



ISAF MIRROR

Issue 29 June 2006

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at Qala-e-Naw

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ANA & Italian Forces

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opens in Paghman

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New Maternity Clinic for Paghman District

*Capt Olli-Pekka Nissinen (FIN- A)
ISAF HQ/ CJPOTF Print section*

High death rates of infant babies and mothers in labour are one of the biggest problems in Afghanistan. Since the public health care system was ruined during the war years pregnant mothers and their newborn babies need help and fast.

Mothers and babies of Paghman district, about one hour drive west from Kabul centre, now have better possibilities for a successful life thanks to new maternity clinic. This CIMIC project was carried out by Finland and can help thousands of mothers.

The Deputy Minister of Health for Afghanistan, Dr Nadera Hayat Burhani, and Admiral Hanno Strang from Finnish Defence Forces opened the maternity clinic in June accompanied with local authorities.

The new maternity clinic is built beside the Paghman's Health Centre. Now all the basic health services can be found in the same yard. Deputy Minister Burhani stressed in her opening speech how important it is to help waiting mothers. "Every half an hour a pregnant mother or newborn baby dies in Afghanistan. That's a shame for us and we have to do our best to improve situation. At the moment we can't deal with it by ourselves and we need international help. This clinic built by Finland comes when we are in real need," she said.

Admiral Strang underlined that basic health care projects and schools will also be the main area that Finnish CIMIC will look at in the future and other aid projects in Afghanistan.

There are around 200,000 inhabitants in Paghman and according to the Governor, Mr H Abdugadir, maternity services are highly needed. The new clinic offers more than 100m² for mothers and babies. There are three rooms for the mothers and babies, a modern delivery room and reception spaces. If needed, the second floor can also be used. In total there is space for ten mothers and their babies inside the clinic at once.

Deputy Minister Burhani also said that Afghan families need basic information on how to deal with a mother's pregnancy. "For example pregnant women might work too hard during their pregnancy which increases the possibility of having dangerous kinds of miscarriage. These are facts that we need to tell the families," added Burhani. Governor Abdugadir assured that new clinic will be sustained with best efforts in the future and it will serve only for pregnant ladies and babies.

The project, led by Sr Lt Ari Suontausta and his team, started in Paghman August 2005 with planning. A local builder completed the actual construction work during the winter and spring.

Funding for the clinic, US\$27,000, came from Finnish Ministry of Foreign Affairs.



SEEBRIG Children's Park

Lt Orlin Garkov (BU-A)

PIO Plans, KMNB

Working on the goal of rebuilding Afghanistan and especially the capital Kabul, South-Eastern European Brigade (SEEBRIG) together with representatives from the French Army in ISAF, started the refurbishment of a children's park in Police District 11 (PD11) in Kabul. The park is known as Hesse Awa-e-Khair Khana. The project started on 1 May 2006 with official gathering of local authorities.

The project was financed by SEEBRIG a regional military organization, representing seven countries from South-Eastern Europe (Albania, Bulgaria, Greece, Italy, FYROM, Romania and Turkey). SEEBRIG decided to have a specific project, which is able to represent the peaceful feature of the brigade. The decision came as a result from the multilateral understanding among the national representatives from SEEBRIG contributing countries.

The objective of the project was to provide the children of Kabul with a place for playing games in a nice environment. The Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) branch in KMNB /SEEBRIG was tasked by the Commander of KMNB, Brigadier General Neyko Nenov, to develop a CIMIC project here, in the city of Kabul. When LTC Rado, Chief CIMIC KMNB, was asked why they chose that park as a project, he explained that this was an idea of the French CIMIC Team.

The KMNB/SEEBRIG CIMIC branch organized the implementation of the project by providing the coordination between Non Governmental Organisations (NGO) and the French military engineer team. A French NGO hired the Afghanistan Reconstruction Engineering Company (AFRANE), which is also an NGO, to conduct the biggest part of the work. The project was divided in two phases, first was the levelling of the ground. It took only one day for the French engineers to complete it. The second phase included parallel activities such as making the roads, preparing the land, irrigation, fertilization,



Children enjoying the new facilities.

and one week after those works the trees; the grass and the flowers were planted.

The park covers an area of 10,000 m²; originally it was planned and included in the Kabul City master plan in 1966. Additionally to the planted trees, flowers and grass the reconstruction company built one volleyball court and refurbished another two. There are benches on the paths in the park.

Mr. Yves Faivre, the director of the French NGO, commented that the first phase works were finished quickly because the springtime at the beginning of May was favorable for the planting. Mr. Yves Faivre has worked in Afghanistan for more than 15 years. He expressed with satisfaction that a nice project like this park finally took place for the Afghan children and people.

According to the municipality statistics there are more than 230,000 people living in Police District 11. There are five primary schools and seven high schools. Children at the schools did not have the opportunity to play games free outside in open ground before the renovation of the park. This project has created a nice green park for leisure, playing games and having fun for the children of PD 11.

The opening of the park took place on 1st June, International Children's Day. COMKMNB, General Neyko Nenov, said to the media, "That we are here to support and help people of Afghanistan and this is the beginning of our contribution. Next step is to drill a well in the park."



Visit to Kabul Orthopaedic Organisation

*SSgt Brian Lamar (US-A)
PIO HQ ISAF*

Smiles appeared on a multitude of crippled children's faces when they saw two British officers who serve with ISAF come into their care facility, the Kabul Orthopaedic Organization (KOO) on the 6th of June.

Lt Col Felix Gedney and Lt Col Gary Bateman rode up to the clinic's front door on the motorcycles that they plan to ride 10,000 harrowing kilometres, as a charity fundraiser for the clinic and for Sandy Gall's Afghan Appeal. The riders visited in order to view the facility that they are donating to and to delivery seven crates of crutches to the needy children.

The relatively new clinic, which has been handling everything from physical therapy to casting and moulding new prosthetic limbs for patients since 2004, needs about \$80,000 to run effectively each year. The clinic depends on the generosity of the donors throughout the world. The only support from the Government of Afghanistan is the use of the building they are in without paying rent. Heating and lighting are supplied by the Ministry of Defence because senior leaders from the Afghan National Army use the facility.

"The donations from these men will help our patients receive the care that they need," said Abdul Mahpeky, who is an orthotic assistant and financial director for the clinic. So far, over

€3,500 of donations have been collected by Cols Bateman and Gedney during the fundraiser campaign for the KOO. The goal for the two is to raise €5,000.

During their visit, they spoke with several of the patients in the clinic who were undergoing treatment. They also viewed the facilities that the patients use for their treatment and watched as the workers made new prosthetic limbs.



The clinic rests on a sun-scorched hill near the bustling city of Kabul and treats about 75 injured patients each day. The "do it all" physical therapy clinic takes in children and adults who are crippled in any way, whether it is a mine, car crash or a person who suffers from polio. "Most of our patients are amputee victims, birth deformities and polio victims," said Mrs Gul Makay Siowash, the KOO director.

The clinic takes on a patient and advises them of a physical therapy routine. The doctors also identify what type of corrective devices such as artificial limbs or back braces that the patients need.

Upgrades that Mr Mahpeky plans for the clinic are for the improvement of the facility, such as acquiring an x-ray and an ultrasound machine. With patients travelling further from other parts of the country to receive treatment, the demand on the doctors and staff at the clinic is increasing. "The donations given by the men will help make life a little easier for our patients," said Mahpeky.



Ammunition Cache In Chahar Asiab

*Lt Juri Curtolo (IT-A)
PIO ITALFOR13*

On 7th June 2006, an Italian patrol from the 22nd Alpini Company, a manoeuvre unit of KMNB, conducted a joint reconnaissance activity with an EOD team from the Multinational Engineering Group (MNEG) and a MDD (Mine Detection Disposal) dog-team, specialising in explosive detection.

At about 10 am, along a secondary route, one kilometre north-east of the main road, near Guizar village in Chahar Asiab, south of Kabul, the patrol spotted an abandoned building which used to be a Soviet military barracks. The Italian patrol cordoned the area off, while the EOD team checked the building and found an ammunition cache inside. They secured and collected the material, which was then transported to the central demolition site in Kamari, southeast of Kabul.

The activity is emblematic of the spirit of cooperation among the units of the Italian Army in Afghanistan. The specific skills of the different Army specialties, in this case infantry mountain troops and engineering personnel, specialising in the explosive ordnance disposal, are shared for a common cause: the safety and security in the country in favour both of the local population and of the ISAF forces operating in the area.

1Lt Davide Marini, commander at the scene, described the conduct of the operation. "The joint activities involving EOD and MDD specialized assets have great importance for the reconnaissance of secondary routes leading from the district of Chahar Asiab to the Mosahi Valley. During the patrol, on 7th June, we spotted an abandoned building never checked before. With the EOD platoon leader, we decided to search the building."

WO1 Agostino Laurano, EOD platoon leader, personally intervened on the spot, and said, "These operations are extremely delicate but they represent the essence of our job, and we

are fully trained to operate in these situations, in Italy and abroad. First we guarantee the safety in the area: we have a short briefing with the men, we decide the way of conduct and we wear the specific equipment for individual protection. Then, employing dog-teams and metal detectors; we open a safe corridor to reach the material. At this point the team-leader intervenes only with a few other members, while all the other personnel stay at a safe distance. He recognizes the different kinds of ordnances and secures them. The material detected last 7th June was all removable, so it was possible to transport it to a secure area".

1st Lt Marini concludes saying, "The discovery is of great interest, considering the vicinity of the site to the main routes in the area, constantly run by ISAF personnel. The Chahar Asiab district, moreover, is characterized by a favourable attitude of the local population towards ISAF forces and by good cooperation with the local authorities. Our intent is to preserve this attitude with our constant effort in the area".





Inside Infrastructure

*Capt J R Meldrum (NZ-A)
CJEngr HQ ISAF*

As assignments go – it wasn't the toughest. But when our boss suggested I write a few words about our cell in the ISAF Mirror, I did have to think about how to articulate what we actually do.

Infrastructure is one of those things we don't notice if everything's going well.

It's when there are power shortages, the runway's damaged and planes can't land, and there's insufficient office space that we do start to notice. When things like this start turning to custard it is often engineers who are asked to provide the solution.

The infrastructure cell within CJ Engineers is responsible for providing solutions. (At the moment about 100M Euro worth of solutions). In our case however, we are trying to anticipate future problems and solve these before they occur. Proactive rather than reactive.

The infrastructure cell within ISAF HQ is numerically small. It consists of just five officers, including the Chief, and five civilian designers/ architects/ engineers. The NAMSA (NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency) project manager for the new Operations Centre at ISAF has also recently joined the team.

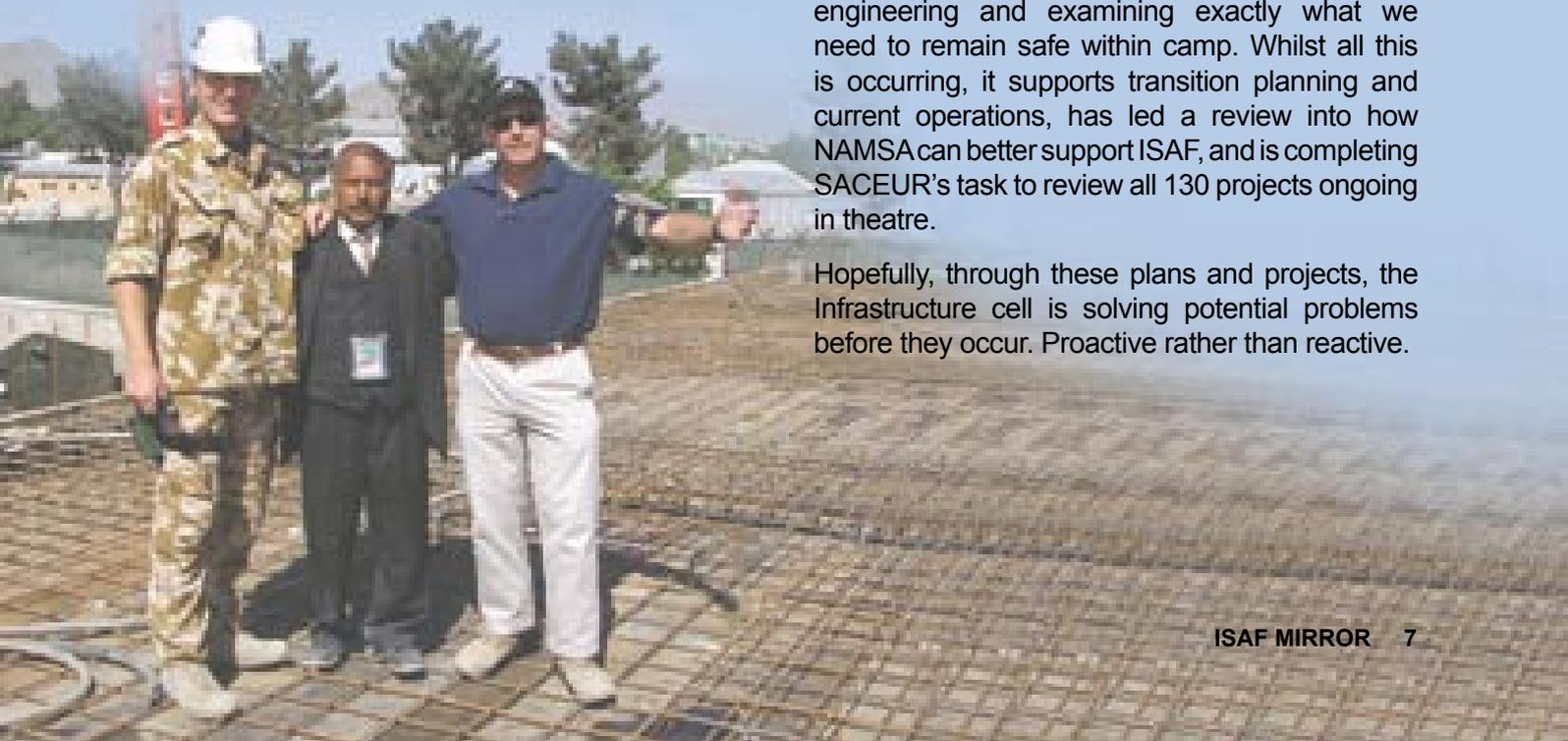
Within the cell the Chief Infrastructure Officer looks at long-term programme management of infrastructure throughout theatre. Supporting him are the Air Infra staff providing airfield management and supporting the development of NATO air infrastructure and increasingly the Afghanistan Civil Aviation Ministry.

The project management team within HQ ISAF is currently working on the construction of a vehicle maintenance facility within ISAF HQ, a new Operations Centre and the continuing construction of accommodation and offices. These projects alone total over 4M Euro.

The design team are a vital part of being proactive rather than reactive. There are currently two designers at ISAF HQ and one designer detached to Kandahar Airfield. The design team have overview of all construction on camp and can anticipate problems prior to occurrence. One task the design team is currently working on is a networked sewer system within ISAF HQ. This will enable continued expansion of ISAF HQ and will reduce the requirement for disposal trucks to enter camp.

Looking forward, the Infra Cell is planning for the expansion of KAF as an APOD, it is examining the feasibility of commercialising the management of camp facilities across theatre – thereby freeing military personnel and providing continuity during changeovers, and it is looking at force protection engineering and examining exactly what we need to remain safe within camp. Whilst all this is occurring, it supports transition planning and current operations, has led a review into how NAMSA can better support ISAF, and is completing SACEUR's task to review all 130 projects ongoing in theatre.

Hopefully, through these plans and projects, the Infrastructure cell is solving potential problems before they occur. Proactive rather than reactive.



NATO invests €30,000,000 to expand KAIA

SSgt Brian Lamar (US-A)

PIO HQ ISAF

One of the main goals of ISAF is to foster an ability to provide a stable government and economy for the long-term future of Afghanistan. In order to provide the opportunity for Afghans to succeed in the world of travel and trade NATO is investing €30,000,000 in Kabul International Airport (KAIA). The development is being spearheaded by ISAF, and also includes some individual national contributions.

According to, Major Mark Johnson-Ferguson, the airport's air infrastructure engineer, the Ministry of Transport plans to expand KAIA into an international airport. ISAF's airport expansion plan, which is scheduled to be finished in early 2008, will divide the airport into two sections. The North side of the airport will be home to the Afghan and multinational air forces. The South side will be handed over to the civil aviation ministry by the current military forces that occupy the administration buildings and other establishments. This change is a result of a request in December 2005 from the Minister of Transport, to move KAIA's troops to the north side of the airport.

In addition to the expansion programme ISAF is training air traffic controllers and fire-fighters so the airport will be better suited to operate on its own. During the transition of the airport, the civilian administration will steadily gain increased responsibility until they have fully taken control of the South side of the airport. Although the

military in the North side will control the airspace for an undesignated time after the Ministry of Transport regains control of the airport.

With civilian traffic increasing over the last couple of years, the expansion will help build KAIA's ability to better accommodate airlines such as Ariana, Kam Air and Air Arabia. The current air forces conducting operations at KAIA are all jammed into a patch of land that is only 1/3 km². After the expansion occurs, the North side will be at least three times that, according to Johnson-Ferguson.

The expansion will add a new runway, aircraft aprons, parking for wide body jets and tactical aircraft, accommodation, offices, medical facilities and hangars for helicopters. The new expansion will also be self-sustaining with its own water supply, sewage treatment and power plant.

Moving to the North has seen its share of difficulties. "There is a large de-mining project on the North side that has taken longer than expected," said Johnson-Ferguson. Early last year, that de-mining project was put on hold for an investigation into the deaths of two soldiers who were conducting mine clearing operations.

Even though the date of the migration to the North has been postponed from its original date of April this year, the plan is going forward and construction of the aprons and taxiways are on the way.





Italian and ANA Joint Training

*Lt Juri Curtolo (IT-A)
PIO ITALFOR13*

Among the main tasks of the 22nd Alpini Company besides the territory control, the priority has been given to the training of the Afghan National Army (ANA) units, based inside the Italian AOR.

In Darulaman, south of Kabul, the US Embedded Training Team (ETT) of Task Force "Cobra" is responsible for the training of the 1st Brigade of the 201st Corps of the Afghan National Army. The Italian battalion cooperates with the US unit in the conduct of the activity.

A platoon of the 1st Brigade has been currently attending a 4-week training course, aimed at preparing the personnel to take part in joint patrols on the ground, with ISAF forces.

The training, from a basic individual level to the platoon level, has been conducted by the 22nd Alpini Company, led by 1Lt Davide Marini. Organized in weekly shifts, each platoon of the Italian Coy spends 5 working days in Darulaman. The activities mainly consist of territory control training through the conduct of mounted and dismounted patrols and the manning of checkpoints

The coordinator of the activity and liaison-officer with the US personnel is 1Lt Antonio La Morte, deputy commander of the company, who guarantees the continuity, together with two-three other key elements, which never changed for the whole period of training.

"It is important to make these people understand that they can rely on us. This can be achieved only with the deep knowledge of each other. That is the same for us. Confidence and knowledge of the other group are essential requirements in the conduct of joint activities on the ground." These are the statements of 1Lt Antonio La Morte, who also adds, "The main targets in our training are the creation of the self-confidence and versatility in these people, in order to make them ready to properly react in the most different situations they could face.

Our behaviour, on the other hand, can never show any sense of superiority. They are very proud people, they are working hard to understand and acquire our operational procedures and they deserve our full respect".

The training period, now at the fourth week, is coming to an end. In a short time the ANA platoon will be employed in joint patrols, together with their Italian colleagues.



Afghan vs ISAF IX Cricket

LCpl P Vinnell (UK-A)
HQ ISAF

Think of Afghanistan and you probably don't think of cricket. But the Afghan national team is on its way to England for a tour, and guess what - they are pretty good.

Their final warm up game took place in Kabul on Sunday against ISAF (International Security Assistance Force), a team made up of British Army soldiers and officers. It was one-sided, to say the least. The ISAF team were crushed by 153 runs in a 20/20 'international'.

Afghans have been playing the game since around 1992. They originally learnt the game in the vast refugee camps of Pakistan. The Taliban regime once banned it, reportedly because they thought it was an American game. On the fall of the Taliban in 2001, hundreds of enthusiasts came home and brought the game with them. Since then, cricket has boomed. The game is played all around the country - all 29 provinces have a team. Only buskashi and football are more popular than cricket. Buskashi by the way is a bit like polo, but instead of using a ball and sticks, they use the carcass of a goat.

Growing up in Afghanistan is, it is fair to say, a bit of a rollercoaster ride. That, therefore, is the way they play their cricket. They hit it hard and a long way, and they bowl fast. No Asian team would be the same without a couple of mystic twirlers either. The Afghans had an off-spinner and a leggie who turned it miles. The ISAF batsmen - and some of them are decent players - were no match.

Not all the Afghan first XI played in this match either. Their opening bowler, Hamid Hassan, is thought to chuck it down well over 90mph. There would have been bloodshed had he played.

Batsman Mohammad Nabi did play. He arrived in form. In a match in Pakistan recently, Nabi smashed 116 against an MCC side led by Mike Gatting and filled with minor county cricketers. The Afghans scored 356 for 7 off 50 overs in that game, and bowled MCC out for 185.

The only reminder that the game was being played in Kabul were the armed guards. Other than that, you could have been on a village green in Surrey. Watching from the stands were a clutch of dignitaries, including ISAF commander Lt Gen David Richards and some Afghan ministers. Either side of the posh seats, off-duty British soldiers did the best they could do explain the game to curious Danish, Italian, German and American soldiers. To no avail.

The game was probably lost in the ISAF players' heads before the match started. They made the mistake of watching the Afghans warm up. Warm-ups tell you quite a bit about teams. These guys were slick. A batsman skied a few, the fielders caught it (every time) and hurled it into the keeper at a hundred miles an hour. The keeper never had to move more than a foot.

The ISAF players watched open-mouthed, shuffling their feet nervously. They made the correct decision not to try and emulate the Afghans. A few sucked nervously on cigarettes.

Afghanistan won the toss and elected to bat. The ISAF opening bowler, big Max Richards from Jamaica, sent down the first two right on the money, met with immaculate defence. Down came the third, on the same spot. The last time anyone saw the ball it is was heading towards Jalalabad. That man Nabi.

The first 50 came up in four overs and, apart from extras, every scoring shot was a six. Eventually though the wickets began to fall, the batsmen holing out on various spots on



the boundary. Nabi filled his boots, clubbing 92 of the most violent runs you will ever see off around 40 balls. At least ISAF did better than the MCC where Nabi was concerned.

When the ISAF slow bowlers came on, they were dispatched to most parts of Kabul. It was carnage. The Afghans rattled up 270-6 in their 20 overs. Well over 100 of those were in sixes. A few of these hits were truly monstrous.

A word about the pitch. A lot of effort was put into it by the ISAF team in the days preceding the match. It was watered and rolled and mowed endlessly. But, being in the middle of the Afghan National Army's football pitch, it was never likely to be a batting paradise. Balls kept low, they leapt up high. You could never quite tell. The Afghans made it look like a Taunton belter.

ISAF made a good start in reply, the openers putting on 40. But then it all went wrong. The spinners came on, and that was that. The middle order collapsed horribly. The batting star was LCpl Tal El-Sherbiny, who hit a fine 42. The rest did their best, nudging, edging and occasionally clubbing their way to 117 all out.

Your correspondent by the way, chipped in with a dogged three. Still, my international average will still be better than Monty Panesar's.

So how good are they? Team coach Taj Malik Alam said: "We have beaten all the other minor sides in Asia. The tour to England is our first time outside Asia, so we are looking forward to learning and playing a different variety of cricket. We have good fast bowlers and powerful batsmen, so I think we will do well over there."

They will do well. This is no cricket circus. These guys are serious about the game, and they are seriously good. Their dream is to play in the World Cup and they may not be too many years away. Word reached England that decent opposition was needed. So the Afghans will play seven matches, three against county second XIs. If you get the chance, go and watch. Entertainment is guaranteed.

The final word to ISAF team manager Captain Ed Sutthery: "They are far better than we are."

At the moment they are training with concrete wickets, they don't have much infrastructure but their ability is phenomenal -- there are going to be some very surprised county players."







Crossing the Gap

*Cpt Denis Biojout (FR-A), SSgt Brian Lamar (US-A)
PIO FR BG, PIO HQ ISAF*

“To walk a mile in another man’s shoes is the only way to understand his burden.” (Unknown)

In the case of the French CIMIC Team (a part of the French Battle Group), shortening the distance that the villagers of Khwaja Chest have to walk in order to do daily business was their main objective. Two months of labour and €7,000 were poured into a bridge building project that would eliminate the need for school children to conduct a five-kilometre walk around an impassable river gorge to school.

The project was considered and construction began after the village malek (mayor) requested the bridge. The village (with its 1,200 inhabitants) is located in the district of Deh Sabz in northern Kabul. For the rest of the 1,200 villagers that use the bridge on a daily basis, getting back and forth to Kabul is just a few steps closer. “This bridge makes life more comfortable for the people who use it,” said Lt Col Charles Marquez, the French CIMIC Advisor for the French Battle Group in Kabul.



Col. De Marisy cuts ribbon to open the Khwaja Chest Bridge.

According to Lt Col Marquez, after the project started in January, the villagers started to openly express their approval of the French soldiers in their area. Since the opening of the bridge, the French soldiers have witnessed the villagers using the bridge to transport goods to their shops in Kabul and delivering everyday items to their homes from shops in Kabul.

At the opening ceremony for the bridge, Col De Marisy announced “I am particularly happy to proceed to the inauguration of this bridge, which links people together and also contributes to the improvement of their life.”





Good Things Come In Small Packages!

*Lt Col Klaus Geier (DEU-A)
Chief PIO GECON 10*

Just ten personnel ranking from Private to Lieutenant Colonel make up the CIMIC platoon within GECON 10. However, their effects are huge for the benefit of the Afghan population as well as, considering Force Protection, for all ISAF personnel.

A recent example is the overall rehabilitation of a well in Paymonar with 1,100 students of the local school awaiting its start-up with eager anticipation. A German Master Sergeant was responsible for the project and said, "the €3,000 donated by a German secondary school in the city of Düren and by Lieutenant General Jertz are a worthwhile investment. We have built a closed-loop system that will last for years. The well provides sufficient water of drinking water quality and will not dry out even during summer." The German National Contingent Commander Brigadier General Christof Munzlinger took part in a test in a girls' class. Until end of June the CIMIC specialists plan to hand over to their users two other wells, two school building and roofings for several schools.



German CIMIC Hand Over School Extension

*Lt Col Klaus Geier (DEU-A)
Chief PIO GECON 10*



Helping people to help themselves, this is the motto of the German CIMIC forces, especially in the fields of well construction, water and sewage systems, schools and kindergartens. "In addition, CIMIC is force protection," states LTC Peter Spieß, Commander of the German CIMIC personnel, "where CIMIC works no German soldier ever suffered any harm." Schools and kindergartens are rewarding investments in the young generation, in their hands lies the key for a peaceful future of Afghanistan.

Spieß pays special attention to channel investments into projects offering opportunities to girls and women, for example as teachers. During the last four years the number of students has dramatically increased by 55 %. As a consequence, many schools are bursting at the seams, for example Mehrabuddin School in PD 7 of KABUL. With €28,000 donated by the action BILD HILFT, a Master Sergeant of the German CIMIC team planned and attended the building of a school extension since March of this year, his aim being to improve the situation for more than 6,000 students of Mehrabuddin School. On the day after the unrest in Kabul the Master Sergeant handed over the symbolic key of the completed classrooms to his platoon leader. To express their gratitude teachers and students performed a self-written song during the official opening ceremony.

Field Clinic Mazar-e-Sharif

Cpt Anja Edvardsson (SWE-A)
PIO PRT Mazar-e-Sharif

One rapid transport to Mazar-e-Sharif for treatment, three operations in the near future and an additional two ill patients that will be treated at the Norwegian field hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif. That, and a lot of other treatment, was the result after a good cooperation between the local doctors, the Norwegian field hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif, the Military Observation Team who work in the area, the local population, the ANP and others. Together they helped the Norwegian field hospital to make a field clinic in Sholgara Valley one Friday in June.



A hundred patients, chosen by the nurse in the villages in the area, had a ticket each to visit the doctor. And also some people who showed up, and were very ill, received treatment as well. "We can not make a difference for the general public with this field clinic. But for those who we can help, it will be a big difference", said Lt Col Lars, chief of the Norwegian field hospital.

To run clinics is usually not a task for the PRT, as this should be provided through the Government of Afghanistan. But this is an opportunity for the personnel at the field hospital who want to work and do their duties

as doctors and nurses, even at times when the soldiers are healthy.

Without the support of the Governor, all the elders in the area and the local clinics, it would not have been possible to conduct the Field Clinic. The Governor in Sholgara valley, Mohammed Karim, was very pleased. "I know everyone who is here today. It is hard for the people to get too see a doctor here. We have many problems here, some problems are malaria and stomach diseases," he said.

The MOT team commander for the area, Capt Kim, also showed his appreciation for the Governor. "I am very happy for our cooperation here today. I hope we can cooperate as well as today in the future," he said.

To be able to run the field clinic in a safe and secure way, the ANP was asked to help the ISAF soldiers. The Swedish police liaison officer, Anders, was very pleased. "The ANP is doing a very good job here today, as always. I know the police sometimes lack education and equipment. They are also not very well paid. But they are improving all the time," he said.

The doctors had a lot to do in the two areas, one for women and one for men. One of the patients that got help was Tarooq, a boy aged 8. "I am very pleased we could come here today. We are really grateful. It's difficult for us to get to the doctor," said his father, Ghulam Rasool.

As a result of the day three patients will be operated at the Norwegian field hospital, two will come there to be treated in other ways and one patient was taken quickly to the hospital in Mazar-e-Sharif to be treated. "It was a very good day. The people here were very nice. I hope we have the opportunity to do this again, said the chief nurse, Maj Unni.



Visit to Balkh University

Tahir Qadiry (LN)
RC(N) Mazar-e-Sharif

ISAF Information Officer, Lt Col Markus Werther, and his accompanying colleagues from the nearby Camp Marmal paid a visit to Balkh University to discuss the presence of ISAF and shed light on their activities with the university teachers and students on 13th June. Ustad Norollah Mohsini, acting head of Law Faculty of Political Science, warmly welcomed the delegation.

Initially, the ISAF team had talks with Ustad Norollah and discussed latest developments and security in the North. They also talked about situation of higher education at Balkh University and the sides emphasized the need to enhance their contribution.

Afterwards, the ISAF team visited a class of students mixed of girls and boys, who are studying law and political science. The students raised several questions on security, presence of ISAF and other issues of interest, which were answered by Markus.

In addition, Lt Col Werther shed light on ISAF activities and the presence of German troops in the North. He urged the students to help their government restore security and stability in the country. He also urged them to contribute with the ISAF troops in case there is any emergency case.



Mohammad Sami, a student present at the debate, said he was very happy talking to the ISAF in person. He said: "I didn't believe they were so friendly. I asked a question about security and got convinced".

Tamana, another student, said: "We believed ISAF troops are very rude. We believed they could only fight; however, we observed how patient and good people they were. We will welcome them to have more talks with us in the future. Because, our country is war-weary and we will learn from their experiences."

More students present at the meeting requested the ISAF team to visit them on and off to build confidence between the students and the ISAF and start contribution.

At the end, Lt Col Werther promised the acting head of Law Faculty that he would carry on visiting them in the future to clarify more issues.



Hopeful future for Afghans after DIAG

Yahya Najafizada(LN)
PIO Mazar-e-Sharif

From the beginning of the Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups (DIAG) process in Mazar-e-Sharif, more than 2,500 different kinds of weapon have been handed in by ex-commanders to the Afghan government in Mazar-e-Sharif.

One of the ex-commander, who handed in all his weapons, is Fateh Khan from Charbolak district at Balkh province. Fateh Khan, said: "Disbandment of Illegal Armed Group is a good opportunity for commanders and those who have weapons to hand over their weapons voluntarily. Otherwise they will be disarmed by force and they will be punished as well. So I took the opportunity to hand in my weapons."

"Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups is an important mission that should be successfully done by Government of Afghanistan in all provinces. If we see a terrorist attack, if there is kidnapping of foreign people and if we see school burning, all these sabotages actions are done by those people who have illegal weapons." Said Balkh Governor, Atta Noor, in a conference held for public information about Disbandment of Illegal Armed Groups in Mazar-e-Sharif.

Representatives of ISAF in Mazar-e-Sharif and high ranking staff of Balkh Government participated in the conference. The Balkh



Governor said: "In addition to those countries which help us to develop our country, there are people who brought war more than 25 years in Afghanistan and there are people who didn't let the children of Afghanistan be educated. Now our central government is going to be strong and we are working on development of our country, but the enemies of Afghanistan don't want us to be developed and they are making insecure condition in our country. To counter these enemies of Afghanistan, we should disarm all illegal groups and in the opposite we should make our army and national police strong", he added.

According to DIAG Secretary General in Balkh province, Mohammad Basir Arifi, the establishment of this public information commission is very important to inform people about problems which brought by weapons. Arifi said: "The public information commission will inform the commanders by TV, radio, posters and the elders of districts to hand over their weapons. If they don't pay attention to our warning, the government will disarm them by force."

"Around 50% of Illegal Armed Groups in Mazar-e-Sharif have handed in their weapons since the process started. We expect the rest to hand in their weapons in one year from now; otherwise they will be disarmed by force." Said Basir Arifi.





New Camp for PRT Kunduz

*TSgt Boulos (DEU-A)
PIO PRT Kunduz*

On 1 June 2006, the new operations base in Kunduz, northern Afghanistan, was officially inaugurated. Never before in the history of the Bundeswehr has a similar event taken place.

Around 270 guests were invited, among them members of the International Community and representatives and dignitaries from Kunduz and Takhar provinces who were happy to accept the invitation to the ceremony extended by the Commander of the Provincial Reconstruction Team (PRT) Kunduz, Colonel Hans Werner Patzki.

“Weeks laborious! Feast-days gay!”(to quote the famous German poet Johann Wolfgang Goethe) could be the motto of today’s get-together. Yet, this evening is much more – it is a visible sign of friendship between Germans and Afghans, of partnership between the German town of Eutin and its 6th Armoured Reconnaissance Battalion, an open door to our soldiers’ world for Germans working here in Afghanistan, and, in conjunction with tomorrow evening, the solemn completion of our relocation from the old to the new camp”, Colonel Patzki commented about the celebration.

As hospitality is an essential duty in Afghan social life, the evening started out with a dinner at the HQ where typical Afghan dishes were served. The evening culminated in the appearance of the singers and the pianist of the Eutin Open Air Festival touring ensemble. In Germany, this festival is, above all, renowned for its high-class opera performances. For their appearances in Kunduz, however, the programme was slightly changed to meet the taste of the audience present. On the first evening, mainly opera arias, musical melodies and chansons from Puccini to Andrea Lloyd Webber, Edith Piaf and Marlene Dietrich were performed. Because of illness, tenor Thomas Kiessling had to cancel his appearance and the ladies of the ensemble were forced to stand their ground in this male dominated environment. And they sure did. With her peppy and sometimes saucy and slightly disrespectful songs Stephanie Theiß, chanteuse of the Eutin Open Air Festival touring ensemble, was a great success. When she stepped



Actress and singer Stephanie Theiß during rehearsals of the Marlene Dietrich song “Falling in Love Again”.

down from the stage to perform among the audience she won over the hearts of the Afghan guests in no time.

Governor of Takhar province, Hadji Hodja Chaussudin Abubaker, asked Colonel Patzki with a twinkle in his eye whether this woman could be bought and how much he would have to pay for her. Then, turning serious again during his final address, he expressed his thanks saying “We have been privileged to enjoy your culture for one and a half hours. It is rather foreign to us, yet allowed us to look deep into your hearts. This was a valuable sign for the German-Afghan friendship.” Thus, culture, too, is a building block of force protection, indirectly contributing to stabilising the region.

The concert on the second evening was dedicated to the majority of the audience featuring for the most part evergreens and pop songs. This adjustment was highly appreciated by the young audience, and even went down well with those who were sceptical in the beginning. An exuberant atmosphere quickly made everyone forget about the strain and hard work of the relocation. What stayed on were anecdotes and funny situations that are inevitable in such a major undertaking. To sum up, the guest performance by the Eutin Open Air Festival touring ensemble and the inauguration of the new PRT will be remembered fondly by everyone.



Electricity for Qala-e-Naw

Maj Rafael López Morillo (SP-A)

PIO Qala-e-Naw

The principal objective of the Spanish Forces in Afghanistan, in accordance with the general mission of ISAF, is to help the Afghan government solidify its structure in the entire country, helping to create a climate of stability and security in its zone of responsibility, as well as support to reconstruction process.

In order to achieve this, PRTs were created so that through their presence in each of the 36 provinces of Afghanistan, they are true motors that drive governance and the development of the country. Since June of 2005, the Spanish government has lead one of the PRTs. The province of Badghis, and the capital, Qala-e-Naw, has been the headquarters of the Spanish PRT in Afghanistan for more than one year.

Qala-e-Naw is, as are the majority of cities and towns in Afghanistan, extremely poor and engulfed in centuries of backwardness. There is no infrastructure, nor basic services, nor of course, an electrical grid. Those who are well off get electricity through generators or small individual electrical systems, while the majority of the population lives in darkness and misery.

The establishment of an electrical grid in the city, as well as the delivery of running water, has from the beginning been one of the principal goals of the Spanish PRT. Accordingly, for the past six months, this has been the star project of the works that the military component, through its CIMIC team, has been carrying out.

The PRT has worked to promote all of the basic necessities; water, electricity, a hospital and roads. While the civilian component of the PRT, through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation (AECI), is striving to carry out the most expensive and most technical projects, such as the delivery of running water, the rehabilitation of the provincial hospital and the construction of a highway, the military component, with its much lower budget and capacity, is undertaking, at the height of its possibilities, a project to illuminate the city.

ASPFOR XIII began this ambitious project with the intent to provide electricity to local and provincial

government offices, illumination of the principle streets of the city and the possibility of linking all homes that wish it to the network, once the provincial governor establishes a mechanism to finance consumer expenditure of electricity. Furthermore, this first project represents the first step for successive expansion, animating and promoting the functions of the local and provincial administration with the hope that within a few years, it can substitute these provincial systems, which are based on gas-oil generators, for a system based on a state network of electricity.

In November 2005, ASPFOR XII contacted a variety of municipal authorities in the Spanish province of Huesca, in order to solicit a donation of a 550 Kva electrical generator, as well as the necessary material to lay the electrical groundwork to permit transmission to the approximately 40 official buildings and the principal streets of the city of Qala-e-Naw. When the generator arrived in Qala-e-Naw at the end of 2005, the first part of a dream of hope was realized.

Nevertheless, there was much work left to be done. With the materials in the city, it was necessary to undertake the second phase of the installation of the underground network and the laying of the cable, the zoning of the city by area and the installation of connection boxes that permit the distribution of the electricity, covering the necessary projections.

ASPFOR XIII has concluded the project and turned it over to the provincial authorities. The formal handover of the project took place on May 29 in the office of the Governor of Qala-e-Naw, where the commander of the PRT, Colonel Jose Antonio Alonso and Provincial Governor Enayat Enayatullat, signed an accord of the delivery of the project. The handover was accompanied by a check for USD 10,000, which will assure that the system functions for the approximately three months.

This project represents the crown of the work carried out by the Spanish PRT, which began in mid-October of last year. Without a doubt, the work of the Spanish has been an important step in the advancement of the dear city of Qala-e-Naw, as demonstrated by the astonished gazes of its inhabitants at the light of the street lamps that auger a better future.



Long Range Patrols In Herat

Cpt Livio Cavallaro (IT-A)
PIO RC(W)

In the last few weeks ISAF troops stationed in Herat began a series of long range patrols, of three to four days in duration, aimed at establishing new contacts with local Afghan authorities in rural areas and to understand the needs of the population in order to develop future reconstruction projects.

The mobile patrols are composed of Italian communication specialist teams from 28th regiment "Pavia", multinational Civil Military Cooperation (CIMIC) personnel and soldiers from the Spanish Legion in charge of providing the security to the convoys.

Recently, an activity of this kind occurred in Shindand area, 130 kilometres south of Herat. In that area, where lack of electricity in most of the homes is one of the many shortfalls of the people, some meetings with Afghan authorities and elders of villages took place. CIMIC personnel in charge of assessing the infrastructure and economic situation were warmly welcomed.

Along the streets in the villages around Shindand, Italian soldiers delivered hundreds of copies of Sada-e-Azadi, a newspaper written in Dari, Pashtu and English and published by CJPOTF in Kabul, with news about initiatives developed by multinational contingents in Afghanistan in cooperation with Afghan institutions. A corporal from 28th Regiment said, "During the activity, I was in charge of distributing Sada-e-Azadi newspapers. It was a new and sound experience. When we entered the villages, people looked at us with interest; they immediately realized we had come in a friendly way. They were very happy to receive a newspaper in their language, telling stories of Afghan people and ISAF peacekeepers. I'll never forget the smile of the children"



Thanks to their interpreters, the Italian specialists often shared conversations with local inhabitants. The local inhabitants heard about ISAF activities which are being carried out to assist the population and support the Afghan security forces.

An NCO from 28th Regiment said, "I meet several Afghan authorities in many villages. All of them welcomed us in their offices and were much pleased for the support we offered. They expect a lot from us, but also they are confident that we, ISAF soldiers, are fully committed to provide them with support and assistance"

During one of these conversations, some young boys warned the military about an unwatched ammunition cache well inside the built up area. The Spanish Explosive Ordnance Disposal Team attached to the patrol immediately intervened and two anti tank mines, one artillery round and twenty-two mortar bombs were removed and transported to a safe place for their destruction.

Change of Command PRT Farah

*Lt R Nye (US-N)
PIO PRT Farah*

On 15 May, 2006 PRT Farah held a change of Command Ceremony. The event was attended by COMISAF, LTG Richards, Farah Governor Wasefi, the Provincial Council, ANP General Agha, NDS General Naqshband, ANA Kandak Commander LTC Hassan, Farah City Mayor Bismullah Khan and over 20 other invited guests from Farah and ISAF IX.

The outgoing commander, LTC Wylie (US Army), transferred his authority to CDR Horan (US Navy). LTC Wylie said, "I leave Farah proud of the work done by the Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen and Marines." Then he cited examples that included over 1,500 missions, \$3.3 Million USD spent on reconstruction projects and a flawless election of Provincial Council members. In accepting his new appointment CDR Horan said, "Rest assured that my entire team will work tirelessly in support of ISAF's mission promoting security, governance and long term sustainable economic development in partnership with the Government and people of Afghanistan." The ceremony concluded with the awarding of the NATO Medal and Bronze Star to LTC Wylie.

Other additions to the PRT include a US



Department of Agriculture representative, who has already been meeting with farmers and officials at the Farah Dept of Agriculture. He has a Bachelor's Degree in Agronomy, the study of crop production, and has been with the USDA for 29 years. Throughout his career he has helped farmers in the Western United States, where similarly to Farah, the environment is hot, dry and farmers rely upon snow melt from the mountains. He has a great deal of experience in assisting farmers with their sheep, cows, wheat, barley, oats, alfalfa, hay and corn crops. The USDA looks forward to meeting with farmers and helping them increase their crop production abilities.

The medical staff has also increased their capabilities; the Doctors and Physician Assistant have a combined 45 years of medical experience between them. More than half of the medics are Emergency Medical Technicians having completed 4 tours of duty in this region. In the past week this medical team has helped the ANA and ANP with emergency life saving medical care, to include medical evacuation via helicopter.

There are also some new faces at the Civil Military Operations Center (CMOC). The members of this team were selected to bring together a wide range of experiences and abilities, which include engineers, nurses, businessmen and infantry soldiers.

Members of the Connecticut National Guard, 102nd Light Infantry Battalion, C Company have also joined the PRT, some of whom perform as police officers back home and many of which have prior combat service experience in Afghanistan, Iraq and Africa.

Even though the PRT has had a change of command, there are members who will be staying onboard to include the Department of State representative and Chief Engineer, who plan to continue with their government assistance and construction projects.



CIMIC Donation To Herat State Facilities

Cpt Livio Cavallaro (IT-A)
PIO RC(W)

Early in June CIMIC personnel from the Italian-led PRT Herat carried out a distribution of humanitarian aid goods sent to Herat by the International Association Regina Elena, which is based in Modena (Italy). The Association was founded in France in 1985 and it has been taking care of cultural heritage and humanitarian aid in 56 countries.

The donation, consisting of packages containing clothing and food to be delivered to families, was distributed during four distinct ceremonies at social facilities in Herat, which were attended by the Afghan authorities. Herat Department of Rehabilitation for Rural Areas was the first



to receive aid, which will subsequently be distributed throughout Herat Province. More packs were delivered afterwards to the Female Orphanage, which is run by the Department of Social Affairs. Also the director of the Mental Centre, a small sanatorium that provides assistance to the local population, thanks to international support, received some packs for his patients. The last distribution took place at the Female Jail, where many detained mothers received aid for their children.

During the brief ceremonies, Major Mauro Altieri, Chief CIMIC, stated that “the delivered aids are the result of friendship between the Italian people and the Afghan people”. In return, the Italian soldiers were praised by the Afghan authorities and received a smile from the children of Herat.



