

ISAF MIRROR



Flexing North, Moving West
and Looking South



June 2005

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The ISAF Mirror is a Public Information Office publication. Content is edited and prepared by the PIO staff with heavy reliance on submissions.

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Submissions can be e-mailed to: pressoffice@isaf-hq.nato.int. Articles should be in MS Word format, photographs should be at least 7 x 4.5 cm and 300 dpi resolution.

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For more information please call the Editor on HQ ISAF Ext 1230. The Editor reserves the right to edit submissions.

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Maj Luke Knittig, Chief Internal Info HQ ISAF

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

Cover photograph:

Canadian patrol south of Kabul, courtesy of
Capt. Mark Gough, Camp Julien PIO

Back Cover photograph:

Evaluators for Exercise Northern Force take
time to meet youth in Feyzabad
(Photo by Sgt Maj Ali Hatap, ISAF PIO)

**Terrorism,
Espionage, Subversion or Sabotage...**



**Don't Wait Until It's Too Late to Call !
Report actual or suspected incidents of Terrorism,
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HQ, Area South



PRT Kandahar



PRT Lashkar Gah



ISAF looks south Recce team grips expansion requirements

May 2005: Norwegian Army Brig. Gen. Jon Lillard, J5, Allied Joint Forces Command, Brunssum, surveys the approach to the Tarin Kowt Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) area from the machine gun position of a Chinook helicopter. Wing Cmdr. Dave Bush, United Kingdom, buckles in as the door gunner looks on. The general and his team of 10 specialists explored Tarin Kowt in Oruzgan province as well as PRTs and operating bases in three adjacent provinces to see first hand the best way for ISAF to expand its operations to southern Afghanistan.



Kandahar Airfield



No Drugs Hill



Recce Team

ISAF FLEXES FORCE NORTH

180 troops rushed to Badakhshan

May 12, 2005-- FEYZABAD PRT, Afghanistan
By Maj Luke Knittig, ISAF Public Information

Heavy lift helicopters, transport planes and an overland convoy descended the mountains that encircle Feyzabad to deliver ISAF's contingency force for a week of practice and presence.

Crafted by ISAF's military planners in Kabul with the parliamentary election run up in mind, Exercise Northern Force sought to rapidly bring alert forces together from the south and west for effect in the north.

The contingency force was thrust into situations that could emerge and require help beyond that best handled by the Czech, Danish and German PRT forces always at hand.



Soldiers from ISAF's contingency force hit the deck for Exercise NORTHERN FORCE at and around PRT Feyzabad in far northeast Afghanistan.

(Photo by Major Luke Knittig)

Comprising the quick reaction force were a company of the Turkish Gendarme out of Kabul (roughly 500 kilometers south) and a company of British Royal Ghurkhas, augmented by a platoon of Swedish Rangers, out of Mazar-e-Sharif (roughly 500 kilometers west).

The force brought with them ordnance disposal, medical and psychological operation assets.

Prompted by simulated emergency conditions, the combined contingency force quickly erected



British Ghurkhas on patrol in the streets of Feyzabad.

(Photo by Sgt Maj Ali Hatap)

a joint command post and secured the airfield while simultaneously transporting aid workers to safety. With the initial crisis stemmed, the force used foot and some vehicle patrols day and night throughout the town to positively develop the situation and solve problems.

The exercise was coordinated with Feyzabad's parent PRT in Kunduz, local police and aid agencies. A headquarters ISAF observer controller team deployed in advance of the exercise and remained afterwards to collect lessons learned.

"It's been a great exercise. We'd like to come back and spend another few weeks taking routine patrols deeper into the surrounding hills," said Lt. Col. Ian Rigden, Ghurkha commander.



Turkish Gendarmes on night watch from the tower overlooking Feyzabad PRT airfield.

(Photo by Sgt Maj Ali Hatap)

"The trick in an exercise like this is to strike a balance between demonstrating combat readiness and going easy with the people. They've done it

and along the way have put into the bank some of the logistics and local knowledge required to thrive here,” said Capt. Peter Brahe, leader of one of the four Danish military observer teams permanently assigned to Feyzabad.

Lt. Gen. Ethem Erdagi, COMISAF, visited the exercise on Wednesday and communicated its aim to provincial and local leaders while soliciting feedback.

The native Nepalese language spoken by many of the British Ghurkha soldiers on foot patrol in Feyzabad allowed them to effectively communicate with locals without translation.

The Turkish Gendarme’s deployment to Feyzabad marked its first such use outside Turkey, Kabul duty aside, in the unit’s 165-year history, said Capt Adem Can, company commander.

A similar exercise is in the works for ISAF’s area of operations in western Afghanistan.

(All photos this page by Sgt Maj Ali Hatap)



Back for the future:

Snapshots of Gen. Gerhard Back's recent whirlwind tour

(Photos by Sgt Ozcan Camci)



The Commander of Joint Forces Command Brunssum attentively taking in a predator brief at Kandahar Airfield.



Congratulating fellow commanders on successful handover of Forward Support Base Herat from Italian to Spanish control.



Summing up his visit to Kandahar with BBC defence correspondent Paul Adams.



Touching base with Afghanistan's National Security Advisor.

ISAF in touch:

More than 20 staffers from HQ ISAF spent part of their one day off for the week visiting, helping and educating at a refugee camp on the outskirts of Kabul. Similar activities are common practice at ISAF installations everywhere.



A Peak at PeK

PRT Pol E Khomri
Baghlan Province



Photos by Maj Luke Knittig



Small items payoff big:
Pens procured and provided by CIMIC for police skill certification (they were taken downtown minutes after this photo).

Walk-ins welcome here:
Knowledgeable, native speakers standby to escort those with ISAF business, needs or queries to well-equipped meeting tents.



Getting the word out:
The PRT Commander steps up for his latest interview for broadcast on local television.

Many small bottles mean a well and better wellbeing for Paghman

By 1st Lieutenant Kjetil Eide, Danish Army, Press and Information Officer, Camp Invictia, Kabul, Afghanistan.

PAGHMAN--: This Easter, Norwegian soldiers volunteered to pay for their small water bottles, and collected 2100 dollars earmarked to Afghan school girls. The result was a brand new well to a local girls' school.



BOTTLES OF JOY: Girls from Dare Zargar childrens' school enjoy the gifts from the Norwegian soldiers, the result of an Easter campaign a little out of the ordinary.

At the end of a desolate country road in the Paghman district outside Kabul, with the surroundings creating a breathtaking green paradise, you will find Dare Zargar, one of three schools in the area. Altogether the schools cover 3000 students.

Just outside the Grade 3 girls' classroom, a metal invention stands up from the ground. The class has gathered around it. Some laugh, while others hide their faces as a group of soldiers carrying cameras, come towards them.

The thermometer climbs towards 30 degrees. A number of children fill their plastic cups and bottles with refreshingly clean water from a brand new well – courtesy of the Norwegian soldiers in the International Security Assistance Force Afghanistan (ISAF).

- In Norway we regularly take part in fund-raising campaigns, especially with regards to Lent. This year we decided to make a local contribution, says field priest Tor Simen Olberg.



OPENING THE PUMP: (F.v.) Major Lennart, major Tor Simen Olberg, Major Tor and Captain Gabor filled the local girls' bottles, and made sure that the new well worked.

He challenged the Norwegian soldiers – and their international guests – to buy water bottles, specifically marked for the occasion. By choosing one of these bottles, the soldiers were asked to pay as much as they felt the bottles were worth. The campaign turned into a contest, as the Storm Squadron, the staff at Battle Group 3 and the National Contingent Commander competed to donate most money. The priest is however not willing to reveal who actually won.

We received four times more than anticipated. This ensured that we had the funds to build the well, says Olberg.

In addition, the Norwegian soldiers bought a radiator to a local children's home. The projects were chosen in consultation with Captain Gabor, a Hungarian CIMIC officer (CIMIC = Civil-Military Cooperation) in Battle Group 3. He is in charge of delegating civil military work in the region where the Norwegian-led battalion operates. He brought his Norwegian colleagues to an informal opening of the gifts. The soldiers were even allowed to enter the classroom at the girls' school.

The girls, say that they have heard about Norway – but they have only heard the name, they don't know anything about the country. When asked what they will be when they grow up, the majority say teacher or doctor. It has become common for children to dream about an education and a good job, also in Afghanistan.

In the children's home, "Children of War", which operates like a school, they are trying to make orphans dream about a similarly bright future.

students in the age group 7 to 19 complete two semesters of education every year. Seventy eight are girls. The students descend from Iranian and Pakistani refugees, and are defined as orphans once their father is believed to be dead. Several are too old to go to the state-run local school, but at the children's home they are taught to read and write and educated in practical topics such as sewing.

Neither the Ministry of Education nor Labour and Social Affairs, which is directly responsible for childrens' homes in Afghanistan, recognise the home. Therefore we have decided to help them instead, explains Gabor.

Operation Jam, a CIMIC project, has made it possible for this educational home to install electrical lighting. In addition they have received 150 pencils and a similar number of

books.

We have also channeled other home enhancing goods through what we have called Operation Jam, explains the Hungarian.

The childrens' home received jam from the Norwegian kitchen in Camp Invictia.

"They liked it very much. We did not pass it out at lunchtime, but in the breaks in between, so that they had time to enjoy it," said principal Said Faqeer.

His greatest wish is to see a new building or a tent in order to increase the capacity at the school. Captain Gabor can reveal that a tent has already been subsidised by the Canadian military. The tent is on its way, along with Belgian clothes and shoes.

SEWING ROOM: Principal Said Faqeer is glad to see the sewing room light up. Now the girls can improve their sewing skills after dark.



OVERFLOWING: Hope springs for this future generation of women in Afghanistan.



International Community Info Exchange Meeting

17 May, ISAF CIMIC Centre

ISAF Civilian-Military Cooperation hosted the second of its formal monthly meetings designed to share relevant operational information with aid agencies, international and governmental organizations.



ISAF CIMIC's Lt Col Goksel Yaman, Turkish Army, sets the agenda and conditions for a healthy exchange.



Meeting participants listen up to the latest from a report on migration briefed by the Afghanistan Research and Evaluation Unit.

Each month's meeting offers the latest on ISAF and CFC-A activities and up-to-date security information. This month's meeting additionally featured expert briefs on population movement, U.S. Civil Affairs, and the community impact of mines.



Of course, plenty of information was exchanged outside the briefing room and most stayed for lunch.

Photos by Sgt Ozkan Camci

ISAF Battle Equipment Fair

On the first day of April (but hardly a joke) KMNB staged a Battle Equipment Fair at Camp DOGAN. In the fair, 15 different national contingent showed up with a variety of their personal battle equipment and gear, many also with their weapons and vehicles.

The attending nations to the fair were; Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Norway, Romania, Spain, Turkey and UK.

COM ISAF, DCOM ISAF, DCOMOPS ISAF, COS ISAF, COM KMNB and hundreds of other military personnel from virtually every nation of ISAF visited the fair. The exhibition of the equipment and weapons in the area made for a rare site and in several instances clearly became the grounds for professional development, dialogue and comradery.

In other words, for many this different type of fair was good fun and a unique opportunity for ISAF VII leaders and soldiers.



CANADIANS ASSIST INVESTIGATION INTO US MINE STRIKE INCIDENT

By Captain Mark Gough, PAO,
Task Force Kabul



A member of the Task Force Kabul (TFK) Improvised Explosive Device / Explosive Ordnance Disposal (IED/EOD) team looks on as his partner follows behind a Bison armoured vehicle

On March 26, United States military forces in Afghanistan suffered a terrible tragedy. Four Indiana National Guard soldiers were killed when a land mine exploded under their vehicle as they were scouting a potential site for a firing range in Logar province, 40 kilometres south of Kabul.

The U.S. military immediately launched an investigation into the incident and Canadian soldiers from Task Force Kabul (TFK) accompanied American forces to the incident site on April 2 to assist in the enquiry.

After receiving a request to

provide assistance to the Americans from the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) headquarters, Colonel Walter Semianiw, the Commander of TFK, quickly obtained authorization to deploy Canadian troops to help in the investigation.

“When we received the request for technical assistance we immediately began our planning process in order to support the American investigation,” said Col Semianiw. “While this support fell outside our normal framework operations, it was very important to us given our close ties with U.S. forces in Afghanistan.”

As a result, the TFK Improvised Explosive Device / Explosive Ordnance Disposal (IED/EOD) team from 23 Field Engineer Squadron (23 Fd Eng Sqn) was tasked to go to the site and provide their expertise. In addition, soldiers from the TFK Force Protection Company (FP Coy) and Health Service Support Company (HSS Coy) also went to provide protection and medical support for the group.

“Once we were notified about the

tasking our troops were eager to participate,” said Major Nicolas Pilon, Commanding Officer, 23rd Field Engineer Squadron and the commander of the Canadian contingent that travelled to Logar province. “Our soldiers have considerable knowledge and experience in these matters and we were more than ready to lend our support.”

Once they rendezvoused with American forces at Camp Julien early in the morning, the Canadians departed for Logar province. Upon arrival at the incident site the engineers confirmed that the route was safe from an additional mine threat and the IED/EOD team got to work.

They remained at the site for several hours gathering evidence and information that was shared with the Americans. Once finished, the Canadians and Americans returned to Kabul the same day.

Upon their arrival back at Camp Julien, Colonel Edwin Passmore, the lead American investigator, thanked the Canadians for their support.

"On behalf of CFC-A, I would like

to thank Task Force Kabul and the Canadian engineers for providing outstanding support to our investigative efforts,” said Colonel Passmore. “The ability of the Task Force to put together a plan, obtain national level approval, and execute the mission within a very short timeframe was a fantastic demonstration of the professionalism and expertise of this unit. The information we gathered today is a key element in our investigation.”

On April 14 the investigation findings were released. The explosion that resulted in the death of the four Americans was caused by an anti-tank mine that had been left over from previous conflicts and most likely shifted during the recent heavy spring rains. There were no indications that the mine had been deliberately set or designed to target American forces in the area.

It was an event that deeply touched many coalition and ISAF soldiers in Afghanistan. But the information gathered during the one-day trip to the Logar province by American and TFK soldiers proved to be crucial in establishing what actually occurred and helped to bring closure to the incident.

Kids of KAIA Charity

Courtesy of a friend of the Kids of KAIA

The “Kids of KAIA” Charity appeal is an appeal started by Cpl’s Sean Reece, RAF Cranwell, Jason McDonald, RAF Leuchars, Stuart Davidson, RAF Lossiemouth and A/FS Gibson, RAF Waddington, all Royal Air Force Police, attached to the International Military Police (IMP), Camp KAIA.

The “Kids of KAIA” was formed to help with the education of the local children and led to the IMP “adopting” the Aziz School in downtown Kabul.

Although the volunteers cannot hope to correct all the problems in this war torn country, they find helping with the education of children a good starting point.

Even the most basic school equipment is scarce. The IMP have been holding fund raising events at Camp KAIA in order to refurbish their classrooms. The goal was to purchase sports equipment and stationary for these unfortunate children and place them within the school. The target was to raise 750 euros.

Any promising and legal avenue promising funds was pursued. Charity bins were placed in bars, the passenger area and the IMP station. Donations were collected from different nations refreshment stands in exchange for drinks found where and when they shouldn’t have.(not to imply that this

was any great source of the charity funds, ahem!).



Basically no one was safe from the good-natured rattling of tins!! They also orchestrated a charity table

foosball competition between all nations, which was a great success. Not only did they raise a significant amount of funds, but a great time was had by all.

Did they reach their target? Oh yes and more!!!! The total raised was 950 euros and to all a part of this endeavor you can easily see how even such a small amount has made a difference to these children’s lives.

With the funds raised they were able to carpet and provide blackboards for every class room, every one of the 6000 children at the school were provided with books, pens and pencils. The school was given footballs, volleyballs and other sporting equipment. The Principal was provided with a new chair, desk and filing cabinet. All with enough left over for a lot of sweets to be purchased (for the children, not the IMPs!!)

Although the bulk of the fund raising and buying of the equipment was done by the RAF Police, none of it would have been



possible without the permission of Colonel Öndül, Camp Commander, the input and assistance of 1st Sgt Major Peter DeCock, IMP Cdr, and the rest of the IMP team.

Special thanks to Kpl Vladimir Gaydosik, Slovakian de-miner, and the rest of his team. Vladimir was the barman of the Slovakian bar, Camp KAIA, and as well as working in a very dangerous job (the de-mining element and not the bar work!) he worked long and hard in pestering, oops.... “raising” a substantial amount of funds in his bar.

Cpl Reece stated “As I am leaving KAIA and I reflect on my time here, I am stunned by the incredible amount of interesting things I have seen and done in the past few months. It has been an experience; working in a

multi-national environment, visiting historic sights, observing the poor conditions of the local area and having a part in helping the community. Although I am grateful to be returning to my family I am saddened that I have to leave just as the journey is beginning”.

The “Kids of KAIA” team consisted of:

OR-7 (FS) Martin Gibson, RAF Police.
OR-4 (Cpl) Sean Reece, RAF Police.
OR-4 (Cpl) Jason McDonald, RAF Police.
OR-4 (Cpl) Stu Davidson, RAF Police.

With honorable mention to Danielle Garon, critical care nurse at HSS Coy and all IMPs based at Camp KAIA



