



# ISAF MIRROR

Issue 31 August 2006

**ANP Training**

**Change of Command  
in Kabul**

**Mosque  
for PRT Konduz**

**On route in Wakhan**

3. Commander's Foreword
4. Vaccine storage unit for Farah hospital
5. Training course for policemen
6. Motorcycles for Afghan police in Ghor
7. Psychological operations in Qaleh-ye Now
8. Multinational operation to Bakwa
9. ITALFOR 13 aid donation
10. Bulgarians take command at KAIA
11. Greek donation to Sakander Kabir school
14. KMNB to RC Capital
15. Girls' primary school opening ceremony
16. TACP in Pol-e Khomri
18. On route in Wakhan - the corridor to China
20. Enlargement of PRT Meymaneh
21. Medical treatment for disabled people in Konduz
22. Provincial Coordination Centre in Baghlan
23. Mosque inauguration in PRT Konduz

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## Commander's Foreword

### Lieutenant General Richards

The last month has brought significant change to the ISAF mission as NATO has taken over command of the South of Afghanistan from the US-led Coalition. You will have heard the reports of what has been happening in the southern provinces, where the security situation is a greater challenge than the other Regions currently under command. Establishing a stable environment is essential to enable reconstruction and development – the key to providing a better future for this fine country. Qalat is the first area to begin this long process of redevelopment and as its success grows, other areas will continually join ensuring the people of the South can lead the peaceful and prosperous life that they so desperately want.

Whilst the South tends to dominate the news, we must not forget the great successes in the North, West and Capital Regions. The security situation is more benign and, as a result, we see a large amount of reconstruction and development taking place. Kunduz is a typical example where the German Development Bank has initiated a huge project to provide fresh water to all of the residents of the city – and even Farah is now coming on fast. I was talking to a TV reporter the other day who comes to Kabul each year to see the situation for himself. He tells me that he was amazed to see the level of investment, reconstruction and development in the capital, and he would not have believed the scale possible if he had not seen it for himself. Of course, there is still much to be done and we need to coordinate our activities very closely with the government and international community.

I anticipate that shortly we shall take under command Region East, which will give NATO the responsibility for all regions in Afghanistan. This is a huge step forward as, for the first time, there will be one international military commander with all of the greater coordination and coherence that will bring. We await the political decision, but I am confident that we are prepared and ready for this great opportunity.

Lastly, a huge thank you from me to each of you personally for all your hard work and sacrifice. This is a big team effort and every one of you can be very proud of your contribution to this critically important operation. In particular we must ensure that the ultimate sacrifice made by some of our comrades is merited by success – the very best way to ensure they are remembered by us and by the Afghan people they came here to help.



Front cover by: Sgt Frank Proctor

Back cover by: WO2 Fiona Stapley

## Vaccine Storage Unit For Farah Hospital

Gina Gillespie  
Forward Media Team PRT Farah

The cracked and peeling walls of Farah Hospital's cold storage unit will soon be replaced with a brand new facility. Construction has started on a US\$45,000 cold storage building, funded by PRT Farah. The improvement that the new building will create for the hospital staff is matched by the improvement in the physical surroundings. Currently several freezers sit in a dusty, darkened room inside a building close to crumbling from decay.

Each year Farah province holds between three to six vaccination campaigns. The vaccines to counter measles, polio, whooping cough and tetanus/diphtheria, among other diseases, are currently stored in Herat. Three small mobile teams are available to transport the vaccinations to Farah when required.

The contractors Afghan Brothers Construction Company are using modern concrete block construction techniques. "It's the same way we construct buildings at home in the United States," says Lieutenant Colonel Ed Boyer, an engineer at PRT Farah. The completed building will house a training room, admin and computer room, guard room, CCT Office, supervisor's office, PEMT office, vaccine storage facility and a loading/unloading area. Once completed, vaccines will be stored locally instead of in Herat. Floor plans for the centre were provided by the Department of Public Health.

PRT engineers worked on the specs for the drawings. "This is one of my favourite projects because it helps thousands of people across several districts," says Major John Andrews from the PRT Civil Affairs Team. "It's kind of unusual. The things we take for granted, like a cold storage area in a hospital, is one of the things the donors are providing for."

The contract includes the provision of tables, desks and chairs, a refrigerator, air conditioning system, solar lights, a 10 kilowatt generator and flowers and landscaping. Although the project is simple, it will have a great impact on the ability of the medical staff at Farah Hospital to run their vaccination campaigns. The impact is



even greater when coupled with another PRT project, the provision of a new electrical grid. The current grid is a mess of tangled wires that wind through trees and buildings.

Mohammad Sarwar from the UNICEF office in Farah City alerted the PRT to the need for a cold storage facility at the hospital. "It was an urgent requirement to construct a new building because the current cold storage room was in very bad condition," says Mr. Sarwar. "Vaccines are needed to save the lives of children, and we needed a cold storage facility to keep the vaccines safe." In addition to providing vaccines to the hospital, UNICEF also donated two new freezers for the vaccination storage facility, and a 7.6 kilowatt generator.



## Training Course For Policemen

Cpt Francisco Calvo Rodriguez (SP-A)  
PIO PRT Qaleh-ye Now

The Spanish PRT, as another activity to support the ANP, has delivered a train the trainers course in order to improve the efficiency of policemen in Badghis province.

At the end of July, this training started, as a pilot scheme, with some meetings about the basic police training. These meetings were coordinated by the PRT Operations Branch advised by the Provost Marshal and with participation of an Infantry Company, a Special Forces Unit, an EOD Team and a medical unit. The training course was focused on the following issues:

Patrols: the aim was to explain how important they are and what their main duties are and how they have to be carried out.

Checkpoints: This subject was focused on how to improve their efficiency against terrorism and crime.

Protection of dignitaries: The policemen were briefed about the basic action principles in this kind of operations.

Public Order: The main objectives of this issue were to learn the basic techniques to be used



in public disturbances and how to use the basic special equipment (helmets, shields, etc)

First Aid: The aim of this subject was to teach basic first aid techniques to be used by any policemen on duty.

Protection against explosives: As one of the main threats in the country, it concerned the procedures to be used when finding explosive items (mines, UXO, IEDs, etc)

The training was attended by 19 policemen, who really enjoyed it, as it has been a great opportunity to share knowledge among security forces and to learn new techniques, procedures and equipment. On August the 8<sup>th</sup> the course finished with the presentation of certificates, which took place in the PRT compound.



## Motorcycles For Afghan Police In Ghor

2Lt Skomantas Pavilionis (LI-A)  
PIO PRT Chaghcharan

On Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> of August soldiers serving in PRT Chaghcharan presented a donation of six motorbikes to police officers serving in districts of Ghor province. Colonel Vilmas Šatas commander of the PRT, the police advisor of the PRT Seregėjus Kiričenko, Danish and Icelandic soldiers serving in the PRT and the Chief of Ghor police General Shah Jahan Naserullah Noori participated in the ceremony.

The project was funded by the Danish Royal Armed Forces. The purchase and handover of the goods was organised by officers of the Civilian and Military Cooperation (CIMIC) cell.

The motorcycles were painted in traditional Afghan police colours – green and white. They were handed over to the police officers of three districts of the Province, where soldiers of Denmark and Iceland carry out patrols whilst

implementing the tasks of their Mobile Liaison and Observance Teams (MLOT). During the handover ceremony the Danish CIMIC officer mentioned, that this is a gift to police officers of Afghan National Police (ANP) in order to say thanks for a good cooperation with International Forces.

Motorcycles are one of the most effective modes of transport used in Ghor province where the conditions of the roads are extremely poor. This donation will increase the mobility and operational capabilities of local police.

Seregėjus Kiričenko, the police advisor of the PRT, said that this donation will also influence the development of the administrative skills of police officers. The full technical maintenance and fuel supply for the motorbikes will be the responsibility of the new owners. This will enable them to develop and increase the level of coordination between Ghor police and the Ministry of Interior.



## Psychological Operations In Qaleh-ye Now

Cpt Francisco Calvo Rodriguez (SP-A)  
PIO PRT Qaleh-ye Now

The Spanish Psy Ops Team is carrying out several activities in various areas in order to make sure that PRT support to Badghis is well known by the population. This work is handled by a team of three men who constantly consider how to improve both messages and formats.

At first the Psy Ops Team was tasked to continue the previous contingent's activities in order to maintain continuity in the PRT including conducting Spanish lessons for children in the local elementary school and editing the local newspaper in Qaleh-ye Now.

Now the Psy Ops Team has increased the number of its activities to include the following: A campaign to support a safe and secure environment in Badghis province using the local radio station. A campaign to support the PRT CIMIC activities using the local radio programme, "Good Morning Afghanistan," and the local newspaper. A campaign to gain and maintain the positive image of Spanish forces in Badghis and the support of the population and local authorities by using the local radio and newspaper, delivery of posters and leaflets and Spanish lessons for small children.

These campaigns are carefully planned to reach the largest number of citizens, literate or not, in order to achieve the goals proposed. This is not easy because it is necessary to continually develop new leaflets, messages, etc, in order to



avoid using the same words, photographs and information.

The largest efforts are focused on the radio and newspaper because these are the best means to reach the population. At the local radio station, the PRT offers technical support with radio equipment, and the Psy Ops Team reserves one programme per week, which is broadcast twice, and includes information about the projects and works done by the PRT, international, national and local news involving Afghanistan, Spanish culture (Spanish lessons and music) and medical advice. This programme is given to the Provincial Culture headquarters in order to be broadcast. With the local newspaper, the Psy Ops Team receives articles written by the local journalist and includes its own articles translated by the PRT interpreters. This newspaper is produced once a month and is delivered all over Badghis Province.

Additional efforts include Spanish lessons for small children (between 4 and 8 years old) who may well become future teachers or PRT interpreters. Leaflets created by the PRT explain what to do if an individual finds UXO, supporting the Government of Afghanistan, PRT goals and projects and DIAG activities.

The Psy Ops Team activities support the PRT activities and have great influence on popular opinion, so if they are carefully thought out and prepared, they can be a tool to facilitate the PRT's progress in carrying out its mission and making its tasks easier.



## Multinational Operation To Bakwa

Gina Gillespie

Forward Media Team PRT Farah

The trip to Bakwa and back took three long, hot days. Bakwa has recently been the centre of several Taliban attacks, triggering the need for a show of military strength in the area. Soldiers from PRT Farah responded to this need, sending 70 personnel to the area, joining forces along the way with members of the Afghan National Army, Afghan National Police, an Italian Special Forces unit, an Italian Psy Ops team and a Spanish Quick Reaction Force. All told, 300 soldiers converged on Bakwa, a district that is home to 80,000 people, predominantly Pashtun. Several elements took part in the trip. Doctors and Corpsmen set up a Medical Civil Affairs Programme (MED CAP) in the clinic, abandoned by the local medical staff after the last attack three weeks ago, and the Civil Affairs team talked to the villagers and handed out first aid and hygiene kits. Military Police met with the local ANP forces for some training, CMOC personnel checked on the progress of the 34 water wells being funded by the PRT, and PRT Commander Michael Horan met with Provincial Governor Ezatollah Wasefi, the District Manager, Haji Asadullah, and village elders.

Doctor's Paul Johnstone and Afshin Afarin saw 307 patients during the MED CAP, with two-thirds of them being male members of the village. "I was amazed to see another 300 patients because we were just there three weeks ago," says Lieutenant Commander Johnstone. "Ninety per cent of patients didn't have significant illnesses. They were coming more for the freebies, so that's a good sign." He did treat a man with a knife wound in his arm following a domestic dispute, and saw another man with TB of the spine. The doctors were assisted by several Corpsmen and Nurses who set up a triage area in the clinic's yard. Ninety-one children were treated, with common ailments including headaches and a need for de-worming. "Most of the children came in with signs of dehydration," says Corpsman HN Christopher Morgan. "I don't think they're getting enough sodium or potassium in their diet."

The region still showed signs of the last Taliban attack, with broken windows letting in the dust, and the green portion of the flags burned off, leaving just the black and red. According to Doctor Muhamad Kasim Bayan, Director of Farah Provincial Hospital, the clinic in Bakwa won't re-open until the security of his medical staff can be assured. "They've asked for extra clinics to be built in Bakwa, but we won't look at that until this one has re-opened," says LCdr Johnstone. "It just wouldn't make sense."

Captain Jay Berendzen from the PRT Civil Affairs team, and Tony Beals, USDA representative checked on the progress of the first of 34 new water wells being funded by the PRT. After wandering lost through farmer's fields, they finally found two of the first 10 wells under construction. At the moment the wells are little more than holes in the ground. They still require casings, grout, cement pads and pumps. Mr. Beals also checked out agricultural prospects in the area, and was encouraged by the number of grape fields he came across. "I saw grape fields everywhere. I'm encouraged, because we can do something with grapes. With water and luck and funding we might be able to get some projects funded," he says.

The soldiers stayed in Bakwa for several days, since providing assistance to the region and assessing their needs is an important priority that they didn't want to rush.



Cdr Horan, PRT Farah commander, meets with local elders

## ITALFOR 13 Aid Donations

1Lt Juri Curtolo (IT-A)

PIO ITALFOR 13

Three months have passed since the transfer of authority, on the 10<sup>th</sup> of May, to the Italian Contingent ITALFOR 13. The hard work by the Italian CIMIC team continues nonstop for the local population living in the Italian AOR, which consists of Kabul town and the districts south of the capital, where Battle Group 3, the Italian manoeuvre unit, constantly operates with its patrols. In particular humanitarian aid distributions are regularly carried out.

On 28<sup>th</sup> July the CIMIC team, in cooperation with the ITALFOR Service Support Group (GSA), conducted an important aid delivery at the home of the "Mother Teresa of Calcutta" nuns, in Kabul.

In total 15 boxes of medicines and materials for medication were distributed, which had been provided by the Italian ONLUS association "Umanitaria Padana". 20 boxes of clothes for children and 9 boxes of shoes. The materiel will be used by the nuns in their traditional engagements with the local population.

On 30<sup>th</sup> July the CIMIC team conducted a delivery of clothes and shoes to the nearby village of Qala Kowday, in Chahar Asyab district, south of Kabul. In total 200 boxes of clothes for children and adults, shoes and linen were donated. The Italian Association "Caritas Diocesana" of Acqui terme had provided this donation. Several village and family chiefs attended the distribution, together with the local police commander.

On 31<sup>st</sup> July a delivery of medical supplies took place at the Wazir Akbar Khan hospital, in Kabul. The materiel consisted of 40 boxes of orthopaedic bandages, crutches, a wheelchair and a pneumatic mattress had been provided by the Italian ONLUS association "Valori Alpini", of Turin. The Wazir Akbar Khan hospital was chosen due



to the fact that the hospital specialises in orthopaedics. The material was delivered to the hospital director, Dr. Abdullah Salam, and to the administrator, Mr. Michael J. Mahoney.

On 6<sup>th</sup> August the CIMIC team delivered medicines to the Chahar Asyab clinic, south of Kabul. In total 81 boxes of different kinds of medicines, provided by the Italian National Alpini Association, section of Como, and by the ITALFOR Infirmary were donated. An Italian Doctor, 1Lt Li Vecchi, took part in the distribution and he explained how the medicines are used to the clinic's director. The local police Commander, Col Daud Nadim, also attended the delivery.



## Bulgarians Take Command At KAIA

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

Situated in a hangar that masks the roar of the bustling airport and the soul-sapping heat, the Romanian Commander of Kabul International Airport (KAIA) transferred command to his successor Col Marin Panagotov Natchev (Bu-AF) on 31<sup>st</sup> of July.

The Bulgarian contingent has large boots to fill during their tour in Afghanistan, which starts at a crucial time for ISAF due to mission expansion in the South. Having a well-organised and efficient airport will be vital for the transport and logistical operations for the whole country.

“KAIA is the centre of gravity of Kabul. To assist in running this airfield is one of ISAF’s main contributions to a better future for all Afghan people,” said Maj Gen Hans-Werner Ahrens, Deputy Commander of Air for ISAF. Mission expansion will put an even greater strain on the airport, as it will remain the entry and exit gateway to the world, both civil and military, according to Ahrens.

As Natchev steps up to lead the airport, he is confident in his troop’s ability to conduct sustained operations on a 24/7 basis for four months. “We are fully qualified to accomplish this mission or else we wouldn’t have been selected for this task,” said Natchev.

Although current operations will be a handful, ongoing projects will divide the commander’s attention even more. The airport is in the process of developing the north side that the military plan to move into the early part of 2008. The south side will be run by the civil air authorities, thus enlarging the airport into a fully functional international airport. “This will be a large challenge but is the first time I have had a large construction project under my command,” said Natchev.

During the Romanian’s tenure, KAIA’s flight safety has improved and a smooth transition has been planned for the move to the north side of the airport due to the Romanian efforts.

“Col Marin Panagotov Natchev and your team, I wish all of you a good start and time in Kabul,” said Ahrens.



## Greek Donation In Sakandar Kabir School

*Lt Miltos Anastasios (GR-A)  
PIO KMNB IX*

After the initiative of the 20 Greek officers and NCOs that work for Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) and using money from their own pockets, a donation of school stationery material was made, in Sakandar Kabir elementary School, on the 13<sup>th</sup> of July.

The whole project was organized by Major Manoukas Alkiviadis (GRC-A) who works in the G9 Civilian Military Cooperation (CIMIC) of KMNB following on from an idea of Col Makridis Georgios, the Greek Senior National Representative of KMNB IX.

The school was built and donated to the Afghan nation in 2002 by the Greek Government along with a playground to the children of this land and bears the name of Alexander the Great, the great Greek general and man who brought Greek culture and civilisation to this faraway land.

Setting off on the beautiful morning of July 13<sup>th</sup> from Camp Warehouse for the outskirts of the town we were really anxious of what we would encounter. On arriving at the school the hesitant look of the local people and the children changed to joyful screaming kids running up and down welcoming us in the warmest manner. We were astounded by their reactions and all that positive energy loosened us up, making us put aside our everyday problems. In a very polite way and after coordination with the school’s headmaster the “gifts” were presented to the children inside their classrooms. Their gratitude and joy was clearly depicted in their smiley little faces making us feel happy and satisfied that we’ve added even a little bit to their happiness.

The Senior National Representative Col Makridis Georgios on his own initiative donated a sign that has the Greek and Afghan Flag, the name of the school “Alexander the Great” and the date of the donation.





## KMNB To RC Capital

*Cpt Alex Montagna (FR-A)*  
RC(C) PIO Media Ops

On Sunday 6th of Aug command of Kabul Multinational Brigade was transferred from Brigadier General Nenko Nenov (BU-A) to Brigadier General Frank Le Bot (FR-A). On the same day the Kabul Multinational Brigade (KMNB) was re-named Regional Command Capital (RC(C)) and took over command of ISAF's Kabul Area Of Operation.

The name change brings the Kabul area into line with the ISAF structure, which is in place in the rest of Afghanistan. The old KMNB name reflected the fact that originally, ISAF was only responsible for the Kabul area. This new structure, the RC's, based on regional commands, is more appropriate to ISAF's vastly expanded mission in Afghanistan, which now covers 87% of the country.

The outgoing commander of KMNB IX Brig Gen Neyko Nenov thanked the troops for their outstanding efforts in fulfilling the mission, which was to provide security and stability in the capital and its surrounding area. He emphasised in his speech that it would not be possible without the great cooperation and teamwork with the Afghan Security partners, having in mind the Kabul City Police, ANA and NDS. As examples he gave joint operations that granted security during Afghan national holidays like Afghan Independence Day and Afghan New Year. "There is no doubt



Photo: ECPAD

that the success of our mission derives from the fundamental work and close cooperation with the Afghan Security Partners," Brig Gen Nenov said. Then the wishes of success were given to the Commander of RC(C), Brigadier General Frank Le Bot.

In his speech Brig Gen Le Bot emphasised, that his unit is ready to meet the consequences of ISAF's extension. RC(C) will continue to work in close cooperation with Afghan Security partners as their predecessors of SEEBRIG did. "I am confident that RC(C) is well prepared to take up all potential challenges and will continue in the path of their predecessors," said Brig Gen Le Bot.



Photo: ECPAD

The overall commander of ISAF forces in Afghanistan, Lt Gen David Richards thanked KMNB for the good job done by its HQ and units. He thanked Brig Gen Nenov for his great leadership and full commitment to the ISAF mission and wished the new commander success in his mission.

Many guest and close friends from the ANA, KCP, NDS, Ambassadors, Military attachés, representatives from HQ ISAF and Coalition Forces, UNAMA and IO and NGO's attended the ceremony.

## Girls' Primary School Opening Ceremony

*Cpt Enrico Genero (IT ARMY)*  
RC(C) PIO Media Plans

On 12th August 2006 in the Paghman district of Kabul the new Al Taqwa girls' primary school was opened. The ceremony started at 10.30 sharp in the presence of the Elder and most important men of the village in order to emphasise the occasion. Present at the event were the Mayor of Paghman, Mr. Haji Abdulqadeer, the Educational coordinator of Paghman, Mr. Abdul Qahar and the principal of the school, Mr. Shir Mohammad.

After the ribbon cutting and a short ritual prayer all the guests were invited to eat fruit and local sweets together.

The RC(C) CIMIC team from Finland implemented the project, which was funded by Finland's Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The cost of

the project is estimated at approximately US\$ 88,000.

The ceremony was attended by the Finnish CIMIC team, who led the project, as well as LTC Halonen, who is the Finnish National Contingent Commander.

The new primary school is made up of twelve classrooms with furniture, one staff room, a principal's office and a secretary's office. The building is also equipped with a bookstore, a sick bay, a tea kitchen and a toilet.

This is one of the several projects that the Finnish CIMIC team is leading. There are four other important project on going in particular: the Rahmatabad School in Musayi, the Hakim Naseer Khisraw School, the Chehel Setoon Girls' High School and the Koshkak Village School in Paghman again.



## TACP in Pol-e Khomri

Cpt A van Velzen (NL-RNMC)  
Head of TACP PRT Pol-e Khomri

### Tactical Air Control Party in ISAF

In the Royal Netherlands Marine Corps the Tactical Air Control Party (TACP) or Joint Terminal Attack Controller capacity (JTAC) is during wartime a battalion or brigade asset to ensure firepower of fixed and rotary wing in support of a ground unit.

During recent war operations like Operation Iraqi Freedom (OIF) and Operation Enduring Freedom (OEF) Close Air Support (CAS) and TACP / JTAC capacities have proven to be a very worthwhile asset. CAS provides a very reactive and flexible use of airpower. The JTAC, who is in direct communication with the supporting aircraft, can provide real time updates on the target location and final guidance to the pilot for efficient ordnance delivery. In CAS operations there are always friendly forces / civilians nearby, so it is very important the JTAC is able to tell the aircraft, which is often above visibility and noise distance from the ground, where the target that is to be attacked is and where friendly forces and civilians are in relation to this target. This requires very high standards of the JTAC as well the pilots in order to minimise fratricide and collateral damage.

When ISAF took over command in various regions in Afghanistan there was also a

need for JTAC capacity. Small units are responsible for the security of large areas in Afghanistan. This brings them into situations where units become isolated from other units and where reinforcement in case of contact with the enemy may become difficult. Because of the very slow go terrain it is important to boost up this small size of personnel with good equipment and firepower assets for an *in extremis* situation. Close Air Support and JTAC capacity is therefore an important tool in an operation like ISAF. Few troops, large areas of responsibility, slow go terrain, operations far away from base camps are all demanding a strong back up plan when something bad occurs. CAS can provide the appropriate answer to ensure 24/7 fire support for those ISAF troops.

ISAF therefore wrote in its SOP that every Provincial Reconstruction Team must have JTAC capacity. With the deployment of Dutch F16s at KAIA and the *in extremis* support of OEF air assets ISAF made sure it has this strong back up plan.

### JTAC/TACP in Pol-e Khomri (Dutch PRT)

The next description of JTAC and TACP is the way the Dutch are operating in Baghlan province. The Dutch TACP consists of four men who all specialise in their own areas. Of course the leader of the TACP is the JTAC. This is a captain who is a full combat ready JTAC. This means he is able to control aircraft during day- and night time operations and between low level altitudes and high level altitudes.

The second in command is a full combat ready Laser Operator in the rank of corporal or sergeant. Our laser equipment is seen as a weapon because it has a 63 kilometre danger zone. Therefore it is important the laser operator has a thorough understanding of his tool and laser procedures to designate the target and make sure laser guided bombs impact on the right place.

Besides the JTAC and the laser operator we have two marines in the TACP. One is the signaller and deals with various types of radios. The PRC 117F crypto radio is the most important radio, because it ensures the secure communication with CJOC Kabul and the different aircrafts we work with. The fourth member of the team has to deal with the team security. A four man team is very weak with its firepower and protection. Therefore we need at least one member to ensure our safety

while working in the observation post. During operations where we expect more threat, we get support of extra force protection.

Our TACP has been in theatre for a little over two months. After initial theatre qualification we were ready to go. To keep all the different procedures at the highest possible level a lot of training missions have been conducted. This improved the quality of the team. I want to stress that training is important, but it is not to become the goal. Finally we are here to support our Ground Commanders objectives. With the reduced time for own training nowadays the focus is more on convoy escorting and training our force protection guys in Emergency Close Air Support (ECAS) procedures.

This reveals another important aspect of operating as a PRT in Afghanistan. With the already mentioned slow go terrain the Commander of the PRT has to decide where to deploy his TACP. There will always be the risk that the TACP is not on the scene where it is needed the most. There are methods to achieve an effect by fixed wing without being on the scene, but more important for the pilots is the help of non-JTAC ground personnel. Therefore TACP gives ECAS instruction. In doing this the PRT improves its possibility to rely on fixed wing *in extremis*. The force protection sergeant or corporal can help the pilot with finding the target.



## On Route In Wakhan – The Corridor To China

Major Jens (DA-A)  
Danish CIMIC PRT Feyzabad

Once again the Danish part of the Provincial Reconstruction Team in Feyzabad had the opportunity to go to the Wakhan corridor, yet another very beautiful part of Badakhshan in the north-eastern part of Afghanistan. The road ends in the village Sarhad Broughail, and from there the people told us that there is a 3 – 4 hours walk to the border to Pakistan and 4 – 5 days walk to the border to China.

### Schoolbooks for the students

The reason for me as a CIMIC officer to go to Wakhan was to meet and talk to as many school representatives as possible, in order to identify their needs, and see if there were anything we could do with one or two CIMIC projects, to ease up the situation for the schools in Wakhan.

There are approximately 3,000 students registered in the schools in Wakhan. The majority of these kids have to walk very far every day to go to school, but they all seem happy, and when asked they told me that they were happy to go to school.



When talking to headmasters from the different schools, we were told that the most urgent requirement they had, was schoolbooks for the children. Most of the schools had not had any new schoolbooks for the last two years! It is of course difficult to teach children without any schoolbooks, so we initially thought this could be a good task for us.

First of all we talked with the District Manager in Wakhan, Mr Dawlat Muhammad Hazem, and also to the Aga Khan Foundation which is one of the most involved NGOs in Wakhan. They were both in favour for us to try and raise the money to buy schoolbooks for the students in Wakhan.



CIMIC however is not as simple as this. We still needed to coordinate our planned purchase of schoolbooks with the Badakhshan Department of Education in Feyzabad.

The deputy of the education department of Badakhshan, Mr. Mohammed Rahim Isamal, listened with interest to our proposal. He asked us if we were willing to spend project money on other things to support the schools. The reason for this was that there are approximately 400,000 schoolbooks for Badakhshan, ready to be picked up in Kabul and distributed to the students. We were of course very happy with this news, since the students all over Badakhshan can now receive the required schoolbooks. It will not happen overnight, but it is in

progress, and hopefully both students and teachers can look forward to receiving these new schoolbooks in the near future.

### Infrastructure needed to support development in Wakhan

There are many other needs in the district of Wakhan. The District Manager, Mr Dawlat Muhammad Hazem, emphasized the need for improvement of Route 302, all the way from Iskashim to Sarhad Broughail, including the need for bridges.

Even though many stretches of Route 302 are in a far better condition than in the rest of Badakhshan, there are still parts which are very difficult to pass and in addition there are a number of rivers and streams, with a lot of fast running water, which require both good and heavy cars as well as good luck in order to pass.

A feasible road is a requirement for the development in the Wakhan corridor. People are generally very poor, living on small land pieces with small herds of animals. Many daily items cannot be bought in Wakhan, but require a trip to either Iskashim or even Feyzabad. As the road condition is right now it is possible to travel, but during the autumn, winter and early spring travelling is very difficult, if not impossible, with normal civilian vehicles.

## Enlargement of the PRT Meymaneh

*Lt Tuomas Kainulainen (FIN-A)*  
*PRT Meymaneh*

The construction work, which started at the beginning of July in the compound of PRT Meymaneh, is about to end as the MOT teams have started to move their equipment into the new building. The PRT has enlarged the camp to the property next door. In addition, over a dozen accommodation containers have been moved to the new yard.

PRT Meymaneh has rented the new building from General Malik. A written statement from the provincial governor says that Afghan law has been fully obeyed.

“We have also informed the Provincial Council and the religious leaders about our project and, we have presented our plan to the local elders and the wakils. They are all satisfied with our explanations,” the commander of PRT Meymaneh, Lt Col Leif Petter Sommerseth says.

The reason for the enlargement is that the old camp became too small for the existing PRT. “We have received more soldiers during the spring and more will come during the summer. Since January, we have almost doubled the number of soldiers inside the camp,” Lt Col Sommerseth explains.

According to him the PRT is able to conduct its operation more effectively by having more space. “All



of this is done to better support the people of Faryab. For the construction, we have engaged the local workers so that the money stays in Meymaneh. That has always been the strategy of the PRT,” Commander PRT Meymaneh reminds.

The commander of PRT Meymaneh is assured that the PRT will continue to support the Government of Afghanistan in Faryab in the best possible way. It is important that the civilian organisations will be able to continue their reconstruction projects - roads, hospitals, schools etc.

According to Lt Col Sommerseth the construction project in the PRT will be concluded within two weeks. The same applies to the rebuilding and renovation of the building situated in the old part of the camp, too.



## Medical treatment for disabled people in Konduz

*Cpl Boulos (GE-A)*  
*PIO PRT Konduz*

For one day two German doctors from the Provincial Reconstruction Team Konduz examined Afghan patients in a special centre for war-disabled and bereaved people of the war.

“During the fights over the last years most people were unable to treat their injuries. Women whose men have died in the war have often no income and cannot afford to pay for medical examination or medicine. It is our initiative to help these often very poor people,” said Dr. Dirk Moellmann, chief of the military field hospital in PRT Konduz.

There is no medical equipment in the centre for war-disabled people in Konduz. Only a small room with mouldy walls can be used for examination. The German doctors have stored some medicine in an old board and brought a stretcher for the patients. It is more than 50 degrees in the room.

Many patients come with stomachache, high blood pressure, kidney stones, fractured bones

and injuries from shots and shrapnel. The expectations are high. One Afghan woman under the typical burqa comes together with her husband. She is barely able to walk and is complaining about severe backache. With the help of his colleague, Dr. Yvonne Buhl, the woman could be examined. It is the sciatic nerve and so the Afghan woman gets an injection and pills to ease the pain and the swollen back.

Other injuries cannot be treated. One man had been shot in the back and this caused damage to his spinal nerve and shrapnel from a bomb damaged another woman’s knee. Even surgery in a special clinic in Germany could not help them.

“Most of the people would need further examination or surgery but we cannot do that. What we can do is to ease the symptoms and the pain with medication. Some illnesses can even be healed,” states Dr. Moellmann.

Dr. Moellmann and Dr. Buhl examined and treated over 60 people over the day and although such examination is only possible when there is capacity they want to use their expertise to help the war-disabled people of Konduz every Sunday.





## Provincial Coordination Centre in Baghlan

*Lt Melanie van Wilgenburg (NL-N)  
S8/PIO PRT Pol-e Khomri*

On Saturday August 5<sup>th</sup> the Provincial Coordination Centre (PCC) in Pol-e Khomri was officially opened. This coordination centre was developed with the support of the Dutch PRT. The support included providing the required material, but especially providing specific knowledge and skills for operating the PCC. The PCC in Baghlan is the first PCC to be officially opened in the northern region of Afghanistan.

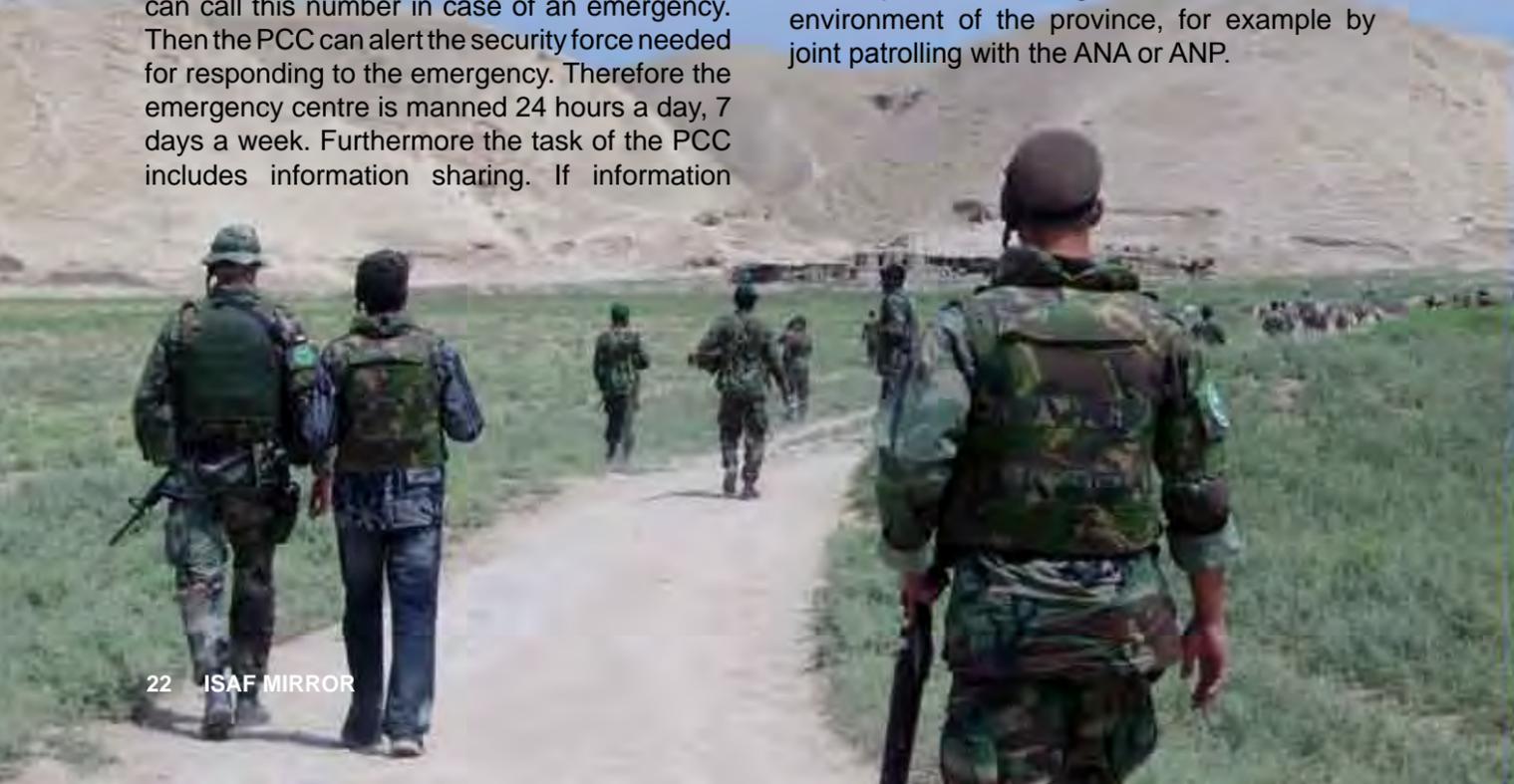
The mission of the PCC is to synchronise and coordinate the security efforts of the Afghan National Police (ANP), Afghan National Army (ANA), National Directorate of Security (NDS), Counter Narcotics, and Provincial Government. One major issue at this moment is the lack of coordination and information sharing between the different security forces. This results in an isolated execution of operations that would lead to better results if performed in cooperation.

The PCC is there to coordinate and synchronise the activities between the different security forces. One asset of the PCC is the emergency centre. An emergency phone line has been established, number 100. The Afghan people can call this number in case of an emergency. Then the PCC can alert the security force needed for responding to the emergency. Therefore the emergency centre is manned 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. Furthermore the task of the PCC includes information sharing. If information



sharing is done extensively, the efforts of the security forces can be synchronised.

The Dutch PRT has supported the establishment of the PCC in Baghlan. The PRT has provided the necessary material to start up the PCC, like communication equipment. But the effort of the PRT does not end there. Personnel of the PRT will keep on actively guiding the PCC. Also the Netherlands' Psy Ops team will take care of widely announcing the existence and tasks of the PCC, in order to create a broad acceptance for it amongst the locals. And of course the PRT will keep on contributing to the safe and secure environment of the province, for example by joint patrolling with the ANA or ANP.



## Mosque in PRT Konduz inaugurated

*Cpl Boulos (GE-A)  
PIO PRT Konduz*

With an inauguration ceremony a mosque inside the compound of PRT Konduz was opened. This is new territory not only for the PRT but also for ISAF. For the first time a mosque for local workers and Muslim soldiers of ISAF was built inside a German military compound.

The idea came from more than 150 local workers who are employed by PRT Konduz as construction workers, translators or craftsmen. They asked the country specialist of the PRT, Captain Aslam Amani, for an opportunity to practice their religion. He forwarded the request to the commander Colonel Hans Werner Patzki who instantaneously supported the query. With more help from the liaison officer to the Afghan Ministry of Interior, Colonel Hamid Farkhari, a solution was found quickly.

Some construction materials had been leftover in the old PRT compound, which was situated inside the city. From those materials the Afghan craftsmen could start to build their own mosque.

Colonel Patzki invited the mullahs from Konduz and the surrounding villages to the laying of the foundation stone. Because of the special importance of correctly aligning the mosque towards Mecca, Colonel Patzki asked the mullahs to lay the foundation stone. Armed with a spirit level and a compass the mullahs found



the right point of the compass and drew the outline of the mosque with chalk on the ground. Now the actual construction could begin.

The inauguration ceremony on 4<sup>th</sup> of August was held following Muslim procedures and a Friday prayer was conducted. Mullah Maulawie Ubaidullah, a member of the religious council of Konduz province emphasized that people and authorities were very pleased by what ISAF has done. "You act accordingly to Afghan behaviour and society and this mosque is the best thing the PRT has done so far" he said in his speech.

Rauf Anzarie, the director of cultural issues and information in Konduz province pointed out that the mosque was a "clear sign of respect and support towards Afghan civil and religious customs." Colonel Patzki said "This is a house of peace and prayer. May god protect all who built it and those who pray in it. In this sense I hope that we will together achieve a peaceful and prospering Afghanistan."

Stephan Hiller from the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs stressed once more that ISAF wants an open-minded Afghanistan, an Afghanistan which is of course Muslim. He said the German Ministry of Foreign Affairs in cooperation with the PRT will reconstruct two further mosques, one in Konduz and one in Takhar province.

The ceremony ended with a prayer of soldiers from ANA, ISAF, Afghan policemen and local workers.



