

# ISAF MIRROR

December 2004



## Many nations, one mission

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# As far as feet will carry us

By Capt. Georg Auer



**A high-mountain march in Afghanistan? Isn't this too steep? And what about the danger of mines? None at all, if the march takes place inside Camp Warehouse which is still at an altitude of 1800 meters!**

The Danish ISAF Contingent organized and conducted an Afghanistan DANCON March, where the soldiers had to complete 12 ½ laps until they reached the twenty-five kilometres-mark and fulfilled their voluntary mission. Equipped with a 10 kg bag plus weapon, the march was not just like a Sunday-afternoon walk. Every participant now knows the difference between a concrete road and a dusty or even rocky stone trail!

## Perfect support

Support was excellent and provided by the Danish contingent. Fresh water and fruit were close at hand on the service station, which everyone had to pass lap by lap. The Danish nurses even offered a muscle-relaxing leg and foot massage, heartily welcomed by many brave hikers. Also blisters were treated professionally so that all the soldiers could finish the



The soldiers had to complete 12.5 laps.

Photo: Lt. Michael Lauko

march. Fortunately, the weather conditions were perfect, too: no clouds, for sure no rain, warm sunshine and moderate temperatures. The first two marches received an overwhelming participation. 165 soldiers marched on October 23 inside Camp Warehouse, and a further 121 soldiers on November 6, and the best time was 2h48. The medals were awarded one week later on a special medal parade. There is one last chance for you to receive a diploma and a medal: On December 15, soldiers of ISAF again can pass their laps in Camp Warehouse.

Photo: Lt. Michael Lauko



The hikers were equipped with a 10kg bag and their weapon.

## V.I.P in Camp Warehouse

By Capt. Georg Auer

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder visited Camp Warehouse and was welcomed by the COM ISAF Lt. Gen. Jean-Louis Py, by COM KMNB, Brig. Gen. Walter Spindler, and by the Commander of the German Operations Command, Lt. Gen. Holger Kammerhoff. The German Chancellor visited the Multinational field hospital, spoke with German and French Soldiers and took the opportunity for a short discussion with the Generals.

KMNB contributed to the visit with air and ground transport capacities and Force Protection.



Brig. Gen. Walter Spindler and German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder.

Photo: Lt. Col. Hartmut Betge

# **TENTS FOR AFGHAN POLICE**

By Lt. Col. Tom Scheibe

**German Federal Armed Forces have supported the police of Kunduz in delivering tents to Afghan security forces. Protected against wind and weather Afghan policemen at the main roads of the city of Kunduz are now able to provide security in this provincial capital of Afghanistan under better conditions.**

The delivery of three tents by the soldiers of the ISAF Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT)



Photo: Master Sgt. Andreas P. Seger

*The delegation in front of the Afghan provisional quarters near Kunduz.*

Kunduz improved the operational readiness of the policemen who monitor far parts of the surrounding areas of the city. Without proper accommodation three large checkpoints had been established to survey and safeguard the surrounding area. During their rest periods the policemen had to content themselves with make-shift quarters. The autumn that began with violent rainstorms and cold weather had aggravated these conditions.

## Reciprocity

Initiated by the German military police the commander of the PRT, Col. Reinhard Barz, handed over three large tents to the police force. The Chief of Staff of the police, Gen. Sakhi, thanked Col. Barz and personally supervised the build up of the tents. In a combined action the German soldiers and the Afghan policemen erected the tents immediately. Col. Barz underlined the importance of this measure: *"The better the conditions of the policemen are, the better they can work and the more secure we are as guests*



Photo: Master Sgt. Andreas P. Seger

*Combined teams build up of one of the tents.*

*in this city."* The cooperation of the soldiers of the German led Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Kunduz and the local police of the city of Kunduz has already been demonstrated several times. In addition to the representatives of the Federal Ministry of the Interior, who maintain active contacts as one of the civilian parts of the PRT to all police forces of the region, the soldiers of the military police also cooperate closely with the local safety forces. Support to the Afghan security forces and helping build up their structure, is one of the central tasks of the German reconstruction team for the entire region of NorthEastern Afghanistan.



Photo: Master Sgt. Andreas P. Seger

*General Sakhi thanks Colonel Barz for his help.*

# Blue Gold

By Lt. Col. Tom Scheibe

Khvajaghar, 6<sup>th</sup> of November, the project of the relief organization Cap Anamur in the northeast of Afghanistan was handed over officially to the district governor of Khvajaghar, Mullah Omar. The head of Cap Anamur in Khvajaghar, Dr. Reinhard Sallinger, had invited also the commander of the PRT Kunduz, Col. Reinhard Barz.

*The heavy weight part is put in place by the German Forces.*



Photo: Master Sgt. Andreas P. Seger

The soldiers of the branch office of the German PRT in Taloqan supported the project of the relief organisation, so that it could be completed quickly. A German Liaison Monitoring Team (LMT) from Kunduz met during its regular travels with Sverre Petersen,

the project manager of the low water well Khvajaghar for the relief organisation Cap Anamur. Immediately in the discussion it turned out that Cap Anamur in Khvajaghar operates a well project. A tricky challenge was to lift the large, several tons heavy diesel-generator into the pump house. Civilian cranes for such loads are however not available in that area of Afghanistan. In a rapid action the German Armed Forces promised assistance and, on a short notice, lifted the generator with a 40 ton crane into the pump house.

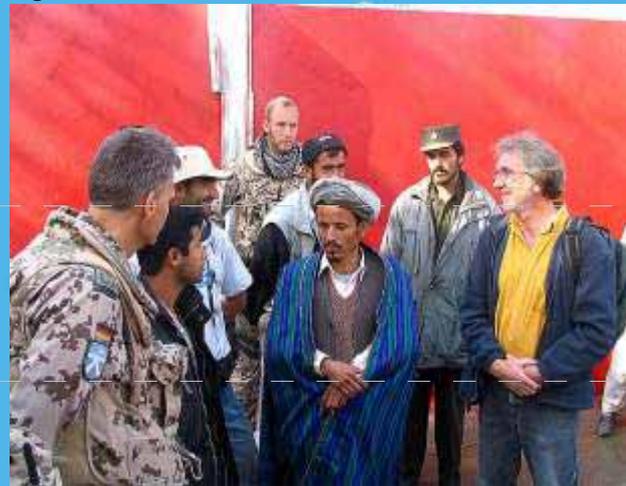
## To each one his speciality

Upon completion of the work Dr. Sallinger said: *"Without the fast assistance of the soldiers this would have become a large problem for us and the completion of the project over here substantially would have been delayed."* He underlined this unexpected assistance also in his short speech at the opening of the well. *"There are only two things everybody needs, air and water. This water project shall be seen as a foundation-stone for a better and safe future."* With these words he handed the well project over to Mullah Omar. For the first time high quality water (as tested by the University of



*The generator is placed to its position to the nearest millimetre.*

Cologne) is supplied from a low drilling well to Khvajaghar. It is important, that the people see that the military renders help, said Sallinger in a discussion with the district governor and Col. Barz. Mullah Omar took up this thread and thanked all for the support by the project of Cap Anamur. He also mentioned the positive work of the PRT, since the PRT with its joint projects carries out many works to strengthen security in the entire region and so support the government in Kabul.



*Mullah Omar thanks Cap Anamur and PRT Kunduz.*

Col. Barz underlined this aspect: *"We are not the professionals for reconstruction, these are the relief organisations. We collect information and pass them on. But by our joint work we all contribute to a safe and stable surrounding in Afghanistan."* The low drilling well in Khvajaghar saves a large water reservoir so the *blue gold* now can flow for the next 500 years to over 40.000 human beings in the northeast province of Afghanistan.

# OPERATION WEASEL

By Capt Stine Skjaeret

**Like the weasel, the Norwegian Battle Group 3 is very active, both day and night.**

The Norwegian Battle Group 3 (BG 3) roles into Kabul while still daylight. But soon the darkness and the coldness will coat the city and the peak hours for criminal activity will begin. The Commander positions himself and his crew on a hill, having view over the area where his soldiers put in their effort. The aim of the operation is to detect, deter and disrupt criminal activity and increase the perception of security. On his radio, the sitreps from the Norwegian, Belgian, Hungarian and American troops on patrol and checkpoints in the Area Of Operations come in. Joint in the operation is also Kabul City Police who one day shall be able to conduct these operations without assistance from ISAF. It turns out to be a quiet night this time. No major crime happens in the area. If it's due to the presence of BG3, one can not now for sure, of course, but Operation Weasel for sure did not do any harm.

## One day later

While troops are out on the ground, Capt. Mark Laven, CIMIC-chief in the BG3, prepares his part of the operation, a poll that takes part the next day. With a set of questions, the Belgian officer and his CIMIC team, approach people in the same area as the operation was carried out the night before. "Did you now anything about the operation? Have you been checked? Your opinion of this kind of operation? These kinds of questions I ask, to get a feeling of the opinion among the locals. After all, it is to assist their security we are here," says Laven. Drawing his conclusion from the answers given by the 100 people he asked this time, he is in no doubt: "The general impression is positive. 100 present answered that there is need for security



Photo: Capt. Stine Skjaeret

Operation Weasel was conducted during two nights by Norwegian (picture), American, Belgian and Hungarian troops of Battle Group 3.

operations like this, and that they want ISAF to continue their operations. Some of the people asked



Photo: Capt. Stine Skjaeret

Norwegian and Belgian vehicles at a checkpoint in Paghman.

that work as salesmen, expressed that they are satisfied every morning when they find their shop trolleys in the same shape as they left them the evening before", says Laven, adding that it is his impression that the locals care about their local security against crimes,

not so much about Taliban and other security threats on other levels.



Photo: Capt. Stine Skjaeret

CIMIC officer Capt. Mark Laven tells from the poll that locals are positive to security operations conducted by BG3.

# GEORGIAN SUPPORT

By Capt. Georg Auer

28 Nations take part in the Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB). The latest one is Georgia that contributes with 50 soldiers to ISAF. They went in on September 15 to support the KMNB during the election period. Because their mission is limited to 90 days, they will have to leave mid-December, just after the inauguration of the new elected president

The 50 soldiers, among them six officers, belong to the 16<sup>th</sup> Mountain Infantry Battalion, based in Kutaizi in the Caucasian Mountains. Their Company Commander, Capt. Schavlego Tabatadze, who is experienced in missions already, personally chose them. In 2003, he was the Deputy Commander of

the first Georgian contingent to Kosovo Force (KFOR). All soldiers in this mission are volunteers who signed for more than 3 years to take part in this mission. The company trained for several months in Georgia and came out last training and exercise at the German

Training Area in Schwarzenborn. The 152<sup>nd</sup> German Armoured Infantry Battalion has set a two-week training especially for the Georgian Company to prepare the soldiers for their mission in Afghanistan. Finally, they were equipped with German combat dresses and boots.

## Cooperation at every level

The Georgian Company is attached to the German Battle Group. Its mission is the guard of Camp Warehouse. Doing this, the Georgian



Georgian soldier checking incoming German vehicle.

Photo: Capt. Georg Auer

company relieved German companies. Thus, their personnel were set free to go out on patrol in Kabul and could increase presence and security in the Afghan Capital. This was very

helpful, because during the elections, every boot on the ground was needed. The Company Commander is very content with his soldiers:

*"They do a good job here in Kabul. Securing the Camp isn't as interesting as patrolling outside, but it is a very responsible job.*



Georgian soldier observing from watch tower.

Photo: Capt. Georg Auer

*It is important for the soldiers*

*inside the camp that they can sleep safely." Is there any language problem? Capt. Tabatadze, who himself fluently speaks German and also attended the Company Commander Course in Germany, denies: "I have chosen my soldiers in the manner that in any group there is at least one soldiers speaking German or English. And thus it works quite well." If there are still problems of understanding, German soldiers can help. Some of them are immigrants from Russia with German ancestors and speak Russian. The KMNB really is multinational and its motto "One team One mission" fits.*

# Short but efficient

By Capt. Christian Chramer



For ninety days the US Alfa-company/1<sup>st</sup> Battalion out of Hornfels, Germany, has been a part of Battle Group 3. In this short period they have reached important milestones in their corporation with the other nations of Battle Group 3, and with the local population.

On this morning the 1<sup>st</sup> Sgt. Loyd Compton is out on patrol southwest of Kabul. The formation of five Humvees moves steadily along the narrow dirt road that runs into Lalander-valley. The American company has paid many visits to this part of Kabul as this road has been a popular route for smugglers. Since the Americans started their patrolling and established contact



Photo: Sgt. Jan Ivar Lovik

The terrain in Lalander changes from open farmland to narrow mountain passes. The soldiers manning the machine gun has a nice overview of the scenery, although it's getting a bit dusty.



Photo: Sgt. Jan Ivar Lovik

A soldier hands out chocolate and pens to local children in Lalander.

his surprise the platoon has also brought pictures of him and his family, taken at their last visit to Lalander valley. With the arrangement settled with the Malik, the patrol has fulfilled its mission and turns to make its way back to the camp. Local children wave them goodbye. Their hands are holding onto a stack of chocolate, candy and ink-pens that the soldiers have given them. Winning hearts and minds is an important part of the job; in Lalander, and other parts of Kabul, the American company has succeeded in that.

with the locals there has not been a single case of that. *"It's almost to bad that we are going home now that we come so far,"* said Compton.

To reach the aim

The company has focused on getting a close corporation with the village chiefs, called Maliks. Today's patrol-objective is to visit a small village, to talk with the Malik and to make an arrangement for delivering school material to the school of his village. As the patrol reaches its destination, the Malik is already out to meet them. He is very happy to receive equipment for the education of children and thanks the American soldiers for their job in Lalander. To

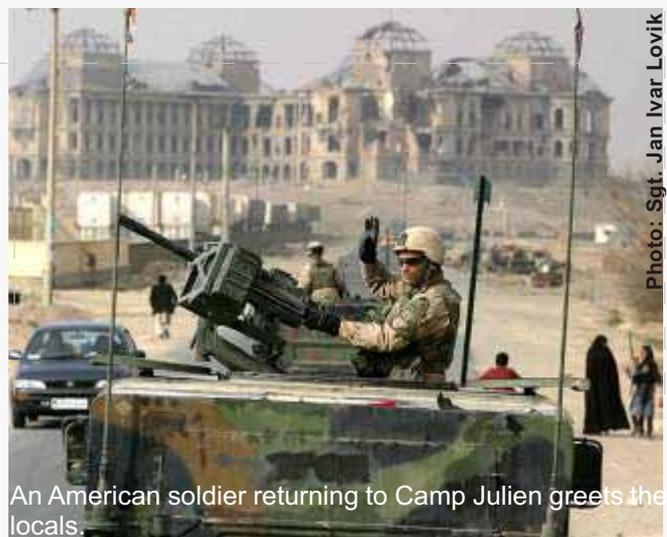


Photo: Sgt. Jan Ivar Lovik

An American soldier returning to Camp Julien greets the locals.

# Commemoration



Photo: Capt. Georg Auer

German Ambassador and KMINB Commander honoring comrades.

German Ambassador to Afghanistan, Dr. Rainald Steck set a flower-circle in the name of the German Government to honour and remember all victims of war and dictatorship in front of the Memorial Plate for the ISAF Soldiers died in mission. He mentioned the special time and place of this Memorial Day: "In this country, war and

By Capt. Georg Auer



While most of ISAF nations commemorate the victims of war and dictatorship on November 11, the day of the official end of World War I, Germany has chosen the second Sunday in November. On this occasion, plenty of German and also some French soldiers attended a ceremony on the International, former British cemetery of Kabul.

*mourning isn't far behind. The consequences of war, civil war and unrest are still visible. The huge suffering of the people, in first line of all civilians is not forgotten. We share their feelings and remember the dead. But we also want to contribute to heal their wounds by our assistance to reconstruct the country."*

Regarding the losses of ISAF, he added: "Every soldier of this mission has contributed to the noble cause, that security and hope in Afghanistan are present again. Unfortunately not all of them can see the positive outcome of their work. Many soldiers and civilian aid workers have died in duty by accidents, but also by attacks and assaults. We owe these who paid the highest price, our respect and thankfulness. Their heritage is our obligation." German Chaplain Thomas Bohne found words of sorrow for those who died and invited all participants for the Lord's Prayer. The ceremony ended in silence, after a trumpet has played the hymn Das Lied vom guten Kamerad.



Photo: Capt. Georg Auer

German and French soldiers attended the ceremony in the British cemetery of Kabul.

# EID MUBARAK

By Capt. Christian Chrømer



Every year, all over the world, Muslims show their devotion to God through the Holy Month of Ramadan. When the month of fast is over they celebrate for three days together with their family and friends. The Chief Wakil of Police District 4 in Kabul invited his Norwegian friends to Eid-celebration.

As most of the houses in Kabul and Afghanistan Sadat's house is surrounded by a high wall. It protects the household from thieves and gives a modest impression of the house from the outside. Entering the courtyard a nice house prepared for a feast is revealed. The two Norwegian liaison-officers



Photo: Capt. Christian Chrømer

In the honor of the guests and Eid, the best of dishes was served.



Chief Wakil Said Amir Sadat welcoming his Norwegian guests.

Photo: Capt. Christian Chrømer

are addressing Mr. Said in a respectful fashion. Mr. Said is a highly respected man in PD 4, a district with more than 600 000 inhabitants.

## As father as son

In PD 4 the Wakil-structure has endured for a long time. Said Amir Sadat has been a Wakil for 17 years. He replaced his father that had been a Wakil for 38 years. As Mr. Sadat serves his guest with the best of food to celebrate Eid he tells the team about the situation in the PD. More people are moving to the area and some places they have started using shops for housing. In spite of these challenges the Chief Wakil assess the overall situation as good. Power supplies are stable and the people of the area have

access to water from their own wells. After two hours of eating and discussion to celebrate Eid the two liaison officers thanked the Chief Wakil for his hospitality and for his invitation to celebrate Eid. Prior to their departure they present the Chief Wakil with photography of the team, Mr. Sadat and his family. Maybe it can find its place together with the picture of the liaison team from ISAF V that already is given a prominent position in the Chief Wakil's living-room!



The Norwegian team and Mr. Sadat family: a family picture.

Photo: Capt. Christian Chrømer

# To bring the light



Photo: Sgt. Jan Ivar Lovik

Battle group Commander, Lt. Col. Odlo and Capt. Santa Gabor presenting the gifts to the local police chiefs.

By Capt. Christian Chramer

In the police force of Kabul City Police (KCP) many officers needs more police



Photo: Sgt. Jan Ivar Lovik

A grateful police chief thanks Capt. Gabor for the gifts.

equipment. Donations of material from ISAF-forces, gradually improves the situation.

A large crowd of police officers was present when a convoy of ISAF-vehicles entered the Head Quarter of Police district 7 in southern Kabul. Capt. Santa Gabor from Hungary was leading the multinational

group, and with him were representatives from USA, Belgium and Norway. All nations in ISAF's only multinational battlegroup, Battlegroup 3 (BG 3). In a short meeting with the three Police chiefs of PD 6, PD 7 and Chahar Asiab, the BG 3 commander, Lt. Col. Odlo, said that proper equipment was important, but that one also had to focus on

training. The battle group would, in addition to providing the flashlights and reflective jackets that now were handed out, launch a long-term program for improving police skills in the BG 3 Area of Operations. Police chief of PD 6, Abdul Ghani Fahl was one of the three chiefs present. He expressed his gratitude and promised that: "My unit will use the equipment from BG 3 wisely."

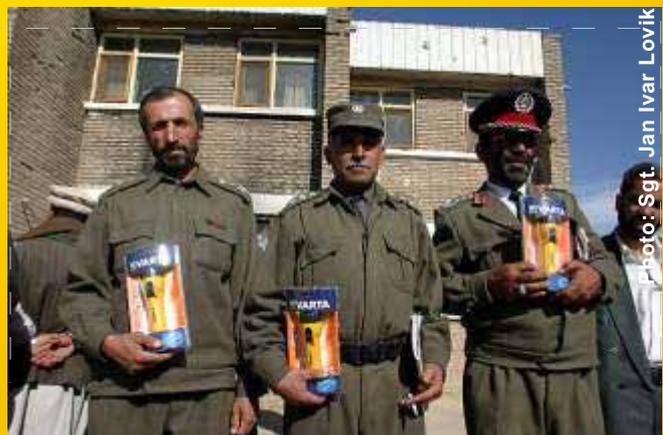


Photo: Sgt. Jan Ivar Lovik

40 flashlights and 40 jackets of reflective material were given to each police chief in the Battle group 3 area of operation.

# Famous team



The two Afghan teams and their Italian referees.

Photo: Master Sgt. Stefan Wagner

By Lt. Bruno Vio



On November 11<sup>th</sup> 2004, at the Kabul Sports Centre, the 1<sup>st</sup> “Derby della Mole” took place,

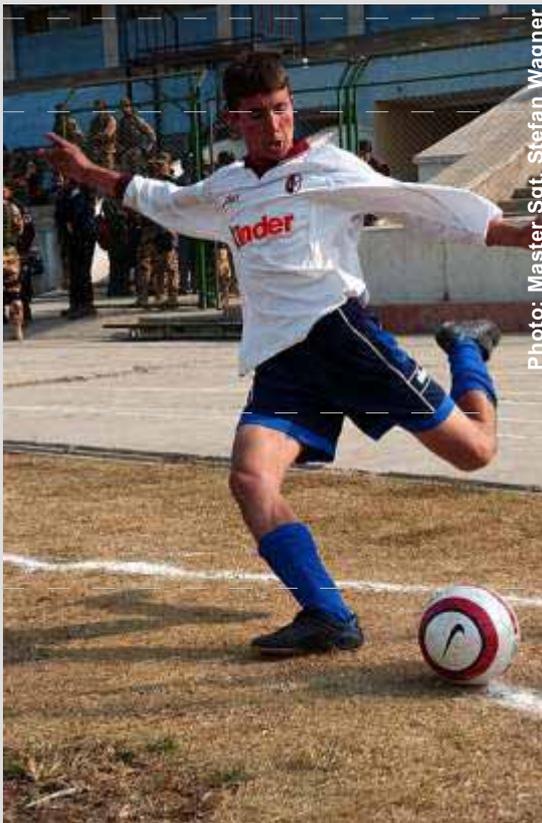


Photo: Master Sgt. Stefan Wagner

between two junior football teams from the Afghan capital. The two teams wore the shirts of two important Italian football teams.

The trophy was organised by Task Force Cobra commander, Lt. Col. Giulio Lucia. To an

audience of many Italian and Afghan political and military authorities, amongst them Italian ambassador in Kabul, Domenico Giorgi and the Commander of Italian Contingent in Kabul, Col. Francesco Figliuolo, two teams played in the same stadium where, just four years ago, brutal executions by Taliban took place. At the end of the game, the Italian ambassador in Kabul awarded the two-team captains with the game's trophies, and Col. Figliuolo was pleased to give to the two teams the Italian Contingent's ensign. At the end of the award ceremony, the President of Afghan Olympic Committee and President Karzai's personal counselor, was pleased to give to the Italian Ambassador in Kabul, to Col. Figliuolo and Lt. Col. Lucia, who organized the event, the Afghan Olympic Committee glass plate. Task Force Cobra personnel comes from various units of Alpini Troops, but mostly from “Susa” Alpini Battalion of 3<sup>rd</sup> Alpini Regiment stationed in Pinerolo (Turin), the Unit of which Lt. Col. Lucia is the Commander in Italy.

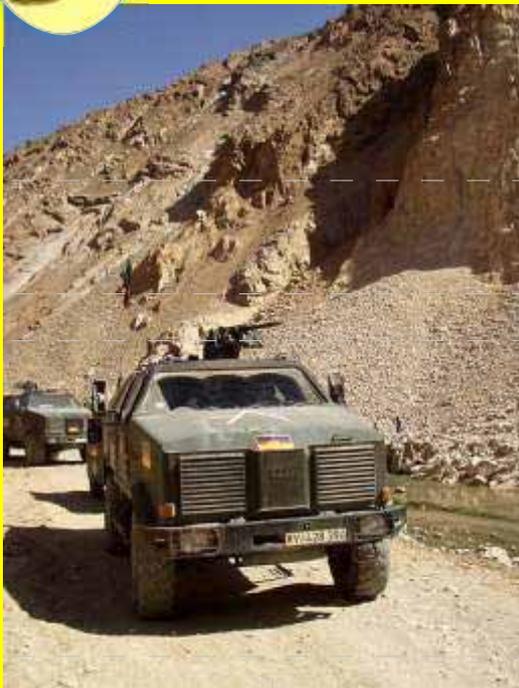


Photo: Master Sgt. Stefan Wagner

The winner team with its coach, and its cup.



# KABUL Multinational



*German patrol in Kakhi Jabbar.*



*German doctor sounding a little deaf Afghan girl.*



*German soldiers presenting their weapons to Afghan Security Forces members..*



*Equipment, weapons and ammunitions of a German Dingo.*

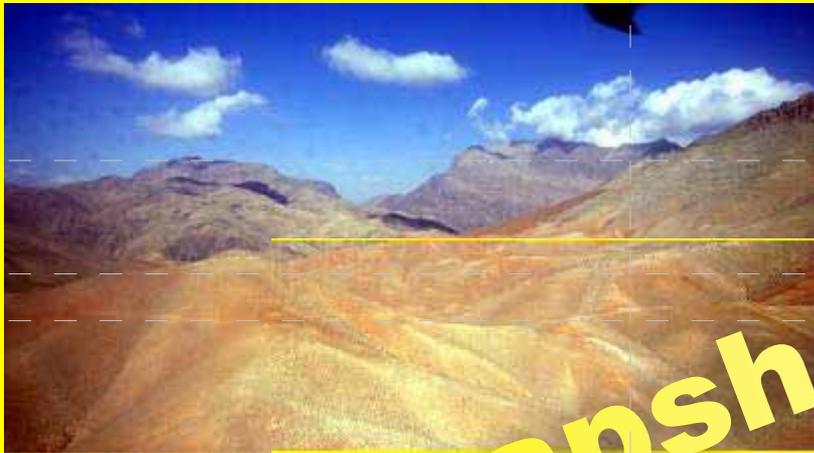


*Canadian soldier's smile.*

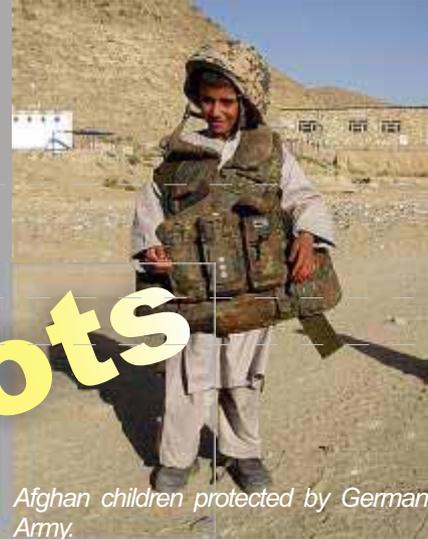


*Off road during a German patrol.*

# Brigade in **ACTION**



No comment.

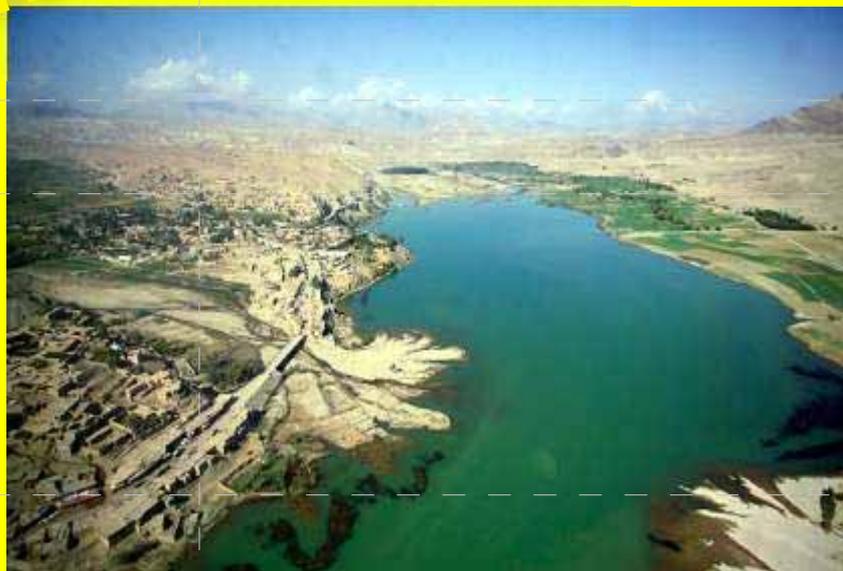


Afghan children protected by German Army.

Snapshots



Italian Forces ceremony.



Surobi dam in the South East of Kabul.



Canadian EOD mission: from beginning to end.





# MISSION

By Capt. Albert Van Dalen

**Major General Leo van den Born, the Deputy Commander (DCOM) of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), visited the First Fighter Wing of the Netherlands F-16/KDC-10 Detachment at the Ganci Air Base, Manas, Kyrgyzstan, on 4 and 5 November 2004.**

the Afghan Presidential Elections. The last F-16 flight took place on 4 November 2004. There were two aims of this visit. On the one hand it was important to thank the detachment, on behalf of ISAF Commander, for its contribution to the security during the elections. On the other hand the DCOM took the opportunity to present the Commander of the Detachment and his troops the well-deserved NATO Medal for all the hard work done.



Photo: Capt. Albert Van Dalen

*The six Dutch F-16 aircraft were additional elements of the ISAF force.*

The six Dutch F-16 aircraft, accompanied by a KDC-10 refueling aircraft, were additional elements of the ISAF force in theatre to assist in the provision of a stable and secure environment that allowed the presidential election process to unfold. The detachment started their activities mid September 2004. They were very successful in accomplishing this mission, by showing force before and after

## **Best force**

*“As members of the detachment you may be proud of the results achieved. Your flexible mindset made it possible that the Dutch F-16's were “On Station”, by 11 a.m., 9 October 2004, the day of the first direct Afghan Presidential Elections. This was possible only by the quick turnaround of the Dutch KDC-10, which was*

# ACCOMPLISHED

able to make two long sorties. On another occasion the Air Presence of the F-16's requested by the Provincial Reconstruction Team Mazar-e-Sharif, provided a quick solution to deteriorating security situations on the ground. This was only possible by your "Can Do" mentality," Maj. Gen. van den Born stated.



160 Dutch soldiers were deployed.



Photo: Capt. Albert Van Dalen

"People in Afghanistan are grateful for your help. NATO is grateful as well for your contribution which promoted the credibility of the International Security Assistance Force," he continued.

During his visit the Netherlands National Contingent Commander, Lt. Col. Philippe Wittle, the Detachment Commander of 1 NL Helicopter Detachment, representatives from the ISAF Theatre Air Operations Center, accompanied him. Now the 160 soldiers have redeployed back to the Netherlands. Looking back, everyone should be satisfied having accomplished this mission so successfully.

"As members of the detachment you may be proud of the results achieved," said Maj. Gen. van den Born.

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, JFC Brunssum 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](mailto: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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The deadline for  
the next edition is  
Monday December 15th, 2004

# KMNB on top

By Cpt Georg Auer

**Have you ever seen a sunrise in Afghanistan? Sunrises are more interesting than sunsets. You have to watch for the one moment, when the sun comes over the mountain and it is day, otherwise you miss the moment.**

To avoid this, 12 Northmen and 1 other from KMNB stood up very early to get the beautiful sight of an Afghan sunrise. The muezzins had just welcomed the new day with their first prayers, when we started at 4:30 hrs to climb up on Gharib Ghar, the mountain in the middle of the ANA Firing Range at Pol-e-Charki. Unfortunately, there is no road up to the top of Gharib Ghar, so we had to climb a little. The route starts rather flat, but soon it's getting steeper and steeper, and in the end, we had to use our hands to avoid sliding away. There is already a path showing the way to the top, worn by the boots from previous visits. From time to time, we passed former observation points, marked by tins and rounds lying between the

in complete darkness, but when we reached the top, it was a bright morning, just the sun was missing and we still had



*The trip started at 4:30.*

20 minutes to prepare for the sun to come. We took the chance to look at the broad overview of the Kabul Area, the land to our feet awaking at this moment. In the east, behind the Gulagadah massive, there was the Surobi district; in the southeast we could see the slowly floating Kabul River, freshly filled by the heavy rain falls; in the south our beloved home Camp Warehouse; in the west was lying the Afghan Capital, yet covered by a thick cloud of dust and smog. In the north we thought we saw Bagram and at this moment, we recognized three American helicopters crossing the Dih Sabz flat to our direction. We already feared them seeing us and guessing us Taliban, but then they turned and flew back north. Then, a loud explosion occurred north of us and

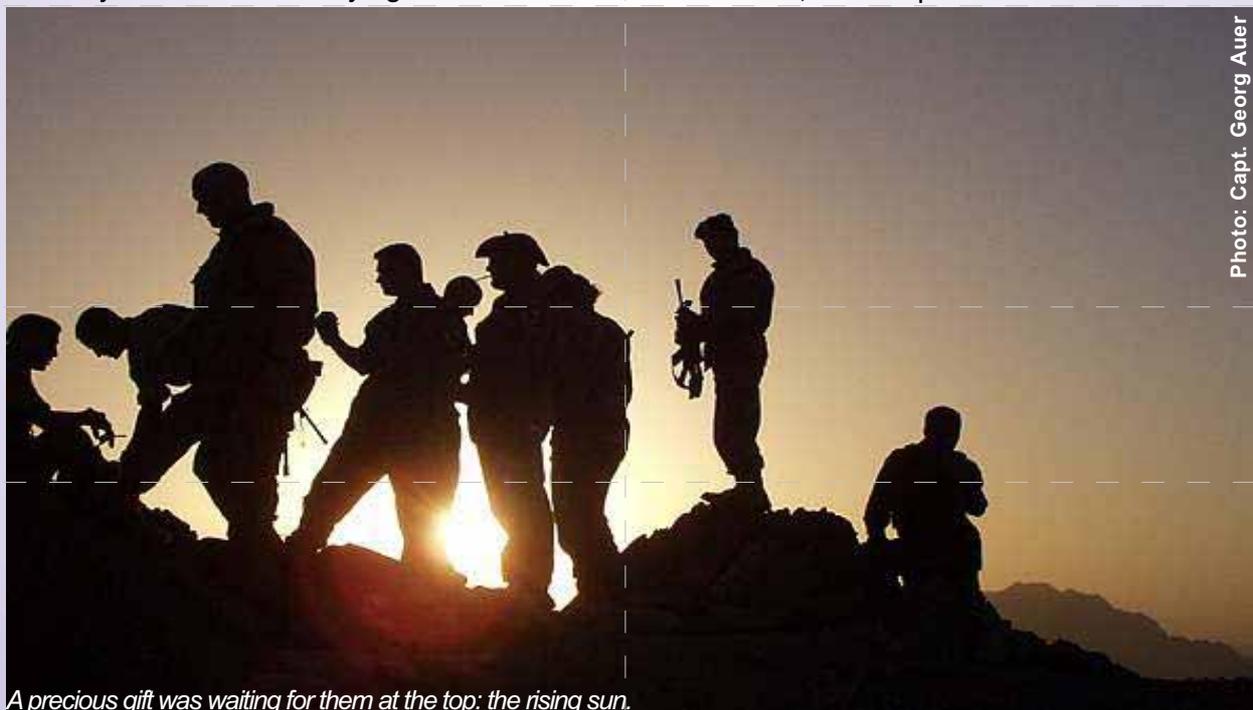


Photo: Capt. Georg Auer

*A precious gift was waiting for them at the top: the rising sun.*

rocks. The last 50 meters were hard work on the edge of the cliffs, going down 50 to 100 meters both on the left and the right hand side.

### Wait for It

But at least we reached the little platform on the very top of Gharib Ghar. We had started 40 minutes earlier

we saw smoke and dust. Was ANA firing already? No, it was just a shepherd crossing the flat, when one of the unhappy sheep tripped a mine. By the way, who has mine cleared the area we were? Finally, we could see the spot in the east brighter and brighter, and at once, the rays of sun touched our amazed faces. Afghanistan can be so lovely.