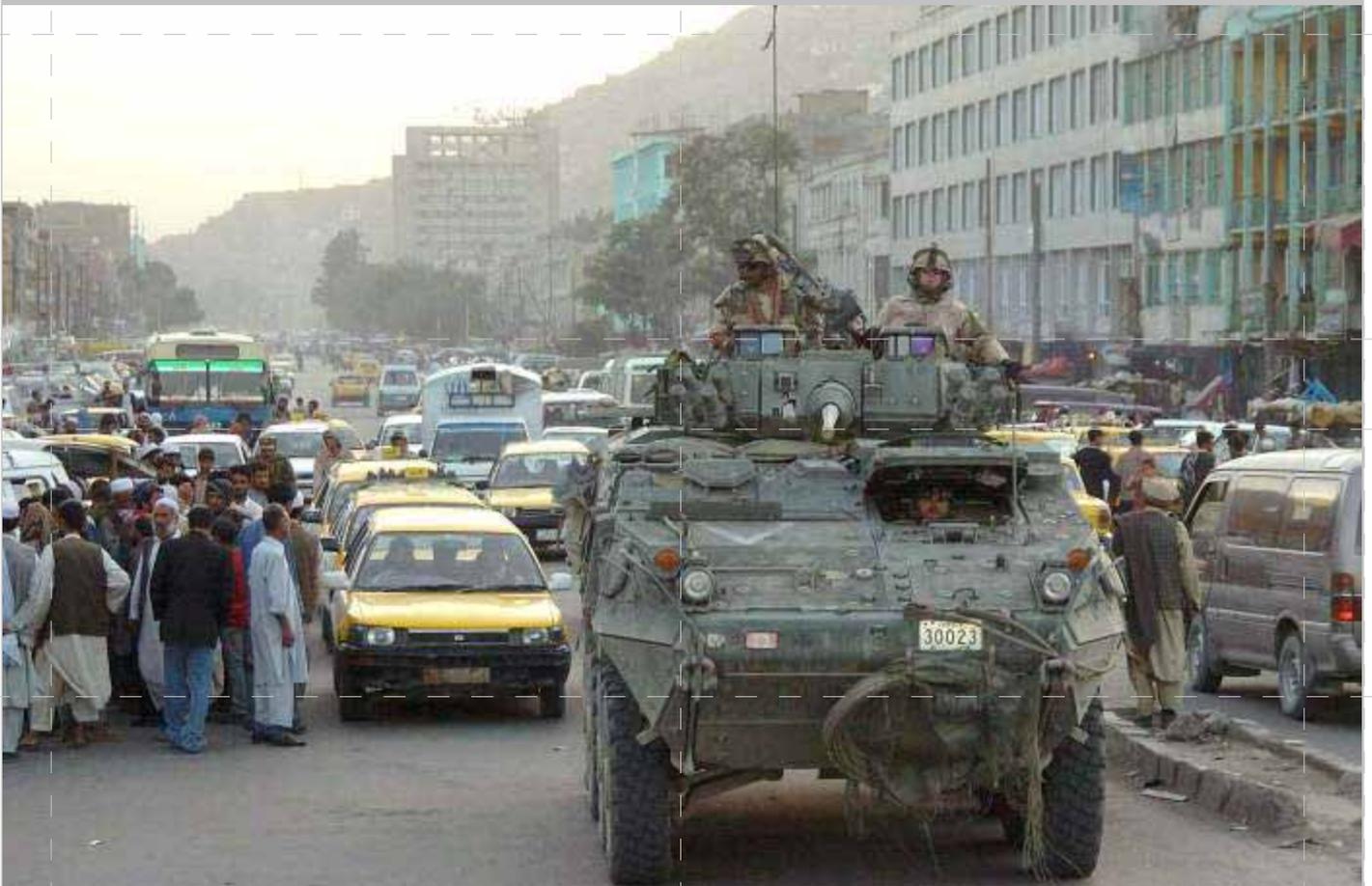


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Support of National Police

By Lt. Cdr. Ken MacKillop



KABUL - Last month, at the request of the Minister of Interior Affairs, 50 members of the Afghan National Police (ANP) boarded an ISAF C-130 Hercules Aircraft at Kabul International Airport bound for Shindand, in the Herat Province.



Boarding in the Portuguese C-130 Hercules.

Photo: Cpl. Cédric Borderes

Portuguese and Belgian Air Transport Detachment at the Kabul International Airport. These aircraft provide ISAF with greater capability in tactical air transport. This enhances

ISAF's ability to support the Transitional Islamic State of Afghanistan in providing a safe and secure environment in Kabul and its environs, allowing the timely movement of equipment and personnel

within the ISAF Area of Operations.

"This deployment of the police officers has been planned for eight days", said the Troop Commander Abdul Abib, "although the situation is calm at the moment, the additional police are going to Shindand as additional support to assist in the security of the region and to expand the presence of the Central Government there." This deployment brings the total ANP contribution in that region to approximately 300 officers. This is the second occasion in recent weeks that ISAF and Coalition aircraft have been requested to transport Afghan forces to Shindand. Sgt. Nooragha, who has been a police officer with the ANP for one year, was also looking forward to the deployment. This is not his first time on a mission out of the Kabul area. *"I received notice four days ago that I was deploying to Shindand", he said, "my family is proud of my role as a police officer."* He also sent his regards to his family and wished them well.

Cooperation for operation

The Portuguese C-130 Hercules that transported the police officers is part of the ISAF

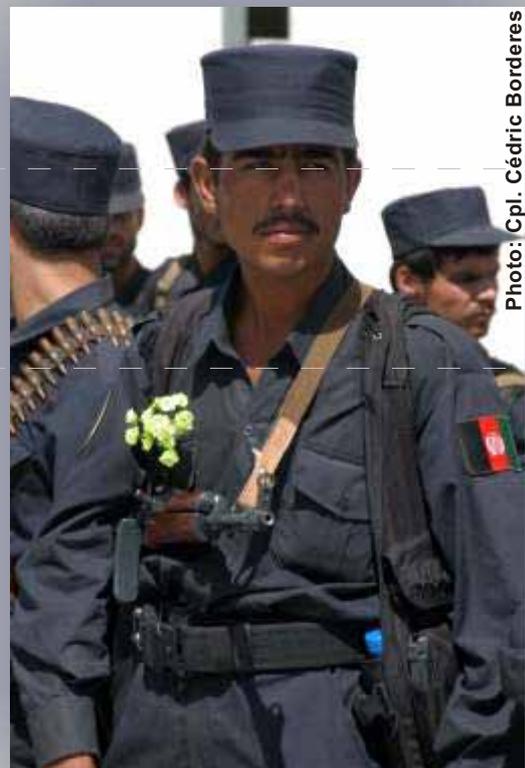
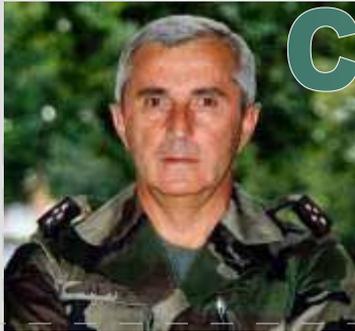


Photo: Cpl. Cédric Borderes

On their way to Shindand, some of them took a peace of hope.

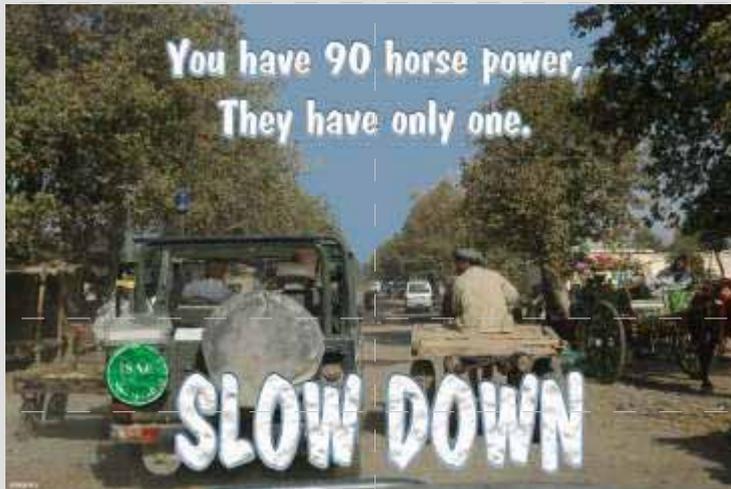


COMISAF's Editorial

ISAF VI has been now on duty for two months. A lot has been already done, and even more is to be done, but the momentum is consolidated. Of course, it is not yet

time to take stock of these two months. Nevertheless, we shouldn't be blind on some upsetting figures.

During the month of August, indeed, more than 50 traffic accidents involving ISAF vehicles have caused about 40 injuries. This balance represents a third of ISAF personnel wounded during the whole year 2004. Those figures are not acceptable. Nor is it acceptable that 5 Afghans have been injured and one killed in the same accidents.



This is my great concern that I would like to share with you, all of you and each of you. Especially with those who drive, usually or from time to time, whether in Kabul or in the northern part of our area of operation. Yes, driving in the streets of Kabul or on the tracks of the Hindu Kush is not easy. Furthermore, the upcoming winter and frozen roads conditions will increase danger. But we absolutely must be conscious in both driving and security. It is a

matter of respect towards Afghans, yourself and your comrades. This is also a matter of sticking to the spirit of the mission of ISAF, which is obviously not to make roads more dangerous than they already are. We are here to assist in the provision of a safe and secure environment and we must be aware of this when driving, co-driving, or even tasking someone to drive. This is a priority to the end of our mission here.

Obviously the focus now will be the presidential election that will be so far the most significant event

of Afghan democratic process towards stabilization. In this framework, like others, our mission is to support Afghans to build themselves a better future, in coordination with the Coalition, and the international community. We do not deny that there are threats present during this period. However it is our task to prepare to respond to these and

indeed gain information that will lead to the prevention of terrorist activities.

We have to be trustful in the efforts of the people of this country, and of the international transaction through this period as peacefully as possible. We must continue to display our dedication, our involvement, and our professionalism, which will in turn help us to accomplish the mission of ISAF VI.

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

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

Submissions can be e-mailed to mirror@isaf-hq.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. 1230. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

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Anne-Claude Gouy

Front page: photo by Cpl. John Bradley

The deadline for
the next edition is
Thursday October 21st, 2004

First Survey Control Point

By Capt. Georg Auer



KABUL - Afghanistan is a country destroyed by war and a country regarding which no exact geographical data are available. Soldiers of the Bundeswehr Geoinformation Service therefore established the first survey control point in Afghanistan.

On 30 August 2004 at 09:29 hrs on the dot, the first survey control point was hewn in Afghan rock. However, this almost symbolic act performed on the Kuh-e-Khvajeh-Razzaq, which is referred to as "Radar Hill" by the International Security Assistance Force for the sake of simplicity, was not enough. Aligned to this point, a measuring instrument based on the Global Positioning System was installed to collect and store data of geodetic satellites over a period of 96 hours. This long-term positioning procedure will then produce measurements accurate to the centimeter. The data collected are currently evaluated by the Bundeswehr Geoinformation Office in Euskirchen, Germany.

To be continued

However, the preparation and execution of this project was not quite as easy as in Germany. Because of the risk of mines the entire terrain had to be thoroughly searched by the mine-



The Bundeswehr Geoinformation Service on work.

Photo: Capt. Georg Auer

clearing service; it was not possible to walk on the top plateau until the mine-clearing service had declared the area clear. Nor was the measuring instrument left unattended on the mountain but was guarded by Norwegian soldiers of the Kabul Multinational Brigade round the clock. The currently available maps are based on US geodetic satellite measurements, data of the Red Army or even older measurements. There had not been any geographic ground reference points until then. It is therefore a long-term project to gradually survey the country. ISAF has now laid the foundations for that. The data will then be made available to the Afghan Government. Subsequently, it will be up to the Afghan Government to continue this extensive work.



The first survey control point in Afghanistan.

Photo: Capt. Georg Auer



By Capt. Ian Hamilton

From the outside, it's just another dusty wall on another dusty Kabul street. Only the high-pitched cacophony of excitable young voices gives a clue that inside this compound, something very special is taking place.

The boys attending Aschiana school have had a rough ride. Under the Taleban,

painting, music, sport and the arts were forbidden. When the regime was overthrown in 2001, they spitefully stole what few schoolbooks were left. Some 680 boys and girls were denied the basic right of a proper education. For the boys, in particular, no loss was more keenly felt than the theft of their precious football. "Under the Taleban, we stopped playing sport," says headmaster, Mohammed Yousef. "Even if the Taleban

hadn't stolen everything, it would be difficult to play sport with an empty stomach. In those times we concentrated on survival". Yet now, the change couldn't be more remarkable. Boys play in the latest strips, with brand new footballs and, most remarkably of all, brand new goal posts. "I give thanks to God for this gift" says Mortaza, aged 10. His face is lit up with the irrepressible enthusiasm of youth as he practises dribbling through a series of cones.

The trigger

The reason for the change? It's all down to the work of one young British Military Policeman. Cpl. Matt Madine, 21, from Bury St. Edmunds,



Lining up for penalty taking, the boys practice scoring a goal.

Photo: Capt. Ian Hamilton

England, very nearly didn't join the Army. He dreamt of a career as a professional footballer, even going so far as to trial for top premier league sides such as Norwich and Ipswich before injury cruelly stopped his career. Since then, he has forged an impressive start in the Royal Military Police and is coming to the end of his first tour in Afghanistan. "We were out on a normal patrol," he explains, "when we came across Ashiana. The boys were trying to play football with a pathetic old ball, stuffed with paper. They had no kit, no playing field, no goals. When you compare the way they had to train with the way I was brought up, I felt like I really had to do something". Matt decided to organise a football tournament amongst the British contingent, with an entrance fee going to a collection to buy Aschiana some proper football kit. Even the chefs joined in. The result? Some very fit British soldiers and a large caddy of cash.

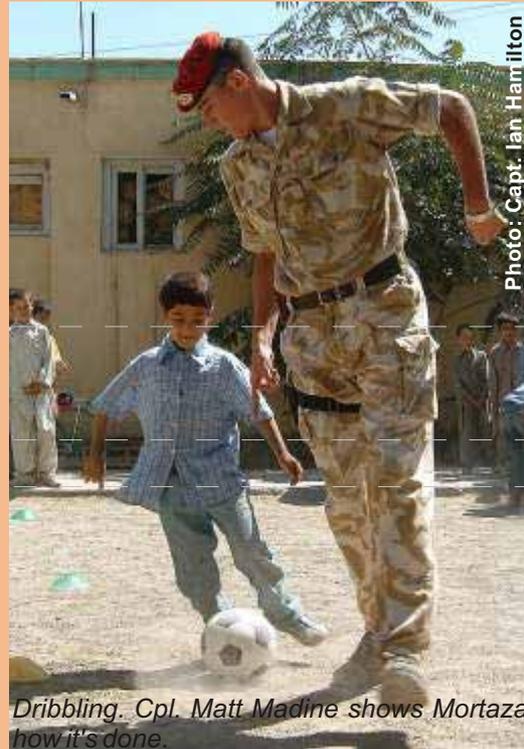


Photo: Capt. Ian Hamilton

Dribbling. Cpl. Matt Madine shows Mortaza how it's done.

Goal!

Madine then spent his own time scouring the bazaars and catalogues. He was able to buy 8 new footballs and enough kit to fully outfit two teams in the latest gear. Most impressively, the engineers in Camp Souter welded a set of goal-posts together as a final flourish. A lot of excited young faces greeted Madine when a convoy of trucks delivered the purchases to Aschiana. Excitement matched only by the enthusiasm on the pitch as two picked sides played each other to a stand-still. Madine showed what he was made of when he led the boys through a series of technical skills that showed just why he played at the top level. Like a sponge denied of water, the boys



Photo: Capt. Ian Hamilton

Cpl. Madine flanked by his new pupils and fellow RMP's.

lapped up the attention. "It makes me proud to see them play," says Matt. "This is why we came here. If I can offer these boys a small chance of normality then I think we've done something positive for this community. Everywhere I go now, you begin to see hope in people's faces. It makes me feel good to know that when I go home, I'll be able to think on these lads getting the same chance that I had to develop through football".

Sparrow Hawk

By Lt. Ciro Parisi

KABUL - It was the 5th December when in Bonn all the representatives from the different Afghan ethnic groups signed the resolution 1383, afterwards ratified by the United Nations Security Council. It was here that a peace multinational force found its legitimacy, ISAF, with the aim to assist the Afghan Transitional Authority in the delicate process of country democratization.

The toughest task is to create the security conditions necessary for the first free and fair elections to take place in the history of Afghanistan, a war-torn country after a quarter century of conflict and repression. With the presidential elections scheduled for 9th October, the delicate process of normalization is coming to its most important goal. The mission given to Coalition Forces, supporting the Transitional Government chaired by Hamid Karzai, induced ISAF to ask International Community to temporarily increment the forces on the ground, to face in the best way all the possible requirements connected with the elections. Italy has adhered to the request by temporally increasing its troops, placing at disposal an Operative Reserve Battalion. The "Susa"

Battalion, with its 500 mountain troops, will be part of the Italfor Kabul 8 Contingent, already present in Afghanistan, under the lead of the 5th Artillery "Superga" Regiment since 11th May.

Codename Cobra

The "Susa" Battalion is adequately equipped and trained to act in the most severe climatic conditions, will be fully operational starting from the second half of September, when all the personnel of the Task Force, codename "Cobra", will complete its re-deployment. With the completion of Cobra Task Force inflow, the Italian Contingent in Afghanistan will amount to over 1.000 soldiers, including 19 women, ranking as 3rd contributing nation, after Germany and Spain, the latter providing the core of ISAF with the forces coming from Eurocorps, based in Strasbourg, France. The mission for ISAF is unchanged. Operation "Sparrow hawk", this is the codename given to the mission assigned to mountain troops of Italfor, is a "contingency" operation, that is strictly connected with the electoral process and then directed to ensure a security framework to allow regular presidential election to take place.

Photo: Sgt. Maj. Sabato Celentano

CIMIC centre

By Capt. Albert Van Dalen

Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py, ISAF commander, officially opened the Kabul Civil Military Cooperation Centre (CIMIC) on the 1st of September, located within the ISAF compound just inside the outer main gate.

"Having this Centre located at the ISAF Headquarters, and more easily accessible to the various agencies will assist in continuing to identify and carry out work that can help the Afghan government, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) and Non-Governmental agencies that operate in the area, and ultimately the Afghan people," the

commander said. A CIMIC Centre is a point of contact between the civilian organisations, like International Organisations and Non Governmental Organisations or the Afghan authorities. It is a meeting place where civilians and military members can talk and exchange ideas and plan upcoming projects. Col. Hannu Pitkanen, chief CIMIC Liaison Section of Land Task Force of ISAF stated: *"The Kabul CIMIC Centre is a great step forward in the normalisation of the relationships between all the actors for a new Afghanistan."*



Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py cutting the ribbon for the CIMIC center opening.

Photo: Cpl. Jean-Pierre Denil

The ISAF CIMIC Centre is open from Monday through Saturday, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Well done!

By Chaplain Rob Fechner

Kabul - At 4 p.m. on Sunday 22 August 2004 in a simple ceremony, the improvements which had been carried out at the Malalae child care centre were officially unveiled and handed over to the centre staff. In a short presentation by Lt. Col. Eimar Hermans, the commander of the Dutch Helicopter Detachment based at Kabul International Airport, whose soldiers did the work to improve the centre, said, *"Finally we were able to complete the building*

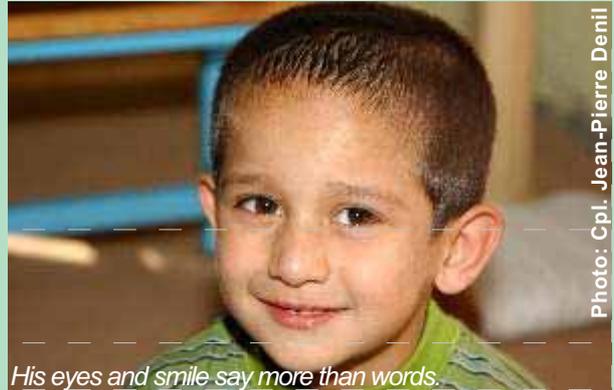


Photo: Cpl. Jean-Pierre Denil

His eyes and smile say more than words.

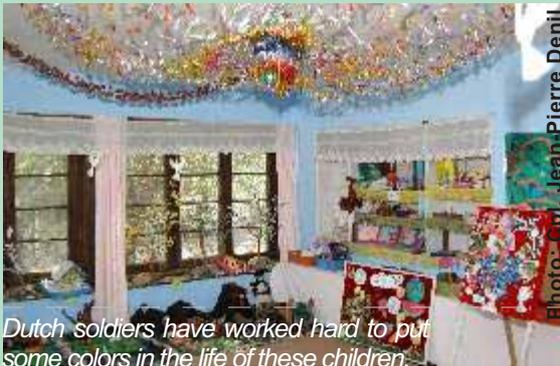


Photo: Cpl. Jean-Pierre Denil

Dutch soldiers have worked hard to put some colors in the life of these children.

improvements to this centre". In reply Mrs Storai Nesar, the director of the centre stated she was *"very grateful that personnel involved in the improvements of the centre spent so much time to get it finished."*

A second home

Malalae was founded as a child-care home in 1988 and since then has been accepting children between 3 and 6 years of age, who



Photo: Cpl. Jean-Pierre Denil

Most of them stay at school to eat and sleep.

have at least one working parent; some of them are from one-parent families. At the moment, the total number is about 200 children, but the number is still increasing. In the last 6 months most of the new arrivals were children from refugees returning to Kabul from Pakistan and Iran. Various activities are organised for the children like languages, math, biology on a basic level, crafts and sports and the children

have regular health checks. The number of children in a classroom is about 40 and the centre is open from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m, five days a week. In the afternoon some children go home to eat and rest, but most of them stay at school to eat and sleep, where the 24 women who work there care for them.

Mission accomplished

Recognising the need to make improvements, Mrs Storai Nesar approached a Dutch refugee care organisation seeking funds; a sum of \$800 US was granted, which was spent on building improvements. In 2004 Malalae asked for more financial assistance, but the organisation was not able to provide funds this time, so they looked for another source and as a result of the



Photo: Cpl. Jean-Pierre Denil

Official handover of happiness.

personal interest of Charlotte Kleijwegt, who works in close relationship with the refugee care organisation, they came to ISAF HQ and then to the 1st Netherlands Helicopter Detachment. This detachment started the work. Their successors then took over to complete the improvements. The people involved in this project are very glad to have been able to do something for Malalae. They consider it to be a token of friendship to the people of Afghanistan, for the little ones living in Kabul, who are the future of Afghanistan. Additionally, the teachers of Malalae have also been able to benefit from the improvements.

1st Netherlands Helicopter Detachment wishes Malalae all peace and luck in the world!

Provincial Reconstruction



Photo: Staff Sgt. Siivola

Typical and wonderful landscapes are the daily theater of the PRT in Mazar-e-Sharif.

By Capt. Mats Alm

The Military Observation Teams (MOT) are tasked to monitor and report any activities threatening security or endangering stability in their regions, with the aim to support Afghan Transitional Authority (ATA) in their efforts to bring democracy to Afghanistan.

MOTs report directly to ISAF/PRT HQ in Mazar-e-Sharif. This group is under British command but is, since ISAF took over responsibility, multinational. The first Swedish team has been deployed since end of June 2004.

Conditions

Within PRT/Mazar-e-Sharif there are 14 teams. Each team consists of six men. We use two Toyota Landcruisers per team for transportation. Equipment and arms are adapted so a team can operate independently on long-range patrols where

immediate support from friendly forces is not an option. However, PRT/Mazar-e-Sharif has an airborne QRF coy who can assist MOTs if needed. The coy is a combined British/Swedish unit using German operated helicopters deployed from Kunduz. The MOTs also have Forward Air Control (FAC) capability.

The two Swedish MOT's are deployed in the districts of Sar e Pol and Jawzjan. Sar e Pol is the most southern Province in the PRT on the foothills to the Hindu Kush mountains. Jawzjan in the north is on the boarder to Turkmenistan. The landscape is flat and the climate is warm and dry.



Photo: Staff Sgt. Siivola

The space for training is not missing.

Elections

Now the preparations for the presidential elections on the 9th October 2004 are in progress. The MOTs are concentrating their efforts on collecting information to be used for security assessment and deciding future courses of action for ISAF. This is work both short and long term. First it's important to make sure the election can be held as planned. In a

Teams: what's new?

broader perspective it's paramount to set conditions for stability and security in the whole of Afghanistan. One way to achieve this is to actively support the Afghan National Police. MOTs are closely involved in this project.

International forces have not patrolled great areas of our AOR since late 2001, so there is a need for information from the MOTs about passable routes, minefields, etc.



Photo: Staff Sgt. Siivola

Media meetings are also tasked to the military observation teams.



Photo: Staff Sgt. Siivola

Landcruisers are necessary for patrolling in this kind of region.

Short time for long term project



By Anne-Claude Gouy

Pol-e-Khomri - Cdr. Jan van Hoof, coming from Patriot Air Defence based at Air Base De Peel in Netherlands, is the new Dutch PRT commander in Pol-e-Khomri since last month. Beginning with a team of 50, they've just reached a total of about



Photo: Cpl. Jean-Pierre Demit

"We can make a difference for this country" said Cdr. Jan van Hoof

most important task is to support the government of Kabul through the Afghan provinces. But they are not here to act as "builders" of Afghanistan; they are here to get things done by the Afghan people. In order to help them in that way, they try to keep the area secure (because the main problems occur in the provinces), they help the building up of the local

police, and they help them to set up the main priorities. *"We have a little camp in the back garden of the police station. What's better for good relationship? The day after we've arrived, the police organized a breakfast for us and all the local authorities were here to take it with us. It was grateful to feel how we were welcomed here"*, explained van Hoof. Normally, the PRT takes place for one year with the possibility of an extension. *"This is a short contract for a long term project. There is a lot of possibilities for PRT concept to help the government to build the new Afghanistan. Normally, after one year, civilian organizations should take over the build up of the country"*, added van Hoof. The difficult point they will have to deal with is the expectation of Afghan people about what the PRT can do for them and what they can not do. *"It will take a lot of time to explain them, and it will require a lot of negotiations, but we will succeed step by step. We feel very welcomed and everybody is very friendly. It helps us not to feel isolated from our military colleagues. We were looking forward to doing this job, and we can make a difference for this country"*, concluded van Hoof.

H.W.C.: one step forward

By Col. Randy Pullen

There are countless pieces and parts to building the security and stability of Afghanistan. One more major piece to that building took place at the beginning of September with the completion of the cantonment of all heavy weapons in Kabul under the control of the Afghan Ministry of Defense.

A ceremony to mark the transfer of ownership of the heavy weapons of the 8th Division



Photo: Col. Randy Pullen

Abdurahim Wardak, Lt. Gen. Ishaq Noori, Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py and Maj. Gen. Craig P. Weston rendering honors to the Afghan anthem.

(Afghan Militia Forces) to the Ministry of Defense took place at the Hussein Khot Cantonment Site northwest of Kabul proper September 1.

As Afghan, ISAF and coalition dignitaries arrived at the site, they saw dozens of tanks, artillery pieces, armored personnel carriers and other heavy weapons neatly parked at the site. A formation of 8th Division soldiers stood to the side and came to attention when First Deputy Minister of Defense Abdurahim Wardak arrived. In his remarks, Wardak praised the soldiers of the 8th Division for their courage in battling the Soviets and the Taliban. He also complimented them on their vision for Afghanistan's future by undertaking the cantonment process. *"Our jihad was for the sake of God and the defense of our country,"* Wardak said. *"We did it for the good of our people. We want our people to live in peace and harmony."* Wardak said the disarmament process was intended to strengthen the ability of the people to live in peace and harmony by

removing weapons from the hands of irresponsible people who use them to rob and kill and put them where they belong, in the hands of the Ministry of Defense and the Afghan National Army, an army of the whole nation. The Deputy Minister said that those who claim the coalition and Afghan government do not respect those who fought for Afghan's freedom are lying. *"Everyone everywhere in the world who defends their country is respected,"* Wardak said. *"The mujahidin have their special place in our history and in our community."*

Results

Following Wardak, Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py, ISAF Commander, thanked the 8th Division for its quickness in cantoning its heavy weapons in record time, having cantoned some 235 heavy weapons in five days. He promised that ISAF would continue with the cantonment process until all heavy weapons are submitted to government control. *"This is an important process for strengthening peace in Afghanistan and encouraging prosperity for the people,"* Py said. *"Heavy weapons cantonment is a tangible example of the Afghan people turning their backs on violence."*

The redeployment and cantonment of heavy weapons is a Ministry of Defense initiative. This heavy weapons cantonment program is in compliance with the Bonn Agreement and the Petersburg Declaration, thereby assisting in the establishment of further stable security structures within Afghanistan. Although heavy weapons cantonment is not a part of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) process, it is a program that complements DDR and leads to the common goals of increasing security and enhancing the rule of law in Afghanistan.

According to UNAMA, The Ministry of Defense and the Afghan New Beginnings Program have cantoned 1,388 heavy weapons as of September 2, 2004.

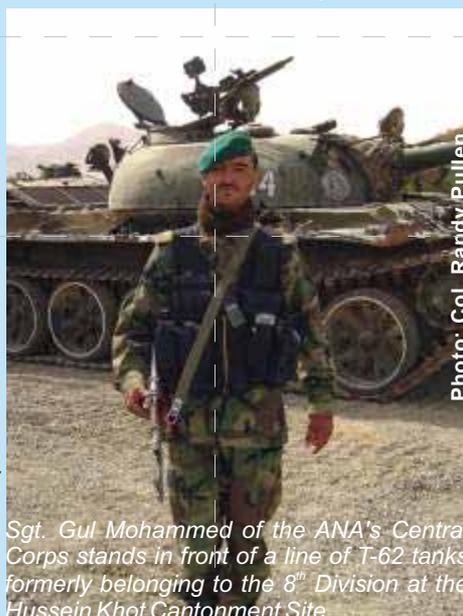


Photo: Col. Randy Pullen

Sgt. Gul Mohammed of the ANA's Central Corps stands in front of a line of T-62 tanks formerly belonging to the 8th Division at the Hussein Khot Cantonment Site.

Driving in Kabul

By Lt. Bennett

The question most asked of the members of the Canadian NSE Transportation Platoon is: *“With the chaotic driving conditions in Kabul, how is it that you don’t have more accidents?”* It’s a valid question, and it has led me to examine the way that the Canadian Forces trains its members who specialize as drivers, operating the variety of vehicles employed by the Transport trade.

The first half of the answer comes from the extensive driver training conducted in Canada. As the training progresses, scenarios specific to the incidents that we may encounter are used to better prepare our drivers for what they will face in theatre. One cannot anticipate every incident and circumstances that could possibly occur, but it does help to use the lessons learned from previous rotations. The second half of the answer is good communications and teamwork. Drivers get used to working as a team and communicating both verbally and non-verbally. We train our teams to



Canadian soldiers in their Bison armoured vehicle in downtown traffic in Kabul.

Photo: Cpl. John Bradley

communicate clearly to each other what is to be expected ahead or what is happening around them. For new drivers in this type of environment so different from Canada this is particularly important. The longer they work together, the better they learn each other’s non-verbal methods of communication and the quicker their reactions to unexpected situations. When the entire team is paying attention to the road and applying, together, the principles taught them for good driving, the risk of accident and injury to us or to those out on the road has been greatly minimized.

BOOKS FOR FREEDOM

By Lt. Ciro Parisi

“Today, thanks to the Italians we have many more books and we feel freer. Schools and education are necessities for the development of any community and we wish at least one of our students will have a scholarship so to conclude his scholastic career in Italy”.

These are the vivid words of the deputy headmaster and teacher Lal Agha Hashimi, at Udkheyl school, during a short but significant ceremony to inaugurate the infrastructures built by the Italian Contingent. From today on, the children of the Udkheyl school, located in the middle of the homonymous village in the outskirts of the capital, can count on four new scholastic room, one infirmary, where on a weekly basis the doctors of the Italian Contingent will provide medical assistance, one didactic room for informatics learning, with 4 workstations. The funds invested, about 6,000 euros, have been collected in Italy thanks to a subscription activated by the 5th “Superga” Artillery Regiment, with the aim to sustain the humanitarian project “Reviving a hope for Kabul” with several and different donors.



The happiness of schoolchildren in a new classroom built by the Italian engineers spending the funds of their Institutional partners.

Photo: Sgt. Maj. Sabato Celentano

For peace

The female representative of the teachers, Fatma Pamiri, visibly touched while thanking the personnel of the Italian contingent present at the ceremony, has underlined how after the fall of the Taliban regime, the girls once again have begun to diligently frequent the school. She also added how the school needs constant support and adequate infrastructure: *“It would be nice for the teachers to have a day-care which could look after our sons when we are at work, so to have the tranquillity to teach in the best way”.* This request has not gone unheard; in the coming days a feasibility study will be performed to adapt an already existing room to become a day-care for the teacher’s sons. The consensus obtained by the Italian soldiers of ISAF is very high, as explained by the Malek, who also added *“It is impressive what you are doing here for the Afghan people, so far away from your homeland and families. The choice we took, certainly not without any risk, is for peace, prosperity and reconstruction. When the day will come when our country reaches complete development, it will be thanks to the ISAF forces which worked hard every day to create the safety conditions for democracy”.*



KABUL Multinational



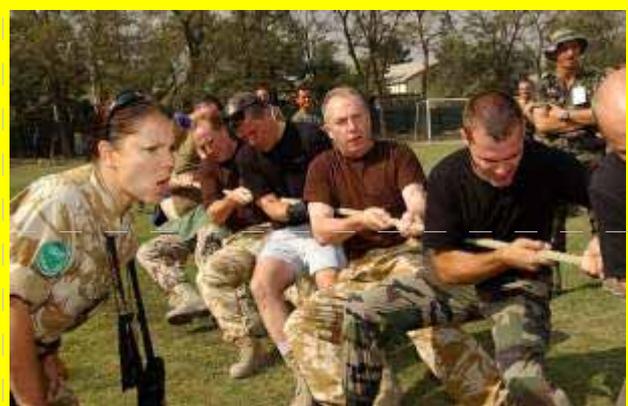
An Italian soldier preparing an EOD destruction.



A German NCO sharing a privileged moment with Afghan children.



Difficult landing for a Portuguese Hercules C-130 at Kabul International Airport.



During a tug of war in HQ ISAF: when encouraging is as important as pulling.



French soldiers on patrol - women can walk through Kabul without being harassed -also a success.



British soldier near the King's tomb.

Brigade in ACTION



View over the machine gun of the Turkish Black Hawk flying over the fields of Kabul.

Snapshots



A German soldier at the live firing exercise in Pol-e-Charki.



ISAF soldier with his weapon of choice during a girl's school opening.



Launch of the German Unmanned Aerial Vehicle LUNA: it will show what's going on in Kabul from the bird's view.



Left: An Afghan man helps a French soldier during a patrol.



Orange smokes mark the landing area for a Turkish Black Hawk on a local road.

New Multinational Battle Group

By Capt. Stine Skjaeret

"To be honest, we have got an even better start than I thought we would", said Battle Group 3 Commander, Lt. Col. Yngve Odlo. August 5th, BG3 relieved the Canadian 3rd R22nd Battalion Group, and took over their



group. *"It's a pity we didn't have the chance to work together before we deployed, but many small problems were solved the days before the TOCA",* said Capt. Peter Gysel, Belgian Coy Commander. He also pointed out the good cooperation within the BG, and a very good handover process with the

Canadians. The Hungarian Coy Commander, Capt. Santa Gabor, agrees, and points out the good cooperation inside Camp Julien. His company has been together for eight years, and Gabor tells that they have been looking forward to this mission for ages. *"We have been to multinational exercises, but now we are finally in a serious mission, and the guys are happy they can make use of their skills",* the Captain said. He is impressed, and proud, that a small country like Hungary managed to send a unit in such short notice. Maj. Trond Haande, Officer Commanding Norwegian Squadron, said that the changeover from being an



Photo: Cpl. John Bradley

"The key issue to success is to respect the Afghan people and culture", said Belgian Coy Commander, Capt. Gysel, here with Capt. Arne, Norwegian colleague.

area of responsibility within KMNB. For the first time Norway, a small nation, has the leadership in a multinational battle group in KMNB alongside France and Germany.

BG3 consists of a Belgian and a Hungarian company, and a recce squadron from Norway. The latter comes from the Cavalry Battalion in Northern Norway, and has been in Kabul since early June. They took over their AOO from Telemark Task Force II 20 June. The Belgian Coy comes from 1. Para Battalion in Diest, and the Hungarian from 34th Recce Battalion in Szolonok. *"These are three very good units. They will work a lot on company level, but also in task organization. The battalion assets have to float in all units. I can't see any major challenges that could stop us from having a very good joint unit already after a few days we started joint action and exchange between the national units",* Odlo explained.

Three countries one opinion

But Odlo, and his three Officers Commanding, admit there are challenges and initial problems to be solved when three nations, working together for the first time, form a multinational battle

independent brigade unit to enter into a BG, initially looked difficult. *"But now this works out without problems within the concept of operations and command relationship the BG3 and KMNB agreed upon",* Maj. Haande says. The jointness within BG3 contributes to positive challenges for his squadron. Together the Belgians, Hungarians and Norwegians they will work hard and focus to fulfill the BG3's, KMNB's and ISAF's intentions.



Photo: Cpl. John Bradley

Hungarian Coy Cdr, Capt. Gabor (left), and Cdr BG3, Lt. Col. Odlo, appreciate the handover provided by the Canadians, as here on a recce.

One for All

By Capt. Albert Van Dalen



KABUL - A delegation of representatives from the ISAF HQ under the lead of Medical Advisor Lt. Col. Jaap Boreel from the Netherlands visited Indira Ghandi Children's Hospital in Kabul last month.

Boreel was the initiator of this visit as well due to the fact that as a medical advisor he had very good experiences with similar activities during previous deployment to Cambodia. He suggested to his family, that they collect some toys, knowing that nice and fancy toys do not normally get to children in Afghanistan. He was sure that in his home country children have so many that they don't even have the time to play with them. Knowing this, his mother gathered some friends and initiated a toy collection at



Photo: Capt. Albert Van Dalen

About 400 children are treated in Indira Gandhi hospital.

The delegation was made up of soldiers from the Netherlands and Estonia. The senior Dutch national representative from ISAF was present to witness the event accompanied by eight others. After the distribution of the toys, the director talked with the ISAF delegation during which some interesting facts were revealed. Above all India supports this hospital by providing them paint to help maintain the hospital. *"Diseases of the children are related to the seasons,"* he said. 85 nurses and 102 doctors are assigned to this hospital. It might sound a little strange that more doctors than nurses are employed. But some of the doctors are assigned as so-called "trainees". At the end you could see that everyone was happy with all they had been given. The conclusion was that this has been a very useful action initiated by someone who cares for others. Actions like this could generate a lot of "goodwill" amongst the local population!



Photo: Capt. Albert Van Dalen

Lt. Col. Jaap Boreel is THE modest one who initiated the project.

various primary schools in the area in which she lives. The result was overwhelming: about 10 bags with toys were collected! The Royal Netherlands Marine Corps then supported the gesture by shipping these toys to Kabul.

Happiness delegation

When the delegation arrived they got a warm welcome from the hospital director. After a short talk the delegation split into 4 groups and distributed the toys throughout the hospital. Not only children but mothers without children as well, could hardly control themselves from grabbing the toys out of the plastic bags! The mothers of the children normally remain in the hospital as well to take care of them and to be there if required.



Photo: Capt. Albert Van Dalen

A hand held to another one...

READY FOR THE ELECTIONS

By Capt. Georg Auer

“Warning! On October 9th at a polling station downtown, a truck has stopped adjacent to the line of Kabul citizens waiting to vote for their favorite presidential candidate. As a Kabul City Police Officer approaches with the intent to ask the individual and this truck to move on, a terrific explosion occurs; a large number of persons are killed or injured”. A so-called major incident in the centre of Kabul.....

A situation nobody wants to come but we must be prepared for it. To be prepared for such an event, ISAF, the Joint electoral Management Body (JEMB), the Elections Security Operations Centre (ESOC) and other command structures held an election preparation exercise, while the Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) organized and conducted a Command Post Exercise in parallel. The forward tactical command post, for such incidents nicknamed Harpoon, was installed in Kabul Garrison and thus close to local Afghan authorities.

Action!

After the warning order, the first objective was to collect all responsible personnel from KMNB HQ, rush to the scene and to install the CP as fast as possible. This was done in a remarkable time, also the Italian Force Protection Coy, the US Coy and all other KMNB assets as the Multinational Military Police, the Chief Engineer, the Psyops Element and the Medical Advisor were close at hand so that the CP was operational just a few minutes after arriving. Following the setup, the exercise was conducted in three phases. During the first

phase, all participants were faced with a catastrophic scenario: 9 persons killed, 24 injured, two houses next to the polling centre in a state of collapse and media on the scene taking pictures of this inferno. How to react to clear the situation was the first task, cordoning the area and installing a medical operations centre to organise the transport of the injured to ISAF and civilian hospitals.

Happy end

During the second phase, the situation was even worse; the number of injured increased, one of the neighbouring houses collapsed and blocked the road, and international media were waiting on the



German soldiers installing the tactical CP.

Photo: Capt. Georg Auer

site and requesting an interview and statement about the situation. In the third phase, the CP personnel had to solve the problem of a crowd shouting comments against ISAF and ATA and approaching the outer cordon. Furthermore, the JEMB asked for support and assistance to continue the voting in the building or at another place; also the ballots of this polling sites had to be secured. These scenarios are essential for contingency planning. After having had two incidents in the last two months and after this exercise, KMNB now is experienced and prepared for such major incidents. The KMNB Commander, Gen. Walter Spindler, was happy with the result: *“KMNB's ability to respond to a major incident is validated and thus is reflected in the International community's confidence in ISAF's ability to respond to a major incident and to manage a crisis situation”*. While the weather was good at the beginning, the scene changed during the exercise: a sandstorm also showed how the weather is able to influence and make difficult the conduct of such an operation. But the endstate is what counts: mission accomplished.