

# ISAF MIRROR



November 2005

ISAF Quick Reaction Force  
at the ready



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Autumn foliage in Afghanistan.

The deadline for the next edition is:  
Monday 7 November 2005

Have you got a camera ?

Send your pictures to the Editor and they could be on the next cover! Submit your contribution anyway, we will check them all and if deemed worthwhile will be published them.

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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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## COMISAF says: ISAF will continue its peaceful role in Afghanistan but will not accept any menace from the enemies

COMISAF Editorial

On behalf of all ISAF members and NATO, I wish to express my deepest condolences for the tragic loss that we suffer in the past days. I know that this is never easy. The loss of fellow soldiers and injuries to others are tragic. ***The sacrifice in the service of peace must not be forgotten.*** I can only ask that comrades, family and fellow members of international peacekeepers remember everything that has been accomplished. We have a challenging task and sometimes we, as soldiers, must make the ultimate sacrifice in performing our job. We have an important duty to accomplish here for our country and the people of Afghanistan. The peace mission is here to provide to all Afghan citizens a way to live together, notwithstanding their religious belief and their ethnicity.

During the month of November a series of attacks had shaken ISAF Area of Operation. During these criminal acts, some soldiers, who were involved in re-establish peace and security in Afghanistan, lost their lives, together with unharmed local citizens. The civilized society of the Country that host our troops, international audience, the Central Asia Governments and those of the neighbouring countries, received those news with anger.

But ISAF answer is just one and only one: strength. No reason shall force us to back up, for no reason whatsoever our Command will be low on guard. The peace mission is here to provide to all Afghan citizens a way to live together, not with standing their religious belief and their ethnicity. ISAF mission will go on, with no signs of fatigue during Its task, its commitment is to provide a safe and secure environment for Afghanistan.



# Afghan National Army Staff First Visit to ISAF Headquarters



On Thursday, 9 November 2005, the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) Headquarters hosted the first Afghan National Army (ANA) staff visit, which consisted of twenty-seven ANA Officers and the Secretary of the Afghan Vice Minister of Defense, Dr. Mohammad Naem and Chief of Operations from the Army General Staff, Lt Gen Karimi.



ISAF Commander, Lieutenant General Mauro Del Vecchio, greeted the ANA senior staff on their arrival and provided them with a briefing on ISAF roles and commitment within Afghanistan as well as outlining the locations of ISAF troops throughout the Afghan territory; the ANA officers were also presented with the current military situation, logistic set up and medical assets.

During the second part of the programme, the visitors toured ISAF's compound and were shown a variety of facilities including the Joint Operational Centre (JOC), ISAF's central command and control centre. The JOC receives information from all of the units and Provincial Reconstruction Teams across Afghanistan and in turn directs those operations within its area of responsibility.

Before leaving, the delegation had the opportunity to see a sample of ISAF Armies' Armoured and Recognition vehicles, which are providing patrols and services around Kabul; a Mobile Command Post, with satellite radio communication capabilities and a Tracked Snow Personnel Carrier with power trailers, which is especially suited for mountainous terrain and winter operations.



The visit proved extremely useful for both parties: ISAF was able to demonstrate its deep-rooted commitment to the ANA staff and the Afghan MoD, illustrating the extent to which the mission is intertwined within the Afghan society, through the actions of the contributing nations to the Rehabilitation rebuilding / development of Afghanistan. In turn, ANA and MoD staff, were able to understand the operational capability of the troops who are committed to ISAF and NATO's strong desire to further improve the assistance given to the Government of Afghanistan, its Defence Forces and its brave people. All of the participants agreed that today's visit was extremely useful and together they have decided that it would be the first of a long series of essential coordination meetings. ISAF troops conduct on average 600 patrols every week in Kabul, the Western and Northern regions of which almost 100 are conducted jointly with Afghan National Army units.





# WATER PLANT DONATION IN DAR-UL-AMAN

"Water, water, everywhere, nor any drop to drink" –  
"The Rime of the Ancient Mariner," by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Water in Afghanistan is a precious resource. All too often, water here can mean the difference between prosperity and poverty or even life and death.

For the past three years Coalition and Canadian soldiers stationed at Camp Julien have enjoyed the best-bottled water in Kabul. The source of this water was not a "source" in the French Alps, but rather the large aquifer located between the King's and Queen's Palaces in the southern sector of Kabul, Afghanistan.

When Canada first developed Camp Julien, it quickly became evident that the requirement for potable water was a key concern. Canadian military authorities decided that the best way to ensure a guaranteed supply at a reasonable cost was to have a water production process at Camp Julien. The Afghan Department of Industry drilled a well that went down 300 feet to the aquifer. The well and pump system are the front end of a water production process that also includes a highly sophisticated filtration system, and bottling plant that includes labelling and boxing. The water treatment plant can produce up to 350,000 L per day and the bottling plant can produce up to 10,000 one-litre bottles per day.

About 12 personnel running a 12-hour shift daily manage the entire water production process. There is always the capability to increase production by running a second shift if required. At present military and civilian members of the Afghan Ministry of Defense are undergoing on-job-training at both the water treatment and bottling plants.

This is in preparation for the transfer of the entire facility to the Afghan government on December 1, 2005.

As Mike Hewitt, manager of the water production facility notes, "this entire water production process has been an unparalleled success story. I am proud of what we have been able to accomplish, as we have produced about two million bottles of water."

Captain Poehmann  
Public Affairs Officer Canadian military



# SPANISH PRT OFFERS HELP TO QAL - E - NAW CITIZENS

On the 20<sup>th</sup> of October the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation started work with the provincial Office for Water Management and Public Welfare. Currently they are working on rebuilding the Highway from Herat to Qal-e-Naw, starting with a bridge construction, which will link this city with both its airport and some of its suburbs. These road works will take fifteen months at a cost of ten million Euros.



In addition to many other activities, the Spanish team has been teaching Computer Science using military technicians in the Spanish Compound to twenty-three youngsters from the provincial capital. They have also created a one-hour radio program, which has been broadcast three times a week named "Good Morning Afghanistan" and are soon to publish a provincial newspaper called "The Voice of Badghis".

On Friday 11<sup>th</sup> of November, thanks to sports equipment donated by a company from the city of Aragon, a

triangular soccer tournament was held between the Spanish PRT, the Qal-e-Naw local Police and the semi-pro local teams. Results notwithstanding, the aim to strengthen friendship with the local nationals was achieved.



Since the time of their arrival in Afghanistan, on 29 September, the Spanish PRT have participated in multiple humanitarian activities in the Badghis province. During the last month several humanitarian projects have been started by different Spanish organizations, for example, the donation of furniture to the Qal-e-Naw Hospital offered by the Spanish NGO "Olaf Palme"; Donations by ASPFOR XII military families personnel included blankets and winter clothes; In the near future, two city schools will receive Spanish language courses arranged by Espasa ELE publishing company and delivered by their Trade Director, Michael Burke. In addition, winter clothes and toys were distributed to the city orphanage.



The ASPFOR XII contingent is comprised of the "Aragon" I Mountains Brigade, who are based in Jaca, Huesca y Pamplona. Their mission is to support the regional reconstruction, thus creating stability and the necessary security in order to allow the Organizations involved in local development projects to work in the best possible conditions and to help the Afghan people out of poverty in the near future.

By: Cap. Francisco Calleja SPA

# DUTCH FORCES SUPPORT PAKISTAN WITH A FIELD HOSPITAL

During the weekend from 29-31 October 2005, a Dutch C-130 Hercules took a Field Dressing Station from the 1 NLD Election Support Force (ESF) battalion who had previously been based in Mazar-e-Sharif, Afghanistan to Islamabad in Pakistan. It took several trips, to deliver all of the equipment and personnel to Islamabad Airport. The Field Dressing Station was then transported to Bagh, 70 km from Islamabad, where they will be based and able to help the wounded victims from the earthquake. It took one week to

fully establish the mobile field hospital, which is due to stay in Pakistan for the next three months.



Ideally suited to crises situations, like the one in Pakistan, the Field Dressing Station consists of a fully equipped mobile medical facility with surgical capabilities, x-ray equipment, a nursing station and it is supported by 120 military personnel.

This operation is in addition to the 14 million Euros, which has already been donated in aid by the Dutch government, to Pakistan.



The 1 NLD ESF battalion operated from the Main

Operating Base in Mazar-e-Sharif, in support of the Afghan

Government elections, from August until November. They also deployed to two Forward Operating Bases in Meymana and Feyzabad.

The C-130 Hercules from the Royal Netherlands Air Force has been stationed at Kabul International Airport since the 18<sup>th</sup> October. They are in Afghanistan to support the troops by providing tactical air transport. The C-130 detachment consists of 23 personnel and is due to stay in Afghanistan for one year.

Captain RNLAf Kirsten Regnery  
PIO NLD NCC HQ ISAF  
Kabul





# ISAF PROVIDES UNEXPLODED ORDNANCE TO AWARENESS TRAINING TO AFGHAN SECURITY FORCES IN HERAT

Afghanistan has the highest number of landmines scattered around the country, which includes an estimated 640,000 anti-personnel and anti-tank mines as well as several million Unexploded Ordnance (UXOs). Herat is the city where, during the middle of September, a mine was found in the vicinity of the Governor's building. Due to the quick and joint intervention between the local Security Forces and the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), no one was injured and no property was damaged.

Following this incident, the Governor of Herat Province, Mr. Sayed Hussein Anwari, made a request to ISAF to provide "Mine and Training" to their



The Italian Reconstruction immediately day course, which officers from the Police, Afghan Highway Police, Department of Afghan National covered, basic to identify potential

understand the dangers associated with landmines and UXOs. The officers also learned how to handle different situations to ensure the safety and security of the area where these devices might be found. A total of 18 officers completed the "Mine and UXOs Awareness Training".

This initiative is an excellent example, which illustrates how ISAF, through the PRTs, provides direct support to the Government of Afghanistan to enable them to maintain authority throughout the country using their own security forces.

Capt Massimo Cionfrini  
Public Information Officer  
Regional Area Coordinator – West  
Herat, Afghanistan



# LIVE AID



Kabul 5 November 2005

An evening of happiness and music at camp Warehouse! After many months of duty and hard work, all the ISAF personnel needed some relaxing times. In the big tent on the side of the renown "Oase" German restaurant in the Camp, some very talented groups of young and not-so-young military-musicians held the stage playing contemporary and classic rock music in front of, at least, five hundred soldiers, convened at camp Warehouse from the various Military Facilities in Kabul. From 9:00 p.m. to 1:00 a.m., music, beer, food and smiles brought joy to militaries from various nations, all the ranks were represented, and friendship flowed through people. This activity was decided to raise funds for the Afghan children. It has been a great opportunity to make new friends and share some laughs. We hope such occasions could become more frequent!

Maj. Luca Di Grazia, ITA





# DUTCH REBUILD FACILITIES

1 NLD ESF BN was deployed in Afghanistan from August until early November 05. The Main Operating Base (MOB) was located in Mazar-e-Sharif and 2 Forward Operating Bases (FOB) were deployed in Meymaneh and Feyzabad. The main mission was to support the Government of Afghanistan (ANA and ANP) before, during and after the NAPCE. The presence of the Battalion increased the security level and made it possible for the population to vote in a safe environment. Whilst the Battalion was in the area, they also undertook a number of CIMIC activities in order to support the development of the country. Due to the limited time available, only small projects with immediate

effect were selected. Indeed, long-term projects such as rebuilding the infrastructure require a longer presence and this is the responsibility of the various Provincial Reconstruction Teams (PRTs) in Afghanistan. A total of 10 different CIMIC projects were



completed throughout the NLD ESF Bn area of operation. These projects were coordinated by 2 officers who initiated some of them within the immediate area of the MOB and others through the units at the FOB's. Specific projects were selected, which would

provide the youth within the region with better sports and education facilities, therefore giving the young the opportunity to study and play. The details of the following two projects are examples of how all of them, which were equally important, delivered a positive contribution to the further development of the northern region.

**Information Technology support for the University of Balkh** The director of the university expressed his thanks to the CO 1 NLD ESF BN, Lieutenant Colonel Richard

Oppelaar and a full presentation in English was given by one of the female teachers. The presentation gave an overview of the structure, plans and needs of the university. Established 18 years ago it is the main university for Northern Afghanistan. It has 5,327 students (3,424 male and 1,903 female) for 8 faculties. During the Taliban regime there were only 1,000 male students so it has improved tremendously over the last 4 years. Furthermore, it is very promising to see the increasing number of female students; some faculties even have 85% female students. The university still suffers from a lack of resources and therefore they are very interested in building links with other universities from around the world. Perhaps this initial



contact will create a link with a Dutch university through which further collaboration might follow. The 8 faculties (including medical, literature, engineering, agricultural, theology and teaching) have a total of 294 lecturers of which 228 are male and 66 female.



place on 21<sup>st</sup> October. During that tournament local teams and teams from ANA, ANP, PRT and 1 NLD ESF BN played against each other. The tournament was promoted via posters and local radio stations and the local press covered the tournament. It was a great success and showed how the ISAF forces can work together with the local authorities from the Government not just on security situations but also on developing projects and recreational facilities. These activities have strengthened the relationship between ISAF personnel and the Afghan people. In just a short time, 1 NLD ESF

There are 6 doctors, 80 masters (69 male and 11 female), 137 bachelors (101 male and 36 female), so a total of 223 teachers. The good mix of male and female staff is promising for the region. The present campus is too small, so the Government has given land (1,200,000 m<sup>2</sup>) on which a new university is to be built. However, this will require further investment and support. At the moment 1,200 students (1,105 male and 95 female) are living on campus. New and larger campus facilities will also be part of the new university. The construction plans are already underway, which will eventually create a better level of educational opportunities for the university and its students. This will create a positive effect on the local economy and improve job prospects.

BN was able to make a positive impact on the lives of many teachers, students, children and parents in Northern Afghanistan. It was a hearts and minds approach, which established a positive feeling towards ISAF and will benefit

**Sports Stadium Project**

The sports stadium in Mazar-e-Sharif was re-vamped by painting the main stand and cleaning the showers and toilets in order to improve the basic sanitary facilities.

Together, these combined projects improved the conditions of the facilities, which are now available for the young and students alike, and illustrate the positive impact, which ISAF staff can have on the local population. The improvements were officially handed over during a friendly soccer tournament that took



the continuing work of ISAF and its PRT's in the region.

Capt. RNLMC Mathieu Nagelkerke  
PIO 1 NLD ESF BN  
Mazar-E-Sharif



# SWEDEN IS BUILDING FOR INCREASED RESPONSIBILITY

- Good morning! My name is Anders and I work for Isaf.

Every visit in the 13 classes at the school next to the area where Sweden is building a new camp, started the same.

Anders Sodermyr, lieutenant from Sweden, is responsible of clearing the Swedish area from mines.

The visit at the school is a part of the regular contact with the people who lives in the neighbourhood. Anders informed the students what is going to happen and told them what to do if they find anything dangerous.

- If you see something that looks like mines or ammunition: Do not touch it! And tell your teacher, your parents or us. We can try to take it away, he says.

He also showed a picture with a couple of examples of mines and ammunition.

The school has had a workshop about mines before, and pictures of different mines and ammunition is

hanging in one of the classrooms.

- But we would like to get any information that you got, the teachers says.

The Swedish people have had a lot communication with the people who lives in the area. They also visited men and women during Eid al Fitr.

- Since we are going to be neighbours in many years, it is important that we find a good relationship early in the process, Staffan Jansson, responsible for the security.

The land for the new PRT and camp has been given for free from Afghanistan. The built has already started and to increase the security and protect the children from

getting hurt, the area for has been fenced.

Sweden has also built a new soccer- and volleyballfield for the children, and the goal is to set up a game between swedish and afghanistans.

The camp will be ready at the end of February 2006.



# ITALIAN NAVY AB 212 HELICOPTERS: KEY ROLE



Although Afghanistan is very far from the sea the Italian Navy is active with its Agusta Bell 212 in the skies of Afghanistan. The latest version of Bell "Huey", where Bell is the only example of an Italian owned American firm, crosses the skies of the Asian country with its traditional sound, that gave it the trademark: "Chopper" due to its syncopated sound. Its missions are generally 24/7, all weather, with crews ready to scramble in minutes. Of course, being a helicopter that sees a strategic role, it is

armored, has anti rocket countermeasures, two 7.62 machine guns. Crew is generally 4: two pilots and two gunners, this leaves room for two additional passengers. Missions for this aircraft are mostly tactical, but is also used for the



evacuations of injured and wounded. It may lift in flight ready conditions up to 272 kg. It has been used also in support of the civilian population of Afghanistan.

## Dimensions:

Max length	: with moving rotors 17,4 m..
Fuselage length	: 14,02 m..
Width	: 2,64 m
Weight	: max at take off : 5,07t. , 500 kg. weapons
Top speed	: 196km/h..
Engines	: 2 Pratt & Whitney PT6T - turbines in "Twin pack" configuration , 1.290 Hp.



By: Maj. Luca Di Grazia IT A

# BANDIKHANEN VILLAGE: A road to school

Kabul, Afghanistan - A ceremony to inaugurate a restored road, was held yesterday, November 6, in the morning at about 10:30 in the BANDIKHANEN village of the Dih Sabz district, a few kilometres north of Kabul.

Afghan National Army (ANA) Engineers together with ISAF Engineers from the Multi-National Engineering Group (MNEG) rebuilt the road, which will guarantee better movement conditions for the village. The work started on 19 October and consisted of improving the state of the existing road, which links the village of Bandikhanen with the nearby village school. The work was funded by the Office of Security Co-operation Afghanistan (OSC-A).

In September, 45 ANA troops graduated from a six-week course delivered by ISAF Engineers, which taught them a range of skills that army engineers need in order to deal with different scenarios. The ANA troops also learnt how to use heavy machinery such as bulldozers and excavators. This road restoration project was the ideal opportunity for the ANA Engineers to put their new skills into practice.

MNEG is part of ISAF's Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNb) and provides military engineering services in Kabul such as bridge building and base construction. This development project illustrates the continued work by the international community through ISAF and OSC-A to improve the capabilities of the national Afghan forces. As the winter season approaches, the travelling conditions will become increasingly more difficult especially in the rural areas. The completion of this project represents an important achievement, which has increased the quality of life for the local inhabitants.







# ISAF FIREFIGHTERS HELP HERAT CITY

On 25 October, in the late afternoon around 17:00pm, a fire was declared in an electrical store near to the governor's palace in Herat city. The cause of the fire is unknown but the incident is under investigation.

The material and close proximity of the fire to the Governor's compound meant that the situation was assessed as being critical, and as such, the Governor's secretary asked ISAF's Forward Support Base (FSB) in Herat for help by providing firefighting assistance.

ISAF provided 3 firefighting trucks and 10 additional personnel who worked extremely hard alongside local firefighters for 4 hours until the fire was extinguished. In addition, The FSB firefighting team was accompanied to the city by a Quick Reaction Force (QRF) platoon with medical services, a local policeman was attended by a Spanish medical team.

General Rossi, RAC West commander, supervised the ISAF teams, whilst the governor along with other local authorities provided their support to the ISAF contribution.

By  
Cap Francisco Calleja



# GIRLS ORPHANAGE RECEIVE HELP FROM ISAF

In recognition of the upcoming international Day of Disabled that will be celebrated on December 3<sup>rd</sup> the Deputy Minister of Martyrs and Disabled, His Excellency S.M. Hadid Hadid, with the assistance of Afghan National



Army soldiers from the Directorate of Cultural and Religious Affairs, commanded by Brigadier General Mohammad Amin Nassib and Deputy Commander for Islamic Training and Education Colonel Aminullah Rahin, and the support and supervision of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), distributed much needed items which were donated by Combined Forces Command- Afghanistan (CFC-A), commanded by Lieutenant General Karl Eikenberry, and United States Assistance for International Development (USAID)



These items were given to the students of the "Professional and Learning Foundation School for Disabled and Girls". The gifts are for the 217 disabled, orphans and girls who had their education interrupted and their life threatened by the much hatred Taliban regime. Their teachers too received the prized gifts.

Approximately 250 backpacks full of school supplies plus 250 jersey sweaters printed with Afghan National Army logo and national



flag were given to all the school children. The Institute received also desks, chairs, a white drawing board, books for the library and sports equipment.

The event is an example of the effort and commitment that different Afghan Ministries could support in order to provide help, while working together, to cater for the needs of the weaker categories of the Afghan society: disabled, children, orphans and, definitely, the women of Afghanistan.



By Maj. Luca Di Grazia IT A





# CANADIAN RECCE SQUADRON COMPLETES ISAF COMMITMENT

A ceremony was held October 18, 2005 at Camp Julien, Kabul, Afghanistan to mark the end of Canada's military commitment of a reconnaissance squadron to the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF). Canada had committed D Squadron, The Royal Canadian Dragoons, as the Kabul Multinational Brigade Kabul Reconnaissance Squadron based at Camp Julien.



Brigadier General Claudio Graziano, Commander Kabul Multinational Brigade was the reviewing officer. He praised the professionalism and performance of the Canadian soldiers on parade. Other special guests at the ceremony included Mr. David Sproule, Canadian Ambassador to Afghanistan and Colonel Steve Noonan, Commander Task Force Afghanistan.

This event also highlighted the Canadian contribution to ISAF, and recognized the last of five deployments that Canadian Forces (CF) personnel made to the Kabul area beginning in August 2003.

Since the first Canadian reconnaissance elements were deployed, nearly every corner of Kabul province has been explored alongside our coalition partners. Canadian reconnaissance elements have taken part in over one hundred different missions, from Shakadara to Khaki Jabbar and Chahar Asyab to Surobi. Professional soldiers from different countries and continents working alongside one another, sharing the hardships yet remaining committed to the mission has always been an inspiring experience.

Afghanistan has left an impression on each and every Canadian reconnaissance soldier who has served here. Likewise, Canadian soldiers will not forget our time working with our brothers-in-arms from the Kabul Multinational Brigade.

In doing so, the Canadian Forces provided ISAF with key intelligence, situational awareness, and helped facilitate the Afghan National Assembly and Provincial Council elections process.

By Captain Greg Poehlmann,  
Task Force Afghanistan,  
Public Affairs Officer and Captain Fraser Auld,  
2IC Recce Squadron







# ISAF AND AFGHAN PUBLIC HEALTH MINISTRY INAUGURATED PROVINCIAL HOSPITAL EMERGENCY ROOM

A ceremony to inaugurate Herat's Provincial Hospital Emergency Room was held on 9 November 2005. Afghan Public Health Ministry and Provincial Public Health Department of Herat together with ISAF

personnel belonging to the Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) cell from the Italian Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT), rebuilt the emergency room of the Provincial Hospital, improve the assistance to the people of the town. The work started one month ago and consisted of renovating existing rooms, providing full equipment, medication and drugs. The work was funded by the Italian Ministry of Defence, Italian Foreign Affairs and the Italian Civil



Defence CIMIC is part of civilian experts who follow reconstruction projects in Herat, such as building schools, supplies and other developments in several provincial departments (health, sports, etc...). This project, as well as the opening of the new lockers for the soccer school

construction by the community through ISAF and governmental offices to improve the facilities available to the Afghan people. The female Director of the Hospital as well as the representatives from the Afghan Public Health Ministry and Provincial Public Health Department of Herat thanked the Italians and as well as the international community for supporting local authorities and providing the local Afghan population with much needed infrastructure.



ISAF's PRT and provides military and projects all around the Province of Herat, such as providing water coordination with education, as the future stadium and tennis courts which are under construction, illustrate the continuous work of the international community through ISAF and governmental offices to improve the facilities available to the Afghan people.



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By Captain Massimo Cionfrini  
PIO Regional Area Coordinator West  
Herat, Afghanistan

