

ISAF MIRROR



Return of a Hero

Multinational Day at Bagram

RAF Police at KAIA

May 2005

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The deadline for the next edition
is:
Wednesday 11 May 2005

Have you got a camera ?
Send your pictures to the Editor
and they could be on the cover !

Cover photograph:
Colour Sergeant Kajiman Limbu MC RGR

Back Cover photograph:
Children at Setara School with their new 'book
bags' courtesy of the TIC staff at HQ ISAF

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Some people just look out of place!



Terrorists and spies use surveillance to collect information.

**Report suspicious activity to
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RAF POLICE ON PATROL AT KAIA

By Flight Lieutenant RJ Heffer, Media Ops Air HQ ISAF

A small, but expert, group of four RAF policemen are now working to protect the vital multinational ISAF military airbase at Kabul International Airport (KAIA) in Afghanistan. This is the first time that the RAF Police have worked at KAIA in their core role of general policing duties and air transport security as part of the International Military Police unit. Flight Sergeant Martin Gibson, is a shift supervisor for the KAIA Military Police and enjoys "the multinational environment, its always challenging work- although the language aspect can be interesting". The four are highly experienced policemen with a great deal of operational knowledge gained in the Balkans and the Middle East over the past couple of years. Their policing skills have already been put to good use at KAIA.



Corporals Jase McDonald, Stu Davidson, Sean Reece and Flight Sergeant Martin Gibson now working at KAIA

Over the last month, KAIA military police have dealt with some 70 incidents and Corporal Jase Reece relishes the workload "The job is very similar to standard policing on any base, but the workload is much higher than on most RAF stations. We have been particularly busy dealing with weapon security problems and traffic accidents at the airport".

Other roles have been to cordon off the minefields being slowly cleared around KAIA and spot checks using sniffer dogs to search civilian and military vehicles on the airbase for illegal drugs. This, explained Martin Gibson, is a necessary prevention measure because of the large amount of illegal narcotics in Afghanistan. The confiscation of illegal

knives and other weapons from departing passengers is a further priority. Corporal Stu Davidson is "amazed by the amount of illegal weapons that we confiscate. Recently one soldier tried to bring home a fighting knife bought at local market hidden in the ceramic plates of his combat body armour". A lighter job has been a paper-round to deliver the ISAF



Corporal Sean Reece with illegal weapons taken from military passengers at KAIA

newspaper to the local community.

Corporal Sean Reece points out that the four lads are also involved in helping a local orphanage. They have widely distributing collecting tins throughout the military side of the airport and encourage spare change donations from departing passengers, who seem particularly keen to cough up! The policemen have plans well underway for a multinational charity football match. They hope that their fund-raising will buy books and ideally a computer for the orphanage.

Editor's Note: The match has now been played - read the report on Page 13 of this magazine.

THE AFGHAN NATIONAL ARMY TRAINING TEAM

Edited from an original article by
Major John Wakelin,
UK Afghan National Army Training Team

A key element to the establishment of a democratic Afghanistan is the nascent Afghan National Army (ANA). The Afghans have witnessed almost thirty years of armed conflict. An army that is both representative and that upholds the principles of this emerging state are the key to its future security and national pride.

'The young Afghan men that arrive here at The Kabul Military Training Centre are excellent raw material for soldiers,' said Major John Wakelin, commanding the British Army's Afghan National Army Training Team (ANATT) in Kabul. The UK ANATT is drawn from the Worcestershire and Sherwood Foresters Regiment (1WFR).

The soldiers from 1WFR are embedded within the US Army's Training Advisory Group at the Kabul Military Training Centre (KMTC). Their role is to mentor the Non-Commissioned Officer (NCO) school. The Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Worcestershire soldiers are each attached to a training team of 8 Afghan instructors. They work side by side with their Afghan counterparts ensuring that the future leaders of the ANA receive the best possible training. 'The job has been unlike any other that I have carried out in the infantry.' Explains Corporal Sean Leach who has also served in



Northern Ireland and completed two tours in the Balkans. 'The Afghan instructors have responded well to the guidance that we are able to give them and have begun to conduct some very professional training.

KMTC is set against the backdrop of the stunning snow capped mountains of the Hindu Kush. Here amid the bustle of thousands of fledgling ANA soldiers the instructors can be seen presiding over the training of the next generation of junior leaders.

'I have been in the new ANA since its beginning 2 years ago,' explains Captain Shahin Mokhtar a 34 year old Captain. Shahin, a Pashtun, is one of 4 Company Commanders at the NCO School. He combines his duties as a Company Commander with reconstructing his family's shattered lives. 'During the Taliban era I was in exile in Pakistan,' he recounts 'When I returned, my home had been destroyed and my father had been killed'. The house building stops and starts depending on how much money is available for the project. Many of the Afghan officers have ambitions to attend a European Military Staff College to improve their prospects of promotion.

'The experience of the potential Junior NCOs (JNCOs) varies an awful lot', explains Corporal Tom Myatt from the Reconnaissance Platoon of 1WFR. 'Our role is to provide support on how to structure and implement training. The JNCO course is six weeks long and culminates in a

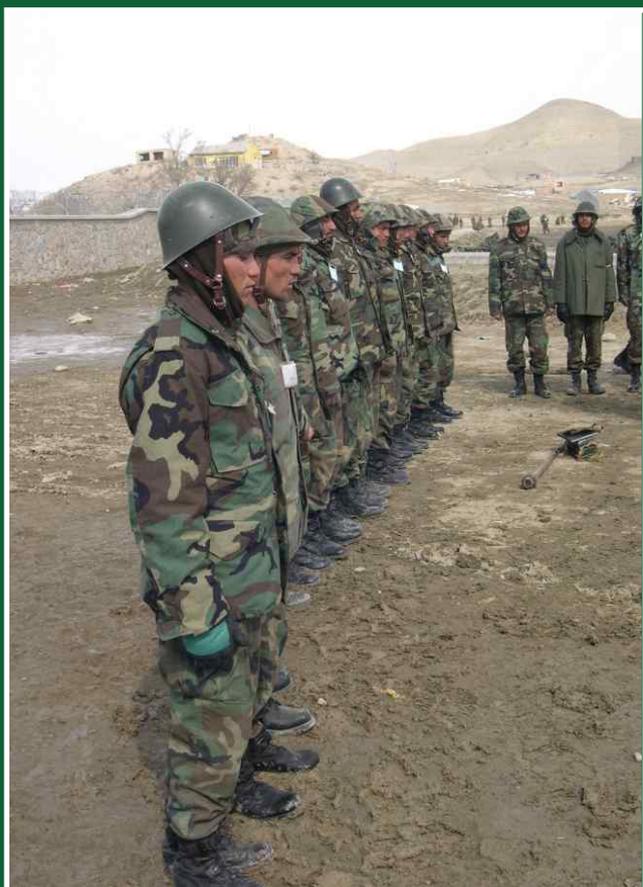


Field Training Exercise. We have to take account of a range of abilities and experience. Some have a great deal of combat experience from the wars fought over the last 10 years.'

All Afghan recruits are put through six weeks of basic training before being assessed for their suitability for junior leadership training. Following their cadre they are reintroduced to basic training but this time as JNCOs.

'Language barriers present us with a significant challenge' explains Corporal Michael Parsons who has joined 1WFR straight from a tour of Iraq where he was responsible for managing locally employed civilians in Basra.

'We have a good team of interpreters who have worked at KMTC since the start and who have a good grasp of British military terms. They are crucial to our role here.'



'There are a number of ethnic groups in Afghanistan and there are two languages in common use here at KMTC' explains Corporal Mark Trow who has arrived in Afghanistan fresh from his role as an instructor at the

Army's elite Foundation College at Harrogate. 'I frequently have to split my lessons into two groups and have to allocate an instructor who speaks Dari and one who speaks Pashtu.'

Mortar and anti-tank demonstrations are led by Staff Sergeant E6 Annis Tophan (23). Annis, a Shia Hazara, has been serving in the ANA for 15 months. He was educated to the ninth grade



at school but when the civil war started he fled to Iran. In Iran he worked on a farm growing cereal crops. He used a paid courier to support his parents, two brothers and three sisters who remained in Kabul. He is currently engaged to Marhim and hopes to settle in Kabul and have a family of his own.

"The British Army has given Afghanistan hope and I am grateful for the security and stability that now exists" said Annis. "I dream of an Afghanistan free of corruption and strife in which to have a family. By joining the army I am helping my country to achieve security. The wars have broken up my country's political system and all we have is our tribal allegiances. Here in the new ANA we have to try and overcome our tribal prejudices and build a new nation based on good government and trust"

1WFR have been instrumental in developing the ANA. A strong ANA will be one of the pillars of the new Afghanistan and they can justifiably be proud of their considerable efforts, a long way from Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire and Worcestershire.

Cpl Yves De Meester
IMP KAIA



I have enjoyed working in the multinational environment

Cpl Deana Burwell
Clerk CA NCE



The culture and the country are so different and so beautiful

Cpl Peter Szaniszlo
Driver HU Contingent



This is a very interesting country

Thoughts from around ISAF.....

Maj Georg Megrund
G6 NO NCC



I feel sorry for the children you see living in the streets

Cpl Stuart Laurie
Sect Comd 1 WFR



I will tell my replacement to stay alert- not everything is as it seems

Sgt Daniel Lehmann
Mechanic GE BG



I will remember the people and the country when I leave

Maj Xavier de Maillard
PIO FR Contingent



I will always remember the happy, friendly and generous people



MSG Minnie Payton
NCOIC US NSE



It has been great fun working with the different nations across ISAF

IN OUR ANCESTORS' FOOTSTEPS

By Captain Georg Auer, GE-A PIO

The British Expeditions to Afghanistan in the 19th Century are fairly well known. But who remembers the German Expedition to Kabul in World War One? In 1914, Rittmeister (OF2) Oskar von Niedermayer, a Bavarian, was called from the Western Front, where he commanded an Infantry Company, to Berlin to get a special task.

He was to put together an expedition for Afghanistan to convince the reigning Emir that it would be the right time to fight both the threatening Russian Empire and British India. The real intention was to open a "second front" in

The first group under the command of von Niedermayer, who often compared himself with Lawrence of Arabia, finally reached Herat in late 1915, but their objective was Kabul, so they went on. They reached Kabul in 1916 and were "pleased" to stay inside Bagh-e-Baber, the Garden Palace of the Emir. Finally, they managed to get an audience but the Emir refused their proposals on the advice of his advisors. The team failed with its original intent, but stayed for several weeks in Kabul, repairing and modernising factories and transferring technological knowledge and skills to Afghanistan. This marks the start of the tradition



central Asia to force Russia and Great Britain to withdraw troops from the European battlefields.

The Expedition travelled via the Balkans and Istanbul to Baghdad which at that time belonged to the Turkish Empire. Problems with the local authorities delayed the start, but finally the expedition set off in two large groups, later they split into several smaller parties on horse and camelback. They all had to face many problems in Persia especially in the great Beluchistan deserts, where they outwitted the pursuit of a Russian Brigade and a British Division.

of the very good Afghan-German relations. The expedition split, some went back via Kandahar, some went on to Shanghai, and von Niedermayer traveled to Mazar-i-Sharif returning home via Turkmenistan.

On the way over the Hindu Kush, the servant of von Niedermayer, Wachtmeister Hans Jakob became sick and had to be left back in a small village where he died. His body was brought to Kabul, where he still lies near Bagh-e-Baber, in the yard of a private house. A bronze plate still marks his tomb.

CANADIAN RECCE SQUADRON EARNS BRIGADE COMMANDER'S CERTIFICATE

By Captain Mark Popov
Second in Command KMNB Recce Squadron

Photos by MCpl Chris DuPree

Less than one month after taking over reconnaissance responsibility for the Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) Area of Operations (AOO), the Canadian Reconnaissance (Recce) Squadron has already received a Commander's Certificate of Appreciation for outstanding performance.



A Coyote from the Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) Reconnaissance (Recce) Squadron moves along a patrol route during deployed operations in Afghanistan

On the evening of March 3 2005, KMNB received word from a source that a known Opposing Military Force (OMF) operative was planning to move a large quantity of rockets and anti-personnel mines into Kabul. These munitions, if allowed to enter the city, would likely be used to attack ISAF installations in and around Kabul. After a brief planning session, KMNB initiated Operation FENCE, which combined the resources of the Afghan Security Partners (ASP) with those of several KMNB units - infantry soldiers from the French Battle Group, Dutch helicopter gunships, Spanish medium lift helicopters, as well as German and Canadian recce vehicles.

The mission of Op FENCE was simple, yet important - to assist the ASP in intercepting the munitions-carrying vehicles and detaining the OMF members by combining capabilities to act as an integrated whole.

After receiving a fragmentary order for Op FENCE, Recce Squadron moved into action, immediately sending a liaison team, as well as a light and a medium recce patrol to the French Battle Group Headquarters to integrate into the ongoing operation. Later in the evening, vehicles carrying the suspected OMF operative and cohorts came up to an ASP checkpoint and a firefight ensued between the two groups. The OMF escaped into the heavy city traffic with the ASP in pursuit. On through the night the ASP and French soldiers searched for the OMF and eventually tracked them to several Kabul residences where they seized a considerable quantity of rockets and mines. Throughout the operation, Recce Squadron soldiers provided overwatch and remained on call, ready to assist.

Overall the operation was a success and on March 7, Major Ross Ermel, Commanding Officer of the Recce Squadron, was presented a certificate on behalf of all Recce Squadron members at the KMNB Commander's Conference commending the squadron's outstanding service during Op FENCE.



Trooper Dominic Tremblay, a Coyote surveillance operator, gives a hand signal while conducting a route reconnaissance (recce) during deployed operations in Afghanistan

In the words of Brigadier-General Ümit Dündar, the Commander of KMNB, Recce Squadron "performed outstanding close coordination with the French Battle Group and... supported them when needed...the Canadian Recce Squadron's performance has already served to improve the security situation in the KMNB Kabul AOO and to decrease a possible threat against ISAF troops."

"Recce Squadron - Always Watching"

RETURN OF A HERO

Story by Lieutenant Gemma Fullman RN
 PIO HQ BRITFOR
 (Taken from a personal account by
 Colour Sergeant Kajiman Limbu MC RGR)

Colour Sergeant Kajiman Limbu MC RGR has returned to Afghanistan; the theatre which saw him awarded the Military Cross for his bravery while here in 2003.

At that time CSgt Kajiman, who is working as the Company Quarter Master Sergeant at Camp Souter, was responsible for non-commissioned officer training within the Afghan National Army. On the night of 11 October 2003, while on exercise with his team of instructors and Afghan non-commissioned officer students, he heard over the hand held radio that a five man US observer team had been engaged, possibly ambushed, on their way back to Camp Phoenix. Within seconds, CSgt Kajiman and his multi-national team heard that their US colleagues had been pinned down by heavy small arms fire and needed assistance. CSgt Kajiman and five of the US instructors were the closest coalition forces to the contact. They knew they had to help and so jumped into their Landcruisers and dashed off to provide support.

On arrival at the scene the sky was alight with tracer rounds and coalition forces could be seen behind some burnt out tanks where they were pinned down by enemy fire. CSgt Kajiman, who lives in Brunei, scrambled forward with his team to link up with the friendly forces. Before returning fire, Kajiman asked if there were any friendly forces to the front, only to hear the shocking news that a US Lieutenant Colonel had gone out on his own. Immediately after this Kajiman said "I saw a lone figure staggering towards me in the dark from the direction of the derelict buildings. After a few paces he fell over. I didn't really have time to

think. I knew who he was and I knew that I had to help. I moved out from behind my cover, not really thinking about what could happen, and dashed forward to assist him. I reached him, placed one of his arms over my shoulder and dragged him back to the nearest cover. I am told there were hundreds of rounds flying in and around us, but I was oblivious to this."

On checking the officer for injuries, CSgt Kajiman realised that more cover was needed to ensure the officer's safety. Again with no thought for his own health he asked one of the US instructors to put down covering fire. He then moved the injured Lieutenant Colonel to a position of better cover and checked him thoroughly, discovering that although he had taken two rounds in the chest at close range his body armour had worked, the rounds had not penetrated through the plates, and CSgt Kajiman was content his injuries were not life threatening.



Kajiman then re-joined the fire fight conscious of the fact that he alone had a night sight and had a role to play in directing the fire down onto the enemy. After handing the wounded Lieutenant Colonel over to a US colleague, he moved, under cover, to the middle of the

friendly forces fire-base where he effectively neutralised the enemy forces until the firing died down and the enemy disappeared.

When told by his Company Commander how brave he had been CSgt Kajiman replied "I just did what any of the 2 RGR group would have done. It was just like being on exercise only the bullets were real." On what it is like to be back in Afghanistan he said "I am thrilled to be back, and look forward to completing a full tour of duty and working with the local Afghans, I am very proud to be here helping the Afghans secure their future".

MULTINATIONAL DAY AT BAGRAM AIR FORCE BASE

By Captain Jean-Marc Mercier
Public Affairs Officer, Task Force Kabul

Show and display day events back home are common but in a theatre of operation in a multinational context, it is a little more unusual, however as useful if not more than the ones at home.

On March 5, the US AFB in Bagram hosted a multinational day regrouping over 10 member countries of ISAF. Task Force Kabul represented Canada and showcased several Canadian vehicles, specialised equipment and personnel.



Captain Jean-Marc Mercier, Public Affairs Officer for Task Force Kabul offers a friendly handshake to Padre Captain Kyeong Nam of the 165th MI Bn from Hawaii



Setting his sights, a Korean soldier holds a Canadian C7-A2 kitted with a grenade launcher and a laser pointer

The participating nations included France, Korea, Romania, Slovakia, New Zealand, Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, Egypt, and the United States. The various countries displayed skills demonstrations, several vehicles and over 50 different tool and weapon systems.

Canadian Task Force Kabul was keen to participate in this event, as it was an excellent opportunity to build relationships and facilitate networking amongst nations at all levels.

“Soldiering is common amongst nations. No matter what country we are from, there is a natural and mutual understanding amongst us soldiers. It is a great opportunity for the younger soldiers to realize that fact,” said Lieutenant-Colonel Paul Philcox, Canadian Liaison Officer at Bagram AFB.

The Canadian displays generated a great deal of interest. From the Coyote equipped with the state-of-the-art surveillance equipment to the bomb suit and robot to counter improvised explosive device. The young Canadian soldiers were keen to demonstrate and explain the different pieces of kit.

The Canadian 25-soldier delegation and other nations participants clearly enjoyed their day and the opportunity to share interest amongst them. “This day is great. I got to speak with other Korean natives in my own mother language,” said chaplain Nam Kyeong a Korean native who is now a US Army Officer newly arrived from Hawaii.

“We had a great turn out today. It was an excellent opportunity for our soldiers to be involved in Multinational Day, having just arrived in Afghanistan as part of ISAF” said Lieutenant-Colonel Scott Kennedy, Commanding officer of the National Support Element and Deputy Commander of TFK, who led the Canadian delegation for this event.

The Canadian soldiers returned safely to Camp Julien with good souvenirs from the experience... and from the American Post Exchange store.



Sapper Mike Maidment of 23 Field Engineer Squadron of Task Force Kabul watches passers-by while he is dressed in his Explosive Ordnance Disposal (EOD) bomb suit

EXERCISE KABUL FIND

Words by Captain Andre Van de Ven,
Media Ops HQ ISAF.

Pictures by SGM Ali Hatap,
Media Ops HQ ISAF.



On 17 March 2005 HQ ISAF, together with KMNb and TAOC, conducted a Personnel Recovery Exercise, Exercise KABUL FIND, at the HALO TRUST range north of Kabul.



The aim of the exercise was to train ISAF units and test the ISAF Rescue Flow Chart in the recovery of isolated and wounded personnel. The exercise was initiated with a simulated distress call from a KMNb French Battle Group unit to the KMNb JOC. Five people were 'seriously injured' in a car accident. The call launched a personnel recovery operation involving CASEVAC and MEDEVAC assets.

Because of a genuine road traffic accident that occurred at the same time as the French Battle Group made their 'distress call' it took the MEDEVAC team longer than the normal 30 minutes to arrive at the accident site. After an



hour and a half the MEDEVAC and Force Protection helicopters arrived at the scene. The Norwegian and German medical teams performed very well and they were able to stabilise the injured and transport all of them to the hospital at KMNb within 45 minutes. The exercise ended when the helicopters landed at KMNb and all of the injured were transported to the hospital.

HISTORY IN THE MAKING – CANADIAN RECONNAISSANCE IN AFGHANISTAN

By Captain Mark Popov



A Coyote from B Squadron, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, moves into a firing position during a snowstorm at the KMTC

The Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) Reconnaissance (Recce) Squadron made history by firing its first 25mm Coyote main gun rounds as a Recce Squadron deployed outside of Canada.

After taking over recce responsibility for the Kabul Area of Operations from the previous KMNB Recce Squadron in early February, sighting in and test firing all personal and crew served weapons was a must. Coyote 25mm cannon and 7.62mm machine gun fire rang across the Kabul Military Training Centre's (KMTC) heavy weapons range as local residents and visitors from neighbouring KMNB units watched the new Recce Squadron at work.



Captain Matt McCloskey test-fires his FN C6 7.62mm Anti-Aircraft Machine Gun from the top of his Coyote at the KMTC.

The current KMNB Recce Squadron had never previously deployed overseas as a recce squadron. Known in Canada as B Squadron of the Royal Canadian Dragoons (RCD), it was equipped with 19 Leopard 1 Main Battle Tanks from 1994 until 2003. During UNPROFOR, B Squadron served as an infantry company in the former Yugoslavia in 1994-95, and sent a troop of four tanks to serve in Kosovo with NATO's KFOR in 1999.

As the Canadian Army has centralized its heavy armour in its western area, B Squadron, based near Canada's capital, Ottawa, traded in its Leopard 1 tanks for Coyote recce vehicles in the summer of 2003, and immediately began training with its new equipment, tactics, techniques and procedures.



Cpl Stephanie Whiston, a supply technician serving with B Squadron, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, passes cans of 7.62mm MG ammunition to Coyote gunner Tpr Andrew Thomas

After receiving a warning order in the fall of 2004 for service in Afghanistan with ISAF, infantry reconnaissance elements from the First Battalion, the Royal Canadian Regiment (1 RCR) were attached to B Squadron to give it greater flexibility and dismounted patrol abilities. Training intensified throughout the fall and winter of 2004, which culminated in the transfer of command authority on February 9th 2005 at Camp Julien, Kabul.

B Squadron continues to act as the eyes and ears of KMNB by conducting route reconnaissance, surveillance observation posts, and patrolling outlying areas looking for information by vehicle and on foot, day and night in all weather.

'KIDS OF KAIA' FOOTBALL CHAMPIONSHIP 2005

By Corporal Sean Reece, IMP KAIA



Corporals Jason McDonald and Sean Reece

The 'Kids of KAIA' Charity Appeal was started by OR-4's Sean Reece, Jason McDonald, Stu Davidson and OR-7 Martin Gibson, all members of the UK Royal Air Force Police, and supported by all their colleagues in the International Military Police (IMP) at KAIA.

The 'Kids of KAIA' Appeal aims to help with the education of local children and the IMP has "adopted" the Aziz School in Kabul. Although they cannot correct all of the problems in this



COM KAIA at the 'pitch'

war-torn country the IMP believe a good starting point would be the education of the children. Even the most basic equipment is

scarce and so the IMP has been holding fund raising events at KAIA in order to refurbish their classrooms and purchase sports equipment and stationery for the children. The target was to raise €500.

Collecting tins were placed in all KAIA bars, cafés, personnel areas and the IMP Station; no one was safe from the rattling of tins!! OR-4



First and Second Place Teams

Jason McDonald and OR-4 Sean Reece planned a Charity Table Football Championship and over the 25 and 26 Mar 05 the championship was held between all nations based at KAIA.

At the end of the Final, Colonel Öndül, Com KAIA, presented the prizes as follows:

1st place: 'Silva Plastico', PL, €250 and 'Winners' medals.

2nd place: 'Cloggies', NL, €100.

3rd place: 'First Lessons Free', US, €75.

A special mention must be given to the US team, 'First Lesson Free', who very kindly donated their prize money back to the charity. The evening's events were a resounding success and enabled the team to reach their target and much more - €1870 in total!

DUTCH F-16'S ARRIVE AT KAIA

By Adjt Marc Vandenhoudt,
Media Ops HQ ISAF

On Monday, 28 March 2005 four Dutch F-16's arrived at KAIA. Lt Col B van Geel, the Commander of 312 Sqn at Volkel AB in the Netherlands, took over command of air support for ISAF from Lt Col J Koedijk, the commander of the Apache Detachment. Brigadier General Van Laethem (COM ATF) was the senior officer present. Once the change of command was complete the Dutch F-16's conducted their first mission in the form of a flight to Pol E Kamri, the Netherlands PRT, for a Close Air Support training mission.

'Because we have more Dutch troops in Afghanistan now, Air Commander (BG) Franken is posted here with us as our National Contingent Commander' says the new Det Cdr. The 1(NL) F16 Detachment, ISAF Afghanistan has about 105 people from different NL units at KAIA. The four F-16s that the Dutch brought to Afghanistan came from three units in Holland; Volkel, Leeuwarden and Twente. The current plan is to use three planes on an operational basis and keep one plane as a logistical spare. It's not clear how long the F-16's will stay at KAIA. 'At this moment, KAIA is the only suitable place for deploying F-16's in Afghanistan', says Lt Col van Geel.

As well as their laser guidance systems each one of the F-16s is equipped with video equipment providing ISAF the ability to receive pictures during flight at a ground station. It is expected that this capability will be operational at HQ ISAF by the end of April. Additionally, each airplane will carry 510 rounds of high velocity ammunition with other natures added according to the mission.

The missions of the unit will be:

- QRF 24/7 on COMISAF's demand.
- Support of ISAF ground troops.
- Support of their National units in Afghanistan.
- Support of ANA & OEF troops.
- Conducting reconnaissance flights.

They have already been scrambled on the 2nd of April when a shooting occurred near to the GE PRT at Kunduz.

Lt Col van Geel mentioned that without the cooperation from all other nations at KAIA it wouldn't have been possible for them to be up and running by the 1st of April. 'We already feel at home here in the KAIA community and we can really do our job very well from this airfield, thanks to the support we have received from the KAIA Staff and the other nations when we started here'.



HSS OPEN HOUSE

By Captain Danielle Garon,
Critical Care nurse, HSS Coy

Pictures by Corporal Dan Shouinard



The Health Service Support Company (HSS Coy) of Task Force Kabul (TFK) held an Open House of their facilities at Camp Julien on March 2.

HSS Coy's role within TFK is to provide essential medical and dental services to the all the military and civilian personnel living at Camp Julien, including those from other nations.

The goal of the Open House was to offer these people an opportunity to visit the Role Two Plus field hospital and gain a better understanding of its capabilities. "Role Two Plus" simply means that the hospital is staffed with a surgeon, an anaesthetist, operating room staff, critical care nurses as well as a laboratory technician and an x-ray technician.

Aside from tours of the hospital's various departments, including the operating room, there was also a health promotion aspect to the Open House.

In the bunker behind the hospital, visitors had an opportunity to have their blood pressures, heart rates, and oxygen levels checked, as well as testing their blood sugar levels. Literature was also made available on various topics from smoking cessation to managing cholesterol and high blood pressure.

To add to the health promotion theme, members of

the Canadian Forces Personnel Support Agency (CFPSA) joined members of HSS where they offered information and advice on various nutritional supplements.

"Those from the Task Force that visited our lines were given a first hand opportunity to see the high standard of our treatment capability both in terms of state-of-the art equipment and a highly motivated as well as skilled medical staff," said Lieutenant-Colonel Jim Kile, Task Force Surgeon and Commanding Officer of the HSS Coy. "It was an extremely worthwhile endeavour for all."

The star of the Open House was without a doubt, 'Simman', a state-of-the-art medical training mannequin. Petty Officer Second Class Dan Williams had set up Simman on a stretcher in the back of the bunker and visitors were quickly taught the principles of intubation, catheterization, nasogastric tube placement as well as how to start an intravenous. Everyone was impressed with Simman and eagerly attempted at least one of these medical skills.

"I hope to never end up on this stretcher, but if I was to, it is reassuring to know that you train with what's best on the market," said Corporal Dan Shouinard, the TFK Photographer.

The HSS Coy Open House was a success. Everyone who attended was offered a glimpse of TFK's medical and dental capabilities and in the end, they left reassured that if something would happen to them while in Kabul they would be in good hands.



