

ISAF MIRROR



MOUNTAIN TRAGEDY

ISAF CONTINUES TO SUPPORT ONGOING
GOA OPERATIONS AT THE CRASH SITE



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Lieutenant General ETHEM ERDAĞI



In 1982 he attended the British Army Staff College in the United Kingdom.

In 1985 he was assigned to the United States Army Training and Doctrine Command, and served there as a liaison officer until 1988. His attendance at the

he was deployed to Sarajevo as Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence of IFOR for one year.

He returned to Turkey in 1996 and took Command of the 39th Mechanised Brigade. He was subsequently appointed to the Turkish General Staff Headquarters as the Chief of Operations and Plans Division in the rank of Major General in 1998. He assumed Command of the 1st Turkish Mechanised Division in 2001. In August 2002 he was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General and took command of 8th Corps, followed by his assumption of command of the NATO Rapid Deployable Corps Turkey in August 2004.

Lieutenant General ERDAĞI is married to Ruhan and they have two children.

Lieutenant General Ethem ERDAĞI was born in 1949 and was commissioned into the army as an artillery officer from the military academy in 1968. After working in several artillery units, he attended the Turkish Army Staff College between 1977-1979. His next posting was as Directing Staff at the Army Staff College.

Turkish Armed Forces Staff College in 1990 was followed by study at the Royal College of Defence Studies in the United Kingdom. In 1992, he assumed command of an Artillery Regiment until 1994. Subsequently he was posted as Assistant Chief of Staff for Intelligence of Headquarters Allied Forces South in the rank of Brigadier. During this assignment



Photos by SGT Maartje Roos

ISAF Change of Command



By Maj Joseph Bowman

On a bright sunny February day Lieutenant General Ethem ERDAĞI assumed command of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Lieutenant General Jean-Louis Py. The ceremony was held in front of the International Security Assistance Force Headquarters building in Kabul. The Commander of the Allied Joint Force Command, General Gerhard W. Back and the NATO Senior Civilian Representative, Mr. Hikmet Çetin, attended the ceremony. The ceremony was marked by a parade and an official passing of the ISAF Flag to the new ISAF VII commander. This ceremony marks the start of the fourth, six-month period of NATO's tenure over the ISAF mission. Currently, there are more than 8000 personnel representing 37 countries under the ISAF command.



Photos by SGT Maartje Roos



Construction of the German camp in Feyzabad



Where High-tech Machines And hard Manual work meet

By LTC Jorg Bokelmann

Feyzabad. It's the second day of Christmas in northeast Afghanistan at 08:15 hours in the morning. In Germany one is celebrating the holidays with the families and relatives. But over here, surrounded by tremendous snow-capped mountains at approximately 1450 meters above mean sea level the construction teams of the new German forces camp are already at work for an hour. On the first view it looks like a huge construction site somewhere in Germany. But with a closer look one recognizes that over here different cultures meet and that several working processes of the local workers differ from the ones known to us. After the cut of the first sod has been made in November the initial configuration level shall be completed within only four months.

Large slopes of white plates and construction elements are stacked at the so-called container assembly area. German soldiers, in cooperation with Afghan workers from the surrounding villages, move the parts by using former Russian trucks that have already seen

better times. Soon the specifically hardened living containers are built that will provide sufficient protection against the extreme weather conditions in northern Afghanistan. Everywhere somebody is hammering, sawing or working.



Photos by PRT Kunduz

The communication works quite perfect. If signs are not sufficient the soldiers use their little dictionaries for translation into Dari. Only several meters apart the colourful “Jingle Trucks” are waiting to transport the containers to their final destination. At this location we meet Lieutenant Colonel K. He is the responsible site manager. He proudly presents the first completed “container modules”. These modules consist of 20 compartments that are all connected. “This is where approximately 60 soldiers will live during their deployment”, states the pioneer of the construction site. All rooms will be fully airconditioned so life will be tolerable during the the hot summers in this region. They will also be provided with the opportunity to receive satellite transmissions. This means that everybody will have the possibility to receive current news and TV-programs from Germany. A few meters away from the other construction site preparations for the next containers are about to be finished. The 20 ton crane is waiting to lift the first containers to the final position. The basement has been excavated by numerous Afghan workers and has been filled with concrete and structural steel so the living containers have a solid and straight layer. Within the next weeks around 100 containers will be placed in the 200 by 200 meter area. The first civil and military personnel of the Provincial Reconstruction Team, as well as the Danish forces supporting element are supposed to move in end of January. The progress of the construction work is fine. The close cooperation between the Afghan workers and the German soldiers is without friction. Soon the German soldiers will



Manual labor meets technology

be able to move out of the narrow spaced tents in the old camp in the centre of Feyzabad. The temporary airfield is very close so the long trips on the rough roads are no longer necessary.

The power station that provides the new camp with power, the washrooms and toilets are already finished. German Caterpillars mingle with Afghan workers carrying water on the backs of their donkeys from the river Kokchweh. This river not only provides the water for the

concrete but also provides the gravel and sand for the safety wall. Around 3000 “Hescoes” edge the future camp. Each of these special containers is filled with more than 1.5 tons of rock and sand. This hard work is done by the Afghan workers by hand.

For more than 150 Afghan people the new camp is the biggest employee in the area. The camp is not only a very important contribution to the reconstruction of the country; but will be a significant investment for the safety, stability and the future of the northern Afghan region.



By Maj Bulent Tazeyurt

KABUL On Saturday, 05 February 2005, an inauguration ceremony was held to mark the erection of street signs in front of the

New street Signs

Mosque in the Bebe Mahro area of Kabul. The ISAF Finnish Civil Military Cooperation Team liaised with the Kabul Municipality officials and contracted with a local firm for the project, which was financed by Luxembourg. In total, some 450 street signs will be made with the money available and the erection of the signs is planned to be completed before the beginning of March.

Lieutenant General Jean-Louis Py, the Commander of ISAF VI, the Mayor and Deputy Mayor of Kabul Municipality along with government and municipal officials with local dignitaries attended the ceremony.



Photo by SGT M.Roos

Graduation of ANA officers



Sixty officers from major to colonel received their graduation diplomas of authority after an eleven-week course taught by Afghan instructional staff with assistance from a cadre of French military personnel.

ANA battalions of infantry, totalling over 1800 soldiers, were trained by French instructors. Additionally, training was provided for a further 1450 officers of the ANA. The French army will continue in 2005 to help with such officer training courses as well as offering further specific courses in military intelligence and administration.

By Lt Jean Bolling

The fourth promotional class of senior officers of the Afghan National Army (ANA) graduated on Tuesday, 25 January 2005 at the French assisted Command and General Staff College of the Afghan National Army.

The intensive curriculum consisted of both practical and academic training in tactical skills, military education, modern staff procedures, physical training, computer competency, English and French language training.

Between June 2002 and February 2003 three complete

During this ceremony, Lieutenant Colonel Jean Laronce, Chief of the Operational Training Detachment, was awarded with Afghan Bronze Medal of Merit by General Azimi from the Ministry of Defence.

New Year's celebration in Afghanistan

Nawroz



By Hanif Anwary and Yusuf Stanizai

The Afghan New Year celebration, called Nawroz, is celebrated in every part of our country; but in Afghanistan New Year's Day falls on the 21 March, which is celebrated as the beginning of spring. Nawroz is celebrated as a national holiday on the first day of the solar year, coinciding with either March 21 or 22. It is

definitely the beginning of a new life in the country. The sudden change in weather, the blow of invigorating breezes and the singing of birds all bear witness that a new year is coming.

Right after the sunrise, the families go to the graveyards to pray for their deceased loved ones. Later on, the visits to the relatives' and friends' houses begin and the host family serve Haft Mewa, (Haft means seven and Mewa means Fruit) which is made of seven different dry fruit.

Housewives are busily preparing and cooking special dishes and a special biscuit called Kulcha-e-nawrozi. As well, families and friends go on picnics cooking a celebratory meal over charcoal as well as enjoying sweet pastries, raisins and almonds. Traditional

Afghan music and dances are performed by the young boys and children sing Afghan songs in praise of the homeland. The other major event on this particular day is the flag raising ceremony in the shrine of Hazrate Ali, the fourth caliph of Islam and cousin of the Prophet Mohammad PBUH. In the city of Mazar-e-Sharif almost a million people gather in the city to attend the flag raising. They later go to Milla-e-Gul Surkh (Red Tulip Festival) in the outskirts of the city. In the Northern provinces the traditional Buzkashi sport is also played at provincial and district levels. In Kabul, the children and families visit the exhibition of old art and the Zoo. The newspapers publish special stories about Afghan and Nawroz history, special food, traditions, poetry, music and singing Nawrozi songs.



Photos by ISAF VI

By COL Gilberto Villahermosa

One of the greatest priorities and challenges facing the new Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and the International Community is the building of an Afghan National Army (ANA) to unify the nation and ensure peace and security.

Commanded by United States Air Force Major General Craig Weston, the Office of Military Cooperation Afghanistan (OMC-A), under the operational control of Combined Forces Command-Afghanistan (CFC-A), is responsible for creating the entire Afghan defense sector. Its responsibilities include recruiting soldiers and training the recruiters, organizing the Ministry of Defense and mentoring its senior leaders and the General

United Kingdom, Canada, Romania, Bulgaria, New Zealand and Mongolia. The U.S. component consists primarily of National Guard soldiers from 15 states, as well as Marines and U.S. Army Reservists.

The new Afghan Army is being built a battalion, or *kandak*, at a time. Each *kandak* consists of 700 to 800 soldiers, sergeants, and officers and is trained in 10 weeks at the Kabul Military Training Center (KMTTC). Great care is taken to ensure battalions are made up of young men from all of Afghanistan's major ethnic groups Pashtun, Tajik, Uzbek, Hazara, and Turkmen. This ensures that the ANA is truly a national army, representing all of the Afghan people. In the beginning there were two *kandaks* in training

simultaneously. However, Task Force Phoenix and the Afghan Ministry of Defense gradually increased the number of battalions in training during 2004, raising this figure to five *kandaks* numbering some 3,800 men. By January 2, 2005 there were more than 21,000 soldiers in the ANA, including 17,800 trained soldiers and another 3,400 in training. In accordance with the Bonn II Agreement, the ultimate size of the ANA will be 70,000 personnel, including military students and civilians. Of these, some 43,000 will serve in the ground forces, while the remainder will serve in various supporting commands, including recruiting and logistics. The ANA is scheduled to reach its Bonn II strength by 2007, four years earlier than planned. And an Afghan Air Force is planned by 2009.

A New Army for a New Afghanistan

Staff, obtaining weapons, uniforms and equipment, and developing policies and processes needed by a modern army to establish its own acquisition and personnel systems, and all other systems required to build a working military infrastructure. Training of the ANA is the responsibility of Task Force Phoenix, which is commanded by Brigadier General Richard Moorhead and under the operational control of OMC-A. TF Phoenix is a coalition force, which includes military service members from the United States, France, the



Photo by CPL Jean-Pierre Denil

As the ANA grows in size, the militias, which once controlled the entire country, are slowly being disarmed, demobilized, and reintegrated back into society. There were some 400,000 armed men serving in the militias before President Karzai's post-Taliban government came to power. According to the Afghan Ministry of Defense, some 90 percent of the country's operational heavy weapons have been collected and cantoned and more than 30,000 former combatants, or about half of those remaining, disarmed. However, these figures do not include tens of thousands of tons of ammunition or some 50,000 to 80,000 illegally armed individuals still remaining throughout the country.

The 28th *kandak* graduated from KMTC in December 2004 and the 29th is scheduled to graduate in January 2005. The Central Corps of the ANA, with about 10,000 soldiers, was fully fielded in May 2004, 30 days earlier than the scheduled. This corps had been designated as the 201st "Flood" Corps. Another four corps were established in September 2004. These include the 203rd "Thunder" Corps in Gardez, the 205th "Hero" Corps in Kandahar, the 20th "Victory" Corps in Herat, and the 209th "Falcon" Corps in Mazar-e-Sharif. These regional commands ensure a permanent ANA presence throughout Afghanistan and demonstrate to the Afghan people and International Community that national government authority now extends to the entire country. Prior to the establishment of the regional commands, the Central Corps, located in the Kabul region,

deployed units wherever they were needed. Their missions ranged from combat operations alongside the Coalition in the east and south, to security and stability operations in the west and north. Now a command and control headquarters will be located at each regional command. An initial force of some 150 to 200 ANA soldiers will expand to a 3,000-man brigade at each garrison to conduct the missions previously carried out by Central Corps. Additional forces could be placed under a regional command as required.

The ANA is evolving into combat-experienced force, capable of deploying rapidly anywhere in the country, albeit by means of Coalition and NATO International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) aircraft. There are currently some 13 *kandaks* operationally deployed. Wherever ANA troops operate they are accompanied by embedded trainers from Task Force Phoenix. Two embedded trainers are assigned to each *kandak* company. One example of what the ANA can do on

short notice was the August 2004 Shindand operation. Units and soldiers from the ANA's Central Corps deployed rapidly to Herat Province on 15 August 2004 and secured Shindand National Airport after it was threatened by militia forces. Transported by Coalition and ISAF C-130s, the ANA peacefully restored the authority of the national government. And, during the National Elections, the ANA deployed some 16,000 soldiers nationwide to guard polling sites, ballot boxes, and counting houses, ensuring the most successful elections in the history of the country.

The ANA is viewed with pride by the Afghans and in situations where its battalions have moved to end factional fighting, the people have cheered their arriving soldiers. As for the Afghan soldier, he is a tough and dedicated fighter, who takes pride in his country, his army, and his role in ensuring the security and stability of a new and democratic Afghanistan. He stands as the symbol of national unity and hope for the future.



Photo by CPL T.Blanke

Foundation STONES laid in Maimana

By PRT Mazar-e-Sharif

Thursday 3rd of February was a special day in Maimana, the Provincial capital of Faryab. Foundations stones were laid for two police stations and a courthouse. The Deputy Governor Said Ahmed Saaid laid the stones in the presence of the local TV station and Radio Faryab, accompanied by a gathering of Maimana citizens.

In all there are four sites under construction that are designed to serve the whole of Faryab Province. These include the Operational Unit of Police Headquarters, the Criminal Investigation Department and Border Police Headquarters, which are funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Finland. Renovation of the provincial Court House has been funded by the Department

for International Development of the British government.

Meanwhile, work is progressing on the next round of projects including a second Police Station in Maimana and the first district police station, which will be constructed at Dowlatabad on the road between Maimana and Andkhoy. It is hoped that construction will also start within the next month. In addition to these new



buildings, the police will receive operational and criminal investigation equipment, with training provided by a Finnish forensic police officer as well as follow-up training by the PRT Police Liaison Officer.

ISAF VI Charity day fundraiser helps Kabul orphanages



Photo by CPL Achim Eisele

On the December 12th, 2004 ISAF VI raised 7500 Euro (including the 1600 Euro donated by Eurocorps) during their Charity

Day Fundraiser for Kabul Orphanages. "This was way more than expected" said OF-2 Kerremans, an officer from CJ9 who was the fund manager for

this event.

The first part of the fund went to the Global Education System (GES) in the Hasara district. Stoves, wood and school benches were purchased for a newly funded school with 150 students. The rest of the money will be spent to buy 2000 schoolbooks for the two official orphanages in Kabul, Tahia Maskan (with 600 boys) and Alluhdin (300 Boys and 150 Girls).

On 14 February 2005, Col Erdal Tatli symbolically handed the first two books to the principal of the Tahia Maskan orphanage. This act officially opened their Library Project.

By SGM Marc Vandenhoudt

Bears In Kabul City

By Cpt Darren Steele

How do you measure whether the work you are doing is really making a difference? What are the signs of progress? Some are easy: the Taleban are, for the most part, defeated; Al Qaeda is still out there, but more and more ineffective; Afghanistan has a president; People are rebuilding; and today, we went to the zoo.

Yes, the zoo. It was an almost surreal experience, dressed in ballistic vest, weapons in holsters and a guard on the vehicle, but there we were, visiting the Kabul City Zoo. It was an interesting tour, with more animals and birds than we expected even a pair of lions in the snow! The signs of strife are at every turn, with bullet and bomb damage everywhere, but like everywhere else in the city, people at the zoo are working hard to put

things to right.

For \$2,50, we had a 45-minute walk around to see the animals in their enclosures. The animals all appear well cared for and seemed unafraid of people. They would come close to the fences as if they were expecting treats. We had quite a group, as several locals kept pace with us, eager to tell us about the animals, teaching us the Afghan names and learning the English and French names from us. The multi-lingual signs were a big help. It was, simply, fun.

Many of us have been here in Kabul for the past six months and we are soon to go home. We, along with our friends and colleagues who were here before and those who will follow us, come here because we believe that it is right and necessary and that we can help. To be able to go to the

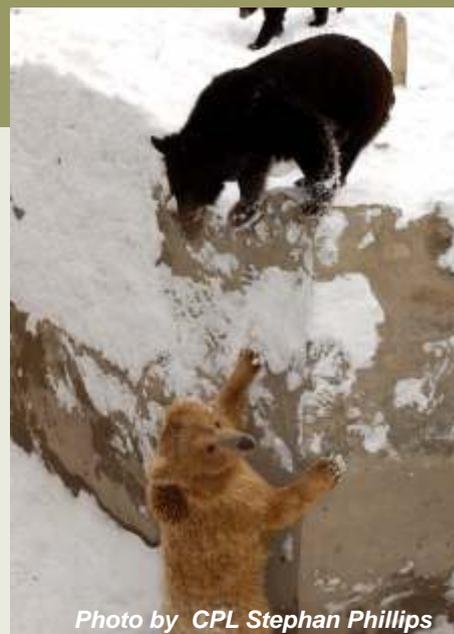


Photo by CPL Stephan Phillips

Seen here are bears at the Kabul City Zoo, which is beginning to regain some of its former status as an attraction for residents of the city.

zoo, something we take for granted at home, was an unexpected sign of progress, proof of the difference we have made.

Slovak army works to Clear Mines In Afghanistan

By Flt Lt Richard Heffer

The ISAF Slovak Army demining team has continued its successful work over the past month in removing the long-term threat of mines at Kabul International Airport. Their essential piece of equipment is 'Bozena' 4, (a Slovak girl's name!) which is a Slovak designed tractor-flail that carries out the mine clearance, being remotely controlled by an expert inside the armoured control vehicle.

The team, headed by Master Sergeant Bodnar Rastislav, work slowly and carefully to ensure that the job is done correctly. The Soviet made PMN and PNM 2 anti-personnel mines being cleared had been laid as close as 1-2 every square metre and as the flail rotates forward, it rips through the ground, triggering a mine every

few seconds. Each mine contains enough explosive to kill someone within 5 metres. Continuing to clear such a dense minefield is painstaking work; the team averages around a square kilometre per week, but it is planned to complete the clearance in March. Even then the area will have to re-cleared by hand before it can be considered safe of all weapons.

In carrying out their difficult and dangerous task, the team shows a confident professional expertise and is keen to emphasize the importance of international teamwork to ensure success.

The work has also relied upon the Afghan National Army for force protection along with the professional support of other ISAF soldiers. Captain Hano, the team's commander, was also careful to liaise with the local Afghan community, particularly in making sure a nearby cemetery remains undamaged during the work.



Photo by CPL Jean-Pierre Denil

The Place of Women in our society

By Hanif Anwary

Women play great part in human progress and have an important place in society. They are not inferior to men. They are capable of sharing responsibilities with men. Man and woman have rightly been compared with the wheels of a carriage. In Afghanistan, a woman's main responsibility is to preserve the human race. For this she has to bear many hardships. She gives birth to children, feeds them and helps them grow up. It is quite true that great men have great mothers. The progress of a nation depends upon the way the mothers bring up their children. If the women are educated, the society is bound to progress and prosper. Women have always played an important role in the development of our nation and, when necessary, have fought bravely. For women to work side by side with men, they should have access to a good education. Educating women can do much to root out social evils and reform the society. A significant factor in antisocial



Photo by SGT Maartje Roos

behavior is in the way children are brought up. Educated women can do a great service to the nation by the good management of their homes.

Some women, of course, would like to follow a profession or a career and earn money for themselves and their families. There are certain jobs, which women can do more easily and efficiently than men. Many are

successful teachers, doctors and nurses. By nature they are polite and sympathetic and can do well in caring professions. But the main duty of an Afghan woman is still focused on being a good wife and a good mother.

Following years of Soviet occupation and civil war, Afghanistan was ruled by the Taliban for more than eight years, led by Mullah Omar, who took away the rights of women, men and children. The soldiers of the Taliban were very much a product of twenty years of war in the country. Many of them were orphans of that war. They grew out of the mud and hopelessness of the refugee camps in

Pakistan, along the Afghan border. The word Taliban means students of Islamic religious studies. They were educated at religious schools in Pakistan, although their education was largely limited to learning the Qu'ran by repetition. Most had limited exposure to girls and women as they were growing up. They were raised by men who had a disregard for women.



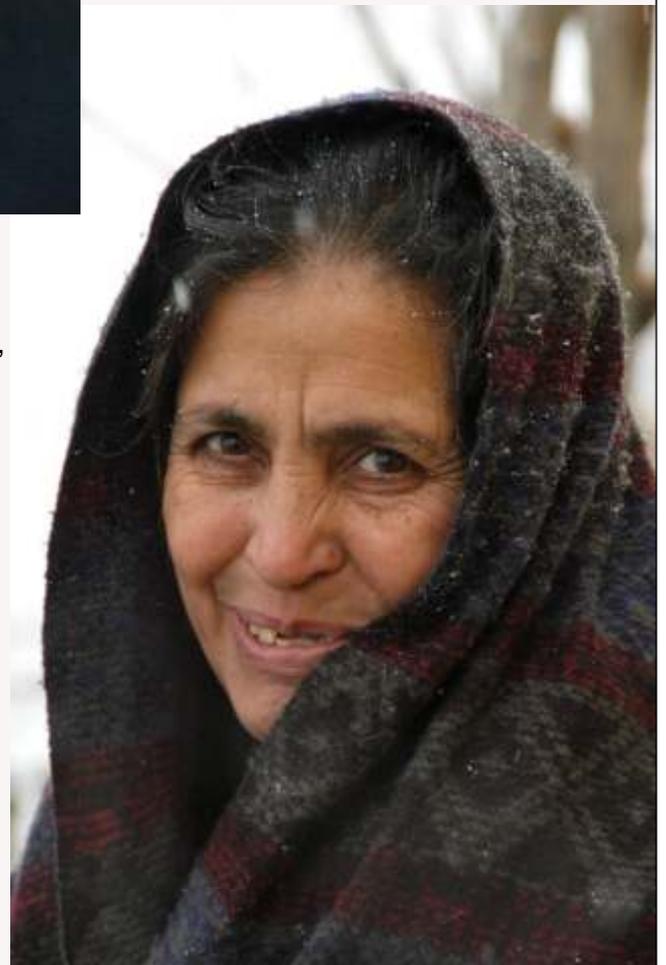
Photos by SGT Maartje Roos

Trade Center and Pentagon bombings on September 11, 2001 were a wake-up call which opened the eyes of the world to what was really occurring in Afghanistan. It was time to put a stop to those responsible for these abuses.

The Bonn Agreement established the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the Independent Human Rights Commission worked to improve and safeguard women's rights. Women have now gone back to work. Schools have reopened for girls and women. Women can go outside their homes unaccompanied, and are no longer obliged to wear the Burka unless they wish to. But these gains are fragile. The restoration of peace, democracy, and women's rights are not possible without resources and the security to live normal and peaceful lives, this is what ISAF provides for us.

So women were treated like wildlife, banned from almost all interactions with society, they were confined to their homes, and windows had to be blacked out in case they could be seen from outside. They were told what they could wear, how they should talk and were allowed no personal responsibility. If a woman wore nail polish, they could be punished. In addition they were obliged to wear the Burka which removed their very identity. Some people think that this is some law of Islam, but that is far from the truth. It was all to do with the Taliban's

extreme interpretation. In fact, the Qu'ran preaches peace, and only stipulates that women should cover up for the sake of decency. Under the Taliban, women were deprived of the right to education or work. Their very lives were risked by being forbidden to be treated by male doctors. The World



Light on Learning

By Lt Cdr Frank Cockburn

When Qabel Bye School asked if the British CIMIC could install windows in the existing school buildings, the CIMIC team approached Winhouse, a local window manufacturer, to ask if they would assist the school, to which they eagerly agreed. Captain Steve Richardson visited Qabel Bye school with the Winhouse manager and window fitter, Mr Mohamed Maruf, in January 2005 to meet the School Director, Mr Munawai Khan, and measure up for new windows.

Qabel Bye School is in Police District 9 close to the British base at Camp Souter. Mr Munawai Khan and his teaching staff of 62 are delighted that the children will be able to study without the wind whistling through the classrooms. The school has some 2100 eager and studious pupils and have to be taught in 2 shifts due to the limited resources. The school has only 8 proper classrooms but none of

them have any windows. Extra teaching space has been created using tents but as you can imagine these are unsuitable for use in the winter.

Winhouse are a window manufacturer and installer based in Khaja Rawash opposite the British base at Camp Souter. The Engineer working on the project is Mr Fazid Ahmed and the Window Fitter is Mr Mohamed Maruf. The United Kingdom Civilian Military Co-operation organisation, a part of the British Forces in Kabul, are seeking to improve conditions for ordinary Afghans. They are helping the local community by managing projects for the British Government and by lending their expertise to local efforts to rebuild the city. They are also working hard to match up local donors and needy recipients for the benefit of everyone in



Mohammed Maruf measures the windows of the Qabel Byu School.

Kabul.

The school director said "We are grateful for the help and assistance we have received from Mr Fazid Ahmed of Winhouse and his generosity. Without Steve Richardson having put us in touch with Mr Ahmed the windows would not have been put in. What a difference it will make for the children".



By Msg Mario Bernardi

Recently, in the presence of the Commander of Italian Contingent in Afghanistan, Colonel Francesco Figliuolo and the Governor of Kabul, Said Hussain Anwari, "Paktiakot School" was inaugurated. The project, developed by Army CIMIC cell (for civil-military cooperation), had the duration of about two months and was realized with Afghan manpower directed by Italian Army Corps of Engineers, which also employed its own specialized assets.

School inaugurated by Italians

"Paktiakot School" is located about 500 meters from "Camp Invictia", which is base for Italian Contingent in Kabul on Jalalabad Road. It accommodates about 500 students, their age ranging from 4 to 15.

The Italian Ambassador in Afghanistan, Ettore Francesco SEQUI, who was present at the ceremony, pointed out how this school is the tangible sign of a teamwork realized by "Team Italy" with synergy and full integration between its civilian and military components, operating in Kabul. The reconstruction project, the Governor of Kabul said during the ceremony, is another concrete evidence of how much Italy is doing in order to help Afghanistan to turn over a new leaf. The development of the project saw the

building of 10 classrooms in brick, the leveling of the terrain and its following covering with concrete and gravel, in order to obtain a significant reduction of mud and dust.

Finally, a water well and a sewage system had been built. A former bunker, which in the years has become a garbage dump, has been removed, so reestablishing hygienic-sanitary conditions. The works, that had a total cost of about 120,000 Euros, were made possible thanks to the donations that 1st Mountain Artillery Regiment collected in Italy before deploying to Kabul, and thanks to the financial commitment of the Italian Contingent. Among the biggest contributors was the "Cassa di Risparmio di Fossano" (Fossano Savings Bank).

New Washrooms For Shrine

By Flt Lt Richard Heffer

A ceremony was held recently by the local dignitaries of the Sakhi Jan Shrine and Mosque to thank soldiers from ISAF Headquarters for providing their new facilities. Major Norbert Steiner from the Civil-Military Co-operation Team had planned the project after speaking to the local officials to replace the two old and unpleasant toilets with a brand new block of flushing-toilets. The work was funded by the ISAF Headquarters Civil-Military Co-operation Team and carried out by an Afghan firm with HQ ISAF engineers providing any necessary expert advice.

The ISAF troops were greeted by the Mayor, Mr Ghulam Hussain Bayat, Mullah Sayed Yasin and Mr Sharwali Tamanna, the local police chief, residents and many children. After the formal ribbon cutting ceremony to open the toilet facilities, a celebration meal was

held to mark the occasion and in honour of the ISAF guests.

Mullah Yasin expressed his heartfelt thanks for the work "I am really appreciative of ISAF and especially the Civil-Military Co-operation people, now I am very

happy". Mayor Bayat said that the local people would never forget the work of the ISAF soldiers and thanked them 'for all their work for the people of our district and for the poor people who will never forget their help'.



Photo by HFW Stefan Wagner

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

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 HQ Brunssum or ISAF Policy.

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