

August 2004

ISAF MIRROR



ISAF V : Mission accomplished

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Kids for Kabul run



35 people completed the half-marathon.

By Sqn. Ldr. Peter Maskell

Over the past months staff at HQ ISAF have been raising money to support the 'Kids for Kabul' charity. About 12,000 Euros has

so far been raised in sponsorship from both local and European companies.

Kabul - To add to these funds, staff from the headquarters took part in a half-marathon of just over 13 miles around the HQ ISAF compound on Thursday, 8 July. Some completed the 38 laps of the compound, while others just ran or walked part of the distance. However, they all made a

personal donation to the charity and raised even more from being sponsored by their friends and colleagues.

The deputy commander of ISAF, Maj. Gen. Wolfgang Korte started the event which raised more than 2,000 Euros. This and the other money from the charity will be used to provide furniture, books, and other school equipment, supporting a Caritas/Cortaid run project to build two schools in Pansjir Valley villages, an area which has not yet



Lt. Col. Peter Aerts collecting donations.

Photos: Sgt. Andreas Steindl

received much international support. Overall, the project and money will be used to make a contribution by helping to better educate the children of Afghanistan, and further assisting the country to build its capacity for the future.

New from old

By Master Sgt. Carsten Pauly

Last month, Lt. Col. Hans-Leo Kraemer, Theater Security Officer, and Master Sgt. Carsten Pauly from HQ CIMIC team handed over a set of soccer equipment to a local sports club on the sports field close to the main gate of HQ ISAF. The equipment was sent to Kraemer by his colleagues from



Photo: Anne-Claude Gouy

It took only few seconds to the players for wearing their new shirt.

the "German oldies soccer team" stationed in SHAPE, Belgium. All team members, especially the coach, were quite happy to get a soccer dress for the team. "Now we will try to qualify for the first Afghan soccer league", the coach mentioned.

REVIVING A HOPE FOR KABUL

By Lt. **Ciro Parisi**



Cooperation for brighter future

As part of the 'Reviving a hope for Kabul' programme, the Italian CIMIC donated last month, clothes, books, stationery and toys to eight hundred children of Tahai Maskan, an orphanage on the outskirts of Kabul.

Touring the classrooms, the Italian soldiers met two, sixth- form boys, Shafiullah and Said, studying algebra. The boys, orphaned since birth, are determined to succeed in their studies. With sad their eyes, toughened by hard experiences since their early days, these boys show strong determination and hope for the future. Shafiullah said, *"I will never forget what the Italians and the other nations of ISAF are doing for us and our future. I hope one day to become a famous mathematician and it will be also due to your help."*

The educational materials were donated by the elementary school of Spianate in Lucca, in conjunction with the 8th Engineers Battalion Fologore. The three tons of clothes and toys were donated by the Italian schools of Portogruaro in



Photo: Lt. **Ciro Parisi**

Three tons of clothes and toys were also distributed.



Photo: Lt. **Ciro Parisi**

More than material, Italian soldiers gave them a hope.

Venice, Cimadolmo, Treviso; Cesarolo, Venice; San Michele at Tagiamento, Venice; Cinto Cao Maggiore, Venice and San Stino Di Livenza, Treviso together with all the communities of Treviso and Venice provinces. The director of the school concluded, *"The example of civilisation and solidarity Italian soldiers and the partners of ISAF are giving providing assistance and support, is a tangible sign of their commitment to stabilize this torn country devastated by decades of conflicts. The humanitarian effort of ITALFOR and ISAF is a symbol of hope representing a brighter future for our children."*

The Italian Contingent has also given a concrete form of help to the Afghan population by distributing about three tons of scholastic material, clothes, shoes and toys at the I.O.C. school (International Orphan Care) of Kabul at the presence of Dr. Abdullah Osman, the director. This organization is entirely funded by donations of Afghan emigrants and it not only provides basic education but even job learning for their future in Afghan society. The activity was not confined to mere material distribution, the Italian soldiers of ISAF were welcomed with joy because of the human fondness demonstrated.



Photo: Lt. **Ciro Parisi**

The International Orphan Care school is entirely funded by donations and also provides job training.

Embedded Training Team

By Master Sgt. Erwin Winner

The crew compartment of the T-62 is heated up. The commander - with his right eye glued to a dust-covered optics - has drops of sweat running down from under his leather radio headgear. Almost ambitiously waiting, he scans his assigned observation area for visible enemy movements.

By radio, the appearance of enemy vehicles at the right edge of the village, approximately 5,000 meters in front of him, is reported. He grabs the detent lever of his headset and alerts his platoon deployed in defilade position. Powder-like micro-dust swirls up from the track drive sprocket that speeds up the track shoes of the steel monster...

Interruption of the exercise

The instructor interferes. The approach routes to the prepared positions were too close to one another, the distance did not comply with the required principle of dispersal and the tank gun should be lowered behind a position. *"Everything can still be improved,"* Lt. Col. Volker Rönneke says confidently. *"We are heading in the right direction taking small steps."* For nearly four months Rönneke has commanded, along with 19 other

topic "combat outpost". 1st Lt. Lars Cramer and Master Sgt. Uwe Geist, the instructors for this day, patiently give their instructions -- always with the lenses of a running camera pointed at them which does not detract these experienced instructors. *"You will not get better pictures*



Photo: Master Sgt. Erwin Winner

German trainers are assisting with hands, feet and interpreters.

anywhere else," exclaimed the cameraman enthusiastically like many others before him. *"Here we have everything at the same time -- Russian tanks, Afghan crews and German specialists. What more can there be?"* Using his knife, the 1st Lt. draws the plan of his tactical positions into the hot desert sand -- a simple aid given the more than 80 percent illiteracy rate. The tank crews watch attentively the designing of arrows and limitations. Then, the training segment is repeated. This time, the cameraman climbs onto the front of the tank to get the best shot of the driver and commander. Finally, even this segment was passed with an acceptable result, which led up to the debriefing session. And another step towards the build-up of the ANA comes to an end under the watchful eyes of the journalists.



Photo: Master Sgt. Erwin Winner

Exercise break.

officers and NCO's, the German Tank Training Team in support of the Afghan National Army (ANA) at Camp Blackhorse. Nobody can estimate the number of times they have been visited by media representatives. This is a unique project constantly presenting new challenges to the German pioneer spirit and always closely watched by the media who have invaded the area like locusts.

Anywhere else

Today's training program was focused on the



Photo: Master Sgt. Erwin Winner

A tank T62 from ANA in defence

TROGLODYTE OPERATION

By Capt. Christophe Jambon

On the 6 of July, around 9 a.m., the French EOD team conducted an operation in Dakou, a village located in the north-west of the French area of responsibility. Helped by the local authorities who gave the necessary information, the French EOD team had to recognize, search and secure this cache in order to be able to reassure the population that they could use this area safely. A verification of non-pollution was required after about two hours in a maze of tunnels, the EOD team handed over some ammunition hidden in this former cache, unused since the Taliban left.

More than ammunitions caches, these galleries were a living place for the Taliban. The tight corridors, dug into the earth, conducted the French EOD team to rooms. An abandoned refrigerator in a room - probably a kitchen - is the proof.

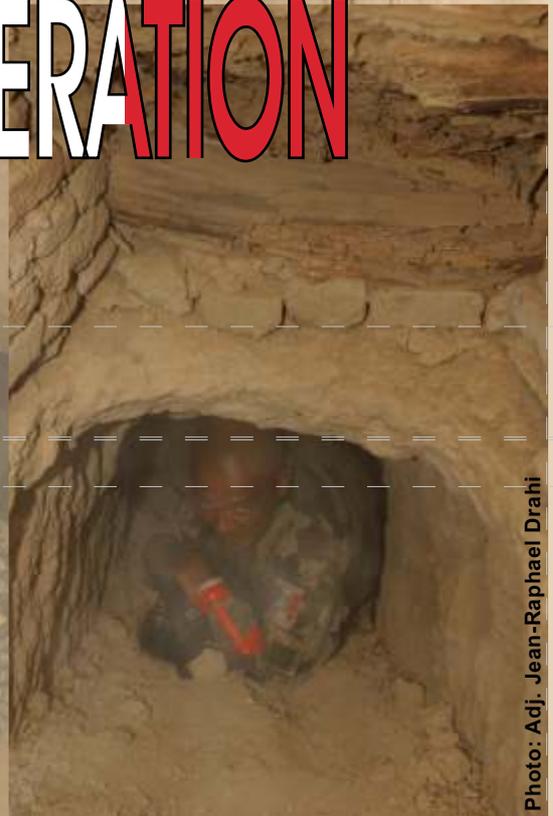


Photo: Adj. Jean-Raphael Drahi

The labyrinth of tunnels doesn't make the progression of the team easier.



Photo: Capt. Christophe Jambon



Photo: Adj. Jean-Raphael Drahi

Top: Among the tunnels, some of the galleries used to store ammunitions are blocked and trapped.

Left: The French EOD team found different ammunitions (82 mm, 12.7 mm) and mortar cases.

FROM PORTUGAL



Photo: Sgt. Andreas Steindl

By Maj. Rita LePage

The arrival of the Portuguese C-130 in Kabul is another significant milestone in the evolution of ISAF's aviation capabilities. As the first fixed wing tactical air transport aircraft dedicated to ISAF, this C-130 will greatly improve ISAF's ability to project its work across Afghanistan.

"This is a significant first step towards improving ISAF's intra theatre air transport capability within Afghanistan," said Maj. Deb Mc Kenzie, HQ ISAF Chief Movement Officer. *"Plans are underway to utilize this asset within an intra theatre air transport system with regularly scheduled flights to PRTs Kunduz and Mazar-e-Sharif commencing 6 Aug. 2004."*

A prince in Kabul



Photo: Lt. Lisette Adelaar

A V.V.I.P. visitor: His Royal Highness Prince of Orange, coming from Netherlands to see the Dutch troops.

By Lt. Lisette Adelaar

His Royal Highness Prince of Orange, Willem-Alexander paid a visit to the Dutch detachment last month. He talked with the members of the detachment, saw their working places and offices, spoke with Jean Arnault, special representative of the United Nations, and visited

the Dutch Hearts & minds project: child daycare 'Malaley'. This visit was a total surprise for the detachment! The Dutch thought that only their state secretary of defence, Mr. Cees van der Knaap, would visit them.



Photo: Lt. Lisette Adelaar

The Prince with the Dutch soldiers working on the child daycare Malaley.

Supporting the empowerment of Afghan women

By Maj. Rita LePage

It has been several months since the world came together to recognize International Women's Week in March, but the goodwill generated by this celebration of women is sustained throughout the year.

KABUL - After attending the Second Annual International Women's Day celebration in Kabul, two Canadian majors at ISAF HQ, Maj. Theresa Norsworthy and Maj. Deb McKenzie, were seized with the desire to do something for women in this country where years of subjugation have left them uneducated, un-empowered and often destitute. Deb and Theresa conceived a plan to produce a military women's calendar featuring the military women at ISAF HQ -- all 25 of them -- then approached all women in the headquarters to test their willingness to participate. Military women representing eight ISAF nations embraced the proposal. The idea was to accept donations for the calendar in an effort to raise money for a worthwhile charity. More than 600 calendars were produced professionally due to the initiative of the ISAF HQ Media Analyst, Ed Frieser, and the largesse of a Dutch printing company, POLLAERT



Photos: Maj. Rita LePage

One of the women in the shelter is pictured in the kitchen where she shares cooking responsibilities for the 30 women resident in the home.

Insert: Majors Norsworthy and McKenzie donate funds raised by ISAF HQ calendar sales to Dr. Sima Samar, Head of the Afghanistan Commission for Human Rights and director of Shuhada.

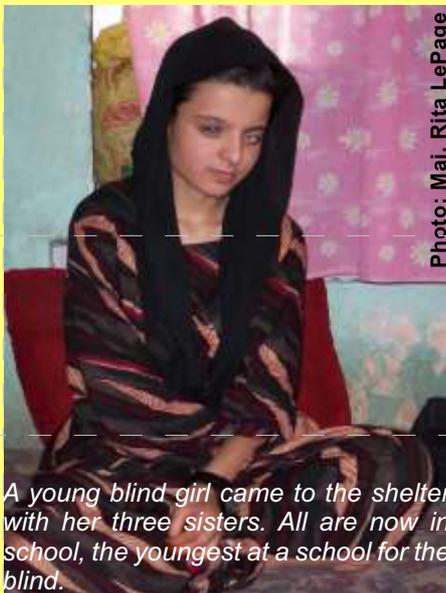


Photo: Maj. Rita LePage

Media Centre.

4,000 USD raised for Shuhada

Four months later, all but 40 calendars have been sold raising a total of US \$4,000. And on Thursday, 8 July, Majors Norsworthy and McKenzie met with the head of the charity which

A young blind girl came to the shelter with her three sisters. All are now in school, the youngest at a school for the blind.

most closely matched their goal of improving the status of Afghan women in distress. Dr. Sima Samar, head of the Afghan Commission for Human Rights and a fierce advocate for the empowerment of women in Afghanistan, accepted the donation which will support a women's shelter run by Dr. Samar's humanitarian agency, Shuhada, before arranging a visit to the shelter. "This shelter embodies the ideals we hoped to support," said Maj. McKenzie. "It is not

just a place for women in distress to go. The shelter takes in women of all ages and circumstances, then facilitates and fosters skills and education for them so they are able to make their way in their own country."

Women helping women

The older women at the shelter help to maintain it, share cooking responsibilities and are employed as child care workers in a Kabul orphanage also run by Shuhada. The younger women go to public school while several have gone on to study nursing and in fact are practising their profession to the benefit of other women. "I was so impressed that these women, once destitute, were able to realize a future thanks to this women's shelter. And the fact that some of them have gone on to specialize in nursing in a country where there is an immense need for women's health care is particularly compelling," says Maj. Norsworthy, herself a nurse. Though the project was initiated by Deb and Theresa, they are quick to shrug off any praise and instead, throw the accolades towards COMISAF, Lt. Gen. Rick Hillier, and COS Brig. Gen. Leslie Fuller, for fully supporting the project, and the generous women and men of ISAF HQ whose donations support the empowerment for Afghan women.



By Capt. Stine W. Skjaeret

The patrol drives through Kabul's embassy area. Not far away, a totally different world appears.

The contrasts are great in Kabul. In the embassy area, you find asphalt roads, trees and tall bricks walls with big iron gates and security guards outside. Inside the walls, you probably find nice birch houses, with air conditioning, gardens and parabolic aerials on the roof. The Norwegian ISAF patrol drives out of the embassy area, towards the Bibimaro height.

On foot

"How are you?" Soon after the vehicles stops, children with smiles on their faces appear. They know some English phrases which they use as often as possible. They obviously find it amusing talking to the soldiers. The environment is suddenly



Photo: Sgt. Andreas Steindl

Norwegian soldiers check also the drivers of the cars...

kind of rural - in the middle of the four million-person city of Kabul. Kids are running in the streets - or holding the hands of their burqa-dressed mothers. Young and older children are gathered by a water-pump - there is laughter and smiles. In the middle of the road between the simple houses of mud and clay, the drains runs.

Hospitality

It is not the first time that the ISAF soldiers patrol this area. Since the current rotation arrived in Kabul in mid-June, they got to know a fruit seller in this area. He always offers a cup of tea. Today the fruit seller is not in - he's in the bazaars buying goods for his shop. But tea is coming up anyway. Green tea from

Patrolling the



Photo: Sgt. Andreas Steindl

Norwegian soldiers were trained the day before to do some patrols on vehicles.

China, and sweets. More and more people appear by the fruit shop. Mostly kids, and some men. They like to talk to the soldiers, and with the help from the interpreter, the conversation passes all right. "It's better now than during the Taliban period", says a man named Nasir. He skips the tea, and smokes a cigarette instead.

Kidnapping

Kidnapping is one of the many problems Afghanistan faces. Criminals often sell the kid's



Photo: Sgt. Andreas Steindl

...while Ossie, the EOD dog, is checking the cars.

Streets of Kabul

organs. The president Hamid Karzai has told the press she wants the death penalty for those who conduct this crime. "I've heard about two kidnappings", says Nasir, who himself is a father of four.

Female contact

The people are a little bit curious of the female member of the patrol. "Can she really carry all that

gear?" wonders Karim. But the men express positive attitudes to female soldiers, who can talk to the local women. Outside a World Food



Photo: Sgt. Andreas Steindl

Only female soldiers have the privilege to talk with the Afghan women.



Photo: Sgt. Andreas Steindl

Programm bakery, the patrol meets a woman - customarily dresses in her blue burqa. She stops and talks for a little while, but soon she hurries on, carrying chunks of bread under her arm. But first she offers a taste of the bread. The Afghan hospitality is huge - something the ISAF soldiers feel on every patrol.

FRENCH KEEP KEP

By Cpt. Ludovic De Latousche

In the context of the help given to the Afghan police, one of the missions of the French Battle group is to take part in the check-point of Kabul Entry Point (KEP), located on the former Bagram road.

Each time, the relationships with the policemen are so friendly that it allows immediately a tremendous mission taking: check the vehicles before their entry in Kabul in order to detect some traffics or armed persons.



Photo: Capt. Christophe Jambon

Each KEP is around two hours.

Coordination between ISAF forces and KEP policemen is essential. In the frame of this cooperation, patrols have to converse with the KEP leaders to give them some advice and improve their knowledge.

As the foot patrol within Kabul or in Shamali, that kind of mission is a sign of the French battle group mission's completion: assist and help the Afghan forces in maintaining a safe and secure environment in Kabul and its outskirts.



KABUL Multinational



The range practice offered the opportunity for the military police from all nations within Kabul to handle and

fire different weapon systems held by their colleagues within the multi-national military police community. The day culminated in a "Falling Plate" Competition won by the Croatian Military Police. This event highlighted the close working relationship and partnership between the multi-national military police units. Arranged and co-ordinated by Sgt. Charles Colley, Royal Military Police it was judged a resounding success by all who attended. Apparently, it was a sunny day...

Lt. Steve Leonard (left) and Cpl. Daniel Rochette (right) from the CIMIC Team of the 3rd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment Battalion Group (3 R22eR Bn Gp), surrounded by local children from Qali-Fatah at the dedication of a well pump-house.

Le Ltn Steve Leonard (à gauche), et le Cpl. Daniel Rochette de l'équipe CIMIC du Groupe-bataillon du 3^e Royal 22^e Régiment (GB 3^e R22^eR) sont entourés d'enfants de Qali-Fatah lors de l'inauguration d'un puits.



Maj. Richard Sneddon, Officer Commanding the CIMIC Team from the 3rd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment Battalion Group (3 R22eR Bn Gp) receiving flowers from an elder of the village of Qali-Fatah during the dedication of a well pump-house.

Le Cdt Richard Sneddon, commandant l'équipe CIMIC du 3^e R22eR Bn Gp reçoit des fleurs d'un doyen d'un village lors de l'inauguration d'une pompe à eau.



Cpl. Martin Bernard, from C Company, 3rd Battalion Royal 22nd Regiment Battalion Group (3 R22eR Bn Gp), on patrol at the Deh-e Arbab Reservoir near Kabul.

Le Cpl. Martin Bernard de la compagnie C du Groupe-bataillon du 3^e Royal 22^e Régiment (GB 3^e R22^eR) en patrouille au réservoir de Deh-e Arbab près de Kaboul.



Brigade in **ACTION**

All of us know that education is one of the mainstays of a country development. For that, Spanish contingent is interested in helping the improvement of it. Sometimes, school equipment is distributed. But the most regular activity of Spanish contingent about education in Kabul is to teach Spanish. Two days a week, several members of Spanish Army teach Spanish to university students. All of them are very satisfied. Abdellah said: *"It's very important to keep in touch with Spanish people. We don't only speak native Spanish but we also learn Spanish culture"*. Spanish language has not an ancient tradition in Afghanistan. Cuban people taught it in the 80's decade.



Master Cpl Marc Dionne from A Company of the 3rd Battalion, Royal 22nd Regiment Battalion Group (3 R22ndR Bn Gp), with a medic Cpl Kevin Comeau, comes back from a patrol in the Canadian area of responsibility in western Kabul.

Le Cpl. Marc Dionne de la compagnie A du Groupe-bataillon du 3^e Royal 22^e Régiment (GB 3^e R22^eR), accompagné du Cpl. Kevin Comeau du service de soutien de santé, reviennent d'une patrouille à pied dans le secteur de responsabilité canadien dans l'ouest de Kaboul.



Canadian Civilian-military cooperation (CIMIC) personnel have completed a project aimed at improving the Afghan Authorities through the reconstruction of the main police station in Chahar Asiab. The opening ceremony was held on Monday, July 12th, 2004.

Started in May of 2004, the Canadian CIMIC effort has helped renovate the police station, which formerly lay in ruins after years of fighting. The project was identified through discussion with the local Governor and Chief of Police and the Canadian CIMIC organization. Working in concert with local contractors and authorities, the Canadian Forces provided funding for the repair of the building, including the roof, new windows, doors, and paint.

This is yet another small step towards improving the safety and quality of life for the people of Kabul through support to local authorities. *"We have been extremely pleased with the continued good cooperation between ISAF and the people of Chahar Asiab, and look forward to maintaining this great friendship,"* said Mr. Shir Mohammed, the Governor of Chahar Asiab.



KABUL Multinational

When the Rescue Coordination Center



A Turkish BlackHawk transporting the French QRT-Team with a minehurted French soldier.

By Master Sgt. Erwin Winner



...the Quick Reaction Team (QRT) pulse beat increases. The QRT is on 24-hour operational readiness in rotating shifts. The rescue vehicle itself can get to anywhere, anytime within three minutes of a location assignment. The entire effort reflects a high degree of coordinated cooperation.

"If we are notified of MEDEVAC helicopters, we mostly expect more serious cases," says Lt. Col. Medical Corps, Dr. Jochen Mortzeck, as he thoughtfully wrinkles his brows recalling the images of the last mine strike victims, two young French soldiers. But the QRT clients are not only ISAF soldiers. Whether there it is swallowed screws or keys, severely burnt children, or a suspected heart attack at the main gate, the three-

Photo: Master Sgt. Erwin Winner

Mortzeck has the interpreter relate to him the sequence of events leading up to and immediately following the accident as well as the infant's age. He assesses the extent of the child's injuries and reaches for his hand-held radio.

Everybody is acting

The Rescue Coordination Center (RCC) confirms the message and informs the emergency ward. A decision has to be made that is not always easy -- the balancing act between further medical treatment or not. Relief can be seen in the father's



Photo: Master Sgt. Erwin Winner

QRT on the personnel gate of Camp Warehouse

face because he is sure now that his only child will get good care. Local physicians are little trusted even though there have been some advances in the country given the existing circumstances. The Corporal carefully avoids the potholes on his drive back to the emergency ward. Beside him sits the third in the trio, Sgt. Oliver Lenke, who does not move from his doctor's side. Jointly, they hand over father and child to the emergency ward personnel. While Dr. Mortzeck prepares his emergency report, the female medical personnel is busy, using all the available toys, to reduce the child's crying down to a reasonable volume. And the QRT returns to its post. No one knows how long the breather lasts before the next alert. During such intervals the QRT trains itself on one of the six newly introduced medical rescue vehicles, the DURO III, that has been delivered for trials. This is a three-axle vehicle that is especially appreciated by the crew because it can be entered standing up. During the next few weeks the German QRT doctors will have the opportunity to test the new vehicle during sustained operations in difficult terrain.



Photo: Master Sgt. Erwin Winner

The German QRT is serving first aid and preparing transportation for a minehurted French soldier.

man team gets moving. One hour after assuming duty, the driver, Cpl. Denny Schmidt, flips on the switch for the flashing blue light and siren for the first time. A scalded crying infant is waiting in his mother's arms in front of the pedestrian gate. Dr.

Brigade in **ACTION**



Three Afghan boys read the ISAF News -- an ISAF paper very popular in Kabul -- published in Dari, Pashtu and English.

First Aid Education: The medical platoon in Norwegian Squadron made the most out of some waiting hours they had at PD 4 HQ one day, and provided a first aid lecture to the Afghan policemen



The final check-out as mine clearers for the Combat Engineers of the Norwegian Squadron culminated with a lively mine



Afghan language students attended a linguistic conference at HQ ISAF in July when they had an opportunity to practise the language they were studying with ISAF soldiers.



French soldiers exercising their shooting skills at the KMTC range in Kabul.

Gaftag team

By Lt. Col. Klaus Geler

The three Master Sgt. Matthias Pschantka, Daniel Rach, Mario Stroka and their Chief are not only special because of their green camouflage uniform; they also enjoy diplomatic status, belong to the German Embassy, do not wear arms, are here on operations much longer than one year, and administratively are subordinated directly to the German Defense Minister.



GAFTAG-Team in front of the donated six busses.

The acronym GAFTAG stands for the German Armed Forces Technical Advisory Group that, by the way, exists not only in Kabul, but also for quite a long time in Africa. If you drive on Route Violet towards Kabul along the nearly dried out and garbage-filled Kabul river, you will see on the other side the symbol of the German-Afghan partnership painted on the front of a large hall. There the German automotive and maintenance specialists fulfill their official mission.

Mission

They advise and support the Afghan National Army (ANA) in setting up and operating a centralized vehicle maintenance facility. In practice this means that the four, assisted by their interpreter Sawar Hussein, train automotive mechanics and body specialists and also lend a hand themselves. They practically started out from scratch at the end of 2002. Today, there is a modern workshop in the area -- handed over to the

Afghan MOD in mid-2003 -- where already 26 young Afghans have successfully completed their apprentice training. The third course has just begun. "The applications are handled through an NGO, the AGEF," says GAFTAG Chief, Lt. Col. Johannes Lammel. "There, first theoretical knowledge is imparted. Then the men come to us. The crowds are large. The apprentices earn between 30 and 40 Euro. Behind each one, there are 10 new applicants." Besides apprentice training, reading and writing lessons are also held at GAFTAG along with concrete and bricklayers' training, constant damage-related training, and follow-on training for ANA soldiers and civilian employees. "This is necessary so that the people will have a solid base for the private sector," Chief Lammel explains.



Lt. Col. Johannes Lammel, teamleader and Col. Omar Vassel.

More than a symbol

Besides the hundreds of ANA vehicles, the team has repaired the luxury cars of Afghan generals and the Afghan MOD. But the four Germans are not so popular with the locals just because of this. It is the immediate and individual help provided to each person that is the meaningful gesture behind the symbol of the crossed flags.

VACCINATION PROGRAMME CONTINUES

By Lt. Ciro Parisi

ISAF's Italian contingent have been continuing their livestock vaccination programme, and this month vaccinated over a hundred animals, mostly cows, in the Udkheyl Village, along the Jalalabad Road.



The inhabitants gave their full support to the Italian team.

Udkheyl - This type of operation is particularly appreciated by local population, because it allows the control of internal and external parasites, avoiding at the same time the presence of residuals in the meat and in the milk, which are an essential source of nourishment and earnings. The Italian

contingent is experiencing the full support of village inhabitants for the support offered by coalition forces and for the numerous initiatives which are taking place in this area. "What has to be underlined is that by huge economic efforts, we are offering to the Afghan people state-of-the-art pharmaceutical products" was the comment of Lt. Col.

Umberto Lusena, the veterinary attached to the Italian contingent, who during the activity explained the mode of use of the drugs dispensed and their extraordinary effectiveness of last generation medicines.

COMISAF's farewell message

Our six months in Afghanistan have progressed quickly and as ISAF V nears the end of its mission and prepares to transition to ISAF VI, it is an opportune time to reflect on what we have accomplished during our short tour.

ISAF is, without doubt, welcomed and appreciated throughout Afghanistan. The Afghan people support our efforts to expand so that the Afghan government is able to foster conditions conducive to building a strong and progressive nation capable of serving its people and taking its place in the International Community. ISAF and you are an integral part of this process. The soldier on patrol interacting with village people, the liaison officer who schedules a difficult meeting and brings two organizations together, the medic who comforts a sick child and reassures its mother that the child will be helped...all these meaningful individual efforts join together to make a huge difference to the Afghan people so deserving of our efforts. To them, it is the difference between life and death.

We, without exception, have built on the successes of ISAF IV. I have been most impressed with not only the quality of work and professionalism displayed by everyone in this multinational force, but also the unflagging dedication and commitment to help the Afghan people regardless of the effort required. Your efforts have helped set the conditions for success in a country where the people are putting themselves on a track to establish social and political change so they will be able to influence their own futures and more importantly that of their children. This is no small task and you are part of it.

This mission is not without substantial personal risk. There are terrorists and criminals in Afghanistan who wish to discredit the ATA and would not hesitate to kill ISAF soldiers and innocent civilians for their own selfish personal gain. We have had soldiers severely injured



and killed on this mission, most recently Grenadier Tommy Roedningsby of the Norwegian contingent. These cowardly acts will not deter us from our worthwhile mission. We will continue to carry out our mission in support of the Afghan people in a manner that gives meaning to the loss of our soldiers. Their sacrifice will not be in vain.

At the beginning of this mission I told you that you were given a rare privilege -- one few people in their lives will ever have -- and that was to make a difference in the lives of millions. I am proud that you seized the opportunity presented, took up the challenge and helped to make a better life for millions -- a time to be cherished. You have been a key part of something that has been so fundamentally good for so many people. You have every right to be proud. Thank you for a job very well done. Best wishes and good luck in the future when you return to your respective countries and are reunited with your families. It has been a privilege and an honour to soldier with you.

Another step forward



Photo: Lt. Ciro Parisi

Lt. Col. Maurizio Gulotta, deputy commander and volunteer for distribution.

By Lt. Ciro Parisi

Men and women of the Italian contingent serving with ISAF have made a substantial donation to the Indira Ghandi Childrens' hospital in Kabul as part of the "Reviving a hope for Kabul" programme.

Kabul - The list of gifts included hospital beds and bedside tables, a wide range of drugs not readily available in the country, including antibiotics, anti-malaria drugs, antihistamines, vaccines against polio,



Photo: Lt. Ciro Parisi

The critical lack of medical equipment is filled step by step by this kind of operation.

hepatitis, typhus and meningitis; and powered milk and baby clothes. The gifts were collected by the charity, Caritas, of Foraniale of Codroipo; by chemists' shops in Venice, by the Red Cross in Venice and Maniago and by the hospital of Cuneo.

As director Dr. Ruholah Rasekh explained us, this

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Would you like to have something printed in the next edition?

Submissions can be sent to PIO HQ ISAF Office 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 aims to be available by the first Friday of the month.

For more information please call the Editor on HQ ISAF (079 51) ext. 2269. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

The ISAF Mirror gratefully acknowledges the tremendous help of Maj. Rita LePage.

She will be missed by more than the magazine. Go safely.

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Editor:
 Anne-Claude Gouy

Front page: photo by Sgt. Andreas Steindl

hospital is the only one in the country, and it should serve a potential catchments area counting millions of children. Unfortunately, the reality looks very different, and if on one side there is the determination and strong will of the doctors, on the other there is an evident lack of infrastructures.

Emergency in surgery

In the surgery department, such as in the orthopaedic and otorhinolaryngologist ones, there is a critical lack of medical equipments for prevention and diagnosis, thus resulting in a noticeable decrease in the recovery expectancy for children to a mere 25%. This tragic

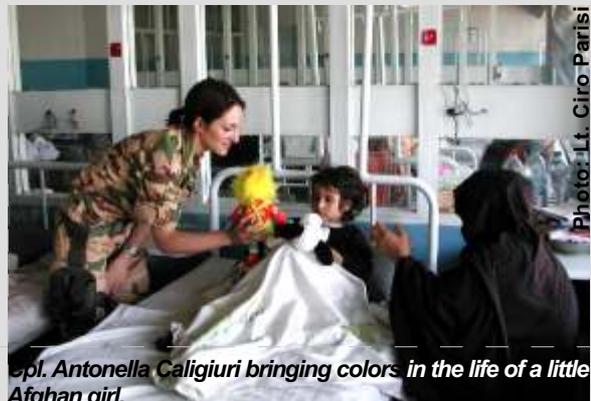


Photo: Lt. Ciro Parisi

Cpl. Antonella Caligiuri bringing colors in the life of a little Afghan girl.

situation is worsened by the severe penury of drugs for bacterial and viral infections control, which are endemic throughout the whole Country, despite the efforts of the doctors to solve the problems. Dr. Ruholah Rasekh said, "We are really grateful to the Italian and Coalition soldiers for their constant support and everything they are doing for our country. This hospital is the only childrens' hospital in the country and it potentially serves a catchments area of millions of children. The reality, however, is very different. We have a critical lack of medical equipment and drugs, particularly for bacterial and viral infections. It is very gratifying to us to know that we are not now struggling with all these problems on our own and once again we are extremely thankful that we can count on ISAF's contributions."

The deadline for the next edition is Friday August 20th, 2004