. The most important issue now is to maintain the school and to continue the supply of school materials, such as books, as well as desks and chairs. Both the district governor and the French CIMIC Team promised this. All the pupils, boys and girls, smiled and showed their gratitude.

Every Friday the ISAF fire department exercises for our safety.

In case of a fire or emergency dial
5555

The Irish Contingent celebrates its national holiday of St-Patrick in ISAF HQ on 17 March.



Italian and Spanish engineers from Multinational Engineer Group, worked together inside the ANA 7th Division, nearby the village of Chahar Asiab (in the south of Kabul), in order to realize a "Heavy weapon site", in other words a parking area for the heavy weapon of the new Afghan army. This work was requested by Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) in the sphere of "Heavy Weapon Cantonment" (HWC) project and consisted in levelling an area 75meters x 150meters, filling a 20cm gravel layer and rolling it, setting concertina fencing in the surrounding area (about 80 rolls) reinforced with iron pegs and realizing two entrances positioning four concrete blocks, two metallic chains closed with a lock. The work started on 13 January and was completed the day after using the following man power, equipment and materials:
IT Engr component: 1 officer, 15 soldiers, 1 crane, 2 dumpers, 1 front loader, 1 logistic transportation truck and 2 Multi role vehicles; Sp Engr component: 1 roller and 1 operator
All the work was directed by 2nd Lt CARILLO, from the Italian 6th Engineer Regiment, with the support of the ANA 7th Division soldiers for the safety belt.
The funds to carry out the works, 1500 euro, were provided by UNAMA. By a multinational point of view this task represented another example of cooperation among the armies, in this specific case Italian, Spanish and Afghan Army.

The ISAF Mirror is a Public Information Office publication. Editorial content is edited and prepared by the PI-Office staff from submissions sent to them. Opinions expressed are those of the writers and do not necessarily reflect official NATO, AFNORTH or ISAF policy.

Submitting to the ISAF Mirror
Submissions can be made to the PIO Office in the "Yellow Building" or e-mailed to pressoffice@isafhq.nato.int. Articles should be in Microsoft Word format and, whenever possible no longer than 600 words.
Photographs should be at least 7 X 4.5 centimeters and 300 dpi.
The ISAF Mirror is published monthly and should be available the first Friday of the month.
For more information call the editor on ext. 2269. The editor serves the right to edit submissions.

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The deadline for the next edition is
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Successful destruction of 1300 anti-personnel land mines

Following a successful pilot project to collect stockpiled mines in Kabul, the Afghan Ministry of Defense detonated 1,300 mines on 12 February 2004 at the Central Destruction Site, in the Bagram area along the old road to Jalalabad. The Ministry collected the 1,300 anti-personnel mines from 49 Kabul ammunition stockpiles. All mines were destroyed in one big explosion. The destruction took place with technical support from the UN Mine Action Centre for Afghanistan (UNMACA), Afghan Technical Consultants (ATC) and ISAF and was made possible with the financial support from the government of Canada.

The destruction was in line with Afghanistan's commitments as a State Party to the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on Their Destruction", also known as the Mine Ban Convention or the Ottawa Convention. The destruction of the mines was attended at al by His Excellency Christopher Alexander, Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dan Kelly, Programme Manager with UNMACA and Kefayatullah Eblagh the director of ATC. Afghanistan suffers immensely of all the millions of mines that are scattered around the country. According to UNMACA estimates, more that 200,000 people, mostly civilians, have been killed or injured by mines over the past two decades. But progress is being made. Over the past year, mine incidents have fallen from 600 to 100 per month, according to the UNMACA and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

While there are no exact figures on the number of mines still buried in the Central Asian nation, according to UNMACA information, 2.8 million explosive devices, including mines and unexploded ordnance, have been cleared from 320 million square meters of land. Another 815 million square meters of land has yet to be cleared, remaining a pivotal challenge for the safe return of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced people and refugees. With this first destruction a good start was made and an example was set to make Afghanistan a safer place for its population.



Photo by Lt Richard Scarth, RNR



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